INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Adopted August 2019 – reviewed September 2025

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Tuxford Town 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 2018.*

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**

2.1 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 and should be read in conjunction with the Council's Financial Regulations.

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 The Department of Communities and Local Government maintains the borrowing of money purely to invest or to lend and make a return is unlawful and the Council will not engage in such activity.

3.4 The Council will monitor the risk of loss on investments by review of credit ratings on a regular basis. The Council will only invest in institutions of high credit quality – based on information from credit rating agencies.

3.5 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, made in sterling and with a maturity of no more than a year. Such short-term investments made with the UK Government or a local authority or town or parish council will automatically be Specified Investments.

4.2 For the prudent management of its treasury balances, maintaining sufficient levels of security and liquidity, Tuxford Town Council will use:
* Deposits with banks, building societies, local authorities or other public authorities
* Other approved public sector investment funds.

4.3 The choice of institution and length of deposit will be at the approval of the Policy & Resources 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**

5.1 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 Policy & Resources Committee in consultation with the Responsible Finance Officer will determine 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 in the Guidance as greater than 12 months.

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

8. **INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2024-25**

8.1 For 2025-26 the Council will invest as much of its balances as possible in low risk products in order to achieve its investment objectives.

9. **END OF YEAR INVESTMENT REPORT**

9.1 Investment forecasts for the coming financial year were accounted for when the budget was prepared. At the end of the financial year, the Responsible Finance Officer will report on investment activity to the Policy & Resources Committee.

10. **REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS**

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

10.2 The Council reserves the right to make variations to the Investment Strategy at any time subject to the approval of Council. Any variations will be made available to the public

11. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

11.1 In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Council's Investment Strategy will be published on the Town Council's website www.tuxford-pc.gov.uk and is also available as hard copy from the Town Council Offices.

12. Policy History and Review

This policy was approved by Tuxford Town Council on 01 August 2019 and took effect from 05 August 2019. The policy was reviewed 18 September 2025.

In the event of any significant change to the legal position on Investment Strategy's, any relevant statutory requirements or any other related matter, this policy will be subject to review. In the event of no change the policy will be reviewed by August 2025.

Approved: ………………………………………………………….. Chairman of the Council

Date: ………………/………………/………………

Folio Reference: ……………………………………

Review Reference

Review Date	Recorded Amendment to the Policy	Signed
18 August 2022	No amendments	
16 May 2024	Amended to review annually in accordance with the new Financial Regulations Policy – May 2024.	
22 August 2024	No amendment	
17 September 2025	No amendment	