

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Audit and Governance Committee	9 December 2024
	Cabinet	11 December 2024
Subject:	Treasury Management Update – Quarter 1 & Mid-Year Report 2024/25	
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Resources	
Wards Affected:	All	
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework: No
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Appendices:	1. Prudential and Treasury Indicators	
	2. Interest Rate Forecasts	
	3. Treasury Investments	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Code of Practice for Treasury Management recommends that members be updated on treasury management activities regularly (TMSS, annual and midyear reports). This report covers the six months 1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024 and therefore, ensures this Council is implementing best practice in accordance with the Code.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 The body of the report provides an overview of the Councils performance for the first half 2024/25;
 - **Appendix 1** highlights the key performance indicators in line with the Councils Treasury Management Strategy.
 - **Appendix 2** Interest Rate Forecast.
 - **Appendix 3** Treasury Investments

2.0 Recommendations

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

3.0 Annual Investment Strategy

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2024/25, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council on 21st March 2024. It sets out the Council's investment priorities as being:

- Security of capital;
- Liquidity; and
- Yield

3.1 The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and 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, 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 As shown by the interest rate forecasts in appendix 2, investment rates have stayed constant during the first half of 2024/25 and are expected to worsen as Bank Rate decreases over the next few months.

3.3 The average level of funds available for investment purposes during the year to date was £11.46m. 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. These investments have been broken down in appendix 3 as per the request of Council in relation to the 2023-24 yearly report. Also included in the report is an extract from the Treasury Management Strategy Statement stating what limits we have with different types of counterparty.

3.4 The Council holds £12.5m core cash balances for investment purposes (i.e. funds available for more than one year), the majority of these funds are held with the CCLA (Charities, Churches and Local Authorities) and have delivered £205k in dividends for the first six months of the year.

Investment performance for the financial year to date as at 30th June 2024

Benchmark	Benchmark Return	Council Performance
7 day	4.80%	4.72%
1 month	4.75%	N/A
3 month	4.73%	N/A
6 month	4.09%	N/A
12 month	3.93%	N/A

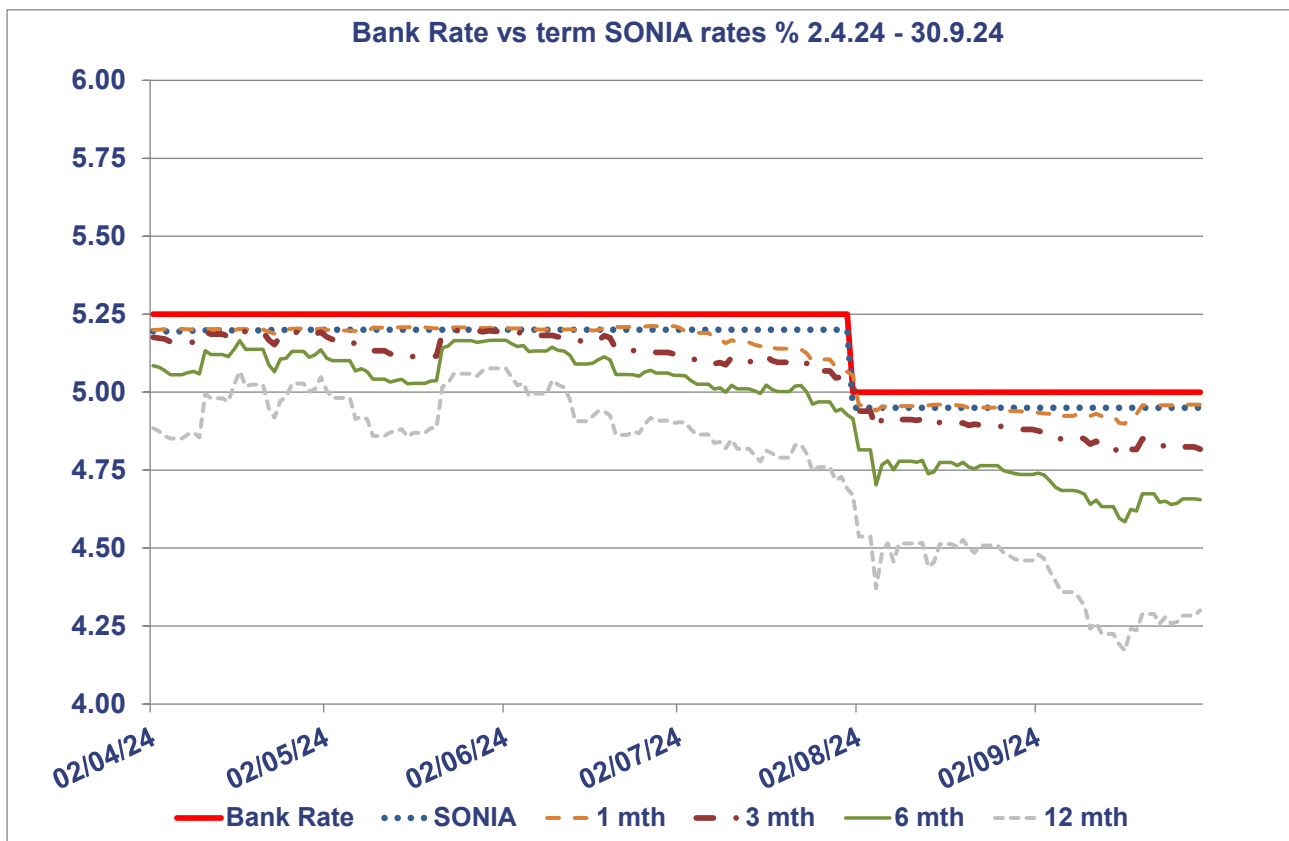
As illustrated, the Council underperformed the benchmark by 8 bps on 7 day investment returns.

Investment performance for the financial year to date as at 30th September 2024

Benchmark	Benchmark Return	Council Performance
7 day	4.80%	5.18%
1 month	4.75%	N/A
3 month	4.73%	N/A
6 month	4.09%	N/A
12 month	3.93%	N/A

As illustrated, the Council outperformed the benchmark by 38 bps in the first half of the year.

Interest Rate Profile - Half year ended 30 September 2024



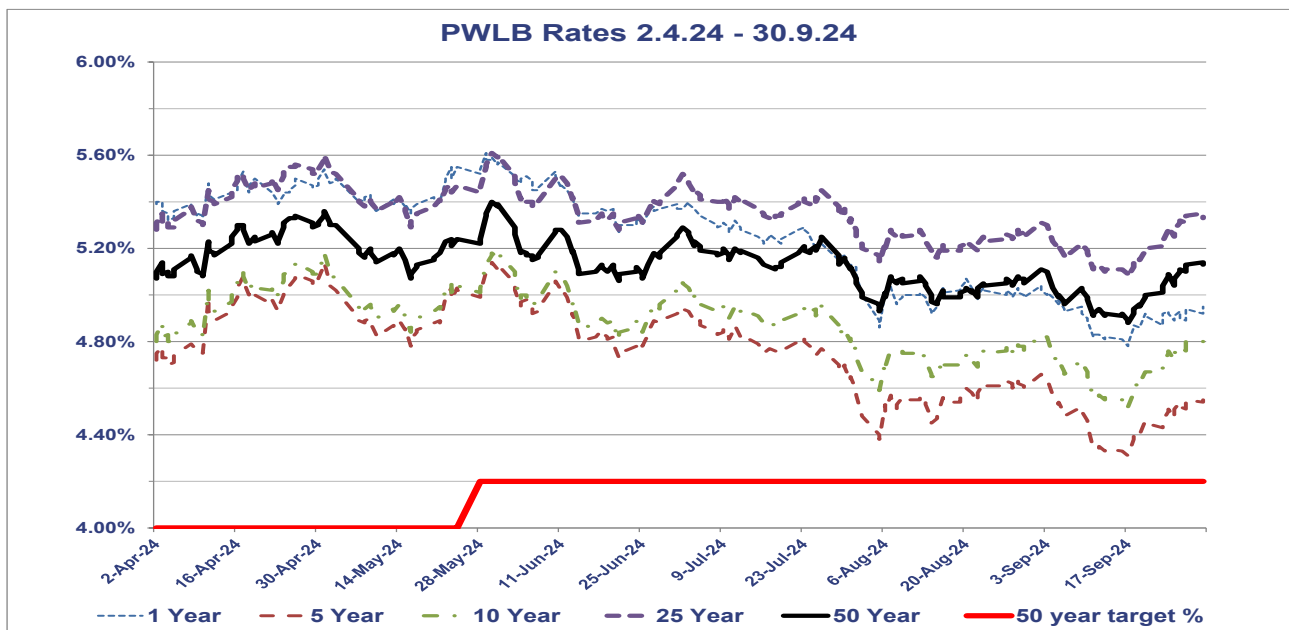
	Bank Rate	SONIA	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
High	5.25	5.20	5.21	5.20	5.17	5.08
High Date	02/04/2024	03/05/2024	27/06/2024	17/04/2024	31/05/2024	30/05/2024
Low	5.00	4.95	4.90	4.79	4.58	4.17
Low Date	01/08/2024	01/08/2024	17/09/2024	17/09/2024	17/09/2024	17/09/2024
Average	5.17	5.12	5.11	5.06	4.96	4.75
Spread	0.25	0.25	0.31	0.41	0.58	0.91

4.0 New Borrowing

4.1 No new long-term borrowing was undertaken during the first half of 2024/25.

4.2 The graph and table below show the movement in PWLB certainty rates for the first six months of the year to date. Gilt yields and PWLB rates were on a rising trend between 1st April and 30th September.

The 50-year PWLB target certainty rate for new long-term borrowing started 2022/23 at 2.20% before increasing to 4.80% in September.



	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
02/04/2024	5.39%	4.72%	4.80%	5.28%	5.07%
30/09/2024	4.95%	4.55%	4.79%	5.33%	5.13%
Low	4.78%	4.31%	4.52%	5.08%	4.88%
Low date	17/09/2024	17/09/2024	17/09/2024	17/09/2024	17/09/2024
High	5.61%	5.14%	5.18%	5.61%	5.40%
High date	29/05/2024	01/05/2024	01/05/2024	01/05/2024	01/05/2024
Average	5.21%	4.76%	4.88%	5.35%	5.14%
Spread	0.83%	0.83%	0.66%	0.53%	0.52%

5.0 Debt Rescheduling

- 5.1 Debt rescheduling opportunities have increased significantly in the current quarter where gilt yields, which underpin PWLB rates and market loans, have risen materially. Members will be advised if there is value to be had by rescheduling or repaying a part of the debt.

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.

7.0 Other

- 7.1 The 2021 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.

8.0 Social Value Considerations

- 8.1 This report notes the treasury management performance of the Council. There are no anticipated Social Value considerations from this report as it is reporting performance and not making investment decisions.

9.0 Environmental Implications

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

10.0 Financial Implications

- 10.1 Contained in the report

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

11.0 Legal Implications

- 11.1 There are no significant legal implications in respect of the recommendations in this report. Compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services provides assurance that investments are, and will continue to be, within the Council's legal powers.

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

12.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

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

13.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

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

14.0 Other Corporate Implications
Community Safety

14.1 None

Sustainability

14.2 None

Staffing & Trade Union

14.3 None