

## **COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2013**

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### **Late Items**

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**1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2013.

**6. REPORTS OF THE CABINET, PANELS AND COMMITTEE**

(a) Cabinet (Pages 5 - 18)

Report of the meeting held on 12th December 2013 - attached.

(f) Standards Committee (Pages 19 - 22)

Report of the meeting held on 5th December 2013 - attached.

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# Agenda Item 1

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St. Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Monday, 9 December 2013.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs B E Boddington – Chairman.

Councillors J D Ablewhite, Mrs M Banerjee, I C Bates, P L E Bucknell, G J Bull, E R Butler, R C Carter, S Cawley, B S Chapman, S J Criswell, I J Curtis, J W Davies, D B Dew, Mrs L A Duffy, R S Farrer, R Fuller, D A Giles, J A Gray, N J Guyatt, A Hansard, G J Harlock, R Harrison, D Harty, R B Howe, P Kadewere, Ms L Kadic, S M Van De Kerkhove, Mrs P J Longford, A J Mackender-Lawrence, P G Mitchell, J P Morris, J W G Pethard, P D Reeve, T V Rogers, T D Sanderson, M F Shellens, R G Tuplin, D M Tysoe, R J West and A H Williams.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors M G Baker, K M Baker, K J Churchill and Mrs P A Jordan.

### 50. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13th November 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed Mr R Pitt from LGSS to the Council and advised that Mr Pitt would respond to any general legal enquiries that might arise during the meeting.

### 51. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared by the Members present.

### 52. MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND TO PROVIDE UP TO 290,000 SQM OF EMPLOYMENT FLOOR SPACE, INCLUDING DATA STORAGE AND A MATERIALS RECOVERY DEMONSTRATION CENTRE AND UP TO 5,000 DWELLINGS, INCLUDING SHELTERED/EXTRA CARE ACCOMMODATION; A MIXED USE HUB AND MIXED USE NEIGHBOURHOOD FACILITIES, INCLUDING RETAIL, COMMERCIAL, LEISURE, HEALTH, PLACE OF WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY USES; NON-RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING PRIMARY SCHOOLS, NURSERIES, A SECONDARY SCHOOL AND LAND RESERVED FOR POST 16 EDUCATION PROVISION; OPEN SPACES, WOODLANDS AND SPORTS PROVISION; RETENTION OF LISTED BUILDINGS; NEW VEHICULAR ACCESS POINTS FROM ERMINE STREET AND THE A141, WITH OTHER NEW NON-VEHICULAR ACCESS POINTS; ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE; RESERVE SITE FOR A RAILWAY STATION AND ANCILLARY USES; AND ASSOCIATED DEMOLITION AND GROUNDWORKS - LAND AT THE FORMER ALCONBURY AIRFIELD AND NEIGHBOURING FARMLAND, ERMINE STREET, THE STUKELEYS, HUNTINGDON

The Chairman invited Councillor D B Dew, Chairman of the Development Management Panel to update Members on the conclusions of the Special Development Management Panel which had preceded the Council meeting.

Councillor Dew advised the Council that following a robust debate and exchange of concerns, the Panel had

RESOLVED

that Council be advised that the Panel was minded to approve the application subject to satisfactory completion of the Section 106 Agreement and conditions to be determined by the Assistant Director, Environment, Growth and Planning to include those listed in paragraph 11 of the report now submitted, after consultation with the Chairmen of the Section 106 Agreement Advisory Group and Development Management Panel and the Executive Councillor for Planning and Housing Strategy.'

By reference to the report of the Assistant Director, Environment, Growth and Planning (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) and using slides, the Assistant Director and Special Projects Officer (Alconbury) presented details of the outline application 12/01158/OUT to the Council. The presentation referred specifically to those matters which had been progressed subsequently in negotiations with developers and other infrastructure providers. These related to the proposed package of developer contributions to be secured through the Community Infrastructure Levy and the Section 106 Agreement for each phase of the development of the former airfield. Particular mention was made of the proposed review mechanism for affordable housing, the 'funding cap' for transport mitigation measures beyond the first phase of the development and the underlying objective to achieve a position whereby the development could progress expeditiously and provide the District Council and its partners with an acceptable way to deliver corporate aims.

The Chairman invited Councillor P Ryan from The Stukeleys Parish Council and Mr T Leathes, representing the applicant Urban and Civic, to address the Council.

In response to questions from Councillors D A Giles, R B Howe, J P Morris, T V Rogers and T D Sanderson, the Council was advised that the timescale for meeting key phases and the subsequent submission of reserved matters would be identified and controlled through the requirements of the Section 106 Agreement and conditions, that it was the intention that the southern access would be available on the completion of the 250th house but other options for the early delivery of cycle ways and footpaths also would be appropriately pursued, that neighbouring parishes would be advised of the measures being taken to prevent heavy traffic flows and rat-running through villages and that efforts would be made for these to be in-place before more major road works commenced, that funding would be made available to ensure conditions and triggers for provision of infrastructure were met and monitored by intelligent software and that because of viability issues, it was likely that shared ownership housing schemes would be promoted in the early stages of the development with the Lead Housing Strategy Manager taking forward the negotiations in this respect.

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor N J Guyatt and duly seconded by Councillor J D Ablewhite –

'that the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government be advised that the Council is minded to

approve the conditions and, if the application is not called-in by the Secretary of State, to approve the application subject to satisfactory completion of the Section 106 Agreement and conditions to be determined by the Assistant Director, Environment, Growth and Planning to include those listed in paragraph 11 of the report now submitted after consultation with the Chairmen of the Section 106 Agreement Advisory Group and Development Management Panel and the Executive Councillor for Planning and Housing Strategy.

An amendment to the substantive Motion was moved by Councillor I C Bates and duly seconded by Councillor D Harty –

‘that the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government be advised that the Council is minded to approve the application subject to the Section 106 Agreement Advisory Group, Development Management Panel and Council being satisfied with the final details of the Section 106 Agreement and planning conditions (provided the application is not called-in by the Secretary of State) prior to determination of the application by the Assistant Director, Environment, Growth and Planning’.

After discussion and upon being put to the vote, the proposed amendment was declared to be LOST.

Regarding the substantive Motion, Councillor M F Shellens, on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, indicated his support for the development, welcomed the approach that had been taken in negotiations with partners and stakeholders but questioned the availability of access to the development from the north-east asking that this might be addressed in future phases.

Whilst welcoming the potential for the development to generate new jobs and business, Councillor P D Reeve was of the view that these would be attracted to Huntingdon to the detriment of other parts of the District. He also commended the approach taken towards negotiations but was concerned that, potentially, affordable housing would not be provided by the development in the earliest years. Lastly, Councillor Reeve feared that Alconbury Weald would become a dormitory/commuter town and not as intended, an urban extension to Huntingdon.

Following several further contributions by Members, it was moved by Councillor I C Bates, duly seconded by Councillor P D Reeve –

‘that consideration of the application be deferred to allow the opportunity for further detailed consideration of infrastructure issues which in the view of the mover of the Motion, still remained to be resolved in respect of education, transport strategy, health, open space and community facilities, particularly given the other major development proposed for the District’.

Following discussion prompted by Councillor Bates’ Motion and having been put to the vote, the proposal to defer consideration of the application was declared to be LOST.

Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government be advised that the Council is minded to approve the application subject to satisfactory completion of the Section 106 Agreement and conditions and, if the application is not called-in by the Secretary of State, to approved the application subject to satisfactory completion of Section 106 Agreement and conditions to be determined by the Assistant Director, Environment, Growth and Planning to include those set out in paragraph 11 of the report now submitted after consultation with the Chairmen of the Section 106 Agreement Advisory Group and Development Management Panel and the Executive Councillor for Planning and Housing Strategy.

[In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.5, Councillor P D Reeve requested that his decision not to support the Motion be recorded in the Minutes.]

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm.

Chairman

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## Cabinet

### Report of the meeting held on 12th December 2013

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#### Matters for Decision

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#### 33. BUDGET UPDATE

**In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) (Item No.23 of their Report refers)** and by way of a report by the Assistant Director, Finance and Resources (the report is reproduced as Item No.3 on the Council Agenda) the Cabinet has reviewed the draft 2014/2015 budget and the Medium Term Plan for the period 2015 – 2019. Final approval of the proposals will be dealt with by Council at its meeting on 19th February 2014.

An addendum to the report was also circulated (a copy of which is reproduced as an Annex), outlining the impact on revenue savings of the Government's announcement in the Autumn Statement that the pooling of the New Homes Bonus will now only apply to authorities within the London Local Enterprise Partnership. Executive Councillors were advised that despite this announcement, the Council will still need to achieve savings of £3.6m by 2018/19.

With regard to the proposed variations within the Base Budget, attention was drawn to those items identified as an extra cost or reduced income. With reference to the charge for second green bins, Members were informed that the income target did not reflect the revenue savings anticipated from reusing returned bins. Members referred to the cost of providing wheeled bins to new properties. Executive Councillors were reminded that the Developer Contributions SPD 2011 required new housing development to make a contribution towards the provision of residential wheeled bins. Having been advised that this only applied to new housing applications received after January 2013, the Cabinet has requested Officers to investigate whether the cost of providing new bins can be recouped from either the developer or house owner.

Attention was drawn to the conclusions reached by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being). Having confirmed that provision will need to be made in the Medium Term Plan for costs arising from the potential redevelopment of Wyton Airfield and that the outcome of the pay review and senior management review will be reflected in the final budget report to Council in February, the Cabinet

**RECOMMEND**

**that the draft Budget and Medium Term Plan, appended to the report of the Assistant Director, Finance and Resources, be approved as the basis for the development of the budget for 2014/2015 and the revised Medium Term Plan 2015/2019.**

**34. TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE:  
6 MONTHLY REVIEW**

By way of a report by the Assistant Director, Finance and Resources (a copy of which is reproduced as an Appendix) the Cabinet has noted the performance of the District Council's Fund Managers for the period 1st April to 30th September 2013.

**Having noted the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) on the matter (Item No.24 of their Report refers), the Cabinet**

**RECOMMEND**

**that the Council notes the contents of the report.**

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**Matter for Information**

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**35. NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATING –  
CHANGES TO DISCRETIONARY POLICY**

**In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) (Item No.22 of their Report refers), the Cabinet has been acquainted with an initiative by the Government to encourage local authorities to provide rate relief on certain newly-built empty non domestic properties for up to 18 months after they are completed. Having been advised that local authorities will be reimbursed for the cost of providing the discount, the Cabinet has approved an award of 100% discretionary rate relief for qualifying newly built non domestic rating properties completed from 1st October 2013 to 30th September 2016, for a maximum period of up to 18 months.**

J D Ablewhite  
Chairman





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Public  
Key Decision – No

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title:** Treasury Management  
Review of Performance: 6 Monthly Review

**Meeting/Date:** Cabinet - 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**Executive Portfolio:** Resources: Councillor J A Gray

**Report by:** Assistant Director (Finance and Resources)

**Wards affected:** All Wards

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### **Executive Summary:**

In February 2013 the Council adopted the 2013/14 Treasury Management Strategy. The Strategy requires members to be kept up to date in respect of treasury management activity for the first half of the year, including investment and borrowing activity and treasury performance.

### **Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that Cabinet notes the report and recommends the report to Council.

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## **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To update members, in line with best practice and prescribed Treasury Management guidance, on treasury management activity for the first half of the year, including investment and borrowing activity and treasury performance.

## **2. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

- 2.1 The Council approved the 2013/14 treasury management strategy at its meeting on 20 February 2013.
- 2.2 All treasury management activity undertaken during the period complied with the CIPFA Code of Practice and relevant legislative provisions.
- 2.3 The investment strategy is to invest any surplus funds in a manner that balances low risk of default by the borrower with a fair rate of interest. The Council's borrowing strategy permits borrowing for cash flow purposes and funding current and future capital expenditure over whatever periods are in the Council's best interests.

## **3. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY**

### **Cash Flow Management**

- 3.1 The vast majority of activity over the past 6 months has been in managing short term fluctuations in cash flow by borrowing or investing for periods that ensure sustainable cash liquidity and at a cost that is the most economically advantageous for the council.
- 3.2 Much of the investment activity has been in liquidity accounts. These accounts offer two clear advantages considering the current investment market:
- ◆ One of the primary Treasury Management objectives is the security of funds invested; because these accounts allow immediate access to funds this reduces the risk of default.
  - ◆ These accounts provide a fair return on amounts invested.
- 3.3 There have also been deficits at various times over the period which has required the council to borrow temporarily from other Local Authorities at low rates (typically between 0.27% and 0.40%), the maximum period of borrowing has been 38 days.

### **Long Term Borrowing and Investments**

- 3.4 During the period the council has made available the following investment facilities:
- ◆ £1.500m to Huntingdon Regional College, which has been back-to-back funded by long-term borrowing for the same amount from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB).
  - ◆ £0.300m to Huntingdon Gym. However the first tranche of £75,000 was invested in early October.
  - ◆ £0.012m to Alconbury Parish Council.

With regard to the investments in Huntingdon Gym and Alconbury Parish Council, these are currently being financed from within the Councils own working capital.

- 3.5 As at the 30 September the council had short and long term external investments of £13.3m and borrowing of £17.5m. The following table summarises the transactions during the period and further details analysis is shown in Appendix 1.

2012/13 £m			2013/14 £m
10.4	<b>Investments</b>	- as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March	6.4
(101.6)		- matured in period	(58.9)
106.2		- arranged in period	65.8
<b>15.0</b>		- as at 30 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>13.3</b>
(14.5)	<b>Borrowing</b>	- as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March	(16.0)
26.4		- matured/repaid in period	20.5
(21.9)		- arranged in period	(22.0)
<b>(10.0)</b>		- as at 30 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>(17.5)</b>
<b>(4.1)</b>	<b>Net investments at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>		<b>(9.6)</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Net investments at 30<sup>th</sup> September</b>		<b>(4.2)</b>

#### 4. PERFORMANCE – INTEREST RETURN

- 4.1 The portfolio comprises a mixture of short-term investments and temporary borrowing to manage cash flow. With regard to long term borrowing, £10.0m was borrowed from the PWLB in December 2008 at 3.9% and was temporarily invested in two £5.0m packages. The first £5.0m block matured in December 2012 (and is now absorbed into the Council's working capital) and the second £5.0m block, which was invested with the Skipton Building Society at 4.85%, will mature in December 2013.
- 4.2 As noted above, the Council borrowed a further £1.5m from the PWLB for 10 years, this was borrowed in August 2013 at 2.24% (2.44% less the 0.2% certainty rate). The investment with Huntingdonshire Regional College allows the council to make a small return on the cost of borrowing over the life of the investment.
- 4.3 To give an indication of net investment performance, the summary below, excludes the above long-term investments and borrowing to give a fairer comparison with the current benchmark of the 7 day rate.

SHORT-TERM PERFORMANCE FOR THE 6 MONTHS APRIL 2013 – SEPTEMBER 2013					
Net investments	Performance	Benchmark	Variation from benchmark	Managed Funds	
				1 April £m	30 Sept £m
Excluding Skipton and Huntingdon Regional College	0.54%	0.16%	+0.38%	4.6	(0.8)

## 5. PERFORMANCE – AGAINST BUDGET IN 2013/14

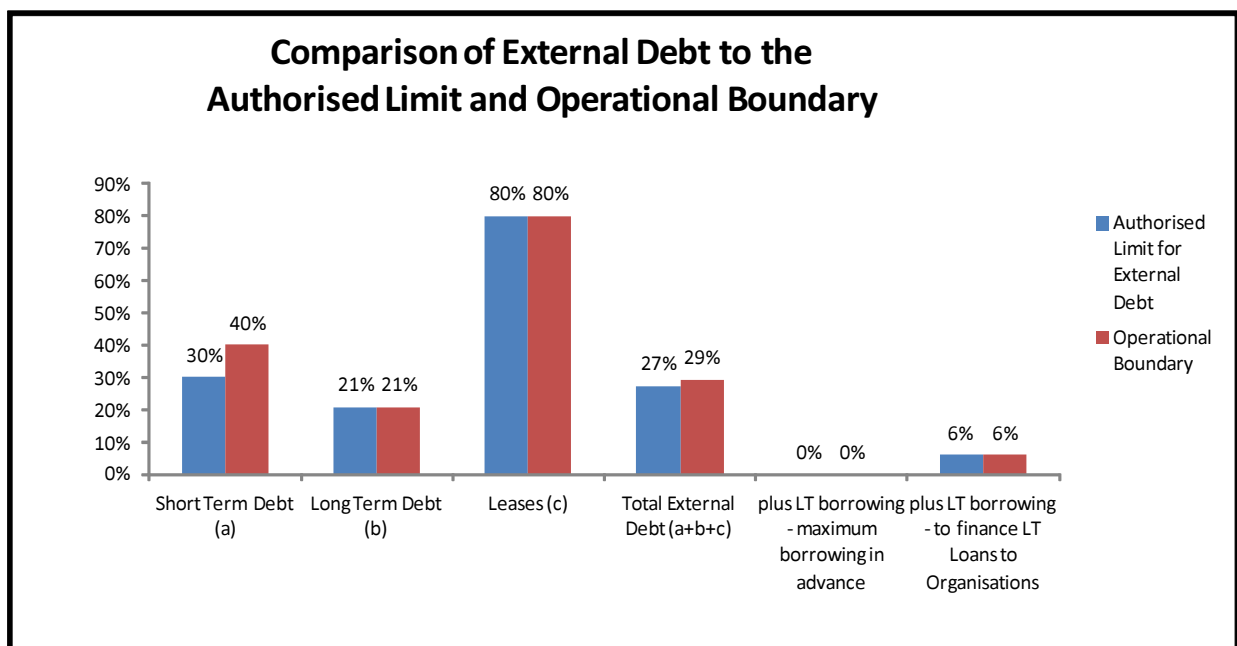
- 5.1 The latest forecast outturn is for the net cost of interest to be under budget by £33,000 (net cost of £0.206m against a budget of £0.239m). The small saving is attributable to a combination of low borrowing interest rates (especially between local authorities), delays in capital expenditure and higher than expected revenue reserves.

## 6. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

### 6.1 Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit for External Debt

The Authorised Limit for External Debt is the maximum external debt that the Council is authorised to borrow, whereas the Operational Boundary is an “early indicator” of when the Council is getting close to the Authorised Limit. As shown in the table below, currently the Council is well within the limits for both the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary.

	2013/14 Estimate		2013/14 To Date
	Authorised Limit	Operational Boundary	
	£m	£m	£m
Short Term Debt	20.0	15.0	6.0
Long Term Debt	48.0	48.0	10.0
Leases	5.0	5.0	4.0
<b>Total External Debt</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>
Plus Long Term based on the maximum borrowing in advance	14.0	14.0	0.0
Plus Long term borrowing to finance Long Term Loans to Organisations	25.0	25.0	1.5



## 7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

7.1 The Council measures its exposures to certain treasury management risks with the following indicators which generally relate to the position as at 30 September.

### 7.2 Interest rate exposures

This indicator prescribes the exposure to fixed and variable interest rates in respect of borrowing and investment activity.

All borrowing and investments are within the approved exposure limits.

		Limits		Actual
		Max.	Min.	Sept 2013
<b>Borrowing:</b>				
longer than 1 year	Fixed	100%	75%	100%
	Variable	25%	0%	0%
<b>Investments:</b>				
longer than 1 year	Fixed	100%	100%	100%
	Variable	0%	0%	0%

*All borrowing and investing for less than one year is variable by definition.*

### 7.3 Maturity structure of borrowing

This indicator prescribes the limits within which the Council can borrow to either maintain effective cash flow or to cover capital expenditure.

All borrowing is within the approved limits.

Borrowing	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Actual
Under 12 months	86%	0%	34%
12 months and within 24 months	86%	0%	0%
24 months and within five years	86%	0%	0%
Five years and within 10 years	86%	0%	9%
10 years and above	100%	14%	57%

### 7.4 Investment repayment profile – limit on the value of investments that cannot be redeemed within 364 days

The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments.

The total principal sums invested beyond 364 days are within the approved limits.

	2013/14 £m	2014/15 £m	2015/16 £m
Limit on investments over 364 days as at 31 March each year.	32.6	33.2	33.2
Actual principal invested beyond year end as at 30 September 2013	1.512	1.512	1.512



**8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 None, on the basis of the statement in paragraph 2.2.

**9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The resource implications are noted within this report.

**10 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

10.1 It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny notes the report and recommends the report to Cabinet and then to Council.

**11. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1 – Investments and Borrowing as at 30 September 2013

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Working papers in Financial Services

**Contact Officers:** Steve Couper, Assistant Director (Finance and Resources)

☎ 01480 388103/

Clive Mason, Accountancy Manager

☎ 01480 388157

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## Investments as at 30 September 2013

		£m	Investment date	Rate %	Repayment date
<b>Term Deposits</b>					
Skipton Building Society	Temporary investment of PWLB borrowing	5.000	19/12/08	4.85	19/12/13
Alconbury Parish Council		0.012	08/07/13	0.05	08/07/16
Huntingdonshire Regional College		1.500	05/08/13	3.34	05/08/23
<b>Liquidity Accounts</b>					
Cambridge Building Society		3.000	16/09/13	0.50	call
Ignis Liquidity Fund		2.000	24/09/13	0.49	call
NatWest		1.760	30/09/13	0.50	call
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13.272</b>			

\* The above investment profile does not include the £75,000 investment in Huntingdon Gym as this investment was not taken out until October 2013.

## Borrowing as at 30 September 2013

	£m	Borrowing date	Rate %	Repayment date
<b>Long Term</b>				
PWLB	1.500	07/08/13	2.44	07/08/23
PWLB	5.000	19/12/08	3.91	19/12/57
PWLB	5.000	19/12/08	3.90	19/12/58
<b>Short Term</b>				
Worcestershire County Council	5.000	11/09/13	0.30	09/10/13
Shropshire Council	1.000	11/09/13	0.30	11/10/13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17.500</b>			

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## **Standards Committee**

### **Report of the meeting held on 5th December 2013**

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#### **Matter for Information**

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**8. DCLG GUIDANCE –  
OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY ON PERSONAL INTERESTS –  
IMPACT ON CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has recently published revised guidance entitled 'Openness and transparency on personal interests'. This indicates that the interests to be registered and declared by Councillors should include membership of a trade union. This interest was not one specifically defined by the Government under Regulations issued following the Localism Act 2011 and, at that time, the Council attempted, when adopting its new Code of Conduct in July 2012, to comply with the Government's objectives to simplify the requirements of the new regime.

Whilst there is some doubt about the power of DCLG to require such a change by simply issuing "Guidance", the Committee was of the view that if the Council is to amend its Code to require trade union interests to be registered and declared, it should take the opportunity to review and potentially extend the Code to include other interests, similar to those included in the previous National Code and in that promoted by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

As it would appear to be sensible to avoid the additional bureaucracy of requiring new declaration forms from Councillors before the next local elections, the Committee has requested the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to prepare a revised Code of Conduct to reflect any changes considered necessary for consideration at their next meeting and for implementation from the beginning of the new Municipal Year in May 2014.

This will also provide the opportunity to give advice and to provide training both to Members and to town and parish councils who might wish to make similar changes to their Codes.

Accordingly the Committee will be recommending the Council to consider adopting a revised Code of Conduct at its meeting in April.

**9. ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH STANDARDS ALLEGATIONS UNDER THE LOCALISM ACT 2011: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

The Committee was reminded that under Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council must have in place 'arrangements' under which allegations that a Member of the authority or of a parish council within the authority's area has failed to comply with that authority's Code of Conduct can be investigated and decisions made on those allegations. A protocol for this purpose was approved when the new Code of Conduct was adopted in July 2012.

Several issues have emerged from working experience of the Protocol since then and having discussed the changes considered to be necessary, the Committee has approved an amended Protocol for implementation with immediate effect. This will, for instance, seek to make clear to complainants that the Code of Conduct only applies when a Councillor is acting in an official capacity (or if they are claiming or giving the impression they are acting in an official capacity) rather than applying to the conduct or actions of Councillors in their private lives. The Committee is of the opinion that the changes will clarify the arrangements and consequently better manage the expectations of complainants.

**10. UPDATE ON CODE OF CONDUCT AND REGISTER OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

The Committee has been updated on the current position in respect of the receipt and publication of Registers of Interests of Members and Co-opted Members of the District Council and of those Members serving on Parish Councils. All registers are required to be published on the District Council's website.

Whilst the current position was encouraging and represented a marked improvement on the level of returns reported previously, the Committee still was concerned that one Council had yet to adopt a Code of Conduct and that four had not yet published a register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

Although the Committee has concluded that it is no longer necessary for them to visit the Parish Council's where DPI's were still outstanding, the Monitoring Officer has been requested to alert the Councils concerned that unless the position is rectified, it is his intention to draw their failure to comply with that part of the Localism Act relating to standards to the attention of the external auditor before closing the 2013/14 accounts.

**11. UPDATE ON CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**

The Monitoring Officer has updated Members on the number of complaints he has received since September. The Committee has noted that, of the five complaints received and after consultation with the Independent Persons, it had been decided that no further action was appropriate in three cases, that one case had been resolved by

agreement between the parties concerned and that one still remained outstanding pending the receipt of further information.

## **12. TRAINING UPDATE**

Following the Committee's suggestion that Town and Parish Councils should be reminded of the opportunity that existed for the Monitoring Officer to attend local Council meetings to give training on the Code of Conduct, the Monitoring Officer has hosted four sessions over the Autumn at Needingworth, Hilton, Old Weston and Woodhurst. These sessions attracted 45 Councillors and Clerks from Alconbury, Bluntisham, Earith, Hemingford Grey and Pidley Cum Fenton. The Committee has noted that preliminary arrangements also have been made for a session at Perry Parish Council in January and that all sessions to date had been well received.

Several Members of the Committee and the Independent Persons also had the opportunity to participate in joint training, held in conjunction with South Cambridgeshire District Council, on the Code of Conduct, pre determination and bias.

A Hansard  
Chairman

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