



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Finance & Performance Scrutiny 09 June 2025

Wards affected: All Wards

Treasury Management Quarter 4 2024/25

Report of Head of Finance

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the Council's Treasury Management activity in the fourth quarter of 2024/25.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee note the report.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 At its meeting on 22nd February 2024 Council approved the Council's Treasury Management Policy for the year 2024/25 and delegated the oversight of the execution of the Policy to this Committee.

This report sets out the Treasury Management activities in 2024/25 and shows that they are in line with the limits set out in the Policy.

Treasury Management covers two main areas: -

1. The management of day-to-day cash flows by way of short-term investing and borrowing. Longer term investment opportunities may arise depending on cash flow requirements.
2. Management of the Council's long term debt portfolio which is used to finance capital expenditure that cannot be immediately funded by internal resources (e.g., by Capital Receipts).

Economic Background

3.2 The quarter ended 31st March 2025 saw:

1. GDP growth of 0.1% for Q4.
2. Average earnings growth from December 2024 to February 2025 was 5.9% for the private sector and 5.7% for the public sector.
3. CPI rose by 2.8% (February), there is a strong likelihood that figure will increase to at least 3.5% by the autumn of 2025.
4. The Bank of England cut interest rates from 4.75% to 4.50% in February.

The latest forecasts are detailed in the table below:

	Sep 2025	Dec 2025	Mar 2026	Jun 2026	Sep 2026
Bank Rate	4.25%	4.00%	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%
5yr PWLB rate	4.80%	4.70%	4.60%	4.50%	4.40%
10yr PWLB rate	5.10%	5.00%	4.90%	4.80%	4.70%
25yr PWLB rate	5.60%	5.50%	5.40%	5.30%	5.20%
50yr PWLB rate	5.30%	5.20%	5.10%	5.00%	4.90%

Investment Activity

3.3 The Council's investment strategy primary objectives are safeguarding the repayment of the principal and interest of its investments on time, ensuring adequate liquidity, with the investment return being the final objective. If required, officers implement an operational strategy which tightens the controls already in place in the approved investment strategy. The Council's investment criteria were approved by Council in February 2024.

Funds for investment come from the following Sources

- a) Revenue Account Balances held by the Council
- b) Earmarked Reserves and Provisions
- c) Unapplied Capital Receipts
- d) Cash flow balances - income received before expenditure needs to be invested.

Depending on the flow of cash (difference between income receipts and payments) the bank balance will vary. Where there is a surplus balance monies are invested. When there is a need for cash, investments are called in to ensure funds are not overdrawn. As at 31 March 2025, the Council held the following investments totalling £2,418,000 and are summarised below.

Counterparty	Investment Date	Maturity Date	Amount Invested	Interest	Interest Rate %
HSBC Instant Access			£2,268,000	90% base	variable
Westfield Development Community Association	07/06/23	30/07/25	£150,000	£3,000	2.00
Total			£2,418,000		

Details of investments held from April 2024 to March 2025 are available on request.

Details of the weighted average investment to December 2024 are shown in the table below together with the Industry Average, Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA) as a benchmark. The Council received a rate of return that is favourable compared with the returns available in the market (a return of 5.02% compared against 4.995%). Additionally, the weighted average period is within the maximum set of 0.5 years.

Period	Weighted Average invested	Average period (days)	HBBC Average Return	1 Month SONIA	3 Month SONIA	6 Month SONIA
Apr to Mar 2025	£10,506,125	12	4.952%	4.878%	4.818%	4.718%

Borrowing Activities

3.4 Long-term borrowing to finance Capital Expenditure

Excluding the HRA self financing element, the Council has a Capital Financing Requirement of £42.3m as at 31st March 2024 for the General Fund Capital programme which arises from previous decisions to incur Capital Expenditure that was not financed immediately by internal resources e.g. Capital Receipts or Grants giving rise to the need to borrow to finance the expenditure. This borrowing requirement can either be met by long- or short-term external borrowing or by internal borrowing i.e., using the cash behind the authority's balances and reserves and foregoing investment income. At the present time the interest payable on long term borrowing is significantly greater than the returns the Council could expect on its investments and therefore the Council has adopted a policy of being "under-borrowed" by £28.1m with only £8.3m of long-term loans on its books and a £6m loan for the MIRA infrastructure project.

Additionally, as part of the Self Financing HRA Settlement £67,652,000 has been borrowed from PWLB. Repayment options have been discussed with members and were presented to the Executive on 13th March 2012. Repayments for principal amounts for these loans commenced in March

2020. The remaining loan will be repaid in equal instalments of £2.9414m over 22 yrs. Details are included in the table below, as at 31 March 2025 the total principal balance outstanding was £50,003,654 and the total paid was £17,648,346

Status	Lender	Interest Rate %	Maturity Date	Principal	Interest	Ref
PAID	PWLB	1.99	30/03/2020	£2,941,391	£58,533.68	PW500102
PAID	PWLB	2.21	29/03/2021	£2,941,391	£65,004.74	PW500100
PAID	PWLB	2.40	28/03/2022	£2,941,391	£70,593.38	PW500095
PAID	PWLB	2.56	28/03/2023	£2,941,391	£75,299.61	PW500099
PAID	PWLB	2.70	28/03/2024	£2,941,391	£79,417.56	PW500094
PAID	PWLB	2.82	28/03/2025	£2,941,391	£82,947.23	PW500089
	PWLB	2.92	28/03/2026	£2,941,391	£85,888.62	PW500088
	PWLB	3.01	28/03/2027	£2,941,391	88,535.87	PW500093
	PWLB	3.08	28/03/2028	£2,941,391	90,594.84	PW500104
	PWLB	3.15	28/03/2029	£2,941,391	92,653.82	PW500090
	PWLB	3.21	28/03/2030	£2,941,391	94,418.65	PW500084
	PWLB	3.26	28/03/2031	£2,941,391	95,889.35	PW500097
	PWLB	3.30	28/03/2032	£2,941,391	97,065.90	PW500103
	PWLB	3.34	28/03/2033	£2,941,391	98,242.46	PW500096
	PWLB	3.37	28/03/2034	£2,941,391	99,124.88	PW500087
	PWLB	3.40	28/03/2035	£2,941,391	100,007.29	PW500083
	PWLB	3.42	28/03/2036	£2,941,391	100,595.57	PW500101
	PWLB	3.44	28/03/2037	£2,941,391	101,183.85	PW500086
	PWLB	3.46	28/03/2038	£2,941,391	101,772.13	PW500091
	PWLB	3.47	28/03/2039	£2,941,391	102,066.27	PW500098
	PWLB	3.48	28/03/2040	£2,941,391	102,360.41	PW500085
	PWLB	3.49	28/03/2041	£2,941,391	102,654.55	PW500082
	PWLB	3.50	28/03/2042	£2,941,391	102,948.93	PW500092

Short Term Borrowing

3.5 Short term borrowing in the year as at 31 March 2025 is summarised in the table below. The cost of this was already allowed for within the interest budget. As of 31 March 2025 there was a £7 million loan outstanding with PWLB which is due to be repaid on 10th March 2026.

Date	Lender	Interest Rate %	Maturity Date	Principal	Interest 24/25	Days
22/04/24	Manchester city council	5.250	01/05/24	£5,500,000	£7,120	9
29/05/24	Charnwood Borough Council	5.350	05/06/24	£3,000,000	£3,078	7
07/02/25	North West Leics District Council	4.900	07/03/25	£1,500,000	£5,638	28
10/03/25	PWLB	4.89	10/03/26	£7,000,000	£20,632	365

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

4.1 Report to be taken in open session.

5. Financial implications [IB]

5.1 Any variations to budgets resulting from borrowing investing activities are reported within the Outturn position.

6. Legal implications [ST]

6.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 This report supports the following Corporate Aims

Thriving Economy

8. Consultation

8.1 None

9. Risk implications

9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) risks		
Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
That the Council has insufficient resources to meet its aspirations and cannot set a balanced budget	Budgets are scrutinised on an ongoing to ensure assumptions are robust and reflect financial performance and sufficient levels of reverses and balances are maintained to ensure resilience	A Wilson

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 None

11. Climate implications

11.1 The stewardship of the financial resources of the council underpins all policy actions to address the council's objectives in ensuring it manages its resources to ensure climate considerations are achieved in accordance with the corporate plan. The effective use of treasury management is an important part of this stewardship.

12. Corporate implications

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

Background papers: None
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