

# The Highland Council

## Resources Committee – 25 November 2015

Agenda Item	14(a)
Report No	RES/104/15

### Treasury Management - Summary of Transactions

July, August and September 2015

Report by Director of Finance

#### Summary

This report on the treasury management transactions undertaken within the period is submitted to Committee in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the Council's approved Financial Regulations.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 This report sets out treasury management transactions during the period, reflecting activity undertaken to manage the Council's cash flows, and borrowing to fund capital expenditure.
- 1.2 In managing the Council's long term borrowing requirement, the Finance Service will look to take external Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing at the most opportune time, to take advantage of the lowest interest rates available. The strategy for 2015/16 is to make the best use of the low rates available on temporary borrowing but will monitor long term borrowing rates.
- 1.3 During the period July to September 2015, the following long-term borrowing was undertaken from the PWLB in order to finance the National Housing Trusts (NHT). No long term borrowing has been taken by the Council for its own use in this financial year

Month	Amount	Purpose of borrowing	Duration	Rate
July 2015	£0.928m	NHT – Westercraigs phase 3	6.5 years	2.46%
Aug 2015	£0.700m	NHT – Westercraigs phase 4	6.5 years	2.47%
Sept 2015	£0.750m	NHT – Westercraigs phase 5	6.5 years	2.36%

- 1.4 In managing the Council's cash flow the Finance Service will also consider short-term borrowing opportunities, in order to meet the Council's short-term cash flow requirements. There was temporary borrowing of £26.0m undertaken in the period July to September 2015 and £12.0m of temporary loans were repaid during this period.

- 1.5 From August 2014 onwards, the Council placed certificates of deposits with Standard Chartered and Royal Bank of Scotland which are both UK registered banks. Certificates of deposit are a permitted investment in the TMSS and are similar to fixed term deposits but can be traded before the maturity date (the Council has no intention to trade before maturity). The use of certificates of deposit enables the Council to access counterparties which would not deal directly due to the size of deposits being made.
- 1.6 It should be noted that the average interest rate on deposits increased from 0.48% to 0.67% during the quarter ended 30 September 2015 due to some funds being placed on higher yielding notice accounts (175 Day Notice with Bank of Scotland & 95 Day Notice with Santander) and the two certificates of deposit noted in 1.5. The rates on call accounts and money market funds continue to be low due to the current market environment. It is expected that this increase can be reflected in additional income to support the 2016/17 budget.
- 1.7 When placing temporary deposits (lending) the Council uses a credit rating weekly list provided by Capita Treasury Services Ltd to assess the risks involved in lending to individual counterparties. The Council's lending policy is constantly monitored in conjunction with the matrix. This affords a balance of operational flexibility and risk awareness in managing the Council's temporary investments.
- 1.8 Details of the Council's investment policy, the credit rating of these counterparties, and deposits held as at 30 September 2015 are at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.9 The Council's Treasury Management Policy is regularly reviewed.

## **2. Implications**

- 2.1 The resource implications are covered in the attached tables. There are no Legal; Equalities; Climate Change/Carbon Clever; Risk; Gaelic or Rural implications relating to this report.

## **3. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Committee consider the Treasury Management Summary of Transactions reports.

### **Please see attached Tables**

Designation: Director of Finance  
Date: 12 November 2015  
Author: David Robertson, Head of Corporate Finance  
Background Papers: Loan Documentation, Financial Ledger

**Treasury Management - Summary of Transactions for the Month to 31 July 2015**

Type of Borrowing	Outstanding debt at start of month £	Raised £	Repaid £	Outstanding debt at end of month £	Average Interest Rate	
					beg %	end%
Public Works Loan Board	629,430,650	928,000	0	630,358,650	4.90	4.90
Mortgage Bonds	118,056,000	0	0	118,056,000	4.87	4.87
Temporary Loans	31,000,000	5,000,000	(3,000,000)	33,000,000	0.41	0.42
Bank Balance	(329,156)	238,051	0	(91,104)		
<b>GROSS EXTERNAL BORROWING</b>	<b>778,157,494</b>	<b>6,166,051</b>	<b>(3,000,000)</b>	<b>781,323,546</b>		
<i>Temporary Deposits</i>	<i>(84,985,052)</i>	<i>(60,026,100)</i>	53,175,952	<i>(91,835,200)</i>	0.48	0.58
<b>NET EXTERNAL BORROWING</b>	<b>693,172,442</b>	<b>(53,860,049)</b>	50,175,952	<b>689,488,346</b>		
Total average					4.72	4.70

**Borrowing / Lending internal parameters as per approved Treasury Management Practices**      **Actual %**      **Approved Max%**

Short term borrowing (net of investments) as % of the Council's outstanding long term debt	(7.87)	25.00
Borrowing at variable rates of interest as % of the Council's total outstanding loan debt	5.7	35.00

**Treasury Management - Summary of Transactions for the Month to 31 August 2015**

Type of Borrowing	Outstanding debt at start of month £	Raised £	Repaid £	Outstanding debt at end of month £	Average Interest Rate	
					beg %	end%
Public Works Loan Board	630,358,650	700,000	0	631,058,650	4.90	4.89
Mortgage Bonds	118,056,000	0	(1,000,000)	117,056,000	4.87	4.82
Temporary Loans	33,000,000	13,000,000	(6,000,000)	40,000,000	0.42	0.42
Bank Balance	(91,104)	0	(2,820)	(93,925)		
<b>GROSS EXTERNAL BORROWING</b>	<b>781,323,546</b>	<b>13,700,000</b>	<b>(7,002,820)</b>	<b>788,020,725</b>		
<i>Temporary Deposits</i>	<i>(91,835,200)</i>	<i>(50,596,800)</i>	56,293,200	(86,138,800)	0.58	0.62
<b>NET EXTERNAL BORROWING</b>	<b>689,488,346</b>	<b>(36,896,800)</b>	49,290,380	701,881,925		
Total average					4.70	4.70

**Borrowing / Lending internal parameters as per approved Treasury Management Practices**      **Actual %**      **Approved Max%**

Short term borrowing (net of investments) as % of the Council's outstanding long term debt	(6.18)	25.00
Borrowing at variable rates of interest as % of the Council's total outstanding loan debt	5.00	35.00

**Treasury Management - Summary of Transactions for the Month to 30 September 2015**

Type of Borrowing	Outstanding debt at start of month £	Raised £	Repaid £	Outstanding debt at end of month £	Average Interest Rate	
					beg %	end%
Public Works Loan Board	631,058,650	750,000	0	631,808,650	4.89	4.89
Mortgage Bonds	117,056,000	0	0	117,056,000	4.82	4.82
Temporary Loans	40,000,000	8,000,000	(3,000,000)	45,000,000	0.42	0.43
Bank Balance	(93,925)	0	(87,613)	(181,538)		
<b>GROSS EXTERNAL BORROWING</b>	<b>788,020,725</b>	<b>8,750,000</b>	<b>(3,087,613)</b>	<b>793,683,112</b>		
<i>Temporary Deposits</i>	(86,138,800)	(52,338,900)	52,885,200	(85,592,500)	0.62	0.67
<b>NET EXTERNAL BORROWING</b>	<b>701,881,925</b>	<b>(43,588,900)</b>	<b>49,797,587</b>	<b>708,090,612</b>		
Total average					4.70	4.63

**Borrowing / Lending internal parameters as per approved Treasury Management Practices**      **Actual %**      **Approved Max%**

Short term borrowing (net of investments) as % of the Council's outstanding long term debt	(5.44)	25.00
Borrowing at variable rates of interest as % of the Council's total outstanding loan debt	5.70	35.00

**The Highland Council - Resources Committee  
Treasury Management - Prudential Indicators**

**a) External Debt**

Month	Authorised Limit*	Operational Boundary**	Month End	Min Position during month	Max Position during month
31 July 2015	£924.3m	£907.1m	£781.4m	£778.5m	£784.4m
31 August 2015	£924.3m	£907.1m	£788.1m	£780.4m	£788.1m
30 September 2015	£924.3m	£907.1m	£793.9m	£786.9m	£793.9m

\* **The Authorised Limit** represents an upper limit of borrowing that could be afforded in the short term but may not be sustainable over the longer term. This limit includes a risk assessment of exceptional events taking into account the demands of revenue and capital cash flows. The Authorised Limit gauges events that may occur over and above those transactions which have been included in the Operational Boundary. The limits effective from 01/04/15 are set out in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2015/16 (approved by Council 12/03/15).

\*\* **The Operational Boundary** represents an estimate of the most likely, prudent, but not worst case scenario and provides a parameter against which day to day treasury management activity can be monitored.

**b) Debt Net of Investments**

Month	Upper Limit Fixed	Upper Limit Variable	Month End Fixed	Month End Variable
31 July 2015	£865.1m	£302.8m	£650.2m	£39.3m
31 August 2015	£865.1m	£302.8m	£666.9m	£35.0m
30 September 2015	£865.1m	£302.8m	£667.7m	£40.4m

**c) Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing**

<b>Fixed Rate Borrowing</b>	<b>Under 12 months</b>	<b>12 months and within 24 months</b>	<b>24 months and within 5 years</b>	<b>5 years and within 10 years</b>	<b>10 years and above</b>
<b>Upper Limit</b>	30%	30%	30%	50%	100%
<b>Lower Limit</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25%
31 July 2015	8.0%	2.9%	12.6%	10.3%	66.2%
31 August 2015	8.9%	2.9%	10.7%	9.1%	68.4%
30 September 2015	9.6%	2.9%	12.4%	10.3%	64.8%

## **Appendix 1**

### **Credit worthiness policy and assessment**

This Council uses the creditworthiness service provided by Capita Treasury Services. This service employs a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's. The credit ratings of counterparties are supplemented with the following overlays:

- credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies
- Credit Default Swaps (CDS) spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings
- sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries

This modelling approach combines credit ratings, credit watches and credit outlooks in a weighted scoring system which is then combined with an overlay of CDS spreads for which the end product is a series of colour coded bands which indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties. These colour codes are also used by the Council to determine the duration for investments.

- All credit ratings are monitored from a weekly list which can be updated daily by Capita. The Council is alerted to changes to ratings of all three agencies as these occur through its use of the Capita creditworthiness service.
- If a downgrade results in the counterparty/investment scheme no longer meeting the Council's minimum criteria, immediate consideration will be given to whether funds should be withdrawn from this counterparty and the timescale for doing this.
- In addition to the use of Credit Ratings the Council will be advised of information in movements in Credit Default Swap against the iTraxx benchmark and other market data on a weekly basis. Extreme market movements may result in downgrade of an institution or removal from the Councils lending list.

Based on the Capita approach, the Council will therefore use counterparties within the following durational bands:

Purple	2 years
Blue	1 year (only applies to nationalised or semi nationalised UK Banks)
Orange	1 year
Red	6 months
Green	100 days
No Colour	Not to be used

Sole reliance will not be placed on the use of this external service. In addition the Council will also use market data and market information, information on government support for banks and the credit ratings of that government support.



In relation to Money Market Funds, the Council will use Capita's weekly investment monitor, and other regular updates, to ensure its MMF counter-parties meet the minimum credit criteria described in the table above.

As set out within the Prudential Indicators, a limit is set on the value of Treasury Investments which can be invested for more than 364 days. The limit is £20m, which represents the maximum sum invested for longer than 364 days, though the period of investment must be decided using Capita credit ratings and maximum limits in permitted investments.

### **Stage 3 – Counter-party Limits**

The limits described below apply to the Council's treasury management operations. Separate limits apply for the Pension Fund, with Highland Council limits relating to all operations excluding the Pension Fund.

Due to market volatility in treasury management investments and varying levels of investment it is possible that at any time in the year, one category of investment could represent 100% of the portfolio although it is likely that investments will carry greater diversification than this.

No more than £15m can be invested with any single counterparty, with the exception of the nationalised or semi nationalised UK banks where no more than £25m can be invested in each bank.

The Council will place overnight and call deposits with the Council's bankers irrespective of credit rating. The limit on placing call deposits with the Council's bankers (when the rating does not match any of the durational bands advised by Capita) is £10m.

The Highland Council Pension Fund will place overnight and call deposits with the Council's bankers irrespective of credit rating. The limit on placing call deposits with the Council's bankers (when the rating does not match any of the durational bands advised by Capita) is £10m.

### List of Counterparties, counterparty limit and credit rating

The following table is a list of current counterparties used, the Capita credit rating as at 30 September 2015 and amounts deposited.

Counterparty	Total amount £	Counterparty limit £	Capita credit rating (Sept-15)	Amount £	Deposit Type*	Rate % (Sep-15)	Duration Days
Nationwide Building Society	4,000,000	15,000,000	Red - 6 months	4,000,000	FTD	0.58	140
				3,000,000	FTD	0.50	91
Bank of Scotland	14,200,000	15,000,000	Red - 6 months	100,000	Call	0.40	N/A
				4,100,000	FTD	0.67	175
				10,000,000	175 DN	0.75	N/A
Clydesdale Bank**	10,992,500	10,000,000	No colour - zero	10,900,000	Call	0.50	N/A
				92,500	CMA	0.10	Overnight
Royal Bank of Scotland	10,000,000	25,000,000	Blue -12 months	5,000,000	FTD	0.88	365
				5,000,000	CD	0.97	361
Barclays	15,000,000	15,000,000	Red - 6 months	15,000,000	Call	0.50	N/A
Santander	15,000,000	15,000,000	Red - 6 months	15,000,000	95 DN	0.90	N/A
Standard Chartered Bank	5,000,000	15,000,000	Red - 6 months	5,000,000	CD	0.73	182

Counterparty	Total amount £	Counterparty limit £	Capita credit rating (Jun-15)	Amount £	Deposit Type*	Rate % (Jun-15)	Duration Days
Standard Life Investments	8,200,000	15,000,000	Triple A rated	8,200,000	Call	0.49	N/A
Insight Investments	100,000	15,000,000	Triple A rated	100,000	Call	0.44	N/A
Svenska Handelsbanken	100,000	15,000,000	Blue -12 months	100,000	Call	0.40	N/A
<b>TOTAL DEPOSITS</b>	<b>82,592,500</b>			<b>85,592,500</b>			

\* Deposit Type – Fixed Term Deposit (FTD), Cash Management Account (CMA)

As stated in the Treasury Management Strategy statement for unavoidable short term operational reasons, limits are occasionally breached and this is communicated to management immediately.

\*\*The limit on the Clydesdale was breached by £992,500 on 30 September due to an unexpected receipt of non-domestic rate income in cleared funds late in the afternoon, at which point banking was closed and funds could not be transferred to an alternative counterparty. This breach was communicated to management and funds were transferred from the Clydesdale to an alternative counterparty on 1 October 2015.