

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT

AND

ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

2019/20

Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2019/20

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The City of London Corporation (the City) is required to operate a balanced budget, which broadly means that cash raised during the year will meet cash expenditure. 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 City's low risk appetite, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering investment return.

The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of capital expenditure plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing needs of the City, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning, to ensure that the organisation can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans, or using longer-term cash flow surpluses. On occasion, when it is prudent and economic, any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet risk or cost objectives.

1.2. The Treasury Management Policy Statement

The City defines its treasury management activities as:

The management of the organisation's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transaction; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

The City regards the security of its financial investments through the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the organisation, and any financial instruments entered into to manage these risks.

The City acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is therefore committed to the principles of achieving value for money in treasury management and to employing suitable comprehensive performance measurement techniques, within the context of effective risk management.

1.3. CIPFA Requirements

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised November 2009) was adopted by the Court of Common Council (the Court) on 3 March 2010. The Code of Practice was revised in November 2017.

The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

- (i) The City of London Corporation will create and maintain, as the cornerstones for effective treasury management:
 - A treasury management policy statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities
 - Suitable treasury management practices (TMPs), setting out the manner in which the organisation will seek to achieve those policies and objectives, and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities.
- (ii) This organisation (i.e. the Court of Common Council) will receive reports on its treasury management policies, practices and activities, including as a minimum an annual strategy and plan in advance of the year, a mid-year review and an annual report after its close.
- (iii) The Court of Common Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies to the Finance Committee and the Financial Investment Board; the execution and administration of treasury management decisions is delegated to the Chamberlain, who will act in accordance with the organisation's policy statement and TMPs and, if he/she is a CIPFA member, CIPFA's Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.
- (iv) The Court of Common Council nominates the Audit and Risk Management Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies.

The CIPFA revised 2017 Prudential and Treasury Management Codes require, for 2019-20, all local authorities to prepare a capital strategy. The capital strategy provides a high-level long-term overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services as well as an overview of how the associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement is reported separately from the Capital Strategy. This ensures the separation of the core treasury function under security, liquidity and yield principles from the policy and commercial investments usually driven by expenditure on an asset.

1.4. Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20

The Local Government Act 2003 (the Act) and supporting regulations require the City to 'have regard to' the CIPFA Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice to set Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the next three years to ensure that the City's capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The City's Prudential Indicators are set in its annual Budget Report and Medium-Term Financial Strategy, while Treasury Indicators are established in this report (Appendix 3).

The Act requires the Court of Common Council to set out its treasury strategy for borrowing (section 7 of this report) and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy (section 8 of this report). The Investment Strategy sets out the City's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments.

The suggested strategy for 2019/20 in respect of the required aspects of the treasury management function is based upon the treasury officers' views on interest rates, supplemented with leading market forecasts provided by the City's treasury adviser, Link Asset Services, Treasury Solutions.

The strategy covers:

- the capital expenditure plans and the associated prudential indicators
- the minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy
- the current treasury position
- treasury indicators which limit the treasury risk and activities of the City
- prospects for interest rates
- the borrowing strategy
- policy on borrowing in advance of need
- debt rescheduling
- the investment strategy
- creditworthiness policy
- policy on use of external service providers.

These elements cover the requirements of the local Government Act 2003, the CIPFA Prudential Code, the MHCLG MRP Guidance, the CIPFA Treasury Management Code and the MHCLG Investment Guidance.

1.5. Balanced Budget Requirement

It is a statutory requirement under Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for the City to produce a balanced budget. In particular, Section 32 requires a local authority to calculate its budget requirement for each financial year to include the revenue costs that flow from capital financing decisions. This, therefore, means that increases in capital expenditure must be limited to a level whereby increases in charges to revenue from:

1. increases in interest charges caused by increased borrowing to finance additional capital expenditure, and
2. any increases in running costs from new capital projects are limited to a level which is affordable within the projected income of the City for the foreseeable future.

2. Capital Expenditure, Capital Financing and the Underlying Borrowing Requirement

The City's capital expenditure plans are a key driver of treasury management activity. The output of the capital expenditure plans is reflected in the prudential indicators, which are designed to assist Members' overview and confirm capital expenditure plans.

The City's capital expenditure plans in respect of its local authority functions (the City Fund) are detailed in the 2019/20 Budget Report and Medium-Term Financial Strategy, which also contains the City's Prudential Indicators. The Prudential Indicators summarise the City Fund's annual capital expenditure plans for the medium term.

Estimate of Capital Expenditure (City Fund)

Table 1	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Capital Expenditure	49.5	134.0	233.1	191.5	289.7

The Prudential Indicators also establish the City Fund's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR is simply the total historic outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of the City Fund's indebtedness and so its underlying borrowing need. Any capital expenditure above, which has not immediately been paid for through a revenue or capital resource, will increase the CFR.

Estimate of the Capital Financing Requirement (City Fund)

Table 2	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Capital Financing Requirement	44.6	47.1	127.5	227.2	405.0

The CFR does not increase indefinitely, as the minimum revenue provision (MRP) is a statutory annual revenue charge which broadly reduces the indebtedness in line with each asset's life, and so charges the economic consumption of capital assets as they are used. The City's MRP Policy is detailed in Appendix 3.

City's Cash

The City also delivers capital expenditure outside of its capacity as a local authority, via City's Cash. As with the City Fund, any capital expenditure which has not immediately been paid for through a revenue or capital resource, will increase the City's Cash borrowing requirement. Table 3 summarises the planned City's Cash capital expenditure for the medium term and the impact on the borrowing requirement.

Capital Expenditure and Borrowing Requirement (City's Cash)

Table 3	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Capital Expenditure	59.3	200.6	174.4	155.9	138.8
Borrowing Requirement (Cumulative)	0.0	125.0	230.8	315.9	428.4

As with the MRP for the City Fund, the borrowing requirement for City's Cash will be reduced gradually over time as set out in the City's Cash Borrowing Policy Statement (Appendix 9).

3. Current Portfolio Position

The City's treasury portfolio position at 31 December 2018 comprised:

Table 4		Principal		Ave. rate
		£m	£m	%
Fixed rate funding	PWLB	0	0	-
	Market	0		
Variable rate funding	PWLB	0	0	-
	Market	0		
Other long-term liabilities			0	
Gross debt			0	-
Total investments			871.8	0.77
Net Investments			871.8	

4. Treasury Indicators for 2019/20 – 2021/22

Treasury Indicators (as set out in Appendix 3) are relevant for the purposes of setting an integrated treasury management strategy.

5. Prospects for Interest Rates

The City of London has appointed Link Asset Services (Link) as its treasury advisor and part of their service is to assist the City to formulate a view on interest rates. Appendix 1 draws together a number of forecasts for both short term (Bank Rate) and longer term interest rates and Appendix 2 provides a more detailed economic commentary. The following table and accompanying text below gives the Link central view.

	Bank Rate	PWLB Borrowing Rates %			
	%	(including certainty rate adjustment)			
		5 year	10 years	25 year	50 year
Mar 2019	0.75	2.10	2.50	2.90	2.70
Jun 2019	1.00	2.20	2.60	3.00	2.80
Sep 2019	1.00	2.20	2.60	3.10	2.90
Dec 2019	1.00	2.30	2.70	3.10	2.90
Mar 2020	1.25	2.30	2.80	3.20	3.00
Jun 2020	1.25	2.40	2.90	3.30	3.10
Sep 2020	1.25	2.50	2.90	3.30	3.10
Dec 2020	1.50	2.50	3.00	3.40	3.20
Mar 2021	1.50	2.60	3.00	3.40	3.20
Jun 2021	1.75	2.60	3.10	3.50	3.30
Sep 2021	1.75	2.70	3.10	3.50	3.30
Dec 2021	1.75	2.80	3.20	3.60	3.40
Mar 2022	2.00	2.80	3.20	3.60	3.40

After a flow of generally positive economic statistics, the MPC increased Bank Rate from 0.5% to 0.75% on 2 August 2018. Growth strengthened during 2018, until slowing significantly in the last quarter. The MPC left Bank Rate unchanged in November, and it is unlikely to increase rates in February 2019, ahead of the March deadline for Brexit. On a major assumption that Parliament and the EU reach a deal before March, the next increase in Bank Rate is forecast to be in May 2019, followed by increases in February and November 2020, before ending up at 2.0% in February 2022.

The overall longer run future trend is for gilt yields, and consequently PWLB rates, to rise, albeit gently. Over the last 25 years historically low levels of inflation have coincided with falling bond yields. Since 2008 extraordinary monetary stimulus through quantitative easing and ultra low interest rates has also kept bond yields low and equity values high. However this changed from 2016, when the US Federal Reserve started tightening monetary policy to tackle inflation. US 10 year bond yields reached 3.2% in October 2018 but have since receded considerably.

From time to time, gilt yields, and therefore PWLB rates, can be subject to exceptional levels of volatility due to geo-political, sovereign debt crisis, emerging market developments and sharp changes in investor sentiment. Such volatility could occur at any time during the forecast period. Therefore, economic and interest rate forecasting remains difficult with so many external influences weighing on the UK. The above forecasts, (and MPC decisions), will be liable to further amendment depending on how economic data and developments in financial markets transpire over the next year.

Investment and borrowing rates

- Investment returns are likely to remain low during 2019/20 but to be on a gently rising trend over the next few years.
- Borrowing interest rates have been volatile so far in 2018-19 and while they were on a rising trend during the first half of the year, they have backtracked since then until early January. Many local authorities have adopted a policy of avoiding new borrowing by running down spare cash balances, which has served them well over the last few years. However, this needs to be carefully reviewed to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in the future when authorities may not be able to avoid new borrowing to finance capital expenditure and/or the refinancing of maturing debt;
- There will remain a cost of carry, (the difference between higher borrowing costs and lower investment returns), to any new long-term borrowing that causes a temporary increase in cash balances as this position will, most likely, incur a revenue cost.

6. Interest Rate Exposure

The revised Prudential Code removes the requirement to set treasury indicators for fixed and variable interest rate exposure. Instead the City is required to set out how it intends to manage interest rate exposure.

This organisation will manage its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates with a view to containing its interest costs, or securing its interest revenues, in accordance with the amounts provided in its budgetary arrangements and management information arrangements.

It will achieve this by the prudent use of its approved instruments, methods and techniques, primarily to create stability and certainty of costs and revenues, but at the same time retaining a sufficient degree of flexibility to take advantage of unexpected, potentially advantageous changes in the level or structure of interest rates.

7. Borrowing Strategy

The borrowing strategy is developed from the capital plans and prospect for interest rates outlined in sections 2 and 5 above, respectively.

For both the City Fund and City's Cash, the capital expenditure plans create borrowing requirements and the borrowing strategy aims to make sure that sufficient cash is available to ensure the delivery of the City's capital programme as planned.

The City can choose to manage the borrowing requirements through obtaining external debt from a variety of sources; through the temporary use of its own cash resources ("internal borrowing"); or via a combination of these methods.

7.1. City Fund

As the City Fund currently has no external debt portfolio, consideration will be given to obtaining new external debt to meet some or all of the borrowing requirement in 2019/20. In doing so, the Chamberlain will have regard for liquidity requirements, interest rate risk and the implications for the revenue budget.

The Chamberlain will monitor interest rates in financial markets and adopt a pragmatic approach to changing circumstances. For example,

- *if it was felt that there was a significant risk of a sharp FALL in long and short term rates, (e.g. due to a marked increase of risks around relapse into recession or of risks of deflation), then long term borrowings will be postponed, and potential short-term borrowing will be considered.*
- *if it was felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper RISE in long and short term rates than that currently forecast, perhaps arising from an acceleration in the rate of increase in central rates in the USA and UK, an increase in world economic activity, or a sudden increase in inflation risks, then the portfolio position will be re-appraised. Most likely, fixed rate funding will be drawn whilst interest rates are lower than they are projected to be in the next few years.*

Any decisions will be reported to the Finance Committee and the Court of Common Council at the next available opportunity.

The City must set two treasury indicators representing the upper limits for the total amount of external debt for City Fund. These limits are required under the Prudential Code in order to ensure borrowing is affordable and is consistent with the City Fund's capital expenditure requirements.

- The **operational boundary for external debt** should represent the most likely scenario for external borrowing. It is acceptable for actual borrowing to deviate from this estimate from time to time. The proposed limit is set to mirror the estimated CFR for the forthcoming year and the following two years.

- The **authorised limit for external debt** is the maximum threshold for external debt for over 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22. This limit is required by the Local Government Act 2003 and is set above the operational boundary to ensure that the City is not restricted in the event of a debt restructuring opportunity.

The proposed limits for 2019/20 are set out in Appendix 3.

The City is also required to set a treasury indicator in respect of the maturity structure of external debt to ensure that the external debt portfolio remains appropriately balanced over the long term. Under the revised Treasury Management Code of Practice, the City is required to set limit for all borrowing (i.e. both fixed rate and variable debt), and the proposed limits are detailed in Appendix 3.

7.2. City's Cash

The capital expenditure plans for City's Cash likewise create a borrowing requirement, which is forecast to be £230.8m in 2019/20. As with the City Fund borrowing strategy, consideration will be given to obtaining new external debt to meet some or all of this borrowing requirement in 2019/20. In doing so, the Chamberlain will have regard for liquidity requirements, interest rate risk and the implications for the revenue budget.

The regulatory framework established through the CIPFA professional codes and MHCLG guidance pertains to the City's local authority function, the City Fund. To facilitate effective management of the City's Cash borrowing requirement, this organisation has adopted the City's Cash Borrowing Policy Statement (Appendix 9), which sets out the principles for effectively managing the risks arising from borrowing on behalf of City's Cash. Under this framework, the City has resolved to establish two further treasury indicators, which will help the organisation to ensure its borrowing plans remain prudent, affordable and sustainable:

- **Estimates of financing costs to net revenue stream.** This indicator is given as a percentage and establishes the amount of the City's Cash net revenue that is used to service borrowing costs.
- **Overall borrowing limits.** This indicator represents an upper limit for external debt which officers cannot exceed.

The proposed indicators for 2019/20 are set out in Appendix 3 alongside the City Fund treasury indicators.

7.3. Policy on borrowing in advance of need

The City will not borrow more than or in advance of its needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. Any decision to borrow in advance will be within forward approved Capital Financing Requirement estimates and will be considered carefully to ensure that value for money can be demonstrated and that the Council can ensure the security of such funds.

7.4. Debt rescheduling

The City does not anticipate any debt rescheduling in the near term. However, should any opportunities for debt rescheduling arise (through a decrease in borrowing rates, for instance), such cases will need to be considered in the context

of the current treasury position and the size of the cost of debt repayment (i.e. any penalties incurred).

The reasons for any rescheduling to take place will include:

- the generation of cash savings and / or discounted cash flow savings;
- helping to fulfil the treasury strategy;
- enhance the balance of the portfolio (amend the maturity profile and/or the balance of volatility).

All rescheduling will be reported to the Court of Common Council, at the earliest meeting following its action.

8. Annual Investment Strategy

8.1. Investment Policy

The City of London's investment policy will have regard to the MHCLG's Guidance on Local Government Investments ("the Guidance") and the revised CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectorial Guidance Notes 2017 ("the CIPFA TM Code").

The MHCLG and CIPFA have extended the meaning of 'investments' to include both financial and non-financial investments. This report deals solely with financial investments, (as managed by the treasury management team). Non-financial investments, (e.g. commercial property), are covered in the Capital Strategy, (a separate report).

The City's investment priorities are:

- (a) security; and
- (b) liquidity.

The City will also aim to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. The risk appetite of the City is low in order to give priority to security of its investments.

The borrowing of monies purely to invest or on-lend and make a return is unlawful and the City will not engage in such activity.

In accordance with the above guidance from the MHCLG and CIPFA, and in order to minimise the risk to investments, the City applies minimum acceptable credit criteria in order to generate a list of highly creditworthy counterparties which also enables diversification and thus avoidance of concentration risk. The key ratings used to monitor counterparties are the Short Term and Long Term ratings.

Ratings will not be the sole determinant of the quality of an institution; it is important to continually assess and monitor the financial sector on both a micro and macro basis and in relation to the economic and political environments in which institutions operate. The assessment will also take account of information that reflects the opinion of the markets. To achieve this consideration, the City will engage with its advisors to maintain a monitor on market pricing such as "credit default swaps" and overlay that information on top of the credit ratings.

Other information sources used will include the financial press, share price and other such information pertaining to the banking sector in order to establish the most robust scrutiny process on the suitability of potential investment counterparties.

Investment instruments identified for use in the financial year are listed in Appendix 4 under the 'specified' and 'non-specified' investments categories.

The City will also set a limit for the amount of its investments which are invested for longer than 365 days (see Appendix 3).

8.2. Creditworthiness policy

The primary principle governing the City's investment criteria is the security of its investments, although the yield or return on the investment is also a key consideration. After this main principle, the City will ensure that:

- It maintains a policy covering both the categories of investment types it will invest in, criteria for choosing investment counterparties with adequate security, and monitoring their security.
- It has sufficient liquidity in its investments. For this purpose it will set out procedures for determining the maximum periods for which funds may prudently be committed. These procedures also apply to the City's prudential indicators covering the maximum principal sums invested.

The Chamberlain will maintain a counterparty list in compliance with the following criteria and will revise these criteria and submit them to the Financial Investment Board for approval as necessary. These criteria are separate to those which determine which types of investment instruments are classified as either specified or non-specified as it provides an overall pool of counterparties considered high quality which the City may use, rather than defining what types of investment instruments are to be used.

Regular meetings are held involving the Chamberlain, the Deputy Chamberlain, Corporate Treasurer and members of the Treasury team, where the suitability of prospective counterparties and the optimum duration for lending is discussed and agreed.

Credit rating information is supplied by Link Asset Services, our treasury advisors, on all active counterparties that comply with the criteria below. Any counterparty failing to meet the criteria would be omitted from the counterparty (dealing) list. Any rating changes, rating Watches (notification of a likely change), rating Outlooks (notification of a possible longer-term bias outside the central rating view) are provided to officers almost immediately after they occur and this information is considered before dealing. For instance, a negative rating Watch applying to a counterparty would result in a temporary suspension, which will be reviewed in light of market conditions.

All credit ratings will be monitored on a daily basis. The City is alerted to credit warnings and changes to ratings of all three agencies through its use of the Link creditworthiness service.

The criteria for providing a pool of high quality investment counterparties (both specified and non-specified investments) are:

- Banks 1 – good credit quality – the City will only use banks which:
 - (i) are UK banks; and/or
 - (ii) are non-UK and domiciled in a country which has a minimum sovereign long-term rating of AAA (Fitch rating)

and have, as a minimum the following Fitch, credit rating:

(i) Short-term

F1

- Banks 2 – Part Nationalised UK banks –Royal Bank of Scotland **ring-fenced operations**. This bank can be included if it continues to be part nationalised, or it meets the ratings in Banks 1 above.
- Banks 3 – The City’s own banker (Lloyds Banking Group) for transactional purposes if the bank falls below the above criteria, although in this case, balances will be minimised in both monetary size and duration.
- Bank subsidiary and treasury operation - The City will use these where the parent bank has provided an appropriate guarantee or has the necessary ratings outlined above. This criteria is particularly relevant to City Re Limited, the City’s Captive insurance company, which deposits funds with bank subsidiaries in Guernsey.
- Building Societies – The City may use all societies which:
 - (i) have assets in excess of £9bn; or
 - (ii) meet the ratings for banks outlined above
- Money Market Funds CNAV* – with minimum credit ratings of AAA/mmf
- Money Market Funds (MMFs) LVNAV* – with minimum credit ratings of AAA/mmf
- Money Market Funds (MMFs) VNAV* – with minimum credit ratings of AAA/mmf
- Ultra-Short Dated Bond Funds with a credit rating of at least AAA/f (previously referred to as Enhanced Cash Plus Funds)
- Short Dated Bond Fund – These funds typically do not obtain their own standalone credit rating. The funds will invest in a wide array of investment grade instruments, the City will undertake all necessary due diligence to ensure a minimum credit quality across the funds underlying composition is set out within initial Investment Manager Agreements and actively monitor the on-going credit quality of any fund invested.
- UK Government – including government gilts and the debt management agency deposit facility.
- Local authorities

A limit of £300m will be applied to the use of non-specified investments.

***European Money Market Reform.** Under EU money market reforms implemented in 2018/19, three new classifications of money market funds have been created:

- Constant Net Asset Value (“CNAV”) MMFs – must invest 99.5% of their assets into government debt instruments and are permitted to maintain a constant net asset value.
- Low Volatility Net Asset Value (“LVNAV”) MMFs – permitted to maintain a constant dealing net asset value provided that certain criteria are met, including that the market net asset value of the fund does not deviate from the dealing net asset value by more than 20 basis points.
- Variable Net Asset Value (“VNAV”) MMFs – price assets using market pricing and therefore offer a fluctuating dealing net asset value.

Use of additional information other than credit ratings. Additional requirements under the Code require the City to supplement credit rating information. Whilst the

above criteria relies primarily on the application of credit ratings to provide a pool of appropriate counterparties for officers to use, additional operational market information will be applied before making any specific investment decision from the agreed pool of counterparties. This additional market information (for example Credit Default Swaps, negative rating Watches/Outlooks) will be applied to compare the relative security of differing investment counterparties

Time and monetary limits applying to investments. The time and monetary limits for institutions on the City's counterparty list are set out in Appendix 5 as at 31st December 2018. The City may add managers to this list as appropriate.

UK banks – ring fencing. The largest UK banks, (those with more than £25bn of retail / Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) deposits), are required, by UK law, to separate core retail banking services from their investment and international banking activities by 1st January 2019. This is known as “ring-fencing”. Whilst smaller banks with less than £25bn in deposits are exempt, they can choose to opt up. Several banks are very close to the threshold already and so may come into scope in the future regardless.

Ring-fencing is a regulatory initiative created in response to the global financial crisis. It mandates the separation of retail and SME deposits from investment banking, in order to improve the resilience and resolvability of banks by changing their structure. In general, simpler, activities offered from within a ring-fenced bank, (RFB), will be focused on lower risk, day-to-day core transactions, whilst more complex and “riskier” activities are required to be housed in a separate entity, a non-ring-fenced bank, (NRFB). This is intended to ensure that an entity's core activities are not adversely affected by the acts or omissions of other members of its group.

While the structure of the banks included within this process may have changed, the fundamentals of credit assessment have not. The City will continue to assess the new-formed entities in the same way that it does others and those with sufficiently high ratings, (and any other metrics considered), will be considered for investment purposes.

8.3. Country limits

The City has determined that it will only use approved counterparties from countries with a minimum sovereign credit rating of AAA (Fitch) or equivalent. The country limits list, as shown in Appendix 6, will be added to or deducted from by officers should individual country ratings change in accordance with this policy. It is proposed that the UK (which is currently rated as AA) will be excluded from this stipulated minimum sovereign rating requirement.

8.4. Investment Strategy

In-house funds: The City's in-house managed funds are both cash-flow derived and also represented by core balances which can be made available for investment over a 2-3 year period. Investments will accordingly 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). The City does not currently have any term deposits which span the 2018/19 financial year.

Investment returns expectations: Bank Rate is forecast to increase steadily but slowly over the next few years to reach 2.00% by quarter 1 2022. Bank Rate forecasts for financial year ends (March) are:

- 2018/19 0.75%
- 2019/20 1.25%
- 2020/21 1.50%
- 2021/22 2.00%

Link consider that the overall balance of risks to these forecasts is currently probably neutral. The balance of risks to increases in Bank Rate and shorter term PWLB rates, are probably also even and are dependent on how strong GDP growth turns out, how slowly inflation pressures subside, and how quickly the Brexit negotiations move forward positively.

The outlook for rates for the forthcoming year and over the medium term remains heavily contingent on economic conditions and political developments, particularly Brexit. Under these conditions the Chamberlain will continue to invest surplus cash balances in a balanced portfolio that prioritises security and liquidity concerns.

For 2018/19 the City has budgeted for an average investment return of 0.75% on investments placed during the financial year. Financial forecasts for the period 2019/20 include interest earnings based on a weighted average investment return of 1.00%.

In managing its cash as effectively as possible, the City aims to benefit from the highest available interest rates for the types of investment vehicles invested in, whilst ensuring that it keeps within its credit criteria as set out in this document. Currently, the City invests in a call account with Lloyds Bank, money market funds, short-dated deposits (three months to one year) and a 95-day notice account. These investments are relatively liquid and therefore as and when interest rates improve balances can be invested for longer periods.

9. Investment Treasury Indicator and Limit

Total principal funds invested for greater than 365 days are subject to a limit, set with regard to the City's liquidity requirements and to reduce the need for an early sale of an investment, and are based on the availability of funds after each year end.

The Board is asked to approve the treasury indicator and limit:

Maximum principal sums invested for more than 365 days (up to three years)			
	2019/20 £M	2020/21 £M	2021/22 £M
Principal sums invested >365 days	300	300	300

10. End of year investment report

At the end of the financial year, the City will report on its investment activity as part of its Annual Treasury Report.

11. External fund managers

A proportion of the City's funds, amounting to £400.4m as at 31 December 2018, are externally managed on a discretionary basis by the following fund managers:

- Aberdeen Standard plc,
- CCLA Investment Management Ltd
- Deutsche Asset Wealth Management,

- Federated UK LLP,
- Invesco Fund Managers Ltd
- Legal and General Investment Management
- Payden Global Funds Plc
- Royal London Asset Management

The City's external fund managers will comply with the Annual Investment Strategy, and the agreements between the City and the fund managers additionally stipulate guidelines and duration and other limits in order to contain and control risk. Investments made by the Fund Managers include a diversified portfolio of very high quality sterling-dominated investments, including gilts, supranationals, bank and corporate bonds, as well as other money market securities. The individual investments held within the Funds are monitored on a regular basis by Treasury staff.

The credit criteria to be used for the selection of the Money Market fund manager(s) is based on Fitch Ratings and is AAA/mmf. The Ultra-Short Dated Bond fund managers (including Payden Sterling Reserve Fund, Federated Sterling Cash Plus Fund and Aberdeen Standard Investments Ultra Short Duration Sterling Fund) are all rated by Standard and Poor's as AAA.

The City also uses two Short Dated Bond funds managers by Legal and General and Royal London Asset Management. Both funds are unrated (as is typical of these instruments). The funds offer significant diversification by being invested in a wide range of investment grade instruments, rated BBB and above and limiting exposure to any one debt issuer or issuance.

12. Policy on the use of external service providers

The City uses Link Asset Services, Treasury Solutions as its external treasury management advisers.

The City recognises that responsibility for treasury management decisions remains with the organisation at all times and will ensure that undue reliance is not placed upon its external service providers.

It also recognises that there is value in employing external providers of treasury management services in order to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. The City will ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented, and subjected to regular review.

13. Scheme of Delegation

Please see Appendix 7.

14. Role of the Section 151 officer

Please see Appendix 8.

15. Training

The CIPFA Code requires the responsible officer to ensure that members with responsibility for treasury management receive adequate training in treasury management. The training needs of members and treasury management officers are periodically reviewed.

APPENDICES

1. Interest Rate Forecasts 2018-2021
2. Link Asset Services view on Economic Background
3. Treasury Indicators 2018/19 – 2020/21 and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement
4. Treasury Management Practice (TMP1) – Credit and Counterparty Risk Management
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LINK INTEREST RATE FORECASTS 2019 – 2022

Link Asset Services Interest Rate View													
	Mar-19	Jun-19	Sep-19	Dec-19	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22
Bank Rate View	0.75%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.25%	1.25%	1.25%	1.50%	1.50%	1.75%	1.75%	1.75%	2.00%
3 Month LIBID	0.90%	1.00%	1.10%	1.20%	1.30%	1.40%	1.50%	1.50%	1.60%	1.70%	1.80%	1.90%	2.00%
6 Month LIBID	1.00%	1.20%	1.30%	1.40%	1.50%	1.60%	1.70%	1.70%	1.80%	1.90%	2.00%	2.10%	2.20%
12 Month LIBID	1.20%	1.30%	1.40%	1.50%	1.60%	1.70%	1.80%	1.90%	2.00%	2.10%	2.20%	2.30%	2.40%
5yr PWLB Rate	2.10%	2.20%	2.20%	2.30%	2.30%	2.40%	2.50%	2.50%	2.60%	2.60%	2.70%	2.80%	2.80%
10yr PWLB Rate	2.50%	2.60%	2.60%	2.70%	2.80%	2.90%	2.90%	3.00%	3.00%	3.10%	3.10%	3.20%	3.20%
25yr PWLB Rate	2.90%	3.00%	3.10%	3.10%	3.20%	3.30%	3.30%	3.40%	3.40%	3.50%	3.50%	3.60%	3.60%
50yr PWLB Rate	2.70%	2.80%	2.90%	2.90%	3.00%	3.10%	3.10%	3.20%	3.20%	3.30%	3.30%	3.40%	3.40%
Bank Rate													
Link Asset Services	0.75%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.25%	1.25%	1.25%	1.50%	1.50%	1.75%	1.75%	1.75%	2.00%
Capital Economics	0.75%	1.00%	1.25%	1.50%	1.70%	1.75%	2.00%	2.00%	-	-	-	-	-
5yr PWLB Rate													
Link Asset Services	2.10%	2.20%	2.20%	2.30%	2.30%	2.40%	2.50%	2.50%	2.60%	2.60%	2.70%	2.80%	2.80%
Capital Economics	2.03%	2.15%	2.40%	2.65%	2.70%	2.75%	2.80%	2.85%	-	-	-	-	-
10yr PWLB Rate													
Link Asset Services	2.50%	2.60%	2.60%	2.70%	2.80%	2.90%	2.90%	3.00%	3.00%	3.10%	3.10%	3.20%	3.20%
Capital Economics	2.43%	2.55%	2.80%	3.05%	3.05%	3.05%	3.05%	3.05%	-	-	-	-	-
25yr PWLB Rate													
Link Asset Services	2.90%	3.00%	3.10%	3.10%	3.20%	3.30%	3.30%	3.40%	3.40%	3.50%	3.50%	3.60%	3.60%
Capital Economics	2.96%	3.08%	3.33%	3.58%	3.53%	3.48%	3.43%	3.38%	-	-	-	-	-
50yr PWLB Rate													
Link Asset Services	2.70%	2.80%	2.90%	2.90%	3.00%	3.10%	3.10%	3.20%	3.20%	3.30%	3.30%	3.40%	3.40%
Capital Economics	2.78%	2.90%	3.15%	3.40%	3.40%	3.40%	3.40%	3.40%	-	-	-	-	-

Note: The current PWLB rates and forecast shown above have taken into account the 20 basis point certainty rate reduction effective since 1st November 2012.

LINK ASSET SERVICES VIEW ON ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

GLOBAL OUTLOOK. World growth has been doing reasonably well, aided by strong growth in the US. However, US growth is likely to fall back in 2019 and, together with weakening economic activity in China and the eurozone, overall world growth is likely to weaken.

Inflation has been weak during 2018 but, at long last, unemployment falling to remarkably low levels in the US and UK has led to an acceleration of wage inflation. The US Fed has therefore increased rates nine times and the Bank of England twice. However, the ECB is unlikely to start raising rates until late in 2019 at the earliest.

KEY RISKS – central bank monetary policy measures

Looking back on nearly ten years since the financial crash of 2008 when liquidity suddenly dried up in financial markets, it can be assessed that central banks' monetary policy measures to counter the sharp world recession were successful. The key monetary policy measures they used were a combination of lowering central interest rates and flooding financial markets with liquidity, particularly through unconventional means such as quantitative easing (QE), where central banks bought large amounts of central government debt and smaller sums of other debt.

The key issue now is that period of stimulating economic recovery and warding off the threat of deflation, is coming towards its close. A new period is well advanced in the US, and started more recently in the UK, of reversing those measures i.e. by raising central rates and, (for the US), reducing central banks' holdings of government and other debt. These measures are now required in order to stop the trend of a reduction in spare capacity in the economy and of unemployment falling to such low levels, that the re-emergence of inflation is viewed as a major risk. It is, therefore, crucial that central banks get their timing right and do not cause shocks to market expectations that could destabilise financial markets. In particular, a key risk is that because QE-driven purchases of bonds drove up the price of government debt, and therefore caused a sharp drop in income yields, this also encouraged investors into a search for yield and into investing in riskier assets such as equities. Consequently, prices in both bond and equity markets rose to historically high valuation levels simultaneously. This meant that both asset categories were exposed to the risk of a sharp downward correction and we did, indeed, see a sharp fall in equity values in the last quarter of 2018. It is important, therefore, that central banks only gradually unwind their holdings of bonds in order to prevent destabilising the financial markets. It is also likely that the timeframe for central banks unwinding their holdings of QE debt purchases will be over several years. They need to balance their timing to neither squash economic recovery, by taking too rapid and too strong action, or, conversely, let inflation run away by taking action that was too slow and/or too weak. **The potential for central banks to get this timing and strength of action wrong are now key risks.** At the time of writing, (early January 2019), financial markets are very concerned that the Fed is being too aggressive with its policy for raising interest rates and is likely to cause a recession in the US economy.

The world economy also needs to adjust to a sharp change in **liquidity creation** over the last five years where the US has moved from boosting liquidity by QE purchases, to reducing its holdings of debt (currently about \$50bn per month). In addition, the European Central Bank ended its QE purchases in December 2018.

UK. The flow of positive economic statistics since the end of the first quarter of 2018 has shown that pessimism was overdone about the poor growth in quarter 1 when adverse weather caused a temporary downward blip. Quarter 1 at 0.1% growth in GDP was followed by a return to 0.4% in quarter 2 and by a strong performance in quarter 3 of +0.6%. However, growth in quarter 4 is expected to weaken significantly.

At their November quarterly Inflation Report meeting, the MPC repeated their well-worn phrase that future Bank Rate increases would be gradual and would rise to a much lower equilibrium rate, (where monetary policy is neither expansionary or contractionary), than before the crash; indeed they gave a figure for this of around 2.5% in ten years' time, but declined to give a medium term forecast. However, with so much uncertainty around Brexit, they warned that the next move could be up or down, even if there was a disorderly Brexit. While it would be expected that Bank Rate could be cut if there was a significant fall in GDP growth as a result of a disorderly Brexit, so as to provide a stimulus to growth, they warned they could also *raise* Bank Rate in the same scenario if there was a boost to inflation from a devaluation of sterling, increases in import prices and more expensive goods produced in the UK replacing cheaper goods previously imported, and so on. In addition, the Chancellor could potentially provide fiscal stimulus to support economic growth, though at the cost of increasing the budget deficit above currently projected levels.

It is unlikely that the MPC would increase Bank Rate in February 2019, ahead of the deadline in March for Brexit. Getting parliamentary approval for a Brexit agreement on both sides of the Channel will take well into spring 2019. However, in view of the hawkish stance of the MPC at their November meeting, the next increase in Bank Rate is now forecast to be in May 2019, (on the assumption that a Brexit deal is agreed by both the UK and the EU). The following increases are then forecast to be in February and November 2020 before ending up at 2.0% in February 2022.

Inflation. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure of inflation has been falling from a peak of 3.1% in November 2017 to 2.1% in December 2018. In the November Bank of England quarterly Inflation Report, inflation was forecast to still be marginally above its 2% inflation target two years ahead, (at about 2.1%), given a scenario of minimal increases in Bank Rate.

The **labour market** figures in November were particularly strong with an emphatic increase in total employment of 141,000 over the previous three months, unemployment at 4.0% at a 43 year low on the Independent Labour Organisation measure, and job vacancies hitting an all-time high, indicating that employers are having major difficulties filling job vacancies with suitable staff. It was therefore unsurprising that wage inflation continued at its high point of 3.3%, (3 month average regular pay, excluding bonuses). This meant that in real terms, (i.e. wage rates less CPI inflation), earnings are currently growing by about 1.2%, the highest level since 2009. This increase in household spending power is likely to feed through into providing some support to the overall rate of economic growth in the coming months. This tends to confirm that the MPC was right to start on a cautious increase in Bank Rate in August as it views wage inflation in excess of 3% as increasing inflationary pressures within the UK economy.

In the **political arena**, the Brexit deal put forward by the Conservative minority government was defeated on 15 January. It is unclear at the time of writing, how this situation will move forward. However, our central position is that Prime Minister May's government will endure, despite various setbacks, along the route to reaching an orderly Brexit though the risks are increasing that it may not be possible to get full agreement by the UK and EU before 29 March 2019, in which case this withdrawal date is likely to be pushed back to a new date. If, however, the UK faces a general election in the next 12 months, this could result in a potential loosening

of monetary and fiscal policy and therefore medium to longer dated gilt yields could rise on the expectation of a weak pound and concerns around inflation picking up.

USA. President Trump's massive easing of fiscal policy is fuelling a (temporary) boost in consumption which has generated an upturn in the rate of strong growth which rose from 2.2% (annualised rate) in quarter 1 to 4.2% in quarter 2 and 3.5%, (3.0% y/y), in quarter 3, but also an upturn in inflationary pressures. The strong growth in employment numbers and the reduction in the unemployment rate to 3.9%, near to a recent 49 year low, has fed through to an upturn in wage inflation which hit 3.2% in November. However, CPI inflation overall fell to 2.2% in November and looks to be on a falling trend to drop below the Fed's target of 2% during 2019. The Fed has continued on its series of increases in interest rates with another 0.25% increase in December to between 2.25% and 2.50%, this being the fifth increase in 2018 and the ninth in this cycle. However, they did also reduce their forecast for further increases from three to two. This latest increase compounded investor fears that the Fed is over doing the speed and level of increases in rates and that it is going to cause a US recession as a result. There is also much evidence in previous monetary policy cycles of the Fed's series of increases doing exactly that. Consequently, we have seen stock markets around the world falling under the weight of fears around the Fed's actions, the trade war between the US and China and an expectation that world growth will slow.

The tariff war between the US and China has been generating a lot of heat during 2018, but it is not expected that the current level of actual action would have much in the way of a significant effect on US or world growth. However, there is a risk of escalation if an agreement is not reached soon between the US and China.

Eurozone. Growth was 0.4% in quarters 1 and 2 but fell back to 0.2% in quarter 3, though this was probably just a temporary dip. In particular, data from Germany has been mixed and it could be negatively impacted by US tariffs on a significant part of its manufacturing exports e.g. cars. Current forward indicators for economic growth and inflation have now been on a downward trend for a significant period, which will make it difficult for the ECB to make any start on increasing rates until 2020 at the earliest. Indeed, the issue now is rather whether the ECB will have to resort to new measures to boost liquidity in the economy in order to support growth. Having halved its quantitative easing purchases of debt in October 2018 to €15bn per month, the European Central Bank ended all further purchases in December 2018. In its January 2019 meeting, it made a point of underlining that it will be fully reinvesting all maturing debt for an extended period of time past the date at which it starts raising the key ECB interest rates.

China. Economic growth has been weakening over successive years, despite repeated rounds of central bank stimulus; medium term risks are increasing. Major progress still needs to be made to eliminate excess industrial capacity and the stock of unsold property, and to address the level of non-performing loans in the banking and credit systems. Progress has been made in reducing the rate of credit creation, particularly from the shadow banking sector, which is feeding through into lower economic growth. There are concerns that official economic statistics are inflating the published rate of growth.

Japan – has been struggling to stimulate consistent significant GDP growth and to get inflation up to its target of 2%, despite huge monetary and fiscal stimulus. It is also making little progress on fundamental reform of the economy. It is likely that loose monetary policy will endure for some years yet to try to stimulate growth and modest inflation.

Emerging countries. Argentina and Turkey are currently experiencing major headwinds

and are facing challenges in external financing requirements well in excess of their reserves of foreign exchange. However, these countries are small in terms of the overall world economy, (around 1% each), so the fallout from the expected recessions in these countries will be minimal.

INTEREST RATE FORECASTS

The interest rate forecasts provided by Link Asset Services in section 5 are **predicated on an assumption of an agreement being reached on Brexit between the UK and the EU.** On this basis, while GDP growth is likely to be subdued in 2019 due to all the uncertainties around Brexit depressing consumer and business confidence, an agreement is likely to lead to a boost to the rate of growth in 2020 which could, in turn, increase inflationary pressures in the economy and so cause the Bank of England to resume a series of gentle increases in Bank Rate. Just how fast, and how far, those increases will occur and rise to, will be data dependent. The forecasts in this report assume a modest recovery in the rate and timing of stronger growth and in the corresponding response by the Bank in raising rates.

- In the event of an **orderly non-agreement exit**, it is likely that the Bank of England would take action to cut Bank Rate from 0.75% in order to help economic growth deal with the adverse effects of this situation. This is also likely to cause short to medium term gilt yields to fall.
- If there was a **disorderly Brexit**, then any cut in Bank Rate would be likely to last for a longer period and also depress short and medium gilt yields correspondingly. It is also possible that the government could act to protect economic growth by implementing fiscal stimulus.

However, there would appear to be a majority consensus in the Commons against any form of non-agreement exit so the chance of this occurring has now substantially diminished.

The balance of risks to the UK

- The overall balance of risks to economic growth in the UK is probably neutral.
- The balance of risks to increases in Bank Rate and shorter term PWLB rates, are probably also even and are broadly dependent on how strong GDP growth turns out, how slowly inflation pressures subside, and how quickly the Brexit negotiations move forward positively.

One risk that is both an upside and downside risk, is that all central banks are now working in very different economic conditions than before the 2008 financial crash as there has been a major increase in consumer and other debt due to the exceptionally low levels of borrowing rates that have prevailed for ten years since 2008. This means that the neutral rate of interest in an economy, (i.e. the rate that is neither expansionary nor deflationary), is difficult to determine definitively in this new environment, although central banks have made statements that they expect it to be much lower than before 2008. Central banks could therefore either over or under do increases in central interest rates.

Downside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates currently include:

- **Brexit** – if it were to cause significant economic disruption and a major downturn in the rate of growth.
- **Bank of England monetary policy** takes action too quickly, or too far, over the next three years to raise Bank Rate and causes UK economic growth, and increases in inflation, to be weaker than we currently anticipate.
- A resurgence of the **eurozone sovereign debt crisis**, possibly in **Italy**, due to its high level of government debt, low rate of economic growth and vulnerable banking system, and due to the election in March of a government which has made a lot of anti-austerity noise. The EU rejected the initial proposed Italian budget and demanded cuts in

government spending which the Italian government initially refused. However, a fudge was subsequently agreed, but only by *delaying* the planned increases in expenditure to a later year. This has therefore only been kicked down the road to a later time. The rating agencies have started on downgrading Italian debt to one notch above junk level. If Italian debt were to fall below investment grade, many investors would be unable to hold it. Unsurprisingly, investors are becoming increasingly concerned by the words and actions of the Italian government and consequently, Italian bond yields have risen – at a time when the government faces having to refinance large amounts of debt maturing in 2019.

- **Weak capitalisation of some European banks.** Italian banks are particularly vulnerable; one factor is that they hold a high level of Italian government debt – debt which is falling in value. This is therefore undermining their capital ratios and raises the question of whether they will need to raise fresh capital to plug the gap.
- **German minority government.** In the German general election of September 2017, Angela Merkel's CDU party was left in a vulnerable minority position dependent on the fractious support of the SPD party, as a result of the rise in popularity of the anti-immigration AfD party. Then in October 2018, the results of the Bavarian and Hesse state elections radically undermined the SPD party and showed a sharp fall in support for the CDU. As a result, the SPD is reviewing whether it can continue to support a coalition that is so damaging to its electoral popularity. After the result of the Hesse state election, Angela Merkel announced that she would not stand for re-election as CDU party leader at her party's convention in December 2018, (a new party leader has now been elected). However, this makes little practical difference as she is still expected to aim to continue for now as the Chancellor. However, there are five more state elections coming up in 2019 and EU parliamentary elections in May/June; these could result in a further loss of electoral support for both the CDU and SPD which could also undermine her leadership.
- **Other minority eurozone governments.** Spain, Portugal, Ireland, the Netherlands and Belgium all have vulnerable minority governments dependent on coalitions which could prove fragile. Sweden is also struggling to form a government due to the anti-immigration party holding the balance of power, and which no other party is willing to form a coalition with. The Belgian coalition collapsed in December 2018 but a minority caretaker government has been appointed until the May EU wide general elections.
- **Austria, the Czech Republic and Hungary** now form a strongly anti-immigration bloc within the EU while **Italy**, in 2018, also elected a strongly anti-immigration government. Elections to the EU parliament are due in May/June 2019.
- Further increases in interest rates in the US could spark a **sudden flight of investment funds** from more risky assets e.g. shares, into bonds yielding a much improved yield. Throughout the last quarter of 2018, we saw sharp falls in equity markets interspersed with occasional partial rallies. Emerging countries which have borrowed heavily in dollar denominated debt, could be particularly exposed to this risk of an investor flight to safe havens e.g. UK gilts.
- There are concerns around the level of **US corporate debt** which has swollen massively during the period of low borrowing rates in order to finance mergers and acquisitions. This has resulted in the debt of many large corporations being downgraded to a BBB credit rating, close to junk status. Indeed, 48% of total investment grade corporate debt is now rated at BBB. If such corporations fail to generate profits and cash flow to reduce their debt levels as expected, this could tip their debt into junk ratings which will increase their cost of financing and further negatively impact profits and cash flow.
- **Geopolitical risks**, especially North Korea, but also in Europe and the Middle East, which could lead to increasing safe haven flows.

Upside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates

- **Brexit** – if both sides were to agree by 29 March a compromise that quickly removed all threats of economic and political disruption and so led to an early boost to UK economic growth.
- **The Fed causing a sudden shock in financial markets** through misjudging the pace and strength of increases in its Fed Funds Rate and in the pace and strength of reversal of QE, which then leads to a fundamental reassessment by investors of the relative risks of holding bonds, as opposed to equities. This could lead to a major flight from bonds to equities and a sharp increase in bond yields in the US, which could then spill over into impacting bond yields around the world.
- The **Bank of England is too slow** in its pace and strength of increases in Bank Rate and, therefore, allows inflation pressures to build up too strongly within the UK economy, which then necessitates a later rapid series of increases in Bank Rate faster than we currently expect.
- **UK inflation**, whether domestically generated or imported, returning to sustained significantly higher levels causing an increase in the inflation premium inherent to gilt yields.

Brexit timetable and process

- If an agreement is reached with the EU on the terms of Brexit, then this will be followed by a proposed transitional period ending around December 2020.
- UK continues as a full EU member until March 2019 with access to the single market and tariff free trade between the EU and UK. Different sectors of the UK economy may leave the single market and tariff free trade at different times during the transitional period.
- The UK and EU would attempt to negotiate, among other agreements, a bi-lateral trade agreement over that period.
- The UK would aim for a negotiated agreed withdrawal from the EU, although the UK could also exit without any such agreements in the event of a breakdown of negotiations.
- If the UK exits without an agreed deal with the EU, World Trade Organisation rules and tariffs could apply to trade between the UK and EU – but this is not certain.
- On full exit from the EU: the UK parliament would repeal the 1972 European Communities Act.

TREASURY INDICATORS 2018/19 – 2020/21 AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT

TABLE 1: TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	actual	probable outturn	estimate	estimate	estimate
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Authorised Limit for external debt -					
Borrowing	-	147,100	227,500	327,200	505,000
other long-term liabilities	14,006	13,888	13,770	13,653	13,536
TOTAL	14,006	160,988	241,270	340,853	518,536
Operational Boundary for external debt -					
Borrowing	-	47,100	127,500	227,200	405,000
other long-term liabilities	14,006	13,888	13,770	13,653	13,536
TOTAL	14,006	60,988	141,270	240,853	418,536
Actual external debt*	£0	£0	-	-	-
Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 365 days (per maturity date)	£200m	£300m	£300m	£300m	£300m

*Actual external debt at the end of the financial year

TABLE 2: Maturity structure of borrowing during 2019/20	upper limit	lower limit
- under 12 months	50%	0%
- 12 months and within 24 months	50%	0%
- 24 months and within 5 years	50%	0%
- 5 years and within 10 years	75%	0%
- 10 years and above	100%	0%

TABLE 3: CITY'S CASH BORROWING INDICATORS	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	actual	probable outturn	estimate	estimate	estimate
	%	%	%	%	%
Estimates of financing costs to net revenue stream	0.0%	0.3%	5.2%	8.3%	10.3%
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Overall borrowing limits	0	225,000	355,840	415,850	528,350

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) POLICY STATEMENT 2019/20

To ensure that capital expenditure funded by borrowing is ultimately financed, the City Fund is required to make a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) when the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) is positive. A positive CFR is indicative of an underlying need to borrow and will arise when capital expenditure is funded by 'borrowing', either external (loans from third parties) or internal (use of cash balances held by the City Fund).

MHCLG regulations have been issued which require the Court of Common Council to approve an **MRP Statement** in advance of each year. The regulatory guidance recommends four options for local authorities. Options 1 and 2 relate to government supported borrowing prior to 2008. As the City Fund does not have any outstanding borrowing from this period, these options are not relevant. For any prudential borrowing undertaken after 2008, options 3 and 4 apply:

- **Option 3: Asset life method** – MRP will be based on the estimated life of the assets, in accordance with the regulations (this option must be applied for any expenditure capitalised under a Capitalisation Direction);
- **Option 4: Depreciation method** – MRP will follow standard depreciation accounting procedures;

For any new borrowing under the prudential financing system, the City Fund will apply the asset life method over the useful economic life of the relevant assets. However, as loan repayments will commence in advance of the assets becoming operational, additional provision will be made in the early years so that MRP is at least equal to the amount of the loan principal repaid. This option provides for a reduction in the borrowing need over the approximate life of the assets.

As in previous years, the City will continue to apply a separate MRP policy for that portion of the CFR which has arisen through the funding of capital expenditure from cash received from long lease premiums which are deferred in accordance with accounting standards. This deferred income is released to revenue over the life of the leases to which it relates, typically between 125 and 250 years.

The City's MRP policy in respect of this form of internal borrowing is based on a mechanism to ensure that the deferred income used to finance capital expenditure is not then 'used again' when it is released to revenue. The amount of the annual MRP is therefore to be equal to the amount of the deferred income released, resulting in an overall neutral impact on the bottom line.

MRP will fall due in the year following the one in which the expenditure is incurred, or the year after the asset becomes operational.

The MRP liability for 2018/19 is £1,056k and is estimated at £1,152k for 2019/20

TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (TMP 1) – Credit and Counterparty Risk Management

SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS: All such investments will be sterling denominated, with **maturities up to maximum of 1 year**, meeting the minimum ‘high’ quality criteria where appropriate.

	Minimum ‘High’ Credit Criteria	Use
Debt Management Agency Deposit Facility	--	In-house
Term deposits – local authorities	--	In-house
Term deposits – banks and building societies, including part nationalised banks	Short-term F1, Long-term A,	In-house
Term deposits – banks and building societies, including part nationalised banks	Short-term F1, Long-term A,	Fund Managers
Money Market Funds CNAV	AAA/mmf (or equivalent)	In-house via Fund Managers
Money Market Funds LVNAV	AAA/mmf (or equivalent)	In-house via Fund Managers
Money Market Funds VNAV	AAA/mmf (or equivalent)	In-house via Fund Managers
Ultra-Short Dated Bond Fund	AAA/f (or equivalent)	In-house via Fund Managers
UK Government Gilts	UK Sovereign Rating	In-house & Fund Managers
Treasury Bills	UK Sovereign Rating	Fund Managers
Sovereign Bond issues (other than the UK government)	AAA	Fund Managers

NON-SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS: These are any investments which do not meet the Specified Investment criteria. A maximum of £300m will be held in aggregate in non-specified investment.

A variety of investment instruments will be used, subject to the credit quality of the institution, and depending on the type of investment made it will fall into one of the categories set out below.

	Minimum Credit Criteria	Use	Maximum	Maximum Maturity Period
Term deposits – other Las (with maturities in excess of one year)	-	In-house	£25m per LA	Three years
Term deposits, including callable deposits – banks and building societies (with maturities in excess of one year)	Long-term A, Short-term F1,	In-house and Fund Managers	£300m overall	Three years
Certificates of deposits issued by banks and building societies with maturities in excess of one year	Long-term A, Short-term F1,	In-house on a buy-and-hold basis and fund managers	£50m overall	Three years
UK Government Gilts with maturities in excess of one year	AAA	In-house on a buy-and-hold basis and fund managers	£50m overall	Three years
UK Index Linked Gilts	AAA	In-house on a buy-and-hold basis and fund managers	£50m Overall	Three years
Short Dated Bond Funds	--	In-house via Fund Managers	£100m Principal Overall	n/a*

*Short Dated Bonds Funds are buy and hold investments with no pre-determined maturity at time of funding, liquidity access is typically T + 3 or 4.

APPROVED COUNTERPARTIES as at 31 DECEMBER 2018**BANKS AND THEIR WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARIES**

FITCH RATINGS		BANK*	LIMIT PER GROUP	DURATION
A+	F1	Barclays Bank PLC (NRFB)	£100M	Up to 3 years
A+	F1	Barclays Bank UK PLC (RFB)		
A	F1	Goldman Sachs International Bank	£100M	Up to 3 years
AA-	FI+	HSBC (RFB)	£100M	Up to 3 years
AA-	FI+	HSBC (NRFB)		
A	F1	Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets PLC (NRFB)	£150M	Up to 3 years
A+	F1	Lloyds Bank PLC (RFB)		
A+	F1	Bank of Scotland PLC (RFB)		
A	F1	NatWest Markets PLC (NRFB)	£100M	Up to 3 years
A+	F1	National Westminster Bank PLC (RFB)		
A+	F1	Royal Bank of Scotland PLC (RFB)		
A+	F1	Santander UK PLC (RFB)	£100M	Up to 3 years

*Under the ring-fencing initiative, the largest UK banks are now legally required to separate the core retail business into a ring-fenced bank (RFB) and to house their complex investment activities into a non-ring-fenced bank (NRFB). See section 8.2 above for further details.

BUILDING SOCIETIES

FITCH RATINGS		BANK	ASSETS	LIMIT PER GROUP	DURATION
A+	F1	Nationwide	£220Bn	£120M	Up to 3 years
A-	F1	Yorkshire	£45Bn	£20M	Up to 1 year
A-	F1	Coventry	£38Bn	£20M	Up to 1 year
A-	F1	Skipton	£18Bn	£20M	Up to 1 year
A-	F1	Leeds	£16Bn	£20M	Up to 1 year

MONEY MARKET FUNDS

FITCH RATINGS	MONEY MARKET FUNDS Limit of £100M per fund	DURATION
AAA/mmf	CCLA	Liquid
AAA/mmf	Federated Short-Term Sterling Prime Fund*	Liquid
AAA/mmf	Standard Life Liquidity Fund** Aberdeen Sterling Liquidity Fund	Liquid
AAA/mmf	Invesco	Liquid
AAA/mmf	Deutsche Liquidity Fund	Liquid

ULTRA SHORT DATED BOND FUNDS

FITCH RATINGS (or equivalent)	ULTRA SHORT DATED BOND FUNDS Limit of £100M per fund	DURATION
AAA/f	Payden Sterling Reserve Fund	Liquid
AAA/f	Federated Sterling Cash Plus Fund*	Liquid
AAA/f	Standard Life Investments Short Duration Managed Liquidity Fund**	Liquid

*A combined limit of £100m applies to balances across the Money Market Fund and Ultra Short Dated Bond Fund both managed by Federated

**A combined limit of £100m applies to balances across the Money Market Funds and Ultra Short Dated Bond Fund all managed by Aberdeen Standard

SHORT DATED BOND FUNDS

FITCH RATINGS (or equivalent)	SHORT DATED BOND FUNDS Limit of £100M per fund	DURATION
-	Legal and General Short Dated Sterling Corporate Bond Index Fund	Liquid
-	Royal London Investment Grade Short Dated Credit Fund	Liquid

FOREIGN BANKS

(with a presence in London)

FITCH RATINGS		COUNTRY AND BANK	LIMIT PER GROUP	DURATION
AA-	F1+	<u>AUSTRALIA</u> AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LTD	£25M	Up to 3 years
AA-	F1+	NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK LTD	£25M	Up to 3 years
AA	F1+	<u>SWEDEN</u> SVENSKA HANDELSBANKEN	£25M	Up to 3 years

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

LIMIT OF £25M PER AUTHORITY
Any UK local authority

APPROVED COUNTRIES FOR INVESTMENT

This list is based on those countries which have sovereign ratings of AAA as at 21 January 2019

AAA

- Australia
- Canada
- Denmark
- Germany
- Luxembourg*
- Netherlands
- Norway *
- Singapore
- Sweden
- Switzerland

AA

- United Kingdom

* Currently no eligible banks to invest in either country as per the Link Asset Services weekly list

TREASURY MANAGEMENT SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The roles of the various bodies of the City of London Corporation with regard to treasury management are:

(i) Court of Common Council

- Receiving and reviewing reports on treasury management policies, practices and activities
- Approval of annual strategy.

(ii) Financial Investment Board and Finance Committee

- Approval of/amendments to the organisation's adopted clauses, treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices
- Budget consideration and approval
- Approval of the division of responsibilities
- Receiving and reviewing regular monitoring reports and acting on recommendations
- Approving the selection of external service providers and agreeing terms of appointment.

(iii) Audit & Risk Management Committee

- Reviewing the treasury management policy and procedures and making recommendations to the responsible body.

THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT ROLE OF THE SECTION 151 OFFICER

The Chamberlain

- Recommending clauses, treasury management policy/practices for approval, reviewing the same regularly, and monitoring compliance
- Submitting regular treasury management policy reports
- Submitting budgets and budget variations
- Receiving and reviewing management information reports
- Reviewing the performance of the treasury management function
- Ensuring the adequacy of treasury management resources and skills, and the effective division of responsibilities within the treasury management function
- Ensuring the adequacy of internal audit, and liaising with external audit
- Recommending the appointment of external service providers.

CITY'S CASH BORROWING POLICY STATEMENT

1. The City Corporation shall ensure that all of its City's Cash capital expenditure, investments and borrowing decisions are prudent and sustainable. In doing so, it will take into account its arrangements for the repayment of debt and consideration of risk and the impact, and potential impact, on the overall fiscal sustainability of City's Cash.

2. Borrowing shall be undertaken on an affordable basis and total capital investment must remain within sustainable limits. When assessing the affordability of its City's Cash investment plans, the City Corporation will consider both the City's Cash resources currently available and its estimated future resources, together with the totality of its City's Cash capital plans, income and expenditure forecasts.

3. To ensure that the benefits of capital expenditure are matched against the costs, borrowing will be amortised over the life of the associated asset.

4. To the greatest extent possible, expected finance costs arising from borrowing are matched against appropriate revenue income streams.

5. The City Corporation will organise its borrowing on behalf of City's Cash in such a way as to ensure that financing is available when required to manage liquidity risk (i.e. to make sure that funds are in place to meet payments for capital expenditure on a timely basis). The City Corporation will only borrow in advance of need on behalf of City's Cash on the basis of a sound financial case (for instance, to mitigate exposure to rising interest rates).

6. The City Corporation will ensure debt is appropriately profiled to mitigate refinancing risk.

7. The City Corporation will monitor the sensitivity of liabilities to inflation and will manage inflation risks in the context of the inflation exposures across City's Cash (e.g. the City Corporation will be mindful of the potential impact of index-linked borrowing on the financial position of City's Cash).

8. The City Corporation will seek to obtain value for money in identifying appropriate borrowing for City's Cash. Where internal borrowing (i.e. from City Fund or Bridge House Estates) is used as a source of funding, the City Corporation will keep under review the elevated risk of refinancing.

9. All borrowing is expected to be drawn in Sterling. Where debt is raised in foreign currencies, the City Corporation will consider suitable measures for mitigating the risks presented by fluctuation in exchange rates.

10. Interest rate movement exposure will be managed prudently, balancing cost against likely financial impact.

11. The City Corporation will maintain the following indicators which relate to City's Cash borrowing only:

- Estimates of financing costs to net revenue stream
- Overall borrowing limits