

APPENDIX D2

Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities Prudential Indicators for 2015-16

1. Capital Expenditure

The actual capital expenditure that was incurred in 2013-14 and the estimates of capital expenditure to be incurred for the current and future years are:

	2013-14 Actual £ million	2014-15 Estimate £ million	2015-16 Estimate £ million	2016-17 Estimate £ million	2017-18 Estimate £ million
General Fund	2.843	4.863	5.760	8.666	5.283
Housing Revenue Account	10.095	14.017	17.027	16.920	16.087
Total	12.938	18.880	22.787	25.586	21.370

2. Affordability

Estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream for the current and future years are:

	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Estimate	2015-16 Estimate	2016-17 Estimate	2017-18 Estimate
General Fund	-2%	-1%	-1%	0%	1%
Housing Revenue Account	26%	25%	25%	24%	23%

The negative figures reflect the Authority's General Fund position as a net investor, the interest earned being used to help fund the budget.

The other affordability indicator is the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the council tax as shown below and, on the average weekly housing rents and this is considered to be not applicable as the increase in housing rents on the HRA is based on Government guidance and not on the amount of HRA capital expenditure.

Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions	2015-16 Estimate £ p	2016-17 Estimate £ p	2017-18 Estimate £ p
General Fund, increase / (decrease)	4.26	-6.49	29.31

3. Capital Financing Requirement

The capital financing requirement is capital expenditure which has not been fully financed from a local authority's own resources in the year but has been covered by raising external or internal debt. The capital requirement at 31 March 2014 is £209.083 million; thereafter:

	31/03/2014 Actual £ million	31/03/2015 Estimate £ million	31/03/2016 Estimate £ million	31/03/2017 Estimate £ million	31/03/2018 Estimate £ million
General Fund	3.960	4.722	6.824	8.090	12.913
Housing Revenue Account	205.123	205.123	205.123	205.123	205.123
Total	209.083	209.845	211.947	213.213	218.036

The General Fund capital financing requirement fluctuates due to financing internally refuse vehicles, part of the purchase of wheeled bins and cash overdrawn on equity share repurchases, but this financing is then partly repaid over the period.

4. External Debt

HRA self-financing required the Council to take on external debt of £205.123 million at the end on 2011/12.

The prudential indicators for external debt will be:

i. Authorised limit

	2014-15 Estimate £ million	2015-16 Estimate £ million	2016-17 Estimate £ million	2017-18 Estimate £ million
Borrowing	218.0	219.0	219.0	219.0
Other Long Term Liabilities	0	0	0	0
Total	218.0	219.0	219.0	219.0

The authorised limit is the maximum limit consisting of HRA debt of £205 million and £14 million to take advantage of interest rate differentials and to meet immediate cash flow requirements. The authorised limit is the statutory affordable borrowing limit under Section 3 (1) Local Government Act 2003.

Net borrowing is set out in the table below and one of the key indicators of prudence is that net debt is not in excess of the capital financing requirement.

	2014-15 Estimate £ million	2015-16 Estimate £ million	2016-17 Estimate £ million	2017-18 Estimate £ million
Borrowing	218.0	219.0	219.0	219.0
Investments	-27.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0
Net debt	191.0	179.0	179.0	179.0

Another indicator to highlight where an authority may be borrowing in advance of need is the ration of the net debt to gross debt.

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Net debt to gross debt	91%	84%	84%	82%

ii. Operational boundary

The operational boundary for external debt is based on the same estimates as the authorised limit but reflects the most likely scenario and is expected to be £219 million for both borrowing and other long term liabilities for each of the four years.

iii. Actual debt

The third indicator for external debt is actual debt at the end of the last financial year and was £205.123 million.

5. Maturity Structure of Borrowing

As the Council will only undertake a minimal amount of short-term borrowing to take advantage of interest rate differentials and to meet immediate cash flow requirements and the HRA debt is at fixed rates, the upper limits to be set for borrowing will be:

	Under 12 Months	More than 12 months
Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure	100%	100%
Upper limit for variable rate exposure	100%	0%

6. Treasury management

The Prudential Code requires the Authority to have adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services: South Cambridgeshire has adopted this Code.

i. Liquidity of Investments

The procedure for determining the maximum periods for which funds may be prudently committed is to formulate the five years investing plan. No investments will be made for more than five years. The prudential indicators for principal sums invested for longer than 364 days being the maximum limit shall be:

Investment period	<i>Longer than 364 days but less than two years £ million</i>	<i>Longer than one year and 364 days but less than three years £ million</i>	<i>Longer than two years and 364 days but less than four years £ million</i>	<i>Longer than three years and 364 days but less than five years £ million</i>
Maximum Limit	7.0	7.0	4.0	3.0

ii. Interest rate Exposure

The Council will only undertake a minimal amount of short-term borrowing to take advantage of interest rate differentials and to meet immediate cash flow requirements; the upper limits for interest rate exposures are based on gross investments. These upper limits for the forthcoming financial year and the following two years will be:

Upper limit on gross investments	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Fixed Rate	100%	100%	100%
Variable rate	50%	50%	50%