

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 18, 2024

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: 2023 ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORT

FROM:

Michael Coroneos, Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, City Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To report to Council on the City's investment portfolio activities during 2023, as required by Ontario Regulation 438/97 (as amended) of the Municipal Act and the City's Investment Policy.

Report Highlights

- The City's investment portfolios generated total investment income of \$60.68 million in 2023, which represents a weighted average income return of 4.84%.
- The managed portfolios, which include Money Market Funds, Bonds and cash earned investment incomes of \$46.83 million, \$0.36 million, and \$10.04 million respectively.
- The majority of the investment income from the managed portfolios were distributed to the City's reserve funds (\$48.68M) and the remaining (\$8.54M) to the operating budget, which helps reduce the tax levy requirement.
- The Alectra promissory note earned \$3.45 million, which also reduced pressures on the tax levy requirement.
- All investments to December 31, 2023 were made in accordance with the City's Investment Policy and compliance with Ontario Regulation 438/97 (as amended) and the Municipal Act.

Recommendations

1. That this report be received for information.

Background

The Municipal Act is the governing legislation for the investment of municipal funds. Ontario Regulation 438/97, as amended, outlines the criteria for eligible investments. The City's investment policy, approved by Council, conforms to this legislation and acts as the governing parameters in managing the City's investment portfolio.

The reporting requirements in the City's investment policy and the Municipal Act require that the Treasurer, or designate, submit an investment report to Council annually, including a management summary that provides an analysis of the status of the current investment portfolio and transactions completed over the last year.

Previous Reports/Authority

[2022 ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORT](#)

Analysis and Options

The Financial Planning and Development Finance Department manages the investment portfolio for the City with a book value of approximately \$1,139 million (cash and investments) as of December 31, 2023 (\$1,199 million in 2022), as outlined in Attachment 1. These investments consist of the cash requirements for day-to-day operations and funds held in reserves, reserve funds and other accounts of the Corporation. The credit quality of all investments adheres to the City's Investment Policy and the Ontario Regulation 438/97 (as amended) of the Municipal Act.

2023 City of Vaughan Investment Portfolios

During 2023, the City's investment portfolios generated investment income in the amount of \$60.68 million, which represents a weighted average earned income return of 4.84%. As a basis of year-over-year comparison, the City's investment income was \$31.09 million in 2022, which represented a weighted average earned income return of 2.25%. The Bank of Canada raised its benchmark interest rate 3 times in 2023 as a measure to contain and lower high rates of inflation. The City's portfolio kept a large portion of its assets in short term investments to take advantage of rising rates. This approach allowed matured funds to re-invest at much higher rates resulting in an increase in investment income.

The table below provides a summary of the investment breakdown by portfolios.

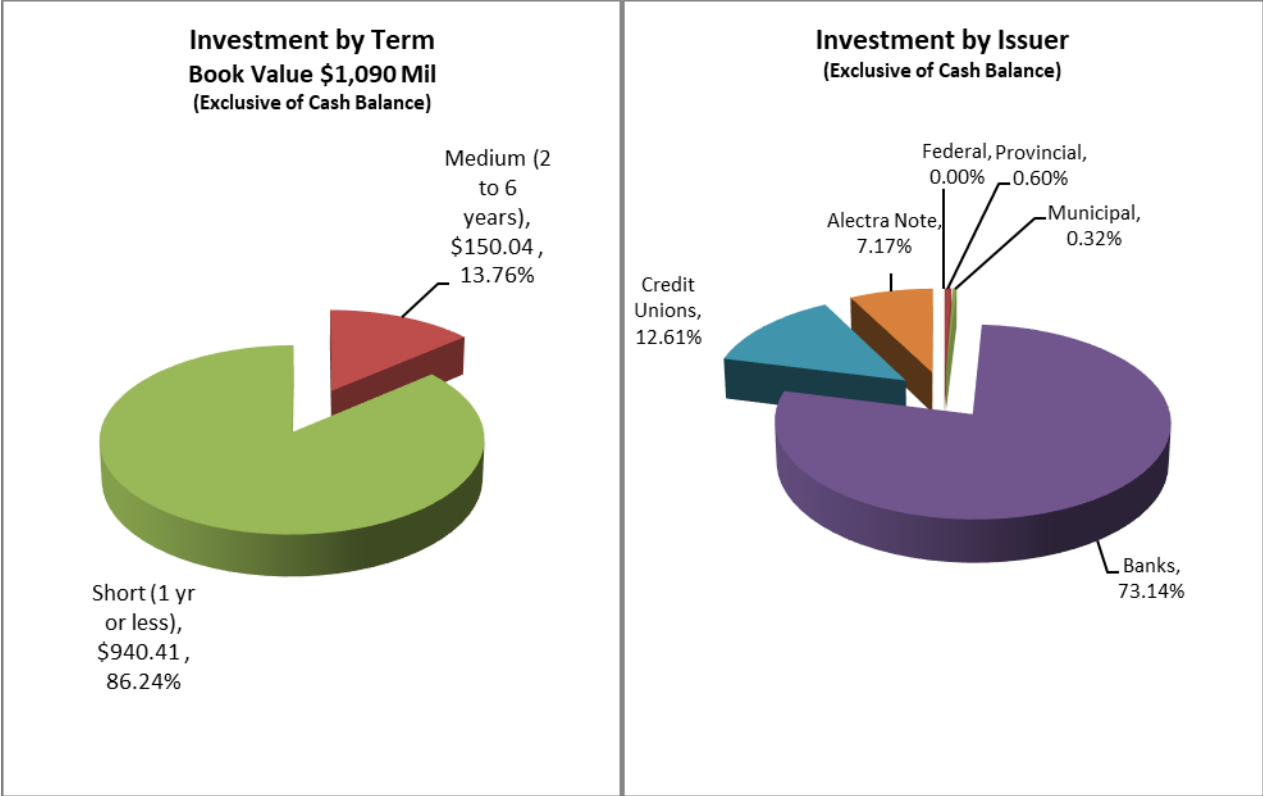
Portfolio Summary as at Dec 31, 2023	Book Value Mil (\$)	Earned Income Mil (\$)¹
Money Market Portfolio	927.50	46.83
Bond Portfolio	84.71	0.36
Alectra Note	78.24	3.45
Subtotal Investments	\$ 1,090.45	\$ 50.64
Cash in Bank	49.11	10.04
Total Investments	\$ 1,139.56	\$ 60.68
¹ Earned Income includes interest income, realized gain/loss, other income, bond amortization, less expenses (excludes unrealized gain/loss)		
² Maturity May 31, 2024 re: Alectra Note		

The Money Market portfolio (total holdings of \$927.50 million) averaged a rate of return of 5.25% outperforming the 90-day average T-bill rate of 4.74%. The cash balance held in the City's bank account earned an average rate of return of 4.94%, which is higher than the average one-month Banker's Acceptance Money Market instrument of 4.91%. The Bond Fund portfolio and the Alectra Note (total holdings of \$162.95 million) earned an average rate of return of 2.44%, which includes interest income and realized capital gains. The majority of earned income excluding the Alectra note was distributed to the City's reserves and reserve funds and the remaining recognized as operating revenues. Higher interest rates in 2023 resulted in greater earned income compared to the previous year.

The City's investment program has a dual focus on providing liquidity for the day-to-day operations and long-term reserve management. This dual focus has transformed the investment portfolio to become more diversified in its holdings in both investment terms and financial institutions / issuers with high quality credit ratings that comply with the City's Investment Policy. The shift to reserve management is aligned with the City's fiscal framework and long-term financial sustainability.

Summary of Holdings

The following charts provide summary overviews of the City's current holdings by both term and issuer. Details of these holdings are included in Attachment 1.



Outlook for 2024

Most economists believe that the Bank of Canada rate hikes are now behind us, as the Canadian economy is beginning to show signs of a slowdown and inflation trajectory is lower. Market analysts believe that there is a possibility of rate cuts in 2024. As the Canadian economy slows along with uncertainty of the direction of interest rates, volatility in capital markets is expected. Staff will continue with the City’s conservative approach to asset allocation and seek out opportunities to enhance portfolio return.

Financial Impact

The investment income generated from the investment portfolio in 2023 totaled \$60.68 million. The majority of the income from managed portfolios was distributed to the City’s reserve funds and the remaining portion recognized as operating revenues. The 2023 Operating Budget for Investment Income was \$2.00 million (based on an average return of 1.75%); actual Investment Income was \$8.54 million, or \$6.54 million higher than budgeted, which contributed to the surplus reported in the City’s 2023 year-end Fiscal Health Report.

The City's investment portfolio includes a promissory note from Alectra but excludes the City's investment in Vaughan Holdings Inc. The dividends received from Vaughan Holdings Inc. are reported separately through the City's annual financial reports.

Operational Impact

Not applicable

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Not applicable

Conclusion

In 2023, the City's investment portfolio generated investment income of \$60.68 million. Investment income, which were deposited to reserves and reduced the tax levy. Investments were made in compliance with the City's Investment Policy approved by Council and the Ontario Regulation 438/97 (as amended) of the Municipal Act.

For more information, please contact:

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Attachments

1. Listing of Securities Held as at December 31, 2023
2. Investments Held by Sector as at December 31, 2023

Prepared by

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