



Report to: Cabinet Council

Audit and Corporate Governance Committee

Report of: Head of Finance

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To: Audit and Corporate Governance Committee on: 29 September 2014

To: Cabinet on: 09 October 2014

To: Council on: 16 October 2014

Treasury management outturn 2013/14

That Audit and Corporate Governance Committee:

1. notes the treasury management outturn report 2013/14,
2. is satisfied that the treasury activities are carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy, and
3. make any comments and recommendations to cabinet as necessary.

That Cabinet:

Considers any comments from Audit and Corporate Governance Committee and recommends Council to:

1. approve the treasury management outturn report for 2013/14;
2. approve the actual 2013/14 prudential indicators within the report.

Purpose of report

1. The report fulfils the legislative requirements to ensure the adequate monitoring and reporting of the treasury management activities and that the council's prudential indicators are reported to council at the end of the year. The report provides details of the treasury activities for the financial year 2013/14.
2. This complies with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA's) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised) 2009.

Strategic objectives

3. Effective treasury management is required in order to meet our strategic objective of managing our business effectively. Managing the finances of the authority in accordance with the treasury management strategy will help to ensure resources are available to deliver our services and meet the council's other strategic objectives.

Background

4. The council's treasury activities are strictly regulated by legislation. The CIPFA Prudential Code and CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice require a report to be provided to council at the end of the financial year. The report covers the treasury activity for 2013/14.
5. The 2013/14 treasury management strategy was approved by council on 21 February 2013. This report provides details on the treasury activity and performance for 2013/14 against prudential indicators and benchmarks set for the year. Full council is required to approve this report.
6. An update on the economic conditions and interest rate forecasts is contained in appendix 'A'.

Icelandic bank default – Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander

7. The Council invested £2.5 million in July 2007 with the failed Icelandic bank Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd (KSF). The Council has received £2,144,488 to date in respect of the claim for £2.6 million (£2.5 million investment plus interest).
8. As a wholesale depositor, the Council is treated as an unsecured creditor in the administration process and ranks equally with all other unsecured creditors. The administrators intend to make further payments at regular intervals. The latest creditors' report now indicates that the estimated total amount to be recovered should be in the range of 84p to 86.5p in the pound. In total terms this would mean receiving between £2,209,901 and £2,275,671.

Treasury activities in 2013/14

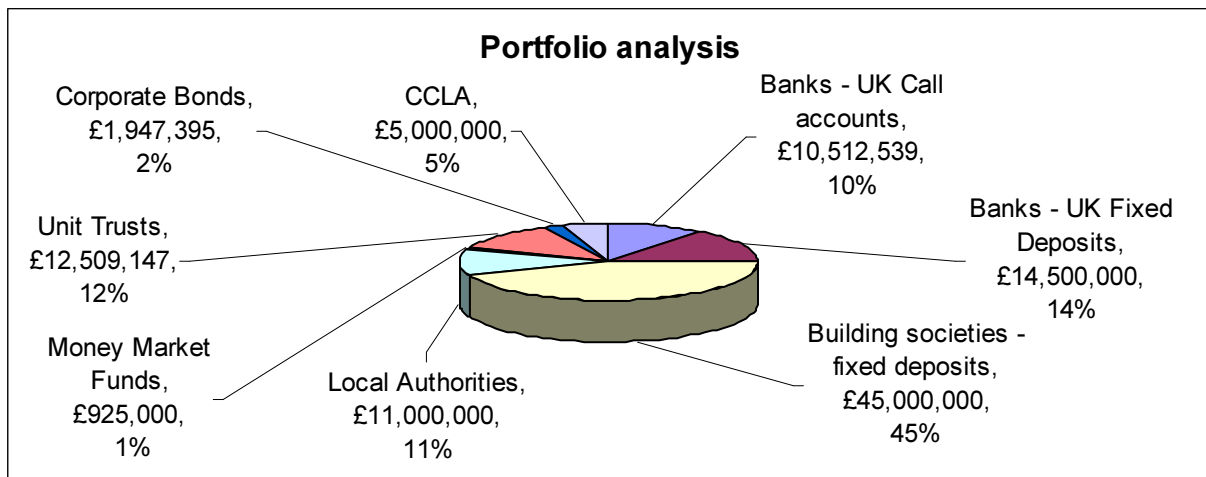
Council investments as at 31 March 2014

9. The Council continues to invest with regard for security, liquidity and yield, in that order. The Council's investments, analysed by age as at the end of 2013/14, is shown in table 1 below.

Table 1: maturity structure of investments as at 31 March 2014:		
	Total £000	% holding
Cash deposits:		
Call account	10,513	10%
Notice account	-	0%
Up to 1 month	-	0%
2 month	4,000	4%
3 month	6,500	6%
4 month	9,000	9%
5-6 Month	11,000	11%
7-12 Month	23,000	23%
1 -2 Year	5,000	5%
2-7 Year	12,000	12%
Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander	222	0%
Total cash deposits	81,235	80%
CCLA pooled property fund	5,000	5%
Equities	12,509	12%
Corporate bonds	1,947	1%
Money market funds	925	1%
Overall total	101,617	100%

Note: £101.617 million does not represent uncommitted resource the council has at its disposal. This amount includes council tax receipts held prior to forwarding to Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Valley Police, business rate receipts prior to payment to the government and committed capital and revenue balances. Details of the council's uncommitted balances are provided in the annual budget and council tax setting report.

10. A significant proportion of the portfolio is held in the form of fixed interest rate cash deposits. These provide some certainty over the investment return. The chart below shows in percentage terms how the portfolio is spread across the investment types:



Investment income

11. The total interest earned on investments during 2013/14 was £2.2 million, compared to the original estimate of £1.9 million, as shown in table 2 below:

Table 2: Investment interest earned by investment type			
Investment type	Interest earned		
	Annual Budget £000	Actual £000	Variation £000
Call accounts	223	213	(10)
Cash deposits < 1yr	770	958	188
Cash deposits > 1yr	80	172	92
MMF	15	26	11
Corporate Bonds	259	184	(75)
Equities	300	410	110
Transferred debt	0	1	1
CCLA	300	269	(31)
	1,947	2,233	286

12. The variation in investment earnings of £286,000 above the original estimate for 2013/14 is due to a number of reasons:

- Interest received on unit trusts was £110,000 higher than forecast due to the overall increase in the value during the year.
- Interest earned on corporate bonds was £75,000 lower due to maturities that were not reinvested in corporate bonds
- Interest earned on cash deposits was £280,000 higher than forecast due to longer dated investments combined with higher interest rates achieved.
- Interest earned on CCLA was £31,000 lower due to fluctuations in the price of units held.

13. The actual average interest rate of return achieved for the year was 1.73 per cent.

Movement in the value of investments

14. Table 3 below shows the movement in value of the Council’s investments at the end of the year.

Table 3: Investment portfolio values and movements.	2012/13 £m's	2013/14 £m's	Movement in Investments
Cost Values (£m's)			
Bank & Building Society deposits	87.56	81.94	(5.62)
CCLA	5.00	5.00	0.00
Equities	13.43	12.51	(0.92)
Corporate Bonds	4.16	1.95	(2.21)
	110.15	101.40	(8.76)

The value of investment deposits fluctuates throughout the year due to cash flow and spending patterns.

Performance measurement

15. A list of investments as at 31 March 2014 is shown in appendix B. All investments were with approved counterparties. The average level of investments held was £122 million and the average return on these investments is shown below in table 4. This shows in summary the performance of the council’s investments against the benchmarks set out in the Treasury Management Strategy. These benchmarks are used to assess and monitor the council’s investment performance for each type of investment.

Table 4: Investment returns achieved against benchmark				
	Benchmark Return	Actual Return	Growth (Below)/above Benchmark	Benchmarks
Bank & Building Society deposits - internally managed	0.39%	1.39%	1.00%	3 Month LIBID
Equities	5.18%	4.95%	(0.23%)	FTSE All Shares Index
Property related investments*	12.20%	14.20%	2.00%	IPD balanced property unit trust index
Corporate Bonds	0.50%	5.68%	5.18%	BoE base rate

*source CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund Report March 2014

Note: the benchmark return for unit trusts reflects the movement in capital value. All other benchmarks reflect earnings of investment income. The total actual return for the whole investment portfolio was 1.73 per cent.

16. Bank and building society deposits decreased by £5.62 million during the year from £87.56 million as at 1 April 2013 to £81.94 million by 31 March 2014.
17. Returns on internally managed cash deposits are benchmarked against the three month LIBID rate, which was an average of 0.39 per cent for 2013/14. The performance for the year of 1.39 per cent exceeded the benchmark by 1.00 per cent.
18. It remained difficult to place investments because of continued financial uncertainty. Some good rates were achieved which contributed to the increase in investment income during the year. The government’s Funding for Lending

Scheme (FLS) was introduced in August 2012. As a result interest rates at which banks and building societies accepted deposits from local authorities dropped sharply. After this, investments were primarily held in call accounts which offered a better return than the market rates for deposits.

19. Local authority market rates for cash deposits have historically been around the same level as the three month LIBID rate. However, actual rates achieved are dictated by changeable factors, such as cash flow and the market demand for funds. For the purposes of providing comparative performance indicators, the market average rates of interest are shown in table 5.

Table 5: Cumulative performance against benchmark & industry average		Cumulative % returns
Actual		1.39
Benchmark - 3 Month LIBID		0.39
Variance - (Under)/Over benchmark		1.00
Industry average*		0.26
Variance - (Under)/Over Ind Average		1.13

*Source: Capita Asset Services - weighted average of 5 fund managers results covering 22 funds.

Equities

20. The council's holdings with the Legal & General (L&G) UK 100 Index Trust were purchased in 2000/01 at an initial cost of £10 million. This is an authorised unit trust incorporated in the United Kingdom and regulated by the FSA. The trust's objective is to track the capital performance of the UK equity market as represented by the FTSE 100 index.
21. The unit trusts are accounted for in the Council's financial statements at fair value¹. The market value in April 2013 of £13.43 million rose significantly between April and May 2013, at which point the value exceeded the trigger point of £14m, when a disposal of £2m was made. Table 6 below shows the movement in capital value:

¹ Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's-length transaction. In some cases this will be the amount paid for purchasing the investment. This may not always be the case, where there have been substantial transaction costs (as in an investment fund), or where interest payable does not reflect market rates or obligations (as in corporate bonds).

Table 6: Unit Trusts - Movement in capital		
	£	£
Market Value as at 31.3.14		12,509,146
Less:		
Dividends received in year	226,086	
Accrued dividends	183,568	
		(409,654)
Add:		
Disposal in year		2,000,000
Amended market value as at 31.3.14		14,099,492
Market value as at 1.4.13		13,434,098
Increase in Market Value in year		665,394

22. The value quoted in the statement of accounts includes adjustments for accrued interest. In order to assess the true unit trust performance an adjustment must be made to amend the market value². Table 7 below shows the unit trust performance without the accounting adjustments required for the statement of accounts:
23. Unit trusts fluctuated quite a lot throughout the year, as volatility in the markets has driven investors to move to safer havens such as gilts.

Table 7: Unit Trust performance 1.4.13 - 31.3.14	
Increase in FTSE all share was	5.18%
Increase in Market Value	4.95%
Under-performance	(0.22%)
	£
Market Value 1.4.13	13,434,098
Plus 5.18% FTSE increase	695,886
Benchmark Market Value at 31.3.14	14,129,984
Market Value (amended at 31.3.14)	14,099,492
Under performance 1.4.13 to 31.3.14	(30,492)

20. Dividends received of £0.5 million were reinvested to acquire additional fund units. The unit trusts are benchmarked against the FTSE All Shares Index, which represents 98-99 per cent of the UK market capitalisation. The index shows the performance of all eligible companies listed on the London Stock Exchange main market and today covers 630 constituents with a combined value of nearly £1.8 trillion. It is recognised as the main benchmark for unit trusts.

² Market value: this is the price that would be paid on a specific date.

Corporate Bonds

21. The Council's corporate bonds are also accounted for in the financial statements at fair value. The opening carrying value³ for 1 April 2013 was £4.1 million. The closing carrying value at 31 March 2014 was £1.9 million. The Halifax 11.5% bond matured during the year. The carrying values and market values for the corporate bonds are shown in table 8 below:

Bonds	Original cost £000's	Nominal Value £000's	Carrying Value as at 1.4.13 £000's	Carrying Value as at 1.4.14 £000's	Market value at 1.4.14
Santander 11.50%	422	270	323	311	321
RBS 9.625%	1,973	1,500	1,631	1,589	1,626
Halifax 11.5%	2,942	2,000	2,114	0	0
	5,337	3,770	4,068	1,900	1,947

22. The weighted average return on the Council's corporate bonds for 2013/14 was 5.90 per cent, this significantly exceeded the benchmark return.
23. The corporate bonds mature on dates between 2015 and 2017. Annual interest earned will remain the same for the whole period a bond is held. Table 9 below shows the redemption yield of the bonds if held until the redemption date.

Bank	Interest rate %	Original cost £000	Nominal value £000	Interest to date	Interest due	Redemption value £000	Redemption date	Redemption yield
Santander	11.50%	422	270	322	105	697	04/01/2017	5.59%
RBS	9.63%	1,973	1,500	1,632	280	3,412	22/06/2015	6.20%

Money market funds (MMFs)

24. Money market funds are commercially run pooled investments. They work rather like unit trusts, but whereas the latter are based upon shares in companies, MMFs rely on loans to companies. As their pooled funds have a high total value, better rates of return can be obtained. Legislation allows authorities to access only those MMFs with the highest possible credit rating (AAA).
25. Access and liquidity, together with high security, have meant these funds have been used throughout the year. The Council currently invests in three MMFs and the amount held in each at the 31 March 2014 is shown below:

³ Carrying value: the accounting treatment of investments will depend on the financial asset category within which they are deemed to be. For some categories the amount carried in the balance sheet will be either written up or down over the term of the investment. This is done to reflect things such as transaction costs or deferred interest payments and is required to spread the effect equally over the life of the investment. The adjusted value is the carrying value.

Table 10: Money market funds	
	31/03/2014
	£000
Deutsche Bank	265
Blackrock	490
Goldman Sachs	170
	925

Other investments

PENSION FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

- 26. The Council made two contributions of £5 million to the Oxfordshire County Council pension fund, one in April 2005, the other in April 2008. The Council made these payments to reduce the ongoing contributions to the fund. Based on historical performance statistics, the return earned by the pension fund has been better than that achieved by the Council. The pension fund is able to invest far larger amounts than we do and therefore can attract higher rates of return.
- 27. The value of the pension fund assets and liabilities is based on a series of actuarial assumptions. From 1 January 2013, the expected return and interest cost will be replaced with a single net interest cost, which will effectively set the expected rate of return equal to the pensions discount rate provided in the International Accounting Standard (IAS19). Based on the actuarial valuation as at the 31 March 2013, the long term rate of return per annum expected on the funds assets was 4.4 per cent (4.3 per cent as at 31 March 2013).

LAND AND PROPERTY

- 28. The Council holds a portfolio of investment property which includes land, industrial estates, depots, garages and shops that are used on a commercial basis. These assets had a net book value of £15.9 million at 31 March 2014 (£15.9 million at 31 March 2013) and generated income (net of any direct service costs) of £1.1 million in 2013/14 (£1.0million in 2012/13).
- 29. The Economy, Leisure and Property (ELP) team manages investment property, ensuring that rent is collected and rent reviews are implemented. The performance of the investment property is assessed annually by ELP to determine if assets should be retained or disposed of and agree any actions to improve or enhance the value of the investment property holdings.

Treasury management limits on activity

- 30. The council is required by the Prudential Code to report on the limits set each year in the Treasury Management Strategy. The purpose of these limits is to ensure that the activity of the treasury function remains within certain parameters, thereby mitigating risk and reducing the impact of an adverse movement in interest rates. However, if these limits are set to be too restrictive they will impair the opportunities to reduce costs/improve performance. During the year none of these limits were exceeded. These limits are shown in appendix C.

LIQUIDITY AND YIELD

31. The benchmarks for liquidity are set to ensure that sufficient funds can be accessed at short notice. These are targets and not limits. The weighted average life (WAL) in days sets a benchmark for how long investments should be made and the maximum benchmark is a target set to ensure that investments are not made for too long. For example the amount to be maintained for liquidity was £10m and the actual of £11m was above the benchmark. The actual for the WAL of 333.5 days was within the range set (within which we set a benchmark of 182 days). The reason that the actual was above the benchmark is that during the year the council lent out some longer term investments to another local authority to spread the investment portfolio and access better returns.
32. The year end position against the original benchmarks approved in February 2013 is shown below:

Table 11: Risk-liquidity against benchmark		
	2013/14 Benchmark £m	2013/14 Actual £m
Bank overdraft	0.5	0
Short term deposits - minimum available within 1 week	10	11
	2013/14 Benchmark £m	2013/14 Actual £m
Weighted average life (days)	182.5	333.5

Debt activity during 2013/14

33. During 2013/14 there has been no need for the Council to borrow. The Council will continue to take a prudent approach to its debt strategy. The prudential indicators and limits set out in appendix C provide the scope and flexibility for the Council to borrow in the short-term up to the maximum limits, if such a need arose within the cash flow management activities of the authority, for the achievement of its service objectives.

Financial implications

34. The investments made in 2013/14 ensured that the council earned interest of £2.2 million. Although there was talk of a rise in interest rates a year ago, the reduction in inflationary pressures has meant that interest rates have remained at their historic low. The current outlook for growth in the UK economy means that there may start to be an increase in rates towards the end of 2014/15, but any increases (if they occur) are likely to be gradual and in small steps. ,
35. From 2014, income is anticipated to remain stable with no real increase until market rates maintain a sustained rise. This will be reflected in the council's 2015/16 budget and its medium term financial plan.

Legal implications

35. There are no significant legal implications as a result of the recommendations in this report. Compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury

Management in the Public Services, the DCLG Local Government Investment Guidance provides assurance that the council's investments are, and will continue to be, within its legal powers.

Conclusion

36. As at 31 March 2014, the Council's financial investments had a cost value of approximately £102 million. As a result of proactive management of investments held, and despite the low interest rates, during 2013/14 investments generated £2.233 million in investment income, which was £286,000 above the £1.947 million original budgeted estimate.
37. The financial year 2013/14 continued to provide a challenge to treasury management. Concerns for counterparty risk continue to present the council with a difficult environment to invest in. The main implications of these factors were:
 - low investment returns and difficulty to forecast;
 - increased counterparty risk – reduced choice of counterparties
 - interest rate exposure risk – due to investments held in short-term maturity periods.
38. Despite the continued uncertainty the overall investment performance was above the industry average for 2013/14. Investments were made in the year that provided a good return whilst maintaining security and liquidity.

Background papers

- Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting (CIPFA) code of practice for treasury management in the public sector.
- CIPFA treasury management in the public services code of practice and cross sectoral guidance notes
- Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14 – Council 21 February 2013.

Appendices

- A – Economic update and interest rates
- B – List of investments as at 31 March 2014
- C – Prudential indicators
- D – Glossary of terms

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