

The Prudential Code for Capital Investment in Local Authorities

Treasury Management Outturn Report 2012/13

1. Introduction

1.1 There are a number of treasury indicators which previously formed part of the Prudential code, but which are now more appropriately linked to the Revised Treasury Management Code and guidance 2009. Local authorities are still required to “have regard” to these treasury indicators.

1.2 The key treasury indicators which are still part of the Prudential Code are:

- Authorised limit for external debt
- Operational boundary for external debt
- Actual external debt

2. Net borrowing and the Capital Financing Requirement

2.1 To ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term the Council’s external borrowing, net of investments, must only be for a capital purpose. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure.

2.2 Net borrowing should not therefore, except in the short term, have exceeded the Capital Financing Requirement (“CFR”) for 2012/13 plus the expected changes to the CFR over 2012/13 and 2013/14 from financing the capital programme. This indicator allows the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs in 2012/13.

2.3 **The authorised limit** – This sets the maximum level of external borrowing on a gross basis (i.e. Not net of investments) and is the statutory limit determined under Section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003 (referred to in the legislation as Affordable Limit).

2.4 **The operational limit** – This links directly to the Council’s estimates of the CFR and estimates of other cash flow requirements. This indicator is based on the same estimates as the Authorised Limits reflecting the most likely prudent but not worst case scenario but without the additional headroom included within the Authorised Limit for future known capital needs now. It should act as a monitor indicator to ensure the authorised limit is not breached.

2.5 The total Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March 2013 was £491.6m, which is lower than the Approved Authorised Limit of £528m set by the Assembly in February 2012.

2.6 The Operational and Authorised Limit relates to external borrowing only and Council’s CFR has large internal borrowing element. Total external borrowing was £325.9m which was inside the Approved Authorised Limit.

- 2.7 The actual 2012/13 borrowing requirements and estimates for authorised limits and operational boundary limit set out in Table 4.

Table 4: Operational Limit and Authorised Borrowing Limits

	2012/13 Actual £'000	2012/13 Estimate £'000	2013/14 Estimate £'000	2014/15 Estimate £'000
Capital Programme Borrowing Requirement (Cumulative)	163,934	171,263	166,749	158,514
HRA Self Financing Debt	267,722	267,122	277,649	277,649
Alternative Financing Arrangements:				
Current PFI Schemes on Balance Sheet	56,221	54,992	53,667	52,276
Finance Leases	3,701	2,866	2,031	1,196
Total Alternative Financing Arrangements	59,922	57,858	55,698	53,472
Total Borrowing liability	491,578	496,243	500,096	489,635
External Borrowing (Cumulative)	325,912	315,912	315,912	315,912
Approved Operational Boundary on Borrowing	384,000	429,000	449,000	447,000
Approved Authorised Limit (affordable limit)	528,000	499,000	510,000	499,000

3. Limits for Fixed and Variable Interest Exposure

The following prudential indicators allow the Council to manage the extent to which it is exposed to changes in interest rates. The upper limit for variable rate exposure has been set to ensure that the Council is not exposed to interest rate rises which could adversely impact on the revenue budget.

The Council's existing level of fixed interest rate exposure is 100.0% and variable rate exposure is 0.0%. The high fixed interest rate is as a result of locking in low long-term rates for the HRA borrowing.

The table 5 below shows the fixed and variable interest rate exposure.

Table 5: Fixed and variable rate exposure 2011 to 2015

Interest Rate Exposures	2012/13 Actual %	2012/13 Estimate %	2013/14 Estimate %	2014/15 Estimate %
Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Upper limit for variable interest rate exposure	0.0	70.0	70.0	70.0

4. Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing

This prudential indicator deals with projected borrowing over the period and the rates that they will mature over the period, as summarised in table 6.

Table 6: Borrowing as at 31 March 2013

	Actual Position	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	£10,000,000	20%	0%
	3.07%		
12 months and within 24 months	£10,000,000	40%	0%
	3.07%		
24 months and within 5 years	£0	70%	0%
	0.00%		
5 years and within 10 years	£0	70%	0%
	0.00%		
10 years and above	£265,912,000	100%	0%
	93.86%		

The fixed rate borrowing over 10 years was 93.86%, which is within the limits outlined below:

Table 7: Maturity Structure of Borrowing for 2012/13

	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	20%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	40%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	70%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	70%	0%
10 years and above	100%	0%

5. Investments over 364 days

- 5.1 The overriding objective of the investment strategy is to ensure that funds are available on a daily basis to meet the Council's liabilities. Taking into account the current level of investments, and future projections of capital expenditure, the following limits will be applied to sums invested:

Maximum principal sums invested > 364 days £'000s	2012/13 £000's Actual	2013/14 £000's Estimate	2014/15 £000's Estimate	2015/16 £000's Estimate
Principal sums invested > 364 days	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000

6. Summary Assessment

- 6.1 The outturn position is set out above in respect of the Prudential Indicators approved by Assembly in February 2012.
- 6.2 The outturn figures confirm that the limits and controls set for 2012/13 were applied throughout the year, and that the treasury management function adhered to the key principles of the CIPFA Prudential Code of prudence, affordability and sustainability. The treasury management indicators were regularly monitored throughout 2012/13, however the operational limit was breached, this is however not a statutory limit.