APPENDIX A

Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Report and Policy Statement

Introduction

A statement on the Council's policy for setting aside funds for repayment of borrowing, its annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), must be submitted to the full Council for approval before the start of the financial year to which the provision will relate.

The Council is legally obliged to "have regard" to the Guidance, which is intended to enable a more flexible approach to assessing the amount of annual provision than was required under the previous statutory requirements. The Guidance explains how the MRP might be determined, with an overriding recommendation that the Council should make prudent provision to redeem its debt liability over a period which is reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure is estimated to provide benefits.

Essentially, the Guidance may only be applied to new capital expenditure relative to the period to which the annual MRP relates. This means that debt which remains outstanding in respect of earlier capital expenditure will continue to be subject to MRP at the rate of 4% per annum or 1% for share purchases. New expenditure to be financed from borrowing is recommended to be subject to MRP on the estimated useful life basis. This may either be assessed as equal annual instalments, or lower early year charges on an annuity basis, or in accordance with depreciation accounting methods.

In general it is recommended that the Council should adopt the recommendations contained within the Guidance. However, in certain cases the Guidance recommends a useful life period/MRP for expenditures which it would not be appropriate to adopt, such as in the case of long term debtors arising from loans made to group companies and other third parties. These loans will be repaid by the third parties, and the principle repayments from these loans will be set aside for the repayment of the underlying debt.

The following Policy Statement is therefore recommended for adoption.

MRP Policy Statement

The Council implemented the new MRP Guidance in 2007/08, and has assessed the Minimum Revenue Provision for 2007/08 and subsequent years in accordance with the main recommendations contained within the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 21(1A) of the Local Government Act 2003. In particular, the Council are satisfied that the guidelines for their annual amount of MRP set out within this Policy Statement will result in their making the requisite prudent provision that is required by the Guidance.

Certain expenditures reflected within the debt liability at 31st March 2007 will under delegated powers be subject to either the uncompleted scheme or the anticipated life expectancy provisions of the asset life method.

In cases where schemes are not fully completed at the end of the financial year, expenditure on these may be deferred from any MRP charge in the subsequent year but reconsidered for MRP in a later year, subject to the date of their completion.

The spreading of the MRP charge under the estimated life period approach will be carried out in an aggregate manner. Details of individual schemes, whilst required for supporting information purposes in the year for which MRP liability is first being assessed, have no beneficial purposes thereafter. Schemes will accordingly be grouped within differing life periods where such apply.

The Council also determines that available resources for financing capital expenditure, such as capital receipts, will be applied to new expenditures in a manner that is considered appropriate in any financial year. For example, it will not be considered imprudent to apply such resources in the first instance to expenditures that have a shorter estimated lifespan.

When adopting this aspect of the recommendations the Council may treat any new capital schemes which are both commenced and finalised within the financial year as having been financed from any associated grants, S.106 monies, or similarly earmarked funds. This is however entirely at their discretion. In cases where expenditure is incurred on only part of a scheme which is not completed by the year end, any grant or similar financing resources may be either allocated to other new expenditures under delegated powers, or carried forward for MRP purposes, as necessary or appropriate.

Final decisions regarding the manner in which such resources are deemed to be allocated to schemes will be taken under delegated powers.

Where schemes require interim financing by loan, pending receipt of an alternative source of finance (for example capital receipts), no MRP charge shall be applied.

Estimated life periods will also be determined under delegated powers. For example, it is likely that new buildings or similar structures will have an estimated life, set by Asset Management, of over 70 years, as will any new land purchases. In this latter case, it is considered that the recommended life period of 50 years for land contained within the Guidance does not adequately reflect its realistic life period, which is considered to be at least as great as would be the case if a building is placed upon it. The Council are aware when approving this that the Guidance recommends only that the life period should bear some relation to that over which the asset is estimated to provide a service.

In the case of new capital expenditures which serve to add to the value of an existing capital asset, these will be estimated to have the same useful life as the asset whose value is enhanced.

To the extent that expenditures are not on the creation of an asset, and are of a type that are subject to estimated life periods that are referred to in the Guidance, these periods will generally be adopted by the Council. However, in the case of long term debtors arising from loans or other types of capital expenditure made by the Council which will be repaid under separate arrangements (such as long term investments)the principle repayments will be set aside for the repayment of the underlying debt. The loans and underlying security are monitored and any issue around recoverability will require a review of the MRP. From 2009/10 the Council has made a Minimum Revenue Provision on investments in shares based on a 100 year life; the latest Guidance suggests 20 years for shares. Investments in shares tend to be long term in nature, however, going forward, borrowing applied to shares will be subject to MRP at the time length specified in the Government guidance.

Commercial properties acquired through borrowing will be subject to MRP matching the principle repayments under an indicative annuity schedule for the underlying debt. Therefore over the life of the relevant asset the MRP will be consistent with the repayment of the corresponding borrowing used to finance the purchase of the asset. This method may also be extended to individual operational assets if it is deemed more appropriate for the circumstances around that asset.

In view of the variety of different types of capital expenditure incurred by the Council, which is not in all cases capable of being related to an individual asset, asset lives will be assessed on a basis which most reasonably reflects the anticipated period of benefit that arises from the expenditure. Also, whatever type of expenditure is involved, it will be grouped together in a manner which reflects the nature of the main component of expenditure, and will only be divided up in cases where there are two or more major components with substantially different useful economic lives.

The determination as to which schemes shall be deemed to be financed from available resources, and those which will remain as an outstanding debt liability to be financed by borrowing or other means will be assessed under delegated powers.