

## Appendix C - Treasury Management Strategy Prudential Indicators Outturn 2021/22

The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities supplies a framework for local authority capital finance to ensure that:

- (a) capital expenditure plans are affordable.
- (b) all external borrowing and other long-term liabilities are within prudent and sustainable levels.
- (c) treasury management decisions are taken following professional good practice.

In taking decisions in relation to (a) and (c) above, the local authority is accountable by supplying a clear and transparent framework.

The Code requires the Council to set a range of Prudential Indicators for the forthcoming financial year and at least the following two financial years. During the financial year to date the Council has worked within the treasury limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Council's Annual Treasury Management Strategy.

The outturn for the Prudential Indicators for the financial year are detailed below. The indicators include the Invest to Save scheme. The costs of borrowing associated with these schemes will be offset by the income or savings generated by these projects.

The 2021/22 Prudential Indicators are shown below and the Council's performance to date against them. All performance is within the limits.

### 1. Indicator 1: Capital Expenditure

This indicator is the capital expenditure for the year based on the Capital Programme.

Capital Expenditure	2021/22 Indicator £m	2021/22 Actual £m
Capital Expenditure	133.4	70.8
Invest to Save	13.5	8.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>146.9</b>	<b>79.3</b>

The actual capital programme expenditure outturn is £79.3m which is lower than the MTFS indicator due to a number of projects across all directorates either being reprofiled to reflect the spending more accurately over future years or removed as part of an enhanced scrutiny process linked to achieving more savings in 2021/22 as well as future years. This process was carried out alongside the development of the 2022/23 MTFS to aid the future financial sustainability of the Council.

Invest to Save projects have been reduced over the next few years due to no planned expenditure. However, this does not affect the Council's capital financing budget as this is for schemes that must cover the cost of borrowing and minimum revenue provision (MRP) from either income generation or from generated savings.

### 2. Indicator 2: Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

The CFR measures the Council's underlying need to borrow money in the long term for capital purposes. Any capital expenditure which has not at once been paid for will increase the CFR.

Capital Financing Requirement	2021/22 Indicator £m	2021/22 Actual £m
CFR b/fwd.	622.0	598.8
Underlying Need to Borrow	46.7	6.8
Underlying Need to Borrow - Invest to Save	13.5	8.5
<b>Total CFR C/fwd.</b>	<b>682.2</b>	<b>614.1</b>

### 3. Indicator 3: Actuals and Estimates of the Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Budget

The Council must estimate the proportion of the revenue budget, which is taken up in financing capital expenditure i.e., the net interest cost and to make provision to repay debt. The actual performance of 14.4% is reflected in the explanatory text for capital financing as contained in the Appendix A.

Ratio of net financing costs to net revenue stream	2021/22 Indicator	2021/22 Actual
Total Ratio	15.2%	14.4%

### 4. Indicator 4: Proportion of Gross Debt to the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

This indicator shows the proportion of the Council's external borrowings (Gross Debt) against the CFR to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose. The Council should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year (2020/21) plus the estimates of any other capital financing requirement for the current (2021/22) and next two financial years. This means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure.

Proportion of Gross Debt to the CFR	2021/22 Indicator £m	2021/22 Actual £m
CFR	682.2	614.1
Gross Debt (inc PFI & Leases)	<b>619.4</b>	<b>495.6</b>
% Of Gross Debt to CFR	90.8%	80.7%

This indicator shows that the Council kept an under-borrowed position. This means that the capital borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)), was not fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was used. This strategy was prudent as investment returns were low and counterparty risk was still an issue that needed to be considered. However, as it is forecast that interest rates are to rise from the historic lows, this strategy is to be reviewed and an updated approach considered in line with the Improvement Plan and the achievement of financial sustainability within a Medium Term Financial Strategy.

### 5. Indicator 5: The Operational Boundary

The Operational Boundary is a measure of the day to day likely borrowing for the Council. The code recognises that circumstances might arise when the boundary might be exceeded temporarily, but if this continues for a lengthy period then it ought to be investigated.

This indicator takes into consideration the capital programme over the life of the MTFS and the ability to phase the borrowing over this period. The indicator supplies flexibility for the Council to take advantage of favourable interest rates in advance of the timing of the actual capital expenditure.

Operational Boundary	2021/22 Indicator £m	2021/22 Actual £m
Borrowing	702.2	447.6
Other Liabilities (PFI & Leases)	48.0	48.0
<b>Total Operational Boundary</b>	<b>750.2</b>	<b>495.6</b>

### 6. Indicator 6: The Authorised Limit

The Authorised Limit is the largest amount the Council may borrow at any point in time in the year. It is set at a level the Council considers is “prudent.”

The indicator takes account of the capital financing requirement estimated at the start of each year, plus the expected net borrowing requirement for the year. This makes allowance for the possibility that the best time to do all borrowing may be early in the year.

The limit also incorporates margins to allow for exceptional short-term movements in the Council’s cash flow, bids from service departments to finance efficiencies, changes to the timing of capital payments and fluctuations in the realisation of capital receipts.

<b>Authorised Limit</b>	<b>2021/22 Indicator £m</b>	<b>2021/22 Actual £m</b>
Borrowing	780.2	447.6
Other Liabilities (PFI & Leases)	48.0	48.0
<b>Total Authorised Limit</b>	<b>828.2</b>	<b>495.6</b>

It is ultra vires to exceed the Authorised Limit so this should be set to avoid circumstances in which the Council would need to borrow more money than this limit. However, the Council can revise the limit during the year. The actual position is lower than the indicator as the Council does not currently predict borrowing in advance of need due to the other cost of holding the funds until needed.

#### **7. Indicator 7: Fixed Interest rate exposure**

This indicator places an upper limit on the total amount of net borrowing which is at fixed rates secured against future interest rate movements. The upper limit allows flexibility in applying a proportion of the investment portfolio to finance new capital expenditure. It also reflects a position where most of the borrowing is at fixed rate which provides budget certainty with 100% of borrowing being at fixed rate. The upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure was set to allow for flexibility in applying a proportion of the investment portfolio to finance new capital expenditure. It also reflected a position where most of the borrowing was at fixed rates to supply budget certainty.

<b>Upper limit for fixed rate exposure</b>	<b>2021/22 Indicator £m</b>	<b>2021/22 Actual £m</b>
Upper Limit	744.4	447.6
% Of fixed interest rate exposure	100%	100%

#### **8. Indicator 8: Variable interest rate exposure**

This indicator places an upper limit on the total amount of net borrowing (borrowing less investment) which is at variable rates subject to interest rate movements. The intention is to keep the variable rate borrowing below 25% of the total gross borrowing (CFR). The limit is expressed as the value of total borrowing less investments.

<b>Upper limit for variable rate exposure</b>	<b>2021/22 Indicator £m</b>	<b>2021/22 Actual £m</b>
Upper Limit	186.1	0.0
% Of variable interest rate exposure	25%	0%

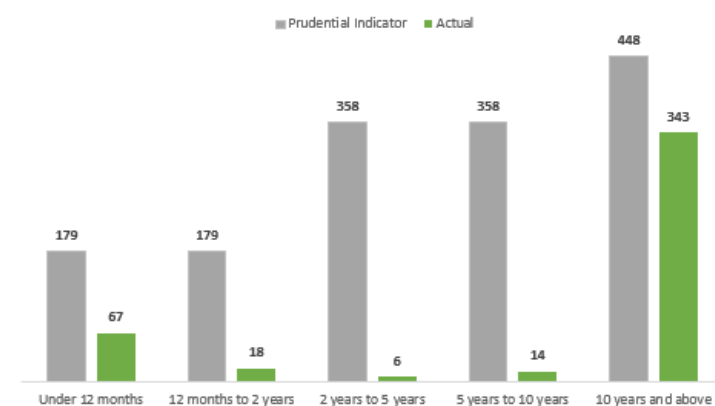
The indicator is zero due to the borrowing strategy of borrowing only at a fixed interest rate in an economic climate of volatile interest rates. Borrowing at fixed interest rates supplies budget certainty for the Council.

### 9. Indicator 9: Maturity structure of borrowing

The prudential limits have been set about the maturity structure of the Council's borrowing and reflected the beneficial long-term rates that were expected to be available over the next few years. The borrowing that the Council has taken is £447.6m (shown in the indicator below).

Period	Upper Limit Indicator	Actual Borrowing £m	
Under 12 months*	40%	19%	84.6
1 – 2 years	40%	4%	18.0
2 – 5 years	80%	1%	6.0
5 – 10 years	80%	3%	13.5
Over 10 years	100%	73%	325.5
<b>Total Borrowing</b>			<b>447.6</b>

'PI 9 Maturity Structure of borrowing (£m) as at 31 March 2022



\* The borrowing for under 12 months includes £17.5m of Lenders Option Borrowers Option (LOBO) loans. Although the loans are due to mature in 22-34 years' time, they are classed as loans repayable within the financial year due to LOBO's having a call-in date every six months.

### 10. Indicator 10: Total Investments for periods longer than 364 days

Authorities can invest for longer than 364 days; this can be helpful if higher rates are available. However, it would be unwise to lend a disproportionate amount of cash for too long a period particularly as the Council must keep sufficient working capital for its operational needs.

This indicator reflects the Council's current lending policy of keeping investments short term for liquidity purposes. The Council has used its cash balances as an alternative to new borrowing and does not have the available cash balances to invest for lengthy periods.

	2021/22 Indicator £m	2021/22 Actual £m
Principal sums invested >364 days	10.0	0.00