

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	14 February 2023
Title:	Treasury Management Policy Statement, Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 and the MRP Policy for 2023/24.
Purpose of the report:	To consider the Treasury Management Policy Statement, the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 and the MRP Policy for 2023/24.
For:	DECISION
Cabinet Portfolio:	Cllr. Gareth Davies, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement Services

1. INTRODUCTION

The CIPFA 2021 Prudential and Treasury Management Codes requires the Council to set out its Treasury Management Strategy, which explains the Council's policies for managing its investments and debt, and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments.

The Strategy needs to be approved annually by Full Council. There will also be a mid-year report, and at the end of the financial year there will be an Outturn Report. In addition there can be regular review by Members as part of adhoc reports to the Corporate Resources Scrutiny committee, plus training to Members at appropriate points in time. The aim of these reporting arrangements is to ensure that those with various responsibilities for the Treasury Management function appreciate fully the implications of treasury management policies and activities, and that those implementing policies and executing transactions have properly fulfilled their responsibilities with regard to delegation and reporting. The proposed strategy for 2023/24 is based upon views on interest rates, supplemented with market forecasts provided by the Council's Treasury advisor and covers:

- Treasury Management Policy Statement
- Treasury portfolio position
- Prospects for interest rates
- Debt rescheduling
- Creditworthiness Policy
- Banking Arrangements
- Prudential Indicators
- Funding requirement
- Borrowing strategy
- Investment strategy
- MRP Policy

These elements cover the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, Welsh Government Investment Guidance and MRP Guidance, the CIPFA Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code.

In addition to the Strategy, Mid-year and Outturn reports, from 2023/24 it is also a requirement that all forward-looking prudential indicators are reported at least quarterly. The Council currently employs Link Treasury Solutions Ltd as the Council's external Treasury advisor on a contract that runs until 30/08/2026. However, even by using external advisors, the responsibility for Treasury management decisions ultimately rests with the Council.

2. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT

The Council defines its Treasury Management activities as 'the management of the authority's investments and cashflows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities and the pursuit of the optimum performance consistent with those risks'.

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

The Council acknowledges that effective Treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is therefore committed to the principles of achieving value for money in Treasury management, and to employing suitable comprehensive performance measurement techniques, within the context of effective risk management.

3. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

The Prudential indicators shown in Appendix A are relevant for the purposes of setting an integrated Treasury Management Strategy. They will be presented for final approval by Council on 02/03/23.

4. TREASURY PORTFOLIO POSITION

Details of the Council's treasury portfolio are:

	<u>As at</u> <u>30/09/2022</u> <u>£m</u>	<u>As at</u> <u>31/03/2022</u> <u>£m</u>
<u>Fixed Rate borrowing</u>		
- PWLB	101.7	108.9
- Market loan	5.8	5.8
- WG Repayable Loan funding	0.9	0.9
Total Debt	<u>108.4</u>	<u>115.6</u>

<u>Investments held</u>		
- In-house	42.2	55.5
Total Investments	42.2	55.5
Net Debt	66.2	60.1

The figures in the table are a snapshot at a point in time, therefore the actual level of borrowing and investments during the year may vary significantly, as income is received and payments are made.

5. FUNDING REQUIREMENT

The future funding requirement can be estimated by looking at the more significant cashflow items emanating from the combined impacts of the latest 3 year Capital Programme, the proposed 2023/24 budget, the level of upcoming maturing debt and the actual level of current borrowing compared with the underlying need to borrow (also known as internal borrowing). Looking at each of these factors in turn:

	<u>2023/24</u> <u>Estimate</u> <u>£m</u>	<u>2024/25</u> <u>Estimate</u> <u>£m</u>	<u>2025/26</u> <u>Estimate</u> <u>£m</u>
a) <u>Latest Capital Programme and Revenue budgets Impact</u>			
WG Supported Borrowing	2.9	2.9	2.9
Coastal Protection Scheme - WG Supported Prudential Borrowing	17.0	2.5	-
Statutory debt payments set aside (MRP)	(1.4)	(1.5)	(1.6)
Estimated change in Reserves & Balances	10.7	1.5	0.6
Estimated funding requirement	29.2	5.4	1.9
b) <u>Maturing Debt Impact</u>			
PWLB Maturity debt maturing	-	3.0	-
Estimated funding requirement	-	3.0	-
c) <u>Internal Borrowing Position Impact</u>			
<i>Estimated Capital Financing Requirement</i>	<i>156.5</i>	<i>160.4</i>	<i>161.7</i>
<i>Estimated Gross External Borrowing</i>	<i>137.0</i>	<i>144.3</i>	<i>149.3</i>
<i>Estimated Difference</i>	<i>19.5</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>12.4</i>
Reduction in Internal Borrowing	-	2.0	3.0
TOTAL ESTIMATED funding requirement	29.2	10.4	4.9

Overall there is therefore an estimated potential borrowing requirement in the region of £44.5m over the coming 3 year period. The main driver behind this is the WG

supported prudential borrowing for the Coastal Protection Scheme (£19.5m latest estimated) in combination with PWLB debt maturing (£3.0m in 2024/25) together with continually reviewing internal borrowing.

6. PROSPECTS FOR INTEREST RATES

At the time of writing this report the Bank of England Bank Rate stands at 4.0% having been raised significantly during 2022 following its all-time lows of 0.1% during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Council's treasury advisor's forecasts for Interest rates at the time of writing are shown in table below. The forecast expects the Bank Rate to continue to rise and peak at 4.5% during 2023 and fall back slightly thereafter. This is a quickly evolving environment and these forecasts are likely to change.

	Mar 23	Jun 23	Sept 23	Dec 23	Mar 24	Jun 24	Sep 24	Dec 24
Bank Rate	4.25%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.00%	3.75%	3.50%	3.25%

The above forecast for interest rates was updated on 19 December and reflects our treasury advisors view that the MPC will be keen to further demonstrate its anti-inflation credentials with further interest rate increases.

It is anticipated that the Bank of England will be keen to loosen monetary policy when the worst of the inflationary pressures are behind us – but that timing will be one of fine judgment: cut too soon, and inflationary pressures may well build up further; cut too late and any downturn or recession may be prolonged.

The CPI measure of inflation looks to have peaked at 11.1% in Q4 2022. Despite the cost-of-living squeeze the Bank will want to see evidence that wages are not spiralling upwards in what is a very tight labour market.

During the upcoming months, forecasts will be guided not only by economic data releases and clarifications from the MPC over its monetary policies and the Government over its fiscal policies, but the on-going conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

7. BORROWING STRATEGY

The Link forecast for borrowing rates, taking account of the PWLB certainty rate reduction 0.20%, are as follows:

	Mar 23	Jun 23	Sept 23	Dec 23	Mar 24	Jun 24	Sep 24	Dec 24
5Y PWLB Rate	4.20%	4.20%	4.10%	4.00%	3.90%	3.80%	3.60%	3.50%
10Y PWLB Rate	4.40%	4.40%	4.30%	4.10%	4.00%	3.90%	3.80%	3.60%
25Y PWLB Rate	4.60%	4.60%	4.50%	4.40%	4.20%	4.10%	4.00%	3.90%
50Y PWLB Rate	4.30%	4.30%	4.20%	4.10%	3.90%	3.80%	3.70%	3.60%

The Council is still maintaining an under-borrowed position as it is using internal borrowing in lieu of external borrowing. Effectively the full capital borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement excluding Other Long-Term Liabilities) is a higher figure than the Council's actual external loan debt as shown in the table in Section 5c. This strategy is currently prudent as medium and longer dated borrowing rates are expected to fall from their current levels once prevailing inflation concerns are addressed by tighter near-term monetary policy.

Taking account of these factors, combined with the Council's estimated funding requirement in Section 5, the Council's proposed borrowing strategy will give consideration to new borrowing by taking account of the following:

- New PWLB loans in order to meet the estimated borrowing requirement identified.
- Long term fixed rate market loans (where rates are significantly below PWLB rates for the equivalent maturity period), provided that an appropriate balance between PWLB and market debt is maintained across the debt portfolio.
- Temporary or short term borrowing from the money markets may be used for periods of up to 5 years,
- Consideration may be given to the Municipal Bonds Agency.

The Council will not borrow more than, or in advance of, its needs purely to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. Any decision to borrow in advance of need will be within the approved Capital Financing Requirement estimates (one of the Prudential Indicators) and will be carefully considered to ensure that value for money can be demonstrated, that the Council can ensure the security of such funds and can afford the short term 'cost of carry'.

Against this background, caution will continue to be adopted with the 2023/24 Treasury Management operations. The Section 151 officer will monitor the interest rate market and adopt a pragmatic approach to changing circumstances, taking account of the prevailing advice from the Council's external Treasury advisors and reporting any relevant decisions to Cabinet at the next available opportunity.

8. DEBT RESCHEDULING

There are limited options for PWLB to PWLB debt rescheduling in the current climate. It is also unlikely that the Council will be in a position to repay prematurely any further debt outright, unless it is part of debt rescheduling. However should any restructuring opportunities arise they would be carefully considered and the reasons for any rescheduling to take place will include:

- the generation of cash savings and / or discounted cash flow savings;
- help fulfill the borrowing strategy outlined previously; and
- enhance the balance of the portfolio (e.g. the maturity profile)

9. INVESTMENT STRATEGY

9.1 Overview

The Council will have regard to the Welsh Government Guidance on Local Government Investments, CIPFA's Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes 2021, and the CIPFA Treasury Management Guidance Notes 2021.

Welsh Government and CIPFA have extended the meaning of 'investments' to include both financial and non-financial investments. This report deals solely with treasury (financial) investments. Meaning those managed by the treasury management team.

The Council's investment priorities are (in order of priority):

- The security of capital
- The liquidity of its investments.
- Yield

The Council will also aim to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. The risk appetite of the Council is low in order to give priority to security of its investments. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs. However, where appropriate, the Council will also consider the value available in investment periods up to 12 months with high credit rated financial institutions.

The borrowing of monies purely to invest and make a return is unlawful and the Council will not engage in such activity.

The 2023/24 revenue budget for investment income has increased by £1m as a result of the increased interest rates and is part of the Council's approach of 'Doing Things Differently' to help balance the budget.

9.2 Creditworthiness Policy

The Section 151 officer uses the creditworthiness service provided by Link Treasury Solutions Ltd. This service uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's, forming the core element. However, it does not rely solely on the current credit ratings of counterparties but also uses the following information:

- Credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies
- Credit Default Swap (CDS) spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings
- Sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries

This modelling approach combines credit ratings, credit watches, credit outlooks and CDS spreads in a weighted scoring system for which the end product is a series of colour code bands. These bands indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties and assign a suggested maximum investment duration. The Council uses similar

maximum durations to those suggested by Link's standard methodology, other than still keeping investments under 1 year in duration.

<u>Durational band</u>	<u>Link's suggested max duration</u>	<u>Council suggested duration</u>	
Yellow	5 years	1 year	
Purple	2 years	1 year	
Blue	1 year	1 year	<i>applies to part/fully nationalised UK Banks</i>
Orange	1 year	1 year	
Red	6 months	6 months	
Green	100 days	100 days	
No colour	Not used	Not used	

All credit ratings are monitored on a weekly basis, with the Council being alerted to changes to ratings of all three agencies through its use of Link's creditworthiness service, combined with receiving a weekly bulletin of all counterparties' current credit ratings and durational banding. If a downgrade results in the counterparty/investment scheme no longer meeting the Council's minimum criteria, its further use for new investments will be withdrawn immediately. Link have, at certain previous points in time, overlaid all counterparties with a default colour of green, indicating a maximum lending period of 3 months. For absolute clarity should this happen again, the Council will look at a counterparty's colour coding prior to this default overlay, in order to establish whether a counterparty meets the approved credit rating criteria in Appendix B: Annex 1 and then use the maximum 3 month time period that Link are currently advising.

However, sole reliance will not be placed on the use of this external creditworthiness service provided by Link, the Section 151 officer will also use market data/information and information on government support for banks and the credit ratings of that government support.

9.3 Current Counterparties

The counterparties being used as part of the current investment strategy focuses in summary on:

- No investments for longer than a 1 year duration
- No investments with any counterparty that does not meet the minimum credit rating criteria defined as 'Green' by Link
- Fixed counterparty (still subject to meeting credit rating criteria) list of: Barclays Bank, National Westminster Bank Group including Natwest Markets plc, Lloyds Banking group including Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets plc, HSBC, Nationwide BS, Santander UK, Royal Bank of Scotland, Coventry BS, Leeds BS, Yorkshire BS, Skipton BS, Standard Chartered Bank, Goldman Sachs International Bank, Bank of Scotland group and the UK Government DMO Account.

Whilst having full regard for the investment priorities Security, Liquidity and Yield the Council will continue to monitor the market for investment counterparties and investment products that have a positive impact on the environment, communities and society. At present there are many inconsistencies and a lack of standard metrics when it comes to assessing a counterparty's Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) credentials, however the Council will work closely with our Treasury Advisors to identify appropriate counterparties and investment products.

9.4 Proposed 2023/24 Strategy

Investments will be made with reference to the core balance and cashflow requirements which will generally be investing for periods of up to 3 months. However, where surplus funds allow, then investments for up to a 1 year period may be made. This will be undertaken with advice as required from the Council's external advisors, taking account of prevailing market conditions, combined with ensuring any counterparty used is on the Approved Counterparty list in Appendix B (Annex 1) and meets the defined credit rating criteria.

The complete list of Investment instruments proposed for use in 2023/24 is shown in Appendix B. Counterparty limits are reviewed regularly and any changes are authorised by the Section 151 officer. The latest proposed counterparty list is attached as Annex 1 to Appendix B. It is also not envisaged that an External Fund Manager would be used, except for the purchase of Government Gilts and/or Treasury Bills.

10. BANKING CONTRACT

The Council has a contract with Barclays for the delivery of banking services, which runs until 31/03/2024.

11. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) POLICY

The proposed MRP Policy Statement for 2023/24 is attached as Appendix C and reflects the continuance of the existing MRP Policy.

12. KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

The CIPFA Code requires that the s151 officer ensures that Members receive adequate training in treasury management. This especially applies to Members responsible for scrutiny. Members attended a 'Treasury Management - Member Training' event held on 8th November 2022. This training was presented by our treasury management advisors Link Treasury Solutions Ltd.

The training needs of treasury management officers are also regularly reviewed. The Council maintains a Knowledge & Skills register which identifies all roles involved with the Treasury function, identifies the core competences required for each role, records any training attended by officers together with their future training requirements.

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why Yes

Summary:

Long term: The strategy sets out how the council manages its cash, investments debts in both the short term and in the longer term.

Integration: N/A

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Collaboration: With our Corporate Banking Suppliers (Barclays), our Treasury Advisors and the stated counter-party list within the Strategy.

Involvement: N/A

Prevention: The strategy sets out how the council will manage its cash resources in a proactive manner.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet notes the report and:

- a) approves the Treasury Management Strategy outlined in the report for Borrowing and Investments;
- b) approves the Investment Schedule as set out in Appendix B;
- c) approves the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix C;
- d) delegates authority to the Section 151 officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement, to amend the Treasury Management Strategy, and Investment Schedule, during the course of the year;

and recommends to Full Council:

- e) the approval of the Treasury Management Strategy for Borrowing and Investments for 2023/24; and
- f) the approval of the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2023/24.

Reasons for decision:

To set a Treasury Management Strategy and Minimum Revenue Policy for 2023/24

Overview and Scrutiny:

To be considered

Policy Framework:

2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy

Strategic Objectives: Ceredigion County Council is an organisation that is fit-for-purpose to deliver improving services to meet the needs of our citizens

Financial Implications: Finance: Investment Income/External interest paid

Statutory Powers: Local Government Act 2003

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A: Treasury Management related Prudential Indicators
Appendix B: Investment Schedule
Appendix C: 2023/24 MRP Policy Statement

Corporate Lead Officer: Duncan Hall, Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement

Reporting Officer: Justin Davies, Corporate Manager: Core Finance

Date: 31/01/2023

Treasury Management related Prudential Indicators

Gross debt and the Capital Finance Requirement

In order to ensure that over the medium term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that gross external debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years.

The Section 151 officer reports that the authority did not have any difficulty in meeting this requirement in 2021/22, nor are there any difficulties envisaged for the current or future years. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in the 3 year capital programme.

Authorised Limit for External Debt				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Borrowing	131	155	163	168
Other long term liabilities	7	7	12	12
Total	138	162	175	180

Operational Boundary for External Debt				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Borrowing	125	149	157	162
Other long term liabilities	6	6	11	11
Total	131	155	168	173

Actual External Debt

The Council's actual external debt at 31/03/2022 was £121.6m (consisting of External Borrowing of £115.6m and Long term liabilities of £6.0m).

Maturity Structure of Borrowing		
	Upper limit	Lower limit
Under 12 months	20%	0%
12 months & within 24 months	20%	0%
24 months & within 5 years	50%	0%
5 years & within 10 years	75%	0%
10 years & above	95%	25%
<u>Sub-category within 10 years and above</u> 50 years & above	20%	0%

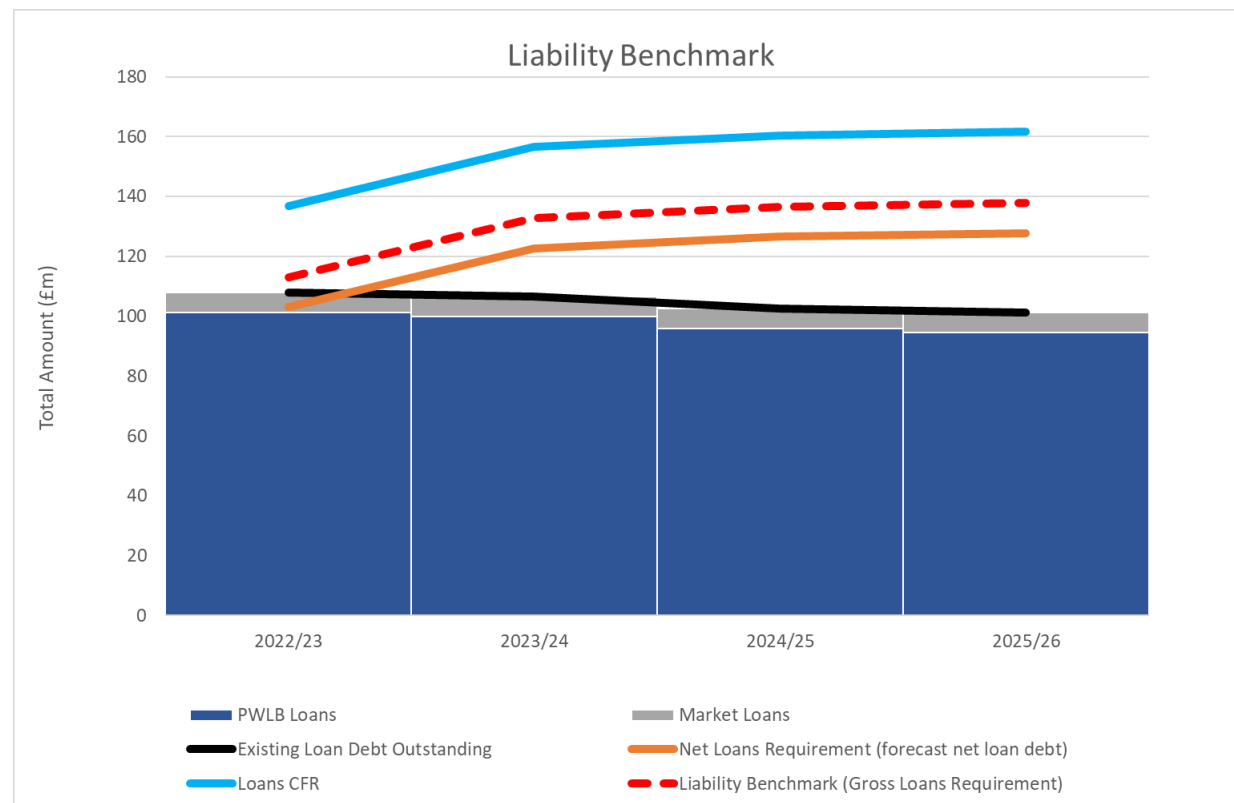
Upper limit for total principal sums invested for more than 1 year			
2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
£2.5m	£2.5m	£2.5m	£2.5m

Liability Benchmark

A new prudential indicator for 2023/24 is the Liability Benchmark. The Liability Benchmark is effectively the Net Borrowing Requirement of a local authority plus a liquidity allowance. In its simplest form, it is calculated by deducting the amount of investable resources available on the balance sheet (reserves, cash flow balances) from the amount of outstanding external debt and then adding the minimum level of investments required to manage day-to-day cash flow.

There are four components to the Liability Benchmark: -

- Existing loan debt outstanding: the Authority's existing loans that are still outstanding in future years.
- Loans CFR: this is calculated in accordance with the loans CFR definition in the Prudential Code and projected into the future based on approved prudential borrowing and planned MRP.
- Net loans requirement: this will show the Authority's gross loan debt less treasury management investments at the last financial year-end, projected into the future and based on its approved prudential borrowing, planned MRP and any other major cash flows forecast.
- Liability benchmark (or gross loans requirement): this equals net loans requirement plus short-term liquidity allowance.



INVESTMENT SCHEDULE

Category Of Investment	Specified Individual Investment Limit	Specified Category Investment Limit	'High' Credit Rating Criteria	Security / Minimum 'High' Credit Rating (Fitch or other equivalent)	Repayable/ Redeemable within 12 months?	Circumstance of use	Maximum period of investment
SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS <i>(All investments listed below must be sterling-denominated and are not Share or Loan Capital)</i>							
UK Government Debt Management Office - Debt Management Agency Deposit Facility (DMADF)	Unlimited	Unlimited	N/A	UK Government-backed	Yes	In-house	6 months (Current DMO Policy)
Banks part or fully nationalised by the UK Government	See Annex 1	See Annex 1	Blue colour on Link durational bandings	Short term F2	Yes	In-house	1 year
Fixed Term and call deposits with the UK government	Unlimited	Unlimited	N/A	High security	Yes	In-house	1 year
Fixed Term and call deposits with credit-rated deposit takers (banks and building societies)	See Annex 1	See Annex 1	Yellow, Purple, Orange, Red or Green colour on the Link durational bandings *	Long Term Short term	A- F1	Yes	In-house
Certificates of Deposits issued by credit-rated deposit takers (Banks & Building Societies) <i>(Custodial arrangement required prior to purchase)</i>	£2.5m	£2.5m	Yellow, Purple, Orange or Red colour on the Link durational bandings *	Long Term Short term	A- F1	Yes	In-house and External fund manager(s)
UK Government Gilts <i>(Custodial arrangement required prior to purchase)</i>	£2.5m	£2.5m	N/A	UK Government backed	Yes	In-house and External fund manager(s)	1 year
Treasury Bills <i>(Custodial arrangement required prior to purchase)</i>	£2.5m	£2.5m	N/A	UK Government backed	Yes	In-house and External fund manager(s)	1 year
Government Liquidity / Money Market Funds - These funds do not have any maturity date and can usually be accessed either on the same day or at one day's notice	£2m	£2m	AAA	Highest credit rating	Yes	In-house, subject to the guidelines and parameters agreed	The period of investment may not be determined at the outset but would be subject to cash flow and liquidity requirements

* Footnote - Prior to any short term overlay

Category Of Investment	Non-Specified Individual Investment Limit	Non-Specified Category Investment Limit	Repayable/ Redeemable within 12 months?	Circumstance of use	Maximum period of investment
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NON SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS					
Property Funds	£2.5m	£2.5m	No	These funds can be deemed to be capital expenditure. Appropriate due diligence, including advice from the Council's External Treasury advisors would be undertaken before investment of this type is undertaken	The period of investment may not be determined at the outset but would be subject to cash flow and liquidity requirements

Specified Individual Investment Limit per Banking Group	Specified Category Investment Limit	Credit Rating Criteria <i>(Based on Link durational bandings)</i>	Fixed List of Specific Counterparties <i>(Subject to regular updating for credit rating changes and meeting Credit Rating criteria)</i>
£7m	£7m	BLUE or RED	<p><u>Part or 100% nationalised by UK Government</u> Natwest Group plc, including; National Westminster Bank plc (Including Notice/Instant Access call account) The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc NatWest Markets Plc (NRFB)</p>
£6m	£25m	YELLOW or PURPLE or ORANGE or RED	<p><u>UK Banking Group / Building Society (1):</u> Any of the banks or building societies in the UK Banking Group / Building Society category (2) if their status changes from GREEN to RED or ORANGE or PURPLE or YELLOW plus HSBC Bank Plc Bank of Scotland Plc (Including Notice/Instant Access call accounts) Nationwide Building Society Coventry Building Society Skipton Building Society Lloyds Banking Group, including; Lloyds Bank Plc Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets (NRFB) Bank of Scotland Plc (Including Notice/Instant Access call accounts)</p>
£4m	£10m	YELLOW or PURPLE or ORANGE or RED or GREEN	<p><u>Foreign Banking Group parent:</u> Santander UK plc (including Notice/Instant Access call accounts) Standard Chartered Bank Goldman Sachs International Bank</p>
£3m	£6m	YELLOW or PURPLE or ORANGE or RED or GREEN	<p><u>UK Banking Group / Building Society (2):</u> Any of the banks or building societies in the UK Banking Group / Building Society (1) category if their status changes from RED to GREEN plus Yorkshire Building Society Leeds Building Society</p>
	£6m	YELLOW or PURPLE	<p>Barclays Bank Plc * – Limit for overnight balances on corporate bank accounts</p>

£9m	£3m	or ORANGE or RED or GREEN	Barclays Bank Plc * – Limit for Fixed Term deposits and Notice/Instant access (including Green Deposit Accounts) Call Accounts Limit for Call account balances
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* Footnote – Barclays Bank are the Council's current Banking Services provider

2023/24 MRP Policy Statement

1. General Principles

- a) The Council's proposed Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for 2023/24 follows the principles of the guidance issued by the Welsh Government under section 21(1A) of the Local Government Act 2003, through using one of the options outlined in the guidance, combined with introducing a further option that is underpinned by the principle of prudent provision.
- b) Estimated life periods will be determined in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom unless WG require or determine otherwise. To the extent that expenditure is not on the creation of an asset and is of a type that is subject to estimated life periods that are referred to in the guidance, these periods will generally be adopted by the Council. However, the Council reserves the right to determine useful life periods and prudent MRP in exceptional circumstances where the recommendations of the guidance would not be appropriate.
- c) As some types of capital expenditure incurred by the Council are not capable of being related to an individual asset, asset lives will be assessed on a basis which most reasonably reflects the anticipated period of benefit that arises from the expenditure. Also, whatever type of expenditure is involved, it will be grouped together in a manner which reflects the nature of the main component of expenditure and will only be divided up in cases where there are two or more major components with substantially different useful economic lives.

2. Methods for calculating MRP

- a) The major proportion of the MRP for 2023/24 will relate to the more historic debt liability that existed pre 2008 or post 2008 where it relates to Supported Borrowing funded by WG. The MRP liability on the Council's Capital Financing Requirement that relates to pre 2008 debt and post 2008 Supported Borrowing funded by WG through RSG will be provided for using Option 3 (Asset life method) of the 2018 WG guidance and applying the Annuity Method with an interest rate of 4.20% (the average borrowing rate of loans outstanding as of 01/04/21) over a 44 year period commencing 01/04/2021.
- b) As further new Supported Borrowing is utilised in the Capital Programme, the MRP liability on each new tranche of Support Borrowing will also be provided for using Option 3 (Asset life method) of the 2018 WG guidance and applying the Annuity Method.
- c) A significant proportion of the MRP for 2023/24 will relate to the Historic Unsupported Prudential Borrowing since 2008 which is reflected within the Capital Financing Requirement. The MRP liability on the Council's Capital Financing Requirement that relates to post 2008 Unsupported Borrowing will be provided for using Option 3 (Asset life method) of the 2018 WG guidance and applying the Annuity Method with an interest rate of 3.68% (the weighted average interest rate of the borrowing concerned) over a 39 year period commencing 01/04/2021.
- d) As further Unsupported Prudential Borrowing is utilised in the Capital Programme, the MRP liability reflected within the Capital Financing Requirement will be charged over a period commensurate with the average estimated useful life of assets using Option 3 (Asset life method) of the 2018 WG guidance and applying the Annuity Method.
- e) Where there is Temporary Borrowing in lieu of future Capital receipts (e.g. WG repayable finance loans or temporary Unsupported Prudential Borrowing) the principal of not charging MRP will continue, e.g. whilst awaiting the realisation of capital receipts from the sale of surplus assets.
- f) Where an asset is under construction, the Council reserves the right to not make an MRP charge until the financial year after that in which the capital expenditure is incurred and in the case of a new asset comes into service use.
- g) MRP on PFI credit arrangements will be charged over a period commensurate with the estimated useful life applicable to the asset and using the Annuity Method.

- h) Where MRP relates to a pre-determined profile linked to a credit arrangement (e.g. Finance Lease) then the MRP calculation will be in accordance with the relevant bespoke repayment profile.
- i) The Council has the option of making additional Voluntary MRP contributions in addition to the above MRP calculations at any point in time. E.g. The Council may treat any Voluntary MRP as 'up-front' provision (having a similar impact to the early repayment of debt) and thus recalculate future MRP charges accordingly.

Cyngor Sir Ceredigion County Council - Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

An integrated tool to inform effective decision making



This **Integrated Impact Assessment tool** incorporates the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Sustainable Development Principles, the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Language Measure 2011 (Welsh Language Standards requirements) and Risk Management in order to inform effective decision making and ensuring compliance with respective legislation.

1. PROPOSAL DETAILS: (Policy/Change Objective/Budget saving)

Proposal Title	Treasury Management Policy Statement
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Service Area	Finance and Procurement	Corporate Lead Officer	Duncan Hall	Corporate Director	Barry Rees
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Name of Officer completing the IIA	Mark Bridges	E-mail	Mark.Bridges@ceredigion.gov.uk	Phone no	3132
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Please give a brief description of the purpose of the proposal

The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to set out its Treasury Management Strategy, which explains the Council's policies for managing its investments and debt, and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments.

The Strategy needs to be approved annually by Full Council.

Who will be directly affected by this proposal? (e.g. The general public, specific sections of the public such as youth groups, carers, road users, people using country parks, people on benefits, staff members or those who fall under the protected characteristics groups as defined by the Equality Act and for whom the authority must have due regard).

The Treasury Management Strategy doesn't directly affect any of the groups suggested. It does however set out how the council will manage it's investments, debt and liquidity over the coming year. This is a crucial function in managing the council's cash resources that enable the council to carry out all it's functions.

VERSION CONTROL: The IIA should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable development, Welsh language and equality considerations wherever possible.

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Author	Decision making stage	Version number	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
Mark Bridges		V1	31.01.23	<i>none</i>

COUNCIL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES: Which of the Council's Strategic Objectives does the proposal address and how?

Boosting the Economy	The Treasury Management Strategy doesn't necessarily directly address the Council's Strategic Objectives, however it supports all the council's activities by managing the council's cash, investments and debt which obviously enables the Council to Carry out it's activities.
Investing in People's Future	The Treasury Management Strategy doesn't necessarily directly address the Council's Strategic Objectives, however it supports all the council's activities by managing the council's cash, investments and debt which obviously enables the Council to Carry out it's activities.
Enabling Individual and Family Resilience	The Treasury Management Strategy doesn't necessarily directly address the Council's Strategic Objectives, however it supports all the council's activities by managing the council's cash, investments and debt which obviously enables the Council to Carry out it's activities.
Promoting Environmental and Community Resilience	The Treasury Management Strategy doesn't necessarily directly address the Council's Strategic Objectives, however it supports all the council's activities by managing the council's cash, investments and debt which obviously enables the Council to Carry out it's activities.

NOTE: As you complete this tool you will be asked for **evidence to support your views**. These need to include your baseline position, measures and studies that have informed your thinking and the judgement you are making. It should allow you to identify whether any changes resulting from the implementation of the recommendation will have a positive or negative effect. Data sources include for example:

- *Quantitative data - data that provides numerical information, e.g. population figures, number of users/non-users*
- *Qualitative data – data that furnishes evidence of people's perception/views of the service/policy, e.g. analysis of complaints, outcomes of focus groups, surveys*
- *Local population data from the census figures (such as Ceredigion Welsh language Profile and Ceredigion Demographic Equality data)*
- *National Household survey data*
- *Service User data*



- *Feedback from consultation and engagement campaigns*
- *Recommendations from Scrutiny*
- *Comparisons with similar policies in other authorities*
- *Academic publications, research reports, consultants' reports, and reports on any consultation with e.g. trade unions or the voluntary and community sectors, 'Is Wales Fairer' document.*
- *Welsh Language skills data for Council staff*

2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES: How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the five sustainable development principles, as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does the proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not, explain why.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action (s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the principle?
<p>Long Term Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future.</p>	<p>The Treasury Strategy sets out the Council's approach to managing its investments/debts in both the short and longer term.</p> <p>It does this in a number of ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borrowing is only carried out when needed within the Prudential Indicators limits. This stops the Council taking on too much borrowing in the short term to the detriment of the Long Term. • Investments are only made within set limits and with counter-parties that have a minimum credit rating that are continually monitored. • The sets out the Council prioritises Security and Liquidity over yield. This stops the Council making excessive risks with its investments. 	<p>The strategy sets these out within the policy.</p>	

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<p>Collaboration Working together with other partners to deliver.</p>	<p>The Strategy confirms we will work with our Corporate Banking Suppliers (Barclays) and Link Asset Management Services as our Treasury Advisers.</p> <p>The Strategy also sets out an agreed list of counter parties for both investments and borrowing. These all have a minimum credit rating as set out in the strategy and are continually monitored.</p>		
<p>Involvement Involving those with an interest and seeking their views.</p>	<p>n/a</p>		
<p>Prevention Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse.</p>	<p>The strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash resources in a proactive way to ensure the Council has money when it is needed. Therefore facilitating the council's objectives/activities.</p>		
<p>Integration Positively impacting on people, economy, environment and culture and trying to benefit all three.</p>	<p>The strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash resources in a proactive way to ensure the Council has money when it is needed. Therefore facilitating the council's objectives/activities.</p> <p>The Council also has 'Green' Investment accounts on it's counterparty list and uses these accounts when appropriate. This investments are then used to invest in</p>	<p>Barclays provide a annual report detailing benefits/ initiatives from these investments.</p>	

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	Economically Friendly initiative globally.		
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3. WELL-BEING GOALS: Does your proposal deliver any of the seven National Well-being Goals for Wales as outlined on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. We need to ensure that the steps we take to meet one of the goals aren't detrimental to meeting another.			
Well-being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action (s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?
3.1. A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs.	The Treasury Management Strategy doesn't necessarily directly address the Well-being goals, however it supports all the council's activities by managing the council's cash, investments and debt which obviously enables the Council to Carry out it's activities.		
3.2. A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change).	The Treasury Management Strategy doesn't necessarily directly address the Well-being goals, however it supports all the council's activities by managing the council's cash, investments and debt which obviously enables the Council to Carry out it's activities.		
3.3. A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximised and health impacts are understood.	The Treasury Management Strategy doesn't necessarily directly address the Well-being goals, however it supports all the council's activities by managing the council's cash, investments and debt which obviously enables the Council to Carry out it's activities.		
3.4. A Wales of cohesive communities	The Treasury Management Strategy doesn't necessarily directly address the		

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<p>Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected.</p>	<p>Well-being goals, however it supports all the council's activities by managing the council's cash, investments and debt which obviously enables the Council to Carry out it's activities.</p>		
<p>3.5. A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental well-being.</p>	<p>The Treasury Management Strategy doesn't necessarily directly address the Well-being goals, however it supports all the council's activities by managing the council's cash, investments and debt which obviously enables the Council to Carry out it's activities.</p> <p>The Council also has 'Green' Investment accounts on it's counterparty list and uses these accounts when appropriate. This investments ar ethen used to invest in Economically Friendly initiative globally.</p>		

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<p>3.6. A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.</p> <p><i>In this section you need to consider the impact on equality groups, the evidence and any action you are taking for improvement.</i></p> <p><i>You need to consider how might the proposal impact on equality protected groups in accordance with the Equality Act 2010?</i></p> <p><i>These include the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or beliefs, gender, sexual orientation.</i></p> <p>Please also consider the following guide:: Equality Human Rights - Assessing Impact & Equality Duty</p>	<p>Describe why it will have a positive/negative or negligible impact.</p> <p><i>Using your evidence consider the impact for each of the protected groups. You will need to consider do these groups have equal access to the service, or do they need to receive the service in a different way from other people because of their protected characteristics. It is not acceptable to state simply that a proposal will universally benefit/disadvantage everyone. You should demonstrate that you have considered all the available evidence and address any gaps or disparities revealed.</i></p>	<p>What evidence do you have to support this view?</p> <p><i>Gathering Equality data and evidence is vital for an IIA. You should consider who uses or is likely to use the service. Failure to use <u>data</u> or <u>engage</u> where change is planned can leave decisions open to legal challenge. Please link to involvement box within this template. Please also consider the general guidance.</i></p>	<p>What action (s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</p> <p><i>These actions can include a range of positive actions which allows the organisation to treat individuals according to their needs, even when that might mean treating some more favourably than others, in order for them to have a good outcome. You may also have actions to identify any gaps in data or an action to engage with those who will/likely to be effected by the proposal. These actions need to link to Section 4 of this template.</i></p>																
<p>Age Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their age? (Please tick ✓)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="94 1031 786 1418"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Positive</th> <th>Negative</th> <th>None/ Negligible</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Children and Young People up to 18</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People 18-50</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Older People 50+</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible	Children and Young People up to 18			✓	People 18-50			✓	Older People 50+			✓	<p>The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.</p>		
	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible																
Children and Young People up to 18			✓																
People 18-50			✓																
Older People 50+			✓																

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Disability Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their disability? (Please tick ✓)				The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.		
Hearing Impairment	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Physical Impairment	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Visual Impairment	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Learning Disability	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Long Standing Illness	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Mental Health	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Other	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Transgender Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on transgender people?				The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.		
Transgender	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			

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Marriage or Civil Partnership Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on marriage or Civil partnership? (Please tick ✓)				The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.		
Marriage	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Civil partnership	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Pregnancy or Maternity Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on pregnancy or maternity? (Please tick ✓)				The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.		
Pregnancy	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Maternity	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Race Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on race? (Please tick ✓)				The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.		
White	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			

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Asian / Asian British	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Other Ethnic Groups	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			

Religion or non-beliefs Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people with different religions, beliefs or non-beliefs? (Please tick ✓)				The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.		
Christian	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Buddhist	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
Hindu	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Humanist	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Jewish	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Muslim	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			

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			✓			
Sikh	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Non-belief	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Other	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			

Sex Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on men and/or women? (Please tick ✓)				The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.		
Men	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Women	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			

Sexual Orientation Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people with different sexual orientation? (Please tick ✓)				The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.		
Bisexual	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Gay Men	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			

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Gay Women / Lesbian	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			
Heterosexual / Straight	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible			
			✓			

Having due regards in relation to the three aims of the Equality Duty - determine whether the proposal will assist or inhibit your ability to eliminate discrimination; advance equality and foster good relations.

3.6.2. How could/does the proposal help advance/promote equality of opportunity?

The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.

3.6.3. How could/does the proposal/decision help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, or victimisation?

The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.

3.6.4. How could/does the proposal impact on advancing/promoting good relations and wider community cohesion?

You should consider whether the proposal with help you to: ● Tackle prejudice ● Promote understanding

The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.

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3.7. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh Language are promoted and protected. <i>In this section you need to consider the impact, the evidence and any action you are taking for improvement. This in order to ensure that the opportunities for people who choose to live their lives and access services through the medium of Welsh are not inferior to what is afforded to those choosing to do so in English, in accordance with the requirement of the Welsh Language Measure 2011.</i>				Describe why it will have a positive/negative or negligible impact.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action (s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Will the proposal be delivered bilingually (Welsh & English)?	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible	The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.		
			✓			
Will the proposal have an effect on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language?	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible	The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.		
			✓			
Will the proposal increase or reduce the opportunity for persons to access services through the medium of Welsh?	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible	The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.		
			✓			
How will the proposal treat the Welsh language no less	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible	The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash,		
			✓			

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favourably than the English language?				investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.		
Will it preserve promote and enhance local culture and heritage?	Positive	Negative	None/ Negligible ✓	The Strategy sets out how the council will manage it's cash, investments and debt. It will not have a direct affect here.		

4. STRENGTHENING THE PROPOSAL: If the proposal is likely to have a negative impact on any of the above (including any of the protected characteristics), what practical changes/actions could help reduce or remove any negative impacts as identified in sections 2 and 3?

4.1 Actions.

What are you going to do?	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible?	Progress
n/a			

4.2. If no action is to be taken to remove or mitigate negative impacts please justify why.
(Please remember that if you have identified unlawful discrimination, immediate and potential, as a result of this proposal, the proposal must be changed or revised).

4.3. Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing.
How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the proposal?

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5. RISK: What is the risk associated with this proposal?					
Impact Criteria	1 - Very low	2 - Low	3 - Medium	4 - High	5 - Very High
Likelihood Criteria	1 - Unlikely to occur	2 - Lower than average chance of occurrence	3 - Even chance of occurrence	4 - Higher than average chance of occurrence	5 - Expected to occur
Risk Description	Impact (severity)		Probability (deliverability)	Risk Score	
The Council runs out of cash	5		1	5	
Investments default	4		2	4	
Interest rates increase causing Borrowing to be unaffordable	3		2	6	
Does your proposal have a potential impact on another Service area?					
NO					

6. SIGN OFF			
Position	Name	Signature	Date
Service Manager	Mark Bridges		31/01/2023
Corporate Lead Officer	Duncan Hall		03/02/2023
Corporate Director	Barry Rees		07/02/2023
Portfolio Holder	Cllr. Gareth Davies		06/02/2023