

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT POSITION 2020/21**

- 1.1 This Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2020/21. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).
- 1.2 During 2020/21 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports:
- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (Cabinet 11 February 2020)
  - a mid-year (minimum) treasury update report (Cabinet 1 December 2020)
  - an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report)

In addition, this Council has received quarterly treasury management update reports on 8 September 2020 and 9 February 2021 which were received by Cabinet.

- 1.3 The regulatory environment places responsibility on Members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report is therefore important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by Members.
- 1.4 This Council confirms that it has complied with the requirement under the Code to give prior scrutiny to all of the above treasury management reports before they were reported to the full Council. This scrutiny role was carried out by Cabinet and Audit, Governance & Standards Committee.
- 1.5 Formal member training on treasury management issues was last undertaken three years ago during 2017/18 in order to support members' scrutiny role. Training was scheduled to take place in 2020/21 however due to the Covid-19 pandemic this did not occur. Members of Audit, Governance & Standards Committee have agreed to undertake training during 2021/22 to further support their understanding.

## 2.0 Treasury Position as at 31 March 2021

2.1 Table 3 below shows the treasury position of the Council at the beginning and the end of 2020/21:

<b>Borrowing and Investment position at 31 March 2021</b>	<b>31-Mar-20 Principal £m</b>	<b>Rate %</b>	<b>31-Mar-21 Principal £m</b>	<b>Rate %</b>
<b>Long term borrowing - Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)</b>	27.700	2.21	27.700	2.21
<b>Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)</b>	41.737		49.288	
<b>Over/ (under) borrowing</b>	(14.037)		(21.588)	
<b>Short term borrowing</b>	-		-	
<b>Total Investments</b>	13.971	0.87	14.864	0.13
<b>Net Debt – Borrowing less Investments</b>	13.729		12.836	

Table 3: Overall treasury outturn position

2.2 The maturity structure of the debt portfolio can be seen in Table 4 below:

	<b>31 March 2020 Actual £m</b>	<b>31 March 2021 Actual £m</b>
Under 12 months	-	1.20
12 months and within 24 months	1.20	-
24 months and within 10 years	5.00	5.00
10 years and within 20 years	7.50	7.50
40 years and within 50 years	14.00	14.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.70</b>	<b>27.70</b>

Table 4: Maturity structure of debt portfolio

2.3 'Capital Financing Requirement' is the amount of borrowing required to support the capital programme. 'Under borrowing' means the Council did not need to borrow up to the level of the estimated capital financing requirement and was able to fund capital expenditure from its own reserves, capital receipts or grant contributions and therefore not incurring interest payments.

2.4 Investment Portfolio – At 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021 the Council's investment portfolio consisted of treasury investments in banks that were managed in-house. The maturity structures of these treasury investments were held in call accounts and were callable on demand and therefore classified as held up to one year.

## 3.0 The Economy and Interest Rates

3.1 UK - Coronavirus. The financial year 2020/21 will go down in history as being the year of the pandemic. The first national lockdown in late March 2020 did huge damage to an economy that was unprepared for

such an eventuality. This caused an economic downturn that exceeded the one caused by the financial crisis of 2008/09. A short second lockdown in November did relatively little damage but by the time of the third lockdown in January 2021, businesses and individuals had become more resilient in adapting to working in new ways during a three month lockdown so much less damage than was caused than in the first one.

3.2 The advent of vaccines starting in November 2020, were a game changer. The way in which the UK and US have led the world in implementing a fast programme of vaccination which promises to lead to a return to something approaching normal life during the second half of 2021, has been instrumental in speeding economic recovery and the reopening of the economy. In addition, the household saving rate has been exceptionally high since the first lockdown in March 2020 and so there is plenty of pent-up demand and purchasing power stored up for services in the still-depressed sectors like restaurants, travel and hotels as soon as they reopen. It is therefore expected that the UK economy could recover its pre-pandemic level of economic activity during quarter 1 of 2022.

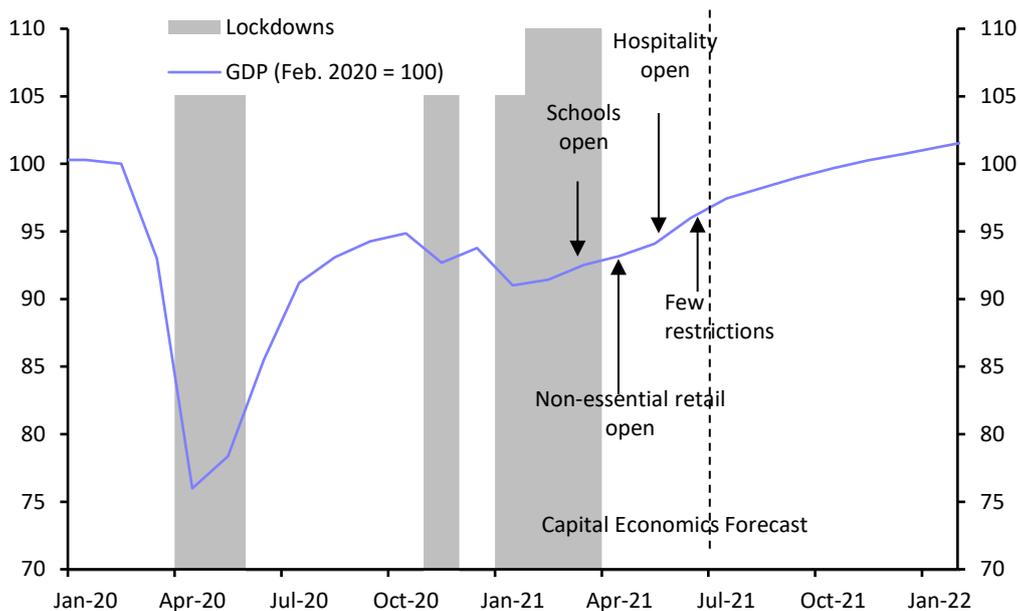


Table 5: Gross Domestic Product forecast

- 3.3 Both the Government and the Bank of England took rapid action in March 2020 at the height of the crisis to provide support to financial markets to ensure their proper functioning, and to support the economy and to protect jobs.
- 3.4 The Monetary Policy Committee cut Bank Rate from 0.75% to 0.25% and then to 0.10% in March 2020 and embarked on a £200bn programme of quantitative easing QE (purchase of gilts so as to reduce borrowing costs throughout the economy by lowering gilt yields). The

Monetary Policy Committee increased then Quantitative Easing by £100bn in June and by £150bn in November to a total of £895bn. While Bank Rate remained unchanged for the rest of the year, financial markets were concerned that the Monetary Policy Committee could cut Bank Rate to a negative rate; this was firmly discounted at the February 2021 Monetary Policy Committee meeting when it was established that commercial banks would be unable to implement negative rates for at least six months – by which time the economy was expected to be making a strong recovery and negative rates would no longer be needed.

- 3.5 Average inflation targeting. This was the major change adopted by the Bank of England in terms of implementing its inflation target of 2%. The key addition to the Bank's forward guidance in August was a new phrase in the policy statement, namely that "it does not intend to tighten monetary policy until there is clear evidence that significant progress is being made in eliminating spare capacity and achieving the 2% target sustainably". That seems designed to say, in effect, that even if inflation rises to 2% in a couple of years' time, do not expect any action from the Monetary Policy Committee to raise Bank Rate – until they can clearly see that level of inflation is going to be persistently above target if it takes no action to raise Bank Rate. This sets a high bar for raising Bank Rate and no increase is expected by March 2024, and possibly for as long as five years. Inflation has been well under 2% during 2020/21; it is expected to briefly peak at just over 2% towards the end of 2021, but this is a temporary short lived factor and so not a concern to the Monetary Policy Committee.
- 3.6 Government support. The Chancellor has implemented repeated rounds of support to businesses by way of cheap loans and other measures, and has protected jobs by paying for workers to be placed on furlough. This support has come at a huge cost in terms of the Government's budget deficit ballooning in 2020/21 and 2021/22 so that the Debt to Gross Domestic Product ratio reaches around 100%. The Budget on 3rd March 2021 increased fiscal support to the economy and employment during 2021 and 2022 followed by substantial tax rises in the following three years to help to pay the cost for the pandemic. This will help further to strengthen the economic recovery from the pandemic and to return the government's finances to a balanced budget on a current expenditure and income basis in 2025/26. This will stop the Debt to Gross Domestic Product ratio rising further from 100%. An area of concern, though, is that the government's debt is now twice as sensitive to interest rate rises as before the pandemic due to Quantitative Easing operations substituting fixed long-term debt for floating rate debt; there is, therefore, much incentive for the Government to promote Bank Rate staying low e.g. by using fiscal policy in conjunction with the monetary policy action by the Bank of England to keep inflation from rising too high, and / or by amending the Bank's policy mandate to allow for a higher target for inflation.

- 3.7 BREXIT. The final agreement on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 eliminated a significant downside risk for the UK economy. The initial agreement only covered trade so there is further work to be done on the services sector where temporary equivalence has been granted in both directions between the UK and EU; that now needs to be formalised on a permanent basis. There was much disruption to trade in January as form filling has proved to be a formidable barrier to trade. This appears to have eased somewhat since then but is an area that needs further work to ease difficulties, which are still acute in some areas.
- 3.8 USA. The US economy did not suffer as much damage as the UK economy due to the pandemic. The Democrats won the presidential election in November 2020 and have control of both Congress and the Senate, although power is more limited in the latter. This enabled the Democrats to pass a \$1.9trn (8.8% of GDP) stimulus package in March on top of the \$900bn fiscal stimulus deal passed by Congress in late December. These, together with the vaccine rollout proceeding swiftly to hit the target of giving a first job to over half of the population within the President's first 100 days, will promote a rapid easing of restrictions and strong economic recovery during 2021. The Democrats are also planning to pass a \$2trn fiscal stimulus package aimed at renewing infrastructure over the next decade. Although this package is longer-term, if passed, it would also help economic recovery in the near-term.
- 3.9 After Chair Jerome Powell spoke on the Fed's adoption of a flexible average inflation target in his Jackson Hole speech in late August 2020, the mid-September meeting of the Fed agreed a new inflation target - that *"it would likely be appropriate to maintain the current target range until labour market conditions were judged to be consistent with the Committee's assessments of maximum employment and inflation had risen to 2% and was on track to moderately exceed 2% for some time."* This change was aimed to provide more stimulus for economic growth and higher levels of employment and to avoid the danger of getting caught in a deflationary "trap" like Japan. It is to be noted that inflation has actually been under-shooting the 2% target significantly for most of the last decade, (and this year), so financial markets took note that higher levels of inflation are likely to be in the pipeline; long-term bond yields duly rose after the meeting. There is now some expectation that where the Fed has led in changing its policy towards implementing its inflation and full employment mandate, other major central banks will follow, as indeed the Bank of England has done so already. The Fed expects strong economic growth during 2021 to have only a transitory impact on inflation, which explains why the majority of Fed officials project US interest rates to remain near-zero through to the end of 2023. The key message is still that policy will remain unusually accommodative – with near-zero rates and asset purchases – continuing for several more years. This is likely to result in keeping treasury yields at historically low levels. However, financial markets in 2021 have been concerned that the sheer amount of fiscal stimulus, on

top of highly accommodative monetary policy, could be over-kill leading to a rapid elimination of spare capacity in the economy and generating higher inflation much quicker than the Fed expects. They have also been concerned as to how and when the Fed will eventually wind down its programme of monthly Quantitative Easing purchases of treasuries. These concerns have pushed treasury yields sharply up in the US in 2021 and is likely to have also exerted some upward pressure on gilt yields in the UK.

- 3.10 EU. Both the roll out and take up of vaccines has been disappointingly slow in the EU in 2021, at a time when many countries are experiencing a sharp rise in cases which are threatening to overwhelm hospitals in some major countries; this has led to renewed severe restrictions or lockdowns during March. This will inevitably put back economic recovery after the economy had staged a rapid rebound from the first lockdowns in Quarter 3 of 2020 but contracted slightly in Quarter 4 to end 2020 only 4.9% below its pre-pandemic level. Recovery will now be delayed until Quarter 3 of 2021 and a return to pre-pandemic levels is expected in the second half of 2022.
- 3.11 Inflation was well under 2% during 2020/21. The European Central Bank did not cut its main rate of -0.5% further into negative territory during 2020/21. It embarked on a major expansion of its Quantitative Easing operations (PEPP) in March 2020 and added further to that in its December 2020 meeting when it also greatly expanded its programme of providing cheap loans to banks. The total PEPP scheme of €1,850bn is providing protection to the sovereign bond yields of weaker countries like Italy. There is, therefore, unlikely to be a euro crisis while the European Central Bank is able to maintain this level of support.
- 3.12 China. After a concerted effort to get on top of the virus outbreak in Quarter 1 of 2020, economic recovery was strong in the rest of the year; this has enabled China to recover all of the contraction in Quarter 1. Policy makers have both quashed the virus and implemented a programme of monetary and fiscal support that has been particularly effective at stimulating short-term growth.
- 3.13 Japan. Three rounds of government fiscal support in 2020 together with Japan's relative success in containing the virus without draconian measures so far, and the roll out of vaccines gathering momentum in 2021, should help to ensure a strong recovery in 2021 and to get back to pre-virus levels by Quarter 3.
- 3.14 World growth. World growth was in recession in 2020. Inflation is unlikely to be a problem in most countries for some years due to the creation of excess production capacity and depressed demand caused by the coronavirus crisis.

- 3.15 Deglobalisation. Until recent years, world growth has been boosted by increasing globalisation i.e. countries specialising in producing goods and commodities in which they have an economic advantage and which they then trade with the rest of the world. This has boosted worldwide productivity and growth, and, by lowering costs, has also depressed inflation. However, the rise of China as an economic superpower over the last 30 years, which now accounts for nearly 20% of total world Gross Domestic Product, has unbalanced the world economy. In March 2021, western democracies implemented limited sanctions against a few officials in charge of government policy on the Uighurs in Xinjiang; this led to a much bigger retaliation by China and is likely to mean that the China / EU investment deal then being negotiated, will be torn up. After the pandemic exposed how frail extended supply lines were around the world, both factors are now likely to lead to a sharp retrenchment of economies into two blocs of western democracies v autocracies. It is, therefore, likely that we are heading into a period where there will be a reversal of world globalisation and a decoupling of western countries from dependence on China to supply products and vice versa. This is likely to reduce world growth rates.
- 3.16 Central banks' monetary policy. During the pandemic, the governments of western countries have provided massive fiscal support to their economies which has resulted in a big increase in total government debt in each country. It is therefore very important that bond yields stay low while debt to Gross Domestic Product ratios slowly subside under the impact of economic growth. This provides governments with a good reason to amend the mandates given to central banks to allow higher average levels of inflation than we have generally seen over the last couple of decades. Both the Fed and Bank of England have already changed their policy towards implementing their existing mandates on inflation, (and full employment), to hitting an average level of inflation. Greater emphasis could also be placed on hitting subsidiary targets e.g. full employment before raising rates. Higher average rates of inflation would also help to erode the real value of government debt more quickly.

#### **4.0 The Strategy for 2020/21**

- 4.1 Investment strategy and control of interest rate risk

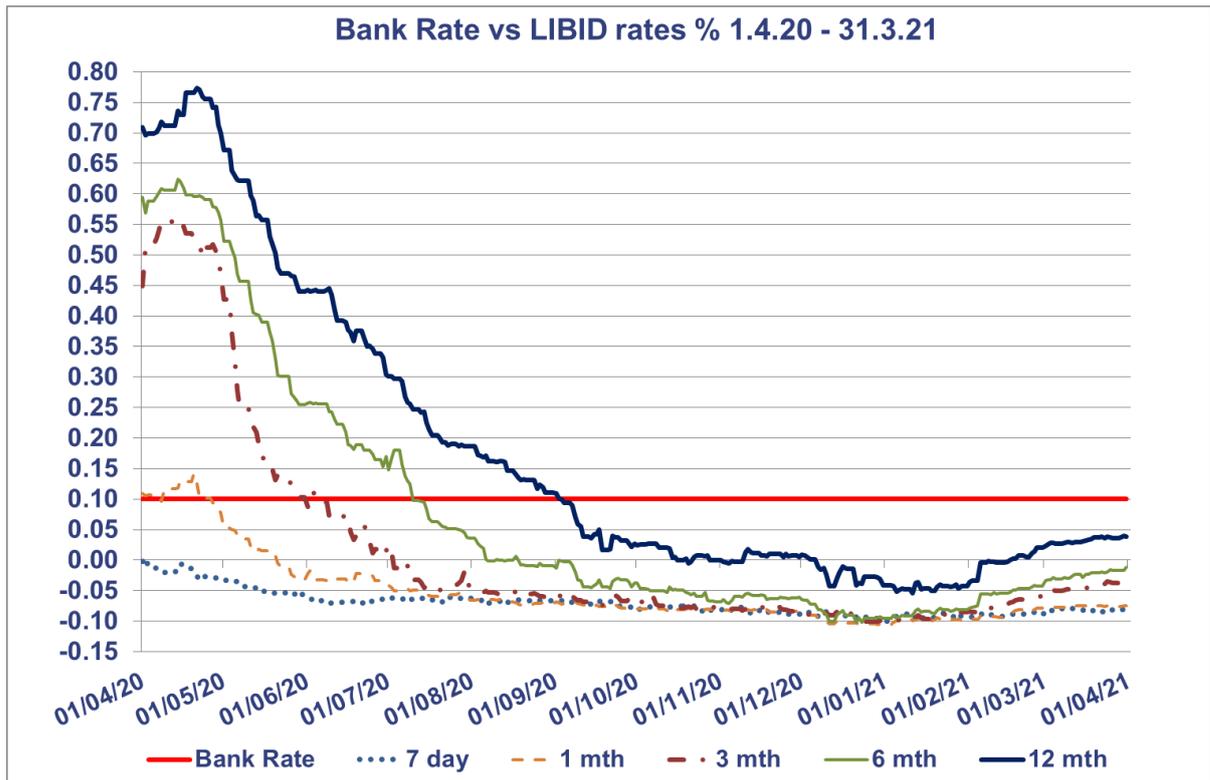


Table 6: Bank Rate vs LIBID Rate

- 4.2 Investment returns which had been low during 2019/20, plunged during 2020/21 to near zero or even into negative territory. Most local authority lending managed to avoid negative rates and one feature of the year was the growth of inter local authority lending. The expectation for interest rates within the treasury management strategy for 2020/21 was that Bank Rate would continue at the start of the year at 0.75% before rising to end 2022/23 at 1.25%. This forecast was invalidated by the Covid-19 pandemic bursting onto the scene in March 2020 which caused the Monetary Policy Committee to cut Bank Rate in March, first to 0.25% and then to 0.10%, in order to counter the hugely negative impact of the national lockdown on large swathes of the economy.
- 4.3 The Bank of England and the Government also introduced new programmes of supplying the banking system and the economy with massive amounts of cheap credit so that banks could help cash-starved businesses to survive the lockdown. The Government also supplied huge amounts of finance to local authorities to pass on to businesses. This meant that for most of the year there was much more liquidity in financial markets than there was demand to borrow, with the consequent effect that investment earnings rates plummeted.
- 4.4 While the Council has taken a cautious approach to investing, it is also fully appreciative of changes to regulatory requirements for financial institutions in terms of additional capital and liquidity that came about in the aftermath of the financial crisis. These requirements have provided

a far stronger basis for financial institutions, with annual stress tests by regulators evidencing how institutions are now far more able to cope with extreme stressed market and economic conditions.

- 4.5 Investment balances have been kept to a minimum through the agreed strategy of using reserves and balances to support internal borrowing, rather than borrowing externally from the financial markets. External borrowing would have incurred an additional cost, due to the differential between borrowing and investment rates as illustrated in the charts shown above and below. Such an approach has also provided benefits in terms of reducing the counterparty risk exposure, by having fewer investments placed in the financial markets.

## **5.0 Borrowing Strategy and Control of Interest Rate Risk**

- 9.1 During 2020/21, the Council maintained an under-borrowed position. This meant that the capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement), was not fully funded with loan debt, as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure. This strategy was prudent as investment returns were low and minimising counterparty risk on placing investments also needed to be considered.
- 5.2 A cost of carry remained during the year on any new long-term borrowing that was not immediately used to finance capital expenditure, as it would have caused a temporary increase in cash balances; this would have incurred a revenue cost – the difference between (higher) borrowing costs and (lower) investment returns.
- 5.3 The policy of avoiding new borrowing by running down spare cash balances, has served well over the last few years. However, this was kept under review to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in the future when this Council may not be able to avoid new borrowing to finance capital expenditure and/or the refinancing of maturing debt.
- 5.4 Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution was adopted with the treasury operations. The Director of Finance and Commercial (s151) therefore monitored interest rates in financial markets and adopted a pragmatic strategy based upon the following principles to manage interest rate risks:
- if it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper RISE in long and short term rates than initially expected, perhaps arising from an acceleration in the start date and 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 would have been re-appraised. Most likely, fixed rate funding would have been drawn whilst interest rates were lower than they were projected to be in the next few years.

- 5.6 Interest rate forecasts expected only gradual rises in medium and longer term fixed borrowing rates during 2020/21 and the two subsequent financial years. Variable, or short-term rates, were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing over the period.

Link Asset Services Interest Rate View								
	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22
Bank Rate View	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
3 Month LIBID	0.45	0.40	0.35	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
6 Month LIBID	0.60	0.55	0.50	0.45	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40
12 Month LIBID	0.75	0.70	0.65	0.60	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
5yr PWLB Rate	1.90	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.10
10yr PWLB Rate	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30
25yr PWLB Rate	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.70	2.70
50yr PWLB Rate	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.50

Table 7: Link Asset Services Interest Rate Forecast 31.3.21

- 5.7 HM Treasury imposed two changes of margins over gilt yields for Public Works Loan Board rates in 2019/20 without any prior warning. The first took place on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019, adding an additional 1% margin over gilts to all Public Works Loan Board period rates. That increase was then, at least partially, reversed for some forms of borrowing on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, but not for mainstream non-Housing Revenue Account capital schemes.
- 5.8 A consultation was then held with local authorities and on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the Chancellor announced the conclusion to the review of margins over gilt yields for Public Works Loan Board rates; the standard and certainty margins were reduced by 1% but a prohibition was introduced to deny access to borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board for any local authority which had purchase of assets for yield in its three year capital programme. The new margins over gilt yields are as follows: -
- **PWLB Standard Rate** is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
  - **PWLB Certainty Rate** is gilt plus 80 basis points (G+80bps)
  - **PWLB HRA Standard Rate** is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
  - **PWLB HRA Certainty Rate** is gilt plus 80bps (G+80bps)
  - **Local Infrastructure Rate** is gilt plus 60bps (G+60bps)
- 5.9 There is likely to be only a gentle rise in gilt yields and Public Works Loan Board rates over the next three years as Bank Rate is not forecast to rise from 0.10% by March 2024 as the Bank of England has clearly stated that it will not raise rates until inflation is sustainably above its target of 2%; this sets a high bar for Bank Rate to start rising.

## 6.0 Borrowing Requirement and Debt

- 6.1 The Council's underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR).
- 6.2 Gross borrowing and the CFR - in order 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 additional capital financing requirement for the current (2021/22) and next two financial years. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. This indicator allowed the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs in 2020/21. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the Capital Financing Requirement. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

	31 March 2020 Actual	2020/21 Budget	31 March 2021 Actual
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) General Fund (£m)	41.737	86.073	49.288
Gross Borrowing Position (£m)	27.700	69.000	27.700
Under / over funding of CFR (£m)	14.037	17.073	21.588

Table 8: The Borrowing requirement and debt

- 6.3 The authorised limit - the authorised limit is the "affordable borrowing limit" required by s3 of the Local Government Act 2003. Once this has been set, the Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. Annex D demonstrates that during 2020/21 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.
- 6.4 The operational boundary – the operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary are acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached. Annex D demonstrates that during 2020/21 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its operational boundaries.
- 6.5 Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream - this indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital, (borrowing and other long-term obligation costs net of investment income), against the net revenue stream which can be seen in Annex D.

## 7.0 Borrowing Outturn for 2020/21

7.1 Borrowing – The Council did not make any further borrowing during 2020/21 and had a balance of long term borrowing of £27,700,000 at the year end of 2020/21. These can be seen in the table below:

### Long Term Borrowing

Lender	Principal	Type	Interest Rate	Start Date	Maturity Date
PWLB	£1,200,000	Fixed interest rate	1.05%	05/09/2016	05/09/2021
PWLB	£9,000,000	Fixed interest rate	2.45%	07/03/2019	07/03/2069
PWLB	£2,500,000	Fixed interest rate	2.24%	25/03/2019	25/03/2064
PWLB	£5,000,000	Fixed interest rate	1.20%	02/09/2019	02/09/2029
PWLB	£5,000,000	Fixed interest rate	1.43%	05/09/2019	05/09/2034
PWLB	£2,500,000	Fixed interest rate	2.23%	16/03/2020	16/09/2067
PWLB	£2,500,000	Fixed interest rate	2.19%	16/03/2020	16/09/2033

Table 9: Long term borrowing  
2020/21

- 7.2 Borrowing in advance of need. The Council has not borrowed more than, or in advance of its needs, purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed.
- 7.3 Rescheduling of Borrowing – no rescheduling was done during the year as the average 1% differential between Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) new borrowing rates and premature rates made rescheduling unviable.
- 7.4 Repayment of long-term borrowing – The Council did not repay any long term borrowing during 2020/21.
- 7.5 Repayment of short-term borrowing – no repayment of short-term borrowing was made during 2020/21.

## 8.0 Investment Outturn for 2020/21

- 8.1 Investment Policy – the Council’s investment policy is governed by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Cabinet on 11 February 2020.
- 8.2 This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties, and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data, (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).
- 8.3 The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.

- 8.4 Investments held by the Council - the Council maintained an average balance of £20,036,301 of internally managed funds. This balance is higher than previous years due to the additional grant funding received by the Council in relation to COVID-19 to pay business grants and also to support the finances of the Council. The internally managed funds earned an average rate of return of 0.13%. The comparable performance indicator is the average 7-day LIBID rate, which was -0.0706%. The actual investment income received in 2020/21 was £25,421 compared to a revised budget at Quarter 4 of £24,500.
- 8.5 The interest received from the loan to a local housing association, which is classed as capital expenditure, totalled £1,458,650. The amount of loan borrowed by the Housing Association from the Council as at 31 March 2021 was £34,000,000; £1,000,000 was repaid by the Housing Association during 2020/21.

## 9.0 Other Issues

- 9.1 **IFRS 9 fair value of investments:** Following the consultation undertaken by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, (MHCLG), on IFRS 9 the Government has introduced a mandatory statutory override for local authorities to reverse out all unrealised fair value movements resulting from pooled investment funds. This was effective from 1 April 2018. The statutory override applies for five years from this date. Local authorities are required to disclose the net impact of the unrealised fair value movements in a separate unusable reserve throughout the duration of the override in order for the Government to keep the override under review and to maintain a form of transparency. At 31 March 2021 this Council only had short term investments that were callable on demand and therefore this type of investment does not attract significant risk to the Council.
- 9.2 **IFRS16 Capital Lease:** the implementation of IFRS 16 bringing currently off-balance sheet leased asset on to the balance sheet, has been delayed until 2022/23.