

# Gloucester City Council

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Audit and Governance Committee Cabinet</b>	<b>Date: 22 July 2019 11 September 2019</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Treasury Management Update – Annual Report 2018/19</b>	
<b>Report Of:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources</b>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Budget/Policy Framework: No</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Jon Topping, Head of Finance</b>	
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<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>1. Prudential and Treasury Indicators 2. Interest rate forecasts</b>	

## FOR GENERAL RELEASE

### 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 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 2018/19. 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 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.
- 1.3 This report will highlight issues specific to the Council and also highlight interest rate forecasts as provided by the Council's treasury advisors Link Asset Services.
- 1.4 The body of the report provides an overview of the Council's performance for 2018/19;
  - **Appendix 1** highlights the key performance indicators in line with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.
  - **Appendix 2** Interest Rate Forecast.

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Audit and Governance Committee is asked, subject to any recommendations it wishes to make to Cabinet, to note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the contents of the report be noted.

## 3.0 Annual Investment Strategy

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2018/19, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018. It sets out the Council's investment priorities as being:

- Security of capital;
- Liquidity; and
- Yield

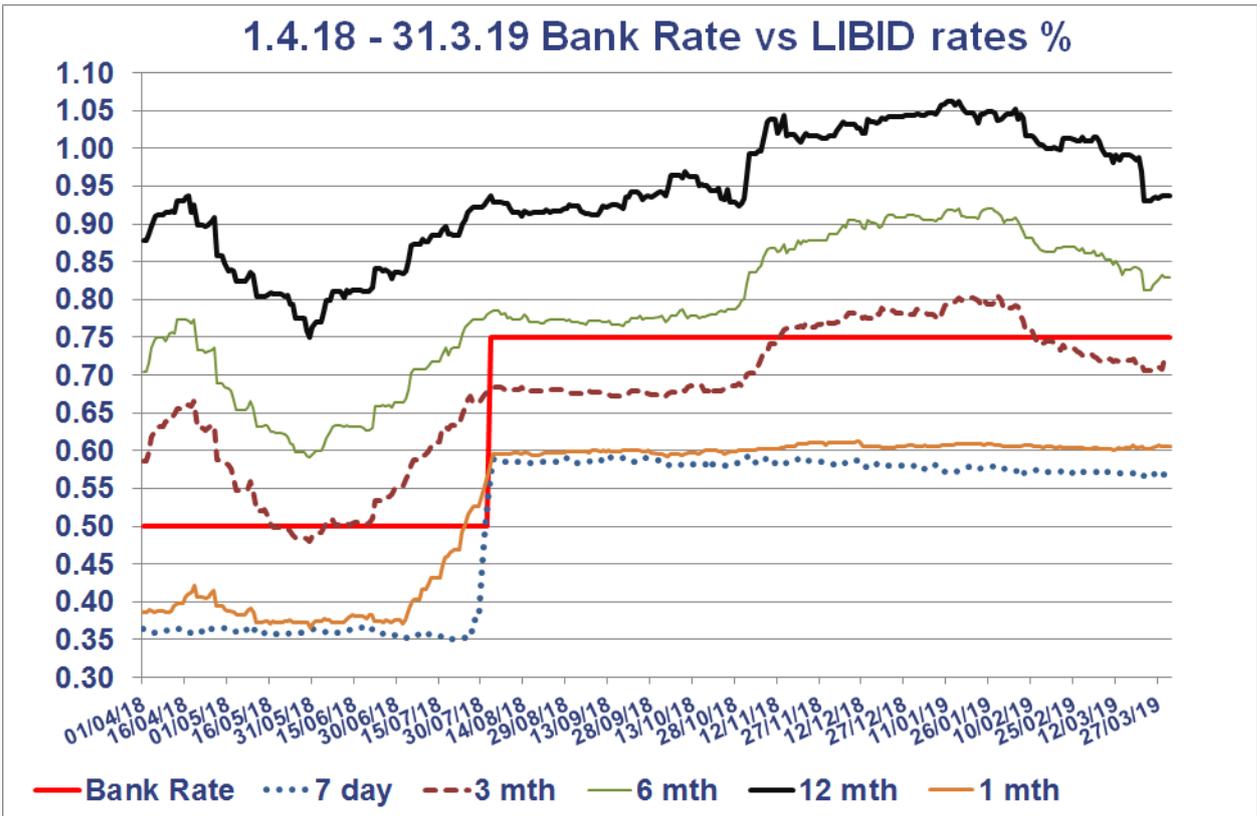
- 3.1 The Council will also aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs, but also to seek out value available in periods up to 12 months, with highly credit rated financial institutions, using our suggested creditworthiness approach, including a minimum sovereign credit rating, and Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay information.
- 3.2 The average level of funds available for investment purposes during the year was £11.2m. These funds were available on a temporary basis, and the level of funds available was mainly dependent on the timing of precept payments, receipt of grants and progress on the Capital Programme. The Council holds £10m core cash balances for investment purposes (i.e. funds available for more than one year).

### Investment performance for the financial year 2018/2019

Benchmark	Benchmark Return	Council Performance	Investment Interest Earned
7 day	0.57	0.65	£73k
1 month	0.61	0.68	£2k
3 month	0.72	0.59	£8k
6 month	0.83	0.83	£22k

As illustrated, the Council outperformed the benchmarks by 0.02 bps.

Longer term investment rates were on a rising trend for most of the year until they started falling in December / January.



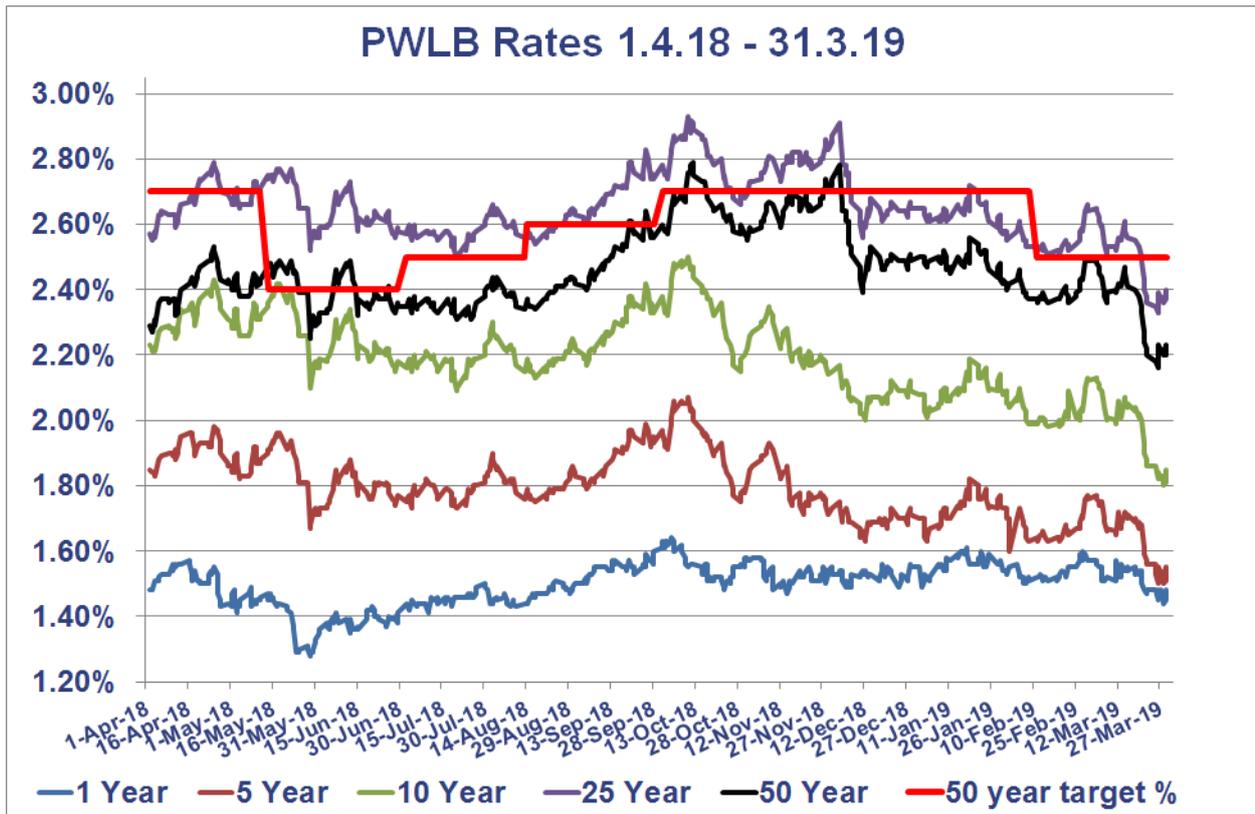
	Bank Rate	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
<b>1/4/18</b>	0.50	0.36	0.39	0.59	0.70	0.88
<b>31/3/19</b>	0.75	0.57	0.61	0.72	0.83	0.94
<b>High</b>	0.75	0.59	0.61	0.81	0.92	1.06
<b>Date</b>	02/08/2018	01/11/2018	10/12/2018	29/01/2019	15/01/2019	11/01/19
<b>Low</b>	0.50	0.35	0.37	0.48	0.59	0.75
<b>Date</b>	01/04/2018	19/07/2018	30/05/2018	30/05/2018	30/05/2018	30/05/18
<b>Average</b>	0.67	0.51	0.54	0.68	0.79	0.94
<b>Spread</b>	0.25	0.24	0.25	0.33	0.33	0.31

## 4.0 New Borrowing

- 4.1 No long term borrowing was undertaken during the year ended 31 March 2019.
- 4.2 Since PWLB rates peaked during October, most PWLB rates have been on a general downward trend since then, though longer term rates did spike upwards again during December, and, (apart from 1 year), reached lows for the year at the end of March. The 50 year PWLB target (certainty) rate for new long term borrowing varied between 2.40% and 2.70% during this period.

### PWLB certainty rates, for the financial year to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
<b>2/4/18</b>	1.48%	1.85%	2.23%	2.57%	2.29%
<b>29/3/19</b>	1.48%	1.55%	1.85%	2.40%	2.23%
<b>Low</b>	1.28%	1.56%	1.86%	2.36%	2.20%
<b>Date</b>	29/05/2018	22/03/2019	22/03/2019	22/03/2019	22/03/2019
<b>High</b>	1.64%	2.07%	2.50%	2.93%	2.79%
<b>Date</b>	04/10/2018	10/10/2018	10/10/2018	10/10/2018	12/10/2018
<b>Average</b>	1.50%	1.80%	2.20%	2.66%	2.47%



## 5.0 Debt Rescheduling

5.1 During the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, no debt rescheduling was undertaken.

## 6.0 Compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits

6.1 It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the affordable borrowing limits. The Council's approved Treasury and Prudential Indicators (affordability limits) are included in the approved TMSS.

6.2 During the financial year the Council has operated within the treasury limits set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and in compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices. The Council debt profile is currently structured on short term borrowing. The Council is able to benefit from reduced costs associated with short term borrowing compared to longer term rates while operating within the Council's borrowing requirements, this strategy will continue to be reviewed in line with market expectations. The prudential and treasury Indicators are shown within appendix 1.

## 7.0 Other

7.1 The 2018 CIPFA Codes and guidance notes have placed enhanced importance on risk management. Where an authority changes its risk appetite e.g. for moving surplus cash into or out of certain types of investment funds or other types of

investment instruments, this change in risk appetite and policy should be brought to members' attention in treasury management update reports.

- 7.2 The Council continued to maintain an under-borrowed position in 2018/19.
- 7.4 This under-borrowing reflects that the Council resources such as reserves and provisions will have reduced debt rather than be externally invested. This strategy is sensible, at this point in time, for two reasons. Firstly, there is no differential between the marginal borrowing rate and investment rate so there is nothing to be gained by investing Council resources externally. Secondly, by using the resources to reduce debt the Council will reduce exposure to investment counterparty risk.
- 7.5 The Council will continue to monitor its approach to under borrowing in light of market movement and future events.
- 7.6 The Council has utilised short term borrowing in 2018/19 as part of its overall borrowing strategy, this policy has allowed the Council to benefit from lower interest rates available over the short term, reducing borrowing costs significantly in the short term. Over our current 2018/19 borrowing requirement, the Council has been able to obtain short term borrowing at 0.80% compared to current long term rates at 2.20 % for 10 year. Over the year the policy has reduced annual borrowing costs by £210k.
- 7.7 The Council will continue to monitor its approach to short term borrowing in accordance with our treasury advisor forecasts and future Council events which impact on the Council borrowing requirement.

## **8.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations**

- 8.1 This report notes the treasury management performance of the Council. There are no anticipated ABCD implications from this report.

## **9.0 Financial Implications**

- 9.1 Contained in the report

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

## **10.0 Legal Implications**

- 10.1 There are no legal implications from this report  
(Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

## **11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications**

- 11.1 There are no specific risks or opportunities as a result of this report

## **12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):**

- 12.1 A PIA screening assessment has been undertaken and the impact is neutral. A full PIA is not required.

**13.0 Other Corporate Implications**

Community Safety

13.1 None

Sustainability

13.2 None

Staffing & Trade Union

13.3 None

Prudential and Treasury Indicators as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Treasury Indicators	2018/19 Budget £'000	Annual (Apr-Mar) Actual £'000
Authorised limit for external debt	£120M	£120M
Operational boundary for external debt	£110M	£110M
Gross external debt	£110M	£20.15M
Investments	N/A	£13.75M
Net borrowing	£110M	£6.40M
<b>Maturity structure of fixed and variable rate borrowing - upper and lower limits</b>		
Under 12 months	0% - 100%	75%
12 months to 2 years	0% - 100%	0%
2 years to 5 years	0% - 100%	0%
5 years to 10 years	0% - 100%	0%
10 years to 20 years	0% - 100%	0%
20 years to 30 years	0% - 100%	25%
30 years to 40 years	0% - 100%	0%
40 years to 50 years	0% - 100%	0%
Upper limit of fixed interest rates based on net debt	100%	75%
Upper limit of variable interest rates based on net debt	100%	25%

## INTEREST RATES FORECASTS

The Council's treasury advisor, Link Asset Services, has provided the following forecast:

Link Asset Services Interest Rate View												
	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%	2.00%
3 Month LIBID	0.80%	1.00%	1.10%	1.20%	1.40%	1.50%	1.50%	1.60%	1.70%	1.80%	1.90%	2.00%
6 Month LIBID	0.90%	1.20%	1.30%	1.40%	1.50%	1.60%	1.70%	1.80%	1.90%	2.00%	2.10%	2.20%
12 Month LIBID	1.10%	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	1.90%	2.00%	2.10%	2.20%	2.30%	2.30%	2.40%	2.50%	2.50%	2.60%	2.60%	2.70%
10yr PWLB Rate	2.30%	2.40%	2.50%	2.60%	2.60%	2.70%	2.80%	2.90%	2.90%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
25yr PWLB Rate	2.80%	2.90%	3.00%	3.10%	3.20%	3.20%	3.30%	3.40%	3.40%	3.50%	3.50%	3.60%
50yr PWLB Rate	2.60%	2.70%	2.80%	2.90%	3.00%	3.00%	3.10%	3.20%	3.20%	3.30%	3.30%	3.40%

After the August 2018 increase in Bank Rate to 0.75%, the first above 0.5% since the financial crash, the MPC has put any further action on hold, probably until such time as the fog of Brexit might clear and there is some degree of certainty of what the UK will be heading into.

***The above forecast, and other comments in this report, were based on a central assumption that there will be an agreement on a reasonable form of Brexit.*** In view of the current, (1 April 2019), lack of any majority in the House of Commons for one option for Brexit, the above forecasts will probably need revision to take account of the current impasse if that were to continue. This could mean that the start of increases in Bank Rate may need to be pushed back.

### 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.