

Asset Investment and Treasury Budget Report as at November 2018

Introduction

The following report provides an update on the Council's Asset Investment Plan and the Treasury activity as at November 2018. It also provides an estimate of the borrowing requirement for 2018/19 to fund this plan.

Asset Investment Plan 2018/19

The revised Asset Investment Plan budget as at November 2018 is £103.0m, which includes £1.7m for Invest to Save (I2S) Schemes. The agreed investment as per the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFS) was £158.7m. The movement between the MTFS position and the £181.3m as at April 2018 was a result of slippages mainly due to delays completing projects from 2017/18.

The actual investment expenditure as at November 2018 is £49.4m (71.9% of the revised budget to date). The latest forecast for expenditure is that it should not exceed £100.0m, therefore the Council is expecting to spend a further £52.1m before March 2019.

The Growth & Regeneration budget includes £1.5m "Pothole" grant which was announced in the Chancellor's pre-budget speech, and has since been received. The grant conditions state that this funding must be allocated to work that would otherwise not be undertaken and must be completed within the current financial year.

The Council has a Capital Review Group (CRG) which meets monthly specifically to reduce the current investment expenditure budget to £100m and the future 5 years and monitor the expenditure.

The following table shows the breakdown of the Council's Asset Investment over the directorates and how this investment is to be financed.

Directorate	MTFS Budget £000	1st April Budget £000	Current Budget FY £000	Revised Budget YTD £000	Actual YTD £000
Governance	49	49	-	-	-
Growth & Regeneration	55,239	63,363	52,411	34,941	25,471
People & Communities	58,883	64,692	38,685	25,790	19,140
Resources	16,195	1,119	10,223	6,815	4,121
Invest to Save	28,350	52,065	1,728	1,152	654
TOTAL	158,716	181,287	103,047	68,698	49,386
Grants & Contributions	40,486	46,335	40,935	27,290	33,842
Capital Receipts – repayment of loans	1,000	1,000	24,150	16,100	1,500
Borrowing	117,230	133,952	37,962	25,307	14,044
TOTAL	158,716	181,287	103,047	68,698	49,386

Borrowing and Funding the Asset Investment Plan

It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the level of borrowing it considers to be affordable. The Council's approved Prudential Indicators (affordable, prudent and sustainable limits) are outlined in the Treasury Management Strategy approved

as part of the MTFS. The Council borrows only to fund the Asset Investment Plan. The current plan assumes that 39.7% of the budgeted expenditure will be funded by borrowing.

The Council's total borrowing as at the end of November 2018 was £413.6m (see following table). The level of debt is measured against the Councils Authorised Limit for borrowing of £706.5m which must not be exceeded and the Operational Boundary (maximum working capital borrowing indicator) of £659.7m. These limits are set to enable borrowing in advance of need to take advantage of favourable loan rates in consideration of future years capital investment programme.

Borrowings	Less than 1yr £000	1-2yrs £000	2-5yrs £000	5-10yrs £000	10+yrs £000	Total £000	Ave. Interest Rate %
PWLB	0	-	11,628	15,715	312,244	339,587	3.6
Local Authority	34,000	17,500	5,000	0	0	56,500	1.7
Market Loans	0	0	0	0	17,500	17,500	4.5
LEP Loan	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Total Borrowing	34,000	17,500	16,128	15,715	329,744	413,587	3.4
% of total Borrowing	8%	4%	4%	4%	80%		
Borrowing Limit (PI)	40%	40%	80%	80%	100%		

The majority of the debt is taken on a 10+yr basis. The Corporate Director: Resources believes it to be prudent to take advantage of a relatively low long term fixed rate of interest as it mitigates some of the risk of PWLB rate rises. Long term interest rates remain relatively low e.g. the standard PWLB rate for 50yr loans including the certainty rate was 2.745% at end of November 2018. The historically low PWLB rates are a result of the investor fears and confidence creating an ebb and flow situation between favouring more risky assets i.e. equities, or the safe haven of bonds and have been fluctuating recently due to uncertainty over Brexit negotiations.

The following table shows the activity in Loans held by the Council for the year to date, with £16m of loans being repaid and £10m of new borrowing taken to fund the capital programme:

Loans Portfolio £000	
April 2018 b/f	419,587
repayment of loans to date	(16,000)
new loans in year	10,000
net increase/(decrease) to date	(6,000)
Loans portfolio as at November 2018	413,587

Total interest payable on existing loans for the year (£413.6m) is expected to be £13.9m. The Council is due to repay a further £6m in December and expects to borrow a further £20m in the same period.

The CRG is now reviewing the Council's £17.1m of S106 and Planning Obligation Implementation Scheme (POIS) funding at the monthly meetings. To date £8.7m has been earmarked for specific projects but more work needs to be done by the services to allocate the remaining funding to reduce the borrowing costs to the Council. CRG will invite the S106

Officer to the meeting to discuss current investment projects which may be able to use this funding to reduce this funding balance further.

Investments

The Council aims to achieve the optimum interest on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate the Council considers it appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cashflow fluctuations. This financial year investment returns have been from Barclays (the Council's banking provider), CCLA Money Market funds, the Debt Management Office and Local Authorities.

As at November 2018 the Council's external investments totalled £4.9m and have yielded interest to date of £0.075m, which reflects both relatively the low cash balances held to minimise the cost of borrowing and low interest rates being available in the economic climate

Capital Receipts

Capital Receipts are used as part of a contribution to fund the Minimum Revenue Provision as approved in the MTFs. Close monitoring of the receipts from asset sales is maintained as any significant change will now have a direct impact on the revenue position.

Capital Receipts are monitored on a monthly basis and each sale given a status of Red, Amber or Green to identify the likely receipt before March 2019. The MTFs includes a contribution of £2.9m Capital Receipts to fund the MRP, with the revised receipts figure including a further £6.7m rolled forward from uncompleted disposals in 2017/18.

Capital Receipts To Off Set Revenue MRP Charge RAG Status	MTFS Budget £000	Revised Budget £000	Received to Date £000	Not yet received £000
Green	-	7,981	2,599	5,382
Amber	2,922	4,440	-	4,440
Red	-	-	-	-
Total (not inc Investment Assets)	2,922	12,421	2,559	9,822
Investment Assets	-	-	-	-
Total Capital Receipts	2,922	12,421	2,599	9,822

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