

St Austell Town Council



Finance and General Purposes Committee

To: All Members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

(Councillors: Brown, Bull, Clemo, French, Gray, Lanxon, Pearce, Rowse and Young).

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend a **Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee** to be held in **The Stable Block, Pondhu House, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DP** on **Monday 7th April 2025 at 6pm.**

*****Please note the change of venue*****



David Pooley
Town Clerk

1st April 2025

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Website: www.staustell-tc.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

(Purpose: To note the apologies for absence).

This meeting has been advertised as a public meeting and as such could be filmed or recorded by broadcasters, the media or members of the public.

Please be aware that whilst every effort is taken to ensure that members of the public are not filmed, we cannot guarantee this, especially if you are speaking or taking an active role.

2. Declarations of Interest

(Purpose: To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other non-registerable interests in respect of items on this agenda).

3. Dispensations

(Purpose: To receive requests for dispensations under the Code of Conduct).

4. Minutes of meeting held on the 17th February 2025

**Pages
1 to 4**

(Purpose: To agree that the minutes of the above meeting be signed as a correct record). (Attached).

5. Matters to Note

A verbal update from the Town Clerk on the actions taken since the last meeting. Note: No decision may be made under this agenda item.

6. Public participation (15 minutes maximum)

The Chairman will invite members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be carried out at the meeting.

15 minutes will be allocated for public participation (this can be extended at the Chairman's discretion). Each person addressing the Council will be allocated a maximum of two minutes.

7. Budget Monitoring Report

**Pages
5 to 10**

(Purpose: To review the Town Council's budget monitoring report for the period 1st April 2024 to 28th February 2025). (Report attached).

8. Asset Register

**Pages
11 - 12**

(Purpose: To review and approve the Town Council's Asset Register as at 31st March 2025). (Attached).

9. Treasury Management Strategy

**Pages
13 - 22**

(Purpose: To review and update the Council's Treasury Management Strategy). (Report attached).

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10. Insurance Claim

(Purpose: To receive a verbal report on a recent insurance claim).
(Verbal update).

11. Community Capacity Fund

(Purpose: To provide an update on a bid made to the Community Capacity Fund for equipment to support a programme of events).
(Verbal update).

12. St Austell Library

(Purpose: To provide Members with an update on the operational activities of St Austell Library). (Verbal update).

13. Dates of Next Meeting

(Purpose: To note the date of the next meeting – 23rd June 2025)

This meeting has been advertised as a public meeting and as such could be filmed or recorded by broadcasters, the media or members of the public.

Please be aware that whilst every effort is taken to ensure that members of the public are not filmed, we cannot guarantee this, especially if you are speaking or taking an active role.

MINUTES of a MEETING of the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2025 in The Stable Block, Pondhu House, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DP at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Brown, French, Lanxon, Pearce and Young.

In attendance: David Pooley (Town Clerk) and Sara Gwilliams (Deputy Town Clerk).

Also in attendance: Councillor Hamilton

F/24/48) Apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Bull, Clemo and Rowse.

F/24/49) Declarations of Interest

None.

F/24/50) Dispensations

None.

F/24/51) Minutes of meeting held on 4th November 2024

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th November 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Councillor Brown arrived during the next item

F/24/52) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that a ride-on mower has been purchased, and the repairs to the Prince Charles Park safety surfacing are complete.

A minor works contract has been drafted for the Holy Trinity Church piazza project and once the final permissions are granted the works will proceed, hopefully by end of March/beginning of April.

F/24/53) Public participation

There were no members of the public present.

F/24/54) Budget Monitoring Report

The Clerk explained the variances and advised that before the year end, it is hoped to have 5 new CCTV cameras installed in the town centre, car park improvements, a new accessible roundabout at the Meadows and the completion of tree management works. The Clerk concluded that the Town Council is in a good financial position with a small surplus likely at the year end.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

F/24/55) Consultation paper – Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England

The Clerk advised that the Town Council agreed at its meeting on the 27th January 2025 that a response to the consultation paper should be delegated to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Members noted that the response is required to be submitted by 26th February 2025.

The Committee considered each question on-line and submitted a response on behalf of the Town Council broadly stating that a strengthening of the standards regime is required with appropriate sanctions.

F/24/56) Risk Management

Members reviewed the Risk Management strategy updated as at February 2025.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to approve the Risk Management Strategy.

Members reviewed the Risk Register and made the following suggestions:

Risk Number 1.2

Add – “Monitor postal services”

Risk Number 1.3

Amend to read – “Town Clerk to resurrect regular meetings with Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairs of standing committees”

Risk Number 1.6

Amend to read – “Monitor impact of inflation and global economic changes on running costs. Monitor Cornwall Council budget setting and funding settlements”

Risk Number 1.13

Add – “Engage with Cornwall Council Planning Officers”

Risk Number – 3.10

Add – “Chairs to intervene at Council/Committee meetings where necessary”

Risk Number – 3.11

Amend to read – “Removal of laptop from the SATC offices requires approval by the Town Clerk”

Risk Number – 8.8

Amend to read – “Lobby to ensure that St Austell treated as high priority by Cornwall Council and the Government”

Risk Number – 10.21

Amend to read – “Induction training to be arranged May 2025 facilitated by a suitable trainer”

It was **RECOMMENDED** that subject to the above amendments, the Risk Register 2025 be approved.

F/24/57) St Austell Library

Members considered the Library Manager’s report and expressed their gratitude to the staff and SALSA for the wide range of activities and functions at the library.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update.

F/24/58) To consider excluding the press and public.

It was **RESOLVED** that under Section 1 (ii) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the business of the meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

F/24/59) Stable Block

The Town Clerk provided an update on recent discussions with the Senior Commercial Property Manager from Treveth with regard to renewing the lease of the Stable Block post December 2025 when the existing lease ends.

The Clerk explained the terms of the existing lease which was negotiated as part of a wider devolution package in 2016/17 and the need to discuss any revised terms offered by Treveth with Cornwall Council’s Highways and Environmental Teams. The Clerk advised that he is awaiting Heads of Terms from Treveth to start the negotiations.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update.

F/24/60) General Wolfe Building

The Town Clerk provided an update on his discussions so far with the Strategic Director for Sustainable Growth and Development at Cornwall Council. Members noted the estimated costs for the various options that Cornwall Council has identified for the building and the outcome of the MP’s survey which indicated that the public would like to see the building demolished.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the Clerk continuing discussions with Cornwall Council for the future of the General Wolfe building and adjacent land.

F/24/61) Dates of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee is due to take place on 7th April 2025.

The meeting closed at 7.43pm.

**ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

7th APRIL 2025

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with an update on income and expenditure to the 28th February 2025 and a copy of the Council's latest bank reconciliation statements.

2. LEGAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

It is a legal requirement for the Town Council to set a budget annually and it is good practice to monitor that budget at regular intervals. The Town Clerk monitors budgets monthly and provides regular budget monitoring reports to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. It is part of the remit of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to monitor and manage budgets on behalf of the Town Council.

3. RESOURCE ISSUES

None outside of existing budgets.

4. EQUALITIES ISSUES

None.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

None.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members note the attached budget monitoring reports and bank reconciliation statement.

The budget variance report for February 2025 and the financial year to the 28th February 2025 is attached for information. After allowing

for the Town Centre Revitalisation projects which are to be largely funded from grant monies the income and expenditure are within acceptable limits.

Significant variances are explained below:

- **Car Park income** – more income than anticipated
- **Interest income** – higher interest rates and balances
- **Other grants and contributions** – Shared Prosperity Fund and Town Vitality Fund grants
- **Contract payments** – small saving anticipated.
- **Grounds maintenance supplies** – increased cost of planting and winter maintenance.
- **Miscellaneous expenses** – Town centre projects
- **Other transport/plant expenses** – new mower/brushcutters.
- **Play equipment** – Projects in progress
- **Rates** – successful appeal against rateable value of Priory car park
- **Repairs/Maintenance Vehicles/Plant** – increased cost of repairs due to age of vehicles
- **Salaries and Wages** – reduced staff costs/vacancies

DAVID POOLEY - TOWN CLERK

Budget Variance

St Austell Town Council For the month ended 28 February 2025

	FEB 2025	FEB 2025	VARIANCE	VARIANCE %	APR 2024-FEB	APR 2024-FEB	VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
	OVERALL	OVERALL BUDGET			2025 OVERALL	BUDGET		
Trading Income								
Car Park Income	18,830.75	19,833.00	(1,002.25)	↓ -5.05%	218,163.00	21,455.17	↑	9.83%
Interest Income	4,307.11	1,833.00	2,474.11	↑ 134.98%	20,163.00	23,828.13	↑	118.18%
Library Income	454.11	525.00	(70.89)	↓ -13.50%	5,775.00	(431.66)	↓	-7.47%
Other Grants and Contributions	14,560.00	75.00	14,485.00	↑ 19,313.33%	825.00	159,793.54	↑	19,368.91%
Other Income	350.00	180.00	170.00	↑ 94.44%	1,980.00	3,686.78	↑	186.20%
Precept Payments	-	-	-	-	1,177,920.00	-	-	-
Public Convenience Charges	296.77	229.00	67.77	↑ 29.59%	2,519.00	(451.90)	↓	-17.94%
Rent Received	-	871.00	(871.00)	↓ -100.00%	9,581.00	(1,721.00)	↓	-17.96%
Total Trading Income	38,798.74	23,546.00	15,252.74	64.78%	1,436,926.00	206,159.06		14.35%
Gross Profit	38,798.74	23,546.00	15,252.74	64.78%	1,436,926.00	206,159.06		14.35%
Operating Expenses								
Books and Publications	-	-	-	-	150.00	(30.95)	↓	-20.63%
Cleaning & Domestic Supplies	1,746.95	1,583.00	163.95	↑ 10.36%	17,413.00	779.30	↑	4.48%
Contract Hire and Operating Leases	-	46.00	(46.00)	↓ -100.00%	506.00	348.69	↑	68.91%
Contract Payments	10,999.48	13,425.00	(2,425.52)	↓ -18.07%	147,675.00	(6,213.83)	↓	-4.21%
Electricity	607.06	1,250.00	(642.94)	↓ -51.44%	13,750.00	550.62	↑	4.00%

Budget Variance

	FEB 2025	FEB 2025	VARIANCE	VARIANCE %	APR 2024-FEB	APR 2024-FEB	VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
	OVERALL BUDGET	OVERALL BUDGET			2025 OVERALL	2025 OVERALL	BUDGET	
Fuel	978.89	981.00	(2.11)	↓ -0.22%	10,291.22	10,791.00	(499.78)	↓ -4.63%
Gas	771.18	500.00	271.18	↑ 54.24%	3,847.19	5,500.00	(1,652.81)	↓ -30.05%
Grounds Maintenance Supplies	1,411.88	1,975.00	(563.12)	↓ -28.51%	24,569.59	21,725.00	2,844.59	↑ 13.09%
Insurances	-	-	-	-	11,518.21	11,340.00	178.21	↑ 1.57%
IT / Communications	2,309.10	2,139.00	170.10	↑ 7.95%	25,339.75	23,529.00	1,810.75	↑ 7.70%
Mayors Allowances	-	62.00	(62.00)	↓ -100.00%	11.00	682.00	(671.00)	↓ -98.39%
Members Allowance	-	12.00	(12.00)	↓ -100.00%	-	132.00	(132.00)	↓ -100.00%
Miscellaneous Expenses	28,017.73	3,596.00	24,421.73	↑ 679.14%	142,960.12	39,556.00	103,404.12	↑ 261.41%
Miscellaneous Grants	-	5,629.00	(5,629.00)	↓ -100.00%	58,255.00	61,919.00	(3,664.00)	↓ -5.92%
Office Supplies	746.82	242.00	504.82	↑ 208.60%	4,176.09	2,662.00	1,514.09	↑ 56.88%
Other Transport/plant expenses	319.09	1,958.00	(1,638.91)	↓ -83.70%	24,222.45	21,538.00	2,684.45	↑ 12.46%
Play Equipment	-	4,167.00	(4,167.00)	↓ -100.00%	35,214.96	45,837.00	(10,622.04)	↓ -23.17%
Printing and Stationery	204.55	283.00	(78.45)	↓ -27.72%	2,912.98	3,113.00	(200.02)	↓ -6.43%
Protective Clothing	390.18	229.00	161.18	↑ 70.38%	2,276.51	2,519.00	(242.49)	↓ -9.63%
Publicity	-	167.00	(167.00)	↓ -100.00%	351.65	1,837.00	(1,485.35)	↓ -80.86%
Rates	4,914.00	6,301.00	(1,387.00)	↓ -22.01%	34,257.37	69,311.00	(35,053.63)	↓ -50.57%
Recruitment	-	92.00	(92.00)	↓ -100.00%	160.00	1,012.00	(852.00)	↓ -84.19%
Rent / Room Hire	1,386.00	520.00	866.00	↑ 166.54%	5,541.00	5,720.00	(179.00)	↓ -3.13%
Repairs / Maintenance Premises	15,051.80	3,330.00	11,721.80	↑ 352.01%	34,939.74	36,630.00	(1,690.26)	↓ -4.61%
Repairs/ Maintenance-Vehicles/Plant	1,048.76	633.00	415.76	↑ 65.68%	14,137.08	6,963.00	7,174.08	↑ 103.03%

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Budget Variance

	FEB 2025	FEB 2025 OVERALL BUDGET	VARIANCE	VARIANCE %	APR 2024-FEB 2025	APR 2024-FEB 2025 OVERALL BUDGET	VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Road Fund / Taxes	337.50	100.00	237.50 ↑	237.50%	1,012.50	1,100.00	(87.50) ↓	-7.95%
Salaries / Wages	61,905.42	63,439.00	(1,533.58) ↓	-2.42%	666,367.49	697,829.00	(31,461.51) ↓	-4.51%
Small Grants Scheme	727.50	667.00	60.50 ↑	9.07%	7,186.39	7,337.00	(150.61) ↓	-2.05%
Subscriptions	-	704.00	(704.00) ↓	-100.00%	7,955.32	7,744.00	211.32 ↑	2.73%
Training	1,570.00	367.00	1,203.00 ↑	327.79%	3,560.50	4,037.00	(476.50) ↓	-11.80%
Transport Insurance	-	258.00	(258.00) ↓	-100.00%	4,529.96	2,838.00	1,691.96 ↑	59.62%
Travel and Subsistence	141.26	44.00	97.26 ↑	221.05%	806.24	484.00	322.24 ↑	66.58%
Water	96.60	211.00	(114.40) ↓	-54.22%	1,797.85	2,321.00	(523.15) ↓	-22.54%
Total Operating Expenses	135,681.75	114,910.00	20,771.75	18.08%	1,303,125.99	1,275,500.00	27,625.99	2.17%
Net Profit	(96,863.01)	(91,364.00)	(5,519.01)	-6.04%	339,959.07	161,426.00	178,533.07	110.60%

ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT: 28.2.25

	£	£	
Business Current Account		46,796.98	
Mayor's Charity Account		1,936.92	
Business Direct Reserve Account		224,050.34	
Petty Cash		81.18	
Library Float		100.00	
Total in Bank		<u>272,965.42</u>	
Duplicated transactions - corrected 3.3.25		30.74	
Total Unpresented Cheques		<u>0.00</u>	
		272,934.68	
Outstanding receipts		0.00	
		<u>0.00</u>	
		272,934.68	
<u>Accounting System Bank Balance:</u>			
Opening Bank Balance		135,145.67	
Expenditure to date		2533375.09	
Income to date		<u>2671164.1</u>	
		272,934.68	
Accounting System Payment Recorded but yet paid			
Direct Debit - invoice awaited		0.00	
Accounting System Bank Balance		<u>272,934.68</u>	0.00
			balanced

Note:

Attach Accounting Statement and remember to adjust for the Outstanding Accounting System Entries after balancing.

Reconciliation Completed: Date: 3.3.25

Reviewed: Date: 3.3.25

Reconciliation of Assets

	31.3.24	Additions	Disposals	31.3.25
Ceremonial Assets	99505.71			99505.71
New clerk's robes		2000		2000.00
	0.00			0.00
	99505.71	2000.00	0.00	101505.71
Office Furniture/Equipment	22033.01			22033.01
Laptop (SG)		1454.99	778.45	676.54
Laptop (JH)		1498.13		1498.13
Badge Maker Library		312.81		312.81
	22033.01	0.00	0.00	24520.49
Land and Buildings	398317.41			398317.41
Prince Charles Park		20399		20399.00
Landrew Road Park		12480		12480.00
The Meadows		17605		17605.00
				0.00
				0.00
	398317.41	50484.00	0.00	448801.41
Street Furniture	27959.08			27959.08
Planters Library		778		778.00
Planter Porthpean road		774.5		774.50
	27959.08	1552.50	0.00	29511.58
CCTV	101912.52			101912.52
	0.00			
	101912.52	0.00	0.00	101912.52
Plant and Machinery	14115.49			14115.49
2No. Brushcutters		1445		1445.00
3No. Blowers		624.99		624.99
4 No. Brushcutters		2299.96		2299.96
				0.00
	14115.49	4369.95	0.00	18485.44
Vehicles	110174.00			110174.00
Ride-on mower	0.00	26900	15205	11695.00
	110174.00	26900.00	15205.00	121869.00
SUB TOTAL	774017.22	85306.45	15205.00	846606.15
Long Term Investments	10000.00		0	10000.00
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	784017.22	85306.45	15205.00	856606.15

ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

17th FEBRUARY 2025

TREASURY MANAGEMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with a breakdown of the Council's Treasury Management activity during the 2024/25 financial year and re-confirm the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

2. LEGAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Borrowing and investments by Parish and Town Councils are governed by the Local Government Act 2003. Furthermore, the Town Clerk, by virtue of being a Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) is required to comply with guidance issued by that body. CIPFA has issued a Code of Practice and cross sectoral guidance notes relating to Treasury Management. This strategy complies with the legal and professional guidance.

The Town Council is outside of the scope of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). The protection of up to £85,000 for each bank account does not therefore apply to the Council.

The Clerk is authorised to manage investments on behalf of the Council in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy. This authorised the Clerk to transfer up to £100,000 between bank accounts. The strategy for 2025/26 recommends increasing this limit to £250,000.

3. RESOURCE ISSUES

None outside of existing budgets. The strategy assumes a low risk approach to investment which means that investment income will be lower than might be achieved through a higher risk strategy. It however does mean that the Council's reserves are safeguarded.

To the end of February, interest received on investments during the 2024/25 financial year stands at £47,726.59.

4. EQUALITY ISSUES

None.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The Town Council invests with Cornwall Council who are actively working towards net zero carbon status and have ethical investment policies.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the report be noted and the Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26 (including an increase in the limit permitted for transfers between bank accounts) be approved.

DAVID POOLEY
TOWN CLERK



ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

1 Overview

This document gives guidance on borrowing and investments by St Austell Town Council in accordance with 'the Local Government Act 2003'. It highlights that the Council is committed to professional Treasury Management practices to ensure that:

- Capital expenditure plans are affordable.
- All external borrowing and other long-term liabilities are within prudent and sustainable levels, and
- Treasury Management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice.

The CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice defines Treasury Management as:

'The management of the Council's cashflows, 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 INVESTMENT STRATEGY

2.1 Introduction

The Council acknowledges the importance of prudently investing the temporarily surplus funds held on behalf of the community.

This Strategy complies with the requirements set out in the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government *Guidance on Local Government Investments* and Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes* and takes account of Section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003.

2.2 Investment Objectives

In accordance with Section 15(1) of the 2003 Act, the Council will *have regard to (a) such guidance as the Secretary of State may issue, and (b) to such other guidance as the Secretary of State may by regulations specify.*

The Council's investment priorities are to maintain the security of reserves and liquidity of its investments. As far as possible the Council will seek to invest only in organisations which operate in an ethical and environmentally sympathetic manner.

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

All investments will be made in sterling.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities maintains that borrowing of monies purely to invest, or to lend and make a return, is unlawful and this Council will not engage in such activity.

Where external investment managers are used, they will be contractually required to comply with the Strategy.

2.3 Specified Investments

Specified Investments are those offering high security and high liquidity, made in sterling and which mature in 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 the prudent management of its treasury balances, maintaining sufficient levels of security and liquidity, St Austell Town Council will use:

- Deposits with banks, building societies, local authorities or other public authorities
- The debt management agency of HM Government
- Cornwall Council variable deposit scheme
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund.

2.4 Non-Specified Investments

These investments have greater potential risk – examples include investment in the money market, stocks and shares.

Given the unpredictability and uncertainties surrounding such investments, St Austell Town Council will not use this type of investment.

2.5 Liquidity of Investments

The Town Clerk, as Responsible Finance Officer, will determine the maximum periods for which funds may prudently be committed so as not to compromise liquidity and may transfer up to **£250,000 between bank accounts** as appropriate to take advantage of interest bearing deposit accounts while maintaining sufficient liquidity. Larger investments should be in accordance with this strategy and only be undertaken following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Such investments will be subject to two signatures as with all payments.

Investments will be regarded as commencing on the date the commitment to invest is entered into, rather than the date on which the funds are paid over to the counterparty.

2.6 Long Term Investments

Long term investments are defined in the Guidance as greater than 36 months.

The Council does not currently hold any long-term investments.

No long-term investments are currently envisaged.

2.7 End of Year Investment Report

Investment forecasts for the coming financial year were accounted for when the budget was prepared. At the end of the financial year, the Town Clerk will report on investment activity to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

3 EXTERNAL BORROWING STRATEGY

3.1 Introduction

The Council acknowledges the importance of borrowing funds and the financial impact on the Council and the local community. The Council will agree borrowing for specific capital projects (as defined in section 16 of the 2003 Act) and gain approval for borrowing by sending an application to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). All borrowings must be approved by the full Council.

3.2 Principles

Before a council can borrow a sum of money, it must first receive an approval to borrow (loan sanction) from the Secretary of State by way of the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government, unless it is for a temporary loan or overdraft from a bank or otherwise of sums which the council may temporarily require to meet revenue expenditure.

The process to be followed and the criteria applied in deciding whether or not approval should be forthcoming, are detailed in the Guide to Parish and Town Council Borrowing in England, jointly published by Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government and NALC.

The Council is only authorised to borrow a maximum of £500,000 in any single financial year for any single purpose.

The Council will ensure the following criteria when considering requesting a borrowing approval:

- The borrowing should be only be used for the purpose of Capital expenditure as defined by Section 16 of the Local Government Act 2003.
- The borrowing amount should not be less than £5 multiplied by the number of local government electors in the area of the Council on the first day of the current financial year (1 April)

- Any unallocated balances including, where appropriate capital receipts beyond those required for the prudent financial management of the council, should be used in the project for which the borrowing is required.
- The Council should have a realistic budget for the servicing and repayment of the debt, taking into account the future effect on the council's precept and cashflow.
- The Council must not mortgage or charge any of its property as security for money borrowed.

3.3 **Interest Rates**

The Council will look around for the best possible terms when borrowing but will usually use the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB).

The Council feels that the fixed term rates offered by the PWLB are relatively cheap and that PWLB loans are most likely to offer stability for the financial planning of the council.

3.4 **Period of Loan**

The Council will determine the period of each loan which should not exceed the period for which the expenditure is forecast to provide benefit to the Council i.e. useful life of the asset.

The maximum period will begin on the date on which the money is borrowed, and will be;

- 50 years for acquisition of, or work on or to, land, buildings, roads or structures or
- 10 years in all other cases.

3.5 **Current External Borrowing**

The Town Council currently has no external borrowing.

3.6 **Further Anticipated External Borrowing**

The Council has no plans currently to incur capital expenditure which will require a loan sanction or external borrowing.

4 **Review and Amendment of Regulations**

This Strategy will be reviewed annually. The Annual Strategy for the coming financial year will be prepared by the Town Clerk and presented for approval to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The Council reserves the right to make variations to the Strategy at any time, subject to the approval of the full Council. Any variations will be made available to the public.

5 Equality Act 2010

Copies of this document in large print (A3 Format) or larger font size, or recorded onto tape as a 'talking book' can be made available for those with sight impairment on request from the Council Office or by telephoning 01726 829859 or e-mailing david.pooley@staustell-tc.gov.uk

The Council can also arrange to provide versions in other languages.

6 Freedom of Information

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this Document will be posted on the Council's website.

Summary of Investments

Investments

<u>Date</u>	<u>Investment</u>	<u>Amount</u>
As at 28.2.25	Business Reserve Account (Natwest)	£94,050.34
As at 28.2.25	Variable Rate Deposit Account Cornwall Council	£991,074.94

Interest Received

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>£</u>
2023/24	35,799.93
2024/25 to date (excluding accrual)	47,726.59

