



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority  
Finance and Resources Committee

# **PRUDENTIAL CODE MONITORING REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2009**

Report of the Treasurer to the Fire Authority

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**Agenda Item No:**

**Date:** 9 October 2009

**Purpose of Report:**

To inform Members of performance up to 31 August 2009 relating to the prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management.

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

**Name :** Neil Timms  
Head of Finance and Resources

**Tel :** 0115 967 0880

**Email :** [neil.timms@notts-fire.gov.uk](mailto:neil.timms@notts-fire.gov.uk)

**Media Enquiries  
Contact :** Elisabeth Reeson  
(0115) 967 5889 [elisabeth.reeson@notts-fire.gov.uk](mailto:elisabeth.reeson@notts-fire.gov.uk)

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Local Government Act 2003 set out a framework for the financing of capital investments in local authorities. The principles underpinning this framework offer more freedom in the way that capital expenditure is financed such that local authorities may choose the level of capital expenditure (and thus financing) which best suits their needs and investment priorities.
- 1.2 In order to assist authorities in determining the most appropriate levels of spending and indebtedness, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has developed a “Prudential Code” which requires a number of limits and indicators to be set each year.
- 1.3 The Fire Authority approved these “prudential limits” for 2009/10 at its meeting on 20 February 2009.
- 1.4 The Prudential Code requires that local authorities report performance against prudential targets to Members.

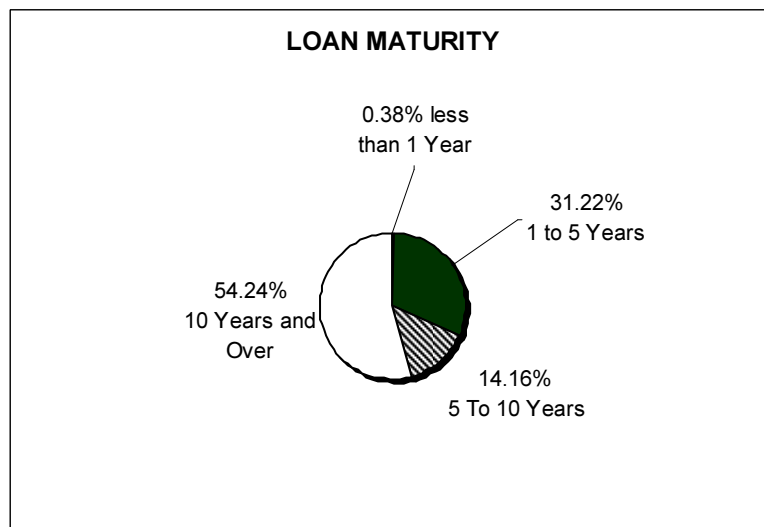
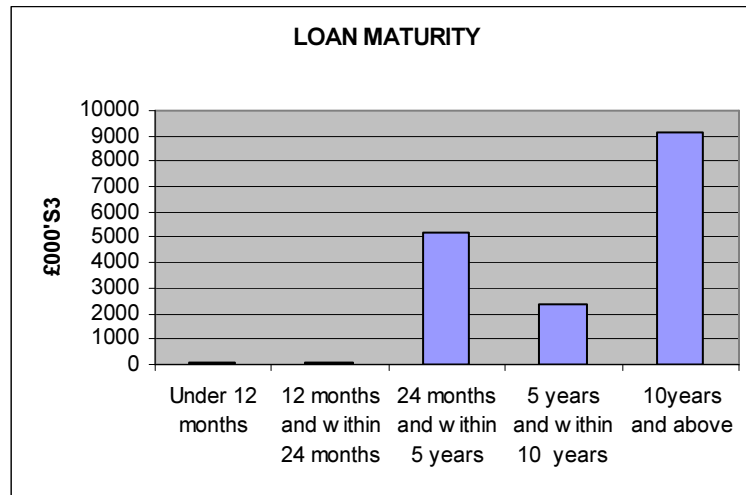
## **2. REPORT**

- 2.1 In terms of borrowing, the Authority set an operational boundary for 2009/10 of £25.492m and an authorised limit of £28.041m. Although these limits are year end targets, the Authority is required to demonstrate that it has not exceeded them at any time during the financial year. During the period 1 April 2009 to 31 August 2009 the maximum indebtedness of the Authority was £17.371m, including any requirements for temporary overdrafts thus keeping within these limits. The graph given as Appendix B illustrates the levels of borrowing during the period up to the end of August 2009.
- 2.2 A graph of cumulative interest earnings is shown on Appendix C. An interest earnings target of £220,000 was set for 2009/10. As at 31 August 2009, £963 has been earned. Although interest of around £56k is due to be received in November the target will not be achieved in the year due to continuing low interest rates and the policy of using internal funds to temporarily finance the capital programme and thus avoid investing surplus funds. This issue will be addressed and reported to Members as part of revenue budget monitoring. The prudential targets relating to interest rate exposure are that fixed interest rate exposures should be between 0% and 100% of total lending and that variable interest rate exposures should be between 0% and 30%. During the period up to 31 August 2009, 100% of lending was at fixed interest rates.
- 2.3 The prudential target in respect of cash management is that the Authority’s bank overdraft should not exceed £500,000. During the three month period up to 31 August 2009 the account has not been overdrawn. A graph of cash balances for the three months up to 31 August 2009 is shown on Appendix A. A short term loan of £1.5m taken out in March 2009 was repaid in August 2009.

Prudential targets relating to loan maturity are shown below:

Loan Maturity		
	<b>Upper Limit</b>	<b>Lower Limit</b>
Under 12 months	20%	0%
12 months to 5 years	30%	0%
5 years to 10 years	75%	0%
Over 10 years	100%	25%

Actual performance against these targets in the period to 31 August 2009 is shown in the following graphs. The indicator for debt maturing within 1 to 5 years has been exceeded by just over 1%. This is not a cause for concern and will be rectified when borrowing takes place later in the year, by taking out loans with a term of over 10 years.



### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications are set out in full within this report. Performance during the period is within the prudential limits.

### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no human resources and learning and development implications arising directly from this report.

### **5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

### **6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The Prudential Code is a framework which sets out to quantify and minimise financial risk arising from the financing of capital, the investment of surplus funds and the maintenance of operating cash balances for the Authority. The favourable performance against the prudential targets demonstrates that these areas of operation are being managed effectively.

### **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the contents of this report.

### **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)**

None.

Peter Hurford  
**TREASURER TO THE FIRE AUTHORITY**

