




CITY OF HAMILTON
CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Financial Services and Taxation Division

TO:	Chair and Members Audit, Finance and Administration Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	June 6, 2024
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Treasurer's Investment Report 2023 Fiscal Year by Aon (FCS24030) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Rosaria Morelli (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1390
SUBMITTED BY:	Mike Zegarac General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services Corporate Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That Report FCS24030 "Treasurer's Investment Report 2023 Fiscal Year by Aon", as provided to Council, be forwarded to the Hamilton Future Fund Board of Governors for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the regulations thereunder and the City of Hamilton's Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures (the "City's SIPP"), the Treasurer of the City of Hamilton (General Manager, Corporate Services) is presenting to Council the City of Hamilton Reserve Funds Treasurer's Investment Report 2023 Fiscal Year (the "Treasurer's Report"), attached as Appendix "A" to Report FCS24030.

The Treasurer's Report is an investment report for the City of Hamilton Reserve Fund and the Hamilton Future Fund (the "Funds") for the City's fiscal year ending on December 31, 2023 and is prepared by Aon on behalf of the Treasurer of the City of Hamilton. Market value as of December 31, 2023 for the City Reserve Fund was \$1.15 B and Hamilton Future Fund was \$53.3 M.

All investments met the eligibility requirements as prescribed by Ontario Regulation 438/97 ("O. Reg. 438/97") and were made in accordance with the investment policies and goals, the City's SIPP, adopted by the City of Hamilton.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Investment Performance of the Funds

The market rates of return for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2023 were 6.60% for the Reserve Fund and 6.03% for the Hamilton Future Fund. The Reserve Fund outperformed the benchmark rate of return of 4.80% by 1.80%, attributed mostly to its position in longer-maturity bonds, which outperformed bonds with shorter maturities over the year 2023 and especially in the fourth quarter of 2023. The Hamilton Future Fund outperformed the benchmark rate of return of 4.80% by 1.23%, attributed mostly to its greater position in longer maturity bonds versus shorter maturity bonds.

Market rate of return is based on security market value and includes net unrealized gains and losses, net realized gains and losses and income. The market rate of return is provided by RBC Investor & Treasury Services (“RBCITS”), which is also the City’s custodian.

Investment in City of Hamilton Securities

During the fiscal year 2023, the City was invested in its own long-term securities, which had a market value of \$2.8 M or a proportion of 0.25% of the total market value of the Reserve Fund as of December 31, 2023. As of December 31, 2022, the proportion was 0.25%.

Other than this transaction, the City had no other transactions in or disposals of its own securities during the fiscal year 2023 and the City was not invested in its own short-term securities, as was the case during fiscal year 2022.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Not Applicable.

Staffing: Not Applicable.

Legal: Not Applicable.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In accordance with O. Reg. 438/97 and the City’s SIPP, the Treasurer of the City shall prepare and present to Council each year, an investment report on the management of the City’s Funds during the prior fiscal year that complies with section 8 (Investment report) of O. Reg. 438/97 and shall contain, but not be limited to, the following information:

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- a statement about the performance of the investments for the Funds;
- a listing of the types of securities in which the portfolio invested during the period covered by the report;
- a listing of the securities and their credit ratings held by the portfolio at the date of the report;
- a description of the estimated proportion of the total investments of the City 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;
- a record of the date of each transaction in or disposal of its own securities, including a statement of the purchase and sale of each security;
- a statement by the Treasurer as to whether or not, in his opinion, all investments are consistent with the investment policies and goals (the City’s SIPP) adopted by the City;
- a statement by the Chief Investments Officer as to whether or not, in his or her opinion all investments are consistent with the investment policies and goals (the City’s SIPP) adopted by the City;
- such other information that Council may require or that, in the opinion of the Treasurer, should be included.

The investment report, prepared by Aon on behalf of the Treasurer, is the Treasurer’s Report and is attached as Appendix “A” to Report FCS24030.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the City’s SIPP, the Treasurer shall prepare and present to Council each year an investment report on the management of the City’s Funds during the prior fiscal year.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

On behalf of the Treasurer, Aon prepared the Treasurer’s Report, attached as Appendix “A” to Report FCS24030.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

Funds’ Performance (Page 4 of the Treasurer’s Report)

The market rates of return for the Reserve Fund and the Hamilton Future Fund are provided by RBCITS. Table 1 includes these performance returns of the Funds along with the benchmark return over each of the quarters of 2023 and over the one-year and three-year periods ending December 31, 2023, as follows:

Table 1 - Performance Returns

	Q1 2023 %	Q2 2023 %	Q3 2023 %	Q4 2023 %	1 Year %	3 Year %
Benchmark	2.14	-0.84	-1.27	4.81	4.80	-0.89
Reserve Fund	2.92	-0.68	-2.02	6.45	6.60	-0.52
Hamilton Future Fund	2.58	-0.68	-1.63	5.80	6.03	-0.25
Reserve Fund Minus Benchmark	0.78	0.16	-0.75	1.64	1.80	0.37
Hamilton Future Fund Minus Benchmark	0.44	0.16	-0.36	0.99	1.23	0.64

The benchmark for the Funds is composed of 10% of the Financial Times Stock Exchange (“FTSE”) Canada 91-day Treasury Bill Index, 62.5% of the FTSE Canada Short-Term All-Government Bond Index and 27.5% of the FTSE Canada All-Government Bond Index. The FTSE indices track performance returns of the various investments.

For the one-year period ending December 31, 2023, the Reserve Fund outperformed the benchmark by 1.80% and the Hamilton Future Fund outperformed the benchmark by 1.23%. The outperformance of both the Reserve Fund and the Hamilton Future Fund is attributed to their holdings in longer-term bonds, which outperformed bonds with shorter maturities during 2023 and especially in the fourth quarter of 2023.

During the first three quarters of 2023 interest rates mostly increased, and then during the fourth quarter of 2023 interest rates trended downwards as expectations developed that the Bank of Canada would start cutting interest rates in 2024. For example, the yield on the Government of Canada bond with a term to maturity of 10 years was 3.1% as of December 31, 2023, down 0.2% from its yield of 3.3% as of December 31, 2022 and down 1.1% from its peak at 4.2% on October 3, 2023.

Types of Securities (Pages 5 and 6 of the Treasurer’s Report)

The types of securities (and the entities who issue them) which municipalities are permitted to invest in are prescribed by legislation and regulations, including O. Reg. 438/97. The City’s list of securities and approved issuers is provided on Page 5 of the Treasurer’s Report and is set out in the Sector and Issuer Limitations section in the City’s SIPP. The types of securities held during 2023 by the Reserve Fund and the Hamilton Future Fund are provided on Page 6 of the Treasurer’s Report.

Portfolio Securities (Pages 7, 8 and 9 of the Treasurer's Report)

As of December 31, 2023, the total market value (including cash but not including accrued income) of the securities in the Reserve Fund was \$1,152,405,229 of which \$90,109,507 consists of investments in the One Investment Program.

One Investment Program is jointly run by CHUMS (a subsidiary of the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario) and Local Authority Services (a corporation of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario).

As of December 31, 2023, the Reserve Fund held units with a market value of \$84,704,740 in the One Investment Program Canadian Equity Portfolio and held units with a market value of \$5,404,767 in the One Investment Program Canadian Corporate Bond Portfolio.

As of December 31, 2023, the total market value (not including accrued income) of the securities in the Hamilton Future Fund was \$53,336,476 of which \$2,509,958 consists of investments in the One Investment Program Canadian Equity Portfolio.

During the fiscal year 2023, the City was invested in its own long-term securities, which had a market value of \$2,843,706 or a proportion of 0.25% of the total market value of the Reserve Fund as of December 31, 2023. As of December 31, 2022, the proportion was 0.25%.

The City had no other transactions in or disposals of its own securities during the fiscal year 2023 and the City was not invested in its own short-term securities, as was the case during fiscal year 2022.

Restrictions (Pages 10 and 11 of the Treasurer's Report)

Table 2, taken from the Treasurer's Report, shows that as of December 31, 2023, on a combined basis, the Funds were being managed in accordance with the minimum quality requirements, maximum quantity restrictions and all other imposed restrictions.

Table 2 – Restrictions

		Policy Complied With Yes / No
The City shall not invest more than 25% of the portfolio in short-term debt issued or guaranteed by the City		Yes
Total investment in “A” or equivalent rated debt on purchase must not exceed 35% of the market value of the City’s bond portfolio		Yes
The City shall not invest in a security that is expressed or payable in any currency other than Canadian dollars with exception of investments specified in Section 4.07 and footnote 6 of Appendix “A” of the SIPP		Yes
The City shall not invest in a security issued or guaranteed by a school board or similar entity unless the money raised by issuing the security is to be used for school purposes		Yes
	(%)	
Permitted Ranges		
Federal issues	0-100	Yes
Provincial holdings in aggregate	0-100	Yes
Single province exposure	0-50	Yes
Individual non-federal / non-provincial holdings*	0-10	Yes
Non-federal / non-provincial holdings in aggregate	0-50	Yes
Municipal issues*		
Individual muni issue rated “AAA”	0-10	Yes
Individual muni issue rated “AA”	0-10	Yes
Individual muni issue rated “A”	0-5	Yes
Municipal holdings in aggregate	0-30	Yes
Banks and Credit Unions in aggregate	0-50	Yes
Short-term securities	0-50	Yes
Portfolio duration	1-6 Years	Yes

* Except for City of Hamilton issues which have an upper limit of 25%

Table 3, which is additional information to the Treasurer’s Report, shows the Funds’ credit exposure with respect to the approved issuers given in the City’s SIPP.

Table 3 - Credit Exposure¹ (%) – As of December 31, 2023

Issuer or Sector	Reserve Fund	Hamilton Future Fund ² "HFF"	Reserve Fund and HFF Combined	Maximum Limit %
Cash	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	N/A
Canada Bonds				
Bonds	2.5%	0.0%	2.4%	100%
Guarantee	6.0%	11.8%	6.3%	25%
Provincial Bonds				
Ontario	17.0%	12.0%	16.7%	50%
Other (rated AA or higher)	27.2%	38.7%	27.7%	100%
Other (rated A)	6.3%	5.5%	6.3%	20%
Municipal Bonds				
Hamilton	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	25%
Other	18.8%	19.7%	18.8%	30%
Banks and Credit Union				50%
Schedule I Banks	15.6%	7.8%	15.3%	50%
Credit Union	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8%
Asset Backed Securities	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25%
Corporate Bonds	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15%
Commercial Paper and Asset Backed Commercial Paper (ABCP)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20%
One Investment Program				15%
Canadian Equity Portfolio	5.8%	3.4%	5.7%	10%
Canadian Corporate Bond Portfolio	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%	10%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Notes to Table 3:

¹ Credit Exposure refers to the par value of holdings in individual issuers or sectors as a percentage of the total par value of holdings in the fund.

² For the Hamilton Future Fund, Credit Exposure does not reflect the shares of the Hamilton Utilities Corporation, which are held in the Hamilton Future Fund custodial account with RBCITS.

Activity and Transactions (Page 12 of the Treasurer's Report)

During the fiscal year 2023, the total dollar amount of cash inflows for the Reserve Fund was \$307.0 M, consisting of \$135.8 M in sales and maturities, \$35.2 M in investment income and \$136.0 M in contributions / transfers. Cash outflows were also \$307.0 M and consisted of \$153.4 M in purchases and \$153.6 M in distributions.

During the fiscal year 2023, the total dollar amount of cash inflows for the Hamilton Future Fund were \$14.8 M, consisting of \$13.1 M in sales and maturities, \$1.6 M in investment income and \$0.1 M in contributions/transfers. Cash outflows were also \$14.8 M and consisted of \$14.7 M in purchases and \$0.1 M in distributions.

Certificate by Chief Investments Officer (Page 13 of the Treasurer's Report)

The Chief Investments Officer has certified on page 14 of the Treasurer's Report that the Funds were managed in compliance with the *Municipal Act, 2001* and in accordance with the terms, conditions and guidelines stipulated in the City's SIPP.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report FCS24030 – City of Hamilton – Reserve Funds Treasurer's Investment Report 2023 Fiscal Year