

**Committee: Full Council**

**Date: 21 March 2023**

**Title: Investment Strategies**

**Purpose of Report**

Members to consider potential investment accounts for the funds held by the Town Council.

**Recommendation:**

1. Members resolve to keep six months of the 2023/24 precept £180,000 in the Natwest Reserve account and £250,000 in the Public Sector Deposit Fund.
2. Members resolve to delegate to officers to start the process of opening new accounts with (name of bank) and move funds of £XXX into each account.
3. Members resolve to elect three signatories for each new account.

**Background:**

1. The Town Council hold two accounts with Natwest Bank using internet banking to make payments. There is a current account and a Reserve Account which holds the majority of the Town Council's funds. The funds move from the Reserve account into the Current Account as it is needed, leaving £100.00 in the Current Account at the end of each working day.
2. A deposit of £75,000 was invested in Churches, Charities & Local Authorities (CCLA) Public Sector Deposit Fund in March 2020 following the resolution made at Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26 February 2019 Minute No:577:

**577 Investments**

*Consideration was given to investing in the CCLA (Churches, Charities & Local Authorities Public Sector Deposit Fund in accordance with the Town Council's Investment Strategy.*

*Issues discussed or raised during consideration of this agenda item included:*

- *The notice required to make withdrawals.*
- *The potential impact of Brexit on investments.*

**RESOLVED**

- (i) *That £75,000 is invested in the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund*
- (ii) *That advice is sought regarding longer term investment options*
- (iii) *that an in-depth assessment of the amount of money that should be kept in the Reserve account is undertaken.*



with a 95 day notice account. The Hampshire Trust Bank do not currently have any savings accounts available.

11. Because of the changeability of the banking sector currently, officers will look on a regular basis for alternative arrangements and bring these to council should the need arise.
12. When applying for savings accounts, the bank will carry out due diligence by completing enhanced checks on each of the signatories. A minimum of two signatories will be required for each new account. Members may wish to elect three signatories at this meeting which would assist with the application process if the Town Council agrees to open any account.
13. As the Town Council are currently planning various projects such as the replacement play equipment for Winterhay and West Crescent play parks, as well as the installation of the fitness trail at the recreation ground, Members may consider an easy access account rather than a longer term investment.
14. The monthly expenditure is on average £30,000, and it would be prudent to keep six months worth of expenditure in the Natwest Reserve Account.
15. Members are being asked to resolve to delegate to officers to keep approximately six months of the 2023/24 precept £180,000 in the Natwest Reserve account and increase the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund from £75,000 to £250,000. These funds should be retained as the General Reserve.
16. Members resolve to delegate to officers to start the process of opening new accounts with (name of bank) and move funds of £XXX into each account.
17. Members resolve to elect three signatories for each new account.

**Julie Earp**  
**Deputy Town Clerk**  
**March 2023**