Public Document Pack

Kirklees Council

Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield

Tuesday 13 January 2026

Dear Member

The Council will meet on Wednesday 21 January 2026 at 5.30 pm in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield.

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view via the Council's website.

Pages

1: Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

To receive any announcements from the Mayor and Chief Executive.

2: Apologies for absence

Group Business Managers to submit any apologies for absence.

3: Minutes of Previous Meeting

1 - 22

To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of (i) Council held on 10 December 2025 and (ii) Extra Ordinary Council held on 17 December 2025.

4: Declaration of Interests

23 - 24

Members will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have any disclosable pecuniary interests or any other

interests, which may prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items.

5: Petitions (From Members of the Council)

To receive any Petitions from Members of the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

6: Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)

The Committee will receive any petitions and/or deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also submit a petition at the meeting relating to a matter on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Members of the Public must submit a deputation in writing, at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting and shall subsequently be notified if the deputation shall be heard. A maximum of four deputations shall be heard at any one meeting.

7: Public Question Time

To receive any public questions.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, the period for the asking and answering of public questions shall not exceed 15 minutes.

Any questions must be submitted in writing at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

8: Half Yearly Monitoring on Treasury Management Activities 2025/2026 (Reference from Cabinet)

25 - 54

To receive the half yearly monitoring report on treasury management activities for 2025/2026.

Contact: James Anderson, Accountancy

9: Written Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons

To receive written questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

One supplementary oral question will be permitted.

10: Key Discussion - Elected Mayor (West Yorkshire Combined Authority)

The Elected Mayor (West Yorkshire Combined Authority) will be present for the Council's Key Discussion Debate, which will include an update on the Elected Mayor's current priorities.

11: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the need for SEND Profit Caps on Private Providers

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Burke and J C Lawson;

"This Council notes:

1) Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) refers to young people who require extra help and support with their learning difficulty and/or a disability that means they need special health and education support;
2) Private providers play a key role in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities sector, including early years, alternative provision and specialised independent schools and are often commissioned by councils to provide support and education for children with SEND. In Kirklees, there are 10,098 pupils aged 4 to 16 years with SEND. Of these 9,407 pupils are educated in mainstream schools and settings and 691 in special schools (2022). SEND provision is a key issue for many parents in Kirklees.
   Across England, approximately 1.7 million pupils have been identified as having special educational needs, representing around 19.6% of pupils;
3) There has been a huge surge in the need for SEND provision and, as a result, demand for school places supporting SEND

students across the UK. Many state schools are not adequately equipped to meet the increased demand or to support pupils with more complex and challenging needs. This has led to expert providers across the private and charitable school sectors stepping in;

4) According to House of Commons Library research, commissioned by the Liberal Democrat national party, the top private equity companies providing SEND schooling have seen their annual profits increase as the SEND crisis has worsened, with some making margins of over 20%. Some of the private providers of special needs education are backed by private equity companies based in tax havens or foreign sovereign wealth funds;
5) The SEND crisis has led to many councils facing exorbitant costs for private provision. This is at a time when local authority budgets are being pushed to the brink, with many facing effective bankruptcy or end service provision for vulnerable groups;
6) The Liberal Democrat national party has demanded that private providers of special education are subject to an operating profit cap of 8% in order to curb exorbitant profits. The party has called for the Government to cap the profits of these companies to ensure that money is channelled back into the SEND system and not into the pockets of shareholders.

This Council, therefore, resolves to:
Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson MP, to express concern that the profiteering from private equity firms is a major driver of the crisis in our SEND system and to cap the profits of these firms at 8%, ensuring that the priority is provision and not profits and helping to cut the excessive profiteering off the backs of disabled children. While the Government's commitment to reform the SEND system is welcome, profit-limiting controls are needed as a matter of urgency."

12: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Disabled Bus Access

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors J C Lawson and A C Pinnock;

"This Council notes:

1) The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) is a government-backed initiative that offers free local bus travel in England for people over the State Pension age and people with eligible disabilities. However, the scheme is

typically only available to individuals with disabilities outside of peak hours, from 9.30am to 11pm on weekdays, and all day on weekends and bank holidays;

2) Local areas can offer discretionary concessions beyond the rules set by the ENCTS, including extending free bus travel on weekdays before 9.30am. Locally, the ENCTS scheme is administered by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, but Kirklees and West Yorkshire currently does not offer free travel before 9.30am on weekdays for most disabled bus pass holders;

3) The Kirklees Transport Strategy (2025) commits to improving accessibility and promoting inclusive, sustainable transport options for all residents;

4) Disabled bus pass holders make up about 10% of all concessionary users in England;

5) The Bus Services Act became law in October 2025 and aims to improve the performance, accessibility and quality of bus services across the country. Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Harrogate and Knaresborough, Tom Gordon, submitted an amendment to the Bus Services (No. 2) Bill when it was debated in Parliament, and called on the Government to remove the 23:00-09:30 exception to free travel for disabled people. The amendment received support from over 75 MPs, disability charities and campaign groups, but was voted down.

This Council believes that:

1) These restrictions disproportionately affect disabled people who need to travel early for work, education, healthcare or caring responsibilities. Disabled people should have the freedom to travel at any time of day, just as non-disabled people do;
2) Time restrictions on concessionary travel create a postcode lottery and undermine efforts to promote equality, independence, and inclusion;
3) Removing these restrictions would support disabled residents in accessing employment, education, healthcare, and social opportunities.

This Council, therefore, resolves to:

1) Request that the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Transport to express disappointment at the Government’s decision to turn their backs on disabled people

as part of the Commons vote last year, as it undermines their commitment to accessibility and equality. The Government needs to rethink their decision and remove the discriminatory restrictions to help create a system that allows everyone to make the journeys they want to. Removing the time restrictions could also open up work and training opportunities for disabled people, allowing them to travel with freedom, ease and confidence.

2) Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Elected Mayor of West Yorkshire, to ask the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to extend the local ENCTS scheme to allow 24/7 free bus travel for all eligible disabled passholders across the region."

13: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Establishing a Formal Fast-Track System for Home Adaptations for Residents Living with Motor Neurone Disease

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Masood Ahmed, Darwan, Scott, Daji, H Zaman, A Zaman, Anwar, Kahut and Hussain;

"This Council notes that:

Motor neurone disease (MND) is one of the most devastating and unforgiving conditions imaginable. It advances with a cruel and relentless pace, leaving families little time to adjust to the profound changes it brings. A third of those diagnosed will die within a year; half within two. For those living with MND, every day truly matters.

In such circumstances, a safe and accessible home becomes far more than bricks and mortar: it becomes security, independence, dignity and comfort at a time when these are most fragile. Yet the swiftness with which MND progresses means that home adaptations must be provided not merely promptly, but with genuine urgency.

At present, Kirklees Council does not publish a fast-track process with defined, shortened statutory timescales for Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) applications. While it is acknowledged that urgent cases are prioritised through the Council's triage system, this informal approach, however well-intentioned, does not offer the clarity, consistency or speed required by those whose needs can change dramatically in a matter of weeks.

The Motor Neurone Disease Association, in its report A Lifeline Not a Luxury, highlights examples of best practice across the country and recommends the creation of formal fast-track pathways for people

with progressive and terminal illnesses. These systems ensure that vital adaptations are delivered swiftly, sparing families avoidable distress and preventing crises that carry greater emotional and financial costs.

This Council believes:

That every resident facing a progressive or terminal condition deserves a timely, compassionate and clearly defined route to the support they urgently require.
That early and decisive intervention preserves dignity, reduces avoidable hospital admissions, and protects individuals from becoming trapped in homes no longer suited to their rapidly changing needs.

And that Kirklees should adopt a standard worthy of its values—transparent, humane and fit for the realities of MND.

This Council therefore resolves:

To request that the matter be referred to the Council's Scrutiny process and that the relevant Scrutiny Panel be requested to review the implementation of (i) to (iv) below;

(i) To publish the Council's fast-track process for the assessment, approval and delivery of Disabled Facilities Grant home adaptations for residents living with progressive or terminal conditions, including MND.

(ii) To request that any necessary works and adaptions to support residents are carried out within a reasonable timeframe and as soon as is practically possible.

(iii) To ensure that the fast-track process is transparent and accessible to residents, families and professionals, with clear guidance published on the Council's website

(iv) To request that the Council works in close partnership with local health, social care, and care providers and patient representative organisations to ensure the Council collectively prioritises and responds to urgent health, housing and care needs arising for any residents experiencing any rapidly progressing life-limiting condition, including MND.

In adopting this motion, we affirm that in Kirklees, compassion is not optional, and timeliness is not a courtesy—it is a duty. Though we cannot halt the course of MND, we can ensure that no residents spend a single day longer than necessary waiting for the dignity, comfort and safety they so urgently need."

14: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Defending Civil Liberties - Absolute Opposition to Digital ID

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Masood Ahmed, Darwan, Scott, Daji, H Zaman, A Zaman, Anwar, and Hussain;

"This Council notes:

1) That His Majesty's Government is advancing proposals which may result in the introduction of a national digital identity system, thereby fundamentally altering the manner in which individuals interact with public services and the state.

2) That national digital identity schemes give rise to serious concerns in respect of civil liberties, including the expansion of data collection, increased monitoring, and the potential for state or corporate surveillance.

3) That there are well-documented risks relating to data security, breaches of privacy, and the prospect of "mission creep" once such systems are established.

4) That there is no clear or compelling evidence that a national digital identity system would deliver benefits that are either necessary or proportionate for local communities, whilst the risks of exclusion and discrimination—particularly affecting residents without access to digital devices, reliable connectivity, or adequate digital literacy—are substantial.

5) That previous attempts to introduce national identity cards in the United Kingdom were abandoned due to widespread concerns regarding cost, intrusiveness, and incompatibility with democratic principles.

This Council believes:

1) That the right to live freely, without undue monitoring or surveillance by the state or private corporations, is a fundamental pillar of a democratic society.

2) That national digital identity systems risk undermining public confidence, creating additional barriers for vulnerable residents, and normalising an excessive reliance on personal data.

3) That access to essential public services should not be contingent upon the possession or use of digital identification.

4) That local authorities have a duty to protect the privacy, dignity, and fundamental freedoms of the communities they serve.

This Council resolves:

1) To request that the Leader of the Council, on behalf of Council, write to the Secretary of State for the Home Department (i) expressing this Council's firm opposition to the introduction of any national digital identity scheme whether mandatory or voluntary (ii) setting out this Council's opposition to national digital identity proposals and (iii) calling for such proposals to be withdrawn.

2) To request that the Leader of the Council or the Chief Executive write to the Local Government Association (LGA), urging it to oppose the development, trial, or implementation of any national digital identity system that may erode civil liberties or exclude residents.

3) To reaffirm this Council's commitment to safeguarding residents' privacy, autonomy, and access to public services without the requirement for digital identification."

15: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Further Support for Armed Forces Veterans

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors A Smith and Burke;

"This Council notes:

1) In the 2021 Census, Kirklees was home to 8,942 people who reported that they had previously served in the regular UK Armed Forces;
2) The obligations it owes to the armed forces community within Kirklees, as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant; that the armed forces community should not face disadvantage in the provision of services;

3) That a number of military compensation schemes exist to recognise and compensate service personnel and their families, for the hardship, inconvenience or ongoing impact conditions, such as PTSD, limb or hearing loss;

4) Whilst some benefits, such as Universal Credit, rightly disregard military compensation as income, others administered by or subject to the discretion of local authorities do not always do so. This means that some veterans must give up part of their compensation in order to access essential support. A 2022 Freedom of Information request by the Royal British Legion showed that nationally, only one in five (19%) of local authorities rightly disregarded all military compensation when assessing local benefit claims for Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, Discretionary Housing Payments and Disabled Facilities Grants. In Kirklees, Discretionary Housing Payments are currently not disregarded; The Kirklees Armed Forces Covenant focuses on general support, housing, healthcare and integration, rather than explicitly referencing military compensation or its treatment in welfare means tests;
5) There are over 1 million veterans nationally over the State Pension age with 146,000 estimated to be eligible for Pension Credit. However, current rules may deny them support if their military compensation is counted as income;
6) Under the Armed Forces Covenant principles and statutory duty (Armed Forces Act 2021), councils must have due regard to these principles in housing, healthcare and education decisions. However, welfare benefit means tests are not covered by the legal duty and currently remain discretionary;
7) The Royal British Legion ‘Credit their Service’ campaign exists to address the issue in the previous point, demanding an end to the treatment of military compensation as income by welfare benefit means test, as it results in many veterans and their families missing out on thousands of pounds each year. The Royal British Legion argue that it breaches the Armed Forces Covenant principle that veterans should face no disadvantage compared to civilians;

This Council believes that:

1) No member of the armed forces community should be forced to give up their military compensation to access the same welfare support as their civilian counterparts;

2) All compensation paid under any of the relevant military compensation schemes should be treated as such and not regarded as income when the local authority assesses applications for benefits over which they exercise discretion: Council Tax Support scheme, Housing Benefit, Discretionary Housing Payments and Disabled Facilities Grants. Rather it should be treated as intended, as a compensatory payment made in recognition of the often significant and life-changing service or sacrifice an individual has made in the course of

their service in our nation's Armed Forces.

This Council, therefore, resolves to:

1) Support the Royal British Legion's call for all forms of military compensation to be disregarded as income in the assessment and administration of locally administered benefits over which the Council exercises discretion;

2) Write to the Minister for Veterans urging a change in national regulations so that military compensation is universally not treated as income in benefit assessments. This should be Government mandated and a requirement of the Armed Forces Covenant. Furthermore, Government should provide financial support to councils to deliver on the regulatory changes."

16: Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Supporting Local Pubs through VAT Reduction

To consider the following Motion in the names of Councillors Munro and J C Lawson:

"This Council notes:

1) Pubs are a vital part of our communities, providing social spaces, supporting local jobs and contributing to the local economy;
2) Rising costs, including energy bills, supply chain pressures and tax, have placed many pubs under severe financial strain. In addition to rising operational costs and challenges, pubs are also contending with changing social habits. Many pub owners and campaign groups have also been vocal about the scaling back of the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure (RHL) relief and the business rates rises announced in the Autumn Budget last year and warned about huge rate hikes and pub closures;
3) The number of pubs closing their doors permanently has hit more than one a day for the first time according to government statistics, continuing and accelerating a long-term downward trend;
4) Local pubs across Kirklees and across the country face closure without urgent and significant government intervention.

This Council believes:

1) That a cut in VAT (Value Added Tax) for hospitality

businesses would provide immediate relief for pubs;

2) That additional targeted support, such as energy cost assistance, is essential to ensure that pubs can survive.

This Council resolves:

1) To call on the Government to implement an emergency 5% VAT cut for hospitality businesses, which includes pubs, to ease financial pressures and help stimulate growth;

2) To urge the Government to provide additional targeted support for pubs, including additional measures to address rising energy costs. The Government has recently hinted that they will make changes to how pubs' business rates is calculated, which may result in smaller rises to bills. While this is welcome, the Government must intervene and announce additional support to permanently lower bills and end uncertainty;

3) To request the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, setting out Kirklees Council's support for these measures;

4) To work with local pub owners, community groups and trade bodies, to highlight the importance of pubs to Kirklees and our communities and to promote initiatives that sustain their future."

By Order of the Council

Steve Mawson
Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 10 December 2025

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Elizabeth Smaje) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Beverley Addy
Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor Zarina Amin
Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Tanisha Bramwell
Councillor Aafaq Butt
Councillor Moses Crook
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor David Hall
Councillor Caroline Holt
Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton
Councillor Gwen Lowe
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Imran Safdar
Councillor Angela Sewell
Councillor Anthony Smith
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Mark Thompson
Councillor Sheikh Ullah
Councillor Adam Zaman
Councillor Munir Ahmed
Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor Ammar Anwar
Councillor Ali Arshad
Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Hanifa Darwan
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Tyler Hawkins
Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Zahid Kahut
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor John Lawson
Councillor David Longstaff
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Paul Moore
Councillor Darren O'Donovan
Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Jane Rylah
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Joshua Sheard
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Graham Turner
Councillor Alex Vickers
Councillor Habiban Zaman

106 Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

The Mayor advised that the signatories to the Motions as set out at Agenda Items 14, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24 and 25 had given notice to withdraw the Motions from the order of business in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14(8).

107 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Ahmed, Bamford, Brook, Dad, Daji, Holmes, Lee-Richards, McCarthy, McGrath, H McKerchar, K Pinnock, A Robinson and Simpson.

108 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 November 2025 be approved as a correct record.

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109 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

110 Petitions (From Members of the Council)

No petitions were received.

111 Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)

No deputations or petitions were received.

112 Public Question Time

Council received the following written questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11;

Question from Tracy Weaver

"Are risk assessments submitted by developers independently verified by the council or an external body, or is the council's role to accept the consultant's conclusions at face value?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Tracy Weaver

"Can the Council list the non-delegable duties of the Environmental Health Department regarding brownfield sites and protection of existing residents?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment (Councillor A U Pinnock).

Question from Sharon Taylor

"Does the Council operate any form of approved, preferred, or recommended environmental consultant list for contaminated land assessments, or provide informal signposting to consultants familiar with Kirklees requirements?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment (Councillor A U Pinnock).

Question from Sharon Taylor

"Has the Council ever rejected a contamination report for failing to assess existing residential receptors?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment (Councillor A U Pinnock).

Question from Owyn Ibberson

"What measures are in place to guarantee that residents receive clear, transparent explanations of how their environmental or construction-related concerns have been assessed, including what evidence was reviewed and how conclusions were reached?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment (Councillor A U Pinnock).

Question from Owyn Ibberson

"After having asked a supplementary question in the council, what is the expected timeframe of a written follow-up response, or the fowarding of additional information, if an answer is not given in the council chamber?"

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison).

113 West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 16 October 2025 were received and noted.

Comments and questions arising from the Minutes were responded to by the Leader of the Council.

114 Written Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons

Council received the following written questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12;

Question from Councillor Safdar

"During recent community cleanups a number of volunteers, including Cllr Vickers and I, have noticed quite a few nitrous oxide canisters dumped in residential areas. Many across our town are also concerned about an increasingly high number of road traffic accidents and antisocial behaviour linked to such drug abuse. According to the National Poisons Information Service (NPIS), enquiries about recreational nitrous oxide misuse grew by 144% in 2022–23, with most users being very young (average age ~ 21.8 years) with figures rising ever since.

We are aware that West Yorkshire Police and local health partners have started to address the rising misuse of nitrous oxide canisters across our communities,

particularly the increasing concerns about drivers using nitrous oxide while behind the wheel. What additional enforcement, public-health education, and prevention measures are being considered to protect residents in affected neighbourhoods, reduce antisocial behaviour linked to canister littering, and ensure that West Yorkshire's roads remain safe for all?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment (Councillor A U Pinnock).

Question from Councillor J D Lawson

"In April 2025 I was approached by a CIC who wanted to set up a Community Hub on the Walpole Estate and were looking at the possibility of using the now closed former Family Centre as a base. The CIC came with funding and saw, like myself, the need for activities for young people and eventually other community based activity run out of the former Family Centre. Ideas that are achievable and could rebuild a sense of community on Walpole. Walpole at present has nothing bar a corner shop and an infrequent bus service leading to residents feeling it has been neglected and forgotten about by Kirklees.
After contact with a number of different service directors and officers over many months Cllr Alex Vickers, the CIC lead and myself finally got to see inside the building to see if it would be suitable for use in August. After this visit we were informed that discussions were taking place about the long term future of the Centre.

Could the Cabinet Member please update me on the further discussions taking place and outcomes?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport (Councillor Crook).

Question from Councillor Taylor

"Recently, the Department for Education announced their new initiative: Go All In, featuring 2026 as the national year of reading and restoring reading for pleasure across the nation.

I've been asked by the Student Head Librarian at one of the schools in my ward, what the Council are doing in 2026 for the Year of Reading, but also what else the Council thinks school libraries should be doing for the Year of Reading to increase reading for pleasure?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Education (Councillor Rylah).

Question from Councillor Taylor

"There are examples of submitted planning applications where third parties such as Yorkshire Water have clearly stated that they do not have the resources to support the increased infrastructure demands such an application would create. What is the

process for the planning department to liaise with such third parties when considering the application for approval?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor J D Lawson

“When will the land vested with housing on Springdale Avenue be cleared of the fly tip?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport (Councillor Crook)

Question from Councillor Taylor

"Following the Chancellor's budget announcements concerns have been raised across the business community and especially in the hospitality sector about the viability of many businesses hit with significant increase in business rates, coupled with the rise in employer NICs and above inflation increases to the minimum wage.

Given this and the worsening economic outlook, what action is being taken to review the viability of the Cultural Heart and George Hotel business cases to make sure that these will not become a drain on Council finances"

A response as provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor R Smith

“We’re starting to see abandoned housing developments due to the developer going bankrupt. What fiscal checks do the planning department carry out on developers who submit planning applications to minimise the risk of this happening?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor Sheard

“The Council has announced further job cuts, yet I have identified significant savings — of at least a million pounds — that could be made by merging or removing senior management posts where responsibilities clearly overlap.

Frontline services have already absorbed years of reductions, including the grass-cutting team, which has been stripped from over 250 staff in 2016 to roughly around 40 today.

Given this, will Cabinet explain why a review of senior management posts has not been prioritised *before* proposing yet more cuts to frontline staff who have already borne the brunt of previous savings?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison).

Question from Councillor Masood Ahmed

"Can the Leader confirm whether she has made any request to the Chief Executive or Mayor under the Flag Flying Policy to support the raising of the Palestinian flag, and if not, will she explain why the full extent of her authority under that policy has not been used?"

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison).

Question from Councillor Scott

"The Culture and Change portfolio emphasises the importance of strong leadership, openness, and respectful engagement across the organisation. In light of this, can the Portfolio Holder explain how current approaches to member engagement align with these principles, particularly given ongoing concerns about delayed responses to councillor enquiries and the perception that issues are only addressed when raised publicly?"

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison).

Question from Councillor Scott

"As Leader responsible for Culture and Change, can you explain why key information including delays, officer decisions, and Forward Plan movements continues to be withheld from councillors until the last minute, or not provided at all?"

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pattison).

Question from Councillor H Zaman

"Under the Housing Act 1996 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, the Council has statutory duties towards people leaving custody or with previous convictions. However, your previous response to Council did not set out the specific operational guidance used by officers.

Could the Cabinet Member clarify which assessment criteria, internal decision-making guidance, and risk-management frameworks Kirklees Council currently uses to determine eligibility, priority need, and prevention duties for individuals leaving prison?"

A response was provided by to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport (Councillor Crook).

Question from Councillor H Zaman

"Can the Cabinet Member explain how this administration justifies placing disabled residents in temporary accommodation that is clearly unsuitable for wheelchair

users, despite the Council's legal duties under the Housing Act, Equality Act and Care Act and whether this reflects a wider breakdown in how vulnerable people are being treated under the current homelessness system?"

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport (Councillor Crook).

115 Minutes of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee - Local Issues

Council received the Minutes of (i) Cabinet held on 21 October 2025 and (ii) Cabinet Committee – Local Issues held on 10 September 2025.

116 Holding the Executive to Account

(It was proposed by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Marchington that the time allocations as set out in Council Procedure Rule 13(2)(ii) not be applied, and that each portfolio update be restricted to a maximum of five minutes to enable more time to be allocated to questions to portfolio holders. The proposal, upon being put to the vote was carried).

Council received a portfolio updates from the Cabinet Members for (i) Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner) (ii) Communities and Environment (Councillor A U Pinnock) and (ii) Highways and Waste (Councillor Hawkins) prior to oral questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.

117 Minutes of Other Committees

Council received the Minutes of (i) Corporate Governance and Audit Committee held on 26 September 2025 (ii) District Wide Planning Committee held on 4 September and 9 October 2025 (iii) Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 25 July and 12 September 2025 (iii) Personnel Committee held on 22 July 2025 and (iv) Strategic Planning Committee held on 31 July 2025.

118 Oral Questions to Committee/Sub Committee/Panel Chairs and Nominated Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies

Council received oral questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13(4).

119 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Ethical Procurement and Investment Policy

Item withdrawn.

120 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Firework Use, Enforcement and Community Safety

Item withdrawn.

121 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Raising the Flag of Palestine on Town Halls Across Kirklees

Item withdrawn.

122 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Opposition to Disability Benefit Reforms

Item withdrawn.

123 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Abolition of the Council Committee System

It was moved by Councillor J C Lawson and seconded by Councillor Cooper that

"This Council notes:

1) The statement by the former Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, Jim McMahon MP, on the 24th June 2025 which outlined the Government's plan to introduce legislation which will 'simplify governance arrangements' for local authorities in England and abolish the committee system, requiring all councils to adopt the leader and cabinet system;

2) Councils in the UK typically operate under one of three governance structures: leader and cabinet, committee or mayoral systems;

3) Most councils currently operate under a leader and cabinet model. The committee system was the way that councils were governed up until 2000. The Local Government Act 2000 changed the models of governance, introducing the leader and executive (cabinet) and elected mayor and executive models. The Local Government Act 2000 also resulted in the abolition of the committee system in England everywhere (except shire authorities with a population under 85,000). However, as part of the Localism Act 2011, the committee system was re-introduced as an option for all local authorities to adopt;

4) Typically, under the leader and cabinet model, the full council elects a leader, who then appoints a cabinet (executive), with cabinet members responsible for specific areas of service and the cabinet being the primary decision-making body. Under the committee system model, power is exercised, alongside full council, by a number of politically balanced committees, each with a specific area of responsibility. Under the executive mayor and cabinet model, a directly-elected mayor leads the executive and is accountable to the electorate;

5) Currently, councils in England can change their governance arrangements and local residents can have a say on the governance model adopted by their local authority via a referendum;

6) As part of the Government's plans, councils currently using the committee model, including councils which have recently transitioned to the committee model following a referendum, will be required to transition to the leader and cabinet model;

7) The Government has argued that the changes are needed in order to improve clarity and accountability in decision-making, enhance efficiency by streamlining governance structures and preventing unnecessary expenditure

on governance transitions.

This Council believes that:

1) Councils across the country use various governance systems, with some favouring the committee system and others preferring executive systems. Councils should have the choice to choose which model of governance best suits the needs of its residents. The details of councils' internal arrangement should be a matter for local discretion. Although Kirklees Council currently operates a leader and cabinet model, it should be given the opportunity to transition to the committee system if Kirklees residents support this. Local people should be given the power to make the best choice for themselves;

2) The Government's plans are at odds with the devolved powers that the Labour party advocates. It should not be a one-size fits all approach. Fundamentally, the Government's plans to change the way that councils operate is top-down and heavy handed, ignores local choice and undermines local democracy. It is centralisation by stealth;

3) The committee system offers a number of benefits and abolishing it is a huge opportunity lost. As part of a committee system, councils are not run by a small group of councillors; instead, the committee system supports cross-party collaboration, and councils are often run in a more inclusive manner. Council committee systems can also increase accountability, reduce top-down decision making, provide a platform for diverse perspectives and provide greater opportunities for participation;

This Council, therefore, resolves to:
Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness, Alison McGovern MP, to express concern about the Government's plans to standardise local government structures and express concern that local authorities have not been consulted. The Government should abandon its plans for reform, since the measures will undermine local empowerment and local decision-making."

The Motion, upon being out to the vote, was not carried.

RESOLVED – That the Motion not be carried.

124 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Protecting the Green Boundaries Between Kirklees Towns and Villages
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

125 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Review of the Communal Grounds Maintenance Charge
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

126 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Further Support for Armed Forces Veterans**
Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

127 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the Growing Epidemic of Violence towards Women and Girls**
Item withdrawn.

128 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the Need for SEND Profit Caps on Private Providers**
Item withdrawn.

129 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Labour's Welfare Cuts**
Item withdrawn.

130 **Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Disabled Bus Access**
Item withdrawn.

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 17 December 2025

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Elizabeth Smaje) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Beverley Addy
Councillor Munir Ahmed
Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor Ammar Anwar
Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Tanisha Bramwell
Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Aziz Daji
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor Tyler Hawkins
Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Jo Lawson
Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin
Councillor Darren O'Donovan
Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Jane Rylah
Councillor Imran Safdar
Councillor Joshua Sheard
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Mark Thompson
Councillor Alex Vickers
Councillor Masood Ahmed
Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor Zarina Amin
Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Aafaq Butt
Councillor Moses Crook
Councillor Hanifa Darwan
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Caroline Holt
Councillor Zahid Kahut
Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor David Longstaff
Councillor Tony McGrath
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Ashleigh Robinson
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Angela Sewell
Councillor Anthony Smith
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Graham Turner
Councillor Habiban Zaman

1 Announcement by the Mayor and Chief Executive

On behalf of Council, the Mayor conveyed thoughts and prayers to those that had been affected by the atrocities that had taken place in Sydney on 14 December 2025.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Arshad, Brook, Dad, Greaves, Hall, Holmes, Homewood, Khan, Lowe, McCarthy, McKerchar, Pattison, K Pinnock, Simpson, Taylor, Ullah and A Zaman.

3 Declaration of Interests

Councillors Sheard, and Bellamy declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Item 7 on the grounds that they have family members who are in receipt of PIP.

Councillors Kendrick, Sokhal, Firth, Bolt, Turner, Armer and Sewell declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Item 12 on the grounds that they are in receipt of a concessionary travel pass.

4 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Ethical Procurement and Investment Policy

It was moved by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Darwan that;

"This Council notes:

1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee considered updates to the Council's Procurement Strategy, including elements relating to ethical procurement, on 14 November 2025 (Agenda Item 9), and that these proposals are now scheduled for consideration by Cabinet in December 2025.

2) That the UK Government and the United Nations have both recognised that human rights due diligence is a core component of responsible business conduct and public sector accountability.

3) That the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) provide internationally recognised frameworks for governments for ethical sourcing, investment, and supply-chain due diligence.

4) That Section 26 and 27 of the Procurement Act 2023 sets out discretionary exclusion grounds.

5) That several UK local authorities, including Oxford City Council, North Somerset Council and others have strengthened their investment frameworks to ensure that public funds are not used to support companies implicated in serious human rights violations or breaches of international law.

This Council believes:

1) That Kirklees Council has a responsibility to ensure that all procurement, commissioning, and investment decisions reflect its stated values on equality, justice and human rights.

2) That taxpayers' money must not support organisations or companies that are complicit in, or benefit from, breaches of international humanitarian law or international human rights standards, including (but not limited to) violations occurring in occupied territories, apartheid systems, forced labour contexts, or other internationally recognised abuses.

3) That ethical procurement and ethical investment are not only moral imperatives but also form part of robust risk management, reducing exposure to reputational harm, financial instability, and supply-chain vulnerabilities.

4) That while Scrutiny has reviewed proposals related to ethical procurement, these do not yet fully align with (i) the UNGPs (ii) the UN PRI (iii) the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023 (iv) modern social value standards (v) net-zero and environmental duties or (vi) contemporary expectations around transparency, due diligence, and supply-chain accountability.

This Council therefore resolves to:

a. Request that Cabinet review and strengthen the Council's Investment and Procurement Strategies so that they (i) remain fully compliant with the Procurement Act 2023, including the statutory objectives on integrity, transparency, maximising public benefit, and removing barriers for SMEs and VCSEs and (ii) integrate modern requirements on social value, net-zero commitments, climate impact, and supply-chain transparency.

b. Request that Cabinet bring forward a fully updated and comprehensive Ethical Procurement and Investment Policy for adoption, to include clear governance arrangements for (i) implementation (ii) monitoring (iii) reporting (iv) supplier conduct checks (v) ethical investment screening and (vi) risk management and escalation processes.

c. Mandate that all Council contracts, commissioned services and financial investments be reviewed against the updated Ethical Procurement and Investment Policy, with a full progress report brought to Cabinet within six months of its adoption.

d. Reaffirm this Council's commitment to transparency, ethical stewardship and responsible use of public resources, ensuring that public money is managed in a way that strengthens human rights, promotes social and economic justice, and upholds the values of this Council and the communities it serves."

RESOLVED – That the Motion be approved.

5 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Firework Use, Enforcement and Community Safety

It was moved by Councillor Anwar and seconded by Councillor Scott that;

"Council notes that:

1) Fireworks are an important part of many celebrations and can be enjoyed safely when used responsibly.
2) However, councillors across Kirklees continue to receive reports of fireworks being used irresponsibly — late at night, in residential streets, and outside

recognised celebration periods — causing significant distress to residents, pets, wildlife and people with sensory or health conditions.

3) The sale and use of fireworks for private use remains permitted nationally, though many safety and animal-welfare organisations, including the RSPCA, RoSPA and the National Fire Chiefs Council, have called for tighter controls.
4) Kirklees Council already has Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in place to restrict fireworks in certain public areas, but local powers over retail sales are limited without national legislation.

Council therefore believes that:

1) Fireworks should primarily be used at organised, licensed public displays and community events.
2) Restricting general retail sales for private use would help reduce nuisance, distress and risk, while allowing communities to continue celebrating safely.
3) Stronger local enforcement, clearer public information and national legislative reform are all necessary to improve public safety and wellbeing.

Council resolves to:

1) Write to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade and the Secretary of State for the Home Department to request consideration of tighter national controls limiting the retail sale of fireworks to licensed organisers of approved public events.
2) Ask the Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety to review local licensing and trading-standards arrangements to ensure all available powers are being used to regulate sales and prevent nuisance.
3) Work with West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service, and local animal-welfare organisations to promote a public awareness campaign each autumn on the safe and considerate use of fireworks.
4) Encourage town and parish councils and community groups to host and promote organised displays as safer, inclusive alternatives to private use.
5) Request that the relevant Scrutiny Panel consider the inclusion of a review on the local impact of fireworks misuse within its workplan, and report back to Council with recommendations within six months."

Whereupon it was moved by Councillor R Smith and seconded by Councillor Bamford, by way of AMENDMENT, that;

After "This Council therefore believes that…", delete paragraphs 1 and 2.

After "Council resolves to...", delete paragraphs 1 and 5 and add new paragraph: "Write to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade to request that duty be levied on fireworks with greater gunpowder content, with the aim of limiting noise nuisance at un-organized displays."

The AMENDMENT, upon being put to the vote, was NOT CARRIED.

The SUBSTANTIVE MOTION, upon being put to the vote was CARRIED and it was therefore;

RESOLVED -

That Council notes that:

1) Fireworks are an important part of many celebrations and can be enjoyed safely when used responsibly.
2) However, councillors across Kirklees continue to receive reports of fireworks being used irresponsibly — late at night, in residential streets, and outside recognised celebration periods — causing significant distress to residents, pets, wildlife and people with sensory or health conditions.
3) The sale and use of fireworks for private use remains permitted nationally, though many safety and animal-welfare organisations, including the RSPCA, RoSPA and the National Fire Chiefs Council, have called for tighter controls.
4) Kirklees Council already has Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in place to restrict fireworks in certain public areas, but local powers over retail sales are limited without national legislation.

Council therefore believes that:

1) Fireworks should primarily be used at organised, licensed public displays and community events.
2) Restricting general retail sales for private use would help reduce nuisance, distress and risk, while allowing communities to continue celebrating safely.
3) Stronger local enforcement, clearer public information and national legislative reform are all necessary to improve public safety and wellbeing.

Council resolves to:

1) Write to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade and the Secretary of State for the Home Department to request consideration of tighter national controls limiting the retail sale of fireworks to licensed organisers of approved public events.
2) Ask the Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety to review local licensing and trading-standards arrangements to ensure all available powers are being used to regulate sales and prevent nuisance.
3) Work with West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service, and local animal-welfare organisations to promote a public awareness campaign each autumn on the safe and considerate use of fireworks.
4) Encourage town and parish councils and community groups to host and promote organised displays as safer, inclusive alternatives to private use.
5) Request that the relevant Scrutiny Panel consider the inclusion of a review on the local impact of fireworks misuse within its workplan, and report back to Council with recommendations within six months.

6 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Raising the Flag of Palestine on Town Halls Across Kirklees

It was moved by Councillor Anwar and seconded by Councillor Bramwell that;

“Council notes that:

1) On 29 November 2012, the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to grant Palestine non-member observer State status, effectively recognising it as a state within the international community.

2) 29 November is also observed annually as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, established by the UN in 1977.

3) The people of Kirklees have a proud record of standing up for peace, justice, and human rights around the world. Our communities are deeply diverse, with many residents who have direct family and cultural ties to Palestine and the wider Middle East.

4) Displaying flags in recognition of international days and events has been a longstanding way for Kirklees Council to express solidarity with oppressed peoples and affirm our commitment to universal human rights.

Council believes that:

1) Raising the flag of Palestine is a peaceful and symbolic gesture of solidarity with those striving for freedom, equality, and self-determination.

2) Such an act reflects our borough's values of inclusivity, justice, and international cooperation, and aligns with the UK's own stated support for a two-state solution based on international law.

3) Public recognition on this day will send a clear message that Kirklees stands for peace and supports a future where Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side in safety and dignity.

Council therefore resolves to:

1) That in line with the Council's Flag Flying Policy, the Leader, Chief Executive and Mayor be requested to support the Raising of the flag of Palestine on all Kirklees Council town halls and civic buildings on 29 November each year, in line with the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

2) Issue a public statement reaffirming Kirklees Council's commitment to peace, justice, and the right of all peoples to self-determination under international law.

3) Encourage community engagement and education around international solidarity and human rights, including opportunities for residents to learn about the significance of this day."

Whereupon it was moved by Councillor Bolt, and seconded by Councillor Thompson by way of AMENDMENT, that;

"All text after "Council notes that" be deleted and replaced with:

"… the long-standing Kirklees policy on flying flags over the town halls, viz. *Ad-hoc requests to fly flags will be determined by the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council and the Mayor (or their nominees).*

Council believes that this is a fair policy which works well.

Council therefore resolves to continue to support this policy."

The AMENDMENT, on being put to the vote was CARRIED.

The Motion, AS AMENDED, was therefore put to the vote and it was;

RESOLVED –

That this Council notes the long-standing Kirklees policy on flying flags over the town halls, viz. Ad-hoc requests to fly flags will be determined by the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council and the Mayor (or their nominees).

Council believes that this is a fair policy which works well.

Council therefore resolves to continue to support this policy.

7 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Opposition to Disability Benefit Reforms

It was moved by Councillor H Zaman and seconded by Councillor Scott that;

"This Council notes with serious concern:

That the Government has passed the Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill, implementing parts of the earlier Pathways to Work Green Paper published in March 2025.

That the original Green Paper proposed wide-ranging reforms to PIP and long-term sickness benefits, including (i) stricter eligibility thresholds (such as the "4 points in one activity" test) (ii) reductions in support for people with mental health conditions and (iii) a shift toward linking disability benefits more closely with work and health treatment.

That while some of these proposals were dropped following public and parliamentary opposition (notably the new PIP scoring rule), others remain in force or are being implemented in stages, particularly those related to Universal Credit, the Work Capability Assessment, and health-related conditionality.

That the Government has confirmed existing PIP claimants will not be immediately affected, but that new claimants from late 2026 onwards may face stricter rules depending on further guidance and secondary legislation.

That changes to Universal Credit include plans to remove or reduce the "limited capability for work-related activity" element for new claimants, especially under-22s, potentially leaving thousands of vulnerable people with significantly less support.

This Council further notes:

That campaigners and expert organisations including Citizens Advice, Health Equity North, and the Resolution Foundation have warned of substantial financial losses and increased hardship under the reforms.

That research by Health Equity North estimates Huddersfield constituency alone could lose £17 million annually under the original package of proposals, with lasting consequences for residents, the local economy, and essential services.

That many of the worst-affected areas are in the North, with longstanding structural inequalities, poorer health outcomes, and stretched public services, including Kirklees.

That local councils like Kirklees are likely to face additional pressures on:
Adult social care, Housing and homelessness services, Welfare support, advice, and crisis payments, Mental health and public health provision, without any clear guarantees of increased funding or capacity.

This Council believes:

That the reforms represent a regressive shift in disability and sickness support, undermining the rights, dignity and independence of people with long-term conditions.

That there is insufficient evidence that the reforms will lead to improved outcomes for disabled people, and growing concern they may increase poverty, reduce access to support, and worsen health inequalities.

That Kirklees has a duty to speak out against national policies that will directly harm its most vulnerable residents and shift costs onto already overstretched local services.

This Council therefore resolves to:

(1) Formally oppose the changes to Universal Credit and disability benefits as enacted under the Universal Credit and PIP Bill, and any future secondary legislation that restricts access to PIP, particularly for people with mental health conditions or fluctuating needs.
(2) Write to the Prime Minister, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and Chancellor of the Exchequer to (i) express the Council's objection to the enacted reforms (ii) call for a halt to any further erosion of disability-related entitlements and (iii) request a cross-party review of the long-term adequacy of disability and sickness benefits.
(3) Write to all Kirklees MPs urging them to (i) oppose any additional regressive measures in forthcoming legislation (ii) speak up for disabled and chronically ill constituents and (iii) support amendments or repeal of the most damaging elements of the reforms.
(4) Publish a public statement outlining the Council's position, and commit to working with local charities, advocacy groups, carers, and disabled residents to monitor and raise awareness of the changes.
(5) Request that the Overview and Scrutiny function undertakes a full impact review of the reforms on (i) local service demand (ii) financial risk to the Council and (iii) lived experience of Kirklees residents, particularly in relation to care, health, and income security.
(6) Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions seeking formal assurances that (i) existing PIP claimants will not be reassessed under any new rules without full consultation and safeguarding (ii) all further benefit changes will be subject to published Equality Impact Assessments and (iii) that local authorities will receive

sufficient funding to manage additional demand and hardship resulting from national reforms."

The Motion, upon being put to the vote, was NOT CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That the Motion not be approved.

8 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Abolition of the Council Committee System

Motion withdrawn from business (heard at the meeting of Ordinary Council on 10 December 2025).

9 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the Growing Epidemic of Violence towards Women and Girls

It was moved by Councillor Davies and seconded by Councillor J C Lawson that;

"This Council notes:

1) Violence against women and girls (VAWG) includes female homicide, rape, sexual assault, domestic abuse, stalking, harassment and controlling and coercive behaviour. Some of these are complex crimes which have a devasting and often life-changing impact on victims, their families and friends;
2) Between 2018/19 to 2022/23, police records of VAWG in England and Wales rose by 37%. In West Yorkshire, domestic abuse related crimes make up 21% of all recorded crimes in region. However, this is the tip of the iceberg, as often abuse is never reported;
3) It has been reported recently that approximately 2 million women a year in England and Wales are victims of male violence. It's also estimated that at least 1 in 12 women are victims of violence perpetrated by men, which includes harassment, sexual assault and domestic violence;
4) According to the Home Office, the national average cost to the UK of violence against women and girls is estimated to be in the region of £37 billion annually (including cost of health, legal and social services). In Kirklees, the Kirklees Joint Strategic Assessment (KJSA) has indicated that the estimated cost of domestic violence/abuse to agencies locally is in the region of £43 million each year;
5) While victims of domestic abuse are not confined to a particular gender, the evidence shows that the majority of victims are women. Between November 2022 and November 2023, there were 59,681 total reported cases of domestic abuse across West Yorkshire, with 43,691 (73%) of the victims being female.

This Council believes that:

1) Violence against women and girls is a significant issue on a local, regional and national level. It is a national emergency, and the scale of violence is akin to a public health crisis;

2) There is a lot of good work being done at a local and regional level to tackle the issue of violence against women and girls and this Council commends the work already being done. For instance, Kirklees Council is a supporter of the White Ribbon campaign, which encourages men to challenge misogynistic behaviour. The Council also has a strategic focus on tackling VAWG through its *Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan* and focus on multi-agency collaboration and public safety initiatives. At a regional level, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority is also taking a strategic approach through its *Safety of Women and Girls Strategy*, which includes a commitment to embed healthy relationships education in schools and communities, behavioural change through intervention programmes, improving safety in public spaces and strengthening services for victims and survivors;
3) While Kirklees Council is actively working to tackle VAWG, there is room to do more, especially in terms of leadership, visibility and long-term investment. The Council should publicly appoint an elected member VAWG Champion – to provide visible leadership, ensure accountability and champion the voices of survivors in policy-making. The Council should also improve public engagement, as there is limited public-facing communication about VAWG initiatives. Furthermore, public reporting on outcomes and progress is limited, while the Council should also take a whole council approach, embedding VAWG awareness and prevention across all council services (including housing, education and licensing).

This Council, therefore, resolves:

1) To conduct a review into Kirklees Council's procurement practices for commissioning VAWG services to ensure they align with statutory guidance and meet the needs of all survivors, including the most marginalised survivors;
2) To appoint a Kirklees councillor as a VAWG Champion, to hold the council to account on these pledges and amplify the voice of survivors. The VAWG Champion will be a designated individual within the council who will be responsible for leading efforts to address and reduce violence against women and girls, including advocating for survivors, implementing strategies to prevent VAWG and ensuring that appropriate support services are available;
3) To improve public engagement and transparency by publishing regular updates on VAWG-related initiatives, outcomes and community impact;
4) For the Leader of the Council to write to the Home Secretary demanding an urgent Royal Commission into male violence against women. A Royal Commission is the highest form of public inquiry in the UK, and it would be set up to gather evidence and make binding recommendations. The Royal Commission could examine the root causes of male violence, investigate the failures of the criminal justice system, recommend long-term cross-government reforms (e.g. to education, health, policing and social care) and help to drive systemic change by focusing on the voices of survivors and marginalised communities."

RESOLVED – That the Motion be approved.

10 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to the Need for SEND Profit Caps on Private Providers

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

11 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Labour's Welfare Cuts

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

12 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Disabled Bus Access

Item not considered (Meeting terminated in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16:2).

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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Council

Name of Councillor

Item in which you have an interest	**Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")**	**Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]**	**Brief description of your interest**

Signed: ……. **Dated:** …….

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
(a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
(b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Kirklees COUNCIL

Half Yearly Monitoring report on Treasury Management activities 2025/26 (Reference from Cabinet)

Meeting:	**Council**
Date:	**21 January 2026**
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	**Councillor Graham Turner**
Key Decision **Eligible for Call In**	**No** **No**
Purpose of Report The Council has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management. It is a requirement of the Code that regular reports be submitted to Members detailing treasury management operational activity. This report is the mid-year for 2025/26 covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2025.	
Recommendations To note the treasury management performance during the first half of 2025/26 as set out in this report. (This report has been presented to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee on 28 November 2025 and Cabinet on 13 January 2026). **Reasons for Recommendations** It is a requirement of the Code that regular reports be submitted to Members detailing treasury management operational activity.	
Resource Implications: There are no additional resource implications required as part of this report.	
Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name **Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?** **Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?**	**N/A** **Kevin Mulvaney – 12/11/2025** **Sam Lawton –12/11/2025**

Electoral wards affected: N/A

Ward Councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Have you considered GDPR: Yes – there is no personal data within the budget details and calculations set out in this report and accompanying Appendices

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1. Summary

1.1 The report gives assurance that the Council's treasury management function is being managed prudently and pro-actively and that the Council complied with its treasury management prudential indicators in the year (Appendix 4).

1.2 External investments, including the £10.0 million Local Authority Property Fund (LAPF), averaged £98.8 million during the period at an average rate of 4.21%. Investments ranged from a peak of £139.2m million in July 2025 to a low of £58.0 million in April 2025.

1.3 The large range in investment balances are as a result of receiving significant cash sums at the start of the month, for example DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant) monies and Council Tax/NNDR, which result in peaks of cash for a short period of time.

1.4 The Council's net borrowing increased by £10.2 million in the 6 month period, from £715.4 million at 31 March 2025 to £725.6 million at 30 September 2025.

1.5 All treasury management activities undertaken during the period complied fully with the principles in the Treasury Management Code and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy. Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in Appendix 1.

1.6 The treasury management revenue budget for 2025/26 is £36.1 million. This is covered in more detail at paragraph 2.5.1 later in this report.

1.7 This report includes the requirement in the 2021 Code of quarterly reporting of the treasury management prudential indicators. The non-treasury prudential indicators are incorporated in the Council's normal quarterly revenue reports along with the treasury management indicators.

2 Information required to take a decision:

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The treasury management strategy for 2025/26 was approved by Council on 5 March 2025. The over-riding policy continues to be one of ensuring the security of the Council's balances. The Council aims to invest externally balances of around £30.0 million, largely for the purpose of managing day-to-day cash flow requirements

2.1.2 The investment strategy is designed to minimise risk, with investments being made primarily in instant access accounts or short-term deposits, with Money Market Funds, the Debt Management Office (DMO), Local Authorities and major British owned banks and building societies. Diversification amongst counterparties is key.

2.2 The Economy and Interest Rates

2.2.1 UK headline annual consumer price inflation (CPI) increased over the period, rising from 2.6% in March to 3.8% in September, still well above the Bank of England's 2% target. Core inflation also rose, from 3.4% to 3.5% over the same period while services inflation remained flat at 4.7%.

2.2.2 The UK economy expanded by 0.7% in the first quarter of the calendar year and by 0.3% in the second quarter. In the final version of the Q2 2025 GDP report, annual growth was revised upwards to 1.2% y/y. However, monthly figures showed zero growth in July, in line with expectations, indicating a sluggish start to Q3 (July to Sept).

2.2.3 Labour market data continued to soften throughout the period, with the unemployment rate rising and earnings growth easing, but probably not to an extent that would make the more hawkish MPC members comfortable with further rate cuts.

2.2.4 The BoE's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) cut Bank Rate from 4.5% to 4.25% in May and to 4.0% in August after an unprecedented second round of voting. The final 5-4 vote was for a 25bps cut, with the minority wanting no change. In September, seven MPC members voted to hold rates while two preferred a 25bps cut. The Committee's views still differ on whether the upside risks from inflation expectations and wage setting outweigh downside risks from weaker demand and growth.

2.2.5 Arlingclose, the authority's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that Bank Rate would be cut further as the BoE focused on weak GDP growth more than higher inflation. One more cut is currently expected during 2025/26, taking Bank Rate to 3.75%. The risks to the forecast are balanced in the near-term but weighted to the downside further out as weak consumer sentiment and business confidence and investment continue to constrain growth. There is also considerable uncertainty around the autumn Budget and the impact this will have on the outlook.

2.2.6 The August BoE Monetary Policy Report highlighted that after peaking in Q3 2025, inflation is projected to fall back to target (2%) by mid-2027, helped by increasing spare capacity in the economy and the ongoing effects from past tighter policy rates. GDP is expected to remain weak in the near-term while over the medium-term outlook will be influenced by domestic and global developments.

2.2.7 After the sharp declines seen early in the period, sentiment in financial markets improved, but risky assets have generally remained volatile. Early in the period bond yields fell, but ongoing uncertainty, particularly in the UK, has seen medium and longer yields rise with bond investors requiring an increasingly higher return against the perceived elevated risk of UK plc. Since the sell-off in April, equity markets have gained back the previous declines, with investors continuing to remain bullish in the face of ongoing uncertainty.

2.2.8 Over the period, the 10-year UK benchmark gilt yield started at 4.65% and ended at 4.70%. However, these six months saw significant volatility with the 10-year yield hitting a low of 4.45% and a high of 4.82%. It was a broadly similar picture for the 20-year gilt which started at 5.18% and ended at 5.39% with a low and high of 5.10% and 5.55% respectively. The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 4.19% over the six months to 30th September.

2.3 Local Context

2.3.1 On 30 September 2025, the Council had net borrowing of £725.6 million arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while balance sheet resources are the underlying resources available for investment. These factors are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary

	Actual 2024/25 £m	Revised Forecast (Sep 25) 2025/26 £m	Strategy Estimate (Jan 25) 2025/26 £m
General Fund CFR - Non PFI	694.0	774.5	848.0
PFI	38.3	34.6	33.9
HRA CFR - Non PFI	159.1	159.1	160.1
PFI	47.9	44.5	49.3
Total CFR **	**939.3**	**1012.7**	**1091.3**
Less: PFI debt liabilities	86.2	79.1	86.0
: Other debt liabilities	4.3	3.5	3.4
Borrowing CFR	**848.8**	**930.1**	**1001.9**
Less actual external borrowing *	774.0	771.9	657.6
Internal (over) borrowing	74.8	158.2	344.3
Total borrowing	**848.8**	**930.1**	**1001.9**
Less: Balance sheet resources**	133.4	122.0	103.2
Net borrowing	**715.4**	**808.1**	**898.7**
Investments	58.6	30.0	30.0

*shows only loans to which the Council is committed to the year end and excludes future borrowing and refinancing
**slight difference to outturn report due to late IFRS16 journal posting of £0.9 million

2.3.2 The treasury management position at 30 September 2025 and the change during the year is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

	31.03.25 Balance £m	Movement £m	30.09.25 Balance £m	30.09.25 Weighted Average Rate %
Long-term borrowing:				
PWLB	623.3	-6.4	616.9	4.27
LOBOs	30.8	0.0	30.8	4.39
Loan Stock	7.0	0.0	7.0	11.60
Other LT Loans	40.0	0.0	40.0	3.89
Other MT Loans	31.4	17.0	48.4	4.46
Short-term borrowing	41.5	5.1	46.6	4.55
Total borrowing	**774.0**	**15.7**	**789.7**	**4.35**
Long-term investments	10.0	0.0	10.0	N/A
Short-term investments	18.0	8.8	26.8	N/A
Cash and cash equivalents	30.6	-3.3	27.3	N/A
Total investments	**58.6**	**5.5**	**64.1**	**N/A**
Net borrowing	**715.4**	**10.2**	**725.6**	

2.4 Investment Activity

2.4.1 The Council invested an average balance of £98.8 million externally (excluding the LAPF) during the period (£51.6 million in the first six months of 2024/25), generating £1,910k in investment income over the period (£1,330k in 2024/25). The LAPF investment of £10.0 million generated £193k of dividend income during the period (£227k in the first six months of 2024/25).

2.4.2 LOBO repayments of £30.0 million were considered likely in the first six months of the year which were never called, and a large receipt of £24.0 million from WYCA received in advance of expenditure in April, has resulted in higher-than-normal cash balances compared to the 2025/26 strategy.

2.4.3 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk on incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

2.4.4 Balances were mainly invested in instant access accounts such as Money Market Funds, short term deposits, Debt Management Office (DMO), Local Authority fixed term deposits and the LAPF. Appendix 1 shows where investments were held at the start of April, the end of June and September by counterparty, by sector and by country.

2.4.5 As demonstrated by the liability benchmark in this report at Appendix 4, the Council expects to be a long-term borrower and treasury investments are therefore primarily made to manage day-to-day cash flows using short-term low risk instruments.

2.4.6 Bank Rate fell from 4.50% to 4.25% in May 2025 then again to 4.00% in August 2025, with short term rates largely being around these levels. The rates on Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF) ranged between 3.95% and 4.45% and Money Market Rates between 3.98% and 4.54%.

2.4.7 The Council's average investment rate for the period was 4.21%. This is down on the average in the same period in 2024/25 of 5.06%, in line with the falling base rate. Returns on liquid cash balances were 4.25%

2.4.8 The Council continues to hold £10 million of strategic investment in the Local Authorities Pooled Investment Fund (LAPF). The fund returned a net yield of 3.86% after deducting charges. The actual gross dividend yield quoted from the fund on Net Asset Value was 4.59% at the end of September for the last 12 months, and the fund size was £1,044.6 million (5.21% and £1,032.3 million respectively for the 12 months to September 2024).

2.4.9 Strategic fund investments are made in the knowledge that capital values will move both up and down on months, quarters and even years; but with the confidence that over a 3 to 5-year minimum period total returns will exceed cash interest rates.

2.4.10 The chart at Appendix 3, provided by Arlingclose, compares the Council's performance against other Local Authorities at the end of September. In order to gain better rates of return, the majority of Local Authorities with a higher rate of return have further external investments creating a more diverse portfolio.

2.5 Revenue Budget Monitoring

2.5.1 The treasury management budget is £36.1 million. Forecasted outturn is currently under budget by £1.8 million and this position is reflected in the Council's Q2 financial report to Cabinet later this month. This reflects higher levels of investment balances resulting in increased investment income versus expectation and new borrowing taken at an average rate below what was budgeted (4.69%).

2.6 Borrowing Update

2.6.1 CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code is clear that local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return and that it is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending decisions that will increase the Capital Financing Requirement, and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Council. PWLB loans are no longer available to buy investment assets primarily for yield unless these loans are for refinancing purposes

2.6.2 The Council has not invested in assets primarily for financial return or that are not primarily related to the functions of the Council. It has no plans to do so in the future.

2.6.3 Borrowing is permitted for cashflow management, interest rate risk management, to refinance current borrowing and to adjust levels of internal borrowing. Borrowing is also allowed for financing capital expenditure primarily related to the delivery of a Local Authority's function. The Council's borrowing is undertaken for these purposes only.

2.6.4 After substantial rises in interest rates since 2021 central banks have now begun to reduce their policy rates, albeit slowly. Gilt yields however have increased over the period amid concerns about inflation, the UK government's fiscal position and general economic uncertainty.

2.6.5 The PWLB certainty rate for 10-year maturity loans was 5.38% at the beginning of the period and 5.53% at the end. The lowest available 10-year maturity certainty rate was 5.17% and the highest was 5.62%. Rates for 20-year maturity loans ranged from 5.71% to 6.30% during the period, and 50-year maturity loans from 5.46% to 6.14%.

2.6.6 The PWLB HRA rate which is 0.4% below the certainty rate is available up to March 2026. This discounted rate is to support local authorities borrowing for the Housing Revenue Account and for refinancing existing HRA loans, though this hasn't been utilised in this period as the HRA continues to use balance sheet resources to fund expenditure.

2.7 Borrowing Activity

2.7.1 As outlined in the Treasury Strategy, the Council's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing lower interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change being a secondary objective. The borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. At the present time short term interest rates are higher than long term interest rates.

2.7.2 In terms of borrowing, long-term loans (including LOBO's - see paragraph 2.7.6) at the end of September totalled £743.1 million (£732.6 million 31 March 2025) and short-term loans £46.6 million (£41.5 million 31 March 2025).

2.7.3 Fixed rate loans account for 96.00% of total long-term debt giving the Council stability in its interest costs. The maturity profile for long-term loans is shown in Appendix 2 and shows that no more than 10.56% of debt is due to be repaid in any one year. This is good practice as it reduces the Council's exposure to a substantial borrowing requirement in future years when interest rates might be at a relatively high level.

2.7.4 The Council has an increasing CFR due to the capital programme and an estimated borrowing requirement as determined by the Liability Benchmark (see Appendix 4), which also considers usable reserves and working capital. The mid-year forecasted liability benchmark, based on updated capital plans, highlights that there is an expectation of additional borrowing of £66.2 million for the year.

2.7.4 During the period £10.0 million of PWLB EIP loans were taken along with £57.5 million of medium term loans from other Local Authorities. These loans provide some longer-term certainty and stability to the debt portfolio. A mixture of short, medium-term and further PWLB will be taken during the remainder of the year to fund the additional borrowing required. The rate assumption in the treasury budget for 2025/26 is 4.69%.

Medium and Long-term loans taken during the period 01/04/25 to 30/09/25

	Loan Period	Amount £m	Rate %	Date to be repaid
PWLB (EIP) 816261	5 years	10	4.59%	11/4/2030*
Test Valley Borough Council	5 years	2.5	4.90%	01/05/2030
West of England Combined Authority	1 year	10	4.88%	30/04/2026
Wealden District Council	1 year	5	4.80%	14/05/2026
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	3 years	10	4.59%	03/04/2028
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service	2 years	5	4.30%	04/05/2027
PCC for West Yorkshire	1 year	10	4.25%	14/07/2026
West Midlands Combined Authority	2 years	5	4.10%	30/07/2027
West Midlands Combined Authority	1 year	5	4.10%	10/08/2026
Leicester City Council	2 years	5	4.10%	15/09/2027
Total		**67.5**		

*EIP final repayment date

2.7.5 Appendix 5 sets out in year repayments on long-term borrowing and further repayments for the next 6 months.

2.7.6 The Council has £30.0 million of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate and terms or to repay the loan at no additional cost.

2.7.7 As market rates remain high, there is an increased probability of call options on the LOBOs being exercised by lenders. No LOBO loans were called during the 6 month period to September 2025, however there remains a possibility they could within the next 12 months and as such have been classified as short-term borrowing in the debt maturity table in Appendix 2.

2.7.8 If the option is exercised and an increased rate proposed, the Council plans to repay the loan at no additional cost as accepting the revised terms would mean the Council would still have refinancing risk in later years. If required, the Council will repay the LOBO's by borrowing from other local authorities or the PWLB.

2.8 Risk and Compliance issues

2.8.1 The Council reports that all treasury management activities undertaken during the year complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy, including the prudential indicators. Details can be found in Appendix 4. Indicators relating to affordability and prudence are highlighted in this appendix.

2.8.2 In line with the investment strategy, the Council has not placed any direct investments with companies as defined by the Carbon Underground 200.

2.8.3 The Council is aware of the risks of passive management of the treasury portfolio and, with the support of the Council's consultants (Arlingclose), has proactively managed the debt and investments over the year.

3 Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan
N/A

3.2 Financial Implications
Any changes in assumed borrowing and investment requirements, balances and interest rates have been reflected in revenue budget monitoring reports during the year and the 2026/27 budget will be set to reflect the investment as per the capital plan and using the latest advice on forecast interest rates.

3.3 Legal Implications
N/A

3.4 Climate Change & Air Quality
N/A

3.5 Other (e.g. Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)
N/A

4 Consultation
This report has been prepared by the Service Director - Finance, in consultation with the Executive Leadership Team.

5 Engagement
N/A

6 Options

6.1 Options Considered
N/A

6.2 Reasons for Recommended Option
N/A

7 Next steps and timelines
Comments and feedback from CGAC will be incorporated into this report which will be subsequently presented to Cabinet and Council in January.

8 Contact Officer

James Anderson	Head of Accountancy	01484 221000
Rachel Firth	Finance Manager	01484 221000

9 Background Papers and History of Decisions
CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.
CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services.
CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services – Guidance notes
The treasury management strategy report for 2025/26 - Council 5 March 2025
Council Budget Strategy Update Report 2026/27 – Council 17 September 2025
Annual Report on Treasury Management 2024/25 - Annual Financial Outturn Report 2024/25; Council 16 July 2025.

10 Appendices

Appendix 1: Investments 25/26
Appendix 2: Debt Maturity
Appendix 3: Average Return on Total Investments
Appendix 4: Treasury Management Prudential Indicators
Appendix 5: Long-term loans
Appendix 6: Treasury Management Practices (TMP)
Appendix 7: PWLB Borrowing Rates Table
Appendix 8: Glossary of Treasury Terms

11 Service Director responsible

Kevin Mulvaney 01484 221000

Appendix 1

Kirklees Council Investments 2025/26

Counterparty		Approved Strategy Limit £m	Approved Strategy Credit Rating	Credit Rating Sept 2025*	1 April 2025 (opening)			30-Jun-24			30-Sep-25		
					£m	Interest Rate	Type of Investment	£m	Interest Rate	Type of Investment	£m	Interest Rate	Type of Investment
Specified Investments													
LAPF	Property Fund	10.0	-	-	10.0	-	***	10.0	-	***	10.0	-	***
DMO	Central Government	Unlimited	-	F1+/AA-	18.0	-	Fixed Deposit	0.9	4.21%	Fixed Deposit	26.8	-	Fixed Deposit
PCC for Lancashire	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	10.0	4.30%	Fixed Deposit	-	-	Fixed Deposit
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	5.0	4.25%	Fixed Deposit	-	-	Fixed Deposit
Uttlesford District Council	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	3.0	4.35%	Fixed Deposit	-	-	Fixed Deposit
West Northamptonshire Council	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	6.0	4.30%	Fixed Deposit	-	-	Fixed Deposit
Central Bedfordshire Council	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	5.0	4.30%	Fixed Deposit	-	-	Fixed Deposit
Wirral Borough Council	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	10.0	4.30%	Fixed Deposit	-	-	Fixed Deposit
Luton Borough Council	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	5.0	4.30%	Fixed Deposit	-	-	Fixed Deposit
Reading Borough Council	Local Authority	10.0	-	F1+/AA-	-	-	Fixed Deposit	5.0	4.30%	Fixed Deposit	-	-	Fixed Deposit
Barclays Deposit Account	Bank	10.0	-	F1/A+	0.8	3.90%	Fixed Deposit	0.0	4.30%	Fixed Deposit	0.0	3.40%	Fixed Deposit
Aberdeen Standard	MMF**	10.0	AAA-A	AAA	10.0	4.50%	MMF	10.0	4.30%	MMF	9.9	4.08%	MMF
Aviva	MMF**	10.0	Aaa-A2	Aaa*	10.0	4.54%	MMF	10.0	4.32%	MMF	9.9	4.09%	MMF
Deutsche	MMF**	10.0	AAA-A	AAA	10.0	4.50%	MMF	9.9	4.30%	MMF	7.5	4.09%	MMF
Goldman Sachs	MMF**	10.0	AAA-A	AAA	0.0	4.41%	MMF	6.2	4.23%	MMF	0.0	4.02%	MMF
					58.7			**96.0**			**64.1**		
Sector analysis													
Property Fund		10.0			10.0	17%		10.0	10%		10.0	16%	
Local Authorities		10.0			0.0	0%		49.0	51%		0.0	0%	
Bank		10.0			0.8	1%		0.0	0%		0.0	0%	
MMF**		50.0			30.0	51%		36.1	38%		27.3	43%	
Central Government		Unlimited			18.0	31%		0.9	1%		26.8	42%	
					58.7	100%		**96.0**	100%		**64.1**	100%	
Country analysis													
UK					28.7	49%		59.9	62%		36.8	57%	
MMF**					30.0	51%		36.1	38%		27.3	43%	
					58.7	100%		**96.0**	100%		**64.1**	100%	

*Fitch short/long term ratings, except Aviva MMF (Moody rating). See next page for key. The use of Fitch ratings is illustrative – the Council assesses counterparty suitability using all 3 credit rating agencies, where applicable, and other information on credit quality.

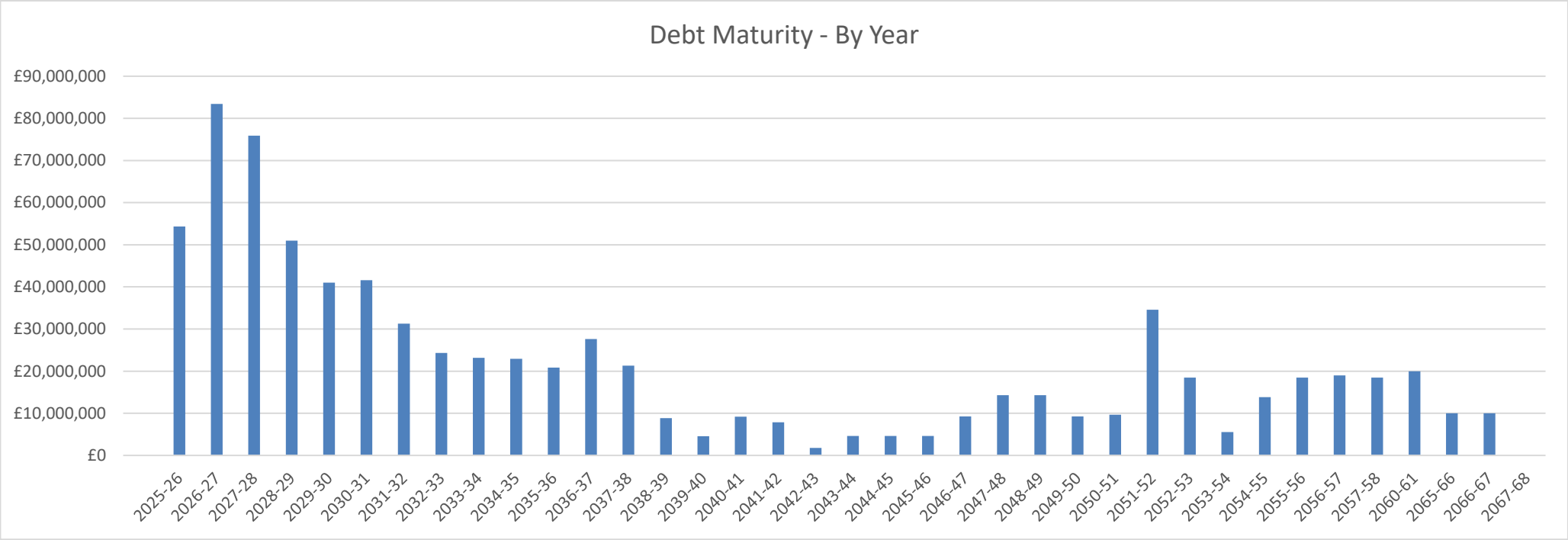
**MMF – Money Market Fund. These funds are domiciled in Ireland for tax reasons, but the funds are made up of numerous diverse investments with highly rated banks and other institutions. The credit risk is therefore spread over numerous countries, including the UK. The exception to this is the Aviva Government Liquidity Fund which invests directly in UK government securities and in short-term deposits secured on those securities.

***Specialised property fund available for Local Authority investors.

Key – Fitch's credit ratings: **Appendix 1 Continued**

		Long	Short
Investment Grade	Extremely Strong	AAA	F1+
	Very Strong	AA+	
		AA	
		AA-	
	Strong	A+	
		A	F1
		A-	
	Adequate	BBB+	F2
		BBB	
		BBB-	F3
Speculative Grade	Speculative	BB+	B
		BB	
		BB-	
	Very Speculative	B+	
		B	
		B-	
	Vulnerable	CCC+	C
		CCC	
		CCC-	
		CC	
		C	
	Defaulting	D	D

Appendix 2


Debt Maturity - By Year
£90,000,000
£80,000,000
£70,000,000
£60,000,000
£50,000,000
£40,000,000
£30,000,000
£20,000,000
£10,000,000
£0
2025-26
2026-27
2027-28
2028-29
2029-30
2030-31
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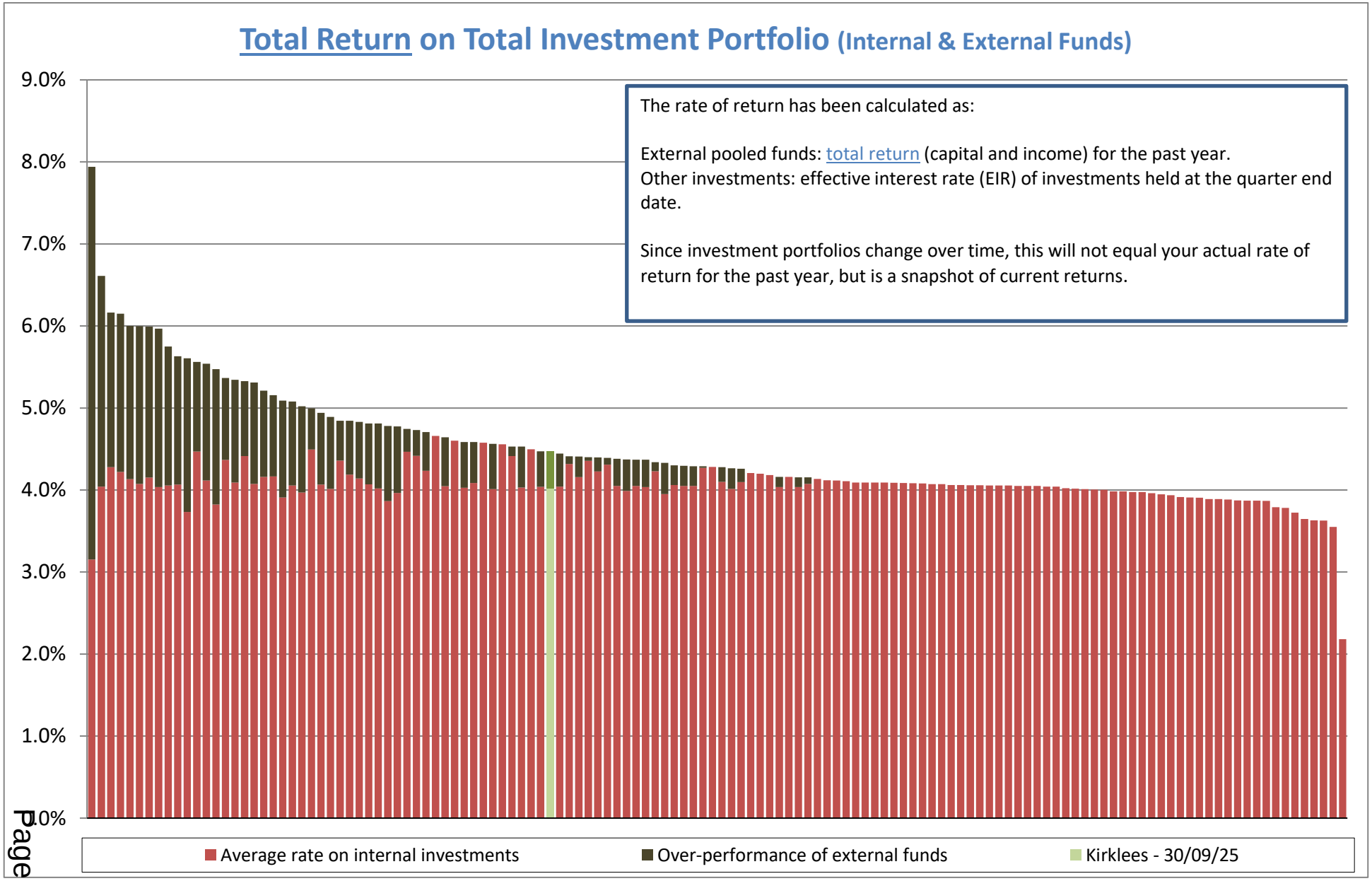
Appendix 3


Total Return on Total Investment Portfolio (Internal & External Funds)
9.0%
8.0%
7.0%
6.0%
5.0%
4.0%
3.0%
2.0%
1.0%
0.0%
The rate of return has been calculated as:
External pooled funds: total return (capital and income) for the past year.
Other investments: effective interest rate (EIR) of investments held at the quarter end date.
Since investment portfolios change over time, this will not equal your actual rate of return for the past year, but is a snapshot of current returns.
Average rate on internal investments
Over-performance of external funds
Kirklees - 30/09/25

Appendix 4

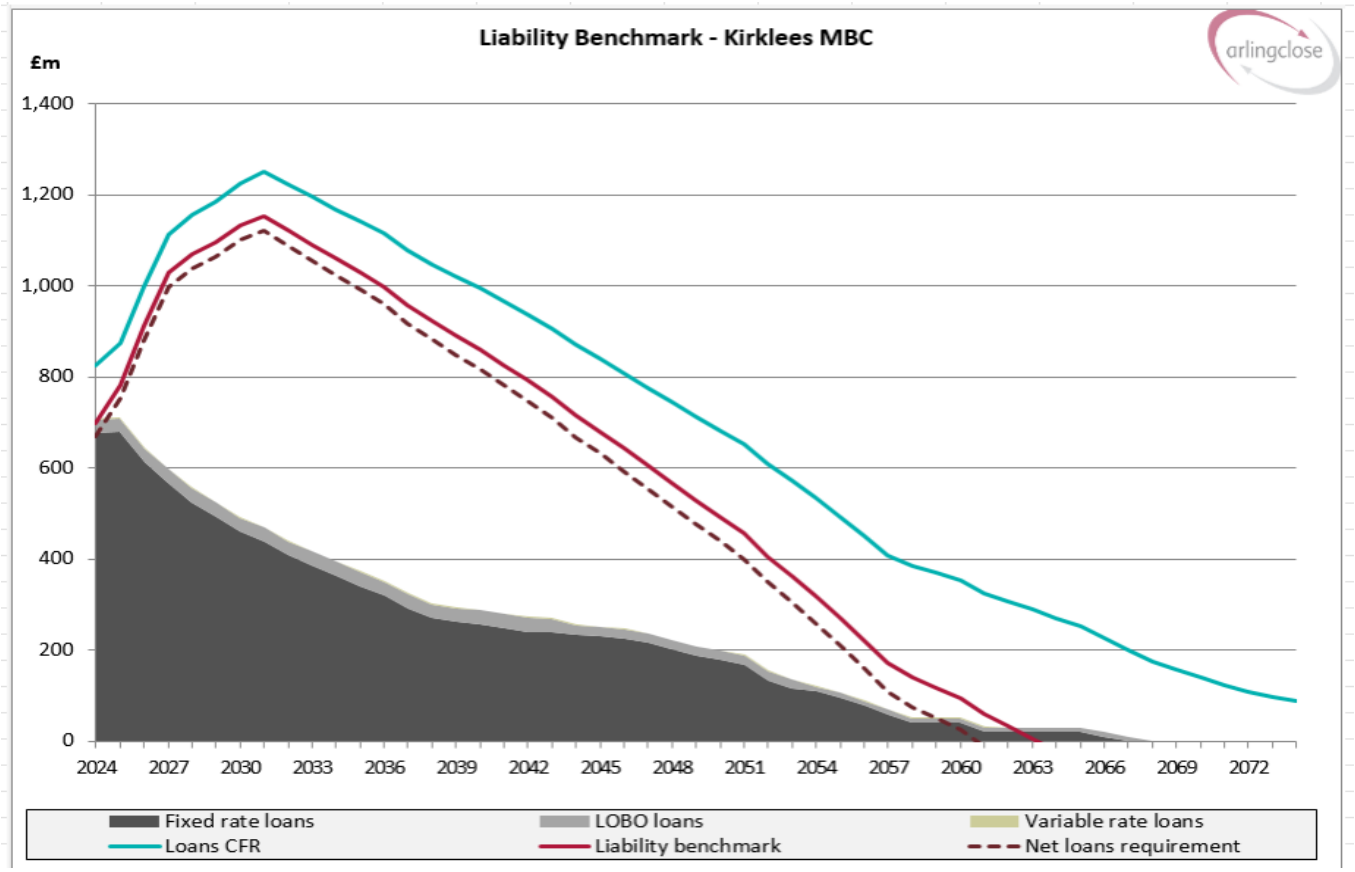
Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

Liability Benchmark

This new indicator compares the Council's actual existing borrowing against a liability benchmark that has been calculated to show the lowest risk level of borrowing. The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. It represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level of £30.0 million required to manage day-to-day cash flow.

	31.03.25 actual £m	31.03.26 forecast £m	31.03.27 forecast £m	31.03.28 forecast £m
Loans CFR	**849.7**	**930.1**	**1076.3**	**1166.5**
Less: Balance sheet resources	134.3	122.0	123.0	123.0
Net loans requirement	**715.4**	**808.1**	**953.3**	**1043.5**
Plus: Liquidity allowance	58.6	30.0	30.0	30.0
Liability benchmark	**774.0**	**838.1**	**983.3**	**1073.5**
Existing borrowing	**774.0**	**771.9**	**673.4**	**607.5**

Following on from the medium term forecast above, the long-term liability benchmark assumes capital expenditure funded by borrowing of £90.0 million in 2025/26, minimum revenue provision based on asset life and reduction in balance sheet resources of £12.3 million.



The total liability benchmark is shown in the chart above together with the maturity profile of the Council's existing borrowing. The red line is the liability benchmark reaching a peak in 2032 highlighting the gap between current borrowing identified in grey, which is reducing over time with repayments, and the additional borrowing required to fund the capital plan.

Maturity Structure of Borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of all borrowing were:

	Upper limit	Lower limit	30.09.25 actual	Complied
Under 12 months	20%	0%	7%	Yes
12 months and within 24 months	20%	0%	11%	Yes
24 months and within 5 years	60%	0%	21%	Yes
5 years and within 10 years	80%	0%	18%	Yes
10 years and above	100%	20%	43%	Yes

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment. LOBO options of £20.9 million have a potential repayment date during 2025/26 and have been included in the under 12 months line and an option of £10.0 million has a potential repayment date during 2026/27 and has been included in the 12 months and within 24 months.

Long term Treasury Management Investments

The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The prudential limits on the long-term treasury management limits are:

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	No fixed date
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Actual principal invested beyond year end	£10.0m	£10.0m	£10.0m	£10.0m
Complied	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Long-term investments with no fixed maturity date include strategic pooled funds, real estate investment trusts and directly held equity but exclude money market funds and bank accounts with no fixed maturity date as these are considered short-term.

Interest Rate Exposures

For context, the changes in interest rates during the half year were:

	01.04.25	30.09.25
Bank Rate	4.50%	4.00%
1-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.82%	4.58%
5-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.94%	4.95%
10-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	5.38%	5.53%
20-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	5.88%	6.14%
50-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	5.63%	5.98%

Appendix 5

Long-term loans repaid during the period 01/04/25 to 30/09/25

Counterparty	Amount £000s	Rate %	Date repaid
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	10,000	1.50%	01-Apr-25
Salix (Annuity)	182	0.00%	01-Apr-25
Salix (Annuity)	168	0.00%	01-Apr-25
PWLB (EIP) 674705	333	5.02%	14-Apr-25
PWLB (EIP) 711011	2,000	5.42%	14-Apr-25
PWLB (EIP) 340221	250	1.63%	27-Apr-25
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	5,000	5.15%	30-Apr-25
Wealden District Council	5,000	4.80%	15-May-25
PWLB (EIP) 439173	250	1.66%	17-May-25
PWLB (EIP) 677193	333	4.85%	22-May-25
PWLB (EIP) 778241	263	5.00%	27-May-25
PWLB (EIP) 779247	313	4.95%	29-May-25
PWLB (EIP) 680811	833	4.83%	06-Jun-25
PWLB (EIP) 685435	769	4.59%	20-Jun-25
PWLB (EIP) 685834	769	4.37%	23-Jun-25
PWLB (EIP) 785403	313	4.91%	23-Jun-25
PWLB (EIP) 739810	833	4.67%	30-Jun-25
PWLB (EIP) 373440	250	1.46%	14-Jul-25
Leicester City Council	10,000	2.00%	15-Jul-25
PWLB (EIP) 794097	500	5.05%	24-Jul-25
PWLB (EIP) 643579	278	5.01%	28-Jul-25
PWLB (EIP) 795087	417	5.01%	29-Jul-25
PWLB (EIP) 594601	500	4.10%	31-Jul-25
PWLB (EIP) 594848	536	3.99%	01-Aug-25
PWLB (EIP) 797366	455	4.95%	06-Aug-25
PWLB (EIP) 538379	500	2.60%	09-Aug-25
PWLB (EIP) 751915	455	4.37%	12-Aug-25
PWLB (EIP) 799800	545	4.79%	13-Aug-25
Oxfordshire County Council	5,000	2.00%	15-Aug-25
PWLB (EIP) 487385	250	2.28%	21-Aug-25
Salix (Annuity)	186	0.00%	01-Sep-25
PWLB (EIP) 313112	250	1.64%	04-Sep-25
PWLB (EIP) 493145	250	1.98%	09-Sep-25
PWLB (EIP) 759388	208	4.52%	12-Sep-25
PWLB (EIP) 711013	385	4.75%	15-Sep-25
PWLB (EIP) 808715	500	4.85%	17-Sep-25
PWLB (EIP) 712740	357	4.59%	19-Sep-25
PWLB (EIP) 713074	357	4.64%	22-Sep-25
PWLB (EIP) 608189	667	4.15%	22-Sep-25
PWLB (EIP) 659904	333	5.06%	22-Sep-25

PWLB (EIP) 660447	333	5.08%	22-Sep-25
PWLB (Annuity) 496956	463	4.58%	29-Sep-25
PWLB (EIP) 661522	357	5.00%	29-Sep-25
Total	51,941		

Long-term loans to be repaid during the period 01/10/25 to 31/03/26 (excludes LOBO options)

Counterparty	**Amount £000s**	**Rate %**	**Date to be repaid**
Salix (Annuity)	168	0.00%	01-Oct-25
PWLB (EIP) 674705	333	5.02%	13-Oct-25
PWLB (EIP) 711011	2,000	5.42%	13-Oct-25
PWLB (EIP) 816261	1,000	4.59%	13-Oct-25
PWLB (EIP) 340221	250	1.63%	27-Oct-25
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	5,000	5.40%	17-Nov-25
PWLB (EIP) 439173	250	1.66%	17-Nov-25
PWLB (EIP) 677193	333	4.85%	24-Nov-25
PWLB (EIP) 778241	263	5.00%	26-Nov-25
PWLB (EIP) 779247	313	4.95%	01-Dec-25
PWLB (EIP) 680811	833	4.83%	08-Dec-25
PWLB (EIP) 685435	769	4.59%	22-Dec-25
PWLB (EIP) 685834	769	4.37%	22-Dec-25
PWLB (EIP) 785403	313	4.91%	23-Dec-25
PWLB (EIP) 739810	833	4.67%	29-Dec-25
PWLB (EIP) 373440	250	1.46%	12-Jan-26
PWLB (EIP) 794097	500	5.05%	26-Jan-26
PWLB (EIP) 795087	417	5.01%	26-Jan-26
PWLB (EIP) 643579	278	5.01%	27-Jan-26
PWLB (EIP) 594601	500	4.10%	31-Jan-26
PWLB (EIP) 594848	536	3.99%	01-Feb-26
PWLB (EIP) 797366	455	4.95%	06-Feb-26
PWLB (EIP) 538379	500	2.60%	09-Feb-26
PWLB (EIP) 751915	455	4.37%	12-Feb-26
PWLB (EIP) 799800	545	4.79%	13-Feb-26
PWLB (EIP) 487385	250	2.28%	21-Feb-26
Salix (Annuity)	186	0.00%	01-Mar-26
PWLB (EIP) 313112	250	1.64%	04-Mar-26
PWLB (EIP) 493145	250	1.98%	09-Mar-26
PWLB (EIP) 759388	208	4.52%	12-Mar-26
PWLB (EIP) 711013	385	4.75%	13-Mar-26
PWLB (EIP) 808715	500	4.85%	17-Mar-26
PWLB (EIP) 712740	357	4.59%	19-Mar-26
PWLB (EIP) 713074	357	4.64%	20-Mar-26
PWLB (EIP) 608189	667	4.15%	21-Mar-26
PWLB (EIP) 659904	333	5.06%	23-Mar-26

PWLB (EIP) 660447	333	5.08%	23-Mar-26
PWLB (EIP) 661522	357	5.00%	27-Mar-26
PWLB (Annuity) 496956	473	4.58%	29-Mar-26
Total	**22,770**		

Medium and Long-term loans taken during the period 01/04/25 to 30/09/25

	Loan Period	Amount £m	Rate %	Date to be repaid
PWLB (EIP) 816261	5 years	10	4.59%	11/4/2030*
Test Valley Borough Council	5 years	2.5	4.90%	01/05/2030
West of England Combined Authority	1 year	10	4.88%	30/04/2026
Wealden District Council	1 year	5	4.80%	14/05/2026
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	3 years	10	4.59%	03/04/2028
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service	2 years	5	4.30%	04/05/2027
PCC for West Yorkshire	1 year	10	4.25%	14/07/2026
West Midlands Combined Authority	2 years	5	4.10%	30/07/2027
West Midlands Combined Authority	1 year	5	4.10%	10/08/2026
Leicester City Council	2 years	5	4.10%	15/09/2027
Total		**67.5**		

*Final EIP payment date

Appendix 6

TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The following Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) set out the manner in which the Council aims to achieve its treasury management policies and objectives, and how it will manage and control those activities.

1. **TMP 1 Risk management**

The Service Director - Finance will design, implement and monitor all arrangements for the identification, management and control of treasury management risk, will report at least annually on the adequacy/suitability thereof, and will report, as a matter of urgency, the circumstances of any actual or likely difficulty in achieving the organisation's objectives in this respect, all in accordance with the procedures set out in TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements. In respect of each of the following risks, the arrangements which seek to ensure compliance with these objectives are set out in the schedule to this document.

(i) Credit and counterparty risk management

The Council regards a prime objective of its treasury management activities to be the security of the principal sums it invests. Accordingly, it will ensure that its counterparty lists and limits reflect a prudent attitude towards organisations with which funds may be deposited, and will limit its investment activities to the instruments, methods and techniques referred to in TMP4 Approved Instruments, methods and techniques are listed in the schedule to this document. It also recognises the need to have, and will therefore maintain, a formal counterparty policy in respect of those organisations from which it may borrow, or with whom it may enter into other financing arrangements.

(ii) Liquidity risk management

The Council will ensure it has adequate though not excessive cash resources, borrowing arrangements, overdraft or standby facilities to enable it at all times to have the level of funds available to which are necessary for the achievement of its business/service objectives. The Council will only borrow in advance of need where there is a clear business case for doing so and will only do so for the current capital programme or to finance future debt maturities.

(iii) Interest rate risk management

The Council will manage its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates with a view to containing its net interest costs, or securing its interest revenues, in accordance with the amounts provided in its budgetary arrangements.

It will achieve these objectives by the prudent use of its approved financing and investment instruments, methods and techniques, primarily to create stability and certainty of costs and revenues, but at the same time retaining a sufficient degree of flexibility to take advantage of unexpected, potentially advantageous changes in the level or structure of interest rates. The above are subject at all times to the consideration and, if required, approval of any policy or budgetary implications.

(iv) Exchange rate risk management

The Council will manage its exposure to fluctuations in exchange rates so as to minimise any detrimental impact on its budgeted income/expenditure levels.

(v) Refinancing risk management

The Council will ensure that its borrowing, private financing and partnership arrangements are negotiated, structured and documented, and the maturity profile of the monies so raised are managed, with a view to obtaining offer terms for renewal or refinancing, if required, which are competitive and

as favourable to the organisation as can reasonably be achieved in the light of market conditions prevailing at the time.

It will actively manage its relationships with its counterparties in these transactions in such a manner as to secure this objective and will avoid over-reliance on any one source of funding if this might jeopardise achievement of the above.

(vi) Legal and regulatory risk management

The Council will ensure that all of its treasury management activities comply with its statutory powers and regulatory requirements. It will demonstrate such compliance, if required to do so, to all parties with whom it deals in such activities. In framing its credit and counterparty policy under TMP1(i) Credit and counterparty risk management, it will ensure that there is evidence of counterparties' powers, authority and compliance in respect of the transactions they may affect with the Council.

The Council recognises that future legislative or regulatory changes may impact on its treasury management activities and, so far as it is reasonably able to do so, will seek to minimise the risk of these impacting adversely on the organisation.

(vii) Fraud, error and corruption, and contingency management

The Council will ensure that it has identified the circumstances which may expose it to the risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption, or other eventualities in its treasury management dealings. Accordingly, it will employ suitable systems and procedures, and will maintain effective contingency management arrangements, to these ends.

(viii) Market risk management

The Council will seek to ensure that its stated treasury management policies and objectives will not be compromised by adverse market fluctuations in the value of the principal sums it invests, and will accordingly seek to protect itself from the effects of such fluctuations.

2. **TMP2 Performance measurement**

The Council is committed to the pursuit of value for money in its treasury management activities, and to the use of performance methodology in support of that aim, within the framework set out in its Treasury Management Policy Statement.

Accordingly, the treasury management function will be the subject of ongoing analysis of the value it adds in support of the Council's stated business or service objectives. It will be the subject of regular examination of alternative methods of service delivery and of other potential improvements. The performance of the treasury management function will be measured using the criteria set out in the schedule to this document.

3. **TMP3 Decision-making and analysis**

The Council will maintain full records of its treasury management decisions, and of the processes and practices applied in reaching those decisions, both for the purposes of learning from the past, and for demonstrating that reasonable steps were taken to ensure that all issues relevant to those decisions were taken into account at the time. The issues to be addressed and processes and practices to be pursued in reaching decisions are detailed in the schedule to this document.

4. **TMP4 Approved instruments, methods and techniques**

The Council will undertake its treasury management activities by employing only those instruments, methods and techniques detailed in the schedule to this document, and within the limits and parameters defined in TMP1 Risk management.

Where the Council intends to use derivative instruments for the management of risks, these will be limited to those set out in its annual treasury strategy. The Council will seek proper advice when entering into arrangements to use such products.

5. **TMP5 Organisation, clarity and segregation of responsibilities, and dealing arrangements**

The Council considers it essential, for the purposes of the effective control and monitoring of its treasury management activities, and for the reduction of the risk of fraud or error, and for the pursuit of optimum performance, that these activities are structured and managed in a fully integrated manner, and that there is at all times a clarity of treasury management responsibilities.

The principles on which this will be based is a clear distinction between those charged with setting treasury management policies and those charged with implementing and controlling these policies, particularly with regard to the execution and transmission of funds, the recording and administering of treasury management decisions, and the audit and review of the treasury management function.

If and when the Council intends, as a result of lack of resources or other circumstances, to depart from these principles, the Service Director - Finance will ensure that the reasons are properly reported in accordance with TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements, and the implications properly considered and evaluated.

The Service Director - Finance will ensure that there are clear written statements of the responsibilities for each post engaged in treasury management, and the arrangement for absence cover. The present arrangements are detailed in the schedule to this document.

The Service Director - Finance will ensure there is proper documentation for all deals and transactions, and that procedures exist for the effective transmission of funds. The present arrangements are detailed in the schedule to this document.

The delegation to the Service Director - Finance in respect of treasury management is set out in the schedule to this document. The Service Director - Finance will fulfil all such responsibilities in accordance with the Council's policy statement and TMPs and, as a CIPFA member, the Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.

6. **TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements**

The Council will ensure that regular reports are prepared and considered on the implementation of its treasury management policies; on the effects of decisions taken and the transactions executed in pursuit of those policies; on the implications of changes, particularly budgetary, resulting from regulatory, economic, market or other factors affecting its treasury management activities; and on the performance of the treasury management function.

As a minimum, the Council will receive:

- an annual report on the strategy and plan to be pursued in the coming year
- a mid-year review
- an annual report on the performance of the treasury management function, on the effects of the decisions taken and the transactions executed in the past year, and on any circumstances of non-compliance with the organisation's Treasury Management Policy Statement and TMPs.

The present arrangements and the form of these reports are detailed in the schedule to this document.

7. **TMP7 Budgeting, accounting and audit arrangements**

The Service Director - Finance will prepare, and the Council will approve and, if necessary, from time to time amend, an annual budget for treasury management, which will bring together all of the costs involved in running the treasury management function, together with associated income. The matters to be included in the budget will at a minimum be those required by statute or regulation, together with such information as will demonstrate compliance with the TMPs. Budgeting

procedures are set out in the schedule to this document. The Service Director - Finance will exercise effective controls over this budget, and will report any major variations.

The Council will account for its treasury management activities, for decisions made and transactions executed, in accordance with appropriate accounting practices and standards, and with statutory and regulatory requirements in force for the time being. The present form of this function's accounts is set out in the schedule to this document.

The Council will ensure that its auditors, and those charged with regulatory review, have access to all information and papers supporting the activities of the treasury management function as are necessary for the proper fulfilment of their roles, and that such information and papers demonstrate compliance with external and internal policies and approved practices. The information made available under present arrangements is detailed in the schedule to this document.

8. **TMP8 Cash and cash flow management**

Unless statutory or regulatory requirements demand otherwise, all monies in the hands of the Council will be under the control of the Service Director - Finance and, with the exception of Secondary Schools' bank accounts, will be aggregated for cash flow purposes. Cash flow projections will be prepared on a regular and timely basis, and the Service Director - Finance will ensure that these are adequate for the purposes of monitoring compliance with TMP1(i) Liquidity risk management. The present arrangements for preparing cash flow projections are set out in the schedule to this document.

9. **TMP9 Money laundering**

The Council is alert to the possibility that it may become the subject of an attempt to involve it in a transaction involving the laundering of money. Accordingly, it will ensure that staff involved in treasury management activities are fully aware of their responsibilities with regards this. The present safeguards, including the name of the officer to whom any suspicions should be reported, are detailed in the schedule to this document.

10. **TMP10 Training and qualifications**

The Council recognises the importance of ensuring that all staff involved in the treasury management function are fully equipped to undertake the duties and responsibilities allocated to them. It will therefore seek to appoint individuals who are both capable and experienced and will provide training for staff to enable them to acquire and maintain an appropriate level of expertise, knowledge and skills. The present arrangements are detailed in the schedule to this document.

The Service Director - Finance will ensure that Members of the committee providing a scrutiny function have access to regular training relevant to their responsibilities.

11. **TMP11 Use of external service providers**

The Council recognises that responsibility for treasury management decisions remains with the organisation at all times. However, it also recognises the potential value of employing external providers of treasury management services, in order to acquire access to specialist skills and resources.

When it employs such service providers, it will ensure it does so for reasons which will have been submitted to full evaluation of the costs and benefits. It will also ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented and subjected to regular review. And it will ensure, where feasible and necessary, that a spread of service providers is used, to avoid over-reliance on one or a small number of companies.

Where services are subject to formal tender or re-tender arrangements, legislative requirements and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules will always be observed. The monitoring of such

arrangement's rests with the Service Director - Finance, and details of the current arrangements are set out in the schedule to this document.

12. **TMP12 Corporate governance**

The Council is committed to the pursuit of proper corporate governance throughout its businesses and services, and to establishing the principles and practices by which this can be achieved. Accordingly, the treasury management function and its activities will be undertaken with openness and transparency, honesty, integrity and accountability.

The Council has adopted and has implemented the key principles of the Code. This, together with the other arrangements detailed in the schedule to this document, are considered vital to the achievement of proper corporate governance in treasury management, and the Service Director - Finance will monitor and, if necessary, report upon the effectiveness of these arrangements.

Management Practices for Non-Treasury Investments

The Council recognises that investment in other financial assets and property primarily for financial return, taken for non-treasury management purposes, requires careful investment management. Such activity includes loans supporting service outcomes, investments in subsidiaries, and investment property portfolios.

The Council will ensure that all investments are covered in the Capital and Investment Strategies, and will set out where appropriate, the Councils risk appetite and specific policies and arrangements for non-treasury investments. It will be recognised that the risk appetite for these activities may differ from that of treasury management.

The Council will maintain a schedule setting out a summary of existing material investments, subsidiaries, joint ventures and liabilities including financial guarantees and the organisations risk exposure.

Appendix 7

PWLB Borrowing Rates %

	30/09/2025	31/03/2025	30/09/2024	28/03/2024	29/09/2023	31/03/2023	30/09/2022
Annuity							
15 years	5.57	5.49	4.90	4.86	5.39	4.46	5.17
20 years	5.91	5.75	5.10	5.04	5.54	4.60	5.14
30 years	6.31	6.09	5.43	5.35	5.81	4.87	5.15
50 years	6.44	6.16	5.53	5.39	5.80	4.83	4.80
Maturity							
15 years	6.13	5.95	5.29	5.23	5.70	4.78	5.15
20 years	6.34	6.11	5.47	5.38	5.83	4.90	5.11
30 years	6.46	6.19	5.55	5.41	5.84	4.86	4.85
50 years	6.18	5.87	5.33	5.21	5.61	4.61	4.41
EIP							
15 years	5.47	5.42	4.86	4.83	5.36	4.45	5.20
20 years	5.76	5.64	5.01	4.96	5.46	4.54	5.14
30 years	6.15	5.96	5.30	5.24	5.71	4.79	5.15
50 years	6.44	6.18	5.54	5.42	5.86	4.90	4.99

Appendix 8

Glossary of Treasury Terms

Authorised Limit	The affordable borrowing limit determined in compliance with the Local Government Act 2003 (English and Welsh authorities) and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. This Prudential Indicator is a statutory limit for total external debt. It is set by the Authority and needs to be consistent with the Authority's plans for capital expenditure financing and funding. The Authorised Limit provides headroom over and above the *Operational Boundary* to accommodate expected cash movements. Affordability and prudence are matters which must be taken into account when setting this limit.
Balances and Reserves	Accumulated sums that are maintained either earmarked for specific future costs or commitments or generally held to meet unforeseen or emergency expenditure.
Bank Rate	The official interest rate set by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee and what is generally termed at the "base rate". This rate is also referred to as the 'repo rate'.
Basis Point	1/100th of 1%, i.e. 0.01%
Bill	A certificate of short-term debt issued by a company, government or other institution, tradable on the financial market
Bond	A certificate of debt issued by a company, government, or other institution. The bond holder receives interest at a rate stated at the time of issue of the bond. The price of a bond may vary during its life.
Capital Expenditure	Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of capital assets.
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes representing the cumulative capital expenditure of the local authority that has not been financed.
Capital gain or loss	An increase or decrease in the capital value of an investment, for example through movements in its market price.
Capital growth	Increase in the value of the asset (in the context of a collective investment scheme, it will be the increase in the unit price of the fund).
Capital receipts	Money obtained on the sale of a capital asset.
Certainty Rate	The government has reduced by 20 basis points (0.20%) the interest rates on loans via the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) to principal local authorities who provide information as specified on their plans for long-term borrowing and associated capital spending.
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
Collective Investment Schemes	Funds in which several investors collectively hold units or shares. The assets in the fund are not held directly by each investor, but as part of a pool (hence these funds are also referred to as 'Pooled Funds'). Unit Trusts and Open-Ended Investment Companies are types of collective investment schemes/pooled funds.
Corporate Bonds	Corporate bonds are bonds issued by companies. The term is often used to cover all bonds other than those issued by governments in their own currencies and includes issues by companies, supranational organisations and government agencies.
Corporate Bond Funds	Collective Investment Schemes investing predominantly in bonds issued by companies and supranational organisations.
CPI ***Also see RPI***	Consumer Price Index. (This measure is used as the Bank of England's inflation target.)
Cost of carry	When a loan is borrowed in advance of requirement, this is the difference between the interest rate and (other associated costs) on the loan and the income earned from investing the cash in the interim.
Counterparty List	List of approved financial institutions with which the Council can place investments.
Credit Default Swap (CDS)	A Credit Default Swap is similar to an insurance policy against a credit default. Both the buyer and seller of a CDS are exposed to credit risk. Naked CDS, i.e. one which is not linked to an underlying security, can lead to speculative trading.
Credit Rating	Formal opinion by a registered rating agency of a counterparty's future ability to meet its financial liabilities; these are opinions only and not guarantees.

Debt Management Office (DMO)	The DMO is an Executive Agency of Her Majesty's Treasury and provides direct access for local authorities into a government deposit facility known as the Debt Management Account Deposit Fund (DMADF). All deposits are guaranteed by HM Government and therefore have the equivalent of a sovereign triple-A credit rating.
Diversification / diversified exposure	The spreading of investments among different types of assets or between markets in order to reduce risk.
Derivatives	Financial instruments whose value, and price, are dependent on one or more underlying assets. Derivatives can be used to gain exposure to, or to help protect against, expected changes in the value of the underlying investments. Derivatives may be traded on a regulated exchange or traded 'over the counter'.
ECB	European Central Bank
Fair Value	Fair value is defined as a sale price agreed to by a willing buyer and seller, assuming both parties enter the transaction freely. Many investments have a fair value determined by a market where the security is traded.
Federal Reserve	The US central bank. (Often referred to as "the Fed")
Floating Rate Notes	A bond issued by a company where the interest rate paid on the bond changes at set intervals (generally every 3 months). The rate of interest is linked to LIBOR and may therefore increase or decrease at each rate setting.
GDP	Gross domestic product – also termed as "growth" in the economy. The value of the national aggregate production of goods and services in the economy.
General Fund	This includes most of the day-to-day spending and income. (All spending and income related to the management and maintenance of the housing stock is kept separately in the Housing Revenue Account).
Gilts (UK Govt)	Gilts are bonds issued by the UK Government. They take their name from 'gilt-edged': being issued by the UK government, they are deemed to be very secure as the investor expects to receive the full face value of the bond to be repaid on maturity.
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	A ring-fenced account of all housing income and expenditure, required by statute.
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards.
Income Distribution	The payment made to investors from the income generated by a fund; such a payment can also be referred to as a 'dividend'.
Local Authority Property Fund (LAPF)	A pooled property collective investment scheme for Churches, Charities and Local Authorities. (see Collective Investment Scheme).
Liability Benchmark	Term in CIPFA's Risk Management Toolkit which refers to the minimum amount of borrowing required to keep investments at a minimum liquidity level (which may be zero).
LOBOs	LOBO stands for 'Lender's Option Borrower's Option'. The underlying loan facility is typically long term and the interest rate is fixed. However, in the LOBO facility the lender has the option to call on the facilities at pre-determined future dates. On these call dates, the lender can propose or impose a new fixed rate for the remaining term of the facility and the borrower has the 'option' to either accept the new imposed fixed rate or repay the loan facility.
Maturity	The date when an investment or borrowing is repaid.
Maturity profile	A table or graph showing the amount (or percentage) of debt or investments maturing over a time period. The amount or percent maturing could be shown on a year-by-year or quarter-by-quarter or month-by-month basis.
MiFID II	MiFID II replaced the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID I) from 3 January 2018. It is a legislative framework instituted by the European Union to regulate financial markets in the bloc and improve protections for investors.
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	An annual provision that the Authority is statutorily required to set aside and charge to the Revenue Account for the repayment of debt associated with expenditure incurred on capital assets.
Money Market Funds (MMF)	Pooled funds which invest in a range of short term assets providing high credit quality and high liquidity.

Net Asset Value (NAV)	A fund's net asset value is calculated by taking the current value of the fund's assets and subtracting its liabilities.
Operational Boundary	This is the limit set by the Authority as its most likely, i.e. prudent, estimate level of external debt, but not the worst case scenario. This limit links directly to the Authority's plans for capital expenditure, the estimates of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) and the estimate of cashflow requirements for the year.
Pooled funds	See Collective Investment Schemes (above).
Premiums and Discounts	In the context of local authority borrowing, (a) the premium is the penalty arising when a loan is redeemed prior to its maturity date and (b) the discount is the gain arising when a loan is redeemed prior to its maturity date. If on a £1 million loan, it is calculated* that a £100,000 premium is payable on premature redemption, then the amount paid by the borrower to redeem the loan is £1,100,000 plus accrued interest. If on a £1 million loan, it is calculated that a £100,000 discount receivable on premature redemption, then the amount paid by the borrower to redeem the loan is £900,000 plus accrued interest. PWLB premium/discount rates are calculated according to the length of time to maturity, current market rates (plus a margin), and the existing loan rate which then produces a premium/discount dependent on whether the discount rate is lower/higher than the coupon rate. *The calculation of the total amount payable to redeem a loan borrowed from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) is the present value of the remaining payments of principal and interest due in respect of the loan being repaid prematurely, calculated on normal actuarial principles. More details are contained in the PWLB's lending arrangements circular.
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)	Private Finance Initiative (PFI) provides a way of funding major capital investments, without immediate recourse to the public purse. Private consortia, usually involving large construction firms, are contracted to design, build, and in some cases manage new projects. Contracts can typically last for 30 years, during which time the asset is leased by a public authority.
Investment Property	Property (land or a building or part of a building or both) held (by the owner or by the lessee under a finance lease) to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both.
Prudential Code	Developed by CIPFA and introduced on 01/4/2004 as a professional code of practice to support local authority capital investment planning within a clear, affordable, prudent and sustainable framework and in accordance with good professional practice.
Prudential Indicators	Indicators determined by the local authority to define its capital expenditure and asset management framework. They are designed to support and record local decision making in a manner that is publicly accountable; they are not intended to be comparative performance indicators between authorities.
PWLB	Public Works Loans Board. It is a statutory body operating within the United Kingdom Debt Management Office, an Executive Agency of HM Treasury. The PWLB's function is to lend money from the National Loans Fund to local authorities and other prescribed bodies, and to collect the repayments.
Revenue Expenditure	Expenditure to meet the continuing cost of delivery of services including salaries and wages, the purchase of materials and capital financing charges.
Risk	**Credit and counterparty risk** The risk of failure by a counterparty to meet its contractual obligations to the organisation under an investment, borrowing, capital, project or partnership financing, particularly as a result of the counterparty's diminished creditworthiness, and the resulting detrimental effect on the organisation's capital or current (revenue) resources. **Liquidity risk** The risk that cash will not be available when it is needed, that ineffective management of liquidity creates additional unbudgeted costs, and that the organisation's business/service objectives will be thereby compromised. **Refinancing risk** The risk that maturing borrowings, capital, project or partnership financings cannot be refinanced on terms that reflect the provisions made by the organisation for those refinancings, both capital and current (revenue), and/or that the terms are inconsistent with prevailing market conditions at the time. **Interest Rate risk**

	The risk that fluctuations in the levels of interest rates create an unexpected or unbudgeted burden on the organisation's finances, against which the organisation has failed to protect itself adequately. **Legal risk** The risk that the organisation itself, or an organisation with which it is dealing in its treasury management activities, fails to act in accordance with its legal powers or regulatory requirements, and that the organisation suffers losses accordingly. **Operational risk** The risk that an organisation fails to identify the circumstances in which it may be exposed to the risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption or other eventualities in its treasury management dealings, and fails to employ suitable systems and procedures and maintain effective contingency management arrangements to these ends. It includes the area of risk commonly referred to as operational risk. **Market Risk** The risk that, through adverse market fluctuations in the value of the principal sums an organisation borrows and invests, its stated treasury management policies and objectives are compromised, against which effects it has failed to protect itself adequately.
RPI	Retail Prices Index. A monthly index demonstrating the movement in the cost of living as it tracks the prices of goods and services including mortgage interest and rent. Pensions and index-linked gilts are uprated using the CPI index.
SORP	Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting (Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom).
Specified Investments	Term used in the CLG Guidance and Welsh Assembly Guidance for Local Authority Investments. Investments that offer high security and high liquidity, in sterling and for no more than 1 year. UK government, local authorities and bodies that have a high credit rating.
Supported Borrowing	Borrowing for which the costs are supported by the government or third party.
Temporary Borrowing	Borrowing to cover peaks and troughs of cash flow, not to fund spending.
Term Deposits	Deposits of cash with terms attached relating to maturity and rate of return (interest).
Treasury (T) -Bills	Treasury Bills are short term Government debt instruments and, just like temporary loans used by local authorities, are a means to manage cash flow. Treasury Bills (T-Bills) are issued by the Debt Management Office and are an eligible sovereign instrument, meaning that they have a AAA-rating.
Treasury Management Code	CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services. The current Code is the edition released in 2021.
Treasury Management Practices (TMP)	Treasury Management Practices set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve its policies and objectives and prescribe how it will manage and control these activities.
Unsupported Borrowing	Borrowing which is self-financed by the local authority. This is also sometimes referred to as Prudential Borrowing.
Usable Reserves	Resources available to finance future revenue and capital expenditure.
Variable Net Asset Value (VNAV)	A term used in relation to the valuation of 1 share in a fund. This means that the net asset value (NAV) of these funds is calculated daily based on market prices.
Working Capital	Timing differences between income/expenditure and receipts/payments
Yield	The measure of the return on an investment instrument.