INFORMATION

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL LEPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting date: 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

title: TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING 2023/24

submitted by: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

principal author: VALERIE TAYLOR

#### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide you with a monitoring report on our treasury management activities for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 July 2023.

- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
  - In accordance with the corporate strategy priority "to ensure a well-managed Council, by maintaining critical financial management and controls." This report provides members with information regarding the treasury management activities for the period.
- 1.3 In accordance with our treasury management policy, committee receive regular monitoring reports on treasury management activities throughout the financial year.

#### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Treasury management within an organisation is the 'management of the organisation's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks'
- 2.2 The council's approach to treasury management is set out in its 'Treasury Management Policies and Practices' document which governs the way that investments and cashflows are managed. It is reviewed annually to ensure continued compliance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management Code of Practice.
- 2.3 Treasury Management Policies and Practices were reviewed in advance of the 2023/24 financial year and were approved by this committee in March 2023 prior to full council in April 2023. The most recent document approved by Committee can be found <a href="https://example.com/html/>here">here</a>.

#### 3 TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS

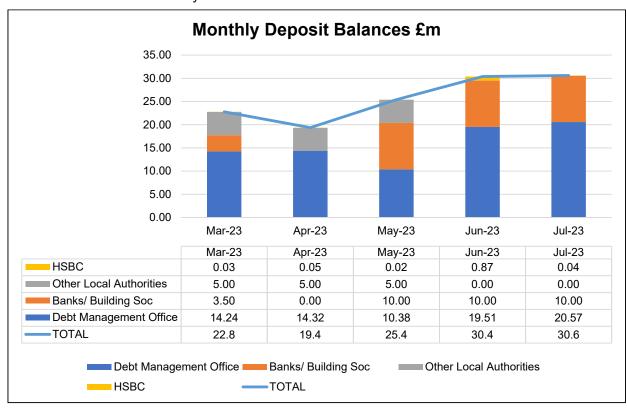
- 3.1 In accordance with the approved treasury management policies and practices, surplus funds are temporarily invested via the money market at the best rate of interest available and with the minimisation of risk to the capital sum. Investment decisions are primarily concerned with the security of the funds invested and ongoing liquidity to meet financial commitments.
- 3.2 The movement in the Council's external investments during the reporting period are summarised below:

	Banks/ Building Societies £000	Debt Management Office (DMO) £000	Other Local Authorities £000	Total £000
Monies Invested at 1 April 2023	3,500	14,240	5,000	22,740
Net Movement	6,500	6,330	-5,000	7,830
Fixed term deposits at 31 July 2023	10,000	20,570	0	30,570
Add funds held with HSBC (the Council's banking provider)	39	0	0	39
Sum of all funds invested				30,609
Interest earned April – July 2023				366

3.3 Funds invested at 31st July were held with the following organisations:

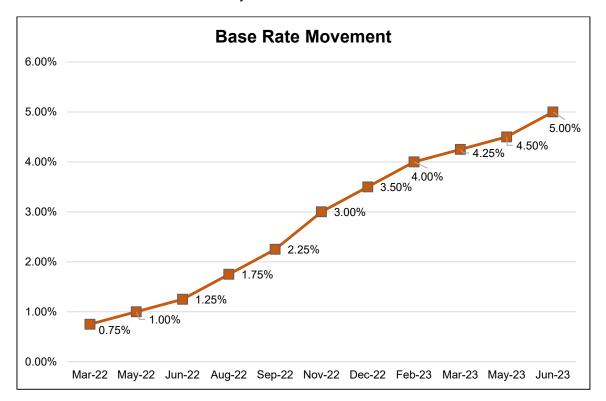
Borrower	Date Invested	Date of Repayment	Rate %	£'000
Santander UK plc	22/05/2023	14/09/2023	4.64	5,000
Lloyds Bank plc	22/05/2023	23/11/2023	4.76	5,000
Debt Management Office (DMO)	19/07/2023	09/08/2023	4.90	15,000
Debt Management Office (DMO)	31/07/2023	09/08/2023	5.05	5,570
	SUM of fixed ter	m deposits		30,570
Add funds	vider)	39		
S	30,609			

3.4 A detailed listing of investments placed and repaid during the reporting period is available in Annex 1. A summary of end of month balances is shown below:



#### 4 INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS

4.1 The Bank of England base rate influences the rate of interest offered by banks and building societies on the council's investments. The rate has increased as follows between March 2022 and July 2023:



- 4.2 The council has generated returns on investments of £365,918 during the April to July period, which compares to £73,248 during the same period in 2022. The higher returns are mainly due to the increases in the base rate from 0.75% in April 2022 up to 5.0% in June 2023.
- 4.3 Income received is higher than estimated in the budget forecast for the reporting period and will exceed the original estimate for the year. An update to the estimated income will be proposed when the council's original budget estimates are revised later on in the financial year.
- 4.4 At the moment is currently forecast that the council may earn as much as £1m by the end of the year on investment income, which would be £550K more than currently budgeted.

Interest earned on investments April – July 2023*	Annual budget	April – July budget Original estimate
-365,918	-£450,000	-£150,000

<sup>\*</sup>Including interest earned on balances held with HSBC the council's banking provider

#### 5 PROSPECTS FOR INTEREST RATES

5.1 Because CPI inflation remains above the Bank of England's 2% target it is likely that we will see further increases to the base rate this year. The base rate increased to 5.25% in August and markets are currently predicting that there will be further increases over the next few months, with rates currently expected to peak at around 6% by late 2023/ early 2024.

5.2 We will continue to monitor the interest rates of our counterparties as they are updated over the next few months in response to base rate changes so that we may take advantage of more preferential interest rates as they become available.

#### 6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BONDS AGENCY

6.1 The Council has one longer-term investment of £10,000 which was placed with the Local Government Bonds Agency in 2014. The agency is a freestanding independent body that is owned by the local government sector with the purpose of raising money efficiently on the capital markets at regular intervals to on-lend to participating bodies.

#### 7 BORROWING

- 7.1 The council's Borrowing and Debt Strategy is set out within the council's Capital and Treasury Management Strategy. The strategy is reviewed by this Committee in advance of the financial year prior to approval by Full Council. The strategy approved for the 2023/24 financial year can be found <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.
- 7.2 Generally long-term borrowing, which is classified as borrowing for a period of between 1-60 years, is normally only used to finance capital expenditure or replace maturing debt. The council's policy is to meet long-term borrowing requirements from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB).
- 7.3 The PWLB lending facility is operated by the UK Debt Management Office (DMO) on behalf of HM Treasury and provides loans to local authorities for capital projects.
- 7.4 The council repaid all outstanding long-term loans that were held with the Public Work's Loans Board during the 2022/23 financial year, and so currently does not hold any long-term loan debt.
- 7.5 On occasion it may be necessary to engage in short-term borrowing in order to finance temporary cash deficits, however by managing our cash flow effectively these will be kept to a minimum.
- 7.6 No temporary loans were taken out in the current financial year up to the 31st July 2023, or in the same period during 2022.

#### 8 PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

- 8.1 Local authorities in England and Wales are required by the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.
- 8.2 The Capital and Treasury Management Strategy includes a number of prudential indicators.
- 8.3 These prudential indicators are designed to deliver accountability in taking capital financing, borrowing and treasury management decisions.
- 8.4 The treasury management specific indicators which form part of the prudential code are the following:
  - Authorised limit for external debt This sets a limit on the amount of external
    borrowing that reflects a level of borrowing, which while not desired, could be
    afforded but may not be sustainable. It is the upper limit on the level of gross
    external indebtedness, which must not be breached without council approval. It is
    the worse-case scenario.

- Operational boundary for external debt This indicator focuses on the day-to-day treasury management activity within the Council and reflects the most likely prudent but not worse-case scenario. Any sustained breaches to this boundary would give an indication that the Council may be in danger of stepping beyond the prudential boundaries it has set itself.
- 8.5 The Council's actual long-term debt at 31st July 2023 compared to the approved authorised limit and operational boundary indicators is as follows:

Prudential Indicator	Authorised Limit £000's	Operational Boundary £000's	Actual as at 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023 £000's
Borrowing	15,001	1,470	0
Other Long-Term liabilities	0	0	0

- 8.6 The Treasury Management code requires that where an authority invests, or plans to invest, for periods of longer than one year that an upper limit for investments maturing in excess of this timeframe is set. This Council currently has a policy of not investing for periods of longer than one year and so no upper limits have been set and no investments have been made in the reporting period for longer than 365 days.
- 9 APPROVED ORGANISATIONS
- 9.1 Principally, Fitch credit ratings are used as an indication of the probability of organisations defaulting on our investments. Definitions for the ratings are provided at Annex 2.
- 9.2 The ratings show an indication of the current credit position and are monitored on a regular basis with any significant changes to be reported to this committee. Prior to investing any monies on a day-to-day basis the ratings given by rating agents S&P Global Ratings and Moody's are also monitored and considered alongside the Fitch ratings. The full list of ratings for our approved institutions at July 2023 is shown at Annex 3.
- 9.3 Investments with Building Societies are limited to the top eight building societies based on their total assets (provided they are included in Fitch ratings). Two of the top building societies do not currently have a Fitch rating, leaving the top six building societies based on their total assets:

	Fitch Rating						
Name	Full Transaction Review Date	Long Term	Short Term				
Nationwide	15/12/2022	Α	F1				
Coventry	04/11/2022	A-	F1				
Yorkshire	04/11/2022	A-	F1				
Skipton	04/11/2022	A-	F1				
Leeds	04/11/2022	A-	F1				
Principality	04/11/2022	BBB+	F2				

9.4 The banks we use are reviewed annually as part of the Treasury Management Policies and Practices to take into account their Fitch IBCA long-term and short-term credit rating. The Council has a policy to only use institutions with a short-term Fitch rating of F2 or

above. The banks on the Council's approved list meeting this requirement at July 2023 are as follows:

Name	Fitch's Full Transaction Review Date	Long Term	Short Term
Santander UK Plc	15/12/2022	A+	F1
Barclays Bank Plc	04/07/2023	A+	F1
Bank of Scotland Plc	15/12/2022	A+	F1
HSBC Bank Plc	07/10/2022	AA-	F1+
Lloyds Bank Plc	15/12/2022	A+	F1
National Westminster Bank Plc	16/12/2022	A+	F1
Royal Bank of Scotland Plc (The)	16/12/2022	A+	F1

- 9.5 In addition to the building societies and banks we use for investments, also approved for use are other Local Authorities and the United Kingdom Debt Management Office, where the Government guarantees investments.
- 10 RECENT EVENTS
- 10.1 The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) sets monetary policy to meet a 2% inflation target.
- 10.2 At its meeting in August 2023 the MPC voted by a majority to increase the base rate by 0.25%, to 5.25%. Six members voted for the increase, two members preferred an increase of 0.5% and one member preferred to maintain the base rate at 5%.
- 10.3 The MPC note in the meeting summary that twelve-month CPI inflation fell from 8.7% in May to 7.9% in June and that CPI inflation remains well above the 2% target. The MPC expect inflation to fall to around 5% by the end of the year and to the 2% target by 2025 Q2.
- 10.4 The Committee's projections are conditioned on a market implied path for the base rate that rises to a peak of just over 6% and averages just under 5.5% over a three-year forecast period, compared with an average of just over 4% for the equivalent period at the time of the May report.
- 11 EXPOSURE TO RISK
- 11.1 A prudent approach is adopted for all future cashflow projections, ensuring that the estimated cost of cash commitments will not be underestimated during the current climate of heightened inflation, and that estimated cash inflows are not overstated.
- 11.2 The revenue impact of rising interest rates will be factored into any future capital borrowing decisions.
- 11.3 We are maintaining liquid funds to allow us to deposit with counterparties at more preferential interest rates as these are increased in response to changes to the Bank of England base rate.
- 11.4 To ensure that our exposure to all treasury management risk is limited as far as possible, we continue with the following measures:

Daily early morning meetings to discuss the latest position:

Lending arrangements

- A review of the Markets
- A review of our current investments and whether we consider they are still safe
- Institution Ratings
- Close monitoring of our cash flow position and estimates
- Authorisation prior to investments with either the Director of Resources or the Head of Financial Services
- Keep Leader/Chief Executive informed of any developments when necessary
- Look to arrange new secure options for investments as necessary.

#### 12 CONCLUSION

- 12.1 Through the careful investment of sums in line with the Council's strategy the level of risk to our investments has been kept to a minimum.
- 12.2 Due to the continued uncertainty in the economy, a prudent approach continues to be followed in the investment of any surplus cash balances on a day-to-day basis, ensuring continuing liquidity and security of the council's investments.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PF54-23/VT/AC AUGUST 2023 For further information please ask for Valerie Taylor

## POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE TEMPORARY INVESTMENT ACTIVITY – 2023/24

Reference	Organisation	Invested £	Date invested	Interest rate	Date of maturity	Interest to 31 <sup>st</sup> July	Principal Repaid £	Long Term	Short Term	
						£		Rating	Rating	
Investments brought forward into 2023/24										
45	Lloyds Bank plc	1,750,000	03/01/2023	3.25%	03/04/2023	-14,023.97	-1,750,000	A+	F1	
	Less in	terest accrued during 2	2022/23			13,712.33				
29/2	Santander UK plc	1,750,000	06/01/2023	3.73%	06/04/2023	-16,095.21	-1,750,000	A+	F1	
	Less in	terest accrued during 2	2022/23			15,201.03				
67	Blackpool Council	2,500,000	27/03/2023	4.15%	27/06/2023	-26,150.68	-2,500,000	n/a	n/a	
	Less in	terest accrued during 2	2022/23			1,421.23				
71	Cheshire East	2,500,000	13/03/2023	4.50%	13/06/2023	-28,356.16	-2,500,000	n/a	n/a	
	Less in	terest accrued during 2	2022/23			5,856.16				
76	Debt Management Office	260,000	24/03/2023	4.05%	11/04/2023	-519.29	-260,000.00	n/a	n/a	
	Less in	terest accrued during 2	2022/23			230.79				
77	Debt Management Office	11,570,000	27/03/2023	4.05%	03/04/2023	-8,986.56	-11,570,000.00	n/a	n/a	
	Less in	terest accrued during 2	2022/23			6,418.97				
78	Debt Management Office	2,000,000	30/03/2023	4.05%	03/04/2023	-887.67	-2,000,000.00	n/a	n/a	
	Less in	terest accrued during 2	2022/23			443.84				
79	Debt Management Office	410,000	31/03/2023	4.05%	17/04/2023	-773.38	-410,000.00	n/a	n/a	
	Less in	terest accrued during 2				45.49				
		lı	nvestments place	ed April - J	uly 2023					
1	Debt Management Office	15,600,000	03/04/2023	4.05%	11/04/2023	-13,847.67	-15,600,000	n/a	n/a	
2	Debt Management Office	1,680,000	06/04/2023	4.05%	11/04/2023	-932.05	-1,680,000	n/a	n/a	
3	Debt Management Office	16,900,000	11/04/2023	4.05%	14/04/2023	-5,625.62	-16,900,000	n/a	n/a	
4	Debt Management Office	16,790,000	14/04/2023	4.05%	17/04/2023	-5,589.00	-16,790,000	n/a	n/a	
5	Debt Management Office	5,000,000	17/04/2023	4.06%	21/04/2023	-2,221.92	-5,000,000	n/a	n/a	
6	Debt Management Office	12,550,000	17/04/2023	4.06%	24/04/2023	-9,771.81	-12,550,000	n/a	n/a	
7	Debt Management Office	350,000	19/04/2023	4.10%	05/05/2023	-629.04	-350,000	n/a	n/a	
8	Debt Management Office	12,750,000	24/04/2023	4.08%	28/04/2023	-5,700.82	-12,750,000	n/a	n/a	
9	Debt Management Office	370,000	27/04/2023	4.11%	15/05/2023	-749.93	-370,000	n/a	n/a	

## POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE TEMPORARY INVESTMENT ACTIVITY – 2023/24

Reference	Organisation	Invested £	Date invested	Interest rate	Date of maturity	Interest to 31 <sup>st</sup> July £	Principal Repaid £	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating
10	Debt Management Office	13,600,000	28/04/2023	4.08%	02/05/2023	-6,080.88	-13,600,000	n/a	n/a
11	Debt Management Office	16,980,000	02/05/2023	4.10%	05/05/2023	-5,722.03	-16,980,000	n/a	n/a
12	Debt Management Office	19,390,000	05/05/2023	4.10%	09/05/2023	-8,712.22	-19,390,000	n/a	n/a
13	Debt Management Office	19,365,000	09/05/2023	4.24%	15/05/2023	-13,481.22	-19,365,000	n/a	n/a
14	Debt Management Office	440,000	12/05/2023	4.35%	30/05/2023	-943.89	-440,000	n/a	n/a
15	Debt Management Office	19,860,000	15/05/2023	4.38%	19/05/2023	-9,532.80	-19,860,000	n/a	n/a
16	Debt Management Office	20,140,000	19/05/2023	4.38%	22/05/2023	-7,250.40	-20,140,000	n/a	n/a
17	Debt Management Office	9,120,000	22/05/2023	4.38%	25/05/2023	-3,283.20	-9,120,000	n/a	n/a
18	Santander UK plc	5,000,000	22/05/2023	4.64%	14/09/2023	-44,493.15	Still invested	A+	F1
19	Lloyds Bank plc	5,000,000	22/05/2023	4.76%	23/11/2023	-45,643.84	Still invested	A+	F1
20	Debt Management Office	9,140,000	25/05/2023	4.38%	30/05/2023	-5,484.00	-9,140,000	n/a	n/a
21	Debt Management Office	10,490,000	30/05/2023	4.38%	31/05/2023	-1,258.80	-10,490,000	n/a	n/a
22	Debt Management Office	10,380,000	31/05/2023	4.38%	05/06/2023	-6,228.00	-10,380,000	n/a	n/a
23	Debt Management Office	10,340,000	05/06/2023	4.38%	12/06/2023	-8,685.60	-10,340,000	n/a	n/a
24	Debt Management Office	10,585,000	12/06/2023	4.455%	27/06/2023	-19,379.25	-10,585,000	n/a	n/a
25	Debt Management Office	2,600,000	13/06/2023	4.38%	15/06/2023	-624.00	-2,600,000	n/a	n/a
26	Debt Management Office	3,015,000	15/06/2023	4.38%	19/06/2023	-1,447.20	-3,015,000	n/a	n/a
27	Debt Management Office	1,870,000	20/06/2023	4.52%	26/06/2023	-1,389.44	-1,870,000	n/a	n/a
28	Debt Management Office	2,000,000	26/06/2023	4.88%	27/06/2023	-267.40	-2,000,000	n/a	n/a
29	Debt Management Office	15,200,000	27/06/2023	4.88%	30/06/2023	-6,096.66	-15,200,000	n/a	n/a
30	Debt Management Office	770,000	28/06/2023	4.88%	10/07/2023	-1,235.38	-770,000	n/a	n/a
31	Debt Management Office	5,000,000	30/06/2023	4.88%	05/07/2023	-3,342.47	-5,000,000	n/a	n/a
32	Debt Management Office	13,740,000	30/06/2023	4.88%	10/07/2023	-18,370.19	-13,740,000	n/a	n/a
33	Debt Management Office	685,000	03/07/2023	4.88%	14/07/2023	-1,007.42	-685,000	n/a	n/a
34	Debt Management Office	920,000	07/07/2023	4.88%	17/07/2023	-1,230.03	-920,000	n/a	n/a
35	Debt Management Office	14,460,000	10/07/2023	4.88%	19/07/2023	-17,399.54	-14,460,000	n/a	n/a
36	Debt Management Office	620,000	14/07/2023	4.89%	24/07/2023	-829.78	-620,000	n/a	n/a

### **ANNEX 1**

## POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE TEMPORARY INVESTMENT ACTIVITY – 2023/24

Reference	Organisation	Invested £	Date invested	Interest rate	Date of maturity	Interest to 31 <sup>st</sup> July £	Principal Repaid £	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating
37	Debt Management Office	1,530,000	18/07/2023	4.88%	19/07/2023	-204.56	-1,530,000	n/a	n/a
38	Debt Management Office	15,000,000	19/07/2023	4.90%	09/08/2023	-24,164.38	Still invested	n/a	n/a
39	Debt Management Office	1,690,000	28/07/2023	4.90%	31/07/2023	-680.63	-1,690,000	n/a	n/a
40	Debt Management Office	5,570,000	31/07/2023	5.05%	09/08/2023	-770.64	Still invested	n/a	n/a
Inve	stments to July 2023	346,490,000			SUM	-310,306.86	-315,920,000		
Total Inves	stments 2023/24 (including b/f from 22/23)	369,230,000			SUM incl b/f	-362,769.94	-338,660,000		
Interest re	ceived on balances held at bank					-3,148.53			
Final Total		369,230,000				-365,918.47	-338,660,000		

### Fitch Rating Definitions

	Fitch Rating Definitions
	International Long-Term Credit Ratings
Long	g-term credit rating can be used as a benchmark measure of probability of default.
AAA	Highest credit quality. 'AAA' denotes the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.
AA	Very high credit quality. 'AA' ratings denote expectation of low credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.
А	High credit quality. 'A' ratings denote expectations of low credit risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than in the case for higher ratings.
BBB	Good credit quality. 'BBB' ratings indicate that expectations of default risk are currently low. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.
ВВ	Speculative. 'BB' ratings indicate an elevated vulnerability to default risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time; however, business or financial flexibility exists that supports the servicing of financial commitments.
В	Highly speculative. 'B' ratings indicate that material default risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is vulnerable to deterioration in the business and economic environment.
	International Short-Term Credit ratings
	term rating has a time horizon of less than 13 months for most obligations and thus aces greater emphasis on the liquidity necessary to meet financial commitments
F1	Highest credit quality. Indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added "+" to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.
F2	Good credit quality. A satisfactory capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, but the margin of safety is not as great as in the case of the higher ratings.
F3	Fair credit quality. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate; however, near term adverse changes could result in a reduction to non-investment grade.
В	Speculative quality. Minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus heightened vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

### Outlooks

Ratings Outlooks indicate the direction a rating is likely to move over a one to two-year period. They reflect financial or other trends that have not yet reached the level that would trigger a rating action, but which may do so if such trends continue.

## Full Rating List of Approved Institutions at 31st July 2023

Organization	S&P Global Ratings			Moody's			Fitch			
Organisation	Long	Short	Outlook	Long	Short	Outlook	Full	Long	Short	Outlook
	Term	Term		Term	Term		Review	Term	Term	
							Date			
				Building	Societies					
Nationwide	A+	A-1	Stable	A1	P-1	Stable	15/12/2022	Α	F1	Stable
Yorkshire	-	-	-	A3	P-2	Positive	04/11/2022	A-	F1	Stable
Coventry	-	-	-	A2	P-1	Stable	04/11/2022	A-	F1	Stable
Skipton	-	-	-	A2	P-1	Stable	04/11/2022	A-	F1	Stable
Leeds	-	-	-	A3	P-2	Stable	04/11/2022	A-	F1	Stable
Principality	-	-		Baa1	P-2	Stable	04/11/2022	BBB+	F2	Stable
				Ва	inks					
Santander UK Plc.	Α	A-1	Stable	A1	P-1	Negative	15/12/2022	A+	F1	Stable
Barclays Bank Plc.	A+	A-1	Stable	A1	P-1	Stable	04/07/2023	A+	F1	Stable
Bank of Scotland Plc.	A+	A-1	Stable	A1	P-1	Stable	15/12/2022	A+	F1	Stable
HSBC Bank Plc.	A+	A-1	Stable	A1	P-1	Stable	07/10/2022	AA-	F1+	Stable
Lloyds Bank Plc.	A+	A-1	Stable	A1	P-1	Stable	15/12/2022	A+	F1	Stable
National Westminster Bank Plc.	A+	A-1	Stable	A1	P-1	Stable	16/12/2022	A+	F1	Stable
Royal Bank of Scotland Plc.	A+	A-1	Stable	A1	P-1	Stable	16/12/2022	A+	F1	Stable
Banks not cu	urrently me	eeting mini	mum Fitch Sh	ort Term red	quirement of	F2 (and not o	currently appro	ved for inv	restments)	
Co-operative Bank (The)				Ba1	NP	Positive	02/02/2023	BB	В	Stable