

Treasury Management Policy

1. The County Council's financial regulations require it to create and maintain a treasury management policy statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury activities, as a cornerstone for effective treasury management.
2. The following statements define the policy and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities:

Definition

3. Surrey County Council defines its treasury management activities as:
 - the management of the organisation's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions;
 - the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and
 - the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."

Risk appetite

4. The Council's appetite for risk in terms of its treasury management activities is low/medium. A premium is placed on the security of capital in terms of investment and on the maintenance of financial stability in terms of the costs of borrowing.

Risk management

5. The Council regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the Council, and any financial instruments entered into to manage these risks.

Value for money

6. The Council acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is therefore committed to the principles of achieving value for money in treasury management, and to employing suitable comprehensive performance measurement techniques, within the context of effective risk management.
7. The Council's policies for borrowing and investments will be set out within the annual Treasury Management Strategy, high level policies are summarised below.

Borrowing policy

8. The Council values revenue budget stability and, therefore, when borrowing long term will aim to secure long term fixed rates of interest. However, short term rate loans will be utilised where the yield curve provides opportunity. The Council will also constantly evaluate debt restructuring opportunities within the portfolio.
9. The Council will set an affordable borrowing limit each year in compliance with the Local Government Act 2003, and will have regard to the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities when setting that limit.

Investment policy

10. The Council's primary objectives for the investment of its surplus funds are to protect the principal sums invested from loss, and to ensure adequate liquidity so that funds are available for expenditure when needed. The generation of investment income to support the provision of local authority services is a further important objective.
11. The Council will approve an investment strategy each year as part of the treasury management strategy. The strategy will set criteria to determine suitable organisations with which cash may be invested, limits on the maximum duration of such investments and limits on the amount of cash that may be invested with any one organisation.