



The Parish Centre, 50 Gerald's Way
Chalford, Stroud, GL6 8FJ

INVESTMENT POLICY

Introduction

- 1.1 This policy is created under guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local government in accordance with the Local government Act 2003. The extant guidance was issued by DCLG in 2010.
- 1.2 Chalford Parish Council acknowledges its responsibility to the community and the importance of prudently investing any reserves held by The Parish Council.

Objectives

- 2.1 The general policy objective of The Parish Council is prudent investment of its balances. The Parish Council's investment priorities are:
 - a) Security of reserves
And then
 - b) Liquidity of investments
- 2.2 The Parish Council will aim to achieve the optimum return of its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity.

Investment Policy

- 3.1 The Parish Council shall diversify its reserves between multiple relatively highly rated UK banks and building societies. The Parish Council shall only use specified investments as defined by DCLG guidance.
- 3.2 A significant percentage of The Parish Council's bulked 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 The Parish Council shall only invest with banks/building societies which it defines as "Highly Credit Quality". This being those with a credit rating of A with Moody's Investors Service of BBB with Standard and Poor's or Fitch Ratings LTD. Preference will be given to funds which can demonstrate ethical investment.

- 3.6 Investments shall be decided and placed by the Responsible Financial Officer having used due diligence including as a minimum finance search engines and ratings agencies.
- a) This shall be under the oversight of a standing Banking and Investments working group of two members of the Finance Committee
 - b) The actual movement of money shall be by the usual authorised signatories.
- 3.7 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 & Management Committee before any investments are placed.
- 3.8 The Responsible Financial Officer shall review credit ratings of organisations in which The Parish Council holds investments on a quarterly basis. Should the credit rating of an organisation fall below that specified under 3.5, the Responsible Financial Officer shall consult the Banking and Investments working group 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. Where no changes are proposed, Full Council shall note the policy.
- 4.3 Notwithstanding 4.2 this policy shall be reviewed in the event the Bank of England increased its base rate above 3% or the financial Services Compensation Scheme is extended to cover the Parish Council.

Date of policy: March 2024

Approving committee: Finance & Management Committee

Date of committee meeting: 14th May 2024

Policy version reference: Version 2

Supersedes: Version 1

Policy effective from: May 2024

Date for next review: May 2025 or as with 4.3.