

This Report will be made public on 9 October 2018

Report Number: **C/18/34**

To: Cabinet
Date: 17 October 2018
Status: Non-Key Decision
Head of service: Charlotte Spendley, Head of Finance
Cabinet Member: Councillor Malcom Dearden, Finance

SUBJECT: TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT
2018/19

SUMMARY: This report provides an update on the council's treasury management activities that have taken place during 2018/19 against the agreed strategy for the year. The report also provides an update on the treasury management indicators approved by Council earlier this year.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet is asked to agree the recommendations set out below because:

- a) Both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the Council's Financial Procedure Rules require Members to receive a report on the Council's treasury management activities during the year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report C/18/34.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Full Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2018-19, including treasury management indicators, on 28 February 2018 (report A/17/22 refers).
- 1.2 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised in December 2017) requires the council, as a minimum, to produce a mid-year report reviewing its treasury management activity undertaken so far against the approved strategy for the year and to consider any significant issues which may impact upon the function for the remainder of the year. This includes reviewing the approved treasury management indicators. The Code also now requires the council to report on its non-treasury investments. This report meets CIPFA's reporting requirement.
- 1.3 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. This report covers treasury activity and the associated monitoring and control of risk.

2. ECONOMIC UPDATE AND INTEREST RATE OUTLOOK

- 2.1 A summary of the key factors affecting the UK economy for 2018-19 is shown below and is based on information supplied by Arlingclose Limited, the council's Treasury Adviser:-
 - i) The UK's economic outlook remains uncertain as the government continues to negotiate the country's exit from the European Union.
 - ii) UK Inflation (CPI) fell to 2.4% in June, a 12 month low, mainly due to the falling out of sterling's depreciation which began in 2016. However, inflation ticked up to 2.5% in July, partly due to higher energy costs feeding through from a 15% increase in oil prices since the start of the year.
 - iii) The Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) expects inflation to fall slightly over the remainder of 2018, as sterling's previous depreciation continues to fall out, but to remain above its 2% target for the year.
 - iv) The unemployment rate has fallen to 4%, its lowest level since 1975.
 - v) Pay growth rose to 2.9%, but real wages (adjusted for inflation) grew by only 0.4%.
 - vi) UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) improved to 0.4% in Q2 of 2018 but is still only expected to be around 1.6% for the year, despite seemingly improving labour market data.
 - vii) Rising fears of a global trade war following the US decision to impose trade tariffs has seen global equity markets fall, most notably in China.
 - viii) However, the US Federal Reserve (Fed) remains positive about the US economy and has already raised official interest rates in 2018 in small steps to bring them between 2% and 2.25%. The Fed is also expected to raise rates further later this year and in to 2019.

- ix) In August 2018 the MPC increased the UK's Bank Base Rate from 0.5% to 0.75% broadly due to inflationary concerns.

2.2 Financial Markets

- 2.2.1 Gilt yields, which the Public Works Loan Board borrowing rates are linked to, displayed marked volatility so far during 2018. In particular, following Italy's political crisis in late May when government bond yields saw sharp moves similar to those at the height of the European financial crisis with, notably, falls in yield in safe-haven UK, German and US government bonds. Over the period, despite the volatility, the yield on the 5-year benchmark gilt only rose slightly from 1.13% to 1.14%, the 10-year from 1.37% to 1.39% and the 20-year gilt from 1.74% to 1.85%.
- 2.2.2 Money markets rates remained low: 1-month, 3-month and 12-month LIBID rates averaged 0.45%, 0.60% and 0.87% respectively over the period.

2.3 Interest Rate Outlook

- 2.3.1 Given the continuing uncertainty over the Brexit negotiations and also the UK's relatively weak economic environment, Arlingclose's central case is for the UK Bank Base Rate to remain unchanged until the Spring of 2019 when it is forecast to rise by 0.25% to 1% with a further rise to 1.25% much later in the year. There is a general expectation that if there were to be further rises to the Bank Rate these will be in shallow steps and over time.
- 2.3.2 Arlingclose's central case for gilt yields is for them to remain broadly stable for the remainder of 2018/19 with limited rises during 2019/20. However, geo-political events are likely to mean gilt yields will continue to experience periods of volatility.
- 2.3.3 With the authority's borrowing portfolio currently being virtually all of fixed rate debt, it is its investment portfolio that is much more exposed to changes in interest rates.

3. LOCAL CONTEXT

- 3.1 On 31 March 2018, the authority had net borrowing of £20.5m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. 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. These factors are summarised in table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| | 31.3.18 Actual £m |
| General Fund CFR | 18.1 |
| HRA CFR | 47.4 |
| Total CFR | 65.5 |
| Less: Usable reserves | (41.0) |
| Less: Working capital | (4.0) |
| Net borrowing | 20.5 |

- 3.2 The authority's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing, in order to reduce risk and keep interest costs low. The treasury management position as at 31 August 2018 and the change since the 31 March 2018 is show in table 2 below.

Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

| | 31.3.18 Balance £m | Net Movement £m | 31.8.18 Balance £m | 31.8.18 Rate % |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Long-term borrowing | 55.9 | - | 55.9 | 3.41 |
| Short-term borrowing | 1.9 | (1.0) | 0.9 | 1.06 |
| Total borrowing | 57.8 | (1.0) | 56.8 | 3.38 |
| Long-term investments | (13.9) | 4.9 | (9.0) | 3.14 |
| Short-term investments | (19.8) | 1.8 | (18.0) | 0.61 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | (3.6) | (12.5) | (16.1) | 0.67 |
| Total investments | (37.3) | (5.8) | (43.1) | 1.16 |
| Net borrowing | 20.5 | (6.8) | 13.7 | |

- 3.3 The overall reduction of £5.8m in net borrowing is not unexpected and broadly represents the in-year benefit of cash flows from local taxation. The cash and cash equivalent investments, investments where the council can normally access its cash immediately or within a short notice period, have increased by £12.5m to £16.1m. This is higher than is typically required to meet the council's normal liquidity requirements. However, a series of planned new long-term investments totalling £10m, covered in more detail in section 5 of this report, will reduce the level of cash and cash equivalents held.

4. **BORROWING STRATEGY AND ACTIVITY 2018/19**

- 4.1 At 31 August 2018, the Authority held £56.8m of loans, a net reduction of £1.0m compared to 31 March 2018, as part of its strategy for funding

previous years' capital programmes. Following the introduction of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Self-Financing regime in 2012 the authority operates a two pool debt approach allocating its loans between the General Fund and HRA. The borrowing position at 31 August 2018 compared to 31 March 2018 is shown in table 3 below.

Table 3: Borrowing Position – Two Pool Debt Approach

| | 31.3.18 Balance £m | Net Movement £m | 31.8.18 Balance £m | 31.8.18 Rate % |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>General Fund</u> | | | | |
| Public Works Loan Board | 7.7 | (0.5) | 7.2 | 4.69% |
| Local authorities (short-term) | 0.5 | - | 0.5 | 0.50% |
| Total General Fund borrowing | 8.2 | (0.5) | 7.7 | 4.42% |
| <u>Housing Revenue Account</u> | | | | |
| Public Works Loan Board | 49.6 | (0.5) | 49.1 | 3.21% |
| Total HRA borrowing | 49.6 | (0.5) | 49.1 | 3.21% |
| Total borrowing | 57.8 | (1.0) | 56.8 | 3.38% |
| CFR | 65.5 | - | 65.5 | |
| Under-borrowed | (7.7) | (1.0) | (8.7) | |

- 4.2 The weighted average maturity of the overall loans portfolio at 31 August 2018 was 13.7 years.
- 4.3 The authority's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the authority's long-term plans change being a secondary objective.
- 4.4 In furtherance of these objectives no new long term borrowing has so far been undertaken in 2018/19, while existing loans of £1.5m have been allowed to mature without replacement. The authority's CFR at 31 August 2018 exceeded its gross borrowing position by £8.7m, i.e. it used internal borrowing from its cash surpluses to meet this difference. This strategy has enabled the authority to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk.
- 4.5 Based on the council's approved capital expenditure plans, the CFR is forecast to increase by about a further £7m during 2018/19. This increase was already anticipated to be met from further internal borrowing from available cash surpluses. However, it now seems likely the expenditure for

some of the capital investment schemes planned to be met from prudential borrowing in 2018/19 will now be incurred in 2019/20. This will be covered in more detail in a future report to Cabinet as part of the regular budget monitoring process.

- 4.6 The “cost of carry” analysis performed by Arlingclose has not indicated any value in borrowing in advance for future years’ planned expenditure and therefore none has been taken or, at this stage, is planned to be for the remainder of the current financial year.
- 4.7 A series of short term loans totalling £0.5m have been borrowed from Folkestone Town Council since 1st April 2018 for cash flow purposes at a variable interest rate set at 0.25% below the official Bank Base Rate.
- 4.8 **Debt Rescheduling** – Opportunities to undertake debt rescheduling have been monitored during the year in conjunction with Arlingclose. However, as expected, PWLB interest rates have not reached a level where it would be beneficial to undertake debt rescheduling to create a net saving in borrowing costs. The position is not expected to change for the remainder of the current financial year.

5. INVESTMENTS

- 5.1 The council holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During the period to 31 August 2018, the authority’s investment balance has ranged between £36m and £49.8m due to timing differences between income and expenditure. The average investment balance held to 31 August 2018 was £43m. The investment position during the period to 31 August 2018 is shown in table 4 below. A list of the individual investments held at 31 August 2018 is shown in appendix 1 to this report.

Table 4: Investment Position

| | 31.3.18 Balance £m | Net Movement £m | 31.8.18 Balance £m | Average Return |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Banks & building societies (unsecured) | - | 3.0 | 3.0 | 0.69% |
| Covered bonds (secured) | 7.3 | (3.8) | 3.5 | 1.01% |
| Government (incl. local authorities) | 21.0 | (3.0) | 18.0 | 0.61% |
| Money Market Funds | 3.6 | 9.5 | 13.1 | 0.66% |
| Other Pooled Funds | 5.4 | 0.1 | 5.5 | 4.50% |
| Total investments | 37.3 | 5.8 | 43.1 | 1.16% |

5.2 The weighted average maturity of the investment portfolio at 31 August 2018 was 108 days.

5.3 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The authority's 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.

5.4 **Multi-Asset Income Funds**

5.4.1 The authority's medium term cash flow forecast indicates it is expected to hold a minimum level of reserves and working capital of at least £15m over the next 4 to 5 years. Given the relatively low overall returns on cash investments, the authority has been exploring options that will help to mitigate the risk of capital erosion from below inflation investment yields while maintaining good quality security and liquidity for its cash. The authority already has a £5m long term investment in a property fund providing above inflation returns. Following discussions with Arlingclose, multi-asset income funds (also known as diversified income funds) were chosen as the most appropriate investment instrument for the remaining £10m of the authority's available long term cash.

5.4.2 Multi-asset income funds are pooled investment vehicles operated by professional fund managers who invest in a diversified range of good credit quality instruments including:-

- bonds (government and corporate)
- equities (uk and foreign)
- cash
- property
- alternatives, including leasing arrangements

5.4.3 The typical characteristics of these funds are:-

- Longer term investments with a duration of between 3 to 5 years
- Aim to provide an income yield about 3% above the bank base rate
- Able to provide a capital return over time but are subject to some price volatility in the short to medium term.
- Liquid, with funds being accessible within a few days' notice if required
- Require a minimum £1m investment

5.4.4 **Fund Selection Process** – Arlingclose review the relative performance of this class of fund and provide a recommended list of counterparties to invest with. Officers, supported by Arlingclose, met with individual fund managers to explore their products in more detail. Following this process,

and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, it was agreed to invest the £10m across the following four funds:

| Fund | Fund Size £m | Investment £m |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| i) UBS Multi-Asset Income Fund | 41 | 1.0 |
| ii) CCLA Diversified Income Fund | 103 | 2.0 |
| iii) Kames Diversified Monthly Income Fund | 467 | 3.5 |
| iv) Investec Diversified Income Fund | 491 | 3.5 |
| | | 10.0 |

5.4.5 The authority's investment in these funds is expected to be made by early October 2018. Based on the past performance of these funds, the authority is anticipating an additional return from these investments of about £250,000 in a full year. £200,000 of this extra income is already anticipated in the authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

5.5 Investment Benchmarking

5.5.1 The progression of risk and return metrics are shown in the extracts from Arlingclose's quarterly investment benchmarking in table 5 below.

Table 5: Investment Benchmarking

| | Credit Score | Credit Rating | Bail-in Exposure | WAM* (days) | Income Return |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| FHDC | | | | | |
| 31.03.2018 | 3.3 | AA- | 12% | 189 | 0.86% |
| 30.06.2018 | 4.7 | A+ | 59% | 146 | 1.19% |
| Similar LAs | 4.4 | AA- | 61% | 98 | 1.37% |
| All LAs | 4.5 | AA- | 62% | 42 | 1.13% |

5.5.2 The investment benchmarking, which is a snapshot at the end of each quarter, demonstrates the authority's risk profile had risen slightly and was just above both its peer group and the wider local authority population at 30 June 2018 (measured against other Arlingclose clients only). This was also reflected in the average credit rating of the investment counterparties dropping one notch to A+ from AA-. The main reason for this margin increase in risk is the authority had an unsecured short term investment of £3m with a bank during this period.

- 5.6 Given the increasing risk and continued low returns from short-term unsecured bank investments and in line with advice from Arlingclose, it is the council's aim to continue to diversify into more secure and/or higher yielding asset classes during the remainder of this financial year and beyond.
- 5.7 The authority's best performing investment in 2018/19 remains its £5.5m externally managed pooled property fund. The CCLA Local Authorities' Property Fund generated a total net income return of about £60k or 4.5% for the quarter to 30 June 2018 and the capital value of the Authority's investment increased during the same period by about 0.5% or £30k. Encouragingly, the authority's investment in the fund has grown by approximately 9% or £460k compared to its original investment of £5m while providing an annual income return of between 4.5% and 5%. Because this fund has no defined maturity date, but is available for withdrawal after a notice period, its performance and continued suitability in meeting the authority's investment objectives is regularly reviewed. In light of the fund's continued strong income return and the authority's latest cash flow forecasts, investment in this fund has been maintained for the year.

6. CREDIT RISK AND COUNTERPARTY UPDATE

6.1 Credit Risk

- 6.1.1 The structure of the authority's approved credit risk methodology for new investments is in line with that suggested by Arlingclose. Based on this approved methodology, Arlingclose provides the authority with a regular up to date list of eligible counterparties to use and also notifies it immediately of any changes required to this.

6.2 Counterparty Update

- 6.2.1 Broadly UK bank credit default swap prices (the banking sector's insurance against default) rose marginally over the early summer before falling back to their levels at the start of the financial year.
- 6.2.2 There have been few credit rating changes during the period and none directly affecting the authority's counterparty list adversely.

7. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- 7.1 The projected outturn for the net cost of treasury management to the General Fund in 2018/19 is summarised in table 6 below:

Table 6: Financial Summary

| | 2018/19 Original Estimate | 2018/19 Projection | Variance |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Interest on all Borrowing | 2,049 | 2,049 | - |
| Related HRA Charge | (1,597) | (1,597) | - |
| General Fund Borrowing Cost | 452 | 452 | - |
| Investment Income | (534) | (572) | (38) |
| HRA Element | 75 | 75 | - |
| Net General Fund Investment Income | (459) | (497) | (38) |
| Net General Fund Borrowing Cost | (7) | (45) | (38) |

7.2 The projected reduction in the net borrowing cost to the General Fund is mainly due to additional investment income expected to be received from a rise in interest rates benefitting the investment portfolio.

7.3 Opportunities to reduce the net cost of treasury management will continue to be sought as part of the pro-active management to the council's debt and investment portfolios by its officers in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance.

8. Non-Treasury Investments

8.1 Although not classed as treasury management activities, the 2017 CIPFA Code and the MHCLG Investment Guidance requires the authority to report on investments for policy reasons outside of normal treasury management. This includes service investments for operational and/or regeneration as well as commercial investments which are made mainly for financial reasons. This includes the authority's investment in its wholly owned subsidiary company, Oportunitas Limited. These are summarised in table 7 below:

Table 7: Non-Treasury Investments

| Investment Type | Value 31/08/18 £'000 | Projected Income 2018/19 £'000 | Rate of Return % |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Investment Property | 8,000 | 182 | 2.27 |
| Oportunitas loan & equity | 3,919 | 161 | 4.27 |
| | | | |
| | 11,919 | 359 | 2.84 |

8.2 The Lloyds Bank Local Authority Mortgage Scheme jointly funded by the authority and Kent County Council ended on 1 August 2018. The Bank repaid the authority's net investment of £0.5m.

8.3 The rate of return on these non-treasury investments is higher than that earned on treasury investments reflecting the additional risks to the authority of holding such investments.

9. COMPLIANCE REPORT

9.1 The Corporate Director for Customer, Support and Specialist Services is pleased to report that all treasury management activities undertaken to 31 August 2018 complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the authority's approved Treasury Management Strategy. Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in table 8 below.

Table 8: Investment Limits

| | Maximum to 31.8.18 | 31.8.18 Actual | 2018/19 Limit | Complied |
|---|--------------------|----------------|------------------|----------|
| Any single organisation, except UK Government | £5m | £5m | £5m each | ✓ |
| UK Central Government | nil | nil | Unlimited | ✓ |
| Any group of funds under the same management | nil | nil | £5m per group | ✓ |
| Negotiable instruments held in a broker's nominee account | £7.2m | £3.5m | £10m per broker | ✓ |
| Foreign countries | nil | nil | £5m per country | ✓ |
| Registered Providers | nil | nil | £10m in total | ✓ |
| Unsecured investments with Building Societies | nil | nil | £5m in total | ✓ |
| Loans to unrated corporates | nil | nil | £5m in total | ✓ |
| Money Market Funds | £24.7m | £13.1m | £25m in total | ✓ |
| Any group of pooled funds under the same management | £5.5m | £5.5m | £10m per manager | ✓ |

9.2 Compliance with the authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt is demonstrated in table 9 below.

Table 9: Debt Limits

| | Maximum to 31.8.18 | 31.8.18 Actual | 2018/19 Operational Boundary | 2018/19 Authorised Limit | Complied |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Borrowing | 58.3 | 56.8 | 87.0 | 90.0 | ✓ |
| PFI & finance leases | - | - | - | - | ✓ |
| Total debt | 58.3 | 56.8 | 87.0 | 90.0 | ✓ |

9.3 Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the operational boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure.

10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

10.1 The authority measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

10.2 **Security:** The authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating or of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

| | 31.8.18 Actual | 2018/19 Target | Complied |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Portfolio average credit rating | A+ | A | ✓ |

10.3 **Liquidity:** The authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three month period, without additional borrowing.

| | 31.8.18 Actual | 2018/19 Target | Complied |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Total cash available within 3 months | £29.1m | £5m | ✓ |

10.4 **Interest Rate Exposures:** This indicator is set to control the authority's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on fixed and variable rate interest rate exposures, expressed as the amount of net principal borrowed was:

| | 31.8.18 Actual | 2018/19 Limit | Complied |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Upper limit on fixed interest rate exposure | £58m | £66m | ✓ |
| Upper limit on variable interest rate exposure | £0m | £0m | ✓ |

10.4.1 Fixed rate investments and borrowings are those where the rate of interest is fixed for at least 12 months, measured from the start of the financial year or the transaction date if later. All other instruments are classed as variable rate.

10.5 **Maturity Structure of Borrowing:** This indicator is set to control the authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing were:

| | 31.8.18 Actual | Upper Limit | Lower Limit | Complied |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Under 12 months | 1.6% | 30% | 0% | ✓ |
| 12 months and within 24 months | 1.9% | 40% | 0% | ✓ |
| 24 months and within 5 years | 13.4% | 50% | 0% | ✓ |
| 5 years and within 10 years | 35.2% | 80% | 0% | ✓ |
| 10 years and above | 47.9% | 100% | 0% | ✓ |

10.5.1 Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

10.6 **Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than 364 days:** The purpose of this indicator is to control the authority's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end were:

| | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Actual principal invested beyond year end | £3.5m | £3.5 | - |
| Limit on principal invested beyond year end | £23m | £18m | £13m |
| Complied | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Note – Although the investment with the CCLA LA Property Fund is viewed as a long term, its terms allow the authority to seek principal redemption on a monthly basis. Therefore this investment is not included within the above indicator.

11. CONCLUSIONS

- 11.1 The UK's economic outlook means interest rates are expected to remain broadly unchanged for the remainder of the current financial year.
- 11.2 The authority will maintain its strategy keeping borrowing and investments below their underlying levels (internal borrowing) in order to reduce risk and keep interest costs lower.
- 11.3 The loan and investment portfolios will continue to be closely monitored to ensure they efficiently contribute towards the authority's medium term financial strategy.
- 11.4 The authority's treasury management activities undertaken to 31 August 2018 complied fully with the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

12. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

12.1 Legal Officer's Comments (DK)

There are no legal implications arising directly out of this report. Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 gives the Council the power to borrow and to invest for any purpose relevant to its functions or for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs. It also requires the Council to act prudently when carrying out these activities, including an obligation to determine and keep under review how much money it can borrow. In addition, the Council is required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to produce a balanced budget. The Council must bear in mind its fiduciary duties to local tax payers and its continuing obligation to ensure it has funding to perform the statutory undertakings it has to comply with.

12.2 Finance Officer's Comments (LW)

Prepared by Financial Services, no further comments.

12.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications

The report does not cover a new service or policy or a revision of either and therefore does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

13. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting:

Lee Walker, Group Accountant
Telephone: 01303 853593
E-mail: lee.walker@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:
None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Investments held at 31 August 2018

APPENDIX 1 – INVESTMENTS HELD AT 31 AUGUST 2018

| Counterparty | Amount £ | Terms | Interest Rate % |
|---|-------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Banks and Building Societies (unsecured) | | | |
| Goldman Sachs International Bank | 3,000,000 | 95 day Notice account - Notice given maturity 01/10/18 | 0.69 |
| Covered Bonds (Secured) | | | |
| Royal Bank Scotland | 1,000,842 | Covered Floating Rate Note to 15/05/20 | 1.06 |
| Royal Bank Scotland | 2,505,138 | Covered Floating Rate Note to 15/05/20 | 0.99 |
| Government | | | |
| Peterborough City Council | 3,000,000 | 1 Year Fixed Deposit to 29/09/18 | 0.40 |
| London Borough Croydon | 5,000,000 | 2 Year Fixed Deposit to 31/05/19 | 0.80 |
| West Dunbartonshire Council | 5,000,000 | 2 Month Fixed Deposit to 03/09/18 | 0.50 |
| Eastleigh Borough Council | 5,000,000 | 2 Month Fixed Deposit to 29/10/18 | 0.65 |
| Money Market Funds | | | |
| Federated Investors MMF | 3,130,000 | Money Market Fund instant access. | 0.66 |
| BNP Paribas MMF | 4,970,000 | Money Market Fund instant access. | 0.67 |
| Legal & General MMF | 5,000,000 | Money Market Fund instant access. | 0.65 |
| Other Pooled Funds | | | |
| CCLA Property Fund | 5,467,152 | Commercial Property Fund | 4.50 |
| Total Investments | 43,073,132 | | |
| * Net of Fees | | | |