REPORT REFERENCE NO.	**RC/16/9**
MEETING	**RESOURCES COMMITTEE**
DATE OF MEETING	**1 SEPTEMBER 2016**
SUBJECT OF REPORT	**TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE 2016-2017 – QUARTER 1**
LEAD OFFICER	**TREASURER**
RECOMMENDATIONS	***That the performance in relation to the treasury management activities of the Authority for 2016-17 (to June 2016) be noted.***
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) issued a Code of Practice for Treasury Management. The Code suggests that members should be informed of Treasury Management activities at least twice a year, but preferably quarterly. This report therefore ensures this Authority is embracing Best Practice in accordance with CIPFA's Code of Practice.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	As indicated within the report.
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	An initial assessment has not identified any equality issues emanating from this report.
APPENDICES	Appendix A – Investments held as at 30 June 2016.
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS	Treasury Management Strategy (including Prudential and Treasury Indicators) Report DSFRA/16/3 – as approved at the meeting of the DSFRA meeting held on the 19 February 2016.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Treasury Management Strategy for Devon and Somerset FRA has been underpinned by the adoption of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code. The Code recommends that members be updated on treasury management activities regularly (TMSS, annual and midyear reports). This report, therefore, ensures this Authority is implementing best practice in accordance with the Code and includes:

- The creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement, which sets out the policies and objectives of the Authority's treasury management activities.

- The creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices, which set out the manner in which the Authority will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.

- The receipt by the full Authority of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a Mid-year Review Report and an Annual Report (stewardship report) covering activities during the previous year.

- The delegation by the authority of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.

1.2 Treasury management in this context is defined as:

"The management of the local authority's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks. "

1.3 The preparation of this report demonstrates that the Authority is implementing best practice in accordance with the code.

2. ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

Economic performance

2.1 United Kingdom Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates in 2013 of 2.2% and 2.9% in 2014 were the strongest growth rates of any G7 country. However, the 2015 growth rate finally came in at a disappointing 1.8% which shows that growth had slowed down, though it still remained one of the leading rates among the G7 countries. Growth improved in quarter 4 of 2015 from +0.4% to 0.7% but fell back again to +0.4% (2.0% year on year) in quarter 1 of 2016.

2.2 During most of 2015, the economy had faced headwinds for exporters from the appreciation during the year of sterling against the Euro, and weak growth in the EU, China and emerging markets, plus the dampening effect of the Government's continuing austerity programme and uncertainty created by the Brexit referendum. However, since the peak in November 2015, sterling has fallen against the Euro by 14% which will help to make British goods and services much more competitive and will increase the value of overseas earnings by multinational companies based in the UK. In addition, the Chancellor has announced that the target of achieving a budget surplus in 2020 will have to be eased in order to help the economy recover from the expected slowing of growth during the second half of 2016.

2.3 The Bank of England May Inflation Report included a forecast for growth for 2016 of 2.0% and 2.3% for 2017 on the assumption that the referendum result was a vote to remain. The Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, warned that a vote for Brexit would be likely to cause a slowing in growth, particularly from a reduction in business investment, due to the uncertainty of whether the UK would have continuing full access, (i.e. without tariffs), to the EU single market. In his 30 June and 1 July speeches, Carney indicated that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), would be likely to cut Bank Rate and would consider doing further quantitative easing purchasing of gilts, in order to support growth. However, he did also warn that the Bank cannot do all the heavy lifting and suggested that the Government will need to help growth by increasing investment expenditure and possibly by using fiscal policy tools (taxation).

2.4 The May Bank of England Inflation Report forecast was notably subdued with inflation barely getting back up to the 2% target within the 2-3 year time horizon. However, the falls in the price of oil and food twelve months ago will be falling out of the calculation of Consumer Prices Index (CPI) during 2016 and in addition, the recent 10% fall in the value of sterling is likely to result in a 3% increase in CPI over a time period of 3-4 years. There is therefore likely to be an acceleration in the pace of increase in inflation which could make life interesting for an MPC which wants to help promote growth in the economy by keeping Bank Rate low.

2.5 The American economy had a patchy 2015 – quarter 1 0.6% (annualised), 3.9% in quarter 2, 2.0% in quarter 3 and 1.4% in quarter 4, leaving growth in 2015 as a whole at 2.4%. Quarter 1 of 2016 came in at +1.1% but forward indicators are pointing towards a pickup in growth in the rest of 2016. The Fed embarked on its long anticipated first increase in rates at its December meeting. At that point, confidence was high that there would then be four more increases to come in 2016. Since then, more downbeat news on the international scene and then the Brexit vote, has caused a re-emergence of caution over the timing and pace of further increases. It is likely there will now be only one more increase in 2016.

2.6 In the Eurozone, the European Central Bank (ECB) commenced in March 2015 its massive €1.1 trillion programme of quantitative easing to buy high credit quality government and other debt of selected Eurozone countries at a rate of €60bn per month; this was intended to run initially to September 2016. In response to a continuation of weak growth, at the ECB's December meeting, this programme was extended to March 2017 but was not increased in terms of the amount of monthly purchases. At its December and March meetings it progressively cut its deposit facility rate to reach -0.4% and its main refinancing rate from 0.05% to zero. At its March meeting, it also increased its monthly asset purchases to €80bn.

2.7 This programme of monetary easing has had a limited positive effect in helping a recovery in consumer and business confidence and a start to some improvement in economic growth. GDP growth rose by 0.6% in quarter 1 2016 (1.7% y/y) and is expected to continue growing but at only a modest pace. The ECB is also struggling to get inflation up from near zero towards its target of 2%.

Interest Rate Forecasts

2.8 The Authority's treasury advisor, Capita Asset Services, has provided the following forecast:

	Sep-16	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Sep-17	Dec-17	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Mar-19	Jun-19
Bank rate	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
5yr PWLB rate	1.00%	1.10%	1.10%	1.10%	1.10%	1.10%	1.10%	1.20%	1.20%	1.20%	1.30%	1.30%
10yr PWLB rate	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.70%	1.70%	1.70%	1.70%	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%	1.90%
25yr PWLB rate	2.40%	2.40%	2.40%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.60%	2.60%	2.70%	2.70%
50yr PWLB rate	2.20%	2.20%	2.20%	2.30%	2.30%	2.30%	2.30%	2.40%	2.40%	2.40%	2.50%	2.50%

2.9 Capita Asset Services undertook a review of its interest rate forecasts on 4 July after letting markets settle down somewhat after the Brexit result of the referendum on 23 June. It is generally agreed that this outcome will result in a slowing in growth in the second half of 2016 at a time when the Bank of England has only limited ammunition in its armoury to promote growth by using monetary policy.

2.10 We therefore expect that Bank Rate will be cut by 0.25%, probably at the 14 July MPC meeting but possibly at its quarterly Inflation Report meeting on 4 August when it has a greater opportunity to report in depth on its research and findings. Bank Rate could even be cut to 0% or 0.10% over this period. Thereafter, we do not expect the MPC to take any further action on Bank Rate in 2016 or 2017 as we expect the pace of recovery of growth to be weak during a period of great uncertainty as to the final agreement between the UK and the EU on arrangements after Brexit.

2.11 However, the MPC may also consider renewing a programme of quantitative easing; the prospect of further purchases of gilts in this way has already resulted in 10 year gilt yields falling below 1% for the first time ever. We do not expect Bank Rate to start rising until quarter 2 2018 and for further increases then to be at a slower pace than before. The Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, has repeatedly stated that increases in Bank Rate will be slow and gradual after they do start. The MPC is concerned about the impact of increases on many heavily indebted consumers, especially when the growth in average disposable income is still weak and for some consumers, who have had no increases in pay, could be non-existent (other than through some falls in prices).

3. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT

ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

3.1 The Authority's Annual Investment Strategy, which is incorporated in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) was approved by the Authority on the 19th February 2016. It outlines the Authority's investment priorities as follows:

- Security of Capital
- Liquidity
- Yield

3.2 The Authority will also aim to achieve the optimum return on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate it is considered appropriate to keep a significant proportion of investments short term to cover short term cash flow needs but also to seek out value available in significantly higher rates in periods up to 12 months with highly credit rated financial institutions using the Capita suggested creditworthiness matrices, including Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay information provided by Capita.

3.3 A full list of investments held as at 30 June 2016 are shown in Appendix A.

3.4 The average level of funds available for investment purposes during the quarter was £29.532m (£34.400m in previous quarter). These funds were available on a temporary basis, and the level of funds available was mainly dependent on the timing of precept payments, receipt of grants and progress on the Capital Programme.

Benchmark	**Benchmark Return**	**Authority Performance**	**Investment interest to quarter 1**
3 Month LIBID	0.46%	0.52%	£22,200.

3.5 As illustrated, the authority outperformed the 3 month LIBID benchmark by 0.06bp. It is also forecast that the Authority's budgeted investment target for 2016-2017 of £0.154m will be achieved.

BORROWING STRATEGY

Prudential Indicators:

3.6 It is a statutory duty for the Authority to determine and keep under review the "Affordable Borrowing Limits". The Authority's' approved Prudential Indicators (affordability limits) are outlined in the approved TMSS.

3.7 A full list of the approved limits (as amended) are included in the Financial Performance Report 2016-2017, considered elsewhere on the agenda, which confirms that no breaches of the Prudential Indicators were made in the period to June 2016 and that there are no concerns that they will be breached during the financial year.

Current external borrowing

3.8 External borrowing as at 30 June 2016 was £25.817m, same figure as previous quarter. All of this debt was at fixed rate with the remaining principal having an average rate/life of 4.231%/30.09 years.

Loan Rescheduling

3.9 No debt rescheduling was undertaken during the quarter. The Authority will continue to work closely with our treasury advisors to explore any opportunities to repay existing loans, however current Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) early repayment rates mean there is no financial benefit in undertaking premature loan repayment at this time.

New Borrowing

3.10 As depicted in the graph(s) below, there has been significant volatility in PWLB rates during quarter 1 culminating in a progressive fall in rates during the first three weeks in June as confidence rose that the polls were indicating an 'IN' result for the referendum, followed by a sharp rise in the run up to the referendum day as the polls swung the other way, followed by a sharp fall to the end of the month in anticipation that there is likely to be further quantitative easing purchases of gilts in the coming months.

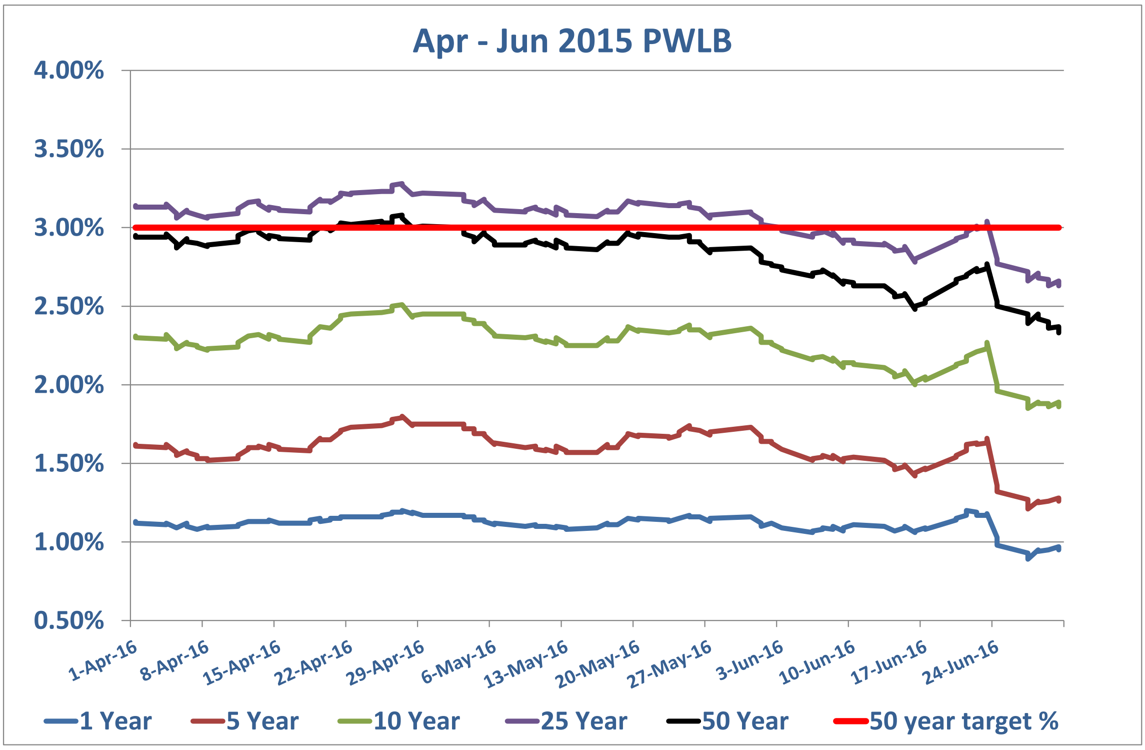
3.11 During the quarter ended 30 June 2016, the 50 year PWLB target (certainty) rate for new long term borrowing remained at 3%. *(However, the target rate was cut to 2.20% on 4 July 2016 due to the sharp fall in gilt yields after the referendum.)*

3.12 No new borrowing was undertaken during the quarter and none is planned during 2016-17. It is anticipated that use of internal borrowing will avoid the need to borrow from the PWLB in year.

PWLB rates quarter ended 30 June 2016

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
Low	0.89%	1.21%	1.85%	2.63%	2.33%
Date	27/6/16	27/6/16	27/6/16	29/6/16	30/6/16
High	1.20%	1.80%	2.51%	3.28%	3.08%
Date	27/4/16	27/4/16	27/4/16	27/4/16	27/4/16
Average	1.11%	1.59%	2.25%	3.05%	2.83%

3.13 Borrowing rates for this quarter are shown below.



Borrowing in Advance of Need

3.14 The Authority has not borrowed in advance of need during this quarter.

4. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 In compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice of Treasury Management, this report provides members with the first quarter report of the treasury management activities for 2016-2017 to June 2016 As is indicated in this report, none of the Prudential Indicators have been breached, and a prudent approach has been taken in relation to investment decisions taken so far, with priority being given to liquidity and security over yield. Whilst investment returns are still low as a consequence of the fall in interest rates, the Authority is anticipating that investment returns will meet the budgeted target.

KEVIN WOODWARD
Treasurer

APPENDIX A TO REPORT RC/16/9

Investments as at 30 June 2016					
Counterparty	**Maximum to be invested**	**Total amount invested**	**Call or Term**	**Period invested**	**Interest rate(s)**
	£m	**£m**			
Bank of Scotland	5.000	2.100	T	1 yr	1.000%
		1.400	T	1 yr	1.000%
		1.500	T	1 yr	1.020%
Barclays	8.000	2.000	T	6 mths	0.690%
		4.000	T	6 mths	0.660%
Santander UK PLC	5.000	1.000	T	6 mths	0.660%
		2.000	T	6 mths	0.670%
		2.000	T	6 mths	0.530%
Leeds Building Society	2.000	1.000	T	6 mths	0.670%
Coventry Building Society	2.000	2.000	T	6 mths	0.600%
Nationwide Building Society	2.000	2.000	T	6 mths	0.660%
Qatar National Bank	2.000	1.000	T	1 yr	1.000%
Black Rock Money Market Fund	5.000	1.143	C	Instant Access	Variable
Ignis Sterling Liquidity Money Market Fund	6.000	5.298	C	Instant Access	Variable
Total invested as at 30 June 2016		**£28.441M**			