APPENDIX 1

Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2018 / 19

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. CIPFA consulted on changes to the Code in 2017, but has yet to publish a revised Code.

1.2 In addition, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) issued revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments in March 2010 that requires local authorities to approve an investment strategy before the start of each financial year.

1.3 This Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the DCLG Guidance.

1.4 The Council has 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 risk are therefore central to the Council's treasury management strategy.

1.5 **Revised strategy**: In accordance with the CLG Guidance, the Council will be asked to approve a revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement should the assumptions on which this report is based change significantly. Such circumstances would include, for example, a large unexpected change in interest rates, in the Authority's capital programme or in the level of its investment balance.

2. EXTERNAL CONTEXT

2.1 Economic background

2.1.1 The major external influence on the Council's treasury management strategy for 2018 / 19 will be the UK's progress in negotiating its exit from the European Union and agreeing future trading arrangements. The domestic economy has remained relatively robust since the surprise outcome of the 2016 referendum, but there are indications that uncertainty over the future is now weighing on growth. Transitional arrangements may prevent a cliff-edge, but will also extend the period of uncertainty for several years. Economic growth is therefore forecast to remain sluggish throughout 2018 / 19.

2.1.2 Consumer price inflation reached 3.0% in September 2017 as the post-referendum devaluation of sterling continued to feed through to imports. Unemployment continued to fall and the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee judged that the extent of spare capacity in the economy seemed limited and the pace at which the economy can grow without generating inflationary pressure had fallen over recent years. With its inflation-control mandate in mind, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee raised official interest rates to 0.5% in November 2017.

2.1.3 In contrast, the US economy is performing well and the Federal Reserve is raising interest rates in regular steps to remove some of the emergency monetary stimulus it has provided for the past decade. The European Central Bank is yet to raise rates, but has started to taper its quantitative easing programme, signalling some confidence in the Eurozone economy.

2.2 Credit outlook

2.2.1 High profile bank failures in Italy and Portugal have reinforced concerns over the health of the European banking sector. Sluggish economies and fines for pre-crisis behaviour continue to weigh on bank profits, and any future economic slowdown will exacerbate concerns in this regard.

2.2.2 Bail-in legislation, which ensures that large investors including local authorities will rescue failing banks instead of taxpayers in the future, has now been fully implemented in the European Union, Switzerland and USA, while Australia and Canada are progressing with their own plans. In addition, the largest UK banks will ringfence their retail banking functions into separate legal entities during 2018. There remains some uncertainty over how these changes will impact upon the credit strength of the residual legal entities.

2.2.3 The credit risk associated with making unsecured bank deposits has therefore increased relative to the risk of other investment options available to the Authority; returns from cash deposits however remain very low.

2.3 Interest rate forecast

2.3.1 The Councils treasury adviser Arlingclose's central case is for UK Bank Rate to remain at 0.50% during 2018 / 19, following the rise from the historic low of 0.25%. The Monetary Policy Committee re-emphasised that any prospective increases in Bank Rate would be expected to be at a gradual pace and to a limited extent.

2.3.2 Future expectations for higher short term interest rates are subdued and on-going decisions remain data dependant and negotiations on exiting the EU cast a shadow over monetary policy decisions. The risks to Arlingclose's forecast are broadly balanced on both sides. The Arlingclose central case is for gilt yields to remain broadly stable across the medium term. Upward movement will be limited, although the UK government's seemingly deteriorating fiscal stance is an upside risk.

2.3.3 A more detailed economic and interest rate forecast provided by Arlingclose is attached at **Appendix A**.

2.3.4 For the purpose of setting the budget, it has been assumed that an average return of 1.6% will be achieved on investments.

3. LOCAL CONTEXT

3.1 As at 6 December 2017 the Council has no borrowing and £21m of investments. This is set out in further detail at **Appendix B.**

3.2 Investments are forecast to fall to £13m as capital receipts are used to finance capital expenditure and reserves are used to finance the revenue budget.

3.3 CIPFA's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* recommends that the Council's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CFR over the next three years. The Council expects to comply with this recommendation during 2018 / 19 as there is currently no borrowing.

4. BORROWING STRATEGY

4.1 The Council is currently debt free and its capital expenditure plans do not currently imply any need to borrow over the forecast period. The Council may however borrow to pre-fund future years' requirements or capital expenditure that occurs in the year supporting the Authorities Commercial Strategy, providing this does not exceed the authorised limit for borrowing of £10 million.

4.2 Objectives

4.2.1 Should the Council's long-term plans change and it does borrow, the chief objective will be to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans will be a secondary objective.

4.3 Strategy

4.3.1 Given the significant cuts to public expenditure and in particular to local government funding, the Council's borrowing strategy will address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. With short-term interest rates currently much lower than long-term rates, it is likely to be more cost effective in the short-term to either use internal resources, or to borrow short-term loans instead. The Council's advisor Arlingclose will assist the Council with its borrowing options.

4.3.2 In addition, the Council may borrow short-term loans (normally for up to one month) to cover unexpected cash flow shortages.

4.4 Sources

4.4.1 The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:

- Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)and any successor body;
- Any institution approved for investments (see below);
- Any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK;
- UK public and private sector pension funds (except the Essex Pension Fund);
- Capital market bond investors;
- UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc and other special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues.

4.4.2 In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- Operating and finance leases;
- Hire purchase;
- Private Finance Initiative
- Sale and leaseback

4.4.3 The Council may consider sourcing its long-term borrowing from the PWLB but it will also investigate other sources of finance, such as local authority loans and bank loans, which may be available at more favourable rates.

4.5 **Borrowing Indicators**

4.5.1 The Council is required to approve two prudential indicators for External Debt. The Authorised Limit and Operational Limit for borrowing.

4.5.2 The Authorised limit is the maximum amount of borrowing that the Council is allowed to reach and should not be breached. This includes a head room over the Operational limit to allow for cashflow issues, and unexpected breaches in the operational limit.

4.5.3 The Operational limit is the probable amount of borrowing that is required and should reflect that that is required and affordable on an ongoing basis to the Council. This will always be lower than the authorised limit.

	2018 / 19	**2019 / 20**
Authorised Borrowing Limit	£10m	£10m
Operational Borrowing Limit	£7m	£7m

4.6 **Municipal Bond Agency**

4.6.1 UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc was established in 2014 by the Local Government Association as an alternative to the PWLB. It plans to issue bonds on the capital markets and lend the proceeds to local authorities. This will be a more complicated source of finance than the PWLB for two reasons: borrowing authorities will be required to provide bond investors with a joint and several guarantee to refund their investment in the event that the agency is unable to for any reason; and there will be a lead time of several months between committing to borrow and knowing the interest rate payable. Any decision to borrow from the Agency will therefore be the subject of a separate report to the Council.

4.7 **Short-term and Variable Rate loans**

4.7.1 These loans leave the Council exposed to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the limit on the net exposure to variable interest rates in the treasury management indicators below.

5. INVESTMENT STRATEGY

5.1 The Council holds invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During the current financial year, the Council's investment balance has averaged £15 million and similar levels are expected to be maintained in the forthcoming year

5.2 **Objectives**

5.2.1 Both the CIPFA Code and the CLG Guidance require the Council 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 Council'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 receiving unsuitably low investment income.

5.2.2 With increased budgetary pressures, an element of the Council's available funds are to be available to invest in medium term, moderate risk investments. These will be determined as suitable following appropriate due diligence reviews by the S151 officer.

5.2.3 Negative interest rates: If the UK enters into a recession in 2018 / 19, there is a small chance that the Bank of England could set its Bank Rate at or below zero, which is likely to feed through to negative interest rates on all low risk, short-term investment options. This situation already exists in many other European countries. In this event, security will be measured as receiving the contractually agreed amount at maturity, even though this may be less than the amount originally invested.

5.3 **Strategy**

5.3.1 Given the increasing risk and very low returns from short-term unsecured bank investments, the Council will look to further diversify into higher yielding asset classes during 2018/19. This is especially the case for the funds available for longer term investment. The majority of the Councils surplus cash remains invested in short-term unsecured bank deposits, certificates of deposit and money market funds. This diversification will represent a continuation of the new strategy adopted in 2017.

5.4 **Approved Counterparties**

5.4.1 The Council may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types in table 1 below, subject to the cash limits (per counterparty) and the time limits shown.

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Table 1: Approved Investment Counterparties and Limits

Credit Rating	Banks Unsecured	Banks secured	Government	Corporates	Registered Providers
UK Govt	n/a	n/a	£ Unlimited 50 years	n/a	n/a
AAA	£2m 5 years	£2m 20 years	£2m 50 years	£1m 20 years	£1m 20 years
AA+	£2m 5 years	£2m 10 years	£2m 25 years	£1m 10 years	£1m 10 years
AA	£2m 4 years	£2m 5 years	£2m 15 years	£1m 5 years	£1m 10 years
AA-	£2m 3 years	£2m 4 years	£2m 10 years	£1m 4 years	£1m 10 years
A+	£2m 2 years	£2m 3 years	£1m 5 years	£1m 3 years	£1m 5 years
A	£2m 13 months	£2m 2 years	£1m 5 years	£1m 2 years	£1m 5 years
A-	£2m 6 months	£2m 13 months	£1m 5 years	£1m 13 months	£1m 5 years
None	£1m 6 months	n/a	£1m 25 years	£2m	£1m 5 years
Money Market & other Pooled funds	£5m per fund				

This table must be read in conjunction with the notes below

5.4.2 Credit Rating: Investment limits are set by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's or Standard & Poor's. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

5.4.3 Banks Unsecured: Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. See below for arrangements relating to operational bank accounts.

5.4.4 Banks Secured: Covered bonds, reverse repurchase agreements and other collateralised arrangements with banks and building societies. These investments are secured on the bank's assets, which limits the potential losses in the unlikely event of insolvency, and means that they are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the highest of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used to determine cash and time limits. The combined secured and unsecured investments in any one bank will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

5.4.5 Government: Loans, bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is an insignificant risk of insolvency. Investments with the UK Central Government may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.

5.4.6 Corporates: Loans, bonds and commercial paper issued by companies other than banks and registered providers. These investments are not subject to bail-in, but are exposed to the risk of the company going insolvent. Loans to unrated companies will only be made following suitable due diligence by the S151 officer.

5.4.7 Registered Providers: Loans and bonds issued by, guaranteed by or secured on the assets of Registered Providers of Social Housing, formerly known as Housing Associations. These bodies are tightly regulated by the Homes and Communities Agency and, as providers of public services they retain a high likelihood of receiving government support if needed.

5.4.8 Pooled Funds: Shares in diversified investment vehicles consisting of the any of the above investment types, plus equity shares and property. These funds have the advantage of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a fee. Money Market Funds that offer same-day liquidity and aim for a constant net asset value will be used as an alternative to instant access bank accounts, while pooled funds whose value changes with market prices and/or have a notice period will be used for longer investment periods.

5.4.9 Bond, equity and property funds offer enhanced returns over the longer term, but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Council to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Council's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.

5.4.10 Operational bank accounts: The Council may incur operational exposures, for example though current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to any UK bank with credit ratings no lower than BBB- and with assets greater than £25 billion. These are not classed as investments, but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will therefore be kept below £2m per bank. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Council maintaining operational continuity.

5.5 Risk Assessment and Credit Ratings

5.5.1 Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Council's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- No new investments will be made,

- Any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be,
- Full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.

5.5.2 Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as "rating watch negative" or "credit watch negative") so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn on the next working day will be made with that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.

5.6 **Other Information on the Security of Investments**

5.6.1 The Council understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support and reports in the quality financial press. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may meet the credit rating criteria.

5.6.2 When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008 and 2011, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Council will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Council's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government, via the Debt Management Office or invested in government treasury bills for example, or with other local authorities. This will cause a reduction in the level of investment income earned, but will protect the principal sum invested.

5.7 **Specified Investments**

5.7.1 The CLG Guidance defines specified investments as those:

- Denominated in pound sterling,
- Due to be repaid within 12 months of arrangement,
- Not defined as capital expenditure by legislation, and
- Invested with one of:
    - The UK Government
    - A UK local council, parish council or community council, or
    - A body or investment scheme of "high credit quality".

5.7.2 The Council defines "high credit quality" organisations and securities as those having a credit rating of A- or higher that are domiciled in the UK or a foreign country with a sovereign rating of AA+ or higher. For money market funds and other pooled funds "high credit quality" is defined as those having a credit rating of A- or higher.

5.8 **Non-specified Investments**

5.8.1 Any investment not meeting the definition of a specified investment is classed as non-specified. The Council does not intend to make any investments denominated in foreign currencies, nor any that are defined as capital expenditure by legislation, such as company shares. Non-specified investments will therefore be limited to long-term investments, i.e. those that are due to mature 12 months or longer from the date of arrangement, and investments with bodies and schemes not meeting the definition on high credit quality. Limits on non-specified investments are shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Non-Specified Investment Limits

	Cash limit
Total long-term investments (i.e. over 364 days)	£7.5m
Total investments without credit ratings or rated below A-	£7.5m *
Total investments with institutions domiciled in foreign countries rated below AA+	£0m
Total non-specified investments	£12.5m

* To accommodate pooled funds which are not credit rated (e.g. strategic bond funds, equity income funds and property funds) but in which the underlying investments are very highly diversified.

5.9 **Investment Limits**

5.9.1 The Council's usable reserves available to cover investment losses are forecast to be £4.5 million on 31 March 2018. In order that no more than 50% of available reserves will be put at risk in the case of a single default, the maximum that will be lent to any one organisation (other than the UK Government) will be £2million. A group of banks under the same ownership will be treated as a single organisation for limit purposes. Limits will also be placed on fund managers, investments in brokers' nominee accounts, foreign countries and industry sectors as below:

Table 3: Investment Limits

	Cash limit
Any single organisation, except the UK Central Government	£2m each
UK Central Government	unlimited
Any group of organisations under the same ownership	£2m per group
Any group of pooled funds under the same management	£5m per manager
Negotiable instruments held in a broker's nominee account	£10m per broker
Registered Providers	£2m in total
Unsecured investments with Building Societies	£5m in total
Loans to unrated corporates	£2m in total
Money Market Funds	£12m in total

5.10 **Liquidity Management**

5.10.1 The Council uses in house cash flow forecasting methods to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on a pessimistic basis, with receipts under-estimated and payments over-estimated to minimise the risk of the Council being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet its financial commitments. Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to the Council's medium term financial plan and cash flow forecast.

5.11 **Non-Treasury Investments**

5.11.1 Although not classed as treasury management activities and therefore not covered by the CIPFA Code or the CLG Guidance, the Council may also purchase property for investment purposes and may also make loans and investments for service purposes, for example in shared ownership housing, as loans to local businesses and landlords, or as equity investments and loans to the Council's subsidiaries.

5.11.2 Such loans and investments will be subject to the Council's normal approval processes for revenue and capital expenditure and need not comply with this treasury management strategy.

6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

6.1 The Council measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

6.2 Security: The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit score 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.

	Target
Portfolio average credit score	6

6.3 Liquidity: The Council 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.

	Target
Total cash available within 3 months	£5m

6.4 Interest Rate Exposures: This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk. While the council has no debt this indicator is not applicable:

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Upper limit on fixed interest rate exposure	100%	100%	100%
Upper limit on variable interest rate exposure	100%	100%	100%

6.4.1 Fixed rate investments and borrowings are those where the rate of interest is fixed for the whole financial year or for a 12 month period if the transaction date is later than the commencement of the financial year. All other instruments are classed as variable rate.

6.5 Maturity Structure of Borrowing: This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing will be:

	Upper	**Lower**
Under 12 months	100%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	100%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	100%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	100%	0%
10 years and above	100%	0%

6.5.1 As the Council does not have any fixed rate long-dated loans, the upper limit has been set at 100% to accommodate a loan in the maturity bracket deemed most appropriate.

6.5.2 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.

6.6 Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than 364 days: The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the total principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end will be:

	2018/19	**2019/20**	**2020/21**
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£8m	£7.5m	£7.5m

7. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND MRP STATEMENT

See APPENDIX C

8. OTHER ITEMS

8.1 There are a number of additional items that the Council is obliged by CIPFA or CLG to include in its Treasury Management Strategy.

8.2 Policy on Use of Financial Derivatives: The Council will not use standalone financial derivatives (such as swaps, forwards, futures and options).

8.3 Investment Training: The needs of the Council's treasury management staff for training in investment management as part of the staff appraisal process, and additionally when the responsibilities of individual members of staff change. Staff regularly attend training courses, seminars and conferences provided by Arlingclose and CIPFA.

8.4 Investment Advisers: The Council has appointed Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers and receives specific advice on investment, debt and capital finance issues.

8.5 Investment of Money Borrowed in Advance of Need: The Council may, from time to time, borrow in advance of need, where this is expected to provide the best long term value for money. Since amounts borrowed will be invested until spent, the Council is aware that it will be exposed to the risk of loss of the borrowed sums, and the risk that investment and borrowing interest rates may change in the intervening period. These risks will be managed as part of the Council's overall management of its treasury risks.

8.6 The total amount borrowed will not exceed the authorised borrowing limit of £10 million. The maximum period between borrowing and expenditure is expected to be two years, although the Council is not required to link particular loans with particular items of expenditure.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The budget for investment income in 2018 / 19 is £228,000 based on an average investment portfolio of £14 million at an interest rate of 1.6%. The budget for debt interest paid in 2018/19 is currently nil as the Council does not have external loans. If actual levels of investments and borrowing, and actual interest rates differ from those forecast, performance against budget will be correspondingly different.

10. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

10.1 The CLG Guidance and the CIPFA Code do not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for local authorities to adopt. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are listed below.

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times	Interest income will be lower	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses will be greater
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses will be smaller

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Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs will be more certain
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates	Debt interest costs will initially be lower	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long term costs will be less certain
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs will be less certain

Appendix A

Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast November 2017

Underlying assumptions:

- In a 7-2 vote, the MPC increased Bank Rate in line with market expectations to 0.5%. Dovish accompanying rhetoric prompted investors to lower the expected future path for interest rates. The minutes re-emphasised that any prospective increases in Bank Rate would be expected to be at a gradual pace and to a limited extent.
- Further potential movement in Bank Rate is reliant on economic data and the likely outcome of the EU negotiations. Policymakers have downwardly assessed the supply capacity of the UK economy, suggesting inflationary growth is more likely. However, the MPC will be wary of raising rates much further amid low business and household confidence.
- The UK economy faces a challenging outlook as the minority government continues to negotiate the country's exit from the European Union. While recent economic data has improved, it has done so from a low base: UK Q3 2017 GDP growth was 0.4%, after a 0.3% expansion in Q2.
- Household consumption growth, the driver of recent UK GDP growth, has softened following a contraction in real wages, despite both saving rates and consumer credit volumes indicating that some households continue to spend in the absence of wage growth. Policymakers have expressed concern about the continued expansion of consumer credit; any action taken will further dampen household spending.
- Some data has held up better than expected, with unemployment continuing to decline and house prices remaining relatively resilient. However, both of these factors can also be seen in a negative light, displaying the structural lack of investment in the UK economy post financial crisis. Weaker long term growth may prompt deterioration in the UK’s fiscal position.
- The depreciation in sterling may assist the economy to rebalance away from spending. Export volumes will increase, helped by a stronger Eurozone economic expansion.
- Near-term global growth prospects have continued to improve and broaden, and expectations of inflation are subdued. Central banks are moving to reduce the level of monetary stimulus.
- Geo-political risks remains elevated and helps to anchor safe-haven flows into the UK government bond (gilt) market.

Forecast:

- The MPC has increased Bank Rate, largely to meet expectations they themselves created. Future expectations for higher short term interest rates are subdued. On-going decisions remain data dependant and negotiations on exiting the EU cast a shadow over monetary policy decisions.
- Our central case for Bank Rate is 0.5% over the medium term. The risks to the forecast are broadly balanced on both sides.
- The Arlingclose central case is for gilt yields to remain broadly stable across the medium term. Upward movement will be limited, although the UK government’s seemingly deteriorating fiscal stance is an upside risk.

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	Dec-17	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Mar-19	Jun-19	Sep-19	Dec-19	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Average
Official Bank Rate														
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	**0.19**
Arlingclose Central Case	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**
Downside risk	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	**-0.15**
3-month LIBID rate														
Upside risk	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	**0.22**
Arlingclose Central Case	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**	**0.50**
Downside risk	-0.10	-0.10	-0.15	-0.15	-0.15	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	**-0.20**
1-yr LIBID rate														
Upside risk	0.15	0.15	0.20	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	**0.27**
Arlingclose Central Case	**0.70**	**0.70**	**0.70**	**0.70**	**0.80**	**0.80**	**0.80**	**0.80**	**0.80**	**0.80**	**0.80**	**0.80**	**0.80**	**0.77**
Downside risk	-0.15	-0.20	-0.30	-0.30	-0.30	-0.30	-0.30	-0.30	-0.30	-0.30	-0.30	-0.15	-0.15	**-0.26**
5-yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.20	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.40	**0.32**
Arlingclose Central Case	**0.75**	**0.75**	**0.80**	**0.80**	**0.80**	**0.85**	**0.90**	**0.90**	**0.95**	**0.95**	**1.00**	**1.05**	**1.10**	**0.89**
Downside risk	-0.20	-0.20	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.35	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	**-0.33**
10-yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.20	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.40	**0.32**
Arlingclose Central Case	**1.25**	**1.25**	**1.25**	**1.25**	**1.25**	**1.30**	**1.30**	**1.35**	**1.40**	**1.45**	**1.50**	**1.55**	**1.55**	**1.36**
Downside risk	-0.20	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.30	-0.35	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	**-0.33**
20-yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.20	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.40	**0.32**
Arlingclose Central Case	**1.85**	**1.85**	**1.85**	**1.85**	**1.85**	**1.90**	**1.90**	**1.95**	**1.95**	**2.00**	**2.05**	**2.05**	**2.05**	**1.93**
Downside risk	-0.20	-0.30	-0.25	-0.25	-0.30	-0.35	-0.40	-0.45	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	**-0.38**
50-yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.20	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.40	**0.32**
Arlingclose Central Case	**1.70**	**1.70**	**1.70**	**1.70**	**1.70**	**1.75**	**1.80**	**1.85**	**1.90**	**1.95**	**1.95**	**1.95**	**1.95**	**1.82**
Downside risk	-0.30	-0.30	-0.25	-0.25	-0.30	-0.35	-0.40	-0.45	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	**-0.39**

Appendix B

Existing Investment & Debt Portfolio Position

	6 Dec 2017 Actual Portfolio £m	Average Rate %
Total External Borrowing	**0**	**0**
Other Long Term Liabilities:		
Finance Leases	0.0	
Total Gross External Debt		
Investments:		
Managed in-house		
Long Term Investments		
LAMIT Property Fund	3	4.5
Investec Diversified Income Fund	2	4.5
Short-term investments		
Term Deposits	4	0.37
Certificates of Deposit	1	0.47
Money Market Funds	9	0.46
Notice Reserve Accounts	2	0.4
Total Investments	(21)	
Net Debt	(21)	

Appendix C

Prudential Indicators and MRP Statement 2018/19

Appendix A - Prudential Indicators 2018/19

The Local Government Act 2003 requires the council to have regard to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* (the Prudential Code) when determining how much money it can afford to borrow. The objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure, within a clear framework, that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable, and that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice. To demonstrate that the council has fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out the following indicators that must be set and monitored each year.

Estimates of Capital Expenditure: The councils planned capital expenditure and financing may be summarised as follows.

Capital Expenditure and Financing	2017/18 Revised £m	2018/19 Estimate £m	2019/20 Estimate £m	2020/21 Estimate £m
Total Expenditure	964	682	487	487
Capital Receipts	544	262	67	67
Government Grants	420	420	420	420
Total Financing	964	682	487	487

Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement:

The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) measures the councils underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose.

	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000
Capital Financing Requirement	-186	-£186

A negative CFR indicates the council has capital funds available, and that it has no need to borrow.

Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions: This is an indicator of affordability that shows the impact of capital investment decisions on Council Tax levels. The incremental impact is the difference between the total revenue budget requirement of the current approved capital programme and the revenue budget requirement arising from the capital programme .

Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions	2018/19 Estimate £	2019/20 Estimate £	2020/21 Estimate £
General Fund - increase in annual band D Council Tax	0.01	-0.01	0.01

Appendix C

Adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code: The council adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2011 Edition*. It fully complies with the Codes recommendations.

Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2018/19

Where the council finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), although there has been no statutory minimum since 2008. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the council to have regard to the Department for Communities and Local Government's *Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision* (the CLG Guidance) most recently issued in 2012.

The broad aim of the CLG Guidance is to ensure that debt is repaid over a period that is either reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits, or, in the case of borrowing supported by Government Revenue Support Grant, reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of that grant.

The CLG Guidance requires the council to approve an Annual MRP Statement each year, and recommends a number of options for calculating a prudent amount of MRP. The following statement incorporates options recommended in the Guidance

> The council expects that its Capital Financing Requirement will be negative on 31st March 2018 and in line with the CLG Guidance it will therefore charge no MRP in 2018/19.
>
> The Commercialisation Strategy and associated projects may require borrowing, in which case the Capital Financing Requirement will be altered and an MRP charge will be required. If this is the case then the following statement will be applicable and will be reported as part of the approval request for the relevant expenditure.
>
> For capital expenditure incurred after 31st March 2008, MRP will be determined by charging the expenditure over the expected useful life of the relevant asset in equal instalments, starting in the year after the asset becomes operational. MRP on purchases of freehold land will be charged over 50 years. MRP on expenditure not related to fixed assets but which has been capitalised by regulation or direction will be charged over 20 years.

Capital expenditure incurred during 2018/19 will not be subject to a MRP charge until 2019/20. Therefore there is no budget for MRP.