WHITEHILL
TOWN COUNCIL
Serving Whitehill & Bordon

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Date of adoption: 18.09.2017 Review date: 11.12.2025 Next Review 12.2026

1. INTRODUCTION

Whitehill Town Council (WTC) is a local authority funded largely by public money and acknowledges the importance of prudently investing any temporary, surplus funds or longer-term funds held on behalf of the community.

WTC has the general power to invest its funds for any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment and for the prudent management of its financial affairs IAW Local Government Act 2003, section 12, Power to Invest and section 15, Guidance.

This Strategy complies with the revised requirements set out in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance on investments (3rd Edition 2018).

2. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

1. The **SECURITY** of reserves
2. Adequate **LIQUIDITY** of investments
3. Optimum **YIELD** on investments commensurate with proper levels of security.

All investments will be made in sterling.

Short term investments shall be defined as 1 year or less.

Long term investments shall be defined as over 1 year.

3. SECURITY

WTC shall give priority to the security of investments.

Specified investments are relatively high security and high liquidity investments such as short-term deposits and high investment accounts with high street banks, building societies, local authorities, other public authorities or other approved public sector investment funds.

Non-specified investments generally have a greater, potential risk, such as stocks and shares.

The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) can present investment options to the Executive Committee/ Full Council for decision.

If the Executive Committee & Full Council require more detailed in-depth investment advice, they should procure an external professional investment advisor.

The RFO can set up meetings with the investment managers for in depth advice, as instructed by the Executive Committee/Full Council.

The Executive Committee/Full Council shall be responsible for risk assessing each option before agreeing the institution and length of deposit.

The Executive Committee can authorise investments up to £25,000. Anything over this amount must be authorised by Full Council in accordance with WTC Financial regulations. Any movement will be in accordance with WTC Financial Regulations and regardless should go to Full Council to note/authorise.

Where possible, investments will be spread over different providers to minimise risk. WTC shall avoid non-specified risks, given the uncertainty and unpredictability of such investments.

4. LIQUIDITY

WTC shall consider liquidity of its investments as a second objective.

The Executive Committee/Full Council shall be responsible for determining short-, medium- and long-term investments and agreeing maximum periods which funds may prudently be committed to ensure that WTC has properly assessed the risk of not having immediate access to

some of its funds. The Executive Committee/Full Council shall consider the WTC asset register, financial risk assessment, strategic plan and earmarked reserves.

5. YIELD

The Executive Committee/Full Council shall be responsible for agreeing investments which aim to achieve the optimum return on WTC investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity.

WTC will rely on interest rate information which is publicly available.

6. WTC INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

WTC has the following portfolio of investments:

- Rowan Dartington (Stocks)
- CCLA/LAMIT (Property)
- CCLA Public Property Fund (Property)
- High Interest Savings Account

7. ETHICAL INVESTMENTS

WTC is committed to ensuring that its financial investments align with its core values and the best interests of the community. WTC shall adopt and maintain an ethical investment approach.

WTC will avoid direct investment in harmful industries such as:

1. Production/distribution of tobacco, alcohol, or armaments
2. The operation of gambling services
3. Fossil fuel extraction and production
4. Activities with proven, significant negative environmental or human rights impacts.

Preference shall be given to investment opportunities that uphold strong environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards. WTC is committed to supporting initiatives that contribute positively to sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical governance.

8. DRAW DOWN OF INVESTMENTS

WTC may draw down on investments when required to meet cash flow needs, fund approved capital projects, or support essential services, ensuring that withdrawals are made in a prudent, transparent, and sustainable manner. Any movement will be in accordance with WTC Financial Regulations and regardless should go to Full Council to note/authorise.

Adjustments may be made in response to economic conditions or WTC needs.

9. MONITORING & REVIEW

The strategy will be reviewed annually by the Executive Committee during the budget process and the Executive Committee will recommend any proposed changes to Full Council.

An update on the investments is presented to the Executive Committee quarterly, as part of the Greenspaces brief.

10. GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

Investments must be authorised by the Town Clerk/RFO under the direction of the Executive Committee/Full Council.

All investment activity must comply with relevant legislation and guidance, including:

- Local Government Act 2003
- MHCLG Statutory Investment Guidance (2018)

11. PUBLICATION

This **Strategy** is available to download online, free of charge in accordance with Secretary of State guidance and the Freedom of Information Act.