

**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

**of the**

**TREASURER**

**to the**

**EXECUTIVE**

**on**

**16th JUNE 2014**

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**TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2014**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

One of the requirements of CIPFA's (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) 2011 Prudential Code and Treasury Management Codes of Practice is that periodic reports on the Council's treasury management activities are submitted to the Executive. This annual report on performance is for the 2013/2014 financial year.

The Council manages its cashflow and long-term financing of capital investments in accordance with its annual Treasury Management Strategy. The 2013/2014 Strategy was approved by the Council on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013 and its objectives are as follows:

- to set the framework for managing the Council's investments and cashflows and controlling its banking, money market and capital market transactions
- to plan and secure appropriate borrowing in order to finance the Capital Programme for 2013/2014 and the next two years, at the lowest cost to the Council
- to achieve the best rates of return from the investment of temporary surplus cash balances commensurate with risk, subject to the overriding principle of maintaining an acceptable level of security
- to control effectively the risks associated with these transactions
- to comply with appropriate codes and regulations including the International Financial Reporting Standards as they apply to Treasury Management.

In delivering the above objectives the Council will:

- decide its own borrowing limits taking account its financial situation, long-term plans and in particular what it thinks is affordable now and sustainable in the future
- monitor these limits using performance measures called Prudential indicators. All local authorities must use the same system of performance measurement and risk control. The borrowing limits have been set in accordance with the Council's Medium-term Financial Plan.

## **2. BORROWING TRANSACTIONS 2013/14**

### **2.1 Loans Raised**

The Council's total borrowing powers at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 (the Authorised Limit) stood at £229m. New long-term borrowing of £5.0m was taken in December 2013 from Hampshire County Council to meet the Council's additional funding requirement. The rate of interest payable on this loan was 1.3%. A further £250,000 was borrowed from Hampshire Fire and Rescue for a similar purpose at the same rate. Both loans will be repaid at maturity in November 2016.

The 2013/2014 borrowing requirement for the remainder of the capital programme was deferred until such time that interest rates are judged to be favourable to the Council. This action reduces the Council's exposure to counterparty risk whilst enabling savings to be made in long-term borrowing costs. The Treasury Management Panel's view is that it will continue to monitor interest rates and borrow only when market conditions are favourable.

Temporary borrowing has been required to deal with the normal peaks and troughs of the cashflow, including creditor payments, grant receipts, etc. It has also been required to cover troughs in cash flow due to the delay in taking new long-term borrowing.

### **2.2 Loans Repaid**

During the year £1.3m was repaid in addition to the temporary borrowing referred to in 2.1 above and £0.9m debt, which originated at the time of the Local Government Reorganisation and held through Lancashire County Council (LCC), has been repaid during the year.

Of the £1.3m loans repaid which are referred to above a £0.9m loan was repaid to the Public Works Loan Board when it matured in March 2014 and £0.4m was repaid in two equal instalments of principal in September 2013 and March 2014.

### **2.3 Loans Refinanced**

From time to time opportunities arise to repay existing loans and replace them with lower cost alternative loans. Where this arises savings in annual interest costs can be achieved which keep the Council's overall borrowing costs as low as possible.

No new opportunities to refinance existing loans were identified in 2013/14 but the Treasury Management Panel continues to look at ways to reduce the cost of interest on long-term loans.

### **2.4 Summary**

The Council's pooled borrowing rate on its long-term debt decreased from 5.10% in 2012/2013 to 4.79% in 2013/2014. This change occurred as a result of the movement in loans referred to in 2.2 above.

Temporary borrowing has been required at certain times during the year in order to manage the peaks and troughs in cashflows. The Council's borrowing activities for the 2013/14 financial year are summarised on the next page:

	<u>Debt financing</u> <u>at 1 Apr 2013</u>	<u>Additions to</u> <u>debt</u>	<u>(Reductions)</u> <u>in debt</u>	<u>Debt financing</u> <u>at 31 Mar 2014</u>
	£M	£M	£M	£M
PWLB	61.2	-	(1.3)	59.9
Market Loans	34.0	5.3	-	39.3
Temporary Loans	19.0	106.0	(83.5)	41.5
Sub total	114.2	111.3	(84.8)	140.7
Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Debt	22.1	-	(0.9)	21.2
TOTAL	136.3	111.3	(85.7)	161.9

The revised maturity profile for the total external long-term debt outstanding at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 is shown in Appendix 4b of this report.

### **3. INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS 2013/14**

#### **3.1 Overview**

The Bank of England Official Bank Rate - the 'Base Rate', i.e. the general level to which all short-term interest rates are related - has remained the same throughout 2013/14 at 0.5%.

Appendix 4c shows this interest rate graphically from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.

#### **3.2 Receipts and Payments during the Year**

Appendix 4d of this Report summarises the Council's cashflows during the year, short-term interest receivable and payable, year-end loans outstanding and investment balances.

#### **3.3 Investment Earnings**

Interest which has been earned from temporary investments is included in Appendix 4d, together with a comparison with the budgeted income for the financial year. Actual investment earnings, included within the receipts figure, are £52,000.

#### **3.4 Approved Institutions for Investments**

The Treasury Management Panel will continue to manage the Council's treasury and investment affairs in a cautious and prudent manner taking account of changes in the economic climate. The Council's Treasury Management Policy restricts investments to a list of approved institutions. Each institution has its own maximum investment limit and timeframe and the security of funds is the overriding factor.

The list comprises UK-registered banks along with their subsidiaries, 2 building societies, upper tier local authorities and certain other public sector bodies plus short-term gilts and UK treasury bills. The list continues to be reviewed regularly in the light of changes in credit ratings and market intelligence.

#### **4. REVENUE OUTTURN 2013/2014**

The Treasury Management revenue account for 2013/2014 had net expenditure of £12,039k, an improvement of £2,840k over the budget of £14,879k.

A comparison of the Treasury Management revenue account with the budget for 2013/14 is set out in Appendix 4e.

The debt servicing costs for 2013/2014 decreased in line with recent years' early repayment of long-term borrowing and the deferral of any new long-term borrowing.

Low levels of interest available on lower temporary cash balances coupled with fewer opportunities to restructure the long-term loan portfolio mean that further savings cannot be guaranteed in future years.

#### **5. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS**

The Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2013/2014 are set out within Appendix 4f to this report.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive is asked to note the report on treasury management activities for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.

S. THOMPSON  
TREASURER