

**Report of the Chief Constable to the Chair and Members  
of the Policy & Resources Panel  
15<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

**Executive & Presenting Officer: Mrs Ann Hall, Assistant Chief Officer  
(Finance & Commissioning)**

**Status: For Information**

**Treasury Management to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 Local Authorities' (including Police Authorities) treasury management activities are prescribed by the Local Government Act 2003. Essentially a police authority may borrow or invest for any purpose relevant to its functions, under any enactment, or 'for the purpose of the prudent management of its financial affairs'.
- 1.2 Members agreed an investment strategy for 2011/12 in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice at their meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011.
- 1.3 This report is to update Members on the status of the Authority's investments and borrowing. It is part of the process introduced by the Authority to maintain prudent financial management.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

**3. Reasons**

3.1 Market Conditions

Conditions within the Financial Markets have become slightly more turbulent in recent months due to the downgrading the American Investment Market from AAA to AA and the continuing issues surrounding the Euro Zone. Therefore we

continue to only place investments with a select few institutions and where possible we primarily place these investments where the money is instantly accessible.

3.2 Members will recall that at their Police Authority Executive on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011 they approved that if, at any stage, the turbulence in the financial markets is judged to have returned, that the potential for delegated authority to the Treasurer and Deputy Section 151 Officer is revisited, in consultation with the Chair of the Policy and Resources Panel.

3.3 Return on Investments

The LTFFP was based on the generation of £50k of income from interest on investments placed. This was based on a return rate of 0.8% for the year on an average cash balance similar to that seen in 2010/11. The Bank of England base rate has remained at 0.5% for over 2 years but this is expected to rise at some point in the future. As at the end of October, we are not seeing any pressure but updates will be presented at future meetings.

3.4 Investments

As at the end of October the Force had £6.48m of external investments in place, these are detailed in the table below and are in line with forecast.

3.5 The graph at Appendix C sets out the expected cash balances throughout 2011/12 and shows these in comparison to 2010/11.

<b>Investment Placed With</b>	<b>Date Investment Made</b>	<b>Date Investment will Mature</b>	<b>Amount Invested £</b>
Co-operative Bank	05.10.11	01.11.11	1,500,000
Yorkshire Bank	19.10.11	07.11.11	2,000,000
Natwest Bank	20.10.11	01.11.11	1,000,000
Nat West Holding Account (Instant Access)	n/a	n/a	1,980,000
<b>Total Investments</b>			<b>£6,480,000</b>

3.6 Whilst returns on investments are of secondary importance to the security of the sums invested, it is still important to ensure that the best financial decisions are being made. With this in mind we will track the investments that we make throughout the year against the 7 day Average Interest Rate. The investments made so far this year are shown at Appendix D. All of the investments have been made at an interest rate higher than the 7 day average.

3.7 Long Term Loans

All loans are from the Public Works Loan Board. The loan profile is set out at Appendix A. As at the end of October the Authority had £17.641m of outstanding long term loans, having taken out a loan for £4m in June; along

with £31.036m of PFI associated borrowing – giving a total of £49.062m. This is well within the Operational Boundary for External Debt of £58.039m and also the Authorised Limit for External Debt of £63.039m approved by the Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

- 3.8 The maturity date of these loans is spread over the next 10 financial years. One loan of £385k was repaid on the 30<sup>th</sup> September; there are no further loans to be repaid this financial year.
- 3.9 The Authority is incurring a range of interest charges of between 4.29% and 5.30% on the outstanding loans with the average charge being 4.68%. The cost to the organisation of these loans for this financial year will be £805k which provides a £33k pressure to the 2011/12 budget as approved by Members on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011.
- 3.10 To underpin the approved Capital Programme for 2011/12 it may be necessary for the Authority to take out further loans with the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). In 2010/11, approval was granted to take out £6.238m of unsupported borrowing. It was not forecast that any cash balances would be used to fund the Capital Programme, however in order to reduce interest costs cash balances were utilised to minimise additional borrowing. A further £4.182m has been approved for 2011/12 meaning that £10.420m of borrowing could be taken out in this financial year; of which £4m was taken out in June.
- 3.11 The loan in June was with the PWLB at a rate of 4.52% to be repaid on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. A further loan of £3.0m is forecast to be taken out in mid-December and work is ongoing to confirm the exact requirement as much is dependant on Steria milestone dates. This will take the interest pressure to £120k.
- 3.12 However, this will be more than offset by a lower Minimum Revenue Provision than was budgeted owing to the fact that less of our capital expenditure in 2010/11 was funded by borrowing than had been anticipated as part of the budget setting process. This saving will be c£170k leading to a net saving of £50k.
- 3.12 The current rate of interest for a 10.5 to 11 year loan, which is the period over which we are likely to take the loan out, is 3.70%.

## **4 Implications**

### **4.1 Finance**

There are no financial implications other than those mentioned above.

### **4.2 Diversity & Equal Opportunities**

Diversity considerations are kept under constant review in line with Force policies and 'Putting People First'. There are no issues arising from this report to bring to Members attention.

4.3 Human Rights Act

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

4.4 Sustainability

This report is part of the process introduced by the Authority to establish sustainable annual and medium term financial plans and maintain prudent financial management.

4.5 Risk

There are no additional risks arising from this report.

**5 Conclusion**

- 5.1 The protection of the Authority's underlying investments will continue to be of utmost importance throughout 2011/12. To that end the investments of the Authority will continue to be placed in a prudent manner and also one that ensures sufficient funds are available to meet its' commitments as they become due.

Jacqui Cheer  
Temporary Chief Constable

## APPENDIX A

### Schedule of Fixed Rate Loans

Loan Number	Balance	Interest Rate	Loan Repayment Date	Annual Interest Charges
	£000	%		£000
486372	575	5.125	Sep-12	30
487161	1,106	4.625	Sep-12	51
488248	860	5.300	Sep-13	46
489234	1,340	4.800	Sep-14	64
489425	1,100	4.700	Sep-15	52
491366	872	4.400	Sep-16	38
493143	872	4.950	Mar-17	43
494503	872	4.520	Sep-18	39
494694	2,772	5.080	Sep-19	141
496955	872	4.290	Sep-20	37
496955	2,400	4.290	Sep-20	103
498683	4,000	4.520	Sep-21	151
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17,641</b>			<b>795</b>

## APPENDIX B

### Repayments to be made

Financial Year		£000
2012/13		1,681
2013/14		860
2014/15		1,340
2015/16		1,100
2016/17		1,744
2018/19		872
2019/20		2,772
2020/21		3,272
2021/22		4,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>17,641</b>

**APPENDIX C**

