

The investment strategy for November 2025 is still valid.

Notes:

- FSCS guarantee bank limit has increased to £120,000, only Nationwide is over this limit by £7,952. CCLA sits at above this amount but is not covered by the FSCS Guarantee.
- Additional amount has been transferred to CCLA – bringing our current CCLA investment to £270,547.24.
- Bank of England held the interest rates at 3.75% and the ongoing conflicts across the world are keeping interest rates high.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE: INVESTMENT PLAN 2026-27

2026-27 Investment Plan- (Nov 2025)

The Investment Plan is reviewed annually, changes in the economic climate may give rise to half yearly reviews to ensure that the investments are making the best return for the Parish Council and are accessible when required.

Funds Available for Investing

MPC has approximately £827,665 of cash funds available during 2025/26 (see table below):

Bank Account	Terms	Amount 30.09.25
Unity Trust Current	Instant Access	335,698
Unity Trust Savings	Instant Access	186,600
CCLA Public Sector Deposit fund	Instant Access	85,000
Charity Bank	1 year fixed	32,790
Cambs & County	1 Year Fixed	63,057
Nationwide 45 day saver	45-day notice	124,520
		827,665

Source	Balance at 30.09.25	Comments
General Reserve	£204,101 of which £192,765 is equivalent to 6 months expenditure.	Easy access required in case of emergency need – We are only required to maintain 6 months trading; however, this does not consider the remaining spend
Asset Management Reserve	£107,779	Projects to be reviewed
s106 Reserve	£177,059	Have looked at reserves will be bringing a full updated report TO F&GG.

Table of Fund investments to consider:

The table below shows how I believe we can prudently split the funds based on the reserves and the plans. This is not necessarily how it will be split taking into consideration the available accounts and risks.

Source	Instant Access	45 day notice	100 day notice	6 months	1 year
General Reserve	100,000	35,000	37,000	32,101	
Asset Management Reserve		30,000		10,000	67,779
S106 Reserve	5,000	25,353	25,353	25,353	96,000
Other Reserves – (£172,525)	30,000	34,525	36,000	36,000	36,000
Current Asses & Liabilities	166,201				
Total	301,201	124,878	98,353	103,454	199,779
Current Portfolio	607,298	124,520			95,847

This above Recommendation has considered the remaining 2025/26-year plan and potential spend in 2026/27 and is prudently placed.

- The majority of MPC's available funds should be kept readily accessible with a maximum of 100 days notice.
- It should be possible to invest for longer terms based on plans and obligations part of the AMR, s106 reserve and any reserves which are maintained for periods in excess of 1 year.
- The Investment Plan should be reviewed as MPC's plans for spending s106 and AMR and obligations are agreed to ensure that funds are available when required.
- It should be appropriately placed in line with the village plan and strategy.

Economic Climate

Bank of England base rate is currently 4% the next review is the 6th November 2025 it is predicted that this will remain after the budget announcements made. It is expected to fall by the end of 2026. Current position – 03 November 2025

MPC has £305,367 invested in four accounts – see breakdown below.

Review of existing investment performance:

Institution	Product	Current Investment	Notice Period	Yield (at 28 Feb 2024)	FSCS Yes/No	Credit Rating
CCLA	Public Sector Deposit Fund* (money market fund)	£85,000	On demand	4.03%	n/a	AAAmf (Fitches) Unchanged
Nationwide (issue 1)	45 day Members Business Saver deposit account	£124, 520	45 days	2.65%	Y	AA3 (Moody's) Unchanged
Charity Bank	40 day ethical notice	£32,790	40 day	3.06%	Y	-
Cambs & County	1 Year Fixed	£63,057	1 year	4.35%	Y	

*The Public Sector Deposit Fund is a money market fund specifically designed for the Public Sector. It invests in a diversified portfolio of high-quality sterling denominated deposits and instruments. Its primary aim is to maintain the net asset value of the fund at par. The purchase of shares in the PSDF is not the same as investing in a bank deposit account and is not a guaranteed investment. There is a risk that the value per share may fall below face value.

Investment Options for remainder 2025/26

A review of available investments, open to Parish Councils, which meet MPC's Investment Strategy requirements was undertaken

The **best yields** currently available to Parish Councils are:

Institution	Product	Minimum Investment	Notice Period	Yield (at Feb 2023) Fixed/Variable	FSCS Yes/No	Credit Rating
Charity Bank	Ethical 40 day notice	£1,000	40 days	2.91%V for bals>£25k 3.06%	Y	-
Charity Bank	Ethical 1-Year Business Fixed Rate	£10,000	Matures 1 Year	3.61% F	Y	-
Charity Bank	Ethical 100-day notice	£1,000	100 days	2.94% >£25,000 3.09%	Y	-
Cambridge & Counties Bank	1 yr fixed rate business bond	£50,000	Matures 1 yr	4.20% F	Y	-
Cambridge & Counties Bank	31 day notice	£10,000	31 days	3.80% variable	Y	
Cambridge & Counties Bank	95 day notice	£10,000	95 days	4.20% variable	Y	
Cambridge & Counties Bank	6 months fixed rate bond	£10,000	Matures 6 months	4.25% fixed	Y	

MPC currently has £305,367 invested.

The available additional funds for investment is approximately £221,097.

There are a number of accounts that are not suitable for parish councils so spreading the risk is difficult. We hold a large amount in Unity Trust Bank, which we are to move to CCLA.

Of MPC's existing investment accounts, CCLA is performing well and Nationwide is currently lower than compared to the best new offerings. The Cambs & County investment is performing well.

Cambridge & Counties Bank are offering good returns although one account requires 95 days they only do from 1 year fixed. CCLA offers instant access with a higher yield, however there is risk attached to this account. Cambridge & Counties 1- year fixed rate business bond is the best return currently available to Parish Councils.

Other High street banks do offer savings accounts and the interest rate is significantly lower. This will reduce the overall risk.

Investment Plan Recommended for remainder of 2025/26:

CCLA PSDF – this investment is currently performing well. MPC has an investment by of £85,000. Note that this investment is not the same as a bank deposit. The additional amount from Unity will be moved.

Nationwide 45 day business saver – MPC should reduce the amount held in the account to the FSCS limit of £85,000. – We have requested this but we are having issues with the bank.

Charity Bank 40 days – This account holds £31,270 and should remain.

Cambridge & Counties Bank 1 year fixed bond – this investment will be renewed in November 2025 with and increased to £100,000.

For agreement:

Approach other banks to review the offerings to spread the risks, review the Nationwide account.

We are proposing to explore the possibility of investing in an asset within the community. This would reduce the risk of the £85k and bring in a different type of revenue stream – possibly higher than bank interest rates.

Does reduce the liquidity of not being cash and exposure to more maintenance. Does allow the Parish to ensure it is used for the right reasons.

Consider the village plan inline with the current spread.

Consider RFO becoming a signatory to ensure that the money can be effectively dealt with.

Liquidity breakdown of suggested investments:

	Instant Access	40-45 days	100 days	6 months	1 year
% of funds	36%	15%	12%	13%	24%

The proposed investment plan spreads investments between institutions and account types which spreads risk via diversification.

All investments should be reviewed in March 2026 subject to maturity of bonds or earlier if there is a significant change in interest rates, perceived risk of financial institution failure or economic climate.

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

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(Chair to Melbourn Parish Council)

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