

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE
AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

11 November 2019

1. **Report Title:** Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2019/20
- Submitted by:** Head of Finance
- Portfolio:** Finance and Efficiency
- Ward(s) affected:** All indirectly

Purpose of the Report

To receive the Treasury Management Half Yearly Report for 2019/20 and to review the Treasury Management activity for this period.

Recommendations

- (a) That the Treasury Management Half Yearly Report for 2019/20 be received.**

Reasons

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management recommends that Members should be informed on Treasury Management activities at least twice a year.

It was resolved that the Audit and Standards Committee would monitor and oversee the delivery of the Treasury Management Strategy through the receipt of half yearly and year end Treasury Management Reports.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 The CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management recommends that Members should be informed on Treasury Management activities at least twice a year. It was resolved that the Audit and Standards Committee would monitor and oversee the delivery of the Treasury Management Strategy through the receipt of half yearly and year end Treasury Management Reports.
- 1.2 This report therefore ensures that this Council is embracing Best Practice in accordance with CIPFA's recommendations in the CIPFA Code of Practice.
- 1.3 Treasury Management operations are carried out in accordance with policies laid down in the currently approved Treasury Management Policy Statement, backed up by approved Treasury Management Practices and Schedules thereto, and the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Report approved by Council on 20 February 2019.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 The Treasury Management Half Yearly Report for 2019/20 is attached at Appendix 1. The economic background included in the report has been provided by the Council's Treasury Management Advisors, Arlingclose.

2.3 **Heritable Bank**

The original investment with Heritable Bank was £2.5m. Fifteen dividends have been received from administrators Ernst and Young representing a return of 98%, with the most recent payment of £99,932 being made in August 2015.

The bank's administrators have confirmed the execution of a settled de-minimis payment from the parent company of Heritable Bank which will be paid to the Council in the event that the remaining 2% of the original investment is no longer contingent.

The de-minimis payment would be the equivalent amount EUR 11,913.10, which as at 8 February 2016 (the date of the published selling rate of the EUR as registered by the Central Bank of Iceland) equates to £9,411.35.

The latest update from the administrators of March 2018 stated that there is no intention to make any final distribution until the conclusion of an ongoing claim relating to two buildings. The Council will be notified by the bank's administrators of the timescale for the payment following the conclusion of the administration (timescale not currently known).

3. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

3.1 See Background for details.

4. **Financial and Resource Implications**

4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from the report.

5. **Major Risks**

5.1 Treasury management is a major area of risk for the Council in that large amounts of money are dealt with on a daily basis and there are a number of limits and indicators, which must be complied with.

5.2 The overriding consideration in determining where to place the Council's surplus funds is to safeguard the Council's capital. Within this constraint the aim is to maximise the return on capital.

5.3 Operational procedures, coupled with monitoring arrangements, are in place to minimise the risk of departures from the approved strategy.

6. **List of Appendices**

6.1 Appendix 1, Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2019/20.

7. **Background Papers**

- CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice (revised December 2017),
- Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement,
- Council's Treasury Management Strategy,
- Local Government Act 2003,
- Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003,
- Guidance on Local Authority Investments issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (revised April 2018),
- Ernst and Young creditors of Heritable Bank report (March 2019).