



Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council

Investment Policy

Introduction

The Council acknowledges the importance of investing prudently the temporarily surplus funds held on behalf of the community.

In preparing its investment policy the Council is required under Section 15(1) of the Local Government Act 20113 to have regard to such Guidance as the Secretary of State may issue.

The current statutory Community and Local Government Investments Guidance Note came into force on 1 April 2010.

The Guidance Note makes distinction between investments that are:

- high security and high liquidity (specified investments) and
- those with potentially greater risks and lower liquidity (non-specified investments)

Investment Objectives

The Council's investment priorities are the security of reserves and liquidity of its investments. The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity.

All investments will be made in Sterling.

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

If external investment managers are used, they will be contractually required to comply with the policy.

Specified Investments

Specified Investments are, by definition in the Guidance note, those offering high security and high liquidity, made in Sterling and with a maturing of no more than a year. Such short term investments made with the UK Government or a local authority to Town/Parish Council will automatically be Specified Investments, as will those with bodies or investment schemes of "high credit quality".

For the prudent management of its treasury balances, maintaining sufficient levels of security and liquidity, the Council will use:

- Deposits with UK banks, UK building societies, UK local authorities or other UK public authorities or loans to local authorities where it is possible to do so
- The debt management agency of HM Government

Non-specified Investments

These investments have greater potential risk - examples include investment in the money market, subordinated bonds from banks, permanent interest-bearing shares from building societies and corporate stocks and shares.

Given the unpredictability and uncertainties surrounding such investments, the Council will not use this type of investment.

Liquidity of Investments

The Responsible Finance Officer in the In-House Audit Subcommittee will recommend to Council the amount and the maximum periods for which funds may be prudently committed so as not to compromise liquidity.

Long-term Investments

Long term investments are defined in the Guidance note as greater than 12 months and require that, should any Council wish to invest for periods greater than 12 months, it must identify the procedures for monitoring, assessing and mitigating the risk of loss of invested sums.

End of Year Investment Report

At the end of the financial year, the Responsible Finance Officer will report on investment activity to the General Management Committee.

Review and Amendment of the Policy

The policy will, in conformity with the CLG Guidance Note, be reviewed by the Responsible Finance Officer for consideration and approval annually.

<p>Date Policy Reviewed: February 2022 Authority: General Management Committee Review Period: every 1 year Next Review: February 2023</p>
