

Summary of action taken in the period October 2022 to March 2023

New borrowing

No new borrowing was undertaken in the second half of 2022/23.

Debt maturity

PWLB Annuity repayments of £0.545m were made and £10.182m fixed debt matured on 31 December 2022.

Lender options (where the lender has the exclusive option to request an increase in the loan interest rate and the council has the right to reject the higher rate and repay instead) on four loans were due in the 6 month period but no option was exercised by the lender.

Weighted average maturity of debt portfolio

The weighted average maturity period of the portfolio has increased from 32.1 years to 32.4 years. This is the result of a combination of a natural decrease of the maturity by six months and the change resulting from the maturing of £10.7m from the portfolio in the last 6 months.

Debt rescheduling

Opportunities to restructure PWLB debt are severely restricted under changes introduced by the Public Works Loan Board in October 2007.

Capital financing requirement

The prudential code introduces a number of indicators that compare borrowing with the capital financing requirement (CFR) – the CFR being the amount of capital investment met from borrowing that is outstanding. Table 1 compares the CFR with actual borrowing.

Table 1 – Capital financing requirement compared to debt outstanding

	1 April 2022	31 March 2023	Movement in period
Capital financing requirement (CFR)	£429.1m		
Less PFI element	(£40.9m)		
Net CFR	£388.2m	£416.3m	£28.1m
Long-term debt	£356.5m	£394.3m	£37.3m
O/S debt to CFR (%)	91.8%	94.7%	+2.9%

Traditionally, the level of borrowing outstanding is at or near the maximum permitted in order to reduce the risk that demand for capital investment (and hence resources) falls in years when long-term interest rates are high (i.e. interest rate risk). The council has maintained the strategy of keeping borrowing at much lower levels since 2008 due to uncertainty in financial markets, increasing the borrowing in the last two years as a result of rapidly increasing interest rate forecasts.

Currently, outstanding debt represents 94.7% of the capital financing requirement.

Cash flow debt / investments

The TMSS states the profile of any short-term cash flow investments will be determined by the need to balance daily cash flow surpluses with cash flow shortages.

An analysis of the cash flows reveals a net deficit for the second half of the year of £72.1m.

Table 2 – Cash flow October 2022 to March 2023

	Oct 22 to Mar 23			Apr 22 to Mar 23 (full year)
	Payments	Receipts	Net cash	Net Cash
Total cash for period	(£608.2m)	£536.1m	(£72.1m)	(£121.7m)
Represented by:				
(Increase)/Decrease in investments			£82.5m	85.0m
(Decrease)/Increase in long-term borrowing			(£10.7m)	£37.7m
(Decrease)/Increase in Short term borrowing (including SDNPA ¹)			£0.5m	(£1.0m)
Movement in balance at bank			(£0.2m)	£0.0m
			£72.1m	£121.7m

Prudential indicators

Budget Council approved a series of prudential indicators for 2022/23 at its meeting in February 2022. Taken together the indicators demonstrate that the council’s capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

In terms of treasury management, the main indicators are the ‘authorised limit’ and ‘operational boundary’. The authorised limit is the maximum level of borrowing that can be outstanding at any one time. The limit is a statutory requirement as set out in the Local Government Act 2003. The limit includes ‘headroom’ for unexpected borrowing resulting from adverse cash flow movements.

The operational boundary represents the level of borrowing needed to meet the capital investment plans approved by the council. Effectively it is the authorised limit minus the headroom and is used as an in-year monitoring indicator to measure actual borrowing requirements against budgeted forecasts.

Table 3 compares both indicators with the maximum debt outstanding in the second half year.

Table 3 – Comparison of outstanding debt with Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary 2022/23

	Authorised limit	Operational boundary
Indicator set	£590.0m	£580.0m
Less PFI & other long-term liabilities	-£51.0m	-£51.0m
Indicator re: Underlying borrowing	£539.0m	£529.0m
Maximum amount o/s in first half of year	£405.0m	£405.0m
Variance	(*)£134.0m	£124.0m

(*) Cannot be less than zero

Table 4 shows the limits set for the maturity structure of the debt portfolio along with the actual maturity profile as at 31 March 2023.

¹ SDNPA (South Downs National Park Authority) cash/investments are managed on their behalf under contract with Brighton & Hove City Council.

Table 4 – Maturity structure of fixed interest rate borrowing as at 31 March 2023

	Lower Limit Set	Upper Limit Set	Actual as at 31 March 2023
Under 12 months	0.0%	40.0%	3.7%
12 months to 2 years	0.0%	40.0%	4.9%
2 years to 5 years	0.0%	50.0%	2.8%
5 years to 10 years	0.0%	75.0%	8.0%
Over 10 years	40.0%	100.0%	80.6%

Approved organisations – investments

No new organisations were added to the list approved in the Annual Investment Strategy (AIS) 2022/23.

Debt Portfolio as at 31 March 2023

Table 5 shows the debt portfolio as at 31 March 2023, analysed by fund.

Table 5 – Debt External Portfolio as at 31 March 2023 by fund

Fund	Debt Outstanding
General Fund	£179.985m
HRA	£214.281m
Total Debt	£394.266m

The total debt portfolio is made up of borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB), and market lenders. Table 6 illustrates the amount outstanding and average rate of borrowing of each of these parts of the portfolio as at 31 March 2023.

Table 6 – amount outstanding as at 31 March 2023 and average rate by loan type

Lender	Loan Type	Amount Outstanding at 31 March 2023	Average rate
PWLB	Fixed Maturity	£322.742m	2.91%
PWLB	Annuity	£26.523m	2.78%
Market Lenders	LOBOs	£25.000m	4.43%
Market Lenders	Fixed Maturity	£20.000m	4.49%
Total Borrowing		£303.108m	3.07%

The debt outstanding to market lenders is made up of LOBO instruments (Lender Option Borrower Option) of £25.0m, and fixed market loans of £20.0m. The interest rates of these loans, taken out many years ago, vary between 3.90% and 4.88%.

