

Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2025/26

1. Where the Council finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), although there has been no statutory minimum since 2008. The 'Local Government Act 2003' requires the Council to have regard to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's 'Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision' (the MHCLG Guidance), with revisions relating to MRP most recently issued in 2018.
2. The broad aim of the MHCLG Guidance is to ensure that debt is repaid 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 Revenue Support Grant, reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of that grant.
3. The MHCLG 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. The following statement incorporates options recommended in the Guidance.
4. For capital expenditure incurred before 1 April 2008, and for supported capital expenditure incurred on or after that date, MRP will be determined in accordance with the former regulations that applied on 31 March 2008. For Harlow Council, the adjusted Capital Financing Requirement upon which the MRP is calculated is negative in each year prior to April 2008. The MRP on this portion of CFR is therefore zero. (*Option 1 in England & Wales*)
5. For unsupported capital expenditure incurred after 31 March 2008, with the exception of pump-priming economic development (defined below), MRP will be determined by charging the expenditure over the expected useful life of the relevant asset either in equal instalments, or by using the annuity method, starting in the year after the asset becomes operational. (*Option 3, the "Asset Life method", in England and Wales*)
6. Economic development is defined as the following capital expenditure projects: Harlow Enterprise Zone and Town Centre.
7. For assets acquired by finance leases, MRP will be determined as being equal to the element of the rent or charge that goes to write down the balance sheet liability.
8. Minimum Revenue Provision will not be made in relation to the following specific circumstances:

- Capitalised loan advances to other organisations or individuals made for service purposes. Instead of MRP, the capital receipts arising from the capitalised loan repayments will be used as provision to repay debt. However, revenue MRP contributions would still be required equal to the amount of any impairment of the loan advanced.
- Any capital investment made in projects aligned with Harlow's economic development where third party funding is guaranteed to meet the costs of that investment (repayment of debt principal and interest) and borrowing has been aligned with the life of the economic development.
- Any capital investment made in regeneration projects where those projects are deemed to be viable including the financing and repayment of any associated debt.
- The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is not subject to a statutory requirement to make a minimum revenue provision payment, and is not currently doing so.

9. Capital expenditure incurred during 2025/26 will not be subject to a MRP charge until 2026/27.

10. Based on the Council's latest estimate of its Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) on 31 March 2025, the budget for MRP has been set as follows:

	31.03.2025 Estimated CFR £m	2025/26 Estimated MRP £
Capital expenditure before 01.04.2008	45.0	0
Capital expenditure after 31.03.2008	73.1	1.596
Total General Fund	118.1	1.596
Assets in the Housing Revenue Account	234.1	0
Total Housing Revenue Account	234.1	0
Total	352.2	1.596