

E14.8 Percival

(i)

This represents a major project for Percival plc and the method it chooses to finance it will impact considerably on the company's financial structure. Therefore the impact on the company's cost of capital must be considered. The additional cost of capital is not just the 9% of the debentures because the issue of the debentures will also affect the cost of the existing equity. The new overall cost of capital for Percival needs to be calculated to evaluate the project.

It may be assumed that the market value of the company's equity is determined by the level of dividends and the equity cost of capital and that the project should not be undertaken unless it increases shareholder wealth (the market value of the equity).

Cost of equity, assuming that the current level of dividends is maintained:

$$\frac{15p}{£1.20} = 0.125 \text{ or } 12.5\%$$

£1.20

If the project goes ahead then the financial risk will increase and the cost of equity will increase to $12.5\% + 3\% = 15.5\%$

WACC

Current position

	Market value		
	£		£
Equity capital	10,000,000	12.5%	1,250,000
Debentures	<u>1,000,000</u>	9.0%	<u>90,000</u>
	<u>11,000,000</u>		<u>1,340,000</u>

$$\text{The current WACC} = \frac{1,340,000}{11,000,000} = 12.18\%$$

The new WACC (if the project goes ahead) can be calculated after the new market value of equity has been calculated - see part (ii).

New market value of equity		
	£	£
Current annual earnings available for dividends, before interest		1,340,000
New project annual earnings before interest		<u>200,000</u>
		1,540,000
Interest		
Current debentures	90,000	
New debentures	<u>135,000</u>	225,000
Earnings per annum in perpetuity if the project goes ahead		
available for dividends		<u>1,315,000</u>

The new cost of equity is 15.5%

Therefore, the new market value of the equity is $£1,315,000/15.5\% = £8,483,870$

Less the current market value of equity £10,000,000

Loss in shareholder wealth if project goes ahead £1,516,130

Therefore the project should not be undertaken by Percival plc.

(ii)

The project may be unacceptable because it is fundamentally unprofitable, or because of the method of financing.

The project can be evaluated using the current WACC of 12.18% and we can also investigate how the method of financing and change in capital structure has affected the project.

Project evaluation using the WACC of 12.18%

Total earnings per annum before interest, from i) above, of £1,540,000 can be valued at $£1,540,000/0.1218 = £12,643,678$

If the market value of the total debentures £2,500,000 (£1,000,000 + £1,500,000) is deducted from this the result is the market value of equity of £10,143,678.

This is an increase of £143,678 in shareholders' wealth above the current value due to the project, and using the current WACC.

Impact of change in capital structure

	New market value		
	£		£
Equity	8,483,870	15.5%	1,315,000
Current debentures	1,000,000	9.0%	90,000
New debentures	<u>1,500,000</u>	9.0%	<u>135,000</u>
	<u>10,983,870</u>		<u>1,540,000</u>

$$\text{New WACC} = \frac{\underline{\pounds 1,540,000}}{\pounds 10,983,870} = 14\%$$

Market value at 12.18% if Percival plc had maintained its WACC	= £12,643,678
Market value at 14% new WACC	= <u>£10,983,870</u>
Decrease in shareholder wealth due to change in WACC	= <u>£1,659,808</u>

The two reasons for the total loss in shareholder wealth can be reconciled with the total calculated in (i) above.

	£
Project NPV at current WACC	143,678
Effect of method of financing	<u>1,659,808</u>
Loss in shareholder wealth	<u>1,516,130</u>