Sharlston Parish Council

Investments Policy

Date of adoption: 2nd February 2026

Review date: February 2027

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 A local council may invest funds for any purpose relevant to its statutory functions or for the purpose of prudent financial management (ss.12, 19 and 23 LGA 2003 LGA2003 s12 onwards). The latest guidance on local authority investments was issued by the Department of Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in 2018.

1.2 Sharlston Parish Council acknowledges its responsibility to the community and the importance of prudently investing any reserves held by the Council.

OBJECTIVES

2.1 The general policy objective of the Council is prudent investment of its balances. The Council's investment priorities are:

(i) Security of reserves
and then
(ii) Liquidity of investments

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

INVESTMENT POLICY

3.1 Sharlston Parish Council shall diversify its reserves between multiple relatively highly rated UK banks and building societies. The Council shall only use specified investments as defined by DCLG guidance.

3.2 A significant percentage of the Council's reserves shall be placed on interest bearing term/notice deposits.

3.3 To retain liquidity these shall be placed with phased end dates i.e. there will always be some maturing sooner than others.

3.4 No one investment shall be for a period longer than 12 months.

3.5 No investment shall be held with the council's current bankers.

3.6 The Council shall only invest with banks/building societies which it defines as "High Credit Quality". This being those with a credit rating of A with Moody's Investors Service or BBB with Standard and Poor's or Fitch Ratings Ltd.

3.7 Investments shall be placed by the Responsible Financial Officer (if delegated authority is in place) having used due diligence including as a minimum finance search engines and ratings agencies.

a. This shall be under the oversight of a Banking and Investments Sub Committee of at least two members of the Finance Committee

b. The actual movement of money shall be by the usual authorised signatories.

3.8 The procedure for undertaking investments, considering the need for timely and speedy placing of deals) shall be documented by the Responsible Financial Officer and approved by the Finance Committee before any investments are placed.

3.9 The Responsible Financial Officer shall review credit ratings of organisations in which the Council holds investments on a quarterly basis. Should the credit rating of an organisation fall below that specified under 3.6, the Responsible Financial Officer shall consult the Finance Committee and take the appropriate action.

REVISION

4.1 Any revisions to this policy shall be approved by the Full Council.

4.2 The Finance Committee shall review this policy annually and recommend any proposed changes to Full Council prior to the commencement of the new financial year.

4.3 Where no changes are proposed, Full Council shall note the policy.

4.4 Notwithstanding 4.2 this policy shall be reviewed in the event the Bank of England increases its base rate above 3% or the Financial Services Compensation Scheme is extended to cover the Council.

(Source SLCC 2019/YLCA 2024)

Signed: *Cllr P Belbin* *E King*
Chairman Clerk