

Wickersley Parish Council

Investment Policy

1 Introduction

The Parish Council requires an Investment Policy so that it can invest prudently the surplus funds held on behalf of the local community. The Parish Council holds reserves which reflect the need to hold balances in accordance with good financial management of risk, and which have been built up to fund future planned developments in accordance with the Parish Council's business plan.

2 Context

Parish Councils must meet the requirements of both the Community and Local Government Act and the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Code.

3 Policy

3.1 The Parish Council's priorities are the security of reserves and the investment in low risk and liquid (up to 5 years) funds. The Parish Council will aim to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity.

3.2 The Parish Council will only invest in short term investments as defined in the guidance to Parish Councils. Short term investments are defined as those offering high security and high availability, made in sterling, and maturing to a maximum of 5 years. Clerk to present each investment for approval by Parish Chair or Vice Chair and Chair of Finance.

3.3 To ensure the prudent management of balances, the Parish Council will only use deposits with UK banks and building societies or via recommended funds such as CCLA (Churches Charities and Local Authorities Fund)

3.4 The Parish Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer will make recommendations on the short term investments to be made. These recommendations will require the approval of the Parish Council Chairman and the Chairman of Finance Committee before proceeding.

3.5 All decisions made by the Parish Clerk will be reported to the next full Parish Council meeting. At the end of the financial year, the Parish Clerk will report on investments as part of the review of Annual Accounts.

4 Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed by the Finance Committee at least every three years. The Finance Committee will then make any recommendations for change to the full Parish Council.