

Pension Fund Committee

Title:	Treasury Management Service Level Agreement
Date:	Friday 28 February 2020
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Local members affected:	

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Summary

At its meeting on 18 March 2019, the Pension Fund Committee agreed the arrangements for investing the Fund's surplus cash. This report updates the Committee on the provision of treasury management services by Buckinghamshire County Council to the Pension Fund in 2019 and asks the Committee to discuss and approve the arrangements for investing the Pension Fund's surplus cash balances in 2020/21.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to approve the Pension Fund treasury management Service Level Agreement.

Supporting information to include the following if a decision is being requested:

Resource implications

There are none arising directly from this report.

Legal implications

There are none arising directly from this report.

Other implications/issues

- 1 The Pension Fund maintains relatively small balances of cash arising from the receipt of employer and employee contributions exceeding payments made on behalf of the Fund. Most of the Fund's cash is managed externally, either by the investment managers or State Street, the Fund's custodian bank. The cash held by the administering authority is usually less than 1.0%, or £30m, of the Fund's assets providing a working balance for the Fund to meet its short term commitments. From time to time, if surplus cash balances held approach £30m and are greater than the amounts required to meet the Fund's private market commitments, then they are invested in accordance with the Investment Strategy.
- 2 At its meeting on 18 March 2019, the Pension Fund Committee approved the SLA for 2019/20 setting out the arrangements in place for investing the daily cash balances.
- 3 During 2019 (2018) the Pension Fund earned £25k (£56k) interest on its working cash balances, representing 0.65% (0.63%) on an average balance of £3.9m (£8.9m). The cash balances ranged from £0.1m to £9.8m during 2019 (£0.7m to £28.6m during 2018). A separate bank account operates for the Pension Fund and the interest is paid into the Pension Fund bank account. The Council's treasury team invested all the Pension Fund's working cash in the Pension Fund bank account or money market funds.
- 4 The Pension Fund bank account receives interest on daily balances. The 2020/21 SLA reflects the current practice of investing the Fund's cash balances in the interest bearing Pension Fund current account. Members are asked to review and approve the SLA for 2020/21 attached as Appendix 1.
- 5 Local Government Pension Regulations (Management & Investment) 2009 gave the Pension Fund the power to arrange a temporary loan from a bank for up to 90 days in order to pay benefits due under the Pension Fund Scheme or to meet investment commitments. However, there are no counterparties in the market that will temporarily lend cash to the Pension Fund. In previous years members of the Pension Fund Committee had indicated that they would prefer to borrow from the market rather than the Council. However, with no external market willing to temporarily lend to the Fund, the Pension Fund Committee members agreed that they would prefer the Fund to borrow temporarily from the Council rather than maintain a higher cash buffer to meet any unexpected cash requirements. There were no instances during 2019 where the Fund temporarily borrowed cash from the Council.

Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views (if relevant)

Not applicable.

Background Papers

Treasury Management Strategy Report to the new Buckinghamshire Council Shadow Executive, 28 January 2020 Agenda Item 6.

<https://shadow-buckinghamshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/b660/To%20Follow%20Reports%2028th-Jan-2020%2010.00%20Shadow%20Executive.pdf?T=9>
