

Explanation of prudential indicators

Central Government control of borrowing was ended and replaced with Prudential borrowing by the Local Government Act 2003. Prudential borrowing permitted local government organisations to borrow to fund capital spending plans provided they could demonstrate their affordability. Prudential indicators are the means to demonstrate affordability.

Capital expenditure – compares the 2022/2023 original capital estimates with the actual outturn. Actual 2021/2022 outturn is shown for comparison.

Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream – this indicator shows the effect of HRA self-financing debt, with the cost of servicing debt accounting for 14.92% of rental income. The comparative figure for the General Fund financing cost is 0.64% of net revenue.

Net borrowing requirement – this demonstrates borrowing needed to fund capital spending.

In year capital financing requirement – this shows that in 2022/2023 there was a net additional borrowing (internal or external) of £2.089m because Minimum Revenue Provision of £1.050m was less than capital expenditure financed by borrowing of £3.139m. Capital spend during the year was financed by the Council's capital resources such as grants, capital receipts and revenue contributions. The comparative figure for 2021/2022 was a net additional borrowing of £5.728m.

Capital financing requirement (CFR) as at 31 March – the capital financing requirement shows the underlying need of the Council to borrow for capital purposes as determined from the balance sheet. The overall positive CFR of £119.147m provides the Council with the opportunity to borrow if appropriate. The Council has £100.717m in long term borrowing. This indicates Council is internally borrowing £18.430m.

Authorised limit for external debt - this is the “affordable borrowing limit” for external temporary borrowing. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003. This limit is set to allow sufficient headroom for day to day operational management of cash flows. The Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The Authorised Limit was set at £147m in February 2022.

Operational boundary for external debt – this is set as the more likely amount required for day to day cash flow purposes. It is acceptable to be above or below this level as long as the Authorised Limit is not breached. The Operational Boundary was set at £142m in February 2022.

Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 365 days – the amount of £15m is what it is considered can be prudently invested for a period in excess of a year. In 2022/2023 £10m was invested in property and multi-asset funds (2021/2022 £10m).