

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL



Postal Address: Highfield Park Visitor Centre, Hill End Lane AL4 0RA



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CHPC INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2025/26

The Parish Council acknowledges the importance of prudently investing surplus funds held on behalf of the community. All investments will be made in line with the Council's financial procedures and observations, or advice received from the Council's internal and external auditors, supported as necessary by advice from the Council's financial advisors.

The Council will ensure it has adequate though not excessive cash resources, overdraft, or standby facilities to enable it at all times to have the level of funds available which are necessary for the achievement of its service objectives.

Investment Objectives

1. The Council's investment priorities are the security of reserves and adequate liquidity of its investments.
2. The Council will aim to maximise income from its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity.
3. The Council will seek to ensure that investment income is consistent one year to the next.
4. Where external investment managers are used, they will be contractually required to comply with this strategy.
5. In balancing risk against return, this Council is more concerned to avoid risks than to maximise returns.
6. All investments will be in sterling.

Specified Investments

Specified investments are those offering high security and high liquidity, made in sterling and maturation of no more than a year. Such short-term investments made With the UK Government or a local authority or town or parish council will automatically be Specified Investments.

For prudent management of its treasury balances, maintaining sufficient levels of security and liquidity, Colney Heath Parish Council will use:

- Deposits with banks, building societies, local authorities, or other public authorities.

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- Other recognised funds specifically targeted at the Public Sector.
- The choice of institution and length of deposit will be at the discretion of the Responsible Financial Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Council.

Non-Specified Investments

These investments have greater potential risk such as investments in the money market, stocks, and shares. The Council will use the services of an appointed FSA accredited independent financial advisor on the investment of these funds. The choice of investment company will be reviewed within the first year of every new administration following an election or more frequently if the performance of the investments is not meeting the required objectives.

Long term investments, defined as greater than 36 months, will be used to support a 3–5-year Capital Programme which will be reviewed and agreed annually. Capital growth of the fund should be maximised but at least equal to RPI whilst being consistent with the required level of security and all other public investment criteria.

The Council will expect the Investment Manager to invest in a balanced portfolio that will yield a consistent income/growth year on year whilst having regard to the Council's objectives and security of its investments. The Investment Manager will be encouraged to consider social, ethical and/or environmental factors or criteria when selecting, retaining, or disposing of assets.

End of Year Investment Report

At the end of each financial year the Investment Manager will present a report on the Investment activity to Full Council.

Review and Amendment of Regulations

This strategy will be reviewed annually by Full Council. Colney Heath Parish Council Parish Council reserve the right to make variations to this strategy at any time.

Adopted by Colney Heath Parish Council 24th July 2025 Item 33b

**COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

DATE 24/07/2025