

This Report will be made public on 14 February 2023



Report Number **A/22/28**

**To:** Council  
**Date:** 22 February 2023  
**Status:** Key Decision  
**Head of Service:** Charlotte Spendley - Director of Corporate Services  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor David Monk – Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance

**SUBJECT: CAPITAL STRATEGY 2023/24 AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT 2023/24**

**SUMMARY:** This report sets out the Council’s proposed strategy in relation to capital expenditure, financing and treasury management in 2023/24 to be approved by full Council. The report also sets out the Prudential Indicators for capital expenditure and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2023/24 to be approved by full Council.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. To receive and note report A/22/28.**
- 2. To approve the 2023/24 Capital Strategy, including the Prudential Indicators, set out in appendix 1 to this report is adopted**
- 3. To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2023/24 set out in appendix 2 to this report is adopted**

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 The Capital Strategy is a requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Prudential Code. The Prudential Code is a framework which should support local strategic planning, local asset management planning and proper option appraisal. The objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure, within this clear framework, that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable. Authorities are required by regulation to have regard to the Prudential Code when carrying out their duties in England and Wales under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003.

1.2 The main purpose of the capital strategy is to provide a high level summary of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activities contribute to the provision of local public services, along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability. It is intended to be written in a way to enhance stakeholders understanding of these sometimes technical areas. The capital strategy for 2023/24 is set out in **appendix 1** to this report.

The areas to be covered in this strategy are:

- Capital expenditure
- Borrowing
- Minimum revenue provision
- Investments (treasury, service and commercial)
- Guarantees and loan commitments
- Knowledge and skills

1.3 The capital strategy also includes the Prudential Indicators for capital expenditure that set controls to ensure the Council's capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable, required under the Prudential Code. The Prudential Indicators are required to be approved by full Council as part of the capital strategy.

1.4 The capital strategy also sets out the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2023/24 required to be approved by full Council and is set out in **appendix 2** to this report. The proposed Statement has been changed from that approved for 2022/23 as outlined below:

- i) MRP for unsupported capital expenditure incurred after 1 April 2008 can now be determined by charging the expenditure over the expected useful life of the relevant asset using either the equal instalments of principal method (existing approach) or principal repayments on an annuity method (new approach). The annuity approach will mean the amount of MRP required to be made for relevant assets will lower in the first instance and gradually increase over their life (similar to an annuity mortgage where principal repayments start low and gradually increase as the interest reduces). This will provide the Council with greater financial flexibility when making MRP for the capital expenditure incurred on the land and property costs.

ii) The Strategy no longer makes reference to using a locally determined alternative approach for providing a prudent MRP approach. This means the Council's proposed Strategy will be fully in accordance with the DLUHC Guidance.

1.5 The capital strategy should be considered alongside the investment strategy, due to be considered separately as part of this agenda. Like the capital strategy, the investment strategy is also required to be adopted by full Council.

1.6 The capital strategy is required to be reviewed annually as part of the authority's budget setting process. However, if the nature and structure of the authority's proposed capital expenditure and financing was to change significantly during the year it may be necessary to revise the strategy at the same time.

1.7 The capital strategy contains a number of links to other documents. Several of these will also be considered by full Council on 22 February 2022 as part of the budget process. It is therefore proposed to add these links to the capital strategy once it is adopted in February and to create to a dedicated web page to provide a link for it together with those for:

- Investment Strategy 2023/24
- Medium Term Capital Programme to 2027/28
- HRA Medium Term Capital Programme to 2026/27

## **2. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

2.1 A key element of the capital strategy is to consider the risks associated with our approach to the capital programme, capital financing and treasury management activity. These issues have been addressed in the body of the appendix and no other risk management issues have been identified as relevant to this report.

## **3. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS**

### **3.1 Legal Officer's Comments (TH)**

There are no legal implications arising directly out of this report other than those already stated. For each financial year, the Council should prepare at least one Capital Strategy which should contain the disclosures and reporting requirements specified in the Prudential Code. The Strategy should be approved by full Council.

### **3.2 Finance Officer's Comments (LW)**

This report has been prepared by Financial Services and there are no direct financial implications arising from it.

### **3.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications (LW)**

There are no direct diversities or equalities issues arising from this report.

### 3.4 **Climate Change Implications (OF) [Pilot reporting period]**

There are no climate changes implications arising directly from this report. The report sets out the Council's proposed strategy in relation to capital expenditure, financing and treasury management, the Prudential Indicators for capital expenditure and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement. It is an overarching document and detail will be found in subsequent reports to Cabinet and Council.

## 4. **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 – Capital and Treasury Senior Specialist*  
Tel: 01303 853593 Email: [lee.walker@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:lee.walker@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

Arlingclose Ltd – Capital Strategy Report 2023/24 Template  
Arlingclose Ltd – MRP 2023/24 Template

### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Capital Strategy 2023/24

Appendix 2: Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2023/24