

# Ardleigh Parish Council

## Investment Strategy

### Introduction

The Local Government Act 2003 Section 12 provides the Power to invest:

- (a) for any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment or
- (b) for the purpose of the prudent management of its financial affairs.

Section 15(1) of the Act requires a local authority to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

In accordance with Section 15(1) of the Local Government Act 2003, the Council will have regard:

- (a) to such guidance as the Secretary of State may issue and
- (b) to such other guidance as the Secretary of State may by regulations specify.

Guidance issued effective from 1 April 2018 and applies to all local authorities in England providing their total investments exceed or are expected to exceed £100,000 at any time during the financial year see (see [Guidance on local government investments.pdf](#)).

This is reiterated in the Practitioners' Guide.

*Investments — Arrangements need to be in place to ensure that the authority's funds are managed properly and that any amounts surplus to requirements is invested appropriately, in accordance with an approved strategy which needs to have regard to DLUHC's statutory Guidance on local government investments. If total investments are to exceed the threshold specified in DLUHC's statutory guidance at any time during a financial year, the authority needs to produce and approve an annual Investment Strategy in accordance with the DLUHC guidance. (NALC Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance Practitioners' Guide March 2024 Page 9 para 1.11)*

### Objectives

The Parish Council's investment priorities are:

- i. Security – protecting the capital sum invested from loss, and
- ii. Liquidity – ensuring the funds invested are available for expenditure when needed

### Short-Term Investments

Short-term investments are those offering high security and high availability, made in sterling and maturing within 2 years.

### Long-Term Investments

Long-term investments shall be defined as greater than 2 years. The Parish Council will use the same criteria for assessing long-term investments as identified above for short-term investments.

### Access to Investments

The Parish Council will determine the maximum periods for which funds may be prudently committed.

### Authorisation

Investments will be authorised by the Parish Council which is ultimately responsible for its investments.

Funds will only be deposited or invested with:

- i. UK clearing banks or their subsidiaries
- ii. UK Collective Investments Schemes
- iii. UK Government stocks
- iv. UK local authority stocks or bonds

The Parish Council reserves the right to make variations to this Strategy at any time, subject to the approval of Council.

*Ardleigh Parish Council March 2025*

*With acknowledgement to Leigh on Sea Town Council from whose policy this document was adapted*