

Report To:	AUDIT COMMITTEE	Date:	10th FEBRUARY 2020
Heading:	CAPITAL STRATEGY		
Portfolio Holder:	COUNCILLOR DAVID MARTIN – CABINET MEMBER (INWARD)		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

The Council's Proposed Capital Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The framework established by the Prudential Code supports local strategic planning, local asset management planning and proper option appraisal. The objectives of the Prudential Code in respect to the Capital Strategy are:

1. To ensure that the capital expenditure plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable and that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice and in full understanding of the risks involved.
2. A requirement to look at capital expenditure and investment plans in the light of overall organisational strategy and resources and ensure that decisions are made with sufficient regard to the long term financing implications and potential risks to the authority.
3. To ensure that the authority takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with service objectives and properly takes account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability.
4. The Capital Strategy should set out the long term context in which capital expenditure and investment decisions are made and gives due consideration to both risk and reward and impact on the achievement of priority outcomes.

In accordance with the MHCLG revised Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments (2018), each financial year, a local authority should prepare an Investment Strategy, which should be approved by full Council. The investment strategy must include non-treasury management investments.

This Commercial Property Investment Strategy, included at Annex 1 to the capital strategy is this Council's non-treasury management investment strategy.

The MHCLG Guidance and CIPFA's Prudential Property Investment guidance requires the Commercial Property Investment Strategy to include quantitative indicators to allow risk exposure as a result of its non-treasury management investments to be assessed. The indicators are included as Annex 2.

Recommendation(s)

- 1) For Audit Committee to review and note the contents of the Capital Strategy (CS) for 2020/21 including the Annexes 1-3;

- 2) For Audit Committee to recommend that Cabinet and Council approves:
 - Capital Strategy
 - Commercial Property Investment Strategy;
 - Commercial Property Indicators.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

It is a requirement of the CIPFA Prudential Code for all Local Authorities to have a Capital Strategy approved by Full Council.

MHCLG Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments require that the Council has an Investment Strategy that covers non-treasury management investments and includes quantitative indicators approved by Full Council.

Alternative Options Considered

None. It is a requirement of the CIPFA Prudential Code for all Local Authorities to have a Capital Strategy and a requirement of MHCLG Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments to have an Investment Strategy covering non-treasury management investments.

Detailed Information

The proposed Capital Strategy is contained in Appendix 1. There are three Annexes to Appendix 1 of the report which are:

1. Annex 1 describes the Commercial Property Investment Strategy.
2. Annex 2 Commercial Investment Property indicators which are required by MHCLG guidance and CIPFA .
3. Annex 3 shows the process for acquiring Commercial Investment Properties.

The Commercial Property Investment Strategy details the target minimum net income return, this was previously set at 3.5% this has reduced to 2.5% as a consequence of the increase of 1% in the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) borrowing rate in October 2019.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

This Capital Strategy will allow delivery of the priorities in the Capital Programme.

Legal:

It is a statutory requirement to produce a Capital Strategy from 2019/20. Relevant statutory powers and requirements are described in the Appendix to this report.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	No Implications
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
The detailed Capital Strategy is not fit for purpose	The Capital Strategy is reviewed and updated annually for changes in direction and changes to guidance and legislation.

Human Resources:

Not Applicable.

Equalities:

Not applicable.

Other Implications:

Not applicable.

Reason(s) for Urgency

Not applicable.

Reason(s) for Exemption

Not applicable.

Background Papers

- CIPFA Prudential Code 2017 Edition
- CIPFA Treasury Management Code 2017 Edition
- CIPFA Prudent Property Investment
- MHCLG Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments (3rd Edition) Issued under Section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003.

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