



Freshwater Parish Council Investment Policy

Freshwater Parish Council (the Council) acknowledges the importance of prudently investing the temporary surplus funds held on behalf of the community as part of its duty. This Strategy complies with the revised requirements set out in the Department of Communities and Local Government Guidance on Local Government Investments and takes into account Section 15 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2003 and guidance within Governance and Accountability for Local Councils Practitioner's Guide 2016

The Local Government Act 2003 states that a local authority may invest:

- for any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment
- for the purpose of prudent management of its financial affair

The Council defines its treasury management activities as “the management of the Council's cash flows, its banking and money transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of best value performance consistent with those risks.”

1. POLICY

This strategy establishes formal objectives, policies and practices and reporting arrangements for the effective management and control of the Council's treasury management activities and the associated risks.

2. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

- The Council's investment priorities are:
 - the security of its reserves, and
 - the adequate liquidity of its investments, and
 - the return on investment - 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 the borrowing of money purely to invest or to lend and make a return is unlawful and the Council will not engage in such activity.
- Investments will be spread over different providers where appropriate to minimise risk.

3. SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS

- Specified investments are those offering high security and high liquidity, made in sterling and with a maturity of no more than a year. Such short-term investments

made with the UK Government or a Local Authority (as defined) or a Town/Parish Council will automatically be Specified Investments.

- The Council, for prudent management of its treasury balances may use:
 - Treasury deposit accounts with UK Clearing Banks
 - Local Authorities or other Public Authorities
 - Other approved public sector investment funds
 - The choice of institution and length of deposit will be at the approval of the Finance Committee.
 - The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity.

4. NON-SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS

- These investments have greater potential risk – examples include investment in the money market, stocks, and shares. Given the unpredictability and uncertainty surrounding such investments the Council will not use this type of investment.

5. LIQUIDITY OF INVESTMENTS

- The Finance Committee in consultation with the Responsible Finance Officer will determine the maximum periods for which funds may prudently be committed so as not to compromise liquidity.

6. LONG TERM INVESTMENTS

- Long Term Investments are defined in the Guidance as greater than 36 months.
- The Council does not currently hold any funds in long term investments.

7. INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2025-26

- For 2025-26, the Council should aim to invest as much of its balance as possible in a low-risk product in order to achieve its investment objectives. The Public Sector Deposit Fund (PSDF), managed by CCLA Investment Management has been identified as a low risk, high liquidity option to be used as a first option for investment. The Responsible Finance Officer shall have delegated authority to undertake transfers between the councils current account and the PSDF as required to ensure a suitable balance is maintained at the beginning of each month, which will not be lower than three months running costs.

8. END OF YEAR INVESTMENT REPORT

- Investment forecasts for the coming year are accounted for when the budget was prepared. At the end of the financial year the Responsible Finance Officer will report on investment activity to the Finance Committee.

9. REVIEW AND AMMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS

- The Annual Investment Strategy must be reviewed annually and revised if considered necessary.

- The Council reserves the right to make variations to the Investment Strategy at any time subject to the approval of Council. Any variations will be made available to the public.

10. REVIEW AND AMMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS

- In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this document will be posted on the Council's website.