

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

DATE	09/11/2023
REPORT OF	Sharon Wroot – Executive Director Place and Resources
SUBJECT	Statement of Accounts
STATUS	Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIM

The publication of the annual Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement supports the Council's overall commitment to openness and transparency.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council is required to prepare a Statement of Accounts which presents a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions during the financial year. This is accompanied by an Annual Governance Statement which provides assurance as to the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To approve the updated Annual Governance Statement for 2022/2023
- To approve the Statement of Accounts for 2022/2023.
- To agree the joint Management and Audit and Governance Committee response to external audit's (Mazars) request for information.
- To note the updated Going Concern Assessment.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The Council is required to inform local residents and taxpayers how money is spent. There is a statutory requirement to publish accounts and details of spending on an annual basis, alongside an annual governance statement.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

The Council is required to comply with the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting' which specifies the principles and practices of accounting required to give a 'true and fair' view of the financial position, financial performance, and cash flows of a local authority.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to prepare and publish its approved draft and audited accounts by 31st May and 31st July respectively. However, as part of Governments ongoing response to the Redmond Review, the statutory deadline for publishing the 2022/2023 audited accounts was extended to 30th September 2023.

Delays to the achievement of the statutory deadline for the publication of the audited accounts are allowed for under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2022. The timely delivery of the 2022/2023 audit of the Council's accounts has been impacted by external audit capacity.

The Annual Governance Statement, which provides assurance that the Council's

governance arrangements and system of control are robust and reflect the principals of the Code of Corporate Governance, is attached at Appendix 1.

The 2022/2023 draft accounts, as approved for issue by the Executive Director Place and Resources, are attached at Appendix 2. The accounts have been updated to reflect any changes that have been actioned during the audit process.

The Councils external auditors are required to make annual enquiries of Management and the Audit and Governance Committee (representing 'those charged with governance') as part of their audit procedures. Responses to the key questions for the year ended 31 March 2023 are included in Appendix 3.

The 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting' also requires the Council to prepare its financial statements on a going concern basis. The current going concern assessment of management is included at Appendix 4.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Statement of Accounts are an opportunity for the Council to provide local residents and taxpayers within the Borough details of its financial performance and position.

Failure to produce the Statement of Accounts in accordance with the statutory timetable could lead to negative reputational issues and an adverse opinion from the Council's external auditor.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

The Statement of Accounts are published on the Council's website alongside the audit report once complete.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Statement of Accounts provide details of financial spending and transactions on an annual basis.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The Statement of Accounts provides details, where applicable, of any climate change and environmental implications.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As detailed above, the publication of the Statement of Accounts complies with the requirement to inform local residents and taxpayers how money is spent.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The publication of the Statement of Accounts is a statutory requirement. There are no other legal issues immediately arising from the content of this report.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications arising from the contents of this report.

10. WARD IMPLICATIONS

All wards affected.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 1).

Statement of Accounts (Appendix 2).

Joint Management and Audit and Governance Committee response to request for information (Appendix 3).

Going Concern Assessment (Appendix 4).

12. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Guy Lonsdale, Assistant Director - Finance (Deputy S151 Officer)

SHARON WROOT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – PLACE AND RESOURCES

2022/23

North East Lincolnshire Council

Annual Governance Statement



Stronger Economy: Stronger Communities. **Together we can be stronger.**

Executive Summary

North East Lincolnshire Council fully recognises its responsibility for having effective governance and internal control arrangements in place. This is demonstrated by its commitment to the principles of good governance as identified in Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016.

The annual review of the Council's arrangements, as described in this Annual Governance Statement, provides assurance that its governance arrangements and system of control are robust and reflect the principles of the Code of Corporate Governance. Over the coming year the Council will take steps to further, strengthen its governance arrangements as highlighted in section 7.

Signed:

Cllr. Philip Jackson
Leader of the Council

Date

Rob Walsh
Head of Paid Service

Date

1. Introduction

North East Lincolnshire Council (the Council) is required by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, regulation 10(1), to prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) in order to report on the extent to which we comply with our Local Code of Corporate Governance. This Statement provides an overview of how the Council's governance arrangements operate, including how they are reviewed annually to ensure they remain effective. A summary of significant issues/challenges that the Council faces is also given. This provides transparency and gives assurance that the Council is committed to continuous improvement in the way in which it functions.

The 2022/23 AGS reported that the review of governance arrangements had identified four main areas where the Council would need to focus its efforts during 2022/23 to address changing circumstances and challenges identified. These were:

- Children and Family services
- Programme management/Project Management
- The capacity to deliver Council outcomes
- Health and Social Care System

As part of the compilation of the AGS the current position in relation to these areas was reviewed and consideration given as to whether they remained areas of focus in 2023/24 (See section 6).

2. Scope of Responsibility

The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

3. The Purpose of the Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, culture and values by which the authority is directed and controlled and those activities through which it accounts to, engages with, and leads its communities. It enables the authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood and potential impact of those risks being realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The governance framework has been in place at North East Lincolnshire Council for the year ended 31 March 2023 and up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts.

4. The Governance Framework

The Council adopted a Council Plan covering the period 2022-2025 in February 2022. The refresh of the Plan was approved by Full Council on 22 February 2023. The Council has defined its key strategic priorities as, all people should:

- Reach their full potential through skills and learning
- Benefit from a green economy and high quality environment
- Enjoy good health and wellbeing
- Benefit from a strong local economy
- Live in a safe environment, can have their say about things that are important to them and participate fully in their community

Good governance processes are critical in supporting the delivery of strategic outcomes. The Council operates to a Code of Corporate Governance, which forms part of the Constitution. It is based on the guidance provided by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Government Chief Executives (SOLACE) “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government – a framework” (April 2016). It was subjected to its annual review in December 2022 to ensure that it reflected the Council’s current governance arrangements and the revisions made were approved by the Audit & Governance Committee in February 2023.

[The Constitution | NELC \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](https://nelincs.gov.uk)

It is based on the following principles:

- A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
- B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
- C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits
- D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes
- E. Developing the entity’s capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
- F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management
- G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

5. Review of the Effectiveness of the Governance Framework

The Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The Council’s Corporate Governance Group, made up of the Council’s key senior officers with governance role and chaired by the Executive Director Place and Resources, is responsible for coordinating this review.

The three lines of assurance model is central to the review of effectiveness as follows:

First Line of Assurance – Management of the control environment at delivery/operational level

Each Assistant Director is annually required to complete an annual self-assessment as to how they seek assurance that their services/functions comply with each of the seven principles. This showed that the principles in the main are embedded in practice in all significant areas of the Council's operations. Two issues were consistently highlighted as a concern, these being capacity and budget constraints.

In addition, Directors produce reports for Cabinets, Scrutiny and the Audit and Governance Committee which provide assurance on governance and the control environment in specific areas e.g.

- **[Adult Social Care and National Health Service Statutory Complaints and Compliments Annual Report 2021/22](#)** – reported to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel 22 March 2023. It provides an overview of the complaints received by the North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NELCCG). It also highlights service improvements implemented as a result of a complaint. During 2021/22 47 complaints were received by NELCCG, an increase of 2 on the previous year. 27 of these related to adult social care complaints, an increase of 4 from the previous year. During the year 58 claims were closed and of these 25 were either upheld or partially upheld. 53 compliments were received during the year which represents a fall of 35%.
- **[Childrens Social Care Statutory Complaints and Compliments](#)** – reported to Cabinet 23 August 2023. It provides an overview of the activity and analysis of complaints and compliments, and the lessons learnt and improvements identified. During 2022/2023 the Council received 91 stage 1 complaints and 9 compliments concerning children's social care statutory services. This compares with 105 and 32 in 2021/22. 33% of stage one complaints were not upheld.
- **[Director of Public Health Report \(DPHAR\) 2022](#)** – reported to Cabinet 21 December 2022. This DPHAR has been produced by the Greater Lincolnshire (GL) public health team as part of the GL pilot. The report provides an opportunity for the Council to recognise the key challenges and opportunities facing its distinct geographical areas. The report makes recommendations for future focus, to help ensure resources are allocated most appropriately and residents supported as best as possible.
- **[Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021/22](#)** - reported to the Health and Adults Social Care Scrutiny Panel 1 February 2023. This sets out the activities and work undertaken by North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board and its members to deliver on the aims and objectives of its Strategic Plan. It also includes performance data including the number of concerns received.
- **[Safeguarding Children Partnership 2021/22](#)** – reported to Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel 20 July 2023. The report outlines what the Partnership has achieved, further developments and priorities for the following year.

Second Line of Assurance - (oversight of management activity and separate from those responsible for delivery)

As part of the process for completing the AGS those responsible for the oversight of management activity, separate from those responsible for deliver were asked to provide statements on the overall operation of the control environment in their particular areas of oversight:

- **Assurance provided by the Monitoring Officer in relation to operating within the rule of the law and constitutional arrangements including member code of conduct** – no material issues were identified although it is recognised that education, training and socialisation of internal governance controls and processes can be improved upon. Work is in progress to better understand areas of weakness and how best to improve knowledge and therefore compliance.
- **Assurance provided by the Head of People and Culture on human resources policy frameworks and arrangements** – this identified issues around compliance with IR35 regulations and services engaging temporary workers outside of our procured arrangements and agreed practices
- **Assurance provided by the Deputy Section 151 Officer on finance issues** - no material issues were identified.
- **Assurance provided by the Health and Safety Manager** – all key work locations have a Site Safety Log which they maintain to demonstrate compliance with the Health and Safety policies and the safety management system requirements. This year, the team have started a targeted campaign to further enhance the Building Responsible Persons understanding of their role and key activities. This involves a full re-write of the supporting documentation and role requirements, re-launch and delivery of improved training associated with the role and responsibilities.
- **Assurance provided by the Strategic Lead Business Practice and Performance** – no material issues were identified. Arrangements for the handling and responding of Subject Access Requests within statutory deadlines, continues to be reviewed and developed.
- **Assurance provided by the Assistant Director Policy Strategy and Resources** – through the new operating model that was implemented from 1st August 2022 the Council has created a new corporate function focussed on Business Practice and Performance. It intends to develop a new performance framework during 2023/24.

The Ofsted report published in October 2021 identified ineffective performance management arrangements in Children's Services, stating that they did not provide senior leaders with an accurate understanding of practice quality, or children's experiences, to drive service improvement or target resources where needed. This is being addressed through the Sector Led Improvement Partnership (SLIP) arrangement that is implementing the Improvement Plan for Children's Services.

Recent monitoring visits have acknowledged significant improvements in practice and together with recent senior appointments provide evidence of progress and increased confidence in the service.

In addition, a range of reports is produced annually or throughout the year which provide assurance from a second line perspective e.g.

- [CIPFA Code of Financial Management Self-Assessment](#) – reported to Audit and Governance Committee 13 July 2023. The Financial Management Code (FM Code) provides guidance for good and sustainable financial management in local authorities. By complying with the principles and standards within the Code authorities will be able to demonstrate their financial sustainability.

A self-assessment of the Council's current standing against each of the Financial Management Standards has been carried out. The self-assessment concluded that the Council has strong financial leadership and management which is underpinned by clear financial strategy. There is good engagement through the financial planning process which is underpinned by an integrated budget and commissioning process. Further work is being undertaken to improve external engagement.

Through the Council's system of internal control, there is a clear accountability framework in place for budgetary control with regular and clear financial reporting. A more integrated approach to finance and performance reporting has been developed for 2023/24. Challenge and review processes are embedded through the audit and governance committee, scrutiny and internal business case processes.

The Council complies with the CIPFA code for capital finance in local authorities and its statutory obligations in respect of budget setting. The Council has a clear and affordable capital investment strategy which is underpinned by robust business development framework. Challenging economic conditions have been acknowledged.

Financial challenges linked to increasing social care demand are acknowledged and the Council's ability to deal with these challenges will be informed by the outcome of the new Local Government funding model.

- [Annual Review of the Constitution](#) – a review was conducted by the Monitoring Officer and the amendments were reported to Full Council on 25 May 2023. Various changes were made to the Constitution including the Scheme of Delegation. It also included a review of the Council's scrutiny arrangements.
- [Annual Fraud Report 2022/23](#) – reported to Audit and Governance Committee 20 April 2023. It highlighted the work that has been undertaken for the prevention and detection of fraud, corruption and financial misconduct. No issues of material concern were identified.

- [Annual Scrutiny Report 2022/23](#) – this was reported to Full Council on 25 May 2023. It provided a summary of the work undertaken by Scrutiny in 2022-23 and outlined future work programmes.
- [Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2022/23](#) – reported to Audit and Governance Committee 20 April 2023 and Full Council 27 July 2023. It summarises the activities of the Committee and demonstrates how it has discharged its duties. It also reports on the outcome of the Audit Committee’s self-assessment against good practice. No issues of non-compliance were identified.
- **Capital Programme Quarterly Update Reports** – the Estates and Business Development Manager, provides quarterly update reports on the delivery of the Capital Programme to the Corporate Governance Group and Major Projects Group. These reports provide an update on the overall status and highlight any specific risks, including slippage on projects. Any significant risks identified in relation to delivery could impact on the delivery of the Councils Economic and Financial Strategy, therefore mitigation may be required, and further actions agreed. The Major Projects group can also share lessons learned with Project leads from project exceptions. In recent months, some projects have quoted increased construction costs, as a result of the current economic climate.
- [Annual Equality Report](#) – reported to Cabinet 23 August 2023. It provides an overview of equalities activity and achievements at the Council over the year and outlines key activities planned for the future year. It includes key information about the Council’s workforce and its community. It provides a brief commentary on some of the key data, particularly where there has been a notable change over time, or where the local population needs are different to that of the general population.
- [Information Governance and Security Annual Governance Report 2022/23](#) – reported to the Audit and Governance Committee 20 April 2023. This report outlines the key Information Governance activities undertaken by the Council in the calendar year 2022 and provides assurance that the Council across all of its work areas and functions remains compliant with its legal obligations and follows good practice. Four incidents met the criteria requiring reporting to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO), who determined that no further action was necessary. A further two incidents were reported to the ICO by the data subject, one is still under investigation, whilst for the other the ICO required the Council to take steps to improve its information rights practices.
- [Our Green Annual Report](#) – reported to Cabinet 8 March 2023. The report sets out the Council’s aspirations and progress in relation to the following three strategies and its contribution to delivering net zero by 2030:
 - North East Lincolnshire Council’s Waste Management Strategy (2020)
 - North East Lincolnshire Council’s Carbon Roadmap (2021)
 - North East Lincolnshire Council’s Natural Assets Plan (2021)

In December 2022, a Motion was approved by Full Council for a commitment to reinforce and accelerate the Borough's contribution to tackling the effects of climate change by committing to faster progress with a view to achieving a net zero carbon impact by the Council and its assets by 2030. By accelerating its plans and bringing forward its net zero carbon emissions target, the Council aims to take advantage of the benefits this will bring: financial, environmental, and public health. In achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030 it aims to empower local business and communities to achieve their own carbon targets and climate initiatives.

- [Partnership Stocktake](#) – reported to Audit & Governance Committee 2 February 2023. The report provides the Committee with a summary of the Council's key partnerships, the governance arrangements for managing them, and any current key risks and challenges relating to them.
- [Risk Management Annual Report](#) – reported to the Audit and Governance Committee on 13 July 2023. It was concluded that arrangements for managing risk within the council are appropriate. There is evidence that risk is taken seriously and there is an understanding of the need to get risk management right. There is also an understanding and consistent implementation of the risk management framework.
- [Treasury Management Policy and Statement Strategy Statement](#) – reported to Cabinet 22 February 2023 and Full Council 23 February 2023. The Statement conformed with Treasury Management regulations and no material breaches were reported.
- [Treasury Management Outturn](#) – this was reported to the Audit and Governance Committee on 13 July 2023. This provided assurance that the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements.
- [Value for Money Annual Report 2022/23](#) - prepared by the Deputy Section 151 Officer and reported to the Audit and Governance Committee 20 April 2023. This report summarises activity during 2022/23 and identifies additional actions for 2023/24 and beyond. A range of service reviews have been undertaken during 2022/23, with further service reviews planned across all areas of the Council's activities in 2023/24. It was concluded that the Council has effective arrangements in place for the achievement of Value for Money.

Third Line of Assurance (independent oversight)

Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge

In February 2023, the Local Government Association conducted a peer review of the Council. The outcome of this peer review was reported to Cabinet on 14 June 2023 [6.- Corporate-Peer-Challenge-Report.docxPDF-358KBicon-namepaperclip-prefixfa.pdf \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#). The peer team noted the strength of our partnerships, particularly with health, our ambitions for regeneration, our relationship with government and the enthusiasm and commitment of our workforce. A number of areas were identified for improvement including: the need to clarify and communicate priorities; strengthen our approach on skills, equality, diversity and inclusion; address the financial position and

member understanding and maximise opportunities to deliver our net zero ambition. An action plan has been agreed to address the recommendations and work is in train to provide assurance of implementation to the Corporate Review Peers as part of an on-site review scheduled for November 2023.

Head of Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion 2022/23 – was reported to the Audit and Governance Committee 13 July 2023. The report provided satisfactory assurance on the Council’s systems of internal control, governance and risk management. It identified the need to further develop systems of internal control within Children’s Services and potential challenges around organisational capacity.

External Audit – the Council submitted its statement of accounts for audit in accordance with the prescribed deadline. The Council’s External Auditors, Mazars, were timetabled to provide an opinion on the statement of accounts by 30 September 2023. However due to capacity issues within the sector this external audit deadline has not been met. It should be noted that only 1% of local government audits were completed in line with the statutory deadline. Further updates on progress will be provided by Mazars through the Audit and Governance Committee.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (Ofsted)

As reported in the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement in November 2021 following an inspection of the Council’s provision of services to Look After Children it was provided with an inadequate rating. In 2022/23 there has been two subsequent monitoring visits by OFSTED. The outcomes were as follows:

- Monitoring Visit Dec 22: “Permanence planning for children has not improved since the standard inspection in November 2021. Too many children experience delay in their need for permanence being assessed, planned and achieved. The constant high turnover of social workers and managers is resulting in children’s assessments being delayed and restarted without timely conclusion.”
- Monitoring Visit Feb 23 “Since the last monitoring visit, the senior leadership team has been strengthened and an enhanced level of sector-led improvement partnership work is in place. Leaders recognise the need to increase political and corporate understanding, scrutiny and continued investment, to ensure that there are the right conditions and infrastructure to drive the whole service improvements that are required.”
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Inspection (March 2022):
 - [50183876 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspections/50183876)

The Inspection concluded that “the area has made sufficient progress in addressing all three of the significant weaknesses identified at the (previous) inspection.”

- Recent Children’s Homes Inspections:

Children's Home Ofsted Placement Code	Date of Full Inspection	Most recent full inspection Judgement
SC033127	11/10/2022	GOOD
SC477428	12/12/2022	GOOD
SC069618	05/09/2022	REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT TO BE GOOD
SC394101	17/08/2022	REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT TO BE GOOD
2563216	10/05/2023	GOOD, PENDING QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESS
2594189	21/11/2022	REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT TO BE GOOD
SC441553	14/09/2022	REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT TO BE GOOD

- Youth Justice services in North East Lincolnshire were rated as 'Good' in an inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP).

Other External Inspections and peer reviews - other Inspections have taken place in year:

- Independent Sector Providers of social care who are commissioned by the Council are audited by the CQC. Current care home inspection figures show that 85% are rated good, 3% are rated outstanding, 9% require improvement and 3% (one home) is inadequate. All four supported living providers registered in NEL are rated good and 70% of support at home providers are rated good
- The newly Qualified Social Worker Programme (ASYE) delivered by Focus Independent Adult Social Work was reviewed by Skills for Care. This showed significant improvement in delivery following the development of new posts to lead this work in Focus. It was reported that there are areas to work on but the process recognised solid and improved performance
- PSN Code of Connection IT Health Check – one action outstanding to be completed by the supplier once the mitigation/patch is available
- The NHS Data Security and Protection Toolkit assessment – for 2022/23 met the required standard
- The Fishing Heritage Centre passed their Visit England Quality Assured Visitor Attraction assessment this year with a very good overall score of 87%
- General Register Office Local Authority Annual Performance Report - annual assurance to the Registrar General in relation to service delivery, performance, public protection & counter fraud and the requirements set out in the Registration Acts
- The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities - the inspection found the facility to be operating in accordance with the three key areas of compliance. In addition, the Crematorium Inspector found an excellent level of service provision and did not feel it necessary to make any recommendations

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman - the Ombudsman is responsible for independently investigating complaints that have not been resolved by the organisation. Its Annual Letter was issued in July 2023. Of the eight complaints referred to the Ombudsman during the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 seven were upheld.

6. Progress on areas identified as areas of focus in 2022/23

The position as of May 2023 as reported by the relevant officers is as follows:

- **Children and Family Services**

Following the Ofsted inspection in October 2021 which graded the Council's Children's Social Care as inadequate, a formal Improvement Board has been formed, chaired by the Department for Education (DfE) Commissioner. The Local Authority continues to be subject to quarterly monitoring visits by Ofsted and the November 2022 letter has been published on their website, along with their follow up visit and letter published March 2023. The revised Improvement plan has been further strengthened to address the challenges and risks identified and formally signed off 6 April 2023. This continues to be overseen by the Continuous Improvement Board and a Board made up of cross party elected members.

- **Programme Management**

Project and programme management is critical to the delivery of the Council's regeneration and transformation agendas. Major projects and programmes follow a governance route that assesses the business case against HM Treasury 5 case model (strategic, economic, commercial, financial and management case) before being taken forward. The Council is working alongside Government and private investors to regenerate and accelerate growth across the Borough. Major projects such as the South Humber Industrial Investment Programme (SHIIP), Cleethorpes Masterplan and the Town Centre regeneration programme are factored into the Council's capital investment programme. A Major Projects group is established to review and challenge the delivery of key capital projects. The main focus of the group has been on regeneration projects, and this is to expand in 2023 to include other major projects such as schools' capital projects

In addition, the Council has an ambitious transformation programme, particularly in relation to the challenges within Children and Family Services which is supported by multi-disciplinary teams. During 2022 the Council made major changes to the support structures for service transformation projects, and work is on-going to ensure that corporate support capacity is focussed on projects and programmes linked to strategic priorities. Revised guidance has been developed and launched for managers to enable them to undertake smaller projects themselves using the same service design and agile principles that are deployed corporately. This approach will continue to develop during 2023.

- **Capacity**

2023 succession planning is underway to review and refresh our plans and ensure we have clear actions plans in place for identified internal successors to key roles or where we would be seeking external recruitment. We have successfully made appointments from our graduate programmes into permanent roles across the Council as well as people identified as part of succession planning in 2022. The Council continues to invest in our “grow your own” initiatives with opportunities for interns and undergraduate summer placements and the two year graduate programme. This year we have introduced 3 centrally funded business support apprentices.

Academy NEL will be launching a number of modules around management and leadership through 2023. The first pilots of the launch of the leadership competency framework are taking place focusing on a new team, established team and a frontline team, feedback from the pilots will lead to further refining with the intention to roll out across the organisation at management levels by the end of 2023. In addition, the review of the performance management policy, Supporting Positive Performance is now live with a revised supervision process.

A dedicated resourcing team has now established and our recruitment and approach to the market has become much more focussed. It is delivering positive results across the board from Director level down. Our relationships with agencies and the engagement of agency workers has significantly improved with plans to review our approach in 2023 and ensure that the Council’s needs are being met when working with agencies.

Our ambitious capital and regeneration plans, the transformation programme in children and family services as well as changes on the horizon around adult social care do present challenges of capacity and resource to meet competing priorities. A service transformation team has established a clear process to identify projects and determine level of priority and risk to support the deployment of resources to support the projects. This is reviewed by Assistant Directors on a regular basis and highlights issues around resource and enables broader discussions to take place.

- **Health and Social Care System**

Pursuant to the Health and Care Act 2022, with effect from the 1 July 2022 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) were statutorily terminated and their functions subsumed into Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). North East Lincolnshire (NEL) is part of the Humber and North Yorkshire ICB geography. The governance of the NEL health and care system will be overseen by a combination of health and local democratic leads via the Health and Wellbeing Board, a proposed statutory joint committee of the Council and the ICB and a place-based Health and Care Partnership (HCP). These forums will bring health and care providers together to function as the delivery and

transformation arms under the new arrangements. Such arrangements, together with aspects of Children's and Adults commissioning and service delivery will ultimately be captured in a refreshed s75 Agreement. This is a reaction to significant NHS reorganisation that seeks to bring local government and the NHS closer together, through a population health management approach, to improve outcomes and experiences for the local population.

7. Governance Challenges for 2023/24

The review of governance arrangements has identified the main areas where the Council will need to focus its efforts during 2023/24 to address changing circumstances and challenges identified. Clearly these and other areas will be underpinned by a need to deliver value for money, referenced elsewhere in this statement. Value for Money is defined as the relationship between:

- Economy (cost) - the price paid for providing a service.
- Efficiency (performance) - how much is obtained for what is paid; and
- Effectiveness (quality) - the impact of the service, how successful it is.

Value for Money is not an absolute end in itself and should be considered as a compromise between cost, performance and satisfaction. It is an outcome of the Council's activities and not a process in its own right. Furthermore, it should not be seen in isolation from day to day activities.

Of the four previously identified challenges as shown in section 6 it was determined by Leadership Team that programme management was no longer considered a specific governance challenge but the other three remained. The key activities in these areas are shown below:

- Capacity - to deliver of the extensive programme of work in 2023/24 and in preparation for 2024/25 as referred to section 6.
- Children and Family Services – North East Lincolnshire Children's Services continues with the improvement journey to transform children's social care services. We continue to work with the DfE appointed Commissioner and our Sector Led Improvement partner Lincolnshire County Council. Ofsted continue to monitor the pace and progress of change to service delivery and the impact and outcomes on children and families. There remains much to be done and the Council through Corporate and Political Leadership are determined to ensure that the services for children and families in North East Lincolnshire provide the right support, at the right time, by the right person and that children's best interests remain at the heart of everything we do.
- Health and Social Care – North East Lincolnshire Council are looking to establish with the ICB a revised S75 agreement that determines governance for health and care decisions at place through the formation of a Joint Committee. All decisions relating to health and care will be discussed at the Shadow Joint Committee and Health and Care Partnership Governance Forums. Where a decision for Adult Social Care meets the criteria for cabinet then this will be the formal governance route. For Health this will be the Integrated Care Board if the decision falls outside the agreed delegations to the North East Lincolnshire Place Director. These

arrangements will remain in place until the new S75 arrangements have been fully agreed.

No new areas of challenge have been identified.



North East Lincolnshire Council Statement of Accounts

Financial Year 2022/2023

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Narrative Statement

Introduction

As the Council's Chief Finance Officer, I am pleased to present the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Statement aims to provide information to all stakeholders, so they can understand the overall financial position and performance of the Council for 2022/2023.

The Statement has been prepared and published in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2022/2023 issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations.

The Statement should be read in the context of continuing demand and cost pressures on the services provided by the Council and the level of resources available to fund them. There remains significant uncertainty about the level of future Government funding pending the outcome, timing and impact of future spending reviews, the Fair Funding Review, Business Rates Retention Scheme and other grant funding streams.

The pressures on Council services will continue to rise and the future financial position of the Council will be dependent on its ability to manage demand with reducing resources. The Council is progressing with transformation activities, which along with the review of current services and service level provision, and the identification of opportunities for additional income generation, will be critical to the Council's ongoing financial sustainability.

We know that further challenges lie ahead and the council's Cabinet, working with senior management, are actively progressing options to address these challenges.

Overview

The Council has faced significant social care demand, cost and inflationary pressures during the 2022/2023 financial year. Where overspends against service budgets were reported, these have been offset by underspends in other areas, additional funding allocations and the drawdown of reserves. Economic instability and inflationary pressures are continuing to impact on the Council's activities, and these will need to be carefully managed over the medium term financial planning period.

Despite the current economic and demand led challenges the Council's remains committed to the achievement of financial sustainability by embracing the area's economic potential, growing the local tax base, and delivering efficient and affordable public services.

During 2022/2023, the Council's programme of capital investment has been progressing despite the challenging financial and economic conditions. The Council has delivered £51.4m of its approved capital programme in year on a range of schemes designed to deliver significant benefits to the place.

Whilst borrowing costs are increasing, the Council continues to operate within its approved Treasury Management Strategy, and investment plans are designed to deliver long term payback in terms of additional income or reduced costs.

Background

North East Lincolnshire is a unitary authority area with borough status in Lincolnshire, England. It borders the borough of North Lincolnshire and districts of West Lindsey and East Lindsey. The population of the district is approximately 160,000. The administrative centre and largest settlement is Grimsby and the borough includes the towns of Cleethorpes and Immingham as well as the villages of New Waltham, Waltham, Humberston, Healing and Great Coates. The borough is also home to the Port of Grimsby and Port of Immingham as well as Cleethorpes beach.

Governance

Decisions on the setting of the Council's budget and adoption of key strategies are taken by the Full Council. Key decisions which are those with a significant impact are made by the Council's Cabinet. The current Cabinet is

made up of seven elected members, including the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council. Each Cabinet member has responsibility and individual decision-making powers for a portfolio of services.

There is a process of overview and scrutiny to make sure that Councillors are fully accountable for decisions. This process allows elected members who are not on the Cabinet to act as a check and balance to the Council's decision makers and to contribute to the development of future policies and strategies that will help improve services for local people.

The Audit and Governance Committee holds responsibility for monitoring the Council's financial controls as well as its risk management, anti-fraud and partnership governance arrangements. The Committee is led by an independent Chair who brings external expertise and provides stability within a political environment.

Details of the Council's governance arrangements, its identified potential risks and the planned mitigation of those risks is set out in the Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

Risk management

An effective approach to risk management, including the maintenance of a strategic risk register, supports the delivery of the Council's strategic aims by identifying, evaluating and then mitigating those issues which could result in them not being effectively delivered. The Strategic Risk Register is subject to regular updates with each strategic risk being reviewed by the relevant risk owner. This exercise includes a review and sign off by the Council's Senior Leadership Team in its role as the Assurance Board.

Corporate Plan – Our Vision and Aims

In February 2022, Council agreed the North East Lincolnshire Council Plan, which outlines the Council's priorities and contribution to delivering against the outcomes. The Council Plan has been refreshed for 2023-2026 to match our Medium Term Financial Plan.

Regeneration - we will deliver our major programmes and projects focussed on making North East Lincolnshire a better place to live, work, invest and visit;

Green Future - we will continue our journey to be a carbon neutral organisation, support others to reduce their impact and our work in partnership to protect and enhance our natural assets;

Environment - we will ensure we have the capacity to keep our streets clean and maintain our parks and open spaces for everyone to enjoy;

Enforcement - we will advocate a zero-tolerance model by continual review of the effectiveness of our delivery models, increasing capacity where it is needed and increased police/partnership working that is focused on outcomes;

Education and Skills - we will work with education providers to improve secondary attainment, supporting the development of alternative secondary provision where there are clear benefits;

Children, families, and young people - we will continue to deliver our Children's Improvement Plan. This is focussed on strengthening practice, improving workforce development and retention, fostering a cross council culture of 'families first' and prevention and early help (with our partners) to ensure the best outcomes for children and families. This will reduce the number of children who become cared for, however for those who do need care, we will focus on ensuring that their needs are met;

Adult Social Care - we will maximise the benefit to North East Lincolnshire through the Health and Care Partnership arrangements, building on the legacy of the NELC/CCG Union arrangements, to join up Health and Social Care provision in a way that provides better support and care and makes best use of resources;

We will work with our communities to develop specific strategies aimed at tackling the issues faced by communities in East and West Marsh, especially in relation to housing;

We will increase the level of marketing of the area both as a whole and in terms of the unique selling points of Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Immingham and the Wolds, as great places to invest, work, live, visit and stay;

We will work with colleagues from across Greater Lincolnshire to further explore opportunities for collaboration and closer working between the upper tier councils. With a commitment from those upper tier councils to officially explore a Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal, we have stated our intention to this aim.

Performance

We continue to face significant challenges in terms of capacity to deliver our priorities. A large proportion of projects identified in the Council Plan for 2022/2023 have been delivered as planned, however, there are exceptions particularly in areas of exceptionally high demand, or in areas where delays in the development and implementation of national government policy impacts on local implementation.

Key performance headlines are detailed below:

Environment & Regulatory Services – There is a high level of operational performance in relation to bin collections, energy from waste plant operation to avoid landfill and prevention of fly tipping. In areas more dependent on public behaviour, such as recycling rates, there has been a significant improvement over the last 2-years, and we are now delivering similar outcomes to other Lincolnshire Authorities. However, we still have some way to go to achieve the national target of 50% recycling

Economy & Growth, Leisure & Tourism - Anecdotally, engagement with the development & Growth Board and other forums suggests businesses enjoyed a gradual recovery following the removal of covid restrictions. However, recruitment challenges alongside increased costs has resulted in an increase in companies seeking support to maintain their status quo rather than grow. Enquiry levels for commercial land and property remain buoyant, although there are signs that interest in smaller developments are slowing. The number of town centre units vacant for 6 months or longer has decreased slightly and recently, there have been changes to Grimsby Town Centre units due to conscious action around Freshney Place to enable the leisure scheme to move forward, although other vacancies are a result of the economic climate. The council is committed to the Grimsby Town Centre Masterplan and town centre regeneration to make the place more attractive to new occupiers. Footfall in our town centres is on the increase in comparison to 2021.

Children and Families - The number of Children open to statutory social care services has significantly reduced during the year but remains high in relative terms. This has been impacted by high Social Worker turnover, which has increased the length of time cases stay open. Demand into Children's Social Care has decreased over the year due to changes at the Integrated Front Door which have resulted in less referrals to children's social care. A review of all Children In Need cases has also resulted in a number of cases being safely closed.

Adult Services - The proportion of people who go on to receive a costed package of social care support is 74.8%, which is lower than the 90% target. Wherever possible, we aim to offer information and advice to help people to help themselves through the Single Point of Access (SPA). 67.8% of people are receiving information and advice only through the SPA (against an indicative target of 75%) and therefore 32.2% (against an indicative target of 25%) go on to receive a full assessment.

Public Health - Current performance reflects the challenges that we are continuing to face related to the impact of the Covid pandemic and the cost-of living crisis impacting on many people currently. Of particular concern is the upward trajectory in child overweight/obesity rates, especially the high levels in year 6 pupils and the growing numbers of admissions to hospital associated with alcohol. More positively we are seeing reductions in the number of adults smoking, although our rate remains above the regional and national average. Although smoking in pregnancy rates are still comparatively high, we are seeing a reduction in smoking in pregnancy which will impact on infant and perinatal mortality rates, and prematurity rates which are the highest in the country. Infant mortality had been higher than the national average during most of the previous five years, but current data points to an encouraging reduction, although we will need to see if this transpires into a sustained downward trend. Our public health services continue to deliver targeted support to people in our communities.

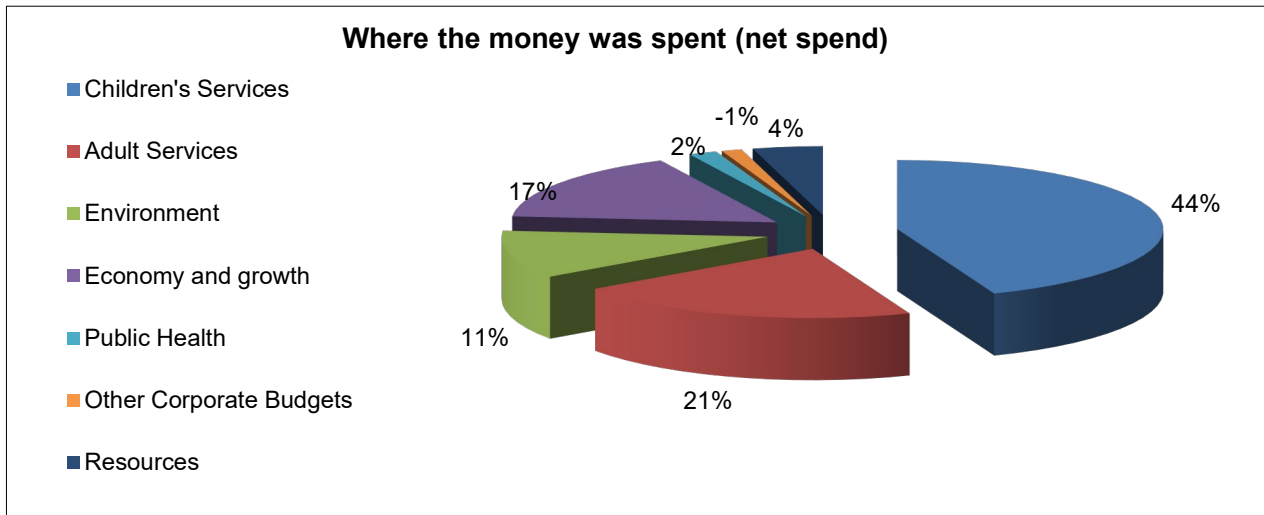
Financial Performance

Income and Expenditure

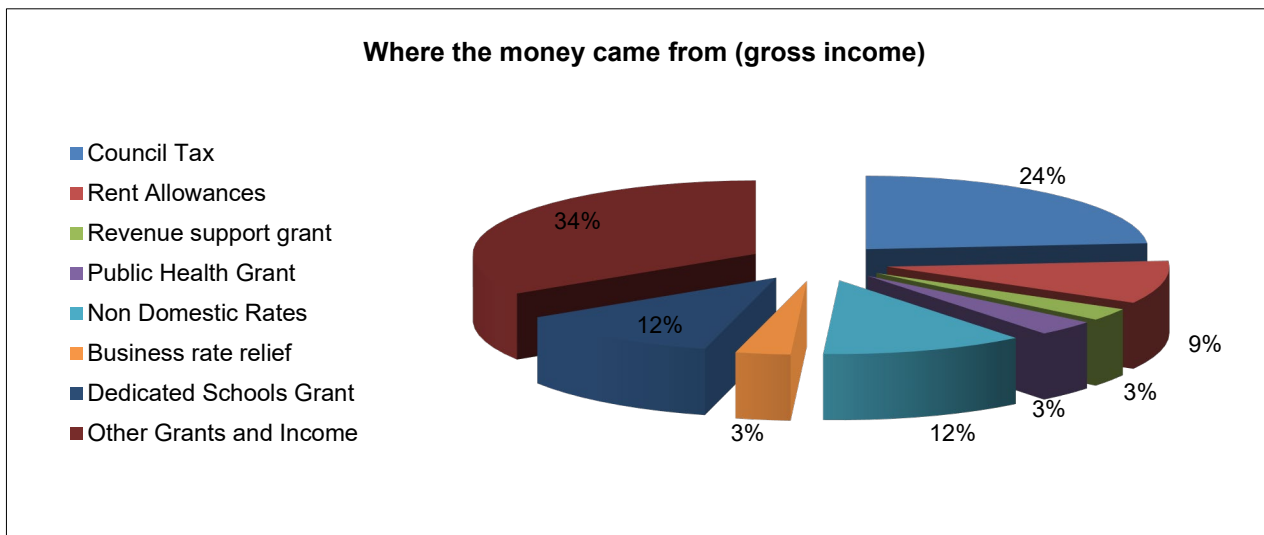
The Council spent a total of £337.2m providing services to the local population during the year. After considering service-based grants and income of £155.2m, net expenditure on services totalled £182.0m in 2022/2023.

The Council recorded an overspend against its approved service budget, in particular within children's services where demand continues to exceed available resources. However, additional funding streams and underspends

on borrowing costs and other budgets enabled a balanced overall position to be reported at year end. An analysis of where the money was spent is detailed in the chart below.



The Council's spending was financed through a combination of local taxation (council tax and business rates), grants and fees and charges. It should be noted that an increasing proportion of the Council's spending is now funded locally with reducing reliance on central government grants. An analysis of where the money came from is detailed in the chart below.



Balance sheet

The Council has reported an increase of £219.1m in its overall net worth during the year with net assets of £215.9m reported at year end. This is predominantly due to a positive £203.0m movement on the pension liability between 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, which has resulted in a net pension asset of £26.1m being reported on the Balance Sheet at the end of the current financial year. The pension figures, as assessed by an independent actuary, represents an estimate of the value of scheme assets and liabilities at a point in time. Importantly though, contributions remain stable following a triennial valuation this year.

The Council has reported an overall £53.0m increase in its long-term assets balance at year end. This increase in net assets predominantly reflects the net impact of investments the Council has made in its fixed asset base during the year, as well as the net pension asset valuation resulting from this year's actuarial review. In terms of working capital, the Council reported a £10.4m movement in its net current asset position at year end mainly as a result of a reduction in short term creditors.

The Council continues to operate within its approved treasury management strategy and focus is on the efficient management of working capital. Returns on investments remain lower than those payable on borrowing and therefore the strategy is to minimise cash balances to reduce the cost of carry.

The Council is experiencing ongoing pressures and uncertainty in relation to business rates which are being negatively affected by valuations and appeals and ongoing financial and economic uncertainty. The Council continues to hold a provision in its accounts based upon the level of appeals received from businesses, the likelihood of success and potential write offs. The provision is subject to regular review considering the number of appeals and the latest information on the probability of success.

Reserves and Balances

The overall financial standing of the Council is being continually monitored with a focus upon the adequacy of reserves and the stewardship of public funds. General fund reserves, set aside to deal with any unforeseen events, remain at £8.3m. This is in line with the medium-term financial plan and considered to be a prudent level taking into account the increased level of risk to which the Council is currently exposed.

In addition, the Council maintains earmarked reserves to address key risk areas such as business rate income fluctuations, the management of change, debt financing and self-insurance. These are reviewed regularly and considered as part of the monitoring and planning process throughout the year. Earmarked reserves will continue to be utilised to support transformational change and initiatives designed to deliver long term returns.

Capital Investment

Despite ongoing budget challenges, an ambitious programme of investment within the Borough has been progressing. However, the Council has seen some impact as a result of ongoing financial and economic instability in our ability to deliver the capital programme. The Council has delivered 86% of its revised capital programme in 2022/2023. Where underspends against capital allocations have been reported, these have been challenged to ensure spending is timely and in accordance with corporate priorities.

The Council continues to fund its capital programme through a mix of borrowing, capital receipts, grants and other contributions. Funding for capital projects is integrated into financial planning processes and aligned to the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities. Capital and long-term investment is necessary to deliver the Council's key priorities and ambitions. However, affordability is a key factor when considering any long-term investment. Based upon the current approved capital programme, financing costs are forecast to be maintained within an affordable envelope.

Borrowing therefore needs to be in accordance with prudential borrowing principles. The Council has well established appraisal processes in place and any new borrowing will be predicated on the preparation of a sound business case which is closely aligned to the Council's key outcomes and financial strategy. The Council's current strategy is to use cash balances to fund the capital programme where possible. This approach, referred to as internal borrowing, minimises the cost of borrowing and reduces credit risk on investments. Overall borrowing levels remain manageable and under continuous review.

At year end, the Council had £171.7m of external borrowing, up from £156.7m last financial year. The council has operated within its prudential borrowing limit during the year and no problems are anticipated for future years at this stage. Net financing costs remained below 10% in 2022/2023 and are projected to continue to do so in 2023/2024.

Whilst the Council is undertaking further borrowing over the medium-term financial planning period to support its economic and regeneration ambitions, these investments are expected to lead to an overall increase in the Council's overall tax base.

Strategic Outlook

The Council faces a range of challenges including demographic demand, cost of living and economic instability. Inflationary pressures are impacting across the board, leading to potential further cost pressures across a range of areas, including within the capital programme.

North East Lincolnshire, along with many other areas across the country, continues to face significant challenges in relation to social care – both adults and children – with increasing demand and rising costs. In response, the Council is continuing to support the vulnerable and focus upon system wide review and transformation.

The Council's long term financial strategy remains focused on the achievement of financial sustainability by embracing economic potential and growing the tax base. Increasingly, the Council is taking a more commercial approach and is working alongside Government and private investors to accelerate growth across the Borough.

Notably, significant external funding has been generated through the Towns Fund and Future High Streets fund to support the Council's regeneration ambitions. Opportunities around Freeports and Carbon Zero agenda also offer unique and ambitious growth potential across the Borough. Our focus remains firmly on Place, reflected within our vision for a Stronger Economy and Stronger Community, and this includes our approach to integrated Health and Social Care.

As in 2022/2023, the Council received a one year financial settlement from Government for 2023/2024 with changes to the financial model being postponed. This uncertainty will necessitate a review of the Council's financial strategy during 2023/2024 to ensure the Council is best placed to deal with the increased risks and opportunities it currently faces.

Statement of Accounts and Basis of Preparation

The Statement of Accounts summarise the Council's financial performance during the 2022/2023 year and its financial position as at 31 March 2023. The accounting statements comprise:

- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – a summary of the resources generated and used over the year.
- Movement in Reserves Statement – the in-year movement in reserves held.
- Balance Sheet – a summary of assets, liabilities, and reserves at the year end.
- Cash Flow Statement – the inflow and outflow of cash during the year.
- Collection Fund – the level of non-domestic rates and council tax that has been received during the year and the distribution of these funds.

The Statement of Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified for the revaluation of certain non-current assets, and are presented on a going concern basis.

Statement of Responsibilities

The Council's Responsibilities

The council is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this council, that officer is the Executive Director for Place and Resources.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Executive Director for Place and Resources Responsibilities

The Executive Director for Place and Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code).

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Executive Director for Place and Resources has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently.
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
- Complied with the local authority Code.

The Executive Director for Place and Resources has also:

- Kept proper accounting records which were up to date.
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Certificate of the Chief Financial Officer

I certify that:

- a) The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 has been prepared in the form directed by the Code and under the accounting policies set out in Note 1.
- b) In my opinion the Statement of Accounts presents fairly the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.
- c) The statement of accounts is unaudited and may be subject to change.

Sharon Wroot
Executive Director for Place and Resources

Date of certification: 19 June 2023

Authority Approval of Statement of Accounts

Tim Render
Audit and Governance Committee
Date of approval:

Independent Auditor’s Report to the Members of North East Lincolnshire Council

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Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Councils raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory requirements, which may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

	Note	2022/2023 Gross Expenditure £000	2022/2023 Gross Income £000	2022/2023 Net Expenditure £000	2021/2022 Gross Expenditure £000	2021/2022 Gross Income £000	2021/2022 Net Expenditure £000
Resources		52,186	(44,161)	8,025	56,812	(47,572)	9,240
Economy & Growth		45,904	(15,339)	30,565	41,768	(14,438)	27,330
Environment		28,422	(7,493)	20,929	26,347	(6,843)	19,504
Children's Services		147,075	(64,678)	82,397	121,985	(57,159)	64,826
Public Health		13,601	(10,371)	3,230	16,052	(16,106)	(54)
Adult Services		50,300	(10,836)	39,464	43,405	(9,120)	34,285
Other Corporate Budgets		0	(2,343)	(2,343)	875	(2,084)	(1,209)
Cost of Services		337,488	(155,221)	182,267	307,244	(153,322)	153,922
Other operating expenditure	11	1,805	(404)	1,401	1,881	(804)	1,077
Financing and investment income and expenditure	12	14,373	(10,324)	4,049	13,536	(4,545)	8,991
Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure	13	0	(182,215)	(182,215)	0	(154,595)	(154,595)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services				5,502			9,395
(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of property, plant and equipment	14,15			(5,046)			(262)
Impairment losses and reversals on non-current assets charged to the revaluation reserve	14,15			(498)			1,089
Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	39			(194,401)			(115,362)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(199,945)			(114,535)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(194,443)			(105,140)

* The 2021/2022 comparator figures have been reanalysed to reflect a management restructure within the council during the 2022/2023 financial year.

Movement in Reserves Statement

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the council, analysed into 'usable reserves' and other 'unusable reserves'. The statement shows how the in-year movements of the council's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax for the year. The Net Increase / Decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance movements in the year following these adjustments.

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Total General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves of the Authority
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance Sheet as at 1 April 2021	8,300	38,390	46,690	3	5,395	52,088	(132,646)	(80,558)
Movement in Reserves during the Year:								
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(9,395)	0	(9,395)	0	0	(9,395)	114,535	105,140
Adjustments between Accounting Basis & Funding Basis Under Regulations - Note 9	8,704	0	8,704	6	(657)	8,053	(8,053)	0
Net Increase / (Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(691)	0	(691)	6	(657)	(1,342)	106,482	105,140
Transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves	691	(691)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase / (Decrease) in 2021/2022	0	(691)	(691)	6	(657)	(1,342)	106,482	105,140
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022	8,300	37,699	45,999	9	4,738	50,746	(26,164)	24,582
Movement in Reserves during the Year:								
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(5,502)	0	(5,502)	0	0	(5,502)	199,945	194,443
Adjustments Between Accounting Basis & Funding Basis Under Regulations - Note 9	(14,406)	0	(14,406)	(1)	1,195	(13,212)	13,212	0
Net Increase / (Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(19,908)	0	(19,908)	(1)	1,195	(18,714)	213,157	194,443
Transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves	19,908	(19,908)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase / (Decrease) in 2022/2023	0	(19,908)	(19,908)	(1)	1,195	(18,714)	213,157	194,443
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023	8,300	17,791	26,091	8	5,933	32,032	186,993	219,025

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the balance sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the council. The net assets of the council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserve are usable reserves, i.e., those reserves that the council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example, the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserve are those that the council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserve includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example, the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

	Note	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
		£000	£000
Property, Plant & Equipment	14	270,766	267,254
Heritage Assets	15	1,935	1,935
Investment Property	16	74,142	51,569
Intangible Assets	17	1,861	1,105
Net Pension Asset	39	29,299	0
Long Term Debtors	18, 20	1,193	1,207
Long Term Assets		379,196	323,070
Inventories	-	56	152
Short Term Debtors	20	47,681	40,437
Cash and Cash Equivalents	21	14,209	43,650
Assets Held for Sale	22	6,620	338
Current Assets		68,566	84,577
Short Term Borrowing	18	(31,556)	(21,370)
Short Term Creditors	18, 23	(35,277)	(54,414)
Provisions	24	(1,470)	(1,262)
Capital Grants Received in Advance	34	(18,133)	(15,024)
Current Liabilities		(86,436)	(92,070)
Provisions	24	(2,192)	(6,673)
Long Term Borrowing	18	(140,109)	(135,317)
Other Long Term Liabilities	39	0	(149,005)
Long Term Liabilities		(142,301)	(290,995)
Net Assets/(Liabilities)		219,025	24,582
Usable Reserves	MIRS	32,032	50,746
Unusable Reserves	25	186,993	(26,164)
Total Reserves		219,025	24,582

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the council's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e., borrowing) to the council.

	Note	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services		(5,502)	(9,395)
Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	26	(5,065)	35,081
Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	26	(33,769)	(18,405)
Net cash flows from operating activities		(44,336)	7,281
Net cash flows from investing activities	27	(5,340)	(2,866)
Net cash flows from financing activities	28	20,235	9,805
Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(29,441)	14,220
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	21	43,650	29,430
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	21	14,209	43,650

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Note 1 – Accounting Policies

i. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the council's transactions for the 2022/2023 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2023. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the council to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/2023, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

ii. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular:

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption; they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet where individual inventory categories are above £100k.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected. In respect of both capital and revenue transactions, the council operates on the normal accruals concept of income and expenditure above the council's de minimis threshold of £10k. However, this de minimis threshold does not apply to creditor accruals auto identified within the finance system, or where failure to accrue would result in the loss of a time limited grant.

iii. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in three months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with a low risk of change in value.

Cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the council's cash management.

iv. Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

Prior period adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policies or to correct a material error. Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, i.e., in the current and future years affected by the change and do not give rise to a prior period adjustment.

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the council's financial position or financial performance.

Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

v. Charges to Revenue for Non-current Assets

Services, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service.
- Revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off.
- Amortisation of intangible assets attributable to the service.

The council is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement, equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis in accordance with statutory guidance. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance (MRP), by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

vi. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

The Collection Fund shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and the distribution to local authorities, central government and precepting bodies of council tax and non-domestic rates (NDR). There is no requirement for a separate Collection Fund Balance Sheet since the assets and liabilities arising from the collecting non-domestic rates and council tax belong to the bodies (i.e., major preceptors, central government and billing authorities).

The council tax and NDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the council's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax and NDR that must be included in the council's General Fund. Therefore, the difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Balance Sheet includes the council's share of the end of year balances in respect of council tax and NDR relating to arrears, impairment allowances for doubtful debts, overpayments and prepayments and appeals.

vii. Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

Short-term employee benefits such as wages and salaries, paid annual leave, sick leave and expenses are paid on a monthly basis and reflected as expenditure in the relevant service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Termination Benefits

When the council is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment of an officer or group of officers, or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy, these costs are charged on an accruals basis to the respective service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Post-employment Benefits

Employees of the council are members of three separate pension schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by East Riding of Yorkshire Council.
- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE).
- The NHS Pension Scheme, administered by the NHS Business Services Authority

These schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the council.

However, the arrangements for the Teachers' and NHS schemes mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the council. These schemes are therefore accounted for as if they were defined contribution schemes and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet.

The Children's Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in the year. The Public Health line within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to the NHS Pension Scheme in the year.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

The Local Government Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme:

- The liabilities of the East Riding pension fund attributable to the council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e., an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- The assets of East Riding pension fund attributable to the council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value.

The change in the net pension liability is analysed into the following components:

Service cost comprising:

- Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked.
- Past service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

Re-measurements comprising:

- The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Contributions paid to the East Riding pension fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

The council has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff (including teachers) are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

viii. Events After the Reporting Period

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- Those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events.
- Those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

ix. Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

For most of the borrowings that the council has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The council has a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Financial Assets

The council's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flows. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost, except for those whose contractual payments are not solely payment of principal and interest (i.e., where the cash flows do not take the form of a basic debt instrument).

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the financial assets held by the authority, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the CIES is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of an asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES.

Expected Credit Loss Model

The council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost, either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the council.

Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses. Where risk has increased significantly since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a

lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month expected losses.

The council has a small portfolio of loans to individuals, small businesses and other entities, which have been grouped as follows when assessing expected loss allowances:

- Group 1 – these loans, which are secured against the property, were issued to home owners and owners of derelict land and commercial properties to help pay for repairs and other urgent works to bring accommodations up to current decency standards or to facilitate bringing the properties back into use within the community. Loss allowances for these loans can be assessed on an individual basis.
- Group 2 – under a government initiative that aimed to release the economic and productivity potential of the most deprived areas across the country, the council provided loans to individuals and small businesses to aid entrepreneurial activity and support sustainable growth.
- Group 3 – for the residual group of loans, the council relies on past due information and calculates losses based on expected lifetime credit losses.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit of Loss (FVPL)

Financial assets that are measured at FVPL are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

The fair value measurements of the financial assets are based on the following techniques:

- Instruments with quoted market prices – the market price
- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis.

The inputs to the measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with the following three levels:

- Level 1 inputs – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets that the authority can access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 inputs – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 inputs – unobservable inputs for the asset.

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Instruments Entered into Before 1 April 2006

The council entered into a number of financial guarantees that are not required to be accounted for as financial instruments. These guarantees are reflected in the Statement of Accounts to the extent that provisions might be required or a contingent liability note is needed under the policies set out in the section on Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

x. Government Grants and Contributions

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the council when there is reasonable assurance that:

- The council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments, and
- The grants or contributions will be received.

Amounts recognised as due to the council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset in the form of the grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income and Expenditure (non-ring-fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

xi. Heritage Assets

The council holds several assets which are held to increase the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the council's history and local area. Heritage Assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the council's accounting policies on property, plant and equipment. However, some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to heritage assets as detailed below. The council's collections of heritage assets are accounted for as follows:

Civic Regalia and Museum Collection

These items are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. The civic regalia and museum collection are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value; hence the authority does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

Heritage Assets – General

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment, e.g., where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise as to its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the council's general policies on impairment. The council will occasionally dispose of heritage assets which have a doubtful provenance or are unsuitable for public display. The proceeds of such items are accounted for in accordance with the council's general provisions relating to the disposal of property, plant and equipment. Disposal proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements and are accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts.

xii. Intangible Assets

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the council as a result of past events (e.g., software licences) is capitalised when it is expected that future economic benefits or service potential will flow from the intangible asset to the council.

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it is demonstrable that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the council will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset. Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and is restricted to that incurred during the development phase.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost and then carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10k) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

xiii. Inventories and long-term contracts

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The council has set a de minimis value of £100k, below which inventories are not held on balance sheet.

Long term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement with the value of works and services received under the contract during the year.

xiv. Investment Property

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods or is held for sale (in the ordinary course of operations).

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use.

Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year-end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and result in a gain for the General Fund Balance. However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10k) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

xv. Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property, plant or equipment from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases. Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.

Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Initial direct costs of the council are added to the carrying amount of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred. Lease payments are apportioned between:

- A charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant or equipment – applied to write down the lease liability, and
- A finance charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

Property, Plant and Equipment recognised under finance leases is accounted for using the policies applied generally to such assets, subject to depreciation being charged over the lease term if this is shorter than the asset's estimated useful life (where ownership of the asset does not transfer to the council at the end of the lease period).

The council is not required to raise council tax to cover depreciation or revaluation and impairment losses arising on leased assets. Instead, a prudent annual contribution is made from revenue funds towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory requirements. Depreciation and revaluation and impairment losses are therefore substituted by a revenue contribution in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefitting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g., there is a rent-free period at the commencement of the lease).

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the council grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the council's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e., netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal), matched by a lease (long-term debtor) asset in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

- A charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property – applied to write down the lease debtor (together with any premiums received), and
- Finance income (credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

The gain credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt. Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When the future rentals are received, the element for the capital receipt for the disposal of the asset is used to write down the lease debtor. At this point, the deferred capital receipts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are therefore appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Operating Leases

Where the council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g., there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

xvi. Overheads and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to service segments in accordance with the council's arrangements for accountability and financial performance.

xvii. Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes and that are expected to be used during more than one financial year are classified as Property, Plant and Equipment.

Property Plant & Equipment Asset Categories

The following six reporting categories fall within the classification of property, plant and equipment:

- Other Land & Buildings.
- Vehicles, Plant & Equipment.
- Infrastructure Assets – Inalienable assets, expenditure on which is only recoverable by continued use of the asset created, i.e., there is no prospect of sale or alternative use; examples include highways infrastructure assets, coastal defences, water supply and drainage systems. Highways infrastructure assets include carriageways, footways and cycle tracks, structures (e.g., bridges), street lighting, street furniture (e.g., illuminated traffic signals, bollards), traffic management systems and land which together form a single integrated network.

- Community Assets - Assets that an authority intends to hold in perpetuity, which have no determinable useful life and that may, in addition, have restrictions on their disposal.
- Assets Under Construction.
- Surplus Assets – Assets that are not being used to deliver services, but that do not meet the Code criteria to be classified as either investment properties or non-current assets held for sale.

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e., repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- The purchase price.
- Any costs attributable to bring the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operation in the manner intended by management.

The council does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction. The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition does not have commercial substance (i.e., it will not lead to a variation in the cash flows of the council). In the latter case, where an asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the council.

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless the donation has been made conditionally. Until conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in the Donated Assets Account. Where gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Where gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Assets are then carried in the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:

- Assets under construction and community assets (without a determinable finite useful life) – historical cost.
- Infrastructure assets and community assets (with a determinable finite useful life) – depreciated historical cost. However, with regards to highways infrastructure assets, this is a modified form of historical cost – opening balances for highways infrastructure assets were originally recorded in balance sheets at amounts of capital undischarged for sums borrowed as at 1 April 1994, which was determined at that time to be historical cost.
- All other assets are measured at current value.

Where there is no market-based evidence of current value, because of the specialist nature of an asset and the asset is rarely sold, an estimate of current value is made on a depreciated replacement cost (DRC) basis.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for by:

- Where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).
- Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement.

The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

Material assets are recognised into components for depreciation purposes when the component is of significant cost compared to the total cost of the item and has a materially different useful life to the main asset. Enhancement expenditure requires the de-recognition of the component replaced or refurbished, and the new component reflected in the carrying amount, even where parts of an asset have not previously been recognised as a separate component.

Impairment

Assets are assessed at each year-end as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where indications exist and any possible differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and, where this is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by:

- Where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).
- Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all property, plant and equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e., freehold land and certain community assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e., assets under construction).

Depreciation is normally charged in the first full year of operational use, except where stated, and calculated on the following bases:

- Dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer.
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – straight-line allocation over estimated life of the asset or as advised by a suitably qualified officer.
- Infrastructure – straight-line allocation over the estimated useful life.

Where an item of property, plant and equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an asset held for sale.

The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any losses previously recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on assets held for sale.

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as assets held for sale, they are reclassified back to non-current assets and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as held for sale;

adjusted for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations that would have been recognised had they not been classified as held for sale, and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as assets held for sale.

When an asset, or component of the highways network, is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether property, plant and equipment or assets held for sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e., netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10k are categorised as capital receipts. The receipts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. The reserves can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement).

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

xviii. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. For instance, the council may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the council has an obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year – where it becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from another party (e.g., from an insurance claim), this is only recognised as income for the relevant service if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the council settles the obligation.

Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the council a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the council. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Contingent Assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the council a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the council.

Contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

xix. Reserves

The council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by transferring amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year to score against the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then transferred back into the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, local taxation, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the council – these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

xx. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the council has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of council tax.

xxi. Schools

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom confirms that the balance of control for local authority maintained schools (i.e., those categories of school identified in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended) lies with the local authority. The Code also stipulates that those schools' assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows are recognised in the local authority financial statements (and not the Group Accounts). Therefore, schools' transactions, cash flows and balances are recognised in each of the financial statements of the council as if they were the transactions, cash flows and balances of the council.

xxii. VAT

VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. VAT receivable is excluded from income.

xxiii. Fair Value Measurement

The council measures some of its non-financial assets, such as surplus assets and investment properties, and some of its financial instruments at fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

- In the principal market for the asset or liability, or
- In the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.

The council measures the fair value of an asset or liability using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest.

When measuring the fair value of a non-financial asset, the council takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

The council uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs. Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the council's financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

- Level 1 – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the council can access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Note 2 – Accounting Standards Issued, Not Adopted

Under the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/2023 (the Code), the council is required to disclose information setting out the impact of an accounting change required by a new accounting standard that has been issued but not yet adopted by the Code.

At the Balance Sheet date, the following new standards, or amendments to existing standards, have been issued but not adopted:

- **Definition of Accounting Estimates (Amendments to IAS 8):** In February 2021, the IASB issued 'Definition of Accounting Estimates' to help to clarify what changes in accounting estimates are and how these differ from changes in accounting policies and corrections of errors.
- **Disclosure of Accounting Policies (Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2):** In February 2021, the IASB published 'Disclosure of Accounting Policies' to help entities in deciding which accounting policies to disclose in their financial statements. The amendments replace the requirement to disclose 'significant' accounting policies with a requirement to disclose 'material' accounting policies.

Whilst the adoption of the above amendments will bring clarity and lead to improved reporting, it is not anticipated that they will have a significant impact on the amounts to be reported in the financial statements.

Note 3 – Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. There are no specific judgements that require disclosure at this point in time.

Note 4 – Assumptions Made about the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends, and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the council's Balance Sheet as of 31 March 2023 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property, Plant & Equipment	
Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets.	If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by approximately £0.93m if the average useful life of the council's buildings fell by one year.

Pensions Liability

Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets.

A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.

The assumptions interact in complex ways. Following the latest full valuation of the pension scheme as at 31 March 2022, the council's actuary has advised that the net pension liability has decreased by £178.3m, resulting in a net pension asset of £29.3m being held on the Balance Sheet at the end of 2022/2023.

A sensitivity analysis, highlighting the impact on net liability from variations to the key assumptions can be seen in Note 39 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes.

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) Provision

The council has set aside, from its Collection Fund, £5.02m as a provision against the cost of the future settlement of current appeals outstanding against NNDR rateable values. The council's share of this provision, £2.46m, is shown in Note 24 Provisions.

The impact of appeals is uncertain and outside of the control of the council.

Fair Value Measurement

When the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (i.e., Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using valuation techniques (e.g., quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or the discounted cash flow (DCF) model). Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible judgement is required in establishing fair values. These judgements typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. However, changes in the assumptions used could affect the fair value of the council's assets and liabilities.

Where Level 1 inputs are not available, the council employs relevant experts to identify the most appropriate valuation techniques to determine fair value (for example, for investment properties, the council's chief valuation officer and external valuer). Information about the valuation techniques and inputs used in determining the fair value of the council's assets and liabilities is disclosed in Note 14 Property, Plant and Equipment, and Note 16 Investment Properties.

The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement include management assumptions regarding rent growth, vacancy levels, occupancy levels and others.

Significant changes in any of the unobservable inputs would result in a significantly lower or higher fair value measurements.

Note 5 – Material Items of Income and Expense

A material item of income and expense would be greater than £5m. There have been no material items of income and expenditure during 2022/2023 that are not already disclosed elsewhere in the accounts.

Note 6 – Events After the Balance Sheet Date

The council is not aware of any significant post balance sheet events.

Note 7 – Expenditure and Funding Analysis and Associated Notes

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, fees and charges, council tax and business rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by councils in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the council's directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under IFRS is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	2022/2023	2022/2023	2022/2023	2022/2023	2022/2023	2021/2022*	2021/2022*	2021/2022*
	Budget Monitoring Outturn	Adjustments Between Outturn and Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the CIES	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the CIES
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Resources	8,080	(7,601)	479	7,546	8,025	2,716	6,524	9,240
Economy & Growth	23,599	(2,945)	20,654	9,911	30,565	15,999	11,331	27,330
Environment	22,348	(8,043)	14,305	6,624	20,929	15,012	4,492	19,504
Children's Services	82,315	(13,210)	69,105	13,292	82,397	56,163	8,663	64,826
Public Health	3,226	(1,652)	1,574	1,656	3,230	1,312	(1,366)	(54)
Adult Services	48,118	(7,518)	40,600	(1,136)	39,464	38,424	(4,139)	34,285
Other Corporate Budgets	(9,750)	2,139	(7,611)	5,268	(2,343)	10,229	(11,438)	(1,209)
Net Cost of Services	177,936	(38,830)	139,106	43,161	182,267	139,855	14,067	153,922
Other Income and Expenditure	(177,936)	38,830	(139,106)	(37,659)	(176,765)	(139,855)	(4,672)	(144,527)
(Surplus) or Deficit	0	0	0	5,502	5,502	0	9,395	9,395
Opening General Fund Balance			8,300			8,300		
Surplus or (Deficit) on General Fund Balance in Year			0			0		
Closing General Fund Balance			8,300			8,300		

* The 2021/2022 comparator figures have been reanalysed to reflect a management restructure within the council during the 2022/2023 financial year.

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts

2022/2023 Financial Year	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Resources	2,415	3,711	1,420	7,546
Economy & Growth	8,455	574	882	9,911
Environment	4,258	1,885	481	6,624
Children's Services	778	6,525	5,989	13,292
Public Health	0	558	1,098	1,656
Adult Services	14	43	(1,193)	(1,136)
Other Corporate Budgets	(5,994)	(15)	11,277	5,268
Net Cost of Services	9,926	13,281	19,954	43,161
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(25,933)	0	(11,726)	(37,659)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(16,007)	13,281	8,228	5,502

2021/2022 Financial Year*	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Resources	1,456	4,113	955	6,524
Economy & Growth	10,119	565	647	11,331
Environment	1,865	2,242	385	4,492
Children's Services	2,273	7,025	(635)	8,663
Public Health	(15)	609	(1,960)	(1,366)
Adult Services	108	46	(4,293)	(4,139)
Other Corporate Budgets	(5,791)	469	(6,116)	(11,438)
Net Cost of Services	10,015	15,069	(11,017)	14,067
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(10,870)	0	6,198	(4,672)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(855)	15,069	(4,819)	9,395

* The 2021/2022 comparator figures have been reanalysed to reflect a management restructure within the council during the 2022/2023 financial year.

Segmental Income

The following analysis shows revenues from external customers included within the Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis:

Segmental Income – Revenue from External Customers	2022/2023	2021/2022*
	£000	£000
Resources	(4,028)	(5,343)
Economy & Growth	(15,512)	(10,415)
Environment	(7,822)	(6,955)
Children's Services	(12,994)	(11,205)
Public Health	(1,446)	(1,960)
Adult Services	(382)	(523)
Other Corporate Budgets	(2,851)	(1,353)
Total Income Analysed on a Segmental Basis	(45,035)	(37,754)

* The 2021/2022 comparator figures have been reanalysed to reflect a management restructure within the council during the 2022/2023 financial year.

Revenue from External Customers: Income from organisations/individuals from outside the council, excluding any grant income.

Note 8 – Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

The council's expenditure and income are analysed as follows:

Expenditure / Income	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Expenditure:		
Employee Benefits Expenses	101,169	95,090
Other Services Expenditure	221,398	196,439
Depreciation, Amortisation, Impairment	16,932	12,544
Interest Payments	5,184	4,996
Precepts and Levies	1,520	1,475
(Gain)/Loss on the Disposal of Assets	121	(474)
Other Expenditure	6,068	9,699
Total Expenditure	352,392	319,769
Income:		
Fees, Charges and Other Service Income	(27,763)	(21,833)
Interest and Investment Income	(643)	(43)
Income for Council Tax & Non-Domestic Rates	(122,985)	(111,055)
Government Grants and Contributions	(188,427)	(170,732)
Other Income	(7,072)	(6,711)
Total Income	(346,890)	(310,374)
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	5,502	9,395

Note 9 – Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

2022/2023 Financial Year	Usable Reserve	Usable Reserve	Usable Reserve	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments to Revenue Resources:				
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements				
Pension Cost (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	16,097	0	0	(16,097)
Pension prepayment adjustment	(2,816)	0	0	2,816
Council Tax and NDR (transfers to or from the Collection Fund)	(11,641)	0	0	11,641
Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit (transfers to or from the DSG Adjustment Account)	0	0	0	0
Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	(39)	0	0	39
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(7,051)	0	0	7,051
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(5,450)	0	0	5,450
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources:				
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(734)	734	0	0
Administrative costs of non-current asset disposals (funded by a contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	5	(5)	0	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(6,104)	0	0	6,104
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(20)	0	0	20
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	(6,853)	729	0	6,124
Adjustments to Capital Resources:				
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	(765)	0	765
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	(2,103)	0	1,195	908
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	0	35	0	(35)
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	(2,103)	(730)	1,195	1,638
Total Adjustments	(14,406)	(1)	1,195	13,212

2021/2022 Financial Year	USABLE RESERVE	USABLE RESERVE	USABLE RESERVE	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments to Revenue Resources:				
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements				
Pension Cost (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	17,886	0	0	(17,886)
Pension prepayment adjustment	(2,817)	0	0	2,817
Council Tax and NDR (transfers to or from the Collection Fund)	(6,408)	0	0	6,408
Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit (transfers to or from the DSG Adjustment Account)	772	0	0	(772)
Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	126	0	0	(126)
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	6,018	0	0	(6,018)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	15,577	0	0	(15,577)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources:				
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(927)	927	0	0
Administrative costs of non-current asset disposals (funded by a contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	15	(15)	0	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(5,211)	0	0	5,211
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(85)	0	0	85
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	(6,208)	912	0	5,296
Adjustments to Capital Resources:				
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	(1,070)	0	1,070
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	(665)	0	(657)	1,322
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	0	164	0	(164)
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	(665)	(906)	(657)	2,228
Total Adjustments	8,704	6	(657)	(8,053)

Note 10 – Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund Expenditure in 2022/2023.

	Balance as at 31 March 2021	Transfers In 2021/2022	Transfers Out 2021/2022	Balance as at 31 March 2022	Transfers In 2022/2023	Transfers Out 2022/2023	Balance as at 31 March 2023
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Individual Schools Budget Reserve	1,617	1,765	(1,617)	1,765	1,595	(1,765)	1,595
Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve	0	0	0	0	64	0	64
Self-Insurance	1,283	0	0	1,283	0	(1,283)	0
Business Rates Reserve	13,447	0	(5,930)	7,517	0	(4,571)	2,946
Management of Change	826	1,995	(2,821)	0	0	0	0
Debt Financing Reserve	1,304	933	0	2,237	0	(2,237)	0
Transformation Programme	0	5,935	(1,624)	4,311	1,900	(6,211)	0
Adult Social Care Transition Funding	2,113	1,918	(4,031)	0	0	0	0
Clinical Commissioning Group Priorities	1,235	1,750	(2,985)	0	0	0	0
IFRS Revenue Grant	8,006	4,673	(6,154)	6,525	2,877	(4,142)	5,260
Health & Wellbeing Board Public Health Priorities	209	0	(58)	151	0	(20)	131
Council Tax Hardship Fund	376	100	(243)	233	50	0	283
Strategic Change Reserve	62	0	(47)	15	0	(15)	0
Children's Services Recruitment	74	0	(47)	27	0	(27)	0
Covid-19 Reserve	2,128	2,416	(4,128)	416	0	(416)	0
Pension Fund Reserve	186	176	0	362	0	(362)	0
Social & Democratic Demand Reserve	0	7,408	0	7,408	784	(5,107)	3,085
Service Specific Reserves:							
Resources	817	302	(414)	705	222	(357)	570
Economy & Growth	1,003	40	(369)	674	45	(351)	368
Children's Services	383	451	(351)	483	380	(275)	588
Public Health	1,577	363	(111)	1,829	518	(628)	1,719
Adult Services	1,744	852	(838)	1,758	172	(748)	1,182
Total Earmarked Reserves	38,390	31,077	(31,768)	37,699	8,607	(28,515)	17,791

Service Specific Reserves

A number of service specific reserves were established in respect of a programme of projects that met a service need identified since the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) was approved or was planned/committed spending that was not completed during 2022/2023.

Individual Schools Budget Reserve

This balance is comprised of unspent revenue balances of schools and other educational establishments at the year-end, which may be applied in the following year. The balances are not available for general use.

Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve

This reserve holds surplus balances on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Whilst a £64k in year surplus is recognised within this reserve at the end of 2022/2023, in accordance with the current statutory provisions regarding the accounting treatment of DSG deficits, the deficit on the DSG at the end of 2021/2022 financial year is still held within the DSG Adjustment Account which can be seen in Note 25 Unusable Reserves.

Self-Insurance

This reserve was held to meet the costs of claims which are insured internally.

Business Rates Reserve

A specific reserve to mitigate for fluctuations in business rates income between years.

Management of Change

Reserve in respect of the costs of managing organisational change, in particular, those that arise from transformation programmes. The balance on this reserve at the end of the 2021/2022 financial year is now incorporated within the Transformation Reserve.

Debt Financing Reserve

This reserve is to mitigate the risks associated with treasury management activity (cash flow, interest rate volatility, debt restructuring and use of internal borrowing) and to cushion the increasing debt management costs in the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

Transformation Reserve

Funding set aside to support the delivery of the council's transformation programme.

Adult Social Care Transition Funding

Reserve for transition funding to mitigate the impact of loss of NHS grant in future years. The balance on this reserve at the end of the 2021/2022 financial year was transferred into the Social and Demographic Demand reserve.

North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group Strategic Priorities

Reserve set aside to support CCG priorities. The balance on this reserve at the end of the 2021/2022 financial year was transferred into the Social and Demographic Demand reserve.

Social and Demographic Demand Reserve

This reserve is held to smooth demand cost fluctuations.

IFRS Revenue Grant Reserve

Under IFRS, revenue grants that do not have outstanding conditions attached at the year-end must be recognised as income immediately, even if specific plans and restrictions for spending the grant are in place. These grants are carried forward and utilised through this earmarked reserve to ensure that they can continue to be used to match future service spending plans.

Health and Well Being Board Public Health Priorities

Reserve established to support public health priorities.

Council Tax Hardship Fund

Reserve to specifically support council taxpayers who fall within the scope of the Council Tax Support Scheme.

Strategic Change Reserve

Reserve to support ongoing regeneration activity in the borough.

Children's Services Recruitment

Reserve to support the increase in capacity of the children's social care and related functions.

Covid-19 Reserve

This reserve has been established to support the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on service budgets.

Pension Fund Reserve

As pension costs can change year on year in accordance with actuary reviews, this reserve has been set aside to help cover future fluctuations in pension liabilities.

Note 11 – Other Operating Expenditure

	2022/2023	2021/2022
	£000	£000
Parish Council Precepts	780	768
Levies	740	707
(Gains)/Losses on Disposal of Non-Current Assets	(119)	(398)
Total	1,401	1,077

Note 12 – Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

	2022/2023	2021/2022
	£000	£000
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	5,184	4,996
Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability/(Asset)	4,185	5,054
Interest Receivable and Similar Income	(643)	(43)
Income and Expenditure in relation to Investment Properties and Changes in their Fair Value	(4,677)	(1,016)
Total	4,049	8,991

Note 13 – Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income and Expenditure

	2022/2023	2021/2022
	£000	£000
Council Tax Income	(82,553)	(75,917)
Non-Domestic Rates Income and Expenditure	(40,432)	(35,138)
Business Rates Relief	(10,931)	(9,281)
Revenue Support Grant	(9,477)	(9,192)
Social Care Grant	(8,226)	(6,068)
Covid-19 Support Grant	0	(4,998)
Services Grant	(2,739)	0
Other Non-Ring-Fenced Government Grants	(1,924)	(3,131)
Capital Grants and Contributions	(25,933)	(10,870)
Total	(182,215)	(154,595)

Note 14 – Property, Plant and Equipment

2022/2023 Financial Year	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £000	Community Assets £000	PPE Under Construction £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total £000
Cost or Valuation:						
Balance as at 1 April 2022	95,577	24,203	21,305	12,799	3,330	157,214
Additions	2,735	3,650	1,450	5,877	9	13,721
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluation increases/(decreases) to Revaluation Reserve	(361)	0	0	0	128	(233)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(23)	0	0	0	(4)	(27)
De-Recognition - Disposals	0	(1,770)	0	(240)	0	(2,010)
De-Recognition - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reclassifications & Transfers	(1,336)	0	0	(5,065)	(1,230)	(7,631)
Reclassified to/from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Movements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance as at 31 March 2023	96,592	26,083	22,755	13,371	2,233	161,034
Depreciation and Impairment:						
Balance as at 1 April 2022	(11,586)	(14,822)	(7,511)	(1)	0	(33,920)
Depreciation Charge	(5,221)	(2,691)	0	0	0	(7,912)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	5,279	0	0	0	0	5,279
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	537	0	0	0	0	537
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	498	0	0	0	0	498
Impairment losses/reversals To Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(2,445)	0	(1,450)	0	0	(3,895)
De-Recognition - Disposals	0	1,767	0	0	0	1,767
De-Recognition - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reclassifications & Transfers	630	0	0	(275)	0	355
Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance as at 31 March 2023	(12,308)	(15,746)	(8,961)	(276)	0	(37,291)
Net Book Value:						
Balance as at 31 March 2023	84,284	10,337	13,794	13,095	2,233	123,743
Balance as at 31 March 2022	83,991	9,381	13,794	12,798	3,330	123,294

2021/2022 Financial Year	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £000	Community Assets £000	PPE Under Construction £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total £000
Cost or Valuation:						
Balance as at 1 April 2021	93,901	21,178	20,746	8,534	6,341	150,700
Additions	3,577	4,161	559	1,875	0	10,172
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluation increases/(decreases) to Revaluation Reserve	(1,477)	0	0	0	(80)	(1,557)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(424)	0	0	0	80	(344)
De-Recognition - Disposals	0	(1,136)	0	0	(380)	(1,516)
De-Recognition - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reclassifications & Transfers	0	0	0	2,390	(2,539)	(149)
Reclassified to/from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	(92)	(92)
Other Movements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance as at 31 March 2022	95,577	24,203	21,305	12,799	3,330	157,214
Depreciation and Impairment:						
Balance as at 1 April 2021	(8,340)	(13,655)	(7,511)	(1)	(10)	(29,517)
Depreciation Charge	(5,050)	(2,288)	0	0	(10)	(7,348)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	1,819	0	0	0	0	1,819
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,185	0	0	0	2	1,187
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	(1,089)	0	0	0	0	(1,089)
Impairment losses/reversals To Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(111)	0	0	0	0	(111)
De-Recognition - Disposals	0	1,121	0	0	4	1,125
De-Recognition - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reclassifications & Transfers	0	0	0	0	10	10
Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	4	4
Balance as at 31 March 2022	(11,586)	(14,822)	(7,511)	(1)	0	(33,920)
Net Book Value:						
Balance as at 31 March 2022	83,991	9,381	13,794	12,798	3,330	123,294
Balance as at 31 March 2021	85,561	7,523	13,235	8,533	6,331	121,183

Infrastructure Assets

In accordance with the temporary relief offered by the Update to the Code on infrastructure assets, this note does not include disclosure of gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets because historical reporting practices and resultant information deficits mean that this would not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements.

The council has chosen not to disclose this information as the previously reported practices and resultant information deficits mean that gross cost and accumulated depreciation are not measured accurately and would not provide the basis for the users of the financial statements to take economic or other decisions relating to infrastructure assets.

Infrastructure Assets	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Net Book Value - Modified Historical Cost:		
Balance as at 1 April	143,960	136,388
Additions	7,888	12,073
Depreciation	(4,825)	(4,501)
Balance as at 31 March	147,023	143,960

The council has determined, in accordance with Regulation 30M of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England/Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2022, that the carrying amounts to be derecognised for infrastructure assets when there is replacement expenditure is nil.

Reconciliation of Infrastructure Assets and Other Property Plant and Equipment

Net Book Value	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2022 £000
Infrastructure Assets	147,023	143,960
Other property, plant & equipment	123,743	123,294
Total Property, Plant & Equipment as per the Balance Sheet	270,766	267,254

Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2023, the council has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of property, plant and equipment in future years. Of these contracts, those considered to be major contracts are those having outstanding commitments in excess of £1m. As at 31 March 2023, the following contracts met this criterion:

- Towns Fund – St James and Riverhead Square – £3.26m
- Corporation Road Bridge Refurbishment – £3.47m
- Depot Rationalisation – £1.47m
- Playing Pitch Re-provision – £1.45m

Effects of Changes in Estimates

No material changes in estimates have been made in year. Useful lives are assessed as part of the valuation rolling programme.

Depreciation

The following asset lives have been used in the calculation of depreciation:

- Other Land and Buildings – Up to 999 years
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment – Between 1 and 10 years
- Infrastructure – Between 25 and 80 Years

Revaluations

The council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all property, plant and equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every five years. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Valuations of vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are based on current prices where there is an active second-hand market or latest list prices adjusted for the condition of the asset.

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the current values of property, plant and equipment are:

- That good title can be shown, and all valid planning permissions and statutory approvals are in place.
- That the occupier will have the benefit of access, services and rights to enable occupation on a normal commercial basis.
- That all easements, rights of way, restrictions or other encumbrances have been considered.
- That the properties are in good repair unless otherwise stated.
- That no deleterious or hazardous materials have been used in the construction, nor any existing or potential environmental factors are known, that could affect the values.

The table below shows the property, plant and equipment held on the asset register valued at historical cost or at the fair value of the asset at the time of valuation.

Valuation Of PPE	Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £000	Surplus Assets £000	Other PPE £000	Total PPE £000
Carried at Historical Cost	0	10,337	0	173,912	184,250
Valued at Fair Value as at:					
31/03/2023	26,324	0	2,233	0	28,557
31/03/2022	12,870	0	0	0	12,870
31/03/2021	39,735	0	0	0	39,734
31/03/2020	5,355	0	0	0	5,355
31/03/2019	0	0	0	0	0
Total Cost or Valuation	84,284	10,337	2,233	173,912	270,766

Fair Value Measurement for Surplus Assets and Investment Properties

See Note 1 Accounting Policies (section xxiii. Fair Value Measurement) for an explanation of fair value and the fair value level.

Fair Value Hierarchy

Details of the council's surplus assets and investment properties, as at 31 March 2023, are as follows:

Recurring Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Fair Value as at 31st March 2023 £000	Fair Value as at 31st March 2022 £000
Surplus Assets:		
All Surplus Assets	2,233	3,330
Total Surplus Assets	2,233	3,330
Investment Properties:		
Agricultural Properties	563	1,053
Office Units	4,721	4,572
Commercial Units	68,858	45,944
Total Investment Properties	74,142	51,569

Determined Value Level, Valuation Process and Techniques

There is limited evidence in respect of actual transactions for this region and no publicly available market reports for North East Lincolnshire. Much of the evidence of actual sales comes for this region from North East Lincolnshire Council itself. Adjustments are required to reflect the location, size, age, use and condition of the assets. The council's assets are therefore categorised as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy as the measurement technique uses significant unobservable inputs to determine the fair value measurements and there is no reasonably available information that indicates that market participants would use different assumptions.

The assets have been valued by the council's Estates Team in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the Valuation Terms of Engagement and professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). In estimating the fair value of the council's surplus assets and investment properties, the highest and best use of the properties is their current use.

There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year.

Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements

Assets Categorised Within Level 3	Surplus Assets 31 March 2023	Investment Properties 31 March 2023	Surplus Assets 31 March 2022	Investment Properties 31 March 2022
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Opening Balance	3,330	51,569	6,331	53,129
Reclassifications in at Level 3	0	2,894	0	139
Reclassifications out at Level 3	(1,230)	0	(2,617)	(25)
Total gains/losses for the period included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services resulting from changes in fair value	(4)	323	72	(2,615)
Total to Revaluation Reserve	128	0	(80)	0
Additions	9	19,926	0	988
Disposals	0	(570)	(376)	(47)
Closing Balance	2,233	74,142	3,330	51,569

Gains arising from changes in the fair value of surplus assets are recognised in the Revaluation Reserve, unless they reverse a previous impairment charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. Losses arising from changes in the fair value of surplus assets firstly reduce any Revaluation Reserve balance relating to that asset and, thereafter, are recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of investment properties are recognised in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services – Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line.

Quantitative Information about Fair Value

Subcategory at Fair Value Level 3	31 March 2023 £000	Valuation Technique used to measure Fair Value	Unobservable Inputs	Sensitivity
Surplus Assets:				
Land	2,206	Market Comparison / Residual	Sale Levels Finance / Construction Costs Build Period	Significant changes in sale levels, finance and construction costs will result in a significantly lower or higher fair value
Buildings	27	Market Comparison / Residual	Sale Levels Finance / Construction Costs Build Period	Significant changes in sale levels, finance and construction costs will result in a significantly lower or higher fair value
Investment Properties:				
Industrial and Commercial Units	68,858	Market Comparison / Investment Method	Rent Growth Vacancy Levels Yields	Significant changes in rental income, rent growth, vacancy levels or yields will result in a significantly lower or higher fair value
Office Units	4,721	Market Comparison / Investment Method	Rent Growth Vacancy Levels Yields	Significant changes in rental income, rent growth, vacancy levels or yields will result in a significantly lower or higher fair value
Agricultural Units	563	Market Comparison	Rent Growth Vacancy Levels Yields	Significant changes in sales comparables and certain tenancies affecting when vacant possession can be achieved will significantly lower or higher fair value

Note 15 – Heritage Assets

Cost or Valuation	Civic Regalia £000	Museum Collection £000	Other Heritage Assets £000	Total Heritage Assets £000
Balance as at 1 April 2021	426	1,426	83	1,935
Additions	0	0	0	0
Movements – Revaluations	0	0	0	0
Reclassifications	0	0	0	0
Balance as at 31 March 2022	426	1,426	83	1,935
Additions	0	0	0	0
Movements – Revaluations	0	0	0	0
Reclassifications	0	0	0	0
Balance as at 31 March 2023	426	1,426	83	1,935

Note 16 – Investment Properties

The following items of income and expense have been accounted for in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Rental income from investment property	(9,028)	(4,379)
Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	4,434	1,039
Net (Gain)/Loss	(4,594)	(3,340)

There are no restrictions on the council's ability to realise the value inherent in its investment property and none on the council's right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The council has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or on repairs, maintenance, or enhancement.

The following table summarises the movement in the fair value of investment properties over the year:

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Balance at start of the year	51,569	53,129
Additions	19,926	988
Disposals	(570)	(47)
Net gains/losses from fair value adjustments	323	(2,400)
Transfers:		
To/from Assets Held for Sale	(74)	(250)
To/from Property, Plant and Equipment	2,968	149
Balance at end of the year	74,142	51,569

Note 17 – Intangible Assets

The council accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of property, plant and equipment. The intangible assets include both purchased licenses and internally generated software.

All software is given a finite useful life based on assessments, by an appropriate expert, of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the council. The useful lives assigned to the major software suites used by the council are as follows:

- Refurb / Refresh (updating software to support our systems, applications, and websites) – five years.
- Digital Strategy Delivery System – four years.

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. The amortisation of £300k charged to revenue in 2022/2023 was charged to the following lines in the Cost of Services – £249k Resources, £49k Children's Services, and £2k Environment.

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Balance at start of the year	4,619	4,024
Accumulated amortisation	(3,514)	(2,930)
Net carrying amount at start of year	1,105	1,094
Additions	1,056	595
Reclassifications	0	0
Disposals	0	0
Amortisation for the period	(300)	(584)
Amortisation written off on disposal	0	0
Net carrying amount at the end of the year	1,861	1,105
Comprising:		
Gross carrying amount	5,675	4,619
Accumulated amortisation	(3,814)	(3,514)
Net carrying amount at the end of the year	1,861	1,105

Note 18 – Financial Instruments

The following categories of financial instrument are carried in the Balance Sheet:

	31 March 2023 Long Term £000	31 March 2022 Long Term £000	31 March 2023 Short Term £000	31 March 2022 Short Term £000
Financial Assets:				
Loans and Receivables at Amortised Cost	1,193	1,207	934	974
Debtors carried at Amortised Cost	0	0	19,429	16,463
Total Financial Assets	1,193	1,207	20,363	17,437
Financial Liabilities:				
Borrowings at Amortised Cost	140,109	135,317	31,556	21,370
Creditors carried at Contract Amount	0	0	23,696	46,943
Total Financial Liabilities	140,109	135,317	55,252	68,313

Amounts relating to financial instruments recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

Financial Liabilities Measured at Amortised Cost	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Interest Expense	5,094	4,902
Total Expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	5,094	4,902

Information as to the council's treatment of financial assets and liabilities within the accounts, including the basis of fair value measurements, is included within Note 1 Accounting Policies (section ix. Financial Instruments).

The Fair Values of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities that are not measured at Fair Value (but for which Fair Value Disclosures are required)

Except for the financial assets carried at fair value, all other financial liabilities and financial assets represented by amortised cost and long-term debtors and creditors are carried on the balance sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that take place over the remaining life of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- For loans from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) payable, PWLB premature repayment rates have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures. The council has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than from markets.
- For non-PWLB loans payable, as market lenders to the sector compete with PWLB their rates have to be comparable, therefore PWLB premature repayment rates have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures. The value of "Lender's Option Borrower's Option" (LOBO) loans have been increased by the value of the embedded options. Lender's options to propose an increase to the interest rate on the loan have been valued according to a proprietary model for Bermudan cancellable swaps. Borrower's contingent options to accept the increase rate or repay the loan have been valued at zero, on the assumption that lenders will only exercise their options when market rates have risen above the contractual loan rate for the remainder of the loan term.

- For loans receivable prevailing benchmark market rates have been used to provide the fair value.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised.
- Where an instrument has a maturity of less than 12 months or is a trade or other receivable the fair value is taken to be the carrying amount or the billed amount.
- The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

Local Authorities sometimes give financial guarantees that require them to make specified payments to reimburse the holder of a debt if the debtor fails to make payment when due. The council has provided a financial guarantee in respect of Lincs Inspire Limited. The fair values of financial guarantees are measured at the higher of the amount recognised initially and the amount determined in accordance with IAS 37. Therefore, the carrying amount of the financial guarantee will remain at the original amount estimated at inception (less cumulative amortisation) unless payment under the guarantee becomes probable.

This table shows the carrying value and fair value of the loans to the council by the PWLB and other organisations.

	Fair Value Level	31 March 2023	31 March 2023	31 March 2023	31 March 2022	31 March 2022
		Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Effect of 1% Rise in Interest Rates	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
PWLB Debt	2	76,990	77,130	(9,470)	73,137	101,165
Non PWLB Debt	2	66,348	72,683	(11,583)	65,315	108,601
Temporary Borrowing	2	28,327	28,327	(0)	18,235	18,220
Total Debt		171,665	178,140	(21,053)	156,687	227,986

The fair value of the liabilities is greater than the carrying amount because the council's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans in the market at the balance sheet date. The sharp rise in market rates during the period has significantly reduced the premia required to early repay the council's loans however, at period end, the aggregate position still shows a notional loss arising from the commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market.

Note 19 – Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

The council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks. The key risks are:

- Credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the council.
- Liquidity risk – the possibility that the council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.
- Re-financing and Maturity risk – the possibility that the council might need to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms.
- Market risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements.

The council's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services.

Risk management is carried out by a central treasury team, under policies approved by the council in the annual Treasury Management Strategy – the Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/2023 was approved by full Council in February 2022. The council maintains written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies (covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk, and the investment of surplus cash).

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the council's customers.

This risk is managed through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, as laid down by S & P Global, Fitch, and/or Moody's Ratings Services. This council further uses the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services. This service uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies, forming the core element. However, it does not rely solely on the current credit ratings of counterparties but also uses the following as overlays:

- Credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies.
- CDS spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings.
- Sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries.

The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum amount and time limits with any financial institution located within each category.

The council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. A risk of non-recovery applies to all of the council's deposits, but there was no evidence at the 31 March 2023 that this was likely to crystallise.

Amounts Arising from Expected Credit Losses

Analysis shows that the application of the above Strategies (in particular, the monitoring of counterparty rating and management of deposit term) results in a non-material expected credit loss on its investments when applying an historic rating-linked default probability.

Liquidity Risk

The council manages its liquidity position through the risk management procedures above (the setting and approval of prudential indicators and the approval of the treasury and investment strategy reports), as well as through a comprehensive cash flow management system, as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when needed.

The council has ready access to borrowing from the money markets to cover any day-to-day cash flow need, and the PWLB and money markets for access to longer term funds. The council is also required to set a balanced budget through the Local Government Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is no significant perceived risk that the council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

Re-financing and Maturity Risk

The council maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered against the re-financing risk procedures, longer-term risk to the council relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. This risk relates to both the maturing of longer term financial liabilities and longer term financial assets.

The approved treasury indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits placed on investments placed for greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The council's approved treasury and investment strategies address the main risks and the central treasury team address the operational risks within the approved parameters. This includes:

- Monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or the rescheduling of the existing debt; and
- Monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure sufficient liquidity is available for the council's day to day cash flow needs, and the spread of longer term investments provide stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer term cash flow need.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

Timescale	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2022 £000
Less than one year	31,556	21,371
Between one and two years	2,441	5,318
Between two and five years	13,740	7,629
Between five and ten years	15,712	16,597
Between 10 and 20 years	14,611	12,741
Over 20 years	72,605	72,031
Uncertain date*	21,000	21,000
Total	171,665	156,687

* The council has £21m of "Lender option, borrower's option" (LOBO) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the rate payable; the council will then have the option to accept the new rate or repay the loan without penalty. Even though rates rose during 2022-23, no changes to our loan rates were proposed by lenders. If any of the lenders were to exercise their option, the council is likely to repay those loans. The maturity date is therefore uncertain.

Interest rate risk

The council is exposed to risk arising from interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the council. For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- Borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense will rise.
- Borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the borrowings will fall.
- Investments at variable rates – the interest income rise.
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

The council has strategies in place for managing interest rate risk. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together council's prudential and treasury indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. From this Strategy a treasury indicator is set which provides maximum limits for fixed and variable interest rate exposure. The central treasury team monitor market and forecast interest rates within the year to adjust exposures appropriately. For instance, during periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate investments may be taken for longer periods to secure better long term returns, similarly the drawing of longer term fixed rates borrowing would be postponed.

The Treasury Management Strategy also aims to mitigate these risks by setting upper limits on its net exposures to fixed and variable interest rates.

Price risk

The market prices of any council fixed rate bond investments and any units in pooled bond funds are governed by prevailing interest rates and the market risk associated with these instruments is managed alongside interest rate risk. This will typically only apply where an investment is held as Fair Value through profit and Loss or Fair Value through other Comprehensive Income.

Foreign exchange risk

The council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies. It therefore has no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates

Note 20 – Debtors

Debtors are financial assets not traded in an active market with fixed or determinable payments that are contractual rights to receive cash or cash equivalents.

Debtor	2022/2023 Long Term £000	2021/2022 Long Term £000	2022/2023 Short Term £000	2021/2022 Short Term £000
Central Government Bodies	0	0	5,124	4,268
Other Local Authorities	0	0	759	455
NHS Bodies	0	0	155	78
Other Entities and Individuals	0	0	18,551	16,530
Impairment Allowances	0	0	(5,160)	(4,868)
Loans and Advances	1,193	1,207	934	974
Total – Financial Instruments	1,193	1,207	20,363	17,437
Non-Domestic Rates & Council Tax	0	0	25,058	19,854
Value Added Tax	0	0	2,260	3,146
Total – Non-Financial Instruments	0	0	27,318	23,000
Total Debtors	1,193	1,207	47,681	40,437

The past due, but not impaired, amount for local taxation (council tax and non-domestic rates) is analysed as follows:

Aged Debt	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
1 year	7,047	6,154
1 – 2 years	3,747	2,964
2 – 3 years	2,474	2,014
3 – 4 years	2,005	1,374
Over 4 years	5,199	2,753
Total	20,472	15,259

This analysis only shows those balances where assessment has indicated that, by exception, no impairment is required.

Note 21 – Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand/bank and short-term deposits and investments (considered to be cash equivalents), net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Cash Flow Statement can be reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Cash and Bank Balances	(1,081)	(846)
Short Term Investments	15,290	44,496
Total - Current Asset	14,209	43,650

Note 22 – Assets Held for Sale

The value of assets currently being actively marketed for sale is as follows:

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Balance Outstanding at Start of Year	338	0
Additions	492	0
Transferred from Non-Current Assets during Year:		
Property Plant & Equipment	4,660	88
Investment Properties	74	250
Net gains/losses from fair value adjustments	1,090	0
Assets Declassified As Held For Sale	3	0
Assets Sold	(37)	0
Total Unusable Reserves	6,620	338

Note 23 – Creditors

The following amounts are owed by the council within the next twelve months:

Creditor	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Central Government Bodies	4,955	30,817
Other Local Authorities	413	190
NHS Bodies	2,377	5,651
Other Entities and Individuals	15,951	10,285
Total – Financial Instruments	23,696	46,943
Non-Domestic Rates & Council Tax	10,371	6,070
Tax & National Insurance	1,210	1,401
Total – Non-Financial Instruments	11,581	7,471
Total Creditors	35,277	54,414

Note 24 – Provisions

Provisions are recognised where the council has a legal or constructive obligation arising from a past event that will probably require settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Details of the provisions set aside as at 31 March 2023 are as follows:

Provision	Opening Balance 1 April 2022 £000	Increase / (Reduction) In Provision During Year £000	Utilised During Year £000	Unused Amounts Reversed £000	Closing Balance 31 March 2023 £000	Estimated Settlement Within One Year £000	Estimated Settlement Beyond One Year £000
NNDR Appeals	7,071	2,071	(2,782)	(3,899)	2,461	1,230	1,231
Self-Insurance	864	784	(79)	(368)	1,201	240	961
Totals	7,935	2,855	(2,861)	(4,267)	3,662	1,470	2,192

National Non-Domestic Rates Appeals (NNDR)

This provision has been established to meet the Council's share of the estimated costs of settling appeals against the NNDR valuation of properties currently lodged with the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). In 2022/2023, the total appeals provision in the Business Rates Collection Fund is £5.023m; the Council's share of this under the Local Business Rates Retention Scheme is 49%.

Self-Insurance

To obtain insurance in the most cost-effective manner, the Council has chosen to carry excesses in respect of claims under various insurance policies covering property, public liability and employer's liability, subject to an annual review of the appropriate level at which any 'stop-loss' arrangements apply. The amount set aside to cover the uninsured risks is based on the assessed liability in respect of known claims at that date.

Note 25 – Unusable Reserves

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Capital Adjustment Account	98,515	81,813
Revaluation Reserve	54,580	50,925
Pensions Reserve	29,299	(151,821)
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	7,413	(4,228)
Accumulated Absences Account	(1,281)	(1,320)
Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account	(1,533)	(1,533)
Total Unusable Reserves	186,993	(26,164)

Capital Adjustment Account

The capital adjustment account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The account is credited with the amounts set aside by the council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction, and subsequent expenditure.

The account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the council. The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

	2022/2023 £000	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000	2021/2022 £000
Balance at 1 April		81,813		77,709
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(16,632)		(11,960)	
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	1,952		853	
Amortisation of Intangible Assets	(300)		(584)	
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(8,344)		(8,153)	
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(850)		(438)	
		(24,174)		(20,282)
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve		1,854		2,434
Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year		(22,320)		(17,848)
Capital financing applied in the year:				
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	765		1,070	
Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	30,902		16,664	
Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	908		1,322	
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	6,104		5,211	
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	20		85	
		38,699		24,352
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		323		(2,400)
Balance at 31 March		98,515		81,813

Revaluation Reserve

The revaluation reserve contains the gains made by the council arising from increases in the value of its property, plant and equipment and intangible assets.

The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost,
- Used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or
- Disposed of and the gains are realised.

The reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the capital adjustment account.

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Balance at 1 April	50,925	54,350
Net revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	5,544	(827)
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(1,792)	(2,337)
Revaluation balances on assets scrapped or disposed of	(97)	(261)
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	(1,889)	(2,598)
Balance at 31 March	54,580	50,925

Pensions Reserve

The pensions reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs.

However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. Whilst the balance on the pensions reserve may show a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees, and the resources the council has set aside to meet them, the statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Balance at 1 April	(151,821)	(252,114)
Re-measurements of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	194,401	115,362
Pension prepayment adjustment	2,816	2,817
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(25,413)	(26,318)
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	9,316	8,432
Balance at 31 March	29,299	(151,821)

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The collection fund adjustment account manages the differences arising from the recognition of council tax and non-domestic rates income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it falls due from council tax and business rate payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the collection fund.

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Balance at 1 April	(4,228)	(10,636)
Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	11,641	6,408
Balance at 31 March	7,413	(4,228)

Accumulated Absences Account

The accumulated absences account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year, e.g., annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the account.

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Balance at 1 April	(1,320)	(1,194)
Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	1,320	1,194
Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(1,281)	(1,320)
Balance at 31 March	(1,281)	(1,320)

Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account

The Dedicated Schools Grant adjustment account holds accumulated deficits relating to the schools budget. Where the authority has incurred a deficit on its schools budget in years beginning 1 April 2020 ending 31 March 2026, the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations do not allow for such amounts to be included in the General Fund and instead must be held in this adjustment account.

Further information on the deployment of the DSG in 2022/2023 is provided in Note 33.

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Balance at 1 April	(1,533)	(761)
School budget deficit transferred from General Fund in accordance with statutory requirements	0	(772)
Balance at 31 March	(1,533)	(1,533)

Note 26 – Cashflow from Operating Activities

The cash flows from operating activities include the following items:

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Interest Paid	(5,080)	(4,930)
Interest Received	643	43
Total	(4,437)	(4,887)
	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Adjustment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements:		
Depreciation	16,632	11,960
Impairment & Downward Valuations	(1,952)	(853)
Amortisation	300	584
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(6,838)	(5,068)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(25,554)	7,751
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventories	96	(22)
Movement in Pension Liability	16,097	17,886
Carrying Amount of Non-Current Assets, and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale, Sold or De-recognised	850	438
Other items charged to the Net Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services	(4,696)	2,405
Total	(5,065)	35,081
Adjustment for items included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities:		
Proceeds from the sale of PPE, Investment Property and Intangible Assets	(729)	(912)
Any other items for which the cash effects are Investing or Financing Cash Flows	(33,040)	(17,493)
Total	(33,769)	(18,405)

Note 27 – Cashflow from Investing Activities

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Purchase of PPE, Investment Property and Intangible Assets	(42,510)	(25,582)
Other payments for Investing Activities	(1,276)	(37)
Proceeds from the sale of PPE, Investment Property and Intangible Assets	729	912
Other receipts from investing activities	37,717	21,841
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	(5,340)	(2,866)

Note 28 – Cashflow from Financing Activities

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Cash receipts of Short Term and Long Term Borrowing	59,136	26,000
Repayment of Short Term and Long Term Borrowing	(44,262)	(21,263)
Other payments for Financing Activities	5,361	5,068
Net cash flows from Financing Activities	20,235	9,805

Reconciliation of Liabilities arising from Financing Activities:

	Balance as at 1 April 2022 £000	CASH CHANGE	NON-CASH CHANGE	NON-CASH CHANGE	Balance as at 31 March 2023 £000
		Financing Cash Flows £000	Movement from Long-Term to Short-Term £000	Interest Accruals £000	
Long-Term Borrowings	135,317	4,893	(101)	0	140,109
Short-Term Borrowings	21,370	9,982	101	103	31,556
Total Liabilities from Financing Activities	156,687	14,875	0	103	171,665

Note 29 – Pooled Budgets

Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund is a government plan to integrate health and social care which is implemented via a Section 75 pooled budget arrangement. The council was a partner within the pooled budget with the North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NELCCG) until 30 June 2022, and from the 1 July 2022 with the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)

This funding requires the council and its health partners to agree how the money should be used to support social care activity that also has a health benefit. In accordance with national requirements, the council and NELCCG/ICB submitted its better care plan as to how it would use funding to improve its citizen's lives, and monitoring reports detailing progress continue to be submitted by the ICB to NHS England.

The focus continues to support projects to deliver four key performance metrics and the high impact change model. The performance metrics are:

- Non elective admissions,
- Residential admissions,
- Reablement, and
- Delayed transfers of care.

Funding of services to support these performance metrics include Intermediate Tier Services (these are concerned with reablement – most often as 'half-way home' service on hospital discharge, recovery as a step down from hospital, and urgent community response with hospital avoidance potential by means of swift interventions at home or using a short term step-up bed), Single Point of Access, Assisted Living Centre, Support to Care Homes, Seven Day Service Provision and Just Checking.

During 2022/2023 a new element was introduced to specifically support timely and safe discharge from hospital into the community by reducing the number of people delayed in hospital awaiting social care.

Details of the in-year pooled income and expenditure are as follows:

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Funding Provided to the pooled budget:		
North East Lincolnshire CCG / ICB	(15,186)	(13,244)
North East Lincolnshire Council	(11,930)	(11,043)
Total Funding	(27,116)	(24,287)
Expenditure met from the pooled budget:		
North East Lincolnshire CCG / ICB	15,186	13,244
North East Lincolnshire Council	12,678	10,286
Total Expenditure	27,864	23,530
Net deficit / (surplus) arising on the pooled budget during the year	748	(757)

Note 30 – Members' Allowances

The council paid the following amounts to elected members of the council during the year:

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Allowances	506	498
Expenses	3	0
Total	509	498

A breakdown of amounts paid directly to members can be found on the council's website (www.nelincs.gov.uk).

Note 31 – Officers’ Remuneration

Senior Officer Remuneration

The following tables detail the remuneration received by members of the council’s Leadership Team.

LEADERSHIP TEAM STRUCTURE 2022/2023	Basic Salary	Salary Supplement	Benefit in Kind	Expense Allowance	Compensation for Loss of Office	Pension Contribution	Total
Post Title	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive – R Walsh ⁽¹⁾	165,000	0	0	0	0	24,750	189,750
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director for People, Health & Care ⁽²⁾	100,379	0	0	0	30,000	254,829	385,208
Executive Director Place & Resources	115,181	0	0	0	0	17,277	132,458
Assistant Chief Executive	94,549	0	0	0	0	14,182	108,731
Director – Adult Services ⁽³⁾	54,699	0	0	0	0	8,192	62,891
Director – Childrens Services ⁽⁴⁾	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Director Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure. ⁽⁵⁾	23,750	0	0	0	0	3,229	26,979
Director of Public Health ⁽⁶⁾	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assistant Director Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)	88,200	0	0	0	0	13,230	101,430

LEADERSHIP TEAM STRUCTURE 2021/2022	Basic Salary	Salary Supplement	Benefit in Kind	Expense Allowance	Compensation for Loss of Office	Pension Contribution	Total
Post Title	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive – R Walsh	165,000	0	0	0	0	24,750	189,750
Director – Adult Services	96,425	0	0	0	0	14,464	110,889
Director – Children’s Services (Vacant with effect from 1 December 2021)	65,845	0	276	0	23,750	9,500	99,371
Director of Public Health	102,050	1,395	0	0	0	64,617	168,062
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director for People, Health & Care	135,524	0	0	0	0	20,329	155,853
Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources	111,650	0	0	0	0	16,748	128,398
Assistant Chief Executive	92,624	0	0	0	0	13,894	106,518
Assistant Director Law, Governance & Assets (Monitoring Officer)	86,275	0	0	0	0	12,941	99,216

Notes – Senior Officer Remuneration

1. The council has received a contribution of £34k from the Integrated Care Board in relation to the chief executive support around the shared delivery model arrangements.
2. As of 31 December 2022, the post of Executive Director of People, Health & Care ceased and has been deleted from the structure, with resulting exit costs.
3. The Director of Adult Services role was partially vacant during 2022/2023.
4. With effect from December 2021, the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of People, Health & Care took over the responsibilities of the vacant Director of Children’s Services post. As of July 2022, this role is now covered by a representative from Lincolnshire County Council. As the post holder is not a direct employee of North East Lincolnshire Council, these costs are not reflected in the table above.
5. The Director Economy, Environment and Infrastructure post was created and recruited to from 1 January 2023.
6. An arrangement is in place with both Lincolnshire County Council and North Lincolnshire Council for the joint provision of the role of Director of Public Health. Under this arrangement, whilst the post holder is formally employed by Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council is recharged one third of the salary costs and other remuneration. As the post holder is not a direct employee of North East Lincolnshire Council, these costs are not reflected in the table above.

Senior Employee Remuneration

Excluding Senior Officers who are listed individually in the previous tables, the number of council employees whose remuneration was £50k or more is as follows:

Remuneration Bands	2022/2023 Number of Employees	2021/2022 Number of Employees
£50,001 to £55,000	35	37
£55,001 to £60,000	27	19
£60,001 to £65,000	10	9
£65,001 to £70,000	14	12
£70,001 to £75,000	8	4
£75,001 to £80,000	6	5
£80,001 to £85,000	4	3
£85,001 to £90,000	0	1
£90,001 to £95,000	0	0
£95,001 to £100,000	0	0
£100,001 to £105,000	0	0
£105,001 to £110,000	0	0
£110,001 to £115,000	0	0
£115,001 to £120,000	0	0
£120,001 to £125,000	0	0
£125,001 to £130,000	1	0
Total	105	90

Exit Packages

The total number of exit packages, split between compulsory redundancies and other agreed departures, and the total cost per band are set out in the table below:

Exit Package Cost Band (Including Special Payments)	2022/2023	2021/2022	2022/2023	2021/2022	2022/2023	2021/2022	2022/2023	2021/2022
	Number of Compulsory Redundancies	Number of Compulsory Redundancies	Number of Other Agreed Departures	Number of Other Agreed Departures	Total Number of Exit Packages by Cost Band	Total Number of Exit Packages by Cost Band	Total Cost of Exit Packages in each Band £000	Total Cost of Exit Packages in each Band £000
£0 - £20,000	8	11	10	11	18	22	109	153
£20,001 - £40,000	0	1	2	2	2	3	71	86
£40,001 - £60,000	2	0	2	0	4	0	169	0
£60,001 - £300,000	2	0	2	0	4	0	572	0
Total Cost included in CIES							921	239

Note 32 – External Audit Costs

The council has incurred the following costs relating to the annual audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and other services provided by the council's external auditors, Mazars.

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Fees payable with regards to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	101	120
Fees payable to the appointed auditor for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	0	12
Fees payable in respect of other services provided by the appointed auditor during the year	3	0
Total fees payable	104	132

Note 33 – Dedicated Schools Grant

The council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The DSG is ring-fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the schools budget, as defined in the School Finance and Early Years (England) Regulations 2022. The schools budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on a council-wide basis and for the individual schools budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2022/2023 are as follows:

	Central Expenditure £000	Individual Schools Budget £000	Total £000
Final DSG for 2021/2022 before academy and high needs recoupment			159,694
Academy and high needs figure recouped for 2022/2023			(118,120)
Total DSG after academy and high needs recoupment for 2022/2023			41,574
Plus: Brought forward from 2021/2022			0
Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2022/2023	23,178	18,396	41,574
In year adjustments	0	89	89
Final budget distribution for 2022/2023	23,178	18,485	41,663
Less: Actual central expenditure	23,350		23,350
Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools		18,249	18,249
In-year carry forward to 2023/2024	(172)	236	64
Carry forward to 2023/2024			64
DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2021/2022			(1,533)
Addition to unusable reserve at the end of 2022/2023			0
Total of DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2022/2023			(1,533)
Net DSG position at the end of 2022/2023			(1,469)

The deficit DSG balance carried forward as at the 31 March 2023 mainly relates to the cost of additional out of borough placements and higher numbers, and more complex needs, of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN). Plans and proposals are being developed through the DfE Delivering Better Value strategy with the aim of addressing the on-going in year position and repaying the DSG overspend over the coming years.

Note 34 – Grant Income

The council credited the following grants and contributions to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year:

Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Council Tax Income	(82,553)	(75,917)
Non-Domestic Rates Income and Expenditure	(40,432)	(35,138)
Business Rates Relief	(10,931)	(9,281)
Revenue Support Grant	(9,477)	(9,192)
Social Care Grant	(8,226)	(6,068)
Covid-19 Support Grant	0	(4,998)
Services Grant	(2,739)	0
Other Non-Ring-Fenced Government Grants	(1,924)	(3,131)
Capital Grants and Contributions	(25,933)	(10,870)
Total	(182,215)	(154,595)

Credited to Services	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Dedicated Schools Grant	(41,433)	(37,137)
Rent Allowances	(32,893)	(33,131)
Public Health Grant	(11,887)	(11,562)
Improved Better Care Fund	(8,059)	(7,822)
Household Support Fund	(3,097)	(1,560)
Contain Outbreak Management Fund	0	(5,388)
Other Grants and Contributions	(31,828)	(30,592)
Total	(129,197)	(127,192)

The council has received a number of grants and contributions that have yet to be recognised as income which have conditions attached to them that will require the monies or property to be returned to the giver. The balances at the year-end are as follows:

Grants Received in Advance	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Capital Grants	(18,133)	(15,024)
Revenue Grants	(4,413)	(23,774)
Total	(22,546)	(38,798)

Note 35 – Related Parties

The council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the council or to be controlled or influenced by the council. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the council might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the council.

Central Government

Central government has significant control over the general operations of the council – it is responsible for providing statutory framework within which the council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the council has with other parties (e.g., council tax bills, housing benefits). Grant receipts are shown in Note 34 Grant Income.

Members and Officers

Members of the council have direct control over the council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid during the year is shown in Note 30 Members Allowances, and the Register of Members' Interests is available to be viewed on the council's website.

Officers that might be in a position to influence significantly the policies of the council are considered to be members of the Senior Leadership Team. All Senior Officers have been required to complete a related party declaration identifying organisations with which they have influence/or control, and which may have a related party interest with the council.

Related Party Interests 2022/2023	In-Year Expenditure £000	In-Year Income £000	Year-End Creditor £000	Year-End Debtor £000	Number of Members Declaring an Interest	Number of Officers Declaring an Interest
Works and Services commissioned from Companies	16,990	(790)	(18)	281	22	1
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	75	(8)	0	8	3	0
Grant contributions to Charities	1,126	(14)	0	8	17	1
Grant contributions to Not-for-Profit Organisations	1,134	(903)	(10)	123	14	0

Related Party Interests 2021/2022	In-Year Expenditure £000	In-Year Income £000	Year-End Creditor £000	Year-End Debtor £000	Number of Members Declaring an Interest	Number of Officers Declaring an Interest
Works and Services commissioned from Companies	16,946	(857)	0	(192)	20	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	298	(13)	0	(1)	26	0
Grant contributions to Charities	1,403	(301)	0	(192)	15	1
Grant contributions to Not-for-Profit Organisations	138	(1,179)	0	(28)	7	0

In all instances, the grants were made with proper consideration of declarations of interest. The relevant members or officers did not take part in any discussion or decision relating to the payments.

Other Public Bodies

Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

During the 2022/2023 financial year, a member of the council has registered a pecuniary interest due to their position of non-executive director of the Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Expenditure of £3,400k has been incurred during the year.

NHS Humber and North Yorkshire ICB (formerly North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group)

The council and NELCCG worked very closely together to deliver health services in North East Lincolnshire since 2007. In July 2022 the Integrated Care Board (ICB) took responsibility for the functions previously undertaken by North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NELCCG).

A Section 75 Agreement is in place which allows the council and ICB to jointly commission social care and public health services. Further information relating to the financial relationship with Humber and North Yorkshire ICB is provided in Note 44 Long Term Contracts.

The council also has a pooled budget arrangement with the NHS Humber and North Yorkshire ICB in relation to the Better Care Fund. Further information relating to the Better Care Fund is detailed in Note 29 Pooled Budgets.

Note 36 – Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year, together with the resources that have been used to finance it, is shown in the table below. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the council, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR); a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the council that has yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second part of the table below.

Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	190,336	182,669
Capital Investment:		
Property, Plant and Equipment	22,101	22,245
Investment Properties	19,926	988
Intangible Assets	1,056	595
Heritage Assets	0	0
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	8,344	8,153
Other	22	38
	51,449	32,019
Sources of Finance:		
Capital Receipts	(765)	(1,070)
Government Grants and Other Contributions	(31,810)	(17,986)
Sums set aside from Revenue:		
Direct Revenue Contributions	(20)	(85)
Minimum/Voluntary Revenue Provision	(6,104)	(5,211)
	(38,699)	(24,352)
Closing Capital Finance Requirement	203,086	190,336
Explanation of Movements in Year:		
Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	12,750	7,667
Increase/(Decrease) In Capital Financing Requirement	12,750	7,667

Note 37 – Leases

Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

The council has minimal outstanding finance leases. All primary rental periods for those assets have now concluded.

Operating Leases

The council leases a number of buildings, mainly for office accommodation, that are accounted for as operating leases.

The council is committed to making minimum payments under these leases comprising settlement of the long-term liability for the interest in the property acquired by the council and finance costs that will be payable by the council in future years while the liability remains outstanding. The minimum lease payments are made up of the following amounts:

Minimum lease payments due:	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
No later than 1 year	214	314
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	719	935
Later than 5 years	1,240	1,282
Total	2,173	2,531

The expenditure charged to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Minimum lease payments	229	321
Less: Sublease payments receivable	0	0
Total	229	321

Council as Lessor

Operating Leases

The council leases out property under operating leases:

- for economic development purposes, to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses, and
- for the provision of leisure and cultural purposes.

Future minimum lease payments receivable under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

Minimum lease rentals receivable:	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
No later than 1 year	(3,093)	(3,085)
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	(10,567)	(10,050)
Later than 5 years	(119,594)	(114,606)
Total	(133,254)	(127,741)

Note 38 – Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes

Teachers

Teachers employed by the council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE). The Scheme provides teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement, and the council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The Scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. The Scheme is unfunded, and the Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. Valuations of the notional fund are undertaken every four years.

The Scheme has many participating employers and consequently the council is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2022/2023, the council paid £1,088k to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing a contribution rate of 23.68% of pensionable pay. In 2021/2022 the council paid £1,082k to the Teachers' Pension Scheme, which represented a contribution rate of 23.68% of pensionable pay. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year-end. Contributions due to be paid in the 2023/2024 financial year are estimated to be £1,025k.

The council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis as detailed in Note 39, Defined Benefit Pension Schemes.

The council is not liable to the scheme for any other entities' obligations under the plan.

Public Health staff

Since 1 April 2013, public health staff have been employed by the council. These members of staff retain access to the NHS Pension Scheme administered by the NHS Business Services Authority on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care. The Scheme is run on the same basis as the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

In 2022/2023, the council paid £267k to the NHS Pension Scheme in respect of the retirement benefits of public health staff, representing a contribution rate of 14.38% of pensionable pay. In 2021/2022, the council paid £296k to the NHS Pension Scheme, representing 14.38% of pensionable pay. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year-end. Contributions due to be paid in the 2023/2024 financial year are estimated to be £266k.

The Council is not liable to the Scheme for any other entities' obligations under the plan.

Note 39 – Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Participation in the Local Government Pension Scheme

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the council makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits within the Local Government Pension Scheme. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the council has a commitment to make the payments (for those benefits) and to disclose them at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The council participates in two post-employment schemes:

- (i) The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by East Riding of Yorkshire Council - this is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with investment assets.
- (ii) Arrangements for the award of discretionary post-retirement benefits upon early retirement - this is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. However, there are no investment assets built up to meet these liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pension payments as they eventually fall due.

The East Riding Pension Scheme is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the pensions committee of East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pensions Fund Regulations.

The principal risks to the council of the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, structural changes to the scheme (i.e., large-scale withdrawals from the scheme), changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge to the General Fund the amounts required by statute as described in the accounting policies note.

Discretionary Post-retirement Benefits

Discretionary post-retirement benefits on early retirement are an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. There are no plan assets built up to meet these pension liabilities.

Transactions relating to Post-Employment Benefits

The council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of service when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge the council is required to make against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

	2022/2023	2021/2022	2022/2023	2021/2022
	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Discretionary Benefits £000	Discretionary Benefits £000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Cost of services:				
Service cost comprising:				
Current service cost	20,870	21,165	0	0
Past service cost	907	99	0	0
(Gain)/loss from settlements	(549)	0	0	0
Financing and investment income and expenditure:				
Net interest expense	4,185	5,054	0	0
Total post-employment benefits charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	25,413	26,318	0	0
Other post-employment benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:				
Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	11,007	(36,468)	0	0
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(4,774)	(6,019)	0	0
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(238,665)	(54,072)	(2,312)	757
Other	40,343	(19,560)	0	0
Total post-employment benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(166,676)	(89,801)	(2,312)	757
Movement in Reserves Statement				
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(25,413)	(26,318)	0	0
Actual amount charged against the General Fund balance for pensions in the year:				
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	7,574	6,565		
Retirement benefits payable to pensioners			1,742	1,867

Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

The amount included in the Balance Sheet arising from the council's obligation in respect of its defined benefit plans is as follows:

	2022/2023	2021/2022	2022/2023	2021/2022
	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Discretionary Benefits £000	Discretionary Benefits £000
Present value of the defined obligation	(517,968)	(697,908)	(15,807)	(19,861)
Fair value of plan assets	563,074	568,764	0	0
Net liability arising from the defined benefit obligation	45,106	(129,144)	(15,807)	(19,861)
Total liability	29,299	(149,005)		

Reconciliation of movements in the fair value of scheme assets:

	2022/2023	2021/2022	2022/2023	2021/2022
	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Discretionary Benefits £000	Discretionary Benefits £000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	568,764	524,883	0	0
Interest income	15,216	10,382	0	0
Re-measurement gain / (loss):				
The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	(11,007)	36,468	0	0
Other	0	7,889	0	0
Contributions from employer	7,574	6,565	1,742	1,867
Contributions from employees into the scheme	2,999	2,713	0	0
Benefits/transfers paid	(20,177)	(20,136)	(1,742)	(1,867)
Other	(295)	0	0	0
Closing value of scheme assets	563,074	568,764	0	0

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities:

	2022/2023	2021/2022	2022/2023	2021/2022
	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Discretionary Benefits £000	Discretionary Benefits £000
Opening balance at 1 April	(697,908)	(750,393)	(19,861)	(20,971)
Current service cost	(20,870)	(21,165)	0	0
Interest cost	(19,401)	(15,436)	0	0
Contributions from scheme participants	(2,999)	(2,713)	0	0
Re-measurement (gains) and losses:				
Actuarial (gains)/losses from changes in demographic assumptions	4,774	6,019	0	0
Actuarial (gains)/losses from changes in financial assumptions	238,665	54,072	2,312	(757)
Other	(40,343)	11,671	0	0
Past service cost	(907)	(99)	0	0
Benefits/transfers paid	20,177	20,136	1,742	1,867
Liabilities extinguished on settlements	844	0	0	0
Balance as at 31 March	(517,968)	(697,908)	(15,807)	(19,861)

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

	2022/2023 £000	2021/2022 £000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	10,508	7,308
Equities: by industry type		
Other	56,744	68,221
Debt Securities: by sector		
Corporate Bonds (Non-Investment Grade)	35,018	26,128
UK Government	9,592	14,933
Other	5,131	8,965
Sub-Total Debt Securities	49,741	50,026
Real Estate - UK	50,981	64,819
Private Equity - All	34,809	41,551
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts:		
Equities	232,213	228,723
Bonds	37,827	49,556
Infrastructure	37,429	38,756
Other	52,822	19,804
Sub-Total Investment Funds and Unit Trusts	360,291	336,839
Total Assets	563,074	568,764

Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in the future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc.

Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and discretionary benefits liabilities have been assessed by Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the East Riding Pension Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary are set out in the following table:

	2022/2023	2021/2022
Mortality assumptions:		
<i>Longevity at 65 current pensioners (years):</i>		
Men	20.8	21.1
Women	23.7	24.0
<i>Longevity at 65 for future pensioners (years):</i>		
Men	21.5	21.9
Women	25.2	25.5
Financial assumptions:		
Rate of increase in salaries	3.00%	3.20%
Rate of increase in pensions	3.00%	3.20%
Discount rate	4.75%	2.70%
Rate of inflation (CPI)	2.95%	3.20%

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below:

Change in Assumption at 31 March 2023	Approximate % increase to Defined Benefit Obligation	Approximate monetary amount £000
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	8,357
1 year increase in Member Life Expectancy	4%	21,351
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	663
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	1%	7,817

Impact on the Council's Cash Flows

It has been estimated that the contributions to the scheme for 2023/2024 will be approximately £10.571m.

Note 40 – Contingent Liabilities

General Business Rate Appeals

The Local Government Finance Act 2012 introduced a business rates retention scheme that enabled local authorities to retain a proportion of the business rates generated in their area. These new arrangements for business rates came into effect on 1 April 2013. Billing authorities acting as agents on behalf of the major preceptors (1%) and Central Government (50%), and themselves (49%) are required to make provisions for refunding ratepayers who have successfully appealed against the rateable value of their properties on the rating list.

To appeal against the rateable value assigned to a property there is now a three-stage process known as Check, Challenge, Appeal. At the Check stage, the ratepayer must check the accuracy (or otherwise) of the facts on which the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has based its valuation. If these are in dispute, the ratepayer can submit a 'challenge' to the VOA. This must include the legal basis of the challenge, and a proposed alternative rateable value, with reasons. If the ratepayer is unhappy with the VOA's response to the 'challenge' stage, they may appeal to the Valuation Tribunal for England.

If the bill is reduced as a result of the appeal, the VOA or the Valuation Tribunal may then give the ratepayer a refund. The Business Rates Appeal Provision is held as an amount to cover successful appeals and refunds and is an assessment of the likelihood of success and the level of estimated refund, including any backdating element.

The council has included a provision of £2.5m – this represents the council's 49% share of the Local Business Rates Retention Scheme (the overall provision in the Business Rates Collection Fund is £5.0m).

There may be further backdated claims, but it is difficult to estimate the likelihood of businesses both submitting and being successful with any new appeals and therefore the council has made no further provision in the accounts.

Note 41 – Contingent Assets

The council does not have any material contingent assets.

Note 42 – Trust Funds

The council administers various Trust Funds which are not included within the council's Balance Sheet. These include the Charter Trustees for Grimsby and Cleethorpes (precepting bodies set up to preserve the historic rights and memorabilia of the former Boroughs of Grimsby and Cleethorpes) and a further three miscellaneous funds. The balances on these funds as at 31 March 2023 are as follows:

	2022/2023	2022/2023	2022/2023	2021/2022	2021/2022	2021/2022
	Charter Trustees £000	Other Funds £000	Total £000	Charter Trustees £000	Other Funds £000	Total £000
Opening Balance at 1 April	237	27	264	242	27	269
In Year Movement	(18)	1	(17)	(5)	0	(5)
Closing Balance At 31 March	219	28	247	237	27	264

Note 43 – Agency Income & Expenditure

The council provides Payroll Services for a number of academy schools. It pays the academy school employees and related deductions to third parties for such items as tax, national insurance, and pension contributions and then these are charged back to the schools. Other than the fees received for providing the service the related income and expenditure is excluded from the council's cost of services.

The income and expenditure associated with the Payroll Service to academy schools is not material to the accounts.

During 2022/2023, as part of the government's cost of living package, £10.2m was received for the provision of a mandatory payment to eligible residents under the Energy Bills Rebate scheme. As the council has only acted as an intermediary, the actual income received and the subsequent payments made are not reflected in the councils Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Only £93k remained unspent at the end of the financial year – this is held within the short-term creditor element of the balance sheet.

The council received £90k of 'New Burdens' funding in 2022/2023 to help cover any additional costs incurred in the administering of grant payments to residents, under both the mandatory and discretionary elements of this scheme. This income is included within the Resources line of the Cost of Services.

Note 44 – Long Term Contracts

EQUANS

On 23 April 2010, the council entered a 10 year Strategic Partnership with EQUANS for the provision of Highways, Planning, Regeneration, Facilities Management and Strategic Housing services with services commencing on 1 July 2010. In accordance with Section 4 of the Services Agreement, the council has extended the contract term twice, with the contract now effective until July 2025.

This is an outcomes based contract which requires EQUANS to achieve a series of performance targets during the contract term for which service credits can be paid back to the council if they are not met.

The initial value of the contract over the 10 years was £155m – payments of £11.2m were made in 2022/2023. Contract payments are revised annually for both inflation and efficiencies identified by the partnership, in accordance with the terms of the Services Agreement.

Newlincs

The council has a 30 year waste management contract with Newlincs Development Ltd. Initially a 25 year contract which commenced in 1999, this has been extended by five years so now runs to 2029. Contract payments for 2022/2023 were £7.1m.

Lincs Inspire Ltd

On 1 May 2015, the council entered into a 25 year contract with Lincs Inspire to provide the following services:

- Statutory Library Services and Northern Lincolnshire Public Archives Services
- Leisure Centres, KGV Stadium, Bradley Football Centre, and Ormiston Academy Sports Service
- Sports and Development Service
- Grimsby Auditorium entertainment and cultural development programme

Lincs Inspire deliver and improve outcomes via a rolling three-year business plan. In 2022/2023 they received £2.3m of contract payments from the council.

Humber & North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

In July 2022 the Integrated Care Board (ICB) took responsibility for the functions previously undertaken by North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NELCCG). This has continued the previously established strong partnership in the delivery of health and social care services within North East Lincolnshire. This enables wider integration and co-ordination of activities with the aim of ensuring the most effective and efficient use of limited resources, whilst achieving outcomes that improve the health, care, and wellbeing of the local population of North East Lincolnshire.

The financial relationship between the ICB and NELC is governed by a Section 75 (S75) agreement for the delivery of adult services (value of work currently £50.2m) and children's services (value of work currently £5.7m). This agreement also references that the council has direct responsibility for the delivery of public health and health improvement functions.

A S75 agreement is a statutory provision that contains powers enabling NHS bodies (including ICBs) to exercise certain local authority health related functions, and for local authorities to be able to exercise certain NHS functions. Such arrangements may include the establishing of one or more pooled funds between the ICB and local authority – further details of the NELC/HNYICB pooled budget arrangement can be seen in Note 29 Pooled Budgets.

COLLECTION FUND

The Collection Fund shows the transactions of the billing council in relation to the collection from taxpayers and distribution to local authorities and the Government of council tax and non-domestic rates. There is no requirement for a Collection Fund Balance Sheet since the assets and liabilities arising from collecting non-domestic rates and council tax belong to the bodies (i.e., major preceptors, the billing council and the Government) on behalf of which the billing council collects these taxes.

	2022/2023	2022/2023	2022/2023	2021/2022	2021/2022	2021/2022
	Business Rates £000	Council Tax £000	Total £000	Business Rates £000	Council Tax £000	Total £000
Income						
Council Tax Receivable		(96,542)	(96,542)		(92,584)	(92,584)
Business Rates Receivable	(54,510)		(54,510)	(55,989)		(55,989)
Total Amounts to Be Credited	(54,510)	(96,542)	(151,052)	(55,989)	(92,584)	(148,573)
Expenditure						
Apportionment of Previous Year Surplus/Deficit:						
Central Government	(6,940)		(6,940)	(11,445)		(11,445)
Billing Authority	(6,801)	2,092	(4,709)	(11,217)	1,008	(10,209)
Fire Authority	(139)	110	(29)	(229)	54	(175)
Police Authority		302	302		143	143
Precepts, Demands and Shares:						
Central Government	28,369		28,369	30,883		30,883
Billing Authority	27,802	78,531	106,333	30,265	74,930	105,195
Fire Authority	567	4,074	4,641	618	3,923	4,541
Police Authority		11,446	11,446		10,800	10,800
Charges to Collection Fund:						
Write-offs of uncollectable amounts	469	292	761	653	362	1,015
Increase/(Decrease) in allowance for impairment	(139)	(2,627)	(2,766)	32	1,387	1,419
Appeals charged to appeals provision	(5,678)		(5,678)	(1,451)		(1,451)
Change in provision for appeals	(3,730)		(3,730)	1,896		1,896
Charge to General Fund for allowable collection costs for non-domestic rates	215		215	215		215
Payments in respect of Transitional protection	244		244	2,234		2,234
Other transfers to General Fund in accordance with non-domestic rates regulations:						
Enterprise Zone Growth	82		82	186		186
Renewable Energy	179		179	179		179
Designated Area Relief	202		202	0		0
Total amounts to be debited	34,702	94,220	128,922	42,819	92,607	135,426
(Surplus) / deficit arising during the year	(19,808)	(2,322)	(22,130)	(13,170)	23	(13,147)
(Surplus) / deficit brought forward at 1 April	11,636	(1,666)	9,970	24,806	(1,689)	23,117
(Surplus) / deficit carried forward at 31 March	(8,172)	(3,988)	(12,160)	11,636	(1,666)	9,970

Collection Fund Note 1 – Council Tax Income

Income from council tax is derived from charges raised according to the value of residential properties, which have been classified into valuation bands using estimated values as at 1 April 1991. The tax base calculation is based upon the total number of properties in each band adjusted by a proportion to convert the number to a Band D equivalent and adjusted for discounts and exemptions. Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required to fund the demands on the Collection Fund and dividing this by the tax base.

The number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band (adjusted for dwellings where discounts apply) converted to an equivalent number of Band D dwellings is detailed below:

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Council Tax Band	Valuation Band Limits £	Calculated Number of Dwellings	Ratio to Band D	Band D Equivalent Dwellings	Council Tax Payable £
AR	Reduced Rate	69	5/9	39	1,156
A	Up to & including 40,000	26,485	6/9	17,657	1,387
B	40,001 - 52,000	14,654	7/9	11,397	1,618
C	52,001 - 68,000	7,823	8/9	6,954	1,849
D	68,001 - 88,000	4,659	9/9	4,659	2,080
E	88,001 - 120,000	2,061	11/9	2,519	2,543
F	120,001 - 160,000	816	13/9	1,179	3,005
G	160,001 - 320,000	451	15/9	751	3,467
H	More Than 320,001	26	18/9	52	4,161
Council Tax Base				45,207	

The amount of Council Tax required for Band D, for North East Lincolnshire Council and its major preceptors, in 2022/2023 was calculated on the following basis:

(i) Preceptor's Council Tax Requirements	£94,051,306
(ii) Number of Band D equivalent Dwellings	45,207
Band D – (i) divided by (ii)	£2,080

Collection Fund Note 2 – Non-Domestic Rates

Non-domestic rates are determined on a national basis by central government which sets an annual non-domestic rating multiplier amounting to 51.2p in 2022/2023 (51.2p in 2021/2022). The non-domestic rate multiplier for small businesses is 49.9p in 2022/2023 (49.9p in 2021/2022). Subject to the effects of transitional arrangements, local businesses pay rates calculated by multiplying their rateable value by this multiplier. Local rateable values were £153.5m in 2022/2023 (£153.5m in 2021/2022).

The council is responsible for collecting rates due from the ratepayers in its area and distributing the amount collected in the following proportions:

- 50% Central Government
- 49% North East Lincolnshire Council
- 1% Humberside Fire and Rescue Service

GLOSSARY OF FINANCIAL TERMS

Financial Abbreviations and Roundings

Throughout this document the standard financial abbreviations 'k' and 'm' have been used. In this case 'k' means thousands and 'm' means millions e.g., £6k means £6,000 and £1.577m means £1,577,000.

Most of the numbers in the accounts are rounded, with those in the main statements being presented to the nearest 1,000 pounds. Where necessary to ensure that totals are correct, small adjustments have been made to individual figures.

Glossary

Accruals

This is the concept of recognising income and expenditure when earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

Actuary

Pension expert.

Amortisation

The writing off of a balance over a period of time to reflect the reduced value.

Capital Expenditure

This is expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of a fixed asset.

Capital Receipts

Income received from the sale of capital assets.

Code of Practice (The Code)

This is a document issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). All English and Welsh Local Authorities must comply with the COP in compiling their financial statements.

Collection Fund

This is a statutory fund for the receipt of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates collected by the authority and the payments made from these funds including precepts and payments to precepting authorities.

Community Assets

Assets that the authority intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life and that may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples of community assets are parks and historic buildings.

Consistency

This is the principle that the accounting treatment of like items within an accounting period, and from one period to the next, is the same.

Creditors

Amounts owed by the authority for goods and services, where payment has not been made at the end of the financial year.

Current Assets

Current assets are items that can be readily converted into cash.

Current Liabilities

Current liabilities are items that are due immediately or in the short term.

Curtailments (Pension)

A curtailment is an event that reduces the expected years of future service of present employees or reduces for a number of employees the accrual of defined benefits for some or all of their future service. Examples might include a redundancy programme as a result of e.g. closing a factory or the introduction of a defined contribution pension arrangement covering all employees for future service.

De minimis

An immaterial amount or balance.

Debtors

Amounts owed to the authority for goods and services, where the income has not been received at the end of the financial year.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

School funding for local authorities in England is provided by a ring-fenced grant.

Deferred Credits

These consist of deferred capital receipts, which are amounts derived from the sales of assets that will be received in instalments over agreed periods of time and deferred government grants that are grants received in advance.

Deferred Liabilities

These are liabilities which by arrangement are payable beyond the next year at some point in the future or are paid off by an annual sum over a period of time.

Depreciation

This is the measure of the wearing out, consumption, or other reduction in the useful life of a non-current asset, whether arising from use, over time or obsolescence through technological or other changes.

Events after the balance sheet date

Those events of such materiality that their disclosure is required for the fair presentation of the authority's statements, which occur between the balance sheet date and the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the responsible financial officer.

Exceptional Items

Material items which derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the authority and which need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their size or incidence to give fair presentation to the accounts.

Extraordinary Items

Material items, possessing a high degree of abnormality, which derive from events or transactions that fall outside the ordinary activities of the authority and which are not expected to recur. They do not include exceptional items, nor do they include any prior period items merely because they relate to a prior period.

General Fund

This is the main revenue account of a local authority, from which day to day spending on its services is met.

Going Concern

Accounting concept that the authority will remain in operational existence for the foreseeable future, in particular that the revenue accounts and balance sheet assume no intention to curtail significantly the scale of operations.

Government Grants

Assistance by government and inter-government agencies and similar bodies, in the form of cash or transfer of assets to an authority in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the authority.

Impairment

A reduction in the value of a non-current asset to below its carrying amount on the Balance Sheet.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs)

Statements prepared by the International Accounting Standards Board. Many of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and some International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) apply to local authorities and any departure from these must be disclosed in the published accounts.

Intangible Asset

Assets that have a useful life of over one year but are not material or physical.

Infrastructure Assets

Infrastructure assets can be defined as groups of assets that together form an integrated system. Such a system could not be effectively operated if individual components were removed. Examples of such assets are highways and footpaths.

Investment Properties

Interest in land and/or buildings in respect of which construction work and development have been completed and which is held for its investment potential with any rental income being negotiated at arm's length.

Leasing

Method of financing the provision of various capital assets, usually in the form of operating leases which tend not to provide for title in the asset to transfer to the authority.

Liquid Resources

Current asset investments that are readily disposable by the authority without disrupting its business and are either: readily convertible to known amounts of cash at or close to the carrying amount or traded in an active market.

Long Term Borrowing

Amounts repayable in more than 12 months.

Long Term Investments

Long-term investments are investments intended to be held for use on a continuing basis in the activities of the authority. They should be so classified only where an intention to hold the asset for the long term can clearly be demonstrated or where there are restrictions as to the investor's ability to dispose of the investment. Where investments are not classified as long-term investments, they are classified as current assets.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

The minimum amount which must be charged to an authority's revenue account each year for the repayment of loan principal.

National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR)

Amounts payable to the authority from non-domestic properties. National Non-Domestic Rate is a standard rate in the pound set by central government on the assessed rateable value of properties used for business purposes.

Net Current Replacement Cost

Cost of replacing or recreating the particular asset in its existing condition and in its existing use.

Net Realisable Value

Open market value of the asset in its existing use (or open market value in the case of non-operational assets), less the expenses to be incurred in realising the asset.

Non-Operational Assets

Non-operational assets are tangible fixed assets held by a local authority but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples include investment properties and assets that are surplus to requirements, pending sale or redevelopment.

Operational Assets

Tangible fixed assets held and occupied, used or consumed by the authority in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility.

Precept

Demands made upon the collection fund by the authorities which it directly funds, i.e., the authority, Humberside Police and Humberside Fire and Rescue Service for the services they provide. Parish Councils also raise precepts which are paid by the authority and included within the precept it levies on the collection fund.

Property, Plant & Equipment

Tangible assets that yield benefits to the authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

Provision

Amounts set aside to meet liabilities or losses which are likely to be incurred but where the amount remains uncertain.

Prudence

An accounting concept that revenue is not anticipated but is recognised only when realised in the form of either cash or of other assets, the ultimate cash realisation of which can be assessed with reasonable certainty. Proper allowance must be made for all known and foreseeable losses and liabilities.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

A central government agency, which lends money to local authorities usually at interest rates which are more favourable than those found elsewhere.

Remuneration

All amounts paid to or receivable by a person and includes sums due by way of expenses allowance (so far as those sums are chargeable to United Kingdom income tax), and the estimated money value of any other benefits received by an employee otherwise than in cash.

Reserves

Sums set aside to meet future expenditure. Some reserves are earmarked for specific purposes only. Others are general reserves.

Revaluation Reserve

This is an account containing any surpluses arising from the revaluation of fixed assets.

Revenue Expenditure

Expenditure on the day-to-day running of the authority, including employee costs, running expenses and capital financing costs.

Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)

Expenditure which may be properly capitalised, but which does not result in, or remain matched with, tangible non-current assets. An example would be capital expenditure on improvement grants.

Revenue Support Grant (RSG)

Grant paid to local authorities by central government to help finance its general expenditure. It is determined under the Formula Spending Share system.

Settlement (Pension)

A settlement is an irrevocable action that relieves the employer of the primary responsibility for a pension obligation and eliminates significant risks relating to the assets and liabilities in respect of that obligation. Examples would include purchasing annuities in respect of pensioner liabilities or making a bulk transfer payment to another arrangement.

Useful Life

This is the period over which the authority will derive benefits from the use of a fixed asset.

North East Lincolnshire Council

Joint Management and Audit and Governance Committee ('Those Charged with Governance') Response to Mazars Request For Information

Financial Year – 2022/23

Mazars are required to make annual enquiries of Management and the Audit and Governance Committee (representing 'those charged with governance') as part of their external audit procedures. International Auditing Standards require auditors to enquire about arrangements the Council has put in place to:

- prevent and detect fraud;
- comply with applicable law and regulations; and
- assess the appropriateness of the going concern assumption.

Key questions for the year ended 31 March 2023 are detailed below.

1) How do you exercise oversight of management's processes in relation to:

- **undertaking an assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated due to fraud or error;**
- **identifying and responding to risks of fraud in the Council, please detail any specific risks of fraud which management have identified, and**
- **classes of transactions, account balances, or disclosure for which a risk of fraud is likely to exist;**
- **communicating to employees its view on business practice and ethical behaviour; and**
- **communicating to you the processes for identifying and responding to fraud or error.**

The Audit and Governance Committee contributes to the achievement of effective oversight by seeking and receiving assurance on systems of risk management, governance and internal control.

The committee play a key role in the approval of the annual statements of accounts on behalf of the Council. The committee consider the content of the external auditor's Annual Governance Report and where appropriate challenge officers and the external auditors on the content of the accounts. Ahead of the formal consideration of the Statement of Accounts, the committee review proposed accounting policies (Usually January)

The Statement of accounts themselves are subject to detailed Quality Assurance processes and overall review by senior officers. Working papers are prepared for all material balances within the accounts which can be reconciled back to the financial ledger and supporting working papers. Throughout the year, the Audit and Governance Committee receive regular updates on the annual accounts process, preparation and progress, and have the opportunity to discuss any issues with the external auditor and Head of Internal Audit during and after scheduled meetings.

The Audit and Governance Committee play a key oversight role in relation to fraud and error identification. The committee receive both an interim and annual report on anti-fraud activities taking place within the Council and also approve the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy. The annual report provides assurance in relation to the effectiveness of the Council's anti-fraud and corruption approach as required by its terms of reference.

A risk assessment has been carried out by the fraud team, the outcome of which is referred to in the Annual Fraud Report. The risk assessment helps prioritise the work of both the audit team and fraud team.

The Council has a code of conduct which describes the standards of conduct and practice which all Council employees should follow. The code of conduct is a key component of the Council's code of governance which is part of the Constitution. In particular, core principle A lays out the Council's arrangements for "behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law section" .

The code of conduct is designed to:

- a) promote fairness and consistency in the treatment of individuals.
- b) assist in the effective operation of the Council.
- c) establish the required standards of conduct of employees of the Council; and
- d) maintain satisfactory relationships within the workforce and between the employees and management.

The code is a key element in the employment relationship and an integral part of the contract of employment, forming the basis of an employee's induction. Managers and supervisors are required to ensure that all employees are aware of and understand the code, providing support and guidance where required to meet the code.

The Council operates a Policy for Raising a Concern (Incorporating the Whistleblowing Policy) and enables any individual to register, in confidence, any concerns regarding alleged misconduct and fraudulent or corrupt activity. This can be found on the Council's intranet.

Employees are required to not allow their personal interests to conflict with the Council's requirements in either their official or personal capacity nor use their position to improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or organisation. Employees are required to declare any potential conflicts of interest that they have, or a relative, associate or close friend has in connection with the Council.

2) How do you oversee management processes for identifying and responding to possible breaches of internal control? Are you aware of any significant breaches of internal control during the financial year?

It is the responsibility of management to develop and maintain sound systems of risk management; internal control and governance. This includes the requirement to identify and respond to any identified breaches of internal control.

However it is noted that internal control systems, no matter how well designed and operated, are affected by inherent limitations. These include the possibility of poor judgement in decision making; human error; control processes being deliberately circumvented by employees and others; management overriding controls and unforeseeable circumstances.

The Council operates the three lines of defence model of assurance as described in both the Code of Governance and the Annual Governance Statement.

In terms of oversight, the Council's internal audit function plays a key role in this regard. Internal audit work is not a substitute for management's responsibilities for the design and operation of these systems, and is not responsible for identifying all significant control failures. However, the internal audit team has an important role in providing assurance on the Council's control environment and providing a view on the council's processes for identifying control failures, and endeavours to plan its work so that work is focused on those areas where the likelihood of a significant control failure is greatest.

A risk based audit plan is produced based on best practice, reference to the strategic and operational risk register, and engagement with senior managers. The methodology for prioritising audit work is set out in the audit plan. The Audit and Governance Committee receive a range of assurances/reports during the year which touch upon aspects of internal control. These reports support the committee to discharge its oversight responsibilities. Reports in 2022/23 have included:-

- Audit Plans (internal and external audit)
- Head of Internal Audit Report and internal audit updates
- Annual Governance Statement
- Accounting policies, Annual Accounts and External audit Annual Governance Report
- External Audit Management Letter
- Partnership Governance updates
- Treasury management annual report and updates
- Annual Fraud reports and updates
- Risk management update / Strategic Risk register

In respect of the strategic risk register, this is routinely reviewed by the Audit and Governance Committee.

We are not aware of any significant breaches of internal control during the 2022/23 financial year. However it should be noted that the Council continue to be subject to quarterly monitoring visits by Ofsted following the grading of Children's Social Care as inadequate in 2021. An improvement plan is in place which is being overseen by the appointed commissioner and Children's Improvement Board.

3) How do you gain assurance that all relevant laws and regulations have been complied with? Are you aware of any instances of significant non-compliance during the financial year?

The Council is subject to a range of legal and regulatory frameworks. Regular monitoring of compliance with laws and regulations is undertaken by the Council's Monitoring officer. All cabinet and council reports are subject to legal, financial and HR review and comment to ensure key issues are identified.

Key risks in relation to compliance with laws and regulations are captured within the Council's risk register. Further information is detailed within the Council constitution which is available on the Council's website. As part of the compilation of the Annual Governance Statement the Monitoring Officer is asked to provide assurance as to whether he is aware of any significant material legalities in year.

We are not aware of any instances of significant non-compliance during the financial year.

4) Are you aware of any actual or potential litigation or claims that would affect the financial statements?

We are not aware of any significant litigation or claims against the Council. All material issues would be reported within financial statements in the form of either provisions or contingent liability note. As part of the closedown processes, managers across the Council are consulted as to whether they are aware of any actual or potential litigation or claims affecting the accounts. Furthermore, there is ongoing review of any emerging financial risks through the Assurance Board.

5) Have you carried out a preliminary assessment of the going concern assumption and if so have you identified any events which may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern?

Going concern was assessed as part of Council's budget setting process in February 2023. The budget setting process requires the Council's S151 Officer (Executive Director of Place and Resources) to provide a view on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of reserves.

No issues in relation to going concern were highlighted as part of the report presented alongside the financial accounts to Audit and Governance Committee in September 2023.

Further questions relating specifically to fraud to inform the external auditor's assessment of the risk of fraud and error within the financial statements

1. Are you aware of any actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud during the period 1 April 2022 -31 March 2023?

A number of suspected / alleged instances of fraud occurred during 2022/23. These are detailed within the Council's Annual Fraud Report. Cases included those related to housing benefit/council tax and blue badges. No material frauds to report.

2. Do you suspect fraud may be occurring within the organisation?

As detailed above, instances of fraud have been identified during 2022/23. However these examples are isolated in nature and have been identified through the Council's internal control and fraud response mechanisms.

3. Have you identified any specific fraud risks within the Council?

The key fraud risks within the Council include :-

- Council tax supports and discounts
- Housing benefits
- False or exaggerated insurance claims.
- Misuse of Council assets.

4. Are you satisfied that internal controls, including segregation of duties, exist and work effectively (if 'yes', please provide details)? If not where are the risk areas?

The Council had adopted the three lines of defence model of assurance. Based upon the Audit and Governance Committee's work programme and reviews undertaken by internal audit, satisfactory assurance has been obtained that there is a sound system of internal control in place. Key controls such as the segregation of duties, management review and supervision and authorisation and approval are evident in each of the Council's core systems. In overall terms, internal audit have concluded that controls are effective.

Where appropriate other sources of assurance, such as work by other inspectorates and peer reviews, or internal reviews carried out within the Council has been relied upon by the audit and governance committee.

It is acknowledged that maintaining an effective control environment is challenging in a time of reducing resources and a changing operating environment. For this reason, internal audit will have a continued role in supporting the council in ensuring that an adequate but appropriate control environment is in place.

5. How do you encourage staff to report their concerns about fraud?

The Council promotes a zero tolerance toward fraud and promotes a culture that enables individuals to identify potential fraud and empowers them to report their concerns in a safe and secure manner to the appropriate people at the right time.

The means by which employees can report fraud are publicised on the Council's intranet. Fraud issues are widely communicated both internally and externally to provide a deterrent to fraudsters by highlighting the Council's commitment to identify fraud and take proactive action to pursue fraudsters.

6. What concerns about fraud are staff expected to report?

The Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy requires managers to ensure all employees are aware of their responsibilities under the anti-fraud and anti-corruption framework and ensure employees are aware of the process for reporting allegations of fraud.

Employees are expected to have an understanding of expected behaviour and of their responsibility to report suspected fraud or corruption and the appropriate methods to do so. The Council has a zero tolerance attitude towards fraud and promotes a culture whereby they are able to recognise fraud and abuse and know how and where to report.

The fraud response plan lays out the reporting mechanisms and how any subsequent investigations will be carried out

7. Are you aware of any related party relationships or transactions that could give rise to instances of fraud?

We are not aware of any related party relationships or transactions that could give rise to instances of fraud.

8. How do you mitigate the risks associated with fraud related to related party relationships and transactions?

Disclosure of significant related party relationships is required for both members and officers in positions of influence. Any allegations involving employees are dealt with through the council discipline procedure and where cases are proven appropriate sanctions issued which may include dismissal.

9. Are you aware of any entries made in the accounting records that you believe or suspect are false or intentionally misleading?

We are not aware of any accounting entries which are suspected to be false or intentionally misleading. Should management become aware of any suspect accounting entries, these would be subject to immediate investigation through internal audit.

10. Are there particular balances in the accounts where fraud is more likely to occur?

Investigations mainly relate to allegations of fraud in respect of false claims for Council Tax discounts and support and into abuses of the Disabled persons Blue Badge Scheme. In response the Council undertakes periodic reviews of eligibility.

11. Are you aware of any assets, liabilities or transactions that you believe have been improperly included or omitted from the accounts of the organisation?

We are not aware of any assets, liabilities or transactions that have been improperly included or omitted from the Council's accounts. Should any issues arise it is expected that these would be identified through review and approvals processes.

12. Could a false accounting entry escape detection? If so, how?

Although all allegations are investigated and pursued, there is an underlying risk that some instances of potential fraud, corruption and misconduct may not be identified and thus brought to the attention of those with the responsibility of investigating allegations. For example, whilst it has been concluded that there is a sound system of internal control in place, there is always the risk that individuals could collude in order to avoid detection. In mitigation, the Council undertake a proactive work programme including substantive testing of areas identified as high risk.

13. Are there any external fraud risk factors?

All public bodies are at risk from fraud in one form or another, acknowledging this fact is vital in developing an effective anti-fraud response. Individual services need to understand where the risk of fraud lies and the consequences of those frauds (whether that be financial, reputation or other consequence) to enable them to develop an appropriate risk based response.

Current and emerging risks are identified from a number of sources including the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) and other law enforcement agencies. These are disseminated to relevant Council teams to raise awareness. Examples of fraud risk continue to be shared in the 'risk roundup' publication that is publicised on the Council's internal network.

We have also publicised specific fraud threats that are targeted at our residents to help keep them safe.

14. Are you aware of any organisational or management pressure to meet financial or operating targets?

Despite continued financial challenges within the Local Government sector, we are not aware of any organisational or management pressure to meet financial or operating targets.

15. Are you aware of any inappropriate organisational or management pressure being applied, or incentives offered, to you or colleagues to meet financial or operating targets?

Further to the response above, we are not aware of any inappropriate organisational or management pressure being applied, or incentives offered, to meet financial or operating targets.

16. What arrangements has the Council put in place in response to the Bribery Act 2010?

The Council has a published Anti Bribery and Corruption Policy which applies to all activities and employees. Employees include but are not limited to those who are directly employed, agency staff, contractors, non-executives, agents, Members (including independent members), volunteers and consultants.

For partners and suppliers, we will seek to promote the adoption of policies consistent with the principles set out in this policy. Both Cabinet and Senior Leadership Team are committed to preventing bribery by persons associated with the council. The Policy states that the Council will not offer bribes or any other improper inducements to anyone for any purpose, nor will they accept bribes or improper inducements.

The Council has a strong Counter Fraud Strategy that is reviewed as a minimum bi-annually and approved by the Audit Committee. It contains a clear and unambiguous message that the council will not tolerate fraud and corruption. The Council regularly assesses the nature and extent of its exposure to potential external and internal risks of bribery on a periodic basis. It is assessed on both financial risk and reputation risk.

The Council seeks to ensure that its bribery prevention policies and procedures are embedded and understood throughout the council through internal and external communication, including training and e-learning that is proportionate to the risks it faces.

17. Please detail any other areas of concern in relation to management processes and arrangements you wish to raise with us.

No other areas of concern have been noted.

Going Concern Assessment

Introduction

The Council is required to assess and determine that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. The review should take account of all available information about the future, which is at least, but not limited to the next twelve months from the end of the reporting period.

The going concern basis assumes that the Council will be able to realise its assets and liabilities in the normal course of business and that it will continue in business for the foreseeable future.

The statutory nature of the Council's activities mean that it is reasonable a 'continued provision of service approach' is assumed unless there is clear evidence to the contrary. Indeed, the financial reporting framework for local government bodies presumes going concern and the continuation of provision of the services provided by the Council in any event.

The main factors which underpin this assessment are the current financial position (2023/24), the projected financial position (2024/2027), the funding outlook, relative financial standing and governance arrangements including budget setting processes.

Background

The CIPFA Code states "an authority's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis; that is, the accounts should be prepared on the assumption that the functions of the authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Transfers of services under combinations of public sector bodies (such as local government reorganisation) do not negate the presumption of going concern."

International Accounting Standard (IAS) 1 requires management to make an assessment of an entity's ability to continue as a going concern. In other financial reporting frameworks, there may be no explicit requirement for management to make a specific assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Nevertheless, where the going concern basis of accounting is a fundamental principle in the preparation of financial statements, the preparation of the financial statements requires management to assess the entity's ability to continue as a going concern even if the financial reporting framework does not include an explicit requirement to do so.

Where there is an 'material uncertainty' in the period to at least 12 months from the date of authorisation of the financial statements for publication e.g. up to November 2024, external audit expect the Council to produce a summary report to the Audit Committee (or equivalent) to validate the going concern assertion.

Current year forecast (2023/24)

At the end of second quarter of the financial year, the Council is forecasting a £6.2M overspend against its 2023/24 budget.

This forecast largely reflects the on-going and increasing demands being experienced within Children's services but also acknowledges other significant impacts linked to general economic conditions.

Whilst additional resources have been invested into services as part of the 2023/24 budget process, demand in terms of children's safeguarding remains higher than planned. The reported financial position within Children's has been exacerbated by a lack of local capacity and a continued overreliance on agency staffing.

Whilst mitigating actions have been put in place within the service, these will take time to take effect and additional spending controls have been introduced at a corporate level as a consequence. Alongside mitigating actions and spending controls, the Council would need to draw upon non recurrent sources of funding and drawdown reserves to balance.

Medium Term Financial Plan

The Council expects to receive one year financial settlement from Government in 2024/25 with changes to the local government financial model and the review of fair funding being postponed. The outcome of the settlement will determine the extent to which the Council can deliver its agreed priorities and deal with a range of issues including social care reform, economic instability, and general inflation.

As we move into the financial planning period for 2024-2027, it will be necessary to once again review corporate and technical reserves to ensure there is sufficient capacity to deal with the risks and opportunities currently faced.

It is acknowledged that the Council has a statutory responsibility to set a balanced budget for the next 12 months, along with a realistic medium-term financial plan and that will be achieved through a variety of ways including managing costs effectively and efficiently, becoming more commercial in our outlook, collaborating with public and private partners and commissioning for key outcomes.

Through our financial planning process, we are modelling a range of funding assumptions and spending plans to deal with any budget gaps. This process will follow our internal governance process, engaging informally and formally with Elected Members throughout.

A refreshed medium-term financial plan will cover the three-year period 2024-2027 and acknowledges uncertainties in relation to the comprehensive spending review, local government funding reform and economic instability.

Funding outlook

Based upon the information that the Council has available to it at the present time a range of potential funding scenarios have been modelled for 2024/25 and beyond.

These assume that the fair funding review and extension of business rate retention have been postponed and existing grants are maintained at their current level or above. It has also been assumed that business rate income protection will remain in place through the safety net arrangement.

Further details are expected to be provided as part of the Government's Autumn Statement scheduled for 22nd November 2023.

The current medium-term financial plan assumes that the Council would see continued economic and housing growth over the medium term. However some of this growth may be impacted by economic conditions.

Capital investment

The Council is still progressing with its ambitious programme of capital investment to support delivery of the Council Plan and drive financial sustainability through economic and housing growth. However, due to current economic and financial uncertainty, the programme will be reprofiled and reprioritised to mitigate against rising interest rates. This approach will help to ensure the Council continues to operate within its approved Treasury Management Strategy over the short to medium term.

Reserves and provisions

The Council holds reserves for three specific purposes:

- General reserves to deal with unexpected events and help smooth the impact of uneven cash flows;
- Corporate and technical reserves to smooth the Council's financial position and prevent knee-jerk reactions that would otherwise impact on service budgets; and
- Partner & Service Reserves - held for specific purposes relating to service delivery. These are held in addition to defined budget envelopes and used to support defined activity and outcomes over and above business as usual

The overall financial standing of the Council is being continually monitored with a focus upon the adequacy of reserves and the stewardship of public funds. Economic instability and funding uncertainty has undoubtedly put additional pressure on reserves over the short to medium term and this is being addressed as part of ongoing monitoring. The outcome of Government spending reviews and financial settlements will be critical in this regard.

General fund reserves, set aside to deal with any unforeseen events, remained at £8.3m at the end of the 2022/23 financial year. This is in line with the medium-term financial plan and considered to be a prudent level considering the increased level of risk to which the Council is currently exposed. As part of the forthcoming planning process, we are reviewing the level of this reserve to ensure its continued adequacy.

The Council is continuing to experience ongoing pressures and uncertainty in

relation to business rates which are being negatively affected by valuations and appeals and ongoing economic uncertainty. Consequently, the Council continues to hold a provision in its accounts based upon the level of appeals received from businesses, the likelihood of success and potential write offs. The provision is subject to regular review considering the number of appeals and the latest information on the probability of success.

Cash

The Council continues to operate within its approved treasury management strategy and focus is on the efficient management of working capital. The Council maintains minimum cash balances to reduce the cost of carry.

The Council maintains short and long-term cash flow projections, and manages its cash, investments and borrowing in line with the Council approved Treasury Management Strategy. No cash flow concerns are anticipated during the 2023/24 financial year.

Governance and Oversight

The Council has a well-established and robust corporate governance framework. The latest Annual Governance Statements (AGS) has been reviewed taking into account external and internal audit reviews, our risk assessments and knowledge of our control environment. The review of our governance arrangements has concluded that they are effective.

Conclusion

The Council's accounts have been prepared on the presumption of going concern but acknowledge the significant uncertainty around funding and demand pressures.

At the present time there is a significant degree of uncertainty attached to the Council's future funding position. Therefore a range of potential scenarios have been modelled and preparatory work is already underway to assess the impact on budgets and future service provision. A clear budget timetable has been established and enhanced governance arrangement put in place to challenge assumptions.

In conclusion, whilst there remains a significant risk attached to the council's future financial standing, arrangements are in place to manage and mitigate against this risk.

Overall, we conclude that the financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and there are no matters that give rise to a material uncertainty over the going concern assertion in relation to the financial statements as a whole.