Investment Policy

Our vision is
To get the best return on low risk financial investments and/or to secure long-term benefits for the community through strategic investments.

Council's commitment

Council's commitment is to:

- Prudently manage Council's financial investments from low risk investments.
- Maintain a prudent level of liquidity and flexibility to meet both planned and reasonably unforeseen cash requirements.
- Invest only in approved investment instruments and securities.
- Seek to optimise investment income
- Monitor and report on risk and performance against predetermined limits and benchmarks
- Ensure operational controls and procedures are in place that protect the Council against financial loss, opportunity cost and other inefficiencies.
- Ensure that all statutory requirements related to Council's investments are adhered to.

Investment mix

Council may:

- Invest in the following assets from time to time:
  - New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency Limited
  - Investments in other companies and entities
  - Community loans and advances
  - Property investments for strategic objectives
  - Cash and treasury investments
  - Internal loans

The specific objectives and policies related to these types of investments are detailed in appendix one.

Risk management

Council is risk averse and seeks to minimise exposure from its treasury activities. Council does not allow any transactions that are speculative in nature to be entered into. Council's investment activities expose it to a variety of financial market risks including credit risk and liquidity risk.

Credit risk is managed by the Council limiting the amount of credit exposure to any one institution or organisation. Investments in other local authorities are secured by charges over rates. Other than other local authorities, Council invests funds only with entities that have a Standard and Poor's (or equivalent recognised agency) credit rating of at least A-1 for short term and A for long term investments.

Liquidity risk is managed by investing only in financial assets that can be liquidated through a readily available secondary market or have a short time period before maturity as articulated within the liquid investment's definition.

Council will:

- Adopt prudent risk management practices that will include:
  - Engaging appropriate expertise when major investment strategies are being developed
  - Reference to authoritative and current economic commentaries and financial market forecasts.

The appendix to this policy contains parameters and procedures which have been established to reflect Council's risk tolerance.

Acquisition of new investments
All investment acquisitions (other than treasury investments, LGFA and internal loans) will be approved by Council, and Council will:

- Assess the acquisition of any new investments having regard for the following:
  - The requirements of the Local Government Act 2002
  - Council's policy on significance
  - Council outcomes and objectives
  - The provisions of this policy.

Application of returns on investments.
Council will:

- Apply returns on investments as outlined in the LTP or the Annual Plan or as specifically determined by Council from time to time.

Delegated authority and responsibilities
Council will:

- Delegate to the Chief Executive Officer, authority to implement this policy, except where this policy expressly states that Council resolution is required.

The Chief Executive Officer will:

- Be responsible for ensuring that appropriate procedures and controls are in place to safeguard Council's assets. These procedures and controls will be documented within Council's quality assurance programme.

The Group Manager Business Services will:

- Ensure the administration and management of the investments is undertaken in accordance with the procedures contained within Council's quality assurance programme. This includes overseeing monthly reconciliations to the general ledger of the cash and treasury investments and other financial instruments such as LGFA borrower notes. The monthly reconciliation will be independently reviewed in accordance with the procedures contained within Council's quality assurance programme.

Reporting requirements

The Chief Executive Officer will:

- Ensure Council is provided with the following reports on investment performance:

Investment types	Frequency	Reporting
New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency Limited	Monthly	Other financial instruments invested in the LGFA will be included in the investment report provided as part of the Chief Executive's monthly report to Council.
Investments in other companies and entities	Annually	Investment balances reported as part of the Annual Report. Performance of Council Controlled Entities that have not been exempted under section 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 will be reviewed bi-annually.
Community loans and advances	Annually	Investments reported as part of the Annual Report
Property investments	Annually	Investments reported as part of the Annual Report
Liquid and treasury investments	Monthly	Liquid and treasury investments (including reporting of compliance with approved treasury instruments and approved counterparties), will be included in the investment report provided as part of the Chief Executive's monthly report to Council.
Internal loans	Annually	Investments reported as part of the Annual Report

Policy review

Council will:

- Formally review this policy on annual basis.

A Tanner
Mayor

D J McLeod
Chief Executive Officer

Version 4
Council resolution date: 28 September 2022

Appendix one

INVESTMENT POLICY PARAMETERS

New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency Limited (LGFA)
The Council may invest in shares and other financial instruments of the LGFA, and may borrow to fund that investment.

The Council's objectives in making any such investment will be to:

- Obtain a return on the investment; and
- Ensure that the LGFA has sufficient capital to become and remain viable, meaning that it continues as a source of debt funding for Council.

Because of these dual objectives, the Council may invest in LGFA shares in circumstances in which the return on that investment is potentially lower than the return it could achieve with alternative investments. If required in connection with the investment, the Council may also subscribe for uncalled capital in the LGFA and be a Guarantor.

Investments in other companies and entities
Equity investments arise from Council owning or controlling an equity holding in another entity. In general, investments in this category have and may be acquired with the primary objective of achieving strategic, efficiency, or community outcomes.

Any purchase or disposition of equity investments requires Council approval. Council will assess the acquisition of any new investments in line with the provisions of this policy. Any profit or loss arising from the sale of these investments is to be recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

The proceeds from the disposition of equity investments will be used firstly to repay any debt relating to the investment and then applied to the designated purpose as determined by Council.

Council recognises that there are risks associated with holding equity investments. To minimise these risks Council, through the relevant Council-committee, monitors the performance of its equity investments in Council Controlled Entities (that have not been exempted under section 7 of the Local Government Act 2002) on a twice yearly basis to ensure that the stated objectives are being achieved. Council seeks professional advice regarding its equity investments when it considers this appropriate.

Community loans and advances
From time to time Council may provide loans and/or advances to community organisations to assist with the achievement of community outcomes. The amounts involved are typically below $500,000 and the numbers of applications received (and/or approved) are minimal.

The purpose of such investments is to achieve community outcomes. Council will assess all applications having regard for the legislated purpose of Local Government as set out in the Local Government Act 2002, the need for prudent financial management and after assessing the risk associated with the investment and the security provided by the other party. All such loans/advances will only proceed by resolution of Council.

Property investments for strategic objectives
Council owns property to achieve its strategic objectives, that is, property that is expected to secure long-term benefits for the community. As a general rule Council will not maintain a property where it is not essential to the delivery of relevant services. Council reviews property ownership through assessing the benefits of continued ownership in comparison to other arrangements that could deliver the same results. This assessment is based on the most financially viable method of achieving the delivery of Council services.

All rented or leased properties will be at market rentals, except as approved by Council

Any acquisitions or disposals of strategic property require the resolution of Council and any purchased properties must be supported by a current registered valuation, substantiated by management including a fully worked, capital expenditure analysis. Any minor parcels of land purchased for the purpose of roading and utility activities will be affected under the delegation of the Chief Executive Officer.

Net proceeds from the sale of surplus property will be used to reduce borrowings where appropriate, or form part of the reserves of the District, to be reinvested in new assets or the betterment of existing assets for the benefit of the present and future residents of the District. The exception to this is endowment property or other property subject to legislative restrictions, in which case any proceeds would be applied in accordance with the provisions of the legislation.

Liquid and treasury investments
Council generally operates as a “net borrower”, and aims to manage its borrowings and cash assets on this basis in order to reduce the overall net cost of borrowing. Council does not usually maintain significant cash investments. Longer term investments may be held to support the level of restricted reserves though not for the balance of Council created reserves. To achieve the aim of minimising the overall cost of funds and managing debt re-financing risks, at times it may be prudent to pre-fund, and invest any surplus in treasury investments. Cash investments are also used to maintain and manage liquidity risk. A range of treasury investment instruments may be used as outlined below to achieve the desired level of returns within acceptable risk parameters.

The following policies will apply in making any such investment:

- Council’s primary objective when investing is the protection of its investment capital. Accordingly, Council may only invest in approved creditworthy counterparties.
- Council invests in approved financial instruments that are of high credit quality and liquid.
- Council’s treasury investment portfolio will be arranged to provide sufficient funds for planned expenditures and allow for the payment of obligations as they fall due.
- Interest income from investments is credited to general funds, except for income from investments for restricted reserve funds and other funds where interest may be credited to the particular fund.
- For liquidity purposes treasury investments incorporate all investments which are not cash or liquid investments. Liquid investments are defined as those short term

funds which are held for operational requirements and/or used to meet liquidity buffer requirements as per the Liability Management Policy.

Each transaction should be entered into a treasury spreadsheet and a monthly report prepared to show assessed counterparty actual exposure versus limits.

Approved investment instruments
The approved investment instruments are as follows:

Category	Instrument
Liquid investments	• Overnight call deposits and term bank deposits no greater than 30 days • Bank certificates of deposit (RCDs) less than 181 days
Treasury investments	• Term bank deposits no greater than 12 months unless related to debt pre-funding or pre-funded capital expenditure. • Bank certificates of deposit (RCDs) less than 365 days. • LGFA borrower notes

All investments must be senior in ranking. The following types of investments are expressly excluded;

- Structured debt where the issuing entities are not a primary borrower/issuer
- Sub-ordinate debt (other than Borrower Notes subscribed from the LGFA), junior debt, perpetual notes and hybrid notes such as convertibles.

Interest rate management instruments are not approved instruments for investment management purposes.

Any other treasury instrument must be specifically approved by the Council on a case-by-case basis and only be applied to the one singular transaction.

Approved counterparties/issuers
Counterparty credit risk is the risk of losses (realised or unrealised) arising from a counterparty defaulting on a financial instrument where the Council is a party. Credit exposure for investments relates to funds on deposit where the counterparty is not able to pay Council interest and principal amounts owing on the due date. The credit risk to the Council in a default event will be weighted differently depending on the type of instrument entered into.

Credit risk will be regularly reviewed by the Council. Treasury related transactions would only be entered into with organisations specifically approved by the Council.

Counterparties and limits can only be approved on the basis of a long-term Standard & Poor's (S&P) credit rating (or equivalent Fitch or Moody's rating) being A and above and/or a short-term credit rating of A-1 or above.

The relevant counterparty limits can be found in the Liability Management Policy.

Internal loans

Council may utilise surplus funds for the purposes of internal borrowing. Internal borrowing forms a part of the overall mix of Council investments (though will only be reported to Council on an annual basis unless otherwise requested). Internal borrowing will be used wherever possible to avoid external borrowing.

Internal loans shall be managed as commercial debt, with interest applied. The interest rate shall be calculated at the start of each financial year, and will be based on the mid-point between the prior year's weighted average external borrowing and investment rates.

Guarantees/contingent liabilities and other financial arrangements

Council may act as guarantor to financial institutions on loans or enter into financial arrangements for organisations, clubs, Trusts, or Business Units, when the purposes of the loan are in line with Council's strategic objectives. Council approval must be sought for any guarantees or financial arrangements to organisations, clubs, Trusts, or Business Units.

Council is not allowed to guarantee loans to Council-controlled trading organisations under Section 62 of the Local Government Act.

Council will ensure that sufficient funds or available committed bank facilities exist to meet amounts guaranteed. Guarantees given will not exceed any amount agreed by Council or an appropriate Council Committee in aggregate. The General Manager Finance and Business Services monitors guarantees and reports quarterly to Council.

Foreign currency

Council may from time to time be exposed to foreign exchange risks through the occasional purchase of foreign exchange denominated services, plant and equipment etc. Significant commitments over NZ$100,000 will be hedged using foreign exchange contracts, once expenditure is approved and legally committed. Both spot and forward foreign exchange contracts can be used by Council.

The following instruments may be used for risk management activity:

Category	Instrument
Foreign exchange risk management	Forward foreign exchange contracts Foreign currency deposits Spot foreign exchange