



Treasury Management Policy update

Outcome requested:	Finance and Investment Committee is invited to recommend approval of the updated Treasury Management Policy to Council.
Executive Summary:	<p>The policy has been reviewed and minor amendments made to ensure terminology and references are up to date.</p> <p>The substantial amendments to the policy are:</p> <p>Section 9 – reporting requirements The reporting has been incorporated into existing reports to Finance and Investment Committee, with a single yearend report of cash investment returns.</p> <p>Appendix B - a review of the counterparty limits. The policy includes greater investment limits with the named UK clearing banks and parameters for other counterparties. This will enable QMUL the flexibility when receiving bulk funds: during student enrolment; from Student Finance in May each year; and in anticipation of funds through a private placement.</p> <p>A tracked changes version of the policy is attached, so the changes are visible.</p>
QMUL Strategy:	Strategic Aim 6: to achieve and sustain financial strength to enable our academic ambitions, through a balanced portfolio of activities.
Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:	OfS Memorandum of Assurance and Accountability Charter and Ordinances
Strategic Risks:	12 – Cost control, VFM and expenditure 13 – Maintain effective and constructive governance
Equality Impact Assessment:	Not required
Subject to prior and onward consideration by:	QMSE 29 May 2018 FIC 19 June 2018 Council 12 July 2018
Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA	No
Timing:	The updates will take effect from the date of Council approval on 12 July 2018
Authors:	Janice Trounson, Deputy Director of Finance, Financial Controls
Date:	1 June 2018
Senior Management/External Sponsor	Joanne Jones, Director of Finance



TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY

Approved by Council: ~~30/06/2015~~12 July 2018
Recommended by Finance and Investment Committee: ~~16/06/2015~~14 June 2018

Number of Years to Next Review: 3 Years

~~Appendix B: updated for UK S&P downgrade, approved by Finance and Investment Committee 14 July 2016~~

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Treasury Management Policy forms part of the Financial Regulations of Queen Mary University of London (hereafter known as QMUL). It covers both QMUL and all its subsidiary undertakings.
- 1.2 The Finance and Investment Committee determines the Treasury Management Policy which is approved by Council as part of the Financial Regulations.
- 1.3 The Financial Accounting Section of the Finance Department administers the policy on behalf of the Finance and Investment Committee.
- 1.4 QMUL regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk as an important element in measuring the effectiveness of its treasury management activities. The overriding principle guiding the investment of surplus funds is to achieve a satisfactory return while reducing risk to a level acceptable to the Finance and Investment Committee.
- 1.5 QMUL acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is committed to the principles of achieving value for money in treasury management, and to employing suitable comprehensive performance management techniques, within the context of effective risk management.
- 1.6 Finance and Investment Committee is responsible for the appointment of QMUL's Bankers and other professional financial advisers (such as investment managers).
- 1.7 All Bank Accounts shall be in the name of QMUL or one of its subsidiary companies. The Director of Finance is responsible for ensuring that all bank accounts are subject to regular reconciliation and that large or unusual items are investigated as appropriate.
- 1.8 The Director of Finance is responsible for QMUL's Banking Arrangements, including opening and closing Bank Accounts, and making recommendations regarding the structure of the Bank Mandate.
- 1.9 Amendments to the structure of the Bank Mandate require approval of the Finance and Investment Committee, as witnessed by a signed copy of the minutes.
- 1.10 All borrowings shall be in the name of QMUL and shall be compliant with the [Higher Education Funding Council of England Office for Students \(HEFCEOfS\)](#) Memorandum of Accountability and Assurance and follow the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) "Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes".

2. Definition

- 2.1 CIPFA defines Treasury Management as “The management of the organisation’s investments and cash flows, its banking, money market capital transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

Treasury Management Objectives

3. Treasury Management Practices (TMPs)

- 3.1 CIPFA’s Treasury Management Code Essentials lists twelve treasury management practices (TMPs), and all public sector organisations are expected to include those that are relevant to their treasury management powers.
- 3.2 They cover the following areas:

- TMP1 - Risk management
- TMP2 - Performance measurement
- TMP3 - Decision-making and analysis
- TMP4 - Approved instruments, methods and techniques
- TMP5 - Organisation, clarity and segregation of responsibilities, and dealing arrangements
- TMP6 - Reporting requirements and management information arrangements
- TMP7 - Budgeting, accounting and audit arrangements
- TMP8 - Cash and cash flow management
- TMP9 - Money laundering
- TMP10 - Training and qualifications
- TMP11 - Use of external service providers
- TMP12 - Corporate governance

4. TMP1 - Risk management

- 4.1 The Director of Finance will be responsible for the design, implementation and monitoring of all arrangements for the identification, management and control of treasury management risk. The Director of Finance will report to the Finance and Investment Committee any matters which may affect the achievement of treasury management objectives.

Credit and counterparty risk

- 4.2 The Director of Finance has delegated authority to invest any surplus funds of the College in accordance with the terms agreed by Finance and Investment Committee. He/she is authorised to deposit or invest funds only with the approved organisations, and subject to the limits approved by the Finance and Investment Committee.
- 4.3 The Director of Finance is responsible for monitoring the creditworthiness of approved counterparties, using appropriate external sources of information, including credit agency reports. Where the Director of Finance believes a counterparty’s credit standing is, or may be due to be downgraded, he/she should limit exposure below the approved limits where appropriate. Individual limits can only be exceeded with the prior consent of the Finance and Investment Committee.

Liquidity risk

- 4.4 The Director of Finance is responsible for ensuring that QMUL has adequate cash resources, borrowing arrangements, overdraft or standby facilities to enable it to have sufficient funds on a daily basis to cover any working capital needs.

Interest rate risk

- 4.5 The Director of Finance is responsible for monitoring, reporting and recommending QMUL's interest rate exposure strategy to Finance and Investment Committee, and for ensuring that the effect of possible fluctuating interest rates has been incorporated into its annual budgets and cash flow forecasts.

- 4.6 Matters to be considered when establishing interest rate risk include:

- The current level and structure of interest rates
- Current interest rates compared with the historical level
- Estimates of future movements in the level and structure of interest rates
- The extent to which estimated future movements in interest rates would affect the revenue account
- The effect of estimated future movements in interest rates on the revenue account if all the loans were to be converted to floating rates
- The sensitivity of the revenue account to fluctuations in future interest rates compared with estimate.

Exchange rate risk

- 4.7 QMUL will retain funds in foreign currencies only to the extent that income received and payments made are due to be made in these currencies. No contractual obligations can be entered into which involve foreign currencies without the prior permission of the Director of Finance, who will assess any risk to QMUL.

- 4.8 Foreign currency dealings should be entered into only for the transaction of normal QMUL business, and unless pre-agreed by the Finance and Investment Committee in the remit to Investment Managers it is not permissible for foreign currency transactions to be entered into on a speculative basis.

Inflation risk

- 4.9 The Director of Finance will be responsible for ensuring that the effects of inflation are taken into account when preparing the annual budgets and the projected cash flow forecasts.

Refinancing risk

- 4.10 The Director of Finance will be responsible for ensuring that QMUL's borrowings, private financing and partnership arrangements are negotiated, structured and documented with a view to obtaining the best offer. The offer terms should be as competitive and favourable to QMUL as can reasonably be achieved in the light of market conditions prevailing at the time.

- 4.11 The maturity profile of any borrowings, private financing and partnership arrangements will be managed so as to avoid over reliance on any one source of funding which might put QMUL's finances at risk.

4.12 Where it is the intention of QMUL to raise capital for new institutional projects, the Director of Finance will have regard to:

- The level of security for the project
- The value of assets already held as security on existing capital projects
- The requirements of the Memorandum of Assurance and Accountability with [the HEFCE Office for Students](#)
- Any statutory restrictions, and QMUL's own powers and regulations
- Any restrictions on QMUL's use of its property assets required by any covenants
- The maximum level of assets that should be provided as security without risking the overall stability of QMUL
- The financial framework set by Finance and Investment Committee.

Legal and regulatory risk

4.13 Prior to undertaking any new borrowings, private financing or partnership arrangements, it is the responsibility of the Director of Finance to satisfy him/herself, by reference to QMUL's legal advisors if necessary, that the proposed transactions do not breach QMUL's Charter and Ordinances, the Financial Regulations, the requirements of the Memorandum of Assurance and Accountability with [HEFCE the Office for Students](#) nor with any terms and covenants concerning borrowing.

4.14 QMUL recognises that future changes in Charity legislation may affect the way higher education institutions manage treasury activities. QMUL will ensure, as far as it is reasonable to do, that any such changes are dealt with in order to minimise any adverse impact on the institution.

Fraud, error and corruption, and contingency management risk

4.15 The Director of Finance will be responsible for ensuring that procedures exist, so that circumstances may be identified and addressed which could expose QMUL to risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption or other eventuality in its treasury management activities. Relevant legislation which may be referred to includes the Bribery Act 2010; Money Laundering, [Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds Regulations 2014](#); Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015; Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013; and the [Criminal Finance Act 2017](#) ~~Proceeds of Crime Act 2002~~. There are separate QMUL policies for Anti-Bribery and Anti-Money Laundering & [Criminal Finance Act](#).

4.16 QMUL's internal auditors who report directly to the Audit and Risk Committee will also be able to help protect against the risk of fraud, error and corruption.

Market risk management

4.17 The Director of Finance will be responsible for ensuring that funds invested are protected as much as is reasonable from any adverse fluctuations in the market. He/she will be mindful that the overriding aim that any investment decision will be made so as to ensure the security of QMUL's capital.

5. TMP2 - Performance measurement

5.1 QMUL is committed to the pursuit of value for money in its treasury management activities, and to the use of performance measurement and analysis in support of that aim.

5.2 The treasury management function should regularly review alternative methods of service delivery, and any other potential improvements. The performance of the treasury management function will be measured using appropriate benchmarks.

6. TMP3 - Decision-making and analysis

6.1 QMUL will maintain full records of its treasury management decisions, and of the processes and practices applied in reaching those decisions, to demonstrate that reasonable steps were taken to ensure that all issues relevant to those decisions were taken into account at the time.

7. TMP4 - Approved instruments, methods and techniques

7.1 QMUL will undertake its treasury management activities by employing only those instruments, methods and techniques as approved by the Finance and Investment Committee.

7.2 The overriding principle guiding the investment of surplus funds is to achieve a satisfactory return while reducing risk to a level acceptable to the Finance and Investment Committee.

8. TMP5 - Organisation, clarity and segregation of responsibilities, and dealing arrangements

8.1 QMUL considers it essential, for the purposes of the effective control and monitoring of its treasury management activities, for the reduction of the risk of fraud or error, and for the pursuit of optimum performance, that these activities are structured and managed in a fully integrated manner, and that there is at all times a clarity of treasury management responsibilities.

8.2 The principle on which this will be based is a clear distinction between those charged with setting treasury management policies and those charged with implementing and controlling these policies, particularly with regard to the execution and transmission of funds, the recording and administering of treasury management decisions, and the audit and review of the treasury management function.

8.3 The Director of Finance will ensure that there are clear written statements of the responsibilities for each post engaged in treasury management, and the arrangements for absence cover. The Director of Finance will also ensure that at all times those engaged in treasury management will follow the appropriate policies and procedures.

8. The Director of Finance will ensure there is proper documentation for all deals and transactions, and that procedures exist for the effective transmission of funds.

9. TMP6 - Reporting requirements and management information arrangements

9.1 ~~QMUL will ensure that regular reports are prepared and considered on the implementation of its treasury management policies, on the effects of decisions taken, on the implications of changes, particularly budgetary, resulting from regulatory, economic, market or other factors affecting its treasury management activities, and on the performance of the treasury management function.~~

9.2 The Finance and Investment Committee will receive ~~the following:~~

- ~~• An annual report on the strategy and plan to be pursued in the coming year~~

- ~~An annual report on the performance of the treasury management function, on the effects of the decisions taken and the transactions executed in the past year, and on any circumstances of non-compliance with QMUL's treasury management policy statement~~
- Regular monitoring reports on treasury management activities and risks within the monthly management accounts and the annual presentation of the budget and financial forecasts.

9.3 ~~In preparing the strategy the Director of Finance will have regard to:~~

~~The maintenance of a stable financial position for QMUL~~

~~The current level of interest rates and forecasts of future changes in interest rates~~

~~Policies contained in other planning documents, for example, the mission statement, the estates strategy, and the annual budget and capital programme~~

~~The aggregate of all funds, loans and accounts operated by QMUL.~~

10. TMP7 - Budgeting, accounting and audit arrangements

10.1 The Director of Finance will prepare an annual budget, which will include income, and costs associated with treasury management activities. The matters to be included in the budget will at minimum be those required by statute or regulation, together with such information as will demonstrate compliance with Treasury Management Practices (TMPs).

10.2 QMUL will account for its treasury management activities in accordance with appropriate accounting practices and standards, and with statutory and regulatory requirements during the applicable period.

10.3 QMUL will ensure that its auditors, both internal and external, have access to all information and papers supporting the activities of the treasury management function, and that such information and papers demonstrate compliance with external and internal policies and approved practices.

11. TMP8 - Cash and cash flow management

11.1 All unrestricted monies in the hands of QMUL will be under the control of the Director of Finance, and will be aggregated for cash flow and investment management purposes. Cash flow forecasts will be prepared on a regular and timely basis by the ~~Head of~~Deputy Director of Finance, Financial Management, and the Director of Finance will ensure that these are adequate for the purposes of monitoring compliance with liquidity risk.

12. TMP9 - Money laundering

12.1 ~~QMUL may become the subject of an attempt to involve it in a transaction involving the laundering of money. Accordingly, it~~QMUL will maintain procedures to prevent money laundering including~~for~~ verifying and recording the identity of counterparties and reporting suspicions, and will ensure that staff involved in this area are properly trained.

12.2 QMUL has an Anti-Money Laundering Policy.

13. TMP10 - Training and qualifications

- 13.1 QMUL recognises the importance of ensuring that all staff involved in the treasury management function are fully equipped to undertake the duties and responsibilities allocated to them. It will therefore provide training for appropriate staff to enable them to acquire and maintain an appropriate level of expertise, knowledge and skills.
- 13.2 The Director of Finance will ensure that Council members and other non-Treasury staff tasked with treasury management responsibilities, including those responsible for scrutiny, receive training relevant to their needs and responsibilities.

14. TMP11 - Use of external service providers

- 14.1 QMUL recognises that whilst at all times responsibility for treasury management decisions remain with QMUL, there is value in employing external providers of treasury management services, in order to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. When external service providers are employed, QMUL will ensure that a full evaluation of the costs and benefits of using such providers has been undertaken. It will also ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented, and subjected to regular review. It will ensure, where feasible and necessary, that a spread of service providers is used, to avoid overreliance on one or a small number of companies. Where services are subject to formal tender or re-tender arrangements, legislative requirements will always be observed. The monitoring of such arrangements rests with the Director of Finance.

15. TMP12 - Corporate governance

- 15.1 QMUL is committed to the pursuit of proper corporate governance throughout all of its undertakings. Accordingly, the treasury management function and its activities will be undertaken with openness and transparency, honesty, integrity and accountability.
- 15.2 QMUL has adopted and has implemented the key recommendations of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code. This, together with the other arrangements detailed in this document, are considered vital to the achievement of proper corporate governance, and the Director of Finance will monitor and, if and when necessary, report upon the effectiveness of these arrangements.

Treasury Management Procedures

16. Responsibility and Authorisation

- 16.1 Responsibility for the treasury management policy is ultimately that of the President and Principal as Accounting Officer of QMUL. This responsibility is exercised on behalf of the President and Principal by the Director of Finance.
- 16.2 The Director of Finance may delegate the day to day duties of Treasury Management, but not the responsibility, to such staff within the Finance Department as s/he sees fit.
- 16.3 The Finance and Investment Committee is responsible to Council for advising on investment policy and monitoring investment transactions undertaken by authorised officers.

17. Cash and Temporary Investments

- 17.1 The amount and period of any temporary investment shall be determined by reference to QMUL's estimated short-term cash flow requirements.

17.2 Where QMUL invests funds itself, the arrangements are that the only approved investment, except for accounts with QMUL's bank and approved counterparties or money market fund as approved by Finance and Investment Committee, is the simple money market deposit – either for a fixed period or on notice. Specifically prohibited are:

Commercial paper

Any transaction involving the use of the futures market

Any transaction requiring the use of interest rate swaps

17.3 The Director of Finance is responsible for monitoring the creditworthiness of approved deposit takers using appropriate external sources of information including credit agency reports and limiting exposure below the approved limit where appropriate.

17.4 It is normally expected that temporary investment will be arranged through an authorised and regulated London money broker, to obtain as wide as possible a range of potential borrowers.

17.5 QMUL is responsible for ensuring that any transactions placed through brokers conform to this treasury management policy.

17.6 QMUL may also deal direct with any institution on the approved list of borrowers who may from time to time, offer terms of deposit which are substantially better than general money market rates.

17.7 QMUL may also choose to hold cash balances and temporary investments on deposit with stockbrokers and fund managers. These decisions will be made by the Director of Finance and reported to Finance and Investment Committee.

17.8 Interest earned from investments will be credited to the appropriate accounts as required to meet reporting timetables in QMUL.

18. Endowment Funds and other funds held for long-term purposes

18.1 Endowment funds and other QMUL funds held for long-term purposes are covered by this policy, subject to meeting the requirements of any donors, where relevant.

18.2 Funds will be invested in the instruments and in the percentages agreed by the Finance and Investment committee and detailed in the Investment Manager's mandate

18.3 The investment managers will be expected to perform in accordance with agreed investment mandate and their performance will be regularly monitored, by the Director of Finance.

19. Working Capital

19.1 The Director of Finance will make arrangements for debts to be collected promptly, and creditors to be paid in a timely fashion so as to maximise operating cash flow.

20. Borrowings

- 20.1 An overdraft facility may be maintained for operational purposes and a loan facility may also be arranged for the same purpose, but their use will be minimised so as to keep costs down. An overdraft facility will not be used for long-term purposes.
- 20.2 Any proposals for long-term borrowing for funding of projects will be evaluated carefully by the Director of Finance in line with QMUL's financial plan and the objectives of this policy, and will not be undertaken without the express [approval by Council based upon a recommendation from agreement](#) of the Finance and Investment Committee. It will normally be expected that several sources of funds will be evaluated in each case.
- 20.3 Appropriate interest rate hedging, through fixed rates, interest rate swaps and other non-aggressive instruments, will be undertaken to protect QMUL from sharp increases in interest rates on borrowings or to take advantage of lower rates. The balance between protection and loss of flexibility will be evaluated by the Director of Finance with such external advice as he/she considers appropriate. Decisions will be taken by the Finance and Investment Committee, but the Committee may delegate to the Director of Finance the timing of implementation of a proposal so as to allow favourable market conditions to be exploited.
- 20.4 Refinancing of a borrowing arrangement will be considered if the terms are competitive and as favourable as can reasonably be achieved in the light of market conditions prevailing at the time, and will require approval by the Finance and Investment Committee.

21. Foreign Exchange

- 21.1 QMUL will seek to ensure that its transactions involving foreign currency are straightforward. To this end it will:
- Seek where possible to have transactions conducted in sterling rather than foreign currency
 - Avoid speculating on the future value of foreign currencies against the Pound (GBP)
 - Seek wherever possible to keep the administration of foreign currency transactions and holdings simple and low cost in administrative terms
- 21.2 Funds received in Euros or US Dollars will be credited to the Euro or US Dollar bank accounts, which will be maintained at an optimal level in relation to anticipated expenditure and liabilities in respect of European Research Grants.
- 21.3 Costs arising from currency conversion costs will be absorbed by the relevant budget holders for the activity. Changes in the sterling value of approved EU-funded projects will be borne by or credited to the projects, subject to EU rules.

22. Forecasting, Monitoring and Reporting

- 22.1 The Director of Finance will be responsible for preparing appropriate cash flow forecasts at the start of each financial year, for the Finance and Investment Committee. The forecasts will be reviewed periodically during the year to track actual cash flows against planned movements. This will enable the forecasts to be rolled forward as necessary. Monthly cash flow forecasts will be prepared by the [Head of Deputy Director of Finance](#), Financial Management.

22.2 Reports summarising treasury management activity during the reporting period, will be prepared by the Director of Finance for consideration by the Finance and Investment Committee. The average rate of return on investments made during the reporting period should be measured against average bank base rate over the same period, and commentary provided on the return achieved. Commentary on other aspects of activity, including endowment funds and borrowings, will be made as appropriate.

23. Other Matters

23.1 QMUL will conduct its day to day banking with a substantial UK clearing bank. QMUL will re-tender its banking contract from time to time to ensure the most efficient use of its resources.

23.2 The Finance Department staff involved in treasury management will be expected to attend seminars and short courses on relevant topics, in order to ensure that they are up to date with any legal and regulatory changes. Other staff involved in receipt of income will be made aware of the risks of money laundering and required to follow appropriate procedures as outlined in QMUL's Anti-Money Laundering [Policy and Criminal Finance Act Policy](#).

23.3 The treasury management activities of QMUL will be subject to internal and external audit in the normal way.

Appendix A

Staff Authorised to Place and Approve Investments

1. Overnight and Short Term Deposits with QMUL's main bankers.

One of the following:

- General Ledger Manager (once approved by either the Financial Accounting ~~Manager~~ or the Head of Financial Accounting or the Fixed Asset & Cashflow Accountant)
- Financial Accounting ~~Manager~~ Accountant
- Head of Financial Accounting
- Fixed Asset & Cashflow Accountant
- Deputy Director of Finance, Financial Controls

2. CHAPS transfers to External Managers and approved counterparties will be made by:

One of the following, **after** receiving written approval in accordance with the bank mandate:

- General Ledger Manager
- Financial Accounting ManagerAccountant
- Head of Financial Accounting
- Fixed Asset & Cashflow Accountant
- Deputy Director, Financial Controls

Appendix B

Approved Counterparties and Monetary Limits

~~Main QMUL Bankers: Barclays PLC – up to £25 million~~

UK clearing banks:

~~Barclays PLC - up to £30 million~~

~~RBS - up to £3025 million~~

~~Lloyds - up to £3025 million~~

~~HSBC - up to £3040 million~~

~~Santander UK - up to £430 million (instant access)~~

~~Blackrock Sterling Liquidity Fund plus US Dollar and Euro funds – up to £15m sterling equivalent.~~

~~Prime Rate Sterling Liquidity Fund – up to £10 million~~

~~Any other approved counterparty – up to £5 million~~

~~Approved counterparties are derived from the Royal London Cash Management Credit List which they update with regard to a minimum Long term rating of A (Standard & Poors). All institutions to have a sovereign rating of AAA from S&P except UK, France and USA.~~

~~Further bank and building society counterparties approved by the Director of Finance are to be restricted to those with a Moody's and Standard & Poors short term credit rating of P1 and A1 respectively. . All institutions to have a sovereign rating of AAA from S&P except UK, France and USA. Amounts to be invested directly or via Royal London Cash Management Maximum holding of £30 million per institution, whether invested directly or via a Fund Manager.~~

~~Maximum of £10 million invested in AAA rated money market funds.~~

~~Any other investment specifically approved by the Finance and Investment Committee.~~

Appendix C

Glossary of Terms

Bank Rate

The Bank Rate is the official Bank Rate paid on commercial bank reserves, that is, the reserves placed by commercial banks with the Bank of England as part of the Bank of England's operations to reduce volatility in short term interest rates in the money market.

Base Rate

The Base Rate refers to the rate which is set by each high street bank. It is the key factor used to establish their various lending rates to customers. It is normally set at the same rate as the Bank Rate and changes in line with changes in the Bank Rate.

Certificate of Deposit (CD)

A Certificate of Deposit is a bank deposit with a set maturity date and pre-determined, fixed interest rate. Investors receive a certificate which is a negotiable instrument and has a secondary market. The holder of a CD may sell it on to a third party before the maturity date.

Commercial Paper (CP)

Commercial Paper is a short-term note issued by large banks and corporate entities, with a fixed maturity usually between 1 and 270 days. Such instruments are unsecured and usually discounted, although some may be interest bearing.

Counterparty

A Counterparty is a party with whom a transaction is done.

Credit Default Swaps (CDS)

A Credit Default Swap is a contract between two counterparties in which the buyer of the contract makes quarterly payments to the seller of the contract in exchange for a payoff if there is a default by the third party on whom the contract is based. The contract essentially provides a means of insurance to the buyer of the CDS against default by a borrower. The "spread" (effectively the premium paid by the CDS buyer) provides an indication of the perceived risk of a default occurring.

Credit Rating

A Credit Rating is an estimate of the quality of a debt from the lender viewpoint in terms of the likelihood of interest and capital not being paid, and of the extent to which the lender is protected in the event of default. An individual, a firm or a government with a good credit rating can borrow money from financial institutions more easily and cheaply than those who have a bad credit rating.

Credit Rating Agency (CRA)

A Credit Rating Agency is a firm that issues opinions on companies' ability to pay back their bonds. These opinions are often abbreviated on an alpha-numeric scale ranging from AAA to C (or equivalent).

Dealing

Dealing is the process of carrying out a transaction with a Counterparty, including agreeing the terms of an investment. This is usually conducted through a Money Market Broker.

Liquidity

Liquidity refers to an asset that can be turned into cash, or where an asset has the ability to be quickly bought or sold.

Term Deposit (or Time Deposit)

Term Deposit is the generic term for a bank deposit where funds cannot be withdrawn for a fixed period of time. They are also set at a fixed rate of interest.