



HORNDLEAN PARISH COUNCIL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

1. INTRODUCTION

Horndean Parish Council (the Council) acknowledges the importance of prudently investing the temporary surplus funds held on behalf of the community as part of its fiduciary duty. This Strategy complies with the revised requirements set out in the Department of Communities and Local Government Guidance on Local Government Investments and takes into account Section 15 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2003 and guidance within Governance and Accountability for Local Councils Practitioner's Guide 2016.

The Local Government Act 2003 states that a local authority may invest:

- for any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment
- for the purpose of prudent management of its financial affairs

The Council defines its treasury management activities as *"the management of the Council's cash flows, its banking and money market transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of best value performance consistent with those risks."*

2. POLICY

This strategy establishes formal objectives, policies and practices and reporting arrangements for the effective management and control of the Council's treasury management activities and the associated risks

3. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

3.1 The Council's investment priorities are:

- the security of its reserves, and
- the adequate liquidity of its investments, and
- the return on investment - the Council will aim to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity

3.2 All investments will be made in sterling.

3.3 Investments will be spread over different providers where appropriate to minimise risk.

4. SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS

4.1 Specified investments are those offering high security and high liquidity. Such short term investments made with the UK Government or a Local Authority (as defined) or a Town/Parish Council will automatically be Specified Investments.

4.2 The Council, for prudent management of its treasury balances may use

- Treasury Deposits with UK clearing banks
- Local Authorities or other Public Authorities
- Other approved public sector investment funds

4.3 The choice of institution and length of deposit will be recommended to Full Council by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

4.4 The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity.

5. NON SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS

These investments have greater potential risk – examples include investment in the money market, stocks and shares. Given the unpredictability and uncertainty surrounding such investments the Council will not use this type of investment.

6. LIQUIDITY OF INVESTMENTS

6.1 The Finance and General Purposes Committee in consultation with the Responsible Finance Officer will recommend to Full Council the maximum periods for which funds may prudently be committed so as not to compromise liquidity.

6.2 Investments will be regarded as commencing on the date the commitment to invest is entered into rather than the date on which the funds are paid over to the counterparty.

7. LONG TERM INVESTMENTS

7.1 Long Term Investments are defined as greater than 36 months.

7.2 The Council does not currently hold any funds in long term investments

8. END OF YEAR INVESTMENT REPORT

Investment forecasts for the coming year are accounted for when the budget is prepared. At the end of the financial year the Responsible Finance Officer will report on investment activity to the Finance & General Purposes Committee

9. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS

The Investment Strategy must be reviewed annually and revised if considered necessary.

Date of Adoption: 12 May 2025

Review due: Financial Year 2026-27

Adopted by FC: