

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 09/09/2024

Subject: Treasury Management Outturn Report 2023/24

Report of: Councillor Rowan Ree, Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform

Report author: Phil Triggs, Tri-Borough Director of Treasury & Pensions
Sophie Green, Treasury Manager

Responsible Director: Sukvinder Kalsi, Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services

SUMMARY

This report sets out the Council's Treasury Management Outturn for 2023/24 and is in line with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy (as approved by Council on 23 February 2023). The details are subject to external audit review and this report will also be presented to Audit Committee in September (in line with governance and regulatory requirements).

All local authorities were operating in a very challenging strategic financial environment during 2023/24 (continuing market uncertainty on interest rates and inflation). Despite that, the Council operated within the Treasury Limits and Prudential Indicators during 2023/24 and met all of its prudential indicators.

During 2023/24, the Council issued a 'Green Bond' of £1m and repaid £4.3m of PWLB loans and thereby reducing the total borrowing to £268.5m.

Cash balances were £159.3m at 31 March 2024 (lower than 31 March 2023). These funds were invested at competitive rates throughout the year with the average yield on investments increasing to 5.62% by year end.

Cash was invested in a diverse portfolio of money markets funds, local authorities and banks. The Treasury limits and Prudential indicators are set out in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement as approved by Council on 23 February 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Treasury Management Outturn Report for 2023/24 be noted and approved.

Wards Affected: None

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	Ensuring an optimum borrowing and investment strategy in line with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement

Financial Impact

This report is wholly of a financial nature.

Phil Triggs, Director of Treasury and Pensions, 26th June 2024.

Verified by Sukvinder Kalsi, Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services, 8th July 2024

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications in respect of this report.

Grant Deg, Director of Legal Services, 21st August 2024

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023/24 (published and approved by Council on 23 February 2023)

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Proposals and Analysis of Options

Background and Treasury Position

1. Treasury management in this context is defined as:

“The management of the Council’s investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

2. This annual treasury report covers:

- the treasury position as at 31 March 2024;
- the borrowing strategy for 2023/24;
- the borrowing outturn for 2023/24;
- compliance with treasury limits and prudential indicators;

- investment strategy for 2023/24; and
- investment outturn for 2023/24.

3. The Council's debt, all held with the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), with the exception of a £1m Green Bond, and investment positions at the beginning and end of the 2023/24 year were as follows:

	31 March 2023 (£m)	Rate (%)	31 March 2024 (£m)	Rate (%)
General Fund (GF)	52.8	3.71	53.0	3.69
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	218.9	3.77	215.5	3.73
Total Borrowing	271.7	3.76	268.5	3.72
Total Cash Invested	270.2	4.02	159.3	5.62
Net Cash Invested	(1.5)		(109.2)	

4. The table below shows the allocation of interest paid and received during the year 2023/24:

	Interest Paid (£m)	Interest Received (£m)	Net (£m)
General Fund (GF)	1.9	(10.3)	(8.4)
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	7.9	(2.1)	5.8
Other*	0.0	(1.0)	(1.0)
Total	9.8	(13.4)	(3.6)

* Other – interest paid on balances held for other deposits such as Wormwood Scrubs and rent deposit.

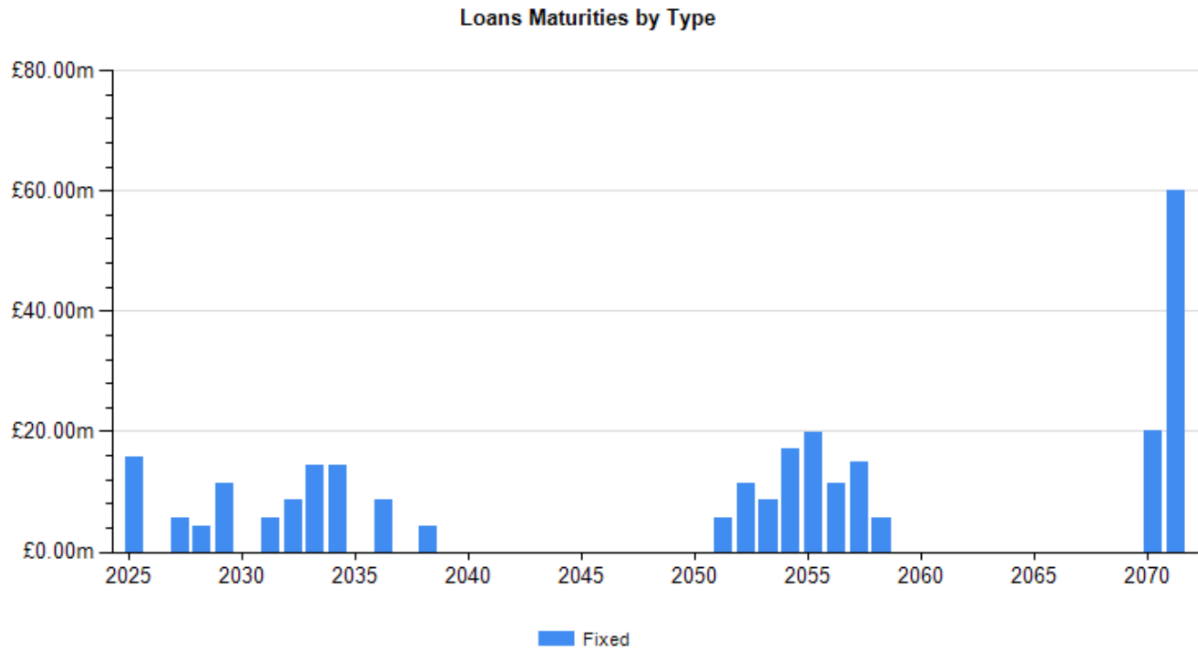
5. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is responsible for servicing 80.6% of the Council's external debt and the General Fund is responsible for the remaining 19.4%.
6. The table below shows the split of investments by duration as at 31 March 2024:

Maturity Period	Fixed (£m)	MMF (£m)	Total (£m)
Liquidity	0.0	42.3	42.3
< 1 Month	5.0	0.0	5.0
1 – 3 Months	72.0	0.0	72.0
3 – 6 Months	20.0	0.0	20.0
6 – 12 Months	20.0	0.0	20.0
Total	117.0	42.3	159.3

7. The TMSS kept investments short-term and invested with highly rated or UK Government backed institutions, resulting in lower returns compared to borrowing rates.

Treasury Borrowing

8. During the year, the Council issued a Green Bond of £1m and repaid £4.3m of PWLB loans, reducing total borrowing to £268.5m.
9. All of the Council's loans are at a fixed rate of interest. The table below shows the debt profile as at 31 March 2024:



10. In 2023/24, the HRA PWLB debt of £215.5 million remained below the HRA Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) of £348 million, which generates internal borrowing of £132.5 million. This difference does not exceed the value of HRA working balances. HRA reserves and working capital, in excess of the internal borrowing, represent cash balances on which interest is allocated from the General Fund.
11. As at 31 March 2024, the Council had an under-borrowed position. This means that past and future capital expenditure is not fully funded by capital resources, with the balance instead being financed by cash reserves (known as internal borrowing).

Closing Capital Financing Requirement analysed between General Fund and Housing Revenue Account

	31 March 2023 CFR £m	31 March 2023 External Debt £m	31 March 2024 CFR £m	31 March 2024 External Debt £m
GF CFR (Excluding DSG funded Schools Windows borrowing)	134.0	0.0	163.1	0.0
GF CFR (DSG funded Schools Windows borrowing)	55.4	0.0	88.3	0.0
Total GF Headline CFR	189.4	0.0	251.4	0.0
Finance leases/PFI	13.5	0.0	14.3	0.0
Total Closing GF CFR	202.9	52.8	265.7	53.0
HRA TOTAL	300.6	0.0	348.3	0.0
HRA CFR Total	300.6	218.9	348.3	215.5
Total CFR/External Debt	503.5	271.7	614.0	268.5

Treasury Investments

12. At 31 March 2024, a significant part of the Council's treasury investment portfolio (£117.0 million) was held in fixed term deposits with Local Authorities and bank notice accounts.
13. The TMSS allowed investment in the following areas:
 - an unlimited investment limit with the UK Government (DMO) deposits, UK gilts, repos and treasury bills;
 - up to a maximum of £50 million per counterparty in supra-national banks, European agencies and covered bonds debt on a buy to hold basis with maturity dates of up to five years, and the Greater London Authority (GLA) bonds for up to three years;
 - a limit of £30 million to be invested with any UK Local Authority (subject to internal counterparty approval by the Director of Treasury and Pensions and Director of Finance);
 - no more than £45 million to be invested with any individual Money Market Fund;
 - any financial instrument held with a UK bank limited to £70 million depending on the credit rating and Government ownership above 25% (limit of £50 million);
 - any financial instrument held with a non-UK bank limited to £50 million.
14. The investments outstanding at 31 March 2024 amounted to £159.3 million invested in short-term deposits. This compares with £270.2 million short-term investments at 31 March 2023.
15. The table below provides an analysis of the cash deposits, together with comparisons from the previous year:

	31 March 2023 £m	31 March 2024 £m
Money Market Funds	151.6	42.3
Term Deposits	118.6	117.0
Total	270.2	159.3

16. During 2023/24 cash balances varied between £185.7 million and £281.6 million reflecting the timing of the Council's income (council tax, national non-domestic rates, government grants and capital receipts, etc) and expenditure (precept payments, payroll costs, supplier payments and capital projects).
17. The average return achieved on investments managed internally for the year was 4.97% compared with the average 7-day money market rate (uncompounded) of 4.96%. The total interest received of £13.5 million compares with a weighted average of 2.05% and a total interest received of £5.0 million for 2022/23. Interest rates were steady throughout the year with the Council following a low risk strategy and avoiding potentially higher returns which would increase counterparty risk.

Inflation Rates

18. The below table shows the movement in inflation rates throughout the 2023/24 financial year.

	CPIH Index (UK, 2015 = 100)	CPIH 12- month rate (%)
2023 Mar	126.8	8.9
Apr	128.3	7.8
May	129.1	7.9
Jun	129.4	7.3
Jul	129	6.4
Aug	129.4	6.3
Sep	130.1	6.3
Oct	130.2	4.7
Nov	130	4.2
Dec	130.5	4.2
2024 Jan	130	4.2
Feb	130.8	3.8
Mar	131.6	3.8

Source: Consumer price inflation from the Office for National Statistics

Prudential Indicators

19. During the year the Council operated within the Treasury Limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the TMSS approved by Council on 23 February 2023.
20. The table below provides a breakdown of the indicators and actual position for the year ending 31 March 2024:

Indicator	2023/24 Approved Limit	2023/24 Actual	Indicator Met?
Capital Financing Requirement	£684m	£614m	Met
Authorised Limit for external debt ¹	£650m	£268.5m	Met
Operational Debt Boundary ²	£705m		Met
Capital Expenditure	£203m	£185m	Met
Working capital balance	£0m	£0m	Met
Limit on surplus funds invested for more than 364 days	£120m	£0m	Met

Maturity Structure of Borrowing	Minimum	Maximum	Actual	Indicator Met?
Under 12 Months	0%	15%	6%	Met
12 Mths to within 24 Mths	0%	15%	0%	Met
24 Mths to within 5 years	0%	60%	8%	Met
5 years to within 10 years	0%	75%	16%	Met
Over 10 years	0%	100%	70%	Met

Ratio of financing costs to revenue stream	GF 2.82% HRA 35.42%	GF 2.85% HRA 25.62%
Ratio of Commercial/Service Investment Income to Net Revenue Stream	GF 1.80% HRA 3.41%	GF 1.80% HRA 2.71%

Reasons for Decision

21. The Council's treasury management activity is underpinned by the CIPFA Code, which recommends that members are informed of treasury

¹ The Authorised Limit is the maximum requirement for borrowing taking into account maturing debt, capital programme financing requirements and the ability to borrow in advance of need for up to two years ahead.

² The Operational Boundary is the expected normal upper requirement for borrowing in the year.

management activities at least twice a year.

Equality Implications

22. There are no direct negative implications for protected groups, under the Equality Act 2010, arising from the information presented in this report.
23. Implications completed by: Sophie Green, Treasury Manager, tel. 07816 280 994.

Risk Management Implications

24. The purpose of this report is to present the Council's annual Treasury Management Outturn Report for 2023/24 in accordance with the Council's treasury management practices. The Council regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities is measured. Risk levels were set in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy Statement.
25. The Council continues to recognise that effective treasury management provides support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives, specifically, being ruthlessly financially efficient. The identification, monitoring and control of risks are central to the achievement of the treasury objectives. Potential risks are identified, mitigated and monitored in accordance with treasury practice.
26. Implications verified by: David Hughes, Director of Audit, Risk and Fraud, tel. 020 7361 2389.

Consultation

None.

LIST OF APPENDICES

NONE.