

Investment Criteria

Strategy Guidelines – The main strategy guidelines are contained in the body of the treasury strategy statement.

SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS:

All such investments will be sterling denominated, with **maturities up to maximum of 1 year**, meeting the minimum quality criteria where applicable.

LOANS:

- 1 Loans for financial assistance to third parties as part of a wider strategy for local economic growth. A maximum of £500,000 will be held in aggregate in loans.
- 2 Loans to Parish Councils subject to approval by S151 Officer and relevant Member. Each application to be considered on its own merits.
- 3 Loans for capital purposes. A maximum of £5,000,000 will be held in aggregate in loans for capital purposes

NON-SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS:

- 1 (Financial investments) These are any investments which do not meet the specified investment criteria and the Council does not have a contractual right to repayment within 12 months. A maximum of £5,000,000 will be held in aggregate in non-specified investments.
- 2 (Non-financial investments). These are assets held primarily for financial return and are treated as capital expenditure.

A variety of investment instruments will be used, subject to the credit quality of the institution, and depending on the type of investment made it will fall into one of the above categories.

The criteria, time limits and monetary limits applying to institutions or investment vehicles, which all reflect the latest Link creditworthiness advice, are:

Specified Investments –

	Colour (and long term rating where applicable)	Money and/or % Limit	Time Limit
DMADF – UK Government	Yellow	£7.5 million	Up to 5 years*
Term deposits with banks and building societies	Purple Blue Orange Red Green No Colour	£7.5 million £7.5 million £7.5 million £5 million £5 million N/a	Up to 1 year Up to 1 year ** Up to 1 year Up to 6 Months Up to 100 days Not for use
CDs or corporate bonds with banks and building societies	Purple Blue Orange Red Green No Colour	£7.5 million £7.5 million £7.5 million £5 million £5 million N/a	Up to 1 year Up to 1 year ** Up to 1 year Up to 6 Months Up to 100 days Not for use
Local authorities	N/A	£5 million	Approval will be made based on individual circumstances without further reference to the Governance and Audit Committee

The Council's own banker		£5 million	If the Council's own banker fails to meet the basic credit criteria balances will be minimised as far as possible.
Money Market Funds and Ultra Short Dated Bond Funds	AAA rated	£5 million	Link Asset services will support the selection of appropriate Funds

Loans

Loans for capital expenditure purposes	N/A	£5m	Loans can be made to Breckland Bridge Ltd in accordance with TMP 4[6] note 5 Any other loans for capital purposes to be approved by Full Council. A maximum of £5m will be held in aggregate.
Loans for financial assistance	N/A	£0.5m	A maximum of £0.5m will be held in aggregate

Non-Specified Investments – (financial)

	Minimum credit criteria / colour band	Max % of total investments/ £ limit per institution	Max. maturity period
UK Government gilts	UK sovereign rating		Separate approval will be sought for this type of investment
UK Government Treasury Bills	UK sovereign rating		Separate approval will be sought for this type of investment
Bonds issued by multilateral development banks	UK sovereign rating		Separate approval will be sought for this type of investment
Term deposits with banks and building societies	Purple	£7.5 million	Up to 2 years
CDs or corporate bonds with banks and building societies	Purple	£7.5 million	Up to 2 years
Enhanced cash funds			Separate approval will be sought for this type of investment
Corporate bond funds			Separate approval will be sought for this type of investment
Gilt funds	UK sovereign rating		Separate approval will be sought for this type of investment
Property funds			Separate approval will be sought for this type of investment
Local authorities	N/A	£5 million	Approval will be made based on individual circumstances without

			further reference to the Governance and Audit Committee
--	--	--	--

* The Council will only invest for over 2 years with the prior approval of the Governance and Audit Committee. In all circumstances the maximum amount with any one counterparty over 2 years will be £5m

** (only applies to nationalised/semi nationalised UK Banks as shown on Link Asset Services list)

NB: The criteria are intended to be the operational criteria in normal times. At times of heightened volatility, risk and concern in financial markets, this strategy may be amended by temporary operational criteria further limiting investments to counterparties of a higher creditworthiness and / or restricted time limits

An up-to-date list of all available counterparties and how they meet the above criteria has been provided by Link and is in Appendix E.

Non-Specified Investments – (non-financial)

	Minimum credit criteria / colour band	Max % of total investments/ £ limit per institution	Max. maturity period
Non-financial investments	N/A	N/A	The Council's approach to non-financial investments is set out at section 4 of the Capital Strategy

To ensure proportionality and affordability the Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix A Tables 7 & 8) identify:

1. How investments are funded and the rate of return achieved
2. If borrowing has occurred to finance the investment and if so
 - 2.1. debt to net service ratio
 - 2.2. Commercial income to net service ratio
 - 2.3. Investment cover ratio
 - 2.4. Loan to value ratio
 - 2.5. the opportunities and risks are over the repayment period.

Accounting treatment of investments. The accounting treatment may differ from the underlying cash transactions arising from investment decisions made by this Council. To ensure that the Council is protected from any adverse revenue impact, which may arise from these differences, we will review the accounting implications of new transactions before they are undertaken.