



Council

Monday, 26 January 2026

Subject: Recommendation from Corporate Policy and Resources Committee - Mid-Year Treasury Management Report 2025-26

Report by:	Director of Finance and Assets (S151 Officer)
Contact Officer:	Sue Leversedge Financial Services Manager sue.leversedge@west-lindsey.gov.uk Caroline Capon Corporate Finance Team Leader Caroline.capon@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	This report provides the Mid-Year update for Treasury Management Indicators in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council accept the recommendation from the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and in doing so note the report, the treasury activity and approve the revised prudential indicators at sections 5.2, 6.1 and 6.2.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: This report complies with the requirement of the Local Government Act 2003

Financial: FIN/126/26/CL/CC

There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.

Staffing: None arising as a result of this report

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights: None arising as a result of this report

Data Protection Implications : None arising as a result of this report

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: This is a monitoring report only

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: This is a monitoring report only

Health Implications: This is a monitoring report only

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

CIPFA Code of Treasury Management Practice 2017

CIPFA The Prudential Code

Local Government Act 2003

Located in the Finance Department

Risk Assessment:

The Mid-Year Treasury Management Report reviews our assessment of Treasury Risks

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

☐

No

☒

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

☐

No

☒

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This mid-year report has been prepared in compliance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Code of Practice on Treasury Management, and covers the following:

- An economic update for the first part of the 2025/26 financial year;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy, and prudential indicators;
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2025/26;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2025/26;
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2025/26.

1.2 The Bank of England Base rate has reduced during 2025/26, with the potential for further reductions. The current rate is 4%.

1.3 There have been no changes to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy.

1.4 The forecast out-turn for Capital Expenditure is £13.733m against the approved revised budget of £16.094m. The budget will be revised to £13.733m at Corporate Policy and Resources committee on 13th November 2025 with a request of £1.890m to be re-phased over future financial years and a net reduction in schemes of £0.471m in main related to the Home Upgrade Grant scheme.

1.5 The Council is projected to have circa £15.4m invested at the year end and have generated £0.586m in investment Interest. The returns on investments are higher than budgeted due to underspends in the capital programme meaning that cash balances are higher than anticipated. The Council's budgeted investment return for 2025/26 is £0.519m, and performance for the year is forecast to be £0.067m above budget at £0.586m.

1.6 It is anticipated that total external borrowing will be £24m at the year end. The increase is short term and for cashflow purposes.

2 Background

2.1 Capital Strategy

In December 2017, CIPFA issued revised Prudential and Treasury Management Codes. These require all local authorities to prepare a Capital Strategy which is to provide the following:

- a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services;
- an overview of how the associated risk is managed;
- the implications for future financial sustainability.

2.2 Treasury Management

The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operations ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment returns.

The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending aspirations. This management of longer term cash may involve arranging long or short term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

Accordingly, treasury management is defined as:

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

2.3 Key Changes to the Treasury and Capital Strategies

There are no changes to report to this committee.

3 Economics and Interest Rates (provided by MUFG)

3.1 The first half of 2025/26 saw:

- A 0.3% pick up in GDP for the period April to June 2025. More recently, the economy flatlined in July, with higher taxes for businesses restraining growth.
- The 3m/yy rate of average earnings growth excluding bonuses has fallen from 5.5% to 4.8% in July.
- CPI inflation has ebbed and flowed but finished September at 3.8%.
- Core CPI inflation eased to 3.6% in September.
- The Bank of England cut interest rates from 4.50% to 4.25% in May, and then to 4% in August.
- 10-year gilt yield fluctuated between 4.4% and 4.8%, ending the half year at 4.70%.

3.2 The economy's stagnation in June and July points more to a mild slowdown in GDP growth than a sudden drop back into a recession. Moreover, the drop in September's composite activity Purchasing Managers Index, from 53.8 in August to 52.9, was still consistent with GDP

growth of 0.3%-0.4% for the summer months. This is in line with the Bank of England's view, and it was encouraging that an improvement in manufacturing output growth could be detected, whilst the services PMI balance suggests non-retail services output grew by 0.5% q/q in Q3. Additionally, the services PMI future activity balance showed an uptick in September, although readings after the Chancellor's announcements at the Budget on 30th October will be more meaningful.

- 3.3 From a GDP perspective, the financial year got off to a bumpy start with the 0.3% m/m fall in real GDP in April as front-running of US tariffs in Q1 (when GDP grew 0.7% on the quarter) weighed on activity. Despite the underlying reasons for the drop, it was still the first fall since October 2024 and the largest fall since October 2023. However, the economy surprised to the upside in May and June so that quarterly growth ended up 0.3% q/q. Nonetheless, the 0.0% m/m change in real GDP in July will have caused some concern, with the hikes in taxes for businesses that took place in April this year undoubtedly playing a part in restraining growth. The weak overseas environment is also likely to have contributed to the 1.3% m/m fall in manufacturing output in July. That was the second large fall in three months and left the 3m/3m rate at a 20-month low of -1.1%. The 0.1% m/m rise in services output kept its 3m/3m rate at 0.4%, supported by stronger output in the health and arts/entertainment sectors. Looking ahead, ongoing speculation about further tax rises in the Autumn Budget on 26 November will remain a drag on GDP growth for a while yet. GDP growth for 2025 is forecast by Capital Economics to be 1.3%.
- 3.4 Sticking with future economic sentiment, the composite Purchasing Manager Index for the UK fell from 53.5 in August to 51.0 in September. The decline was mostly driven by a fall in the services PMI, which declined from 54.2 to 51.9. The manufacturing PMI output balance also fell, from 49.3 to 45.4. That was due to both weak overseas demand (the new exports orders balance fell for the fourth month in a row) and the cyber-attack-induced shutdown at Jaguar Land Rover since 1 September reducing car production across the automotive supply chain. The PMIs suggest tepid growth is the best that can be expected when the Q3 GDP numbers are released.
- 3.5 Turning to retail sales, and the 0.5% m/m rise in volumes in August was the third such rise in a row and was driven by gains in all the major categories except fuel sales, which fell by 2.0% m/m. Sales may have been supported by the warmer-than-usual weather. If sales were just flat in September, then in Q3 sales volumes would be up 0.7% q/q compared to the 0.2% q/q gain in Q2.
- 3.6 With the November Budget edging nearer, the public finances position looks weak. Public net sector borrowing of £18.0bn in August means that after five months of the financial year, borrowing is already £11.4bn higher than the OBR forecast at the Spring Statement in March. The overshoot in the Chancellor's chosen fiscal mandate of the current budget is even greater with a cumulative deficit of £15.3bn. All this was due to both current receipts in August being lower than the OBR forecast (by £1.8bn) and current expenditure being higher (by £1.0bn). Over the first five months of the financial year, current receipts have fallen short by a total

of £6.1bn (partly due to lower-than-expected self-assessment income tax) and current expenditure has overshot by a total of £3.7bn (partly due to social benefits and departmental spending). Furthermore, what very much matters now is the OBR forecasts and their impact on the current budget in 2029/30, which is when the Chancellor's fiscal mandate bites. As a general guide, Capital Economics forecasts a deficit of about £18bn, meaning the Chancellor will have to raise £28bn, mostly through higher taxes, if she wants to keep her buffer against her rule of £10bn.

- 3.7 The weakening in the jobs market looked clear in the spring. May's 109,000 m/m fall in the PAYE measure of employment was the largest decline (barring the pandemic) since the data began and the seventh in as many months. The monthly change was revised lower in five of the previous seven months too, with April's 33,000 fall revised down to a 55,000 drop. More recently, however, the monthly change was revised higher in seven of the previous nine months by a total of 22,000. So instead of falling by 165,000 in total since October, payroll employment is now thought to have declined by a smaller 153,000. Even so, payroll employment has still fallen in nine of the ten months since the Chancellor announced the rises in National Insurance Contributions (NICs) for employers and the minimum wage in the October Budget. The number of job vacancies in the three months to August stood at 728,000. Vacancies have now fallen by approximately 47% since its peak in April 2022. All this suggests the labour market continues to loosen, albeit at a declining pace.
- 3.8 A looser labour market is driving softer wage pressures. The 3m/yy rate of average earnings growth excluding bonuses has fallen from 5.5% in April to 4.8% in July. The rate for the private sector slipped from 5.5% to 4.7%, putting it on track to be in line with the Bank of England's Q3 forecast (4.6% for September).
- 3.9 CPI inflation fell slightly from 3.5% in April to 3.4% in May, and services inflation dropped from 5.4% to 4.7%, whilst core inflation also softened from 3.8% to 3.5%. More recently, though, inflation pressures have resurfaced, although the recent upward march in CPI inflation did pause for breath in August, with CPI inflation staying at 3.8%. Core inflation eased once more too, from 3.8% to 3.6%, and services inflation dipped from 5.0% to 4.7%. So, we finish the half year in a similar position to where we started, although with food inflation rising to an 18-month high of 5.1% and households' expectations for inflation standing at a six year high, a further loosening in the labour market and weaker wage growth may be a requisite to UK inflation coming in below 2.0% by 2027.
- 3.10 An ever-present issue throughout the past six months has been the pressure being exerted on medium and longer dated gilt yields. The yield on the 10-year gilt moved sideways in the second quarter of 2025, rising from 4.4% in early April to 4.8% in mid-April following wider global bond market volatility stemming from the "Liberation Day" tariff announcement, and then easing back as trade tensions began to de-escalate. By the end of April, the 10-year gilt yield had returned to 4.4%. In May, concerns about stickier inflation and shifting expectations about the path for interest rates led to another rise, with the 10-year gilt yield fluctuating between 4.6% and 4.75% for most of May. Thereafter, as trade tensions continued

to ease and markets increasingly began to price in looser monetary policy, the 10-year yield edged lower, and ended Q2 at 4.50%.

3.11 More recently, the yield on the 10-year gilt rose from 4.46% to 4.60% in early July as rolled-back spending cuts and uncertainty over Chancellor Reeves' future raised fiscal concerns. Although the spike proved short lived, it highlighted the UK's fragile fiscal position. In an era of high debt, high interest rates and low GDP growth, the markets are now more sensitive to fiscal risks than before the pandemic. During August, long-dated gilts underwent a particularly pronounced sell-off, climbing 22 basis points and reaching a 27-year high of 5.6% by the end of the month. While yields have since eased back, the market sell-off was driven by investor concerns over growing supply-demand imbalances, stemming from unease over the lack of fiscal consolidation and reduced demand from traditional long-dated bond purchasers like pension funds. For 10-year gilts, by late September, sticky inflation, resilient activity data and a hawkish Bank of England have kept yields elevated over 4.70%.

3.12 The FTSE 100 fell sharply following the "Liberation Day" tariff announcement, dropping by more than 10% in the first week of April - from 8,634 on 1 April to 7,702 on 7 April. However, the de-escalation of the trade war coupled with strong corporate earnings led to a rapid rebound starting in late April. As a result, the FTSE 100 closed Q2 at 8,761, around 2% higher than its value at the end of Q1 and more than 7% above its level at the start of 2025. Since then, the FTSE 100 has enjoyed a further 4% rise in July, its strongest monthly gain since January and outperforming the S&P 500. Strong corporate earnings and progress in trade talks (US-EU, UK-India) lifted share prices and the index hit a record 9,321 in mid-August, driven by hopes of peace in Ukraine and dovish signals from Fed Chair Powell. September proved more volatile and the FTSE 100 closed Q3 at 9,350, 7% higher than at the end of Q1 and 14% higher since the start of 2025. Future performance will likely be impacted by the extent to which investors' global risk appetite remains intact, Fed rate cuts, resilience in the US economy, and AI optimism. A weaker pound will also boost the index as it inflates overseas earnings.

4. Interest Rate Forecasts

4.1 The Council's treasury advisor, MUFG, have provided the following forecasts on 11th October 2025. The latest forecast sets out a view that both short and long-dated interest rates will be elevated for some little while, as the Bank of England seeks to reduce inflation in the economy.

4.2 The current and previous PWLB rate forecasts below are based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20 bps) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1st November 2012.

MUFG Corporate Markets Interest Rate View 11.08.25													
	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27	Mar-28	Jun-28	Sep-28
BANK RATE	4.00	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
3 month ave earnings	4.00	4.00	3.80	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30
6 month ave earnings	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.30	3.30	3.40	3.40	3.40
12 month ave earnings	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.30	3.40	3.50	3.60	3.60
5 yr PWLB	4.80	4.70	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.10
10 yr PWLB	5.30	5.20	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.60
25 yr PWLB	6.10	5.90	5.70	5.70	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.40	5.40	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.20
50 yr PWLB	5.80	5.60	5.40	5.40	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.20	5.20	5.10	5.10	5.00	5.00

Additional notes by MUFG on this forecast table: -

Our latest forecast on 11 August sets out a view that short, medium and long-dated interest rates will fall back over the next year or two, although there are upside risks in respect of the stickiness of inflation and a continuing tight labour market, as well as the size of gilt issuance.

4.3 PWLB Rates (provided by MUFG)

- 4.4 Gilt yields and PWLB certainty rates have remained relatively volatile throughout the six months under review, but the general trend has been for medium and longer dated parts of the curve to shift higher whilst the 5-year part of the curve finished September close to where it begun in April.
- 4.5 Concerns around the stickiness of inflation, elevated wages, households' inflation expectations reaching a six-year high, and the difficult funding choices facing the Chancellor in the upcoming Budget on 26 November dominated market thinking, although international factors emanating from the Trump administration's fiscal, tariff and geo-political policies also played a role.
- 4.6 At the beginning of April, the 1-year certainty rate was the cheapest part of the curve at 4.82% whilst the 25-year rate was relatively expensive at 5.92%. Early September saw the high point for medium and longer-dated rates, although there was a small reduction in rates, comparatively speaking, by the end of the month.
- 4.7 The spread in the 5-year part of the curve (the difference between the lowest and highest rates for the duration) was the smallest at 37 basis points whilst, conversely, the 50-years' part of the curve saw a spread of 68 basis points.
- 4.8 At this juncture, MUFG Corporate Markets still forecasts rates to fall back over the next two to three years as inflation dampens, although there is upside risk to all forecasts at present. The CPI measure of inflation is expected to fall below 2% in early 2027 but hit a peak of 4% or higher later in 2025.
- 4.9 The Bank of England announced in September that it would be favouring the short and medium part of the curve for the foreseeable future when issuing gilts, but market reaction to the November Budget is likely to be the decisive factor in future gilt market attractiveness to investors and their willingness to buy UK sovereign debt.

5. Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy update

5.1 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2025/26, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council on 3 March 2025.

5.2 The underlying TMSS approved previously requires revision in the light of economic and operational movements during the year. The proposed changes and supporting detail for the changes are set out below:

Prudential Indicator 2025/26	Original £'000	Revised Prudential Indicator £'000
Authorised Limit	40,000	40,000
Operational Boundary	35,000	35,000
External Debt	24,000	24,000
Investments	(13,000)	(15,439)
Net Borrowing	11,000	8,561
Capital Financing Requirement	35,251	35,251

6 The Council's Capital Position (Prudential Indicators)

This part of the report is structured to update:

- The Council's capital expenditure plans;
- How these plans are being financed;
- The impact of the changes in the capital expenditure plans on the prudential indicators and the underlying need to borrow;
- Compliance with the limits in place for borrowing activity.

6.1 Prudential Indicator for Capital Expenditure

This Table shows the revised estimates for capital expenditure and the changes since the capital programme was agreed in March. It draws together the main strategy elements of the capital expenditure plans, highlighting the original supported and unsupported elements of the capital programme, and the expected financing arrangements of this capital expenditure. The borrowing element of the table increases the underlying indebtedness of the Council by way of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), although this will be reduced in part by revenue charges for the repayment of debt (the Minimum Revenue Provision). This direct borrowing may also be supplemented by maturing debt and other treasury requirements.

Capital Expenditure by Cluster £'000	2025/26 Original Estimate £'000	2025/26 Revised Estimate £'000
Corporate	35	35
Our Council	547	999
Our People	1,632	4,606
Our Place	6,378	8,093
Total capital expenditure	8,593	13,733
Financed by:		
Capital receipts	52	205
Capital grants	2,076	4,780
Earmarked Reserves	6,066	8,178
S106	255	426
Borrowing	143	143
Total Financing	8,593	13,733

6.2 Changes to the Prudential Indicators for the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

The table below shows the CFR, which is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose. It also shows the expected debt position over the period, which is termed the Operational Boundary.

During the half year ended 30 September 2025, the Council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy. The Director of Finance and Assets (S151) reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with prudential indicators.

	2025/26 Original Estimate £'000	2025/26 Revised Estimate £'000
Prudential Indicators		
Capital Expenditure	13,383	13,733
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	35,251	35,251
Of Which Commercial Property	18,661	18,661
Annual Change in CFR	-834	-834
In year Borrowing Requirement	24,000	24,000
Under/(Over) Borrowing	11,251	11,251
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	8.94%	7.48%
Incremental impact of capital investment decisions		
Increase/ Reduction(-) in Council Tax (band change per annum)	0	-£9.32

Please note the above prudential indicators assume a revenue provision will be made for the repayment of debts in 2025/26 of £0.834m.

6.3 Limits to Borrowing Activity

The first key control over the treasury activity is a prudential indicator to ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing (borrowings less investments) will only be for a capital purpose. Gross external borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2025/26 and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years. The Council has approved a policy for borrowing in advance of need which will be adhered to if this proves prudent.

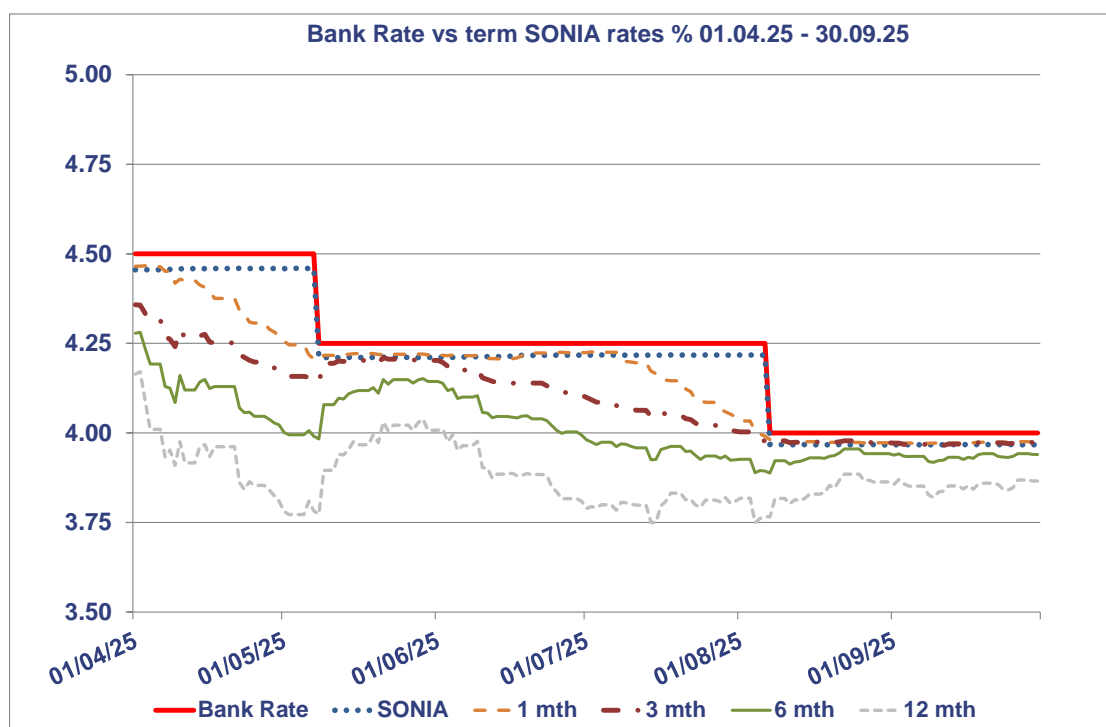
A further prudential indicator controls the overall level of borrowing. This is the Authorised Limit which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

7. Investment Portfolio 2025/26

7.1 In accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, it is the Council's priority to ensure security of capital and liquidity, and to obtain an appropriate level of return which is consistent with the Council's risk appetite. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs.

7.2 As shown by the interest rate forecasts in section 4.2, rates are at levels not seen since before the financial crash of 2008 and the austerity measures which followed. It is anticipated rates will now decrease slowly and settle around 3% in the medium term. This means investment returns are higher than in previous years and this combined with larger investment balances than expected means increased investment income in 2024/25 is anticipated.

7.3 The Council held £15.2m of investments as of 30 September 2025 (£23.1m on 1st April 2025). The annualised investment rate for the first six months of the year is 4.388% against the Sterling Overnight Indexed Average (SONIA) average rate of 4.19%. The weighted average interest rate is 4.366%.



7.4 The Council's budgeted investment return for 2025/26 is £0.519m, and performance for the year is forecast to be £0.067m above budget at £0.586m, this is due to higher balances than expected.

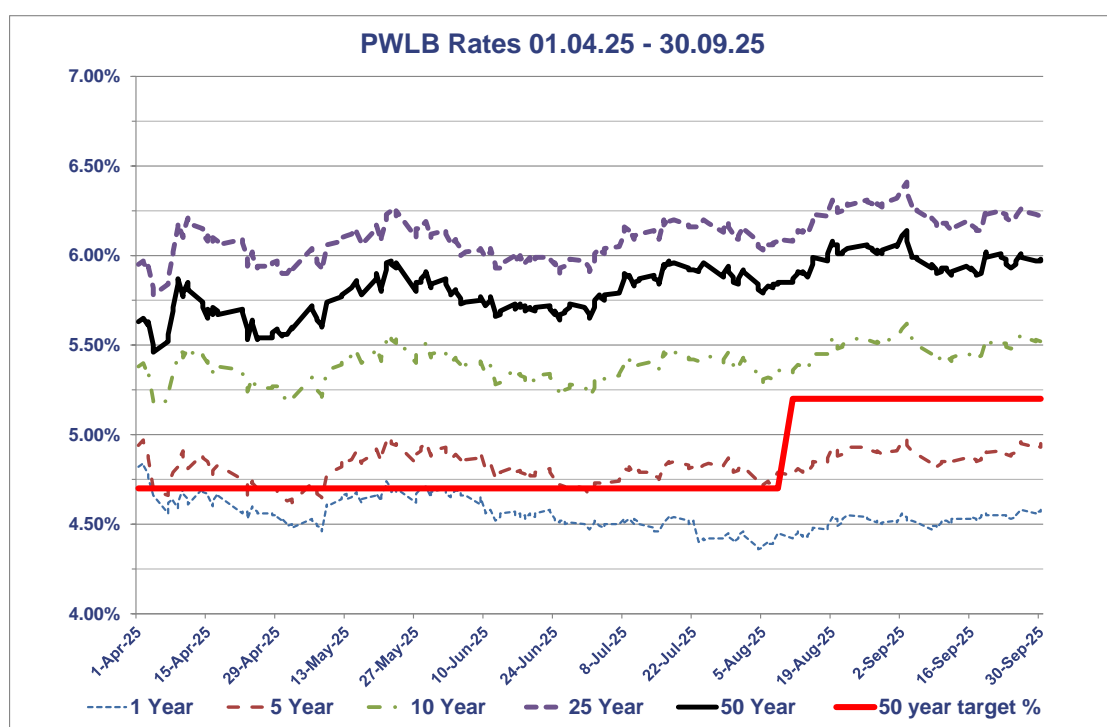
7.5 The Director of Finance and Assets (S151) confirms that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the first six months of 2025/26.

8 Investment Counterparty criteria

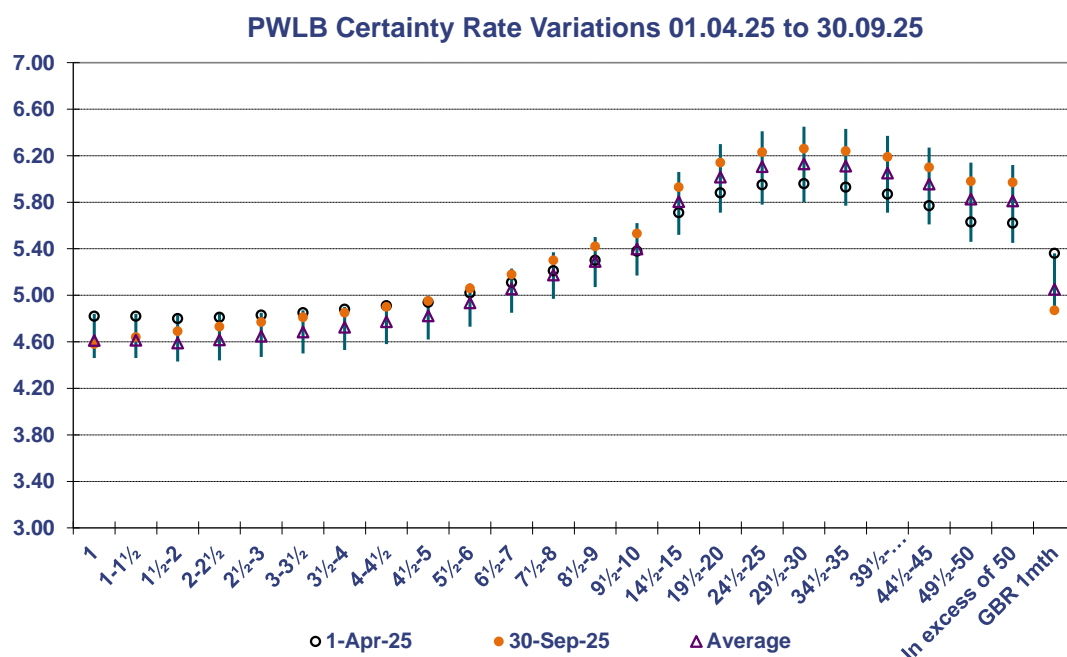
- 8.1 The current investment counterparty criteria selection approved in the TMSS is meeting the requirement of the treasury management function.
- 8.2 Treasury Officers continue to mitigate investment risk in accordance with Treasury Management Practices.

9. Borrowing

- 9.1 The Council's capital financing requirement (CFR) for 2025/26 is forecast to be £35.251m. The CFR denotes the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. If the CFR is positive the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing) or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing). The balance of external and internal borrowing is generally driven by market conditions.
- 9.2 Due to the overall financial position and the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes (the capital financing requirement - CFR), new external borrowing of £10m was undertaken in the first six months of the financial year. As this was short term temporary borrowing for cashflow purposes, £5m was also repaid. External borrowing is at £19m at the end of quarter two, by quarter 4 this is anticipated to be £24m. This is a prudent and cost-effective approach in the current economic climate but will require ongoing monitoring in the event that upside risk to gilt yields prevails.
- 9.3 **INTERNAL BORROWING:** The Council forecasts that by the end of the financial year it will have cumulatively £11.3m of internal borrowing
- 9.4 The graph and table below show the movement in PWLB certainty rates for the first six months of the year:



	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
01/04/2025	4.82%	4.94%	5.38%	5.95%	5.63%
30/09/2025	4.58%	4.95%	5.53%	6.23%	5.98%
Low	4.36%	4.62%	5.17%	5.78%	5.46%
Low date	04/08/2025	02/05/2025	02/05/2025	04/04/2025	04/04/2025
High	4.84%	4.99%	5.62%	6.41%	6.14%
High date	02/04/2025	21/05/2025	03/09/2025	03/09/2025	03/09/2025
Average	4.55%	4.82%	5.40%	6.11%	5.83%
Spread	0.48%	0.37%	0.45%	0.63%	0.68%

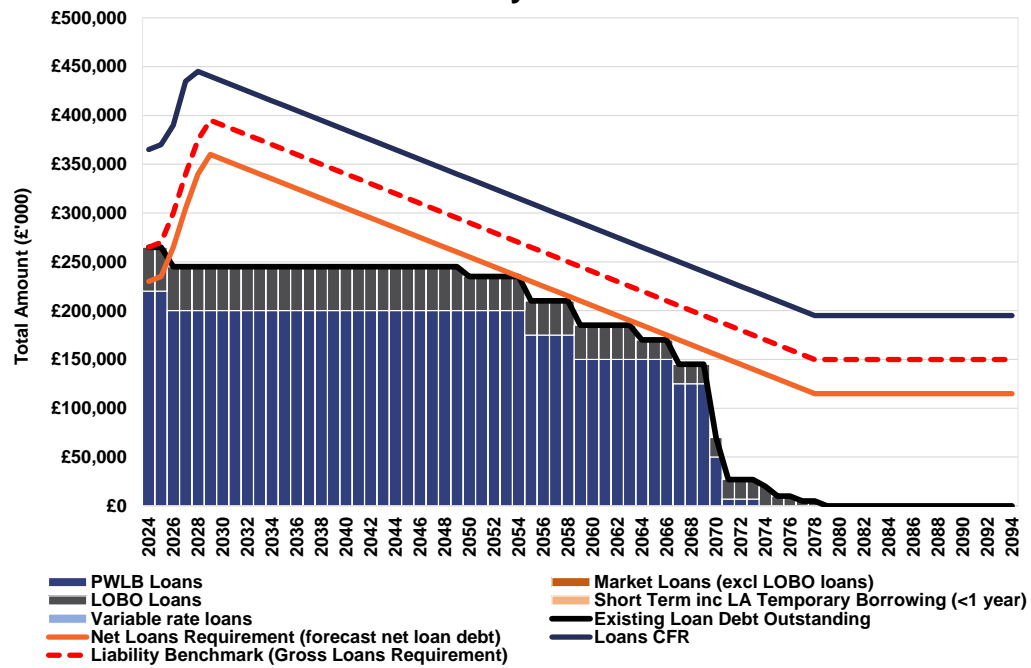


10 Liquidity Benchmark

10.1 To Compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a Liability Benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This prudential indicator is made up of four components:

- Existing loan debt outstanding: the Authority's existing loans that are still outstanding in future years.
- Loans CFR: this is calculated in accordance with the loans CFR definition in the Prudential Code and projected into the future based on approved prudential borrowing and planned MRP.
- Net loans requirement: this will show the Authority's gross loan debt less treasury management investments at the last financial year-end, projected into the future and based on its approved prudential borrowing, planned MRP and any other major cash flows forecast.
- Liability benchmark (or gross loans requirement): this equals net loans requirement plus short-term liquidity allowance

Liability Benchmark



APPENDIX B: Approved countries for investments as at 30th September 2025

Based on lowest available rating

AAA

- Australia
- Denmark
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Singapore
- Sweden
- Switzerland

AA+

- Canada
- U.S.A.

AA

- Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- Finland
- Qatar

AA-

- U.K.

A+

- Belgium
- France