

**COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL'S TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND REPORT
ON THE OPERATION AND MONITORING OF THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT SERVICE**

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Summary and Recommendation:

Council be Recommended that :

1. Note the report
2. Approve the revised prudential indicators and limits
3. Approve the updated Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy contained at Annex B

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities began on 1st April 2004 and introduced a greater freedom for the Council's capital expenditure. Part of the requirements of the Code is for reporting procedures to be implemented to monitor the progress and status of the capital expenditure plans. This report fulfils that requirement and shows the status of the Prudential Indicators as at 30th September 2007. The indicators were first reported to Full Council on 27th February 2007.
- 1.2 The Council's financial regulations require a Treasury Management Strategy covering the future three financial years to be reported to Council on an annual basis.
- 1.3 This report combines those requirements. The main body of the report details the actual prudential indicators for the 2006/07 financial year, and updates forecasts for the 2007/08 outturn and 2008/09 and 2009/10. Appendices B and C contain the Council's updated Treasury Management Strategy and supporting information, and covers the period from 2008/09 to 2010/11. The Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators will, if approved, be incorporated into the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

2. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING OF THE EXPENDITURE

- 2.1 The table below shows the Prudential Indicator (PI) which highlights the actual 2006/07 capital expenditure position and the updated estimated capital programme for 2007/08 to 2009/10. The financing of the capital programme is also shown.

	2006-07 Actual £000	2007/08 Original £000	2007-08 Revised £000	2008-09 Budget £000	2009-10 Budget £000
Capital Expenditure					
Total Expenditure	4,160	2,923	6,473	759	460
Financed By:					
Capital Receipts	192	800	3,836	759	460
Capital Grants	3,348	1,511	2,637		
Revenue	620	612			
Net Capital Requirement	0	0	0	0	0

3 THE COUNCIL'S BORROWING NEED (THE CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT)

- 3.1 The table below shows the Council's Capital Financing Requirement, which is the Council's underlying external indebtedness for a capital purpose. It flows directly from the capital expenditure plans above, and will also be adjusted for annual revenue charge for debt repayment (the Minimum Revenue Provision). The Council currently and for the foreseeable future has no Minimum Revenue Provision requirement, and therefore no contribution is required from the revenue budget to cover these costs.

	2006-07 Actual £'000	2007-08 Original £'000	2007-08 Revised £'000	2008-09 Budget £'000	2009-10 Budget £'000
Capital Financing Requirement – CFR					
Total CFR	0	0	0	0	0
Net Movement in CFR	0	0	0	0	0
PI – External Debt					
Borrowing	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Other long term liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Debt 31 March	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

4 LIMITS TO BORROWING ACTIVITY

4.1 The first key control over the Council's activity is a Prudential Indicator to ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing will only be for a capital purpose. Net external borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for 2007/08 and the following two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years.

	2006-07 Actual £'000	2007-08 Original £'000	2007-08 Revised £'000	2008-09 Budget £'000	2009-10 Budget £'000
Gross Borrowing	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Investments	-19,113	-18,000	-19,966	-19,901	-18,694
Net Borrowing	-14,113	-13,000	-13,000	-13,000	-13,000
CFR	0	0	0	0	0

4.2 The Head of Finance and Business Development reports that the Council complied with this prudential indicator in 2006-07, and no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in the Budget Report.

4.3 A further two prudential indicators control or anticipate the overall level of borrowing. These are:

4.4 **The authorised limit** – This represents a limit beyond which external debt is prohibited, and this limit needs to be set or revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

4.5 **The operational boundary** – This indicator is based on the probable external debt during the course of the year; it is not a limit and actual borrowing could vary around this boundary for short times during the year. CIPFA anticipate that this should act as an indicator to ensure the authorised limit is not breached.

Authorised limit for external debt	2007-08 Original £'000	2007-08 Revised £'000	2008-09 Revised £'000	2009-10 Revised £'000
Borrowing	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Temp Rev and Capital estimate	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
TOTAL	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000

Operational boundary for external debt	2006-07 Revised £'000	2007-08 Estimated £'000	2008-09 Estimated £'000	2009-10 Estimated £'000
Borrowing	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

5 AFFORDABILITY PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

5.1 The previous sections cover the overall capital and control of borrowing prudential indicators, but within this framework prudential indicators are required to assess the affordability of the capital investment plans on the overall Council's finances.

5.2 **Actual and estimate of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream** – This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream. The estimates of financing cost include current commitments and the proposals from the budget report.

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Original	2007-08 Revised	2008-09 Estimated	2009-10 Estimated
General Fund	-7%	-7%	-7%	-7%	-7%

5.3 **Estimates of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the Council Tax** – This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of proposed changes in the three year capital programme recommended in the budget report compared to the Council's existing approved commitments and current plans. They are required to be approved annually and will be reported to Full Council at the same time as the next Budget and Council Tax Setting Report.

6 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

6.1 The first treasury indicator requires the adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management. This Council adopted that Code on 14th March 2002.

6.2 The Upper Limits on Variable Rate Exposure indicator is the maximum limit for variable interest rates based upon the debt position net of investments.

6.3 The Upper Limits on Fixed Rate Exposure is similar to the indicator above, but covers maximum limit on fixed interest rates.

	2006-07 Original £'000	2007-08 Revised £'000	2008-09 Estimated £'000	2009-10 Estimated £'000
Prudential indicator limits based on debt only				
Limits on fixed interest rates	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Limits on variable rates	£0	£0	£0	£0

7 MATURITY STRUCTURES OF BORROWING

7.1 These gross limits are set to reduce the Council's exposure to large fixed rate loans (those instruments which carry a fixed interest rate for the duration of the instrument) falling due for refinancing.

Maturity Structure of Fixed Borrowing	2007/08 Revised Lower Limits	2007/08 Revised Upper Limits
Under 12 Months	0%	50%
12 Months to 2 years	0%	0%
2 years to 5 years	0%	0%
5 years to 10 years	0%	0%
10 years and above	0%	100%

8 TREASURY MANAGEMENT IN 2007-08

- 8.1 The Council still has the one remaining Market Loan in its debt portfolio, of £5 million. We continually assess the position of this loan with our Treasury Consultants, Butlers, to see whether we are securing the best terms for the Council. At the current time, the advice is to leave this loan in its present form.
- 8.2 In March 2007 £11,740,000 was repaid to the Council from INVESTEC external fund managers. This has increased the Council's cash balances.
- 8.3 During the year interest rates have risen by 0.75% above our budget estimates. This has meant that the actual interest we are receiving on our investments is over and above our estimates.
- 8.4 Pressures on the budget for next year and beyond, now means that we must strive to maximize the level of interest that we can earn and therefore we will continue to work closely with Butlers to ensure that our counter-party list (ie those financial institution/ organisations that we can place money with) is secure and enables us to secure the best return for the Council.

List of Appendices – Appendix A	Investments
Appendix B	Treasury Management Strategy (Updated)
Appendix C	Further TMS Details

List of Background documents – Treasury Files

List of consultees: Corporate Team, Accountants, Leader

TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS AT 31/03/07

Appendix A
BASE RATE

	AMOUNT	PERIOD OF LOAN	VALUE DATE	MATURITY DATE	RATE	BASE RATE
BANK OF SCOTLAND	500,000	CALL			4.75%	
NATWEST	3,000,000	CALL			4.75%	
NOTTINGHAM BS	1,000,000	12 MONTH	12/06/06	11/06/07	4.87%	
HINKLEY & RUGBY BS	1,000,000	12 MONTH	19/06/06	18/09/07	4.97%	
KENT RELIANCE BS	500,000	10 WEEKS	01/02/07	12/04/07	5.46%	
HINKLEY & RUGBY BS	1,100,000	51 WEEKS	27/02/07	20/02/08	5.72%	
LEEK UNITED BS	3,000,000	12 MONTH	19/03/07	17/03/08	5.72%	
HINKLEY & RUGBY BS	2,000,000	24 MONTH	19/03/07	19/03/09	5.84%	
CHELSEA BS	1,000,000	24 WEEKS	19/03/07	19/03/09	5.84%	
MANCHESTER BS	1,000,000	12 MONTHS	19/03/07	17/03/08	5.70%	
MANCHESTER BS	2,000,000	41 WEEKS	19/03/07	02/01/08	5.66%	
NORTHERN ROCK	3,000,000	24 MONTHS	20/03/07	20/03/09	5.81%	
TOTAL	19,100,000					

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2008/09 – 2010/11

1. The treasury management service is an important part of the overall financial management of the Council's affairs. The prudential indicators in the main report consider the affordability and impact of capital expenditure decisions, and set out the Council's overall capital framework. The treasury service considers the effective funding of these decisions. Together they form part of the process, which ensures the Council meets the balanced budget requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992. There are specific treasury prudential indicators included in this strategy, which require approval.
2. The Council's treasury activities are strictly regulated by statutory requirements and a professional code of practice (the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management). This Council adopted the Code of Practice on Treasury Management on 14th March 2002, and as a result adopted a Treasury Management Policy Statement (24th February 2004). This adoption meets the requirements of the first of the treasury prudential indicators.
3. Financial Regulations require an annual strategy to be reported to Council outlining the expected treasury activity for the forthcoming 3 years. A key requirement of this report is to explain both the risks, and the management of the risks, associated with the treasury service. A further treasury report is produced after the year-end to report on actual activity for the year.
4. This strategy covers:
 - The Council's debt and investment projections
 - The expected movement in interest rates
 - The Council's borrowing and investment strategies
 - Treasury performance indicators
 - Specific limits on treasury activities
 - Any local treasury issues
5. The borrowing requirement comprises the expected movement in the CFR and any maturing debt, which will need to be re-financed. There is expected to be no change to the current outstanding debt level of £5,000,000. As detailed in Appendix C, funds available for investment and to support daily cash flow and working capital requirements are predicted to reduce from an estimated £20,500,000 in 2008/9 to £13,500,000 in 2010/11.
6. Interest rate uncertainty is set to persist in the year ahead with the threat of higher inflation, increases in oil and fuel prices, the cooling of the housing market, and the current credit squeeze contributing to uncertainty.

7. The Bank of England has noted that despite indications that the economy may contract, the risks of inflation still remain, and many of the current pressures on prices are externally generated and therefore will not respond to interest rate changes.
8. The uncertainty over future interest rates increases the risks associated with treasury activity. As a result the Council will take a cautious approach to its treasury strategy.
9. The Head of Finance and Business Development is not intending to take out any additional borrowing for the foreseeable future.

Investment Counterparty and Liquidity Framework

10. The primary principle governing the Council's investment criteria is the security of its investments, although the yield or return on the investment is also a key consideration. After this main principle the Council will ensure:
 - It has sufficient liquidity in its investments. For this purpose it will set out procedures for determining the maximum periods for which funds may prudently be committed. These procedures also apply to the Council's prudential indicators covering the maximum principal sums invested.
 - It maintains a policy covering both the categories of investment types it will invest in, criteria for choosing investment counterparties with adequate security and monitoring their security. This is set out in the Specified and Non-specified investment sections below.
11. All investments will be made in accordance with the Council's investment policies and prevailing legislation and regulations.
12. The Director of Finance maintains a counterparty list in compliance with the following criteria and will revise the criteria and submit them to Council for approval as necessary. This criteria is separate to that which chooses Specified and Non-Specified investments as it selects which counterparties the Council will choose rather than defining what its investments are. The rating criteria use the lowest common denominator method of selecting counterparties and applying limits.
 - **Banks** – the Council will use banks which have at least the following Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poors ratings (where rated):
 - **Short Term – F1**
 - **Long Term – A**
 - **Individual / Financial Strength – C (Fitch / Moody's only)**
 - **Support – 4 (Fitch only)**

- **Bank Subsidiary and Treasury Operations** – the Council will use these where the parent bank has the necessary ratings outlined above.
- **Building Societies** – the Council will use the top 30 Societies.
- **Money Market Funds** – AAA
- **UK Government** (including gilts and the DMO)
- **Local Authorities, Parish Councils etc**
- **Supranational institutions**

13. The time limits for institutions on the Council's Counterparty List are as follows (these will cover both Specified and Non-Specified Investments):

	Fitch or equivalent	Money Limit	Time Limit
Upper Limit Category	AA	£3m	3yrs
Lower Limit Category	A	£2m	2yrs
Other Institution Limits	-	£3m	1yrs

14. The proposed criteria for Specified and Non-Specified investments are shown in Annex B1 for approval.
15. In the normal course of the council's cash flow operations it is expected that both Specified and Non-specified investments will be utilised for the control of liquidity as both categories allow for short term investments.
16. The use of longer term instruments (greater than one year from inception to repayment) will fall in the Non-specified investment category. These instruments will only be used where the Council's liquidity requirements are safeguarded. This will also be limited by the investment prudential indicator below.
17. Expectations on shorter-term interest rates on which investment decisions are based, show a likelihood of peaking at 5.25% in early 2008, falling to 4.8 by the end of the year, and currently shorter term investments are yielding higher rates of interest than longer term investments.
18. The Council's investment decisions are based on comparisons between the rises priced into market rates against the Council's and advisers own fore-casts. The Head of Finance and Business Development under delegated powers, will undertake the most appropriate form of investments depending on the prevailing interest rates at the time, taking into account the risks shown in the forecast above.

19. There are four further treasury prudential indicators. The purpose of these prudential indicators is to contain the activity of the treasury function within certain limits, thereby managing risk and reducing the impact of an adverse movement in interest rates. However if these are set to be too restrictive they will impair the opportunities to reduce costs. The indicators are:

- Upper limits on variable interest rate exposure – This indicator identifies a maximum limit for variable interest rates based upon the debt position net of investments
- Upper limits on fixed interest rate exposure – similar to the previous indicator this covers a maximum limit on fixed interest rates
- Maturity structure of borrowing – These gross limits are set to reduce the Council's exposure to large fixed rate sums falling due for refinancing, and are required for upper and lower limits.
- Total principal funds invested for greater than 364 days – These limits are set to reduce the need for early sale of an investment, and are based on the availability of funds after each year-end.

20. The Council is asked to approve the following prudential indicators:

	2008-09 Upper	2009-10 Upper	2010-11 Upper
Limits on fixed interest rates	£5,000,000	£5,000,000	£5,000,000
Limits on variable rates	£0	£0	£0

	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
Under 12 months	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%	50%
12 months to 2 years	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2 years to 5 years	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
5 years to 10 years	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
10 years and above	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Maximum principal sums invested over 364 days	£12,000,000	£12,000,000	£12,000,000

Annex A1TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (TMP) 1 (5) – CREDIT AND COUNTERPARTY RISK MANAGEMENT

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now DCLG) issued Investment Guidance on 12th March 2004, and this forms the structure of the Council's policy below. These guidelines do not apply to either trust funds or pensions funds, which are under a different regulatory regime.

The key intention of the Guidance is to maintain the current requirement for Council's to invest prudently, and that priority is given to security and liquidity before yield. In order to facilitate this objective the guidance requires this Council to have regard to the CIPFA publication Treasury Management in the Public Services; code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes. This Council adopted the Code on 14th March 2002 and will apply its principles to all investment activity. In accordance with the Code the Head of Finance has produced its treasury management practices. This part, TMP 1 (5) covering investment counterparty policy requires approval each year.

Annual Investment Strategy – The key requirements of both the Code and the investment guidance are to set an annual investment strategy as part of its annual treasury strategy for the following year, covering the identification and approval of the following:

- The strategy guidelines for decision making on investments, particularly non-specified investments
- The principles to be used to determine the maximum periods for which funds can be committed.
- Specified investments the Council will use. These are high security (ie high credit rating, although this is defined by the Council, and no guidelines are given), and high liquidity investment in sterling and with a maturity of no more than a year
- Non-specified investments, clarifying the greater risk implications identifying the general types of investment that may be used and a limit to the overall amount of various categories that can be held at any time

This strategy is to be approved by full Council.

The investment policy proposed for the Council is:

Strategy Guidelines – the main strategy guidelines are contained in the body of the treasury strategy statement.

Specified Investments – These investments are sterling investments of not more than one-year maturity, or those which could be for a longer period but where the Council has the right to be repaid within 12 months if it wishes.

These are low risk assets where the possibility of loss of principal or investment income is small. These would include investments with:

- 1 The UK Government (debt bills, UK treasury Bills or a Gilt with less than one year to maturity)
- 2 Supranational bonds of less than one year's duration
- 3 A local authority, parish council or community council
- 4 Pooled investment vehicles – such as money market funds, that have been awarded a high credit rating by a credit rating agency
- 5 A body that has been awarded a high credit rating by a credit rating agency – such as a bank or building society

For category 4 this covers pooled investment vehicles, such as money market funds, rated AAA by Standard and Poor's, Moody's or Fitch rating agencies.

For category 5 this covers bodies with a minimum rating of F1 (or the equivalent) as rated by Standard and Poor's, Moody's or Fitch rating agencies.

Non-Specified Investments – Non-specified investments are any other type of investment (i.e. not defined as Specified above). The identification and rationale supporting the selection of these other investments and the maximum limits to be applied are set out below. Non specified investments would include any sterling investments with:

	Limit (£ or %)
a. Building societies not meeting the basic security requirements under the specified investments. The operation of some building societies does not require a credit rating, although in every other respect the security of the society would match similarly sized societies with ratings. The council may use the top 30 such building societies, but will restrict these type of investments.	£3m 364 Days
b. Any bank or building society that has a minimum long term credit rating of A, for deposits with a maturity of greater than one year (including forward deals in excess of one year from inception to repayment).	£3m 2 Years for A £3m 3 Years for AA
c. Any non rated subsidiary of a credit rated institution included in the specified investment category. These institutions will be included as an investment category.	£1m 364 Days

The monitoring of Investment counterparties – The credit rating of counterparties will be monitored regularly. The Council receives credit rating advice from its advisers, Butlers, on a daily basis as and when ratings change, and counterparties are checked promptly. On occasion ratings may be downgraded when an investment has already been made. The criteria used are such that a minor downgrading should not affect the full receipt of the principal and interest. Any counterparty failing to meet the criteria will be

removed from the list immediately by the Head of Finance, and if required new counterparties which meet the criteria will be added to the list.

The use of external fund managers – As reported last year, the Council has brought back “in-house” the management of the Council’s investment portfolio.

Further Details on the Treasury Management Strategy

Purpose

1. The Council's treasury framework is required through the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice and the CLG Investment Guidance. This paper is a summary of the key requirements of the above. All the prudential indicators and treasury and investment strategies will be formally approved later during the budgetary cycle.

The Capital Expenditure Plans

2. The Council's capital expenditure plans are shown below. Capital expenditure can be paid for immediately (by resources such as capital receipts, capital grants etc.), but if these resources are insufficient any residual expenditure will form a borrowing need and will be charged to revenue over a period of time.
3. The Council's current summary capital expenditure projections and financing arrangements are set out below. It is anticipated that for the foreseeable future all the council's capital expenditure will be fully financed by grants or capital receipts.

£'000	2007/08 Revised £'000	2008/09 Estimated £'000	2009/10 Estimated £'000	2010/11 Estimated £'000
Capital Expenditure				
Non-HRA	6,473	759	460	237
Financed by:				
Capital receipts	3,836	759	460	237
Capital grants	2,637			
Capital reserves				
Revenue				
Net financing need for the year	0	0	0	0

The Council's Borrowing Need (the Capital Financing Requirement)

4. The Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR is simply the total outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of Council's underlying borrowing need.
5. Where there is a Capital Financing Requirement, the Council must make a transfer from Revenue Budget each year to finance repayment. By financing all capital expenditure from grants and receipts, the Council avoids the need to make this provision from revenue resources each year.
6. The Council has no current or projected borrowing need, as shown below, since the capital programme is fully financed in each year.

£'000 Capital Requirement	Financing	2007/08 Revised £'000	2008/09 Estimated £'000	2009/10 Estimated £'000	2010/11 Estimated £'000
Total CFR		0	0	0	0

The Use of the Council's Resources and the Investment Position

7. The application of resources (capital receipts, reserves etc.) to either finance capital expenditure or support the revenue budget will have an ongoing impact on investments unless resources are supplemented each year from new sources (asset sales etc.). Detailed below are estimates of the year end balances for each resource and anticipated day to day cash flow balances.

Year End Resources £'000	2007/08 Revised £'000	2008/09 Estimated £'000	2009/10 Estimated £'000	2010/11 Estimated £'000
Provisions	620	620	620	620
Capital receipts	3,502	5,110	4,650	4,413
Earmarked reserves	6,498	4,981	3,444	1,897
Balances	1,434	1,434	1,434	1,434
Total Core Funds	12,054	12,145	10,148	8,364
Working Capital	8,469	3,443	4,168	5,324
Expected Investments	20,523	15,588	14,316	13,688

* Working capital balances shown are estimated year end and hence these may be higher mid year and the working balance includes historical borrowing of £5m, on a fixed interest rate fixed term basis, which precedes the LSVT in 2004.

Debt and Investment Projections 2008/09 – 2010/11

8. Whilst paragraphs 2 to 6 above set out the overall framework for capital expenditure and borrowing need, the Council's treasury management function manages the physical cash borrowing and investment position in relation to these areas. The expected debt and investment position is shown below:

£'000	2007/08 Revised £'000	2008/09 Estimated £'000	2009/10 Estimated £'000	2010/11 Estimated £'000
External Debt				
Debt at 31 March	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Investments				
Total Investments at 31 March	20,523	15,588	14,316	13,688
Investment change	1,410	(4,935)	(1,272)	(628)

9. Whilst the Council has no borrowing need, it does maintain one £5m loan which pre-dates the housing transfer. The size of the penalty to redeem this loan is currently too large to allow economic repayment. The Council's Treasury Management advisors will continue to monitor investment and

borrowing rates in order to ensure that the Council takes appropriate action should this situation change.

10. The related impact of the above movements on the revenue budget are:

£'000	2007/08 Revised £'000	2008/09 Estimated £'000	2009/10 Estimated £'000	2010/11 Estimated £'000
Revenue Budgets				
Interest on Borrowing	378	378	378	378
Investment income	1,509	1,285	1,200	1,170