# TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

1. The Council has adopted and has implemented the key principles of the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes. This, together with the other arrangements detailed in the operational manual, are considered vital to the achievement of proper corporate governance in treasury management, and the responsible officer will monitor and, if necessary, report upon the effectiveness of these arrangements.

#### TMP 1 - RISK MANAGEMENT GENERAL STATEMENT

2. The Council regards a key objective of its treasury management activities to be the security of the principal sums it invests. Accordingly, it will ensure that robust due diligence procedures covering all external investment.

The Section 151 Officer will design, implement, and monitor all arrangements for the identification, management, and control of treasury management risk, will report at least annually on the adequacy/suitability thereof, and will report, as a matter of urgency, the circumstances of any actual or likely difficulty in achieving the organisation's objectives in this respect, all in accordance with the procedures set out in TMP 6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements.

In respect of each of the following risks, the arrangements which seek to ensure compliance with these objectives are set out in the operational manual.

### Credit and counterparty risk management

3. The Council will ensure its counterparty lists and limits reflect a prudent attitude towards organisations with whom funds may be deposited or investments made and will limit its treasury management investment activities to the instruments, methods and techniques referred to in TMP4 *Approved instruments, methods and techniques*. It also recognises the need to have, and will therefore maintain, a formal counterparty policy in respect of those organisations from which it may borrow, or with whom it may enter other financing or derivative arrangements.

The Authority's credit and counterparty policies set out its policy and practices relating to environmental, social and governance (ESG) investment considerations. This is a developing area, and it is not implied that the Authority's ESG policy will currently include ESG scoring or other real-time ESG criteria at individual investment level.

#### **Liquidity risk management**

4. The Council will ensure it has adequate though not excessive cash resources, borrowing arrangements, overdraft or standby facilities to always enable it to have the level of funds available to it which are necessary for the achievement of its business/service objectives. The Council will only borrow in advance of need where there is a clear business case for doing so and will only do so for the current capital programme or to finance future debt maturities.

# **Interest rate risk management**

5. The Council will manage its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates with a view to containing its interest costs, or securing its interest revenues, in accordance with the amounts provided in its budgetary arrangements as amended in accordance with *TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements*. It will achieve this by the prudent use of its approved instruments, methods and

techniques, primarily to create stability and certainty of costs and revenues, but at the same time retaining a sufficient degree of flexibility to take advantage of unexpected, potentially advantageous changes in the level or structure of interest rates. This should be the subject to the consideration and, if required, approval of any policy or budgetary implications.

The Council will ensure that any hedging tools such as derivatives are only used for the management of risk and the prudent management of financial affairs and that the policy for the use of derivatives is clearly detailed in the annual strategy.

# **Exchange rate risk management**

6. The Council will manage its exposure to fluctuations in exchange rates to minimise any detrimental impact on its budgeted income/expenditure levels.

# Inflation risk management

7. The Council will keep under review the sensitivity of its treasury management assets and liabilities to inflation and will seek to manage the risk accordingly in the context of its wider exposure to inflation.

## Refinancing risk management

8. The Council will ensure that its borrowing, private financing and partnership arrangements are negotiated, structured and documented, and the maturity profile of the monies so raised are managed, with a view to obtaining offer terms for renewal or refinancing, if required, which are competitive and as favourable to the organisation as can reasonably be achieved in the light of market conditions prevailing at the time. It will actively manage its relationships with its counterparties in these transactions in such a manner as to secure this objective and will avoid overreliance on any one source of funding if this might jeopardise achievement of the above.

#### Legal and regulatory risk management

9. The Council will ensure that all its treasury management activities comply with its statutory powers and regulatory requirements. It will demonstrate such compliance, if required to do so, to all parties with whom it deals in such activities. In framing its credit and counterparty policy under TMP1[1] credit and counterparty risk management, it will ensure that there is evidence of counterparties' powers, authority and compliance in respect of the transactions they may affect with the organisation, particularly regarding duty of care and fees charged. The Council recognises that future legislative or regulatory changes may impact on its treasury management activities and, so far as it is reasonably able to do so, will seek to minimise the risk of these impacting adversely on the Council.

# Operational risk, including fraud, error and corruption

10. The Council will ensure that it has identified the circumstances which may expose it to the risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption or other eventualities in its treasury management dealings. Accordingly, it will employ suitable systems and procedures, and will maintain effective contingency management arrangements, to these ends.

## **Priced risk management**

11. The Council will seek to ensure that its stated treasury management policies and objectives will not be compromised by adverse market fluctuations in the value of

the principal sum it invests and will accordingly seek to protect itself from the effects of such fluctuations.

#### TMP 2 - PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

12. The Council is committed to the pursuit of value for money in its treasury management activities, and to the use of performance methodology in support of that aim, within the framework set out in its treasury management policy statement. Accordingly, the treasury management function will be the subject of ongoing analysis of the value it adds in support of the Council's business or service objectives and performance will be measured against relevant benchmarks.

# TMP 3 - DECISION-MAKING AND ANALYSIS

13. The Council will maintain full records of its treasury management decisions, and of the processes and practices applied in reaching those decisions, both for the purposes of learning from the past, and for demonstrating that reasonable steps were taken to ensure that all issues relevant to those decisions were considered at the time.

# TMP 4 - APPROVED INSTRUMENTS, METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

14. The Council will undertake its treasury management activities by employing only those instruments, methods and techniques detailed in its annual Investments Strategy, and within the limits and parameters defined in TMP1 Risk management. The Council has reviewed its classification with financial institutions under MIFID II and will set out in its annual Investment Strategy those organisations with which it is registered as a professional client.

# TMP 5 - ORGANISATION, CLARITY AND SEGREGATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES, AND DEALING ARRANGEMENTS

The Council considers it essential, for the purposes of the effective control and monitoring of its treasury management activities, for the reduction of the risk of fraud or error, and for the pursuit of optimum performance, that these activities are structured and managed in a fully integrated manner, and that there is always a clarity of treasury management responsibilities. The principle on which this will be based is a clear distinction between those charged with setting treasury management policies and those charged with implementing and controlling these policies, particularly regarding the execution and transmission of funds, the recording and administering of treasury management decisions, and the audit and review of the treasury management function. If it is intended, because of lack of resources or other circumstances, to depart from these principles, the Section 151 Officer will ensure that the reasons are properly reported in accordance with TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements, and the implications properly considered and evaluated. The Section 151 Officer will ensure that there are clear written statements of the responsibilities for each post engaged in treasury management, and the arrangements for absence cover. The Section 151 Officer will also always ensure that those engaged in treasury management will follow the policies and procedures set out. The Section 151 Officer will ensure there is proper documentation for all deals and transactions, and that procedures exist for the effective transmission of funds. The delegations to the Section 151 Officer in respect of treasury management are set out in the Council's Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation for Financial Management. The Section 151 Officer will fulfil all such responsibilities in accordance with the

Council's policy statement and TMPs and the CIPFA Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management. TMP 6 - REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION ARRANGEMENTS The Council will ensure that regular reports are prepared and considered on the implementation of its treasury management policies; on the effects of decisions taken and transactions executed in pursuit of those policies; on the implications of changes, particularly budgetary, resulting from regulatory, economic, market or other factors affecting its treasury management activities; and on the performance of the treasury management function. The Chief Financial Officer will report to the Governance Committee on TM activity / performance as follows: (a) A mid-year review against the strategy approved for the year. (b) An outturn report on its treasury activity, no later than 30 September after the financial year end. In addition, a quarterly update will be presented to Cabinet as part of Quarterly Revenue Financial Monitoring The Council's Governance Committee has responsibility for the scrutiny of treasury management policies and practices. TMP 7 - BUDGETING, ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS The Section 151 Officer will prepare, and full Council will approve and, if necessary, from time to time will amend, an annual budget for treasury management, which will bring together all the costs involved in running the treasury management function, together with associated income. The matters to be included in the budget will at minimum be those required by statute or regulation, together with such information as will demonstrate compliance with TMP1 Risk management, TMP 2 Performance Measurement, and TMP 4 Approved instruments, methods and techniques. The Section 151 Officer will exercise effective controls over this budget and will report upon and recommend any changes required in accordance with TMP 6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements. The Council will account for its treasury management activities, for decisions made and transactions executed, in accordance with appropriate accounting practices and standards, and with statutory and regulatory requirements in force for the time being. TMP 8 - CASH AND CASH FLOW MANAGEMENT Unless statutory or regulatory requirements demand otherwise, all monies in the hands of the Council will be under the control of the Section 151 Officer and will be aggregated for cash flow and investment management purposes. Cash flow projections will be prepared on a regular and timely basis, and the Section 151 Officer will ensure that these are adequate for the purposes of monitoring compliance with TMP1 Liquidity risk management, and for the purpose of identifying future borrowing needs (using a liability benchmark where appropriate).

#### TMP 9 - MONEY LAUNDERING

19. The Council is alert to the possibility that it may become the subject of an attempt to involve it in a transaction involving the laundering of money. Accordingly, it will maintain procedures for verifying and recording the identity of counterparties and

reporting suspicions and will ensure that staff involved in this are properly trained. The present arrangements, including the name of the officer to whom reports should be made, are detailed in the Council's Anti-Money Laundering Policy.

#### **TMP 10 - TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS**

20. The Council recognises the importance of ensuring that all staff involved in the treasury management function are fully equipped to undertake the duties and responsibilities allocated to them. It will therefore seek to appoint individuals who are both capable and experienced and will provide training for staff to enable them to acquire and maintain an appropriate level of expertise, knowledge and skills. The responsible officer will recommend and implement the necessary arrangements. The responsible officer will ensure that elected members tasked with treasury management responsibilities, including those responsible for scrutiny, have access to training relevant to their needs and those responsibilities. Those charged with governance recognise their individual responsibility to ensure that they have the necessary skills to complete their role effectively.

# TMP 11 - USE OF EXTERNAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

21. The Council recognises that responsibility for treasury management decisions always remains with the Council. However, the Council recognises that there may be value in employing external providers of treasury management services, to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. When it employs such service providers, it will do so following a full evaluation of the costs and benefits and will also ensure that the terms of their appointment are properly agreed and documented and subjected to regular review. Where services are subject to formal tender or re-tender arrangements, legislative requirements will always be observed. The monitoring of such arrangements rests with the Section 151 Officer.

#### **TMP 12 - CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

22. The Council is committed to the pursuit of proper corporate governance throughout its businesses and services, and to establishing the principles and practices by which this can be achieved. Accordingly, the treasury management function and its activities will be undertaken with openness and transparency, honesty, integrity, and accountability. The Council has adopted and has implemented the key principles of the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

This, together with the other governance practices, is considered vital to the achievement of proper corporate governance in treasury management. Section 151 Officer will monitor and, if necessary, report the effectiveness of these arrangements.