

**ITEM No ...12.....**

**REPORT TO: PENSION SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE & PENSION BOARD – 8 MARCH 2021**

**REPORT ON: TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021/2022**

**REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

**REPORT NO: 76-2021**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report reviews the Treasury Management Strategy for Tayside Pension Fund.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Sub-Committee is asked to approve the Treasury Management Strategy.

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**4 BACKGROUND**

From 1 December 2009, as a requirement of legislation in order to ensure greater transparency of Pension Fund monies, Tayside Pension Fund has operated a separate bank account from that of Dundee City Council.

Although the Pension Fund's investments are all managed externally there are frictional cash balances which are held internally. These arise from timing differences between receipt of pension contributions and payment of pensions within the month.

The previous Treasury Management Strategy for the Pension Fund (Article XI of the Minute of Meeting of the Pension Sub-Committee of Policy and Resources Committee & Pension Board of 21 September 2020, report no. 122- 2020 refers) reviews this strategy.

**5 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021/2022**

The Pension Fund's Treasury Management Strategy is based on cash flow management to ensure that sufficient funds are held to make all necessary payments with the primary concern of ensuring security and accessibility of cash to allow the capital to be preserved.

**6 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

**7 CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**ROBERT EMMOTT  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

**28 FEBRUARY 2021**





**TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY  
2021-2022**

**Executive Director of Corporate Services  
Dundee City Council, Administering Authority  
March 2021**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

From 1 December 2009, Tayside Pension Fund has operated a separate bank account from that of Dundee City Council. This is a requirement of legislation and ensures greater transparency of Pension Fund money.

Although the Pension Fund's investments are all managed externally there are frictional cash balances which are held internally. These arise from timing differences between receipt of pension contributions and payment of pensions within the month.

Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure that this cash flow is adequately planned, with cash being available when it is needed. Surplus monies are invested in low risk counterparties or instruments commensurate with the Council's low risk appetite, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering investment return.

### 1.2 Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22

The strategy for 2019/20 covers the following Treasury Management areas:

- investment strategy;
- investment interest risk

These elements cover requirements of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management Code and Scottish Government Investment Regulations not included in the Treasury Policy.

## 2. ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

### 2.1 Investment strategy

**In-house funds** - Investments will be made with reference to the core balance and cash flow requirements and the outlook for short-term interest rates (i.e. rates for investments up to 12 months).

**Investment returns expectations** - Bank Rate is unlikely to rise from 0.10% for a considerable period. It is very difficult to say when it may start rising so it may be best to assume that investment earnings from money market-related instruments will be sub 0.50% for the foreseeable future. Bank Rate forecasts for financial year ends (March) are:

2021/22	0.10%
2022/23	0.10%
2023/24	0.10%

The suggested budgeted investment earnings rates for returns on investments placed for periods up to 3 months during each financial year are as follows:

2020/21	0.10%
2021/22	0.10%
2022/23	0.10%
2023/24	0.10%
2024/25	0.25%
Later years	2.00%

The overall balance of risks to economic growth in the UK is now probably more to the upside but is subject to major uncertainty due to the virus - both domestically and its potential effects worldwide.

There is relatively little UK domestic risk of increases or decreases in Bank Rate and significant changes in shorter term PWLB rates. The Bank of England has effectively ruled out the use of negative interest rates anytime soon and increases in Bank Rate are likely to be some years away given the underlying economic expectations. However, it is always possible that safe haven flows, due to unexpected domestic developments and those in other major economies, or a return of investor confidence in equities, could impact gilt yields, (and so PWLB rates), in the UK.

For its cash flow generated balances, the Fund will seek to utilise its money market funds and short-dated deposits (overnight to 100 days) in order to benefit from the compounding of interest.

## 2.2 Investment interest risk

The Fund holds relatively low levels of cash internally which allows fund managers to actively manage the majority of cash balances. The table below details projections for investment cash balance (31 March), the average investment cash balance, investment interest along with an average interest rate.

£000s	Actual 2019/20	Outturn 2020/21	Estimate 2021/22	Estimate 2022/23	Estimate 2023/24
Investment cash balance (31 March)	1,260	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Average investment cash balance	5,171	5,900	5,000	5,000	5,000
Investment interest	38	12	5	5	5
Average interest rate	0.73%	0.20%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%

The above investment interest is generated from either Money Market Funds or call accounts. We are currently expecting around £12,000 of estimated income this financial year based on an average interest rate of 0.20% and an average cash balance of £5.9m.