



Kents Hill & Monkston Parish Council Investment Strategy

Investment Strategy

The Parish Council acknowledges the importance of prudently investing surplus funds held on behalf of the community. All investments will be made in line with the Council's financial procedures and observations or advice received from the Council's internal and external auditors, supported as necessary by advice from the Council's financial advisors.

The Council will ensure it has adequate though not excessive cash resources, overdraft or standby facilities to enable it at all times to have the level of funds available which are necessary for the achievement of its service objectives.

Investment Objectives

1. The Council's investment priorities are the security of reserves and adequate liquidity of its investments.
2. The Council will aim to maximise income from its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity.
3. The Council will seek to ensure that investment income is consistent one year to the next.
4. Where external investment managers are used, they will be contractually required to comply with this strategy.
5. In balancing risk against return, this Council is more concerned to avoid risks than to maximise returns.
6. All investments will be in sterling.

Specified Investments

Specified investments are those offering high security and high liquidity, made in sterling and maturation 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.

For prudent management of its treasury balances, maintaining sufficient levels of security and liquidity, Kents Hill & Monkston Parish Council will use:

- Deposits with banks, building societies, local authorities or other public authorities.
- Other recognised funds specifically targeted at the Public Sector.
- The choice of institution and length of deposit will be decided by the Parish Council with advice from the Responsible Financial Officer.
- The Parish Council will take account of the current banking guarantee limits.

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Non-Specified Investments

These investments have greater potential risk such as investments in the money market, stocks and shares. The Council will use the services of an appointed FSA accredited independent financial advisor on the investment of these funds. The choice of investment company will be reviewed within the first year of every new administration following an election or more frequently if the performance of the investments is not meeting the required objectives.

Long term investments, defined as greater than 36 months, will be used to support a 3-5 year Capital Programme which will be reviewed and agreed annually. Capital growth of the fund should be maximised but at least equal to RPI whilst being consistent with the required level of security and all other public investment criteria.

The Council will expect the Investment Manager to invest in a balanced portfolio that will yield a consistent income/growth year on year whilst having regard to the Council's objectives and security of its investments. The Investment Manager will be encouraged to consider social, ethical and/or environmental factors or criteria when selecting, retaining or disposing of assets.

End of Year Investment Report

At the end of each financial year the Investment Manager will present a report on the Investment activity to Full Council.

Change Control

Version	Nature of Update or Approval	Approved
1	First approved 2020	2016
2	Confirmed in 2021	May 2017
3	Proposed with minor changes in 2023	15-5-2023

Review Frequency: Every year Review by: May 2024
Review Triggers: Significant change in level of reserves, change to banking guarantees.