



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: May 9, 2023

SUBJECT:	2023 First Quarter Investment Performance Review
PREPARED BY:	Mark Visser, Acting Treasurer & Sr Manager, Financial Strategy & Investments

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) THAT the report dated May 9, 2023 entitled “2023 First Quarter Investment Performance Review” be received.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Not Applicable

PURPOSE:

Pursuant to Regulation 438/97 Section 8, the Municipal Act requires the Treasurer to “prepare and provide to the Council, each year or more frequently as specified by Council, an investment report”.

The investment report shall contain,

- (a) a statement about the performance of the portfolio of investments of the municipality during the period covered by the report;
- (b) a description of the estimated portion of the total investments of a municipality that are invested in its own long-term and short-term securities to the total investment of the municipality and a description of the change, if any, in that estimated proportion since the previous year’s report;
- (c) a statement by the Treasurer as to whether or not, in his opinion, all investments were made in accordance with the investment policies and goals adopted by the municipality;
- (d) a record of the date of each transaction in or disposal of its own securities, including a statement of the purchase and sale price of each security;
- (e) such other information that the Council may require or that, in the opinion of the Treasurer, should be included.

BACKGROUND:

Not Applicable

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The 2023 budget for Income Earned on Investments is \$14.479 million (an increase of \$3.479 million from the 2022 budget). The \$14.479 million budget is based on a forecasted \$450.0 million average balance invested at an average rate of 3.20%. Note: Interest rates are at levels that have not been seen for decades, which translates into higher investment income. The budget was not fully increased to reflect current rates; however, was set based on what was deemed sustainable over a number of years. As such, it is likely there will be investment income surpluses over the next 12-24 months.

The following table shows the budgeted investment income by quarter. The quarterly budget allocations reflect the projected changing portfolio balances throughout the year.

Period	Avg. Balance	Avg. Rate	Forecast
Q1	\$420.0m	3.22%	\$3,332,153
Q2	\$470.0m	3.22%	\$3,770,270
Q3	\$470.0m	3.22%	\$3,811,701
Q4	\$439.6m	3.22%	\$3,564,875
2023 Budget	\$450.0m	3.22%	\$14,479,000

The first quarter typically has lower average portfolio balances as Markham makes payments to the Region and School Board on December 15th and doesn't begin collecting tax payments again until February. As a result, the Q1 2023 forecast assumes an average general fund portfolio balance of \$420.0 million to be invested at an average rate of return of 3.22%. The actual average portfolio balance was lower than budget, while the average rate of return was greater than budget.

For the three months ending March 31, 2023, the City of Markham's Income Earned on Investments was \$8.649 million, compared to a budget of \$3.332 million, representing a \$5.317 million favourable variance to budget.

Interest Rate

Since March 2022, the Bank of Canada has raised interest rates multiple times. In 2023, the Bank of Canada has made one rate hike of 25 basis points in January, increasing the Prime Rate to 6.7%.

The City's general portfolio investments (including interest charged to reserves with negative balances) had an average interest rate of 5.20%; 198 basis points higher than forecast. Additionally, through the sale of a Principal Protected Note in Q1, the City earned \$3.278 million of capital gains, thereby increasing the rate of return to 8.38%.

The difference in the rate of return accounts for a favourable variance of \$5.328 million.

Portfolio Balance

The forecasted average portfolio balance for Q1 2023 was \$420.0 million. The actual average general fund portfolio balance (including cash balances) for the first quarter of

2023 was \$418.6 million. The lower portfolio balance accounts for an unfavourable variance of \$11,000.

Variance Summary

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Portfolio Balance	\$420.0m	\$418.6m	(\$1.4m)
Interest Rate	3.22%	8.38%	5.16%
Investment Income	\$3.332m	\$8.649m	\$5.317m
Portfolio Balance Variance Impact			(\$0.011m)
Interest Rate Variance Impact			\$5.328m

Portfolio Composition

All investments made in the first quarter of 2023 adhered to the City of Markham investment policy. At March 31, 2023, 37% of the City's portfolio (not including bank balances) was comprised of government issued securities. The remaining 63% of the portfolio was made up of instruments issued by Schedule 1 Banks (Exhibit 1). All of these levels are within the targets established in the City's Investment Policy.

The March 31, 2023 investment portfolio (not including bank balances) was comprised of the following instruments: Bonds 41%, Principal Protected Notes (PPNs) 36%, and GICs 22% (Exhibit 2).

At March 31, 2023, the City's general portfolio balance (all funds excluding DC) was \$530.7 million (including bank balances). The City's portfolio (all funds excluding DCA) was broken down into the following investment terms (Exhibit 3):

Under 1 month	50.6%
1 month to 3 months	1.1%
3 months to 1 year	12.7%
Over 1 year	35.6%
Weighted average investment term	1,382.8 days
Weighted average days to maturity	859.9 days

Money Market Performance

The City of Markham uses the 3-month T-bill rates to gauge the performance of investments in the money market. The average 3-month T-bill rate for the first quarter of 2023 was 4.38% (source: Bank of Canada). Money market investments (including bank balances) held by the City of Markham during the first quarter of 2023 had an average return of 4.59%. Therefore, the City's money market investments outperformed 3-month T-Bills by 21 basis points. See Exhibit 4 for all Money Market securities held by the City of Markham in the first quarter of 2023.

Bond Market Performance

The 2023 YTD highlights of Markham's bond portfolio are as follows:

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- 1 Principal Protected Note (PPN) purchased with a face value of \$5.0 million
 - 1 bond matured with a face value of \$6.3 million
 - 1 Principal Protected Note (PPN) sold with a face value of \$3.0 million
 - \$3.278 million of capital gains earned

See Exhibit 5 for all Bonds held by the City of Markham in the first quarter of 2023.

Outlook

Interest rates are expected to be much more stable than in 2022. The City has limited excess cash for investments, so the strategy for the remainder of 2023 will look towards investment swaps in order to take advantage of changes in the market.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not Applicable

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Not Applicable

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Not Applicable

RECOMMENDED BY:

Trinela Cane, Commissioner, Corporate Services

ATTACHMENTS:

- Exhibit 1 – Investment Portfolio by Issuer
- Exhibit 2 – Investment Portfolio by Instrument
- Exhibit 3 – Investment Terms
- Exhibit 4 – 2023 Q1 Money Market Investments
- Exhibit 5 – 2023 Q1 Bond Market Investments
- Exhibit 6 – 2023 Q1 DCA Fund Investments