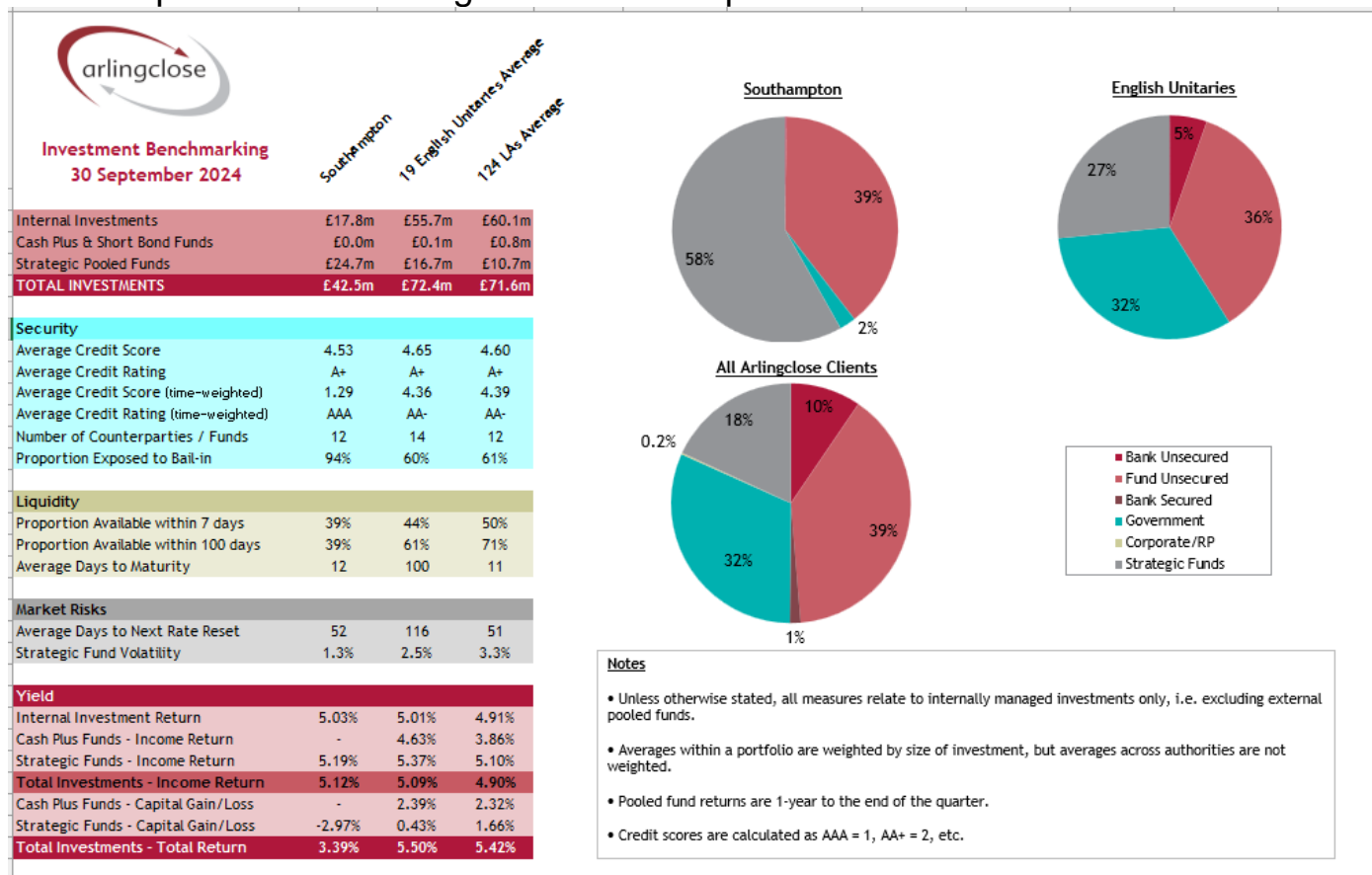


Southampton Benchmarking Scores 30th September 2024

The above highlights:

- Our internal investment balances have fallen to offset the need for borrowing and are about 1/3rd of the average LA's £17.8M as opposed to £60.1M.
- Internal investments average yield at 5.03% is slightly above average,
- We have maintained an average credit rating of A+ in line with average other Local Authorities and higher than English Unitary, whilst achieving a higher income return at 5.12% compared to 5.09% and 4.90%.
- We hold 58% of our investments in strategic funds which offer higher return over the long term, which is higher than the average but not unexpected as our cash flows have reduced. The capital value of our external strategic funds has fallen increased slightly by £0.04M in the last quarter, which is consistent across all local authorities that hold funds in pooled property funds. The income return over the longer term was and remains the driver to invest, although this is kept under review.