

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE 27 JUNE 2024

QUARTERLY TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT: QUARTER 4 – 010124 TO 310324

REPORT OF THE FINANCE TEAM MANAGER AND DEPUTY S151 OFFICER

PART A – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

1.1 The report presents the 4th quarter summary information relating to treasury management activities and interest during 2023/24. The Council's position at the beginning and end of the quarter was as follows.

- Total on deposit at the start of the quarter £23,100,000
- Total on deposit at the end of the quarter £7,400,000
- Interest earned in the quarter was £288,327 against a budget of £140,500
- Total Borrowing at the start of the quarter was £15,000,000 (long-term borrowing over 40-50 years)
- Total borrowing at the end of the quarter was £15,000,000
- Borrowing costs in the quarter were £58,589 against a budget of £58,750

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are asked to note the position as set out in the report.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

POLICY/COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Plan objectives?	
	Yes	The reporting of financial information on a regular basis contributes to providing value for money and quality services.
	Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) been completed?	
	No	This proposed decision does not give rise to any change in policy nor does it give rise to any new expenditure and it is not considered to have any adverse implications.
SCRUTINY POWERS APPLICABLE	No	
KEY DECISION	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	Not applicable	

FINANCIAL IMPACT	Yes	<p>The Council makes assumptions about the level of investment income over the financial year based on the Council’s expected cash position and interest rates forecasts provided by its treasury advisors. Delays in the delivery of the capital programme will have an impact on the council’s cash position and therefore interest earned, and interest paid. Likewise increases or decreases in interest rates will affect interest earned and paid on investments and borrowings.</p> <p>During the 4th quarter rates have continued at a higher rate than what we had budgeted for, with the UK base rate sitting at 5.25% for the quarter. In addition to this cash balances remain higher than anticipated due to slippage within the capital programme. As a result, at the end of Q4 year-to-date interest earned was £1,180,164 against a year-to-date budgetary target of £562,000.</p> <p>The Council has a borrowing portfolio of £15m, all sourced through the PWLB. Year to date interest paid is £235,000 against a year-to-date budget of £235,000 up to the end of Q4.</p> <p>For monitoring purposes, assumptions are made based on the strategies agreed by Council. The Capital Programme for 2023/24 and future years was approved by Council 21 February 2023.</p>
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	The proposed actions are in accordance with the Council’s Constitution and Financial Procedure Rules.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	None	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	

PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4.1 CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) in its Code of Practice for Treasury Management recommends that members should be updated on treasury management activities at least twice a year. This report therefore ensures this council is implementing best practice in accordance with the Code.

The following items are set out in the report below:

- annual investment strategy/the Council's current treasury position;
- interest earned for Quarter 4;
- the borrowing outturn for Quarter 4;
- compliance with treasury limits;

4.2 Annual Investment Strategy/Current Treasury Position

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2023/24, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, is approved by the Council. It sets out the Council's investment priorities as being:

- Security of Capital;
- Liquidity; and
- Yield

Whilst Security, then liquidity of any investment decision retains the highest priority for the Council, we also aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on investments whilst considering these principles. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover short term cash flow needs but also to seek out value available in higher rates in periods up to 12 months or in some circumstances beyond, with highly credit rated financial institutions.

The Council's position at the beginning and end of quarter dates was as follows:

Investments	31 Dec 2023 £	31 Mar 2024 £
Money Market Funds:		
Federated Investors LLP	7,100,000	400,000
CCLA	11,000,000	5,000,000
Total	18,100,000	5,400,000
Internal Investments:		
Lloyds Bank (ATS)	1,000,000	0
National Bank of Kuwait (ATS)	1,000,000	0
Standard Chartered Bank (ATS)	1,000,000	0
Lanbesbank Hessem Frankfurt (ATS)	2,000,000	2,000,000
Total	5,000,000	2,000,000
Grand Total	23,100,000	7,400,000

*ATS is a service provided by our treasury advisors. By using this facility, it allows us to access investments at higher interest rates and a wider list of counterparties than we would be able to get by going directly to the market.

Investments in Money Market Funds are held to manage the daily cash flows. Surplus funds are placed on short term deposit to meet predicted outflows of funds for example the precept payments to the County, Fire and Police authorities.

Internally managed funds are used to generate a higher return on investments when funds are not required in the very short term. In most cases these investments are kept relatively short term up to a maximum of 1 year.

Due to the timings of these cashflows, balances generally build up during the first three quarters of the year and then fall significantly in quarter 4 due to the profiled collection of taxation revenues for council tax and business rates.

4.3 Details of Investments and Interest during Quarter 4

Due to inflationary pressures over the last 2-3 years the Bank of England has continued to raise interest rates to combat this, as a result interest rates have risen throughout the year and currently stand at 5.25%.

This has had a positive impact on the interest earning potential of our investments. Interest earned during Quarter 4 2023/24 was £288,327, £147,827 above budget (£140,500).

A breakdown of interest earnings is detailed in the table below:

Interest Earned	Quarterly Budget £	Quarterly Actual £
Investment Income Budget	140,500	
Money Market Funds:		
Federated Investors LLP		103,572
CCLA		121,612
Internal Investments		50,508
Bank Accounts		12,635
Grand Total	140,500	288,327

4.4 Borrowing Outturn for Quarter 4 2023/24

During Q3 of 2021/22 the council made the decision to take out some longer term borrowing to fund the capital programme. Due to the impending rate raise that was expected it was felt that this was the right time to take out a portion of borrowing to take advantage of the historically low rates on offer and reduce the risk of the council undertaking borrowing at much higher rates in the future. As a result, the council took the option to borrow £15,000,000 over 40-50 years at fixed rates ranging from 1.51%-1.62%.

Loan Amount	Interest Rate	Loan Length	Annual Interest	Repayment Date
5,000,000.00	1.62%	40 years	81,000.00	14/11/2061
5,000,000.00	1.57%	45 years	78,500.00	12/11/2066
5,000,000.00	1.51%	50 years	75,500.00	13/11/2071
			235,000.00	

Additional borrowing will be required in the future to fund further aspects of the capital programme however some of this borrowing may not be required for some time and so whilst rates are still volatile it was felt prudent to leave a portion of the borrowing requirement until a time where we feel it would be most beneficial to the council's long-term finances. With that in mind the council will continue to monitor the markets and take advice from our professional advisors to take advantage of any changes in market conditions. It is likely that once further spend on the capital programme is undertaken further long-term borrowing will be taken in accordance with the approved treasury management strategy.

Details of the Councils borrowing position at the beginning and end of the quarter are detailed as follows:

	31 Dec 23 £	31 Mar 24 £
PWLB	15,000,000	15,000,000
Grand Total	15,000,000	15,000,000

4.5 Compliance with Treasury Limits

Compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Limits as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy, underpins all investment and borrowing decisions made at all times.

The Table below details the applicable lending limits for investments made during the 4th quarter of 2023/24.

Investments	Institute Rating (at time of investment)	Highest value During Quarter	Monetary Limit (As per TMSS)	Period of Investment	Time Limit as per TMSS
Federated	AAA+	15,000,000	15,000,000	Liquid	Liquid
CCLA	AAA+	11,000,000	15,000,000	Liquid	Liquid
Lloyds Bank (ATS)	A+	1,000,000	1,000,000	6 months	6 months
National Bank of Kuwait (ATS)	A+	1,000,000	1,000,000	6 months	6 months
Standard Chartered Bank (ATS)	A+	1,000,000	1,000,000	6 months	6 months
Lanbesbank Hessem Frankfurt (ATS)	A+	2,000,000	3,000,000	1 year	1 year

The Table below details the applicable limits between fixed and variable rate borrowing during the 4th quarter of 2023/24.

Borrowing	Borrowing in Quarter	Monetary Limit (As per TMSS)
Fixed	15,000,000	44,000,000
Variable	0	15,000,000

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A – Link Asset Services Q4 2023/24 Report

Report by: Rebecca Maher, Director of Finance (S151 Officer)
John Mayhew, Finance Team Manager (Deputy s151 Officer)