

investment policy

1 Introduction

This policy has been established to ensure prudent financial management of Council investments.

The policy incorporates the requirements of the Local Government Act and should be read together with the Borrowing Management Policy. Together they will form the Treasury Management Policy of the Council.

The policy is for the Christchurch City Council and includes the Christchurch City Council Sinking Fund Commissioners. Investments held by subsidiaries (LATEs) are excluded.

To determine the scope of this policy, the definition of terms used shall be that of the Local Government Act and Accounting Standards currently in force.

The Council proposes to invest \$75M of capital repatriation funds due to be received from Christchurch City Holdings Ltd in mid 2001 in a separate fund known as the Capital Endowment Fund. It is intended that the fund be divided into capital of \$71.5M and fluctuation reserves of \$3.5M and that the capital of this fund will be held intact together with sufficient income capitalised annually to cover inflation. The fluctuation reserve will vary depending on returns from investments. The balance of the income will be available to the Council to provide for economic development projects and civic and community projects that will enhance the city or region.

The Council resolution creating the Capital Endowment Fund is attached as Appendix B.

2 Principles

The following principles underlie the policy:

- Investments shall be managed to maximise the return to the Council consistent with the purpose of the investment and risk avoidance.
- The Council shall maintain a prudent mix of investments.
- Council investment management shall as far as possible be risk averse.
- Investments made outside of the policy require specific resolution of the Council.
- Interest rate exposure and yields on investments are to be managed according to practices outlined in this policy. Hedging, if used, is to cover the protection of the actual physical investment and its return.
- For the Capital Endowment Fund the investment objectives are:
 - Maintain the real value of the capital of the Fund with regard to inflation.
 - Maximise the value of the Fund and therefore the amount that can be distributed from the Fund over the long term, subject to a prudent level of portfolio risk.

- Maintain a degree of consistency in the amounts that can be withdrawn on an annual basis.
- To fulfil the objectives for the Capital Endowment Fund the following investment principles will be followed in addition to those elsewhere in this policy:
 1. Responsibilities under common law and statute must be met. The following policies will be interpreted and applied subject to this policy.
 2. The inflation-adjusted capital of the Fund shall not be withdrawn.
 3. An appropriate level of portfolio risk will be determined and accepted by the Council in consultation with professional advisors.
 4. An appropriate level of diversification of investments in portfolios across securities, sectors, asset classes and countries must be maintained.
 5. The investment portfolio will accept risks in a prudent manner and investment risk will be minimised for the expected level of return.
 6. The capital of the investment portfolio will be preserved on a quarterly basis by adjusting for (positive) changes in the Statistics New Zealand All Groups CPI.
 7. An investment fluctuation reserve must be maintained to finance budgeted distributions from the Fund.
 8. Liquidity must be considered and maintained at an appropriate level.
 9. The investment structure must be able to accommodate changes in the Fund's requirements and the investment environment.
 10. All aspects of the investment process and functions will be reviewed regularly. In particular:
 - The performance of investment managers will be monitored against benchmarks at least monthly, and against the performance of other investment managers at least quarterly.
 - Investment managers will be monitored on an ongoing basis with respect to their organisational structure, investment processes and personnel.
 - Investment policies and objectives, asset allocation strategy and overall investment management structure will be reviewed at least once every three years.

3 Investment Categories Subject to the Policies - Their Purpose

The Council's investments are made for a range of purposes and fall broadly into five categories: