



INVESTMENT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This policy sets out the treasury management procedures for the monitoring of the cash flow and banking arrangements of Wroxham Parish Council.

Authority reference is to the Council's Financial Regulations.

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:

- (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 for the purposes of this provision.

The Council acknowledges its duty of care to the community and the prudent investment of funds. Therefore, in order to safeguard any investment, the Council will ensure that all investments are made through a suitably qualified financial adviser who shall monitor the investment and advise the Council accordingly should the monies be withdrawn or reinvested elsewhere to protect it.

OBJECTIVES

The Council's priorities are, in the following ranking order:

- (i) The security of capital to minimise the risk of losses.
- (ii) The liquidity of investments to meet the cash flow needs of the Council.
- (iii) Maximising income within the framework of the national economic situation.

The Council will aim to achieve as high a rate of return as reasonably possible on investments commensurate with adequate safeguards of security and liquidity.

The Department for Communities and Local Government maintains the borrowing of money purely to invest or to lend and make a return is unlawful and the Council will not engage in such activity.

The Council will monitor the risk of loss on investments by review of credit ratings on a regular basis. The Council will only invest in institutions of high credit quality – based on information from credit rating agencies (as defined).

Investments will be spread over different providers where appropriate to minimise risk.

INVESTMENTS

Definition of an Investment

The definition of an investment covers all of the financial assets of a local authority as well as other non-financial assets that the organisation holds primarily or partially to generate a profit; for example, investment property portfolios. This may therefore include investments that are not

managed as part of normal treasury management processes or under treasury management delegations.

Investment Objectives

This Investment Strategy has the following objectives in priority order:

- Security – protecting the capital sum invested from loss
- Liquidity – ensuring the funds invested are available for expenditure when needed
- Yield – income return on the investment

Specified Investments

Specified investments are those offering high security and high liquidity, made in sterling and with a maturity of no more than a year. Such short term investments made with the UK Government or a Local Authority (as defined) or a Town/Parish Council will automatically be Specified Investments.

The Council, for prudent management of its treasury balances may use - Treasury Deposits with UK clearing banks - Local Authorities or other Public Authorities approved public sector investment funds.

The choice of institution and length of deposit will be at the approval of the full Council.

The Council will aim to achieve as high a rate of return as reasonably possible on investments commensurate with adequate safeguards of security and liquidity.

Non-Specified Investments

A non-specified investment are non-financial assets that the organisation holds primarily or partially to generate a profit. Where a local authority holds a non-financial investment, it will normally be a physical asset that can be realised to recoup the capital invested.

These investments have greater potential risk – examples include investment in the money market, stocks and shares. Given the unpredictability and uncertainty surrounding such investments the Council will not use this type of investment.

Liquidity of Investments

The Council in consultation with the Responsible Financial Officer will determine the maximum periods for which funds may prudently be committed so as not to compromise liquidity.

Investments will be regarded as commencing on the date the commitment to invest is entered into rather than the date on which the funds are paid over to the counterparty.

Long Term Investments

Long Term Investments are defined in the Guidance is greater than 36 months.

The Council does not currently hold any funds in long term investments

REPORTING

The management of this policy will be by the Clerk / RFO and reported to each Council meeting.

CAPACITY, SKILLS AND CULTURE

The Council is committed to continuous professional development and supports its Clerk/RFO to training and development through attendance at the Norfolk Association of Local Councils Legal and Finance workshops / seminars to keep up to date with corporate governance.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed by the Council on a **biannual** basis prior to the start of the new financial year. Any variation to the policy will be submitted to the Council for approval.

PUBLICATION

A copy of this policy will be made available on the Council's website.

This policy was approved and adopted by Wroxham Parish Council at its Finance Committee meeting held on 21st March 2024.