Prudential indicators – South Oxfordshire DC

1 Affordability

1.1 Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream

This indicator compares the net interest payable less investment income receivable to the overall net revenue spending of the council. Because the council has a high level of investment income and lower level of borrowing this indicator is negative and remains so throughout the period.

Indicator A-1 Ratio of financing costs	2025/26 estimate	2026/27 estimate	2027/28 estimate	2028/29 estimate	2029/30 estimate
to net revenue stream					
Non – HRA	(28.5%)	(21.8%)	(15.3%)	(9.4%)	(7.4%)

1.2 Net income from commercial investments to net revenue stream

This indicator estimates the proportion of its commercial investment income to its net revenue stream, as an indicator of the council's exposure to risk in relation to the potential loss of commercial investment income.

Indicator A-2 Ratio of net income from commercial investments to net revenue stream	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	estimate	estimate	estimate	estimate	estimate
Non – HRA	2.3%	2.4%	2.1%	2.0%	2.0%

2 Prudence

2.1 Gross borrowing and the capital financing requirement

It is prudent to ensure that borrowing is only used to fund capital (as opposed to revenue) expenditure. The indicator to measure whether this is achieved is to demonstrate that external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years.

Indicator P-1	2023/24 actual £m	2024/25 estimate £m	2025/26 estimate £m	2026/27 estimate £m	2027/28 estimate £m
Capital financing requirement	0	3.0	11.9	23.9	27.4
Gross borrowing	0	3.0	8.9	12.0	4.2

In this instance the capital financing requirement is shown as zero for 2023/24 but increases as borrowing begins to be undertaken. The head of finance reports that the authority had no difficulty meeting this requirement in 2023/24.

The proposed 2025/26 to 2029/30 capital programme includes £29 million debt financing for capital projects. The forecast capital financing requirement for 2027/28 is £27.4 million.

2.2 Capital expenditure

The first indicator shows the total capital expenditure plans of the council's approved plus provisional programme including capital growth proposals put forward.

Indicator P-2	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	estimate	estimate	estimate	estimate	estimate	estimate
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Estimates of capital expenditure	34,743	48,387	32,890	11,719	4,217	3,067

The second indicator records actual capital expenditure for the previous financial year.

	2023/24	2023/24
Indicator P-3	estimate	actual
	£000	£000
Actual capital expenditure	27,699	11,846

2.3 Borrowing need

This indicator reflects the authority's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose, its Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This borrowing may not need to take place externally, and the council may judge it prudent to make use of cash that it has already invested for long term purposes.

Indicator P-4	31/3/2025 estimate £m	31/3/2026 estimate £m	31/3/2027 estimate £m	31/3/2028 estimate £m	31/3/2029 estimate £m	31/03/2030 estimate £m
Estimate of						
CFR						
Non-HRA	3.0	11.9	23.9	27.4	26.5	25.4
Estimate of						
movement in						
year						
Non-HRA	3.0	8.9	12.0	3.6	(1.0)	(1.0)

The capital financing requirement as at 31 March each year is derived from specific balances within the balance sheet, and adjustments are made for capital expenditure, and the resources applied to finance the expenditure. The authority's capital expenditure is resourced immediately from capital receipts, reserves, grants, contributions and directly from revenue. The actual CFR for 31 March 2024 is shown below.

Indicator P-5	31/3/2024 actual £000
Actual capital financing requirement Non-HRA	0
Actual movement in year Non-HRA	0