

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL  
AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 September 2022

Report by Clerk

CLARIFICATION RECEIVED ON QUERIES RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETING

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To summarise the clarification received and circulated on queries raised at the meeting of the committee held on 11 August.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. It is recommended that the committee notes the position.

**REPORT**

3. In June, the committee endorsed the final observations and recommendations made by the committee in April 2022 arising from its self-evaluation, agreeing to implement recommendations made as appropriate.

4. One of the self-evaluation observations made was that when queries on reports are raised at meetings, it is not always possible for answers to be provided at the meeting itself. Although the provision of clarification or assurances subsequently was considered acceptable, it was agreed, in the interests of transparency, that the Clerk should submit a summary of clarification received and circulated to the next meeting.

5. A related observation endorsed by the committee in June was that it is useful, where possible, for Members to alert the Clerk or Chair in advance to issues they wish to raise at meetings. This is with a view to helping to ensure that answers can be requested, prepared and made available to the committee where possible at its meetings, also in the interests of transparency. Members of the committee are therefore encouraged to alert the Clerk or Chair to issues in advance to the extent possible.

6. The clarification provided on queries raised at the meeting on 11 August, which has already been circulated through correspondence, is itemised in Appendix 1 to this report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

7. It is recommended that the committee notes the position.

Local Government Access to Information Act 1985

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Background Papers:-

1. Audit and Scrutiny Committee Agenda – 11 August 2022 (Item 5)

## CLARIFICATION SOUGHT AND CIRCULATED FOLLOWING MEETING ON 11 AUGUST 2022

DATE OF MEETING AND ITEM	ITEM AND ISSUE(S) RAISED	CLARIFICATION
11 August (Item 5)	<p data-bbox="443 443 1113 512"><a href="#"><u>ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2021/22</u></a></p> <p data-bbox="443 544 1077 676">It was agreed that the Chief Accountant would provide clarification on what the Risk Indicator percentages referred to below were based on, to the Clerk, for circulation to Members:-</p> <p data-bbox="443 715 1113 778">(a) The percentage of variable rate loans should be no more than 30%</p> <p data-bbox="443 986 1113 1050">(b) The maximum of long term debt maturing in any one year should be no more than 15%</p>	<p data-bbox="1144 715 2101 954">(a) It has been confirmed that this is an historical indicator, approved by Council as part of its Treasury Management Strategy. The level provides the Council with some flexibility, especially when loan rates are on a downward trajectory. However given that interest rates are currently increasing, consideration is being given as to whether the level of this indicator remains relevant. Should this be apparent then the next Treasury Management Strategy will be updated.</p> <p data-bbox="1144 986 2101 1150">(b) It has been confirmed that this is an historical indicator, approved by Council as part of its Treasury Management Strategy. Given the repayment profile of the Council's current external debt, especially in respect of 2054/55 when the Council is scheduled to repay 12.2% of its current debt, the level of this indicator is still considered relevant.</p>

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