

ANNUAL MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT 2024-25

Background

1. Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is a statutory requirement to make a charge to the council's General Fund as provision for the repayment of the council's past capital debt and other credit liabilities.
2. The Local Government Act 2003 requires local authorities to have regard to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision.
3. The broad aim of the guidance is to ensure that capital expenditure is financed over a period that is either reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits, or, in the case of borrowing supported by government grant, reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of that grant.
4. The guidance requires the council to approve an Annual MRP Statement each year and recommends a number of options for calculating a prudent amount of MRP. This forms part of the treasury management strategy considered by council assembly annually.
5. A prudent level of MRP on any significant asset or expenditure may be assessed on its own merits or in relation to its financing characteristics in the interest of affordability or financial flexibility.
6. The Strategic Director of Finance has delegated responsibility for implementing the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement and executive, managerial, operational and financial discretion to determine MRP and any practical interpretation issues.
7. The Strategic Director of Finance may make additional revenue provisions, over and above those set out, and set aside capital receipts, balances or reserves to discharge financing liabilities for the proper management of the financial affairs of the HRA or the general fund.

General Fund Supported Capital Expenditure or Capital Expenditure incurred before 1 April 2008

8. In relation to capital expenditure for which support forms part of the calculation of revenue grant by the government or any capital expenditure incurred before 1 April 2008, the MRP shall be calculated in accordance with the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2003 as if it had not been revoked. In arriving at that calculation, the capital financing requirement may be adjusted as described in the guidance.

9. In addition, the calculation method and the rate or the period of amortisation referred to in the guidance may be varied by the Strategic Director of Finance in the interest of affordability.
10. The methodology applied to pre-2008 debt, is on an annuity basis, calculated over the 40 years remaining as at 31 March 2018 (within the pre-2008 debt portfolio the final loan of which is due for repayment in 2057-58).

General Fund Self- Financed Capital Expenditure from 1 April 2008.

11. Where capital expenditure incurred from 1 April 2008 is on an asset financed wholly or partly by self-funded borrowing, the MRP is to be made in instalments over the life of the asset. The calculation method and the rate or the period of amortisation shall be determined by the Strategic Director of Finance.
12. The Strategic Director of Finance shall determine how much and which capital expenditure is funded from borrowing and which from other sources. Where expenditure is only temporarily funded from borrowing in any one financial year and it is intended that its funding be replaced with other sources by the following year, no MRP shall apply, nor shall any annual MRP apply where spend is anticipated to be funded from capital receipts or grants due in the future, but which is in the meantime funded from borrowing (subject to a maximum of three years or the year the receipt or grant is actually received, if sooner).
13. The asset life method shall also be applied to borrowing to meet expenditure from 1 April 2008 which is treated as capital expenditure by virtue of either a direction under section 16(2) of the 2003 Act or regulation 25(1) of the 2003 Regulations. The Strategic Director of Finance shall determine the asset life. When borrowing to construct an asset, the asset life may be treated as commencing in the year the asset first becomes operational and postpone MRP until that year.
14. Where capital expenditure involves repayable loans to third parties, the council may make nil MRP where the capital receipts arising from principal repayments are applied to reduce the capital financing requirement.
15. Where capital expenditure involves a variety of different types of works and assets, the period over which the overall expenditure is judged to have benefit over shall be considered as the life for MRP purposes. Expenditure arising from or related or incidental to major elements of a capital project may be treated as having the same asset life for MRP purposes as the major element itself. An estimate of the life of capital expenditure may also be made by reference to a collection or grouping of expenditure type or types.

PFI & Leases

16. In the case of finance leases, on-balance sheet private finance initiative contracts or other credit arrangements, MRP shall be the sum that writes down the balance sheet liability. These are being written down over the PFI contract term.
17. Where former operating leases have been brought onto the balance sheet on 1 April 2022 due to the adoption of the IFRS 16 Leases accounting standard, and the asset values have been adjusted for accruals, prepayments, premiums and/or discounts, then the annual MRP charges will be adjusted so that the total charge to revenue remains unaffected by the new standard.

The Annuity Method

18. The annuity method makes provision for an annual charge to the general fund which takes account of the time value of money (whereby paying £100 in 10 years' time is less of a burden than paying £100 now). The annuity method also matches the repayment profile to how the benefits of the asset financed by borrowing are consumed over its useful life (i.e. the method reflects the fact that asset deterioration is slower in the early years of an asset and accelerates towards the latter years). This re-profiling of MRP therefore conforms to the DLUHC "Meaning of Prudent Provision" which provides that "*debt [should be] repaid over a period that is reasonably commensurate with that for which the capital expenditure provides benefits*".