

Investment Strategy

2023/2024

Introduction

1. The investment of surplus funds by local authorities is governed by the Local Government Act 2003 Section 15(1)(a) along with guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The Council is required to “have regard” to “such guidance as the Secretary of State may issue”.
2. Investments below £10,000 are not subject to the guidance but for investments between £10,000 and £500,000 the Council is required to make a formal decision on the extent to which it would be reasonable to adopt the guidance either in part or in full.
3. The guidance recommends that a Council produces an Annual Investment Strategy which sets out its policy for managing the investments and giving priority to the liquidity and security.
4. A ‘Specified Investment’ is one which is made in sterling, is not long term (less than 12 months), not defined as capital expenditure, and is placed with a body which has a high credit rating or made with UK Government, a UK Local Authority, or a parish community council.
5. Any other type of investment is considered ‘Non-Specified Investment’ to which there can be greater risk and where professional investment advice might be required.
6. Local authorities should always keep strategies simple and maintain prudence.

Strategy

Frampton Cotterell Finance and Governance Committee has adopted the following:

1. The Finance and Governance Committee acknowledges the importance of prudently investing its temporary surplus funds held on behalf of the community.
2. The Finance and Governance Committee’s priorities are and will be centred on the security (protecting the capital sum from loss) and then liquidity (keeping the money readily available for expenditure when needed) of its reserves.
3. Adopt the Secretary of State’s Guidance in relation to Council investments in full (Department for Communities and Local Government) “guidance on local government investments”
4. Carry out an annual cash flow forecast to ascertain expenditure commitments for the coming financial year.
5. On the basis of that cash flow forecast, to invest only in:

‘Specified Investments’ and/or in

‘Non Specified Investments’ including longer term investment i.e. 12 months or more but which still offers the greatest security (such as a UK financial institution which offers the full £85,000 UK Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS))

6. To review investments at least annually.

**List of Parish Council Investments
in place as at financial year 2022/23**

1. Remaining Parish funds sit in the following:

- Unity Trust Bank - Current Account
- Unity Trust Bank - Deposit Account

F & G min 19.221:

- CCLA – The Public Sector Deposit Fund
- The Cambridge Building Society
- Nationwide Building Society