

AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

4.00PM, TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING

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ADDENDUM

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Subject:	Audited Statement of Accounts 2019/20		
Date of Meeting:	27 October 2020		
Report of:	Acting Chief Finance Officer		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mary Grealish	01273 291259
	Email:	Mary.Grealish@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	(All Wards)		

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least 5 days in advance of the meeting) were that there were a number of queries in relation to the external audit of the accounts requiring resolution before the audit could be concluded and the final accounts submitted for approval.

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 This report provides information about the audit of the council's 2019/20 Statement of Accounts and recommends approval of the 2019/20 audited accounts and the Letter of Representation on behalf of the council. The accounts should be viewed alongside the council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which is also approved by the Audit & Standards Committee.
- 1.2 Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the council's accounts for 2019/20 must normally be approved by Members by the 31 July. However, due to the impact of the pandemic the statutory deadline for this year only has been moved to 30 November 2020. Under the council's constitution, the Audit & Standards Committee is charged with the responsibility of the approval of the accounts.
- 1.3 The council's external auditors for 2019/20 are Grant Thornton who are required to give assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement and to report significant matters arising from the audit. Grant Thornton will be presenting their findings to this Committee through the Audit Findings Report (AFR) elsewhere on this agenda, after which they will normally be able to issue their audit opinion and the accounts can be formally published subject to the Committee's approval.
- 1.4 This report presents the updated 2019/20 accounts following the outcome of the audit process. It outlines any amendments made to the accounts and provides assurances in relation to the preparation of the accounts. It also informs the committee of the outcome of the public inspection of the accounts. Copies of the final accounts are available on-line and are included at Appendix 3.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Audit & Standards Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the findings of the auditor (Grant Thornton) in their Audit Findings Report (AFR). The AFR is a separate item on this agenda.
- 2.2 Notes the results of the public inspection of the accounts (Section 5).
- 2.3 Approves the Letter of Representation on behalf of the council (Appendix 1).
- 2.4 Approves the audited Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 (Appendix 3).
- 2.5 Agrees that any material difference resulting from the outstanding audit query on the valuation of Council Dwellings should be adjusted before publication of the accounts.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The main legislative requirements relating to the preparation, publication and audit of the council's accounts are contained in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.
- 3.2 It is a requirement that the annual accounts be prepared as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year and considered and approved by a resolution of the committee charged with governance or the Full Council by the specified statutory deadline. Therefore, the accounts must be published and signed off by the external auditor as soon as reasonably possible after the conclusion of the audit. The statutory deadline is normally 31 July but due to the impact of the pandemic, for this year only the deadline has been changed to 30 November 2020.

Format of the Accounts

- 3.3 Clearly, local authority accounts are not viewed from a commercial perspective, for example, in terms of an authority's attractiveness for possible merger or acquisition. However, local authorities are viewed in terms of their financial resilience, effective financial management and general viability (going concern). The latter being particularly relevant given the financial impact of the pandemic on local authorities. The purpose of the accounts therefore is to provide information to a wide range of stakeholders and the general public about the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the council and to provide answers to basic questions such as:
 - What did the council's services and capital programme cost in 2019/20?
 - Where did the money come from?
 - What does the council own?
 - What commitments and liabilities does the council have and what provisions and reserves has the council set against these?
 - What amounts were due and what was owed at the end of the financial year?
- 3.4 In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, the accounts include:

- The Narrative report;
 - Statement of Responsibilities;
 - Core financial statements (Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES), Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS), Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement);
 - Supplementary statements (Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund);and
 - Notes to the accounts.
- 3.5 The narrative report aims to offer interested parties a more readable guide to the most significant matters reported in the accounts. A brief commentary on the key aspects of the 2019/20 accounts is included in Appendix 2 to this report.
- 3.6 The statements would normally comprise both “Single Entity Accounts”, which are in respect of wholly council controlled activities, and “Group Accounts” in respect of activities where the council has a significant interest or share in a subsidiary, associate or joint venture entity. The requirement for the preparation of Group Accounts in 2019/20 has been considered for the Housing Joint Venture collaborative arrangement with Hyde Housing and it was concluded that there were no material transactions in the 2019/20 financial year that would have required Group Accounts. The preparation of Group Accounts in 2020/21 will need to be considered again in this regard.
- 3.7 Grant Thornton have substantially completed their work on the audit of the accounts and will be reporting their findings separately to this Committee through the Audit Findings Report (AFR). Following this report and resolution of any outstanding audit matters, Grant Thornton will normally be able to issue their audit opinion and the accounts can be formally published.

Preparation of the Accounts

- 3.8 The council is required to prepare its accounts on an International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) basis in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code), issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA); the 2019/20 accounts cover the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. There has been no deviation from the requirements of the Code and all accounting policies adopted by the council for the 2019/20 accounts are in line with the requirements of the Code.
- 3.9 There were 4 follow up actions from audit recommendations contained in the external auditor’s AFR for 2018/19 requiring consideration for the preparation of the 2019/20 accounts.

2018/19 AFR Recommendation	Action taken for 2019/20
1) Write off of unrecoverable receivables control We would recommend that the receivables write off process is undertaken quarterly as per the council’s documented control processes, to ensure	This relates to debt write off (e.g. Sundry Debt). Quarterly write off’s are now actioned.

that old/unrecoverable receivables are correctly written off and not retained as receivable assets per the accounts.	
2) Assurance over assets not revalued We would recommend that management strengthen future working papers in this area to provide a detailed assessment that can be audited. During our discussions with the finance team and the estates team, we noted that the data used by the internal valuer for their assessment of assets was not fully consistent with the asset register making it difficult to rely on the internal valuer's conclusion for testing of the financial statements.	Finance have liaised with the Estates Team to produce a shared asset register listing with information required by both parties that ties into the council's full asset register. This enables an exercise to be completed by the Finance and Estates Team to provide assurance to the auditors that the council's assets are materiality correct at the balance sheet date.
3) Order of the financial statements We would recommend that the council considers the presentational order as part of its preparations for next year.	In common with other local authorities, the Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA) is now presented as Note 5 and the Accounting policies are now included in Note 1 to the Financial statements.
4) PFI Accounting Model We would recommend that the council reviews the documentation and audit trail available for PFI schemes to assure itself that these are complete.	Actioned – this related to the original PFI accounting model which had been archived and has now been located and included in the audit trail. However, a further action has been recommended following the 2019/20 audit as detailed in the auditor's Audit Findings Report.

- 3.10 For 2019/20 there were no significant changes in reporting requirements under the Code of Practice.
- 3.11 The accounts are prepared by an integrated Orbis Partnership finance team and have been prepared by appropriately qualified and trained officers who have undertaken appropriate training on the requirements for preparing local government accounts. Finance officers involved in the preparation of the accounts attend regular training and/or workshops to ensure an up to date knowledge, including latest accounting code changes.
- 3.12 Officers have made reference to CIPFA's practitioner's guidance notes, disclosure checklists and other technical guidance in preparing the accounts to ensure compliance with all statutory and other regulatory requirements. Officers have also liaised closely, during the preparation of the accounts, with Grant Thornton over the application of the Code to the 2019/20 accounts.
- 3.13 In preparing the accounts, the council makes a number of critical judgements, accounting estimates and assumptions; the details are disclosed in Note 3 of the accounts.

- 3.14 As part of the accounts preparation process, a full review of the financial statements, notes and critical accounting transactions was undertaken by senior officers within Finance. Following this review, the accounts were then approved by the Chief Finance Officer to be issued for public inspection and audit. Evidence of this review formed part of the working papers produced for Grant Thornton.
- 3.15 During the accounts audit process, officers liaised closely with Grant Thornton in respect of audit queries and worked closely to ensure successful resolution of these queries as expediently as possible. During the audit of the 2019/20 accounts, there have been no disputes between council officers and Grant Thornton in relation to the required amendments to the accounts.

Audit of the Accounts

- 3.16 Grant Thornton has completed the audit of the council's accounts and reports its findings and recommendations in its Audit Findings Report which forms a separate item of this Committee's agenda. Grant Thornton are responsible for:
- Forming an opinion on the financial statements;
 - Forming a conclusion on the arrangements that the Authority has in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
- 3.17 Compilation of the financial statements relies on data extracted from the financial systems, including those systems which interface into the financial system. It is therefore important for Grant Thornton to be satisfied that these systems have adequate controls in place so that assurance can be given on the integrity of the information held within them.
- 3.18 The council has considered the repositioning of certain statements and the disclosure changes included in the auditor's Audit Findings Report. The council's financial statements have been amended for these changes and are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- 3.19 The council has also considered the unadjusted misstatements set out in the Audit Findings Report and attached as Appendix A to the Letter of Representation. Officers recommend not adjusting the financial statements for these misstatements and disclosure changes as they are immaterial to the financial results of the council and its financial position at the year end.
- 3.20 The auditor highlights an outstanding query in relation to the valuation of Council Dwellings which may result in a material difference (upwards). The council has relied on external expertise in the valuation of these assets and has applied the valuations advised by professional valuer, Savills, to the Council Dwellings on the Fixed Asset Register. The auditor's own valuation adviser has suggested a different valuation approach and the auditor will therefore seek further evidence from Savills to understand this difference. If the auditor considers that a material difference exists, the committee are recommended to accept the auditor's valuation and amend the accounts accordingly.

- 3.21 The AFR for 2019/20 states that an unqualified audit opinion is expected to be issued and that the council has proper arrangements in place to secure value for money in its use of resources.

Annual Governance Statement

- 3.22 It is a requirement that an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is approved annually either before or alongside approval of the financial statements.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, as amended for the impact of the pandemic, the council's 2019/20 accounts are to be approved by the Chief Finance Officer no later than 31 August and following the audit process are to be approved by Members no later than 30 November. Under Brighton & Hove City Council's constitution, the Audit & Standards Committee is charged with this responsibility.
- 4.2 After the accounts have been made available for public inspection, alterations to the accounts may only be made with the consent of the external auditor, Grant Thornton. The alterations in this case have received their consent.
- 4.3 Regarding the outstanding audit query relating to the valuation of Council Dwellings, the council could elect not to adjust the accounts if a material difference is found to exist by the auditor. This risks the auditor issuing a qualified or modified opinion on the accounts which could have reputational impact. The committee are therefore recommended to adjust the accounts before publication if the auditor finds a material difference.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Members of the public, in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, are granted access for a period of 30 working days to the council's unaudited accounts and are invited to enquire on any aspect of these accounts. If a member of the public is not satisfied with the response received, they are able to lodge a formal objection to the accounts with Grant Thornton.
- 5.2 The unaudited accounts were completed before the statutory deadline and therefore an extended period of public inspection was possible. The accounts were made available on the council's web site from 17 August to 28 September. The council received one enquiry as part of the public inspection process.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Grant Thornton have carried out their audit of the 2019/20 accounts and have reported their findings and recommendations arising from the audit of the accounts as a separate item on this agenda. The main changes resulting from the audit are included in the Audit Findings Report to ensure members are aware of the changes to the accounts agreed with Grant Thornton prior to their approval.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The financial implications are included in the body of the report.

Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld

Date: 14/10/20

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The legal framework for approving the council's statement of accounts is provided by regulation 9 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (statutory instrument 2015/234), relevant details of which are set out in the body of the report.
- 7.3 The Regulations permit either Full Council or a committee of the council to approve the statement of accounts. At Brighton & Hove Council, the Audit & Standards Committee is the designated committee for this purpose.

Lawyer Consulted: Liz Woodley

Date: 19/10/20

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report. The accounts are a statutory publication and were made available for public inspection on the council's website and on request. Information on the accounts will, as far as possible, be provided in a manner that meets the needs of those requesting information.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.5 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report. However, it is believed that the reputation of the council's financial control framework and its ability to demonstrate sound financial management could have an impact on the willingness of other funding partners to invest in and with the council. This could affect the level of inward investment in respect of projects that contribute towards sustainability.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.6 The quality of a public authority's accounts is of reputational importance and where the auditor gives an unqualified opinion, citizens, partners and other stakeholders can be assured that the accounts present fairly the financial position of the council.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Letter of Representation

2. Commentary on the Accounts
3. Statement of Accounts 2019/20

Background Documents

1. Audited Statement of Accounts 2019/20 and associated working papers



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RH10 1HS

Date: 27 October 2020
Our Ref: GT BHCC 2019/20
Contact: Nigel Manvell
Phone: 01273 293104
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Dear Sirs,

Brighton & Hove City Council Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of Brighton & Hove City Council for the year ended 31 March 2020 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the Council's financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 and applicable law.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Statements

- i. We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the council's financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.
- ii. We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the council and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.
- iii. The council has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of any regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.
- iv. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- v. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, we consider to be reasonable. We are satisfied that the material judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements. There are no other material judgements that need to be disclosed.

Telephone (01273) 290000

- vi. Except as disclosed in the financial statements:
 - a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent;
 - b. none of the assets of the council have been assigned, pledged or mortgaged; and
 - c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.
- vii. We confirm that we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of pension scheme assets and liabilities for IAS19 Employee Benefits disclosures are consistent with our knowledge. While we accept that these fluctuate with market conditions and other economic factors, we are satisfied that the assumptions are reasonable within the context of the long term nature of the pension scheme. We confirm that all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for. We also confirm that all significant post-employment benefits have been identified and properly accounted for.
- viii. We confirm that we are satisfied that accounting entries and disclosures in the financial statements related to private finance initiative (PFI) scheme contracts are consistent with the appropriate PFI models.
- ix. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code.
- x. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- xi. We have considered the repositioning of specific statements and the disclosures changes included in your Audit Findings Report. The council's financial statements have been amended for these changes and are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- xii. We have considered the unadjusted misstatements schedule included in your Audit Findings Report and attached as Appendix A to this letter. We have not adjusted the financial statements for these misstatements and disclosure changes brought to our attention as they are immaterial to the financial results of the council and its financial position at the year end.
The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- xiii. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.
- xiv. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
- xv. We believe that the council's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis on the grounds that current and future sources of funding or support will be adequate for the council's needs, even in the light of the current pandemic. We believe that no further disclosures relating to the council's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.

Information Provided

- xvi. We have provided you with:

- a. access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the council's financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and
 - c. unrestricted access to persons within the council from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- xvii. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management are aware.
- xviii. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- xix. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- xx. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the council and involves:
 - a. management;
 - b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- xxi. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- xxii. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- xxiii. We have disclosed to you the identity of the council's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
- xxiv. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

Annual Governance Statement

- xxv. We are satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the council's risk assurance and governance framework and we confirm that we are not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

Narrative Report

- xxvi. The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect our understanding of the council's financial and operating performance over the period covered by the council's financial statements.

Approval

The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the Council's Audit & Standards Committee at its meeting on 27 October 2020.

Yours faithfully,

Name.....

Position.....

Date.....

Name.....

Position.....

Date.....

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body

Appendix A

Schedule of unadjusted misstatements

The table below provides details of adjustments identified during the 2019/20 audit which have not been made within the final set of financial statements. The Audit & Standards Committee is required to approve management's proposed treatment of all items recorded within the table below:

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Statement of Financial Position £'000	Impact on total net expenditure £'000	Reason for not adjusting
HRA Deferred Income An amount was found in our testing of debtors which should have been recorded as a creditor given the nature of the balance.	Nil	DR Debtors 1,766 CR Creditors 1,766	Nil	The difference is not material
Property, Plant & Equipment (PPE) valuation input into the Fixed Asset Register (FAR) The audit identified four input errors in the FAR which led to an understatement of the valuation of PPE in the accounts by £3,307k.	CR Valuation gains/losses (1,207)	DR Land and buildings PPE 3,307 DR Movement in Reserves 1,207 CR Capital adjustment account 1,207 CR Revaluation Reserve 2,098	(1,207)	The difference is not material
Other Revenues The audit identified items from sample testing of revenues which should be re-classified as expenditure. These errors were extrapolated to estimate the overall potential impact of the errors and demonstrate this would not be material, so this has been recorded as an extrapolated unadjusted misstatement.	DR Other service expenditure £933k CR Other Revenues £933k	Nil	Nil	The difference is not material
Overall impact	(1,207)	1,207	(1,207)	

Commentary on the Accounts**Balance Sheet (BS)**

The Balance Sheet is particularly technical, which is unavoidable given the requirement to observe the Code of Practice and the complex capital accounting, financial instrument and pension reporting standards. There are explanatory notes to the Balance Sheet in the Statement of Accounts.

Non-Current Assets

The value of total non-current assets (including current assets held for sale) has increased from £2,019.401 million as at 31 March 2019 to £2,057.388 million as at 31 March 2020. The in-year movement in non-current assets is detailed in note 9 to the core financial statements. It should be noted that the valuation of many non-current assets is subject to a wide range of market factors and/or assumptions, particularly where no obvious comparator market or assets exist. The movement of £37.987 million includes the following:

- An increase of £92.795 million in respect of capital expenditure (CAPEX) incurred on Property, Plant & Equipment (PPE), heritage assets and intangible assets which reflects the significant capital investments made;
- Upward revaluations of PPE, heritage and assets held for sale of £63.784 million;
- Depreciation, impairment and revaluation losses of £113.771 million;
- Upward movement in the fair value of investment properties of £2.049 million;
- Disposal of non-current assets of £6.870 million.

Borrowing

In accordance with the CIPFA Code on Treasury Management, the management of the council's borrowing portfolio is based on a consolidated approach and not by individual services. At 31 March 2020, the council's level of borrowing (including the bank overdraft) was £280.218 million, an increase in the year of £8.280 million. The council has raised new loans of £20.303 million and repaid £9.861 million during 2019/20. Note 11 to the accounts provides further information on borrowings.

Investments

At 31 March 2020, the council held investments of £149.808 million. Investments are made by the in-house treasury team and the council's external cash manager. The council uses an external cash manager to take advantage of investment opportunities in specialist markets not covered by the in-house team, such as government stock.

The level of investment has decreased in-year by £3.126 million. Note 11 to the financial statements provides further information on investments.

Pension Liability

The estimated pension liability (net of pension assets) for future pension payments decreased in 2019/20 by £80.849 million from £353.823 million at 31 March 2019 to £272.974 million at 31 March 2020.

There are a number of contributory factors to the decrease in the pension liability; these are detailed in the Pensions Liability section of the Narrative Report.

The council also recognises a reserve for the estimated net pension liability. Therefore, amounts included in the council's accounts in relation to post-employment benefits have no effect on the council tax requirement as the liability is offset by a Pensions Reserve.

Details of the Pension Liability can be found in note 24 to the financial statements.

Provisions

Provisions have been made in the accounts for liabilities existing at the 31 March 2020 that are reasonably certain and can be estimated with reasonable accuracy. Significant provisions are included for the following:

- Voluntary Severance provision – The provision is to meet the costs of expected severance packages resulting from a review of the staffing impacts of approved savings. The provision as at 31 March 2020 is £0.316 million.
- Business Rates Appeals provision - The council has made provision for its share of the amount that it anticipates to repay ratepayers in the future following successful appeals against the rating lists. The provision as at 31 March 2020 is £6.201 million.

Reserves

The council holds two categories of reserves:

- Unusable Reserves – these reserves derive from accounting adjustments and policies, and are not available to the council to use to provide services. They include reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses where amounts would only become available for use if the assets were disposed of. It also includes reserves for timing differences between what is required from a statutory accounting perspective to be charged to the General Fund and HRA funds and what is required to be funded from council tax, locally retained non-domestic rates and general grants. These reserves include the revaluation reserve, pension reserve and the capital adjustment account. The level of unusable reserves as at 31 March 2020 was £1,425.881 million. Note 7 to the accounts provides further information on unusable reserves.
- Usable Reserves – these reserves can be used by the council for investment or to provide services and/or reduce local taxation, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory or contractual limitations on their use. These reserves include the General Fund and HRA working balance, general reserves, capital reserves relating to capital receipts and capital grants received which have not yet been utilised, and earmarked reserves which have been set aside by the council for specified purposes.

The level of General Fund working balance and general reserves held at 31 March 2020 was £8.990 million. The level of working balance and general reserves deemed appropriate by the council's Chief Finance Officer is £9 million, approximately 4% of net budget or 4 weeks council tax income. In addition, there are also General Fund earmarked reserves of £47.101 million as at 31 March 2020.

The level of HRA working balance stands at £7.657 million as at 31 March 2020, which is in excess of the recommended minimum level of balances of £3 million. In addition, there are also HRA earmarked reserves of £2.020 million as at 31 March 2020. The HRA reserves are primarily ring-fenced for council dwelling provision.

Notes 6 and 8 to the accounts provide further information on usable reserves.

Usable reserves and provisions are reviewed during the budget setting and the accounts closure processes to ensure that there is both the ongoing requirement for funds to be set aside and that the levels are adequate and appropriate. The reviews are reported to members as part of the General Fund budget proposals and, following the closure of the accounts, in the TBM Provisional Outturn report.

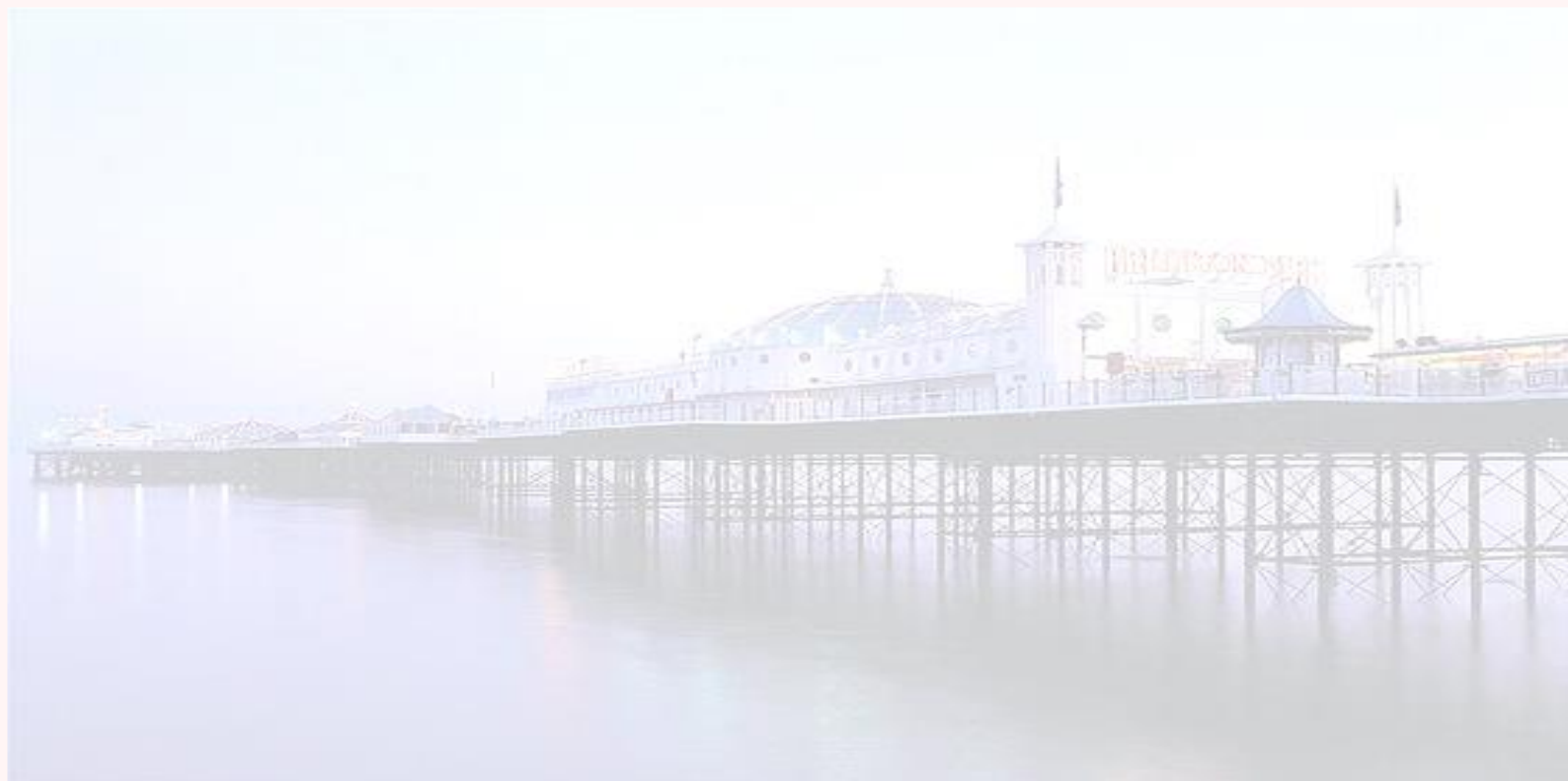
Collection Fund

The Collection Fund is a separate fund recording the expenditure and income relating to council tax and non-domestic rates.

As at 31 March 2020, there was a deficit of £2.115 million on the Collection Fund in respect of council tax and a surplus of £4.136 million in respect of non-domestic business rates.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Statement of Accounts 2019/20



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Narrative Report

Council Overview

Brighton & Hove City Council is a south coast unitary authority formed of the merger of two former borough councils covering the geographical area of Brighton and Hove. In 2000, the area formed of Brighton, Hove and Portslade was awarded city status by the monarch.

Brighton & Hove is a thriving city located between the South Downs and the sea and is home to more than 290,000 people making it England's most populous 'seaside resort'. The city is renowned for its vibrancy, independent shops, Royal Pavilion and other visitor attractions, historic lanes, vast array of pubs, restaurants and clubs, festivals and events, stunning architecture and attractive coastline and chalk cliffs.

The council's purpose is to provide strong civic leadership for the wellbeing and aspiration of Brighton & Hove and as a single tier, unitary authority is responsible for all local government functions and services including education, social care, housing, libraries, waste collection and disposal, highway management, planning, licensing, public health and more.

The council's current Corporate Plan covers the period 2020-23 and was set in the context of a challenging financial future and focuses on modernising services to improve digital accessibility, reducing the cost of provision where possible, and looking at alternative ways of providing services with public sector organisations and other partners, particularly working closely with health services. Through modernising services and providing effective city leadership and governance, the council has been able to support its key Corporate Plan service priorities. Six outcomes to be achieved have been identified. A fairer city with a sustainable future is:

- A city to call home - *a main priority is to improve access to good quality housing and reduce homelessness and rough sleeping;*
- A city working for all - *a main priority is to build community wealth, so that local people and organisations benefit from prosperity in the city;*
- A stronger city;
- A growing and learning city;
- A sustainable city - *a main priority is to take all action required to make our city carbon neutral by 2030;*
- A health and caring city.

Brighton & Hove City Council operates a committee system, which means that decisions are usually passed by a majority vote at committees. Committees are made up of representatives from the major political groups in the council in accordance with the political balance of the Council. The council's Annual Governance Statement, as well as more information on the council's governance structure, can be found on the council's website, www.brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Financial Highlights

The council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), 4-year Integrated Service & Financial Plans and the current budget strategy focus available resources and investment on key areas to support the Corporate Plan.

2019/20 was the final year of the 4-year planning framework introduced in 2016/17 and which is aligned with the current central government spending review period and 4-year funding deal. The revenue budget in 2019/20 was based on a 2.99% Council Tax increase. The budget included:

- Reinvestment of savings and other resources of £14.761m in order to support increased demands and above inflation costs, most significantly across adults and children's social care but also in City Environmental Services;
- Provision of £5.655m to meet annual pay and price inflation increases;
- A savings and efficiency package totalling £12.288m to enable the reinvestments.

The capital budget proposals included planned investments of £163.650m for 2019/20 as set out in the Capital Strategy. In 2015 the council developed 4-year plans, referred to as Integrated Service & Financial Plans (ISFPs), covering the period 2016/17 to 2019/20. These have not been rolled-forward beyond 2019/20 because there is considerable uncertainty over local government finances beyond that point. In particular, the following may impact positively or negatively on the council's future funding levels:

- Fair Funding Review – this will fundamentally review the methodology used to derive the national distribution of local government funding;
- Proposed 75% Business Rate Retention – this would increase retention of business rates locally from 50% to 75%. However, as this is intended to be fiscally neutral, it is not clear what existing funding this may replace;
- Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) – the government spending announcement is expected in autumn 2020 and could set the tone for future planning across local government;
- Addressing the long term funding of social care – government are reviewing a number of options but it remains to be seen if any will be taken up.

In the immediate future, some of the above changes are likely to be delayed further due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The council's medium term financial strategy is refreshed regularly to ensure it takes into account a number of factors including changes, up or down, in resource and funding assumptions, changes in demographic or demand predictions, particularly for social care, and reflects current trends and experience and changes in the cost of services compared with initial pay and inflation assumptions.

Any or all of these can affect projected budget gaps each year and therefore the level of savings and efficiencies required to achieve a balanced budget. The CSR 2015 confirmed the continuation of deficit reduction measures up to 2019/20 and indicated that government Revenue Support Grant (RSG) for this council would reduce by £39.574m over the 4 year period 2016/17 to 2019/20. This is one of the key determinants of the council's budget gaps over the period alongside growing costs and demands.

Although the council elected to accept the government's '4 year deal' in 2016/17, this did not mean that the council's financial position was completely stable as there were other grants and funding that changed over the period. For example, Education Services Grant was removed and the New Homes Bonus has varied each year. There was also a major revaluation of non-domestic rateable values in 2017 affecting the Business Rate tax base and yield. There has however been new funding through the Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and one-off Adult Care Support Grants alongside the ability for councils to choose to set Adult Social Care precepts of up to 8% on Council Tax over the period.

The longer term service and financial planning approach adopted in 2016/17 has enabled the council to develop a clearer direction of travel and map out a budget strategy for addressing the predicted budget gap over the 4-year period up to 2019/20. This approach is now embedded across services and ensures that savings proposals and ideas are specific, risk assessed, and consistent with service strategies and business plans, and also reflect management accountabilities.

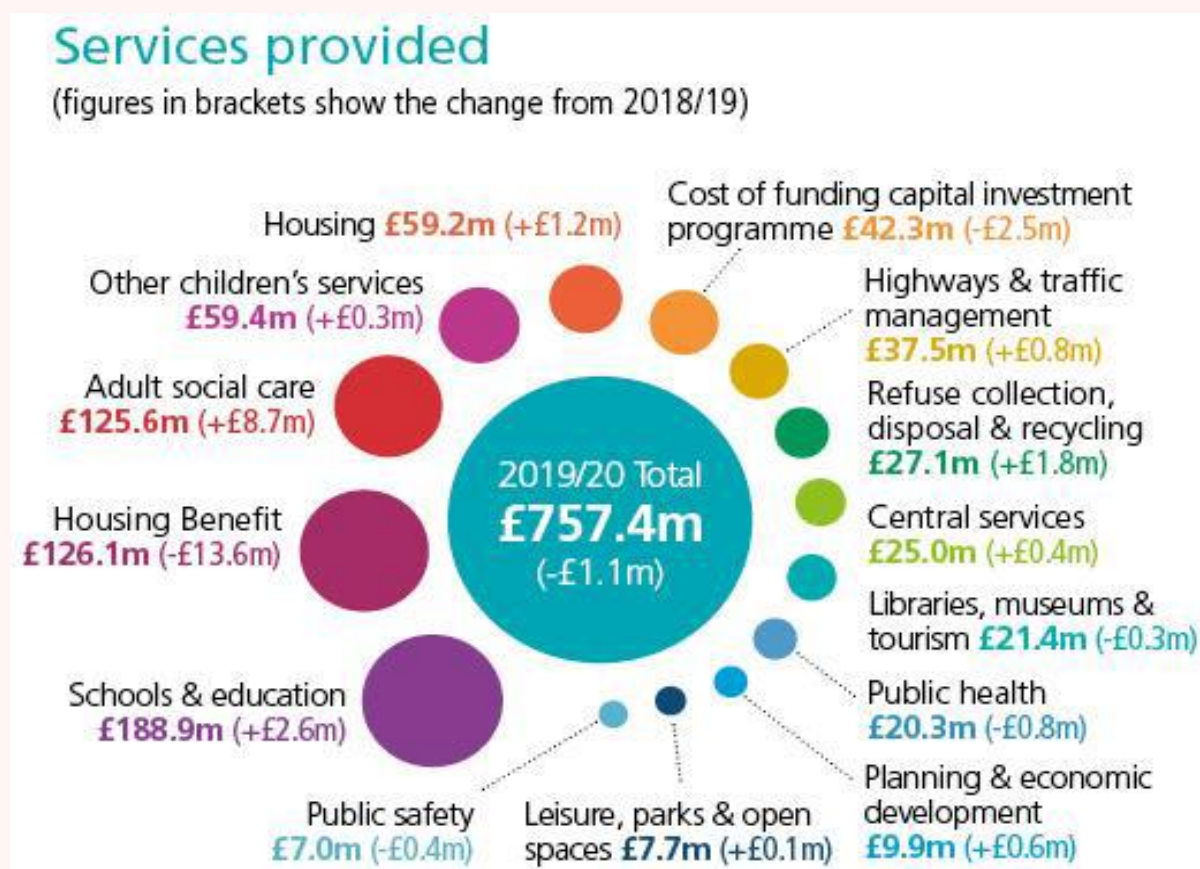
In 2019/20, the council set a gross revenue budget of approximately £757.000m. Within this budget, the council included appropriate provisions for pay and price increases as well as provisions to mitigate potential financial risks relating to the achievement of substantial savings proposals.

The council reports its financial performance across its service directorates which are aligned in support of strategic priorities and are as follows:

- Families, Children & Learning;
- Health & Adult Social Care (including Public Health);
- Economy, Environment & Culture;
- Neighbourhood, Communities & Housing;
- Finance & Resources and;
- Strategy, Governance & Law.

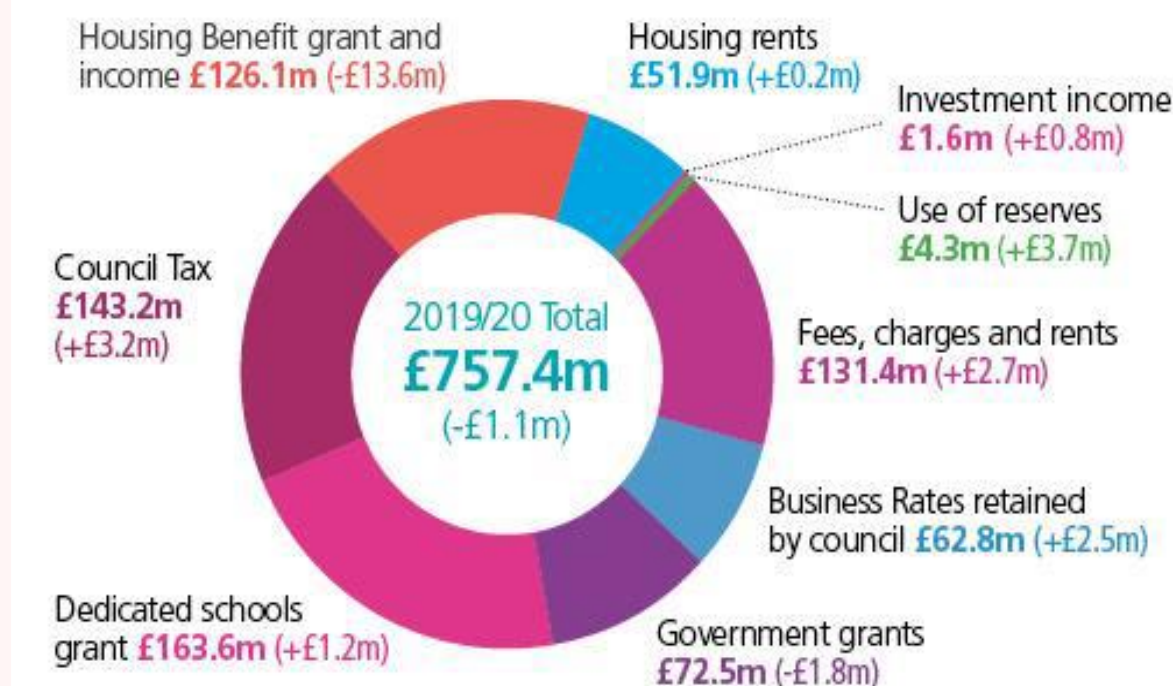
For management and reporting purposes there are three other areas for which financial information is held: the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG); Corporate Budgets and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). These groupings are classed as the council's "operating segments". Decisions about resource allocations are taken by Full Council on the basis of budget reports analysed across these operating segments. Both the council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) and Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA) are reported based on these operating segments. The CIES can be found on pages 27 to 29 and the EFA on pages 66 to 70.

The following charts show how much the council intended to spend on individual services in 2019/20 and how it expected to fund expenditure:



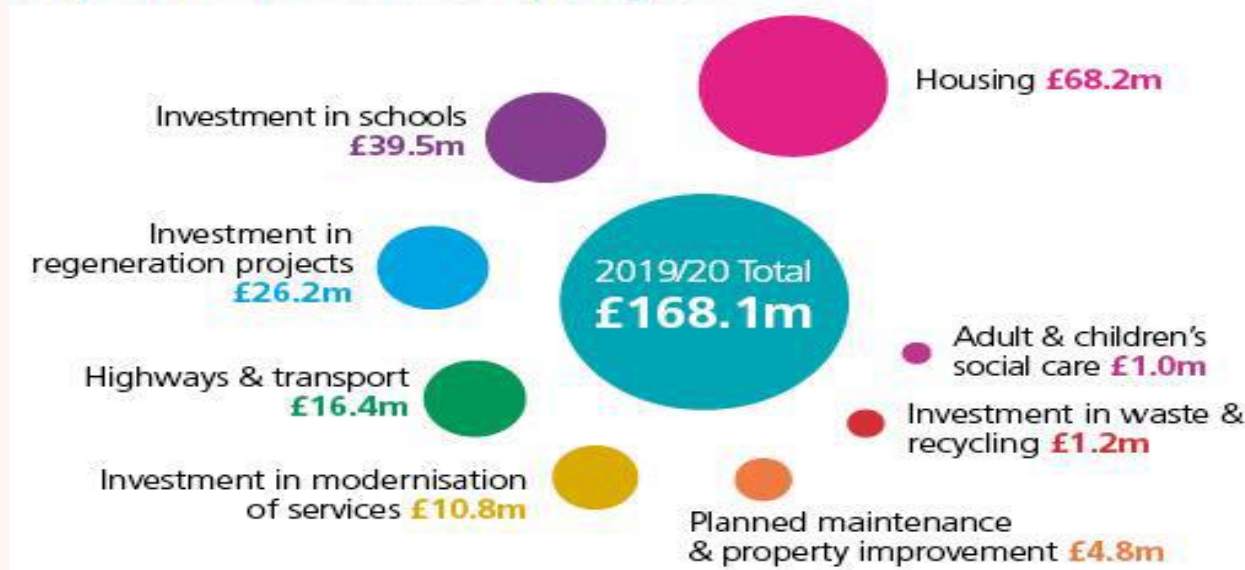
Where the money comes from

(figures in brackets show the change from 2018/19)



The council has approximately £2.117bn of non-current assets on its Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020; these mainly comprise council housing stock and other property, plant and equipment, heritage assets and investment properties. The council's capital investment programme covers a 5-year period and sets out high level forecasts of its investment plans to support service delivery in priority areas. In 2019/20, the council planned to spend approximately £168.106m on its non-current assets; a mix of new capital schemes starting in 2019/20 and the completion of existing committed schemes. The new schemes include the building of new homes and investment in modernisation programmes including Digital Services. The following chart shows the 2019/20 capital investment programme across individual services:

Capital investment programme



The funding of the capital investment programme was partly dependent upon the achievement of capital receipts from the disposal of surplus buildings and right to buy receipts. The council

continues to be successful in attracting grant and other external contributions, often with partners, to generate other resources to enable a programme to be set at this level. The council also planned to fund part of the investment programme through borrowing, under strict prudential limits, as well as some funding being set aside from the revenue budget.

The council's 2019/20 revenue and capital budgets were approved on 28 February 2019. Further details of the current and previous budgets can be found on the council's website, www.brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Summary of Financial Performance

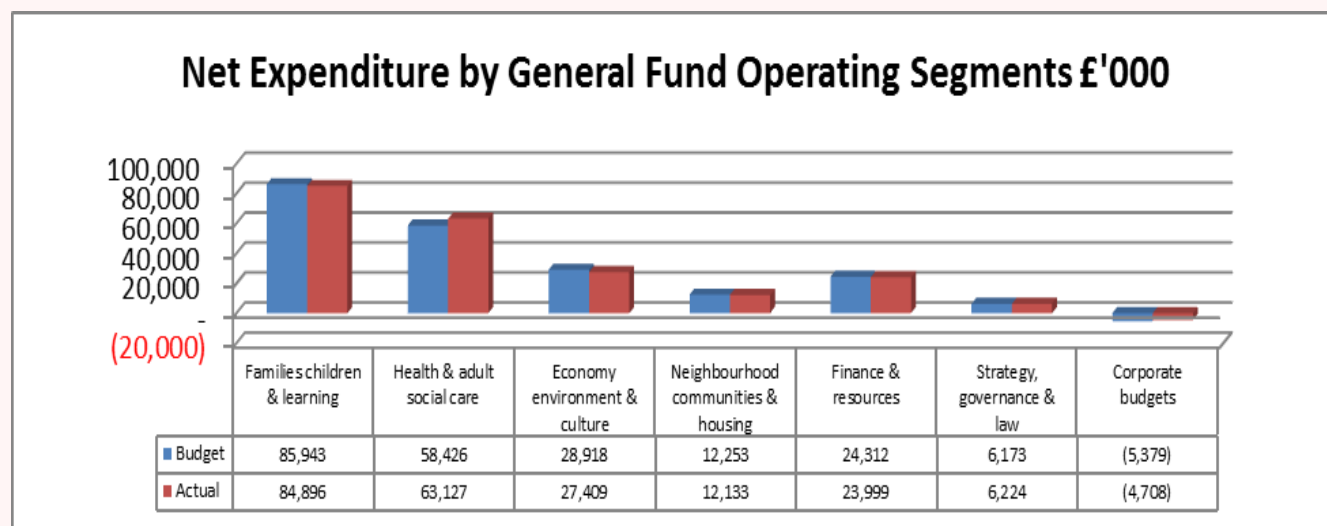
The council experienced very significant pressures on Adult Social Care services throughout 2019/20. This was recognised when setting the forward budget in February 2020 and one-off funding was identified to mitigate a potential £3.355m overspend. At outturn, this improved to £2.821m and the council has been able to achieve financial balance through the use of other resources which has again enabled the council to manage within budget without resorting to any unplanned depletion of reserves or balances. However, clearly this has been a more challenging year and a long term national solution to Adult Social Care funding is clearly needed to avoid growing financial challenges in future years.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) has underspent by £0.679m in 2019/20. There was also an underspend of £0.703m on the Dedicated Schools Grant which, as required by the School Finance regulations, will be carried forward to support schools' funding in 2020/21.

Revenue Outturn

As noted above, the outturn position for the council's General Fund services was mitigated by the planned use of one-off resources including using £0.770m available risk provision, £0.947m collection fund surplus and £0.719m modernisation re-financing.

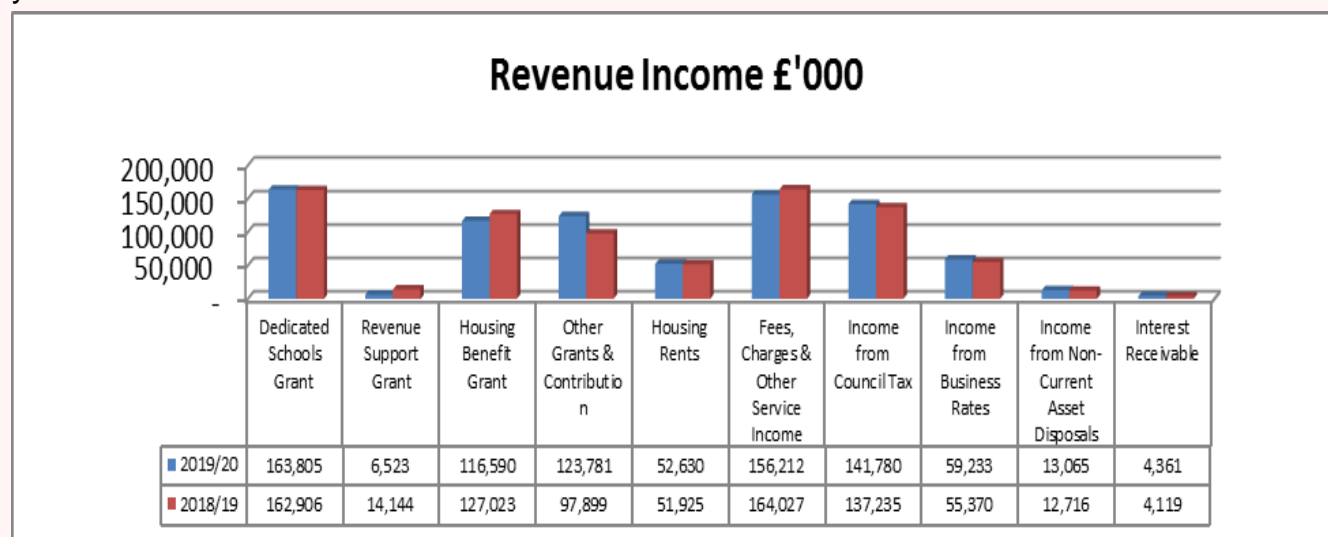
The following chart shows the council's service specific spend information analysed over its General Fund operating segments and compared against the budgeted level:



The outturn for the HRA services was a contribution to the HRA working balance of £0.703m. The council reported further details on its spending on General Fund and HRA services to the July 2020 Policy & Resources Committee; these can be found on the council's website, www.brighton-hove.gov.uk.

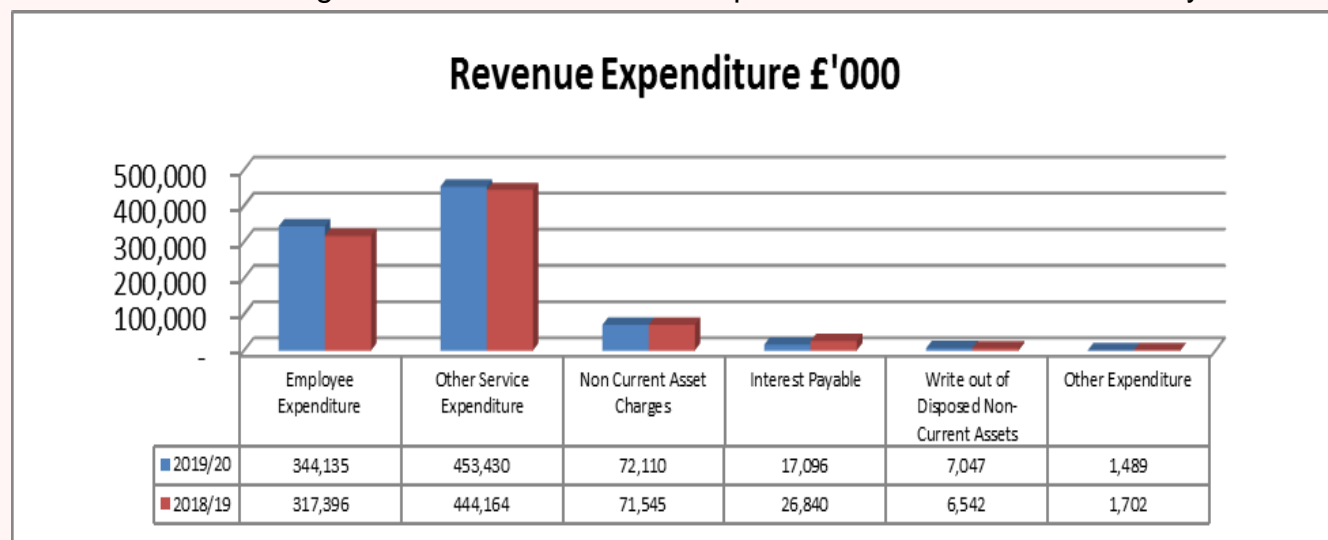
Revenue Income and Expenditure

In 2019/20, the council received revenue income of £837.980m; this was £10.616m higher than that received in 2018/19. The following chart shows the revenue income over the two financial years:



Detail on the government grants and other grants and contributions received by the council in 2019/20 can be found in note 15. Further details on the council tax and business rates income can be found in the Collection Fund section on page 39.

In 2019/20 the cost of services was £895.307m which was £27.118m higher than that in 2018/19. The following chart shows the revenue expenditure over the two financial years:



The impact of COVID-19

The package of support currently announced by the government to support local authorities in meeting emergency response costs includes:

- Emergency Response Funding: three tranches totalling £18.762m (share of £3.7bn nationally);
- Council Tax Hardship Fund: £2.330m (share of £0.5bn nationally) used to provide additional Council Tax Reduction discounts;
- There is also £0.066m that can be claimed in respect of Rough Sleeper additional costs (share of £3.2m nationally). The council has also successfully bid for additional support of £3.429m to support ongoing emergency homeless and rough sleeper provision;
- An announcement on 2 July provided a further compensation grant to cover losses of Sales, Fees & Charges losses. This provides compensation of 75p in the pound, after a 5% deductible, and is estimated to be worth £14.966m to the council; and

- Flexibility to spread Collection Fund deficits over a 3-year period.

With the exception of government grant funding, income and taxation sources are now very uncertain. This is because taxation revenues are likely to be affected as a result of both individuals and businesses falling into hardship, therefore resulting in reduced Council Tax income through increased Council Tax Reduction applications, and reduced Business Rate revenues through insolvencies or closures. Fees & Charges are expected to be severely depressed by the economic situation, particularly the downturn in the important visitor economy, which underpins significant incomes such as parking, museums and the Brighton Centre, and other incomes linked to economic activity (e.g. planning fees).

The total costs and losses in 2020/21 are currently estimated to be £56.528m but is subject to the timings for easing social distancing and reopening of events and attractions. The cost includes £26.000m losses of sales, fees & charges and rents, £18.700m emergency response costs (net of non-emergency grant funding) and £11.800m underachieved taxation revenues. This would leave a potential shortfall of £19.671m.

This is clearly a serious and unprecedented financial situation for the council. Managing an in-year deficit of this magnitude would be highly likely to require the use of the one-off working balance and/or other earmarked reserves (£57.091m at 31 March 2020) if no further government funding is forthcoming. However using balances and reserves is only a short-term solution as these must normally be replenished in future years, thereby adding to savings requirements (budget gaps) in future years.

Areas of support for businesses include:

Business Rates Expanded Reliefs

- retail, hospitality and leisure sectors, with a rateable value of less than £0.0051, would pay no business rates for the whole of 2020/21;
- the threshold was subsequently removed and widened to include estate and letting agents and bingo halls;
- nurseries eligible for a business rates holiday.

The total value of these reliefs is estimated at £63.263m, relating to 2,937 businesses. The council is entitled to 49% of the total cost to replace the lost revenue from awarding the expanded reliefs and discounts and is funded by government Section 31 grants.

Business Grants Processing

The Government announced support for small businesses and businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in the form of two grant funding schemes, the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund. The eligible number is estimated to be 5,536 businesses at a value of £73.540m. Currently, eligible applications with a value of approximately £67.000m have been processed.

Other COVID-19 Government Support

- Discretionary Fund based on 5% of the projected spend on the original scheme. This is expected to be £3.700m. The funding for this is to come from the under-utilised element of the original scheme;
- Extension of the Furlough Job Retention Scheme to October with reduced rates;
- Additional funding of £600.000 million, nationally, for Care Homes. The council's confirmed share is £2.745m. Government guidelines require 75% of the initial funding received to be passed to care homes with the remaining 25% to be used to fund infection control measures based on need;

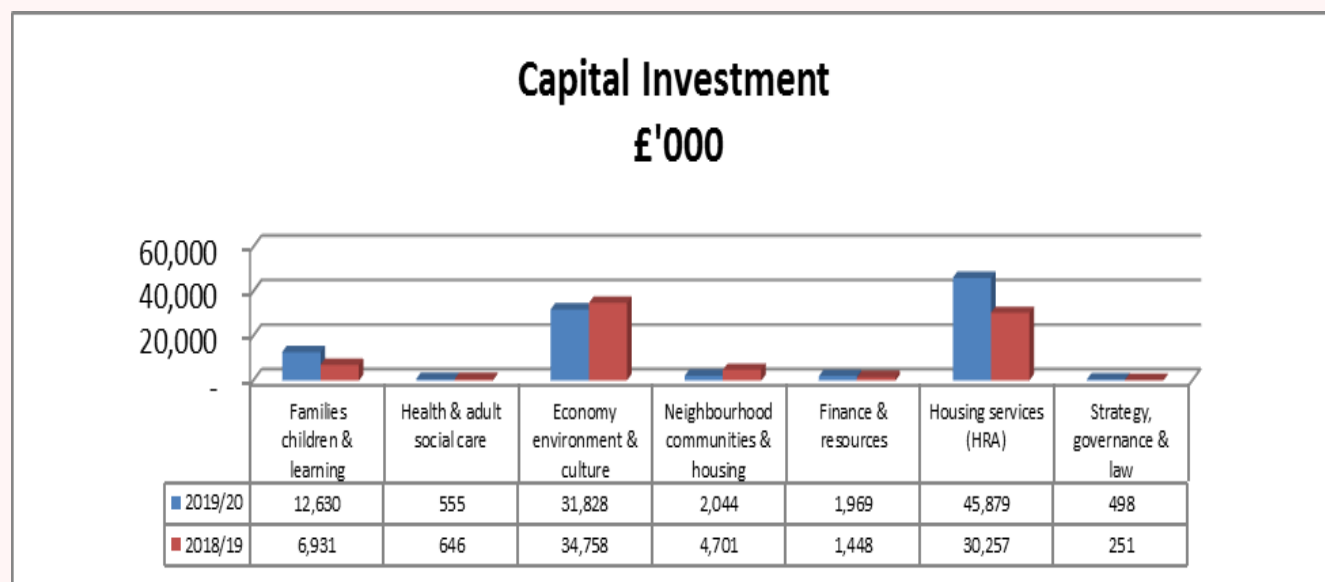
- The government also announced that it will defer Business Rates payments to government and make early payments of certain social care grants to local authorities. Section 31 grants to cover the loss of retail relief will also commence in May. The impact of these measures will be to improve cash flow by approximately £20.000m over the next 5 months which will help offset the reduced cash flow arising from income losses.

With these revised government measures in place, the council should avoid the need to borrow short term to support cash flow until the end of August. There is a challenging balancing act for the council in determining the financial support to provide now versus the current and longer term financial impacts of the pandemic on the council and the city. It is not possible to quantify all of the costs, losses and exceptional expenses that the council will experience during this immediate crisis and throughout 2020/21. It is therefore not possible to say whether or not the government emergency funding streams, including any future announcements, will be sufficient to defray these financial impacts. Should these funds be insufficient, the council will need to call on its working balance and other earmarked reserves as noted earlier.

Capital Outturn

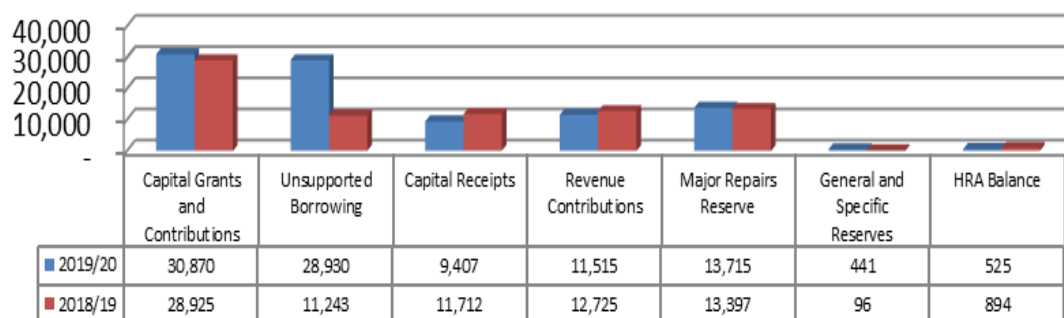
In 2019/20, the council delivered a significant capital investment programme of £95.403m in partnership with a wide range of external bodies, developing successful bids for funding from central government and other external bodies, as well as the prudent use of borrowing and capital receipts.

During the financial year, the council made adjustments to its budgeted capital investment programme including re-profiling of investment for slippage of capital schemes carried forward to 2020/21. No current or future resources were lost as a result of this re-profiling and slippage. Overall expenditure in the financial year was £95.403m, £0.402m lower than the amended profiled capital budget; the budgeted resources in respect of this underspend have been reallocated to 2020/21. The council's level of capital investment has increased by £16.411m from 2018/19. The following chart shows the council's service specific capital investment over the two years analysed over its operating segments:



The council's 2019/20 capital investment programme was funded from various internal and external sources; details of this funding are shown in the following chart:

Capital Financing £'000



The council reported further details on its overall expenditure and financing of the capital investment programme to the July 2020 Policy & Resources Committee; this can be found on the council's website, www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. Further information on the council's capital investment contractual commitments that existed as at 31 March is included in note 9.

Balance Sheet

The council has a healthy Balance Sheet; as at 31 March 2020 the council held long term assets of £2.107bn, current assets (including cash equivalents and investments) of £188.931m, current liabilities (including borrowing and bank overdraft) of £116.865m and long term liabilities of £648,283m (including net pensions liabilities of £272,974m). Furthermore, the council held usable reserves of £105.025m at 31 March 2020.

Reserves and Provisions

Putting in place appropriate levels of general reserves is essential to enable the council to manage risks effectively and to provide cover for potential and unforeseen contingencies. The council's working balances (i.e. the General Fund balance and the HRA balance) must last the lifetime of the council unless it makes contributions from future years' revenue budgets.

Determining the appropriate levels of working balance requires the council to make a professional judgement based on local circumstances including the overall budget size, risks, robustness of budget estimates, major initiatives being undertaken, budget assumptions, levels of other earmarked reserves and provisions, and the council's track record in financial management. The consequences of not keeping a minimum prudent level of balances can be serious. In the event of a major problem or a series of events, the council would run a serious risk of a deficit or of being forced to cut spending during the year in an unplanned and potentially damaging way. This is particularly relevant in the context of the present pandemic. For 2019/20, the council has based its estimate of a prudent level of General Fund working balance on the robustness of estimates information and the corporate risk register. In addition, the council took into account other strategic, operational and financial risks including:

- The complexity and degree of uncertainty associated with planned economy and efficiency measures and / or service changes and the likelihood of achieving them in full;
- The level of balances required to complement resources potentially available under the Bellwin Scheme for Emergency Financial Assistance to Local Authorities in the event of a major emergency;
- Risks of rising demand, increasing costs and / or falling income due to economic conditions or potential legislative changes;
- The risk of major legal challenges, both current and in the future;
- Risks in the financial inter-relationship between NHS partners and the council;

- The need to retain a general contingency to provide against unforeseen circumstances that may arise. For example, delays in council tax billing which could arise from a major systems or admin building failure;
- The need to retain reserves for general day to day cash flow needs.

In addition, the cash flow risk for unitary authorities is significant given the full range of services provided. Taking all of these factors into account, the council considered that a £9.000m General Fund working balance (excluding school balances) was appropriate, which represents about 4 weeks of council tax revenue. The current minimum level of working balance for the HRA the council deems appropriate is set at £3.000m; this represents 5% of gross HRA expenditure.

The reserves held by the council reflect Full Council's decisions in setting the annual budget and the council's Chief Financial Officer's assessment of the adequacy of reserves and balance under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.

Schools' balances, whilst consolidated into the council's accounts, are a matter for School Governing Bodies. Nevertheless, under the council's Scheme for Financing Schools it has a duty to scrutinise the appropriateness of school balances. The council's Scheme for Financing Schools is in line with the requirements of the Secretary of State for Education and the arrangements in place are considered adequate. The level of school balances the council held at 31 March 2020 was £4.347m. The Scheme for Financing Schools normally allows for licensed budget deficits up to a maximum of 40% of the collective school balances.

The overspend in 2019/20 for the General Fund and underspend for the HRA have been consolidated into the council's working balances. As at 31 March 2020, the General Fund working balance was £8.990m and the HRA working balance was £7.657m.

The council also holds earmarked reserves for both the General Fund and HRA. The General Fund earmarked reserves as at 31 March 2020 were £47.101m, an increase of £5.236m. The HRA earmarked reserves as at 31 March 2020 were £2.020m, a decrease of £0.374m. Further information on the specific earmarked reserves held by the council is provided in note 8.

The council has also set aside amounts in provisions for specific future liabilities. The level of provisions held as at 31 March 2020 was £6.653m, a decrease of £2.025m. Further information on the provisions held is provided in note 14.

Non-Current Assets

The council holds various non-current assets which are categorised as property, plant and equipment (PPE), heritage assets, investment property, assets held for sale or intangible assets.

The value of the council's non-current assets (including current assets held for sale) has increased in the financial year by £37.988m, from the level reported in 2018/19 to £2,057.388m in 2019/20.

The council made a capital investment on these assets of £92.795m and disposed of assets to the book value of £6.870m during the financial year.

The council has also revalued other assets during the financial year which has had the effect of £45.247m revaluation gains being recognised in the revaluation reserve, £54.400m revaluation losses of which £23.686m was charged to the revaluation reserve and £30.714m charged to the CIES and £18.537m to reverse previous revaluation and impairment losses which were charged to the CIES. Details of significant revaluation losses have been included in note 9.

The annual valuation of investment property led to these assets being revalued upwards by £2.049m. The council has also depreciated its non-current assets by £59.371m during the financial year.

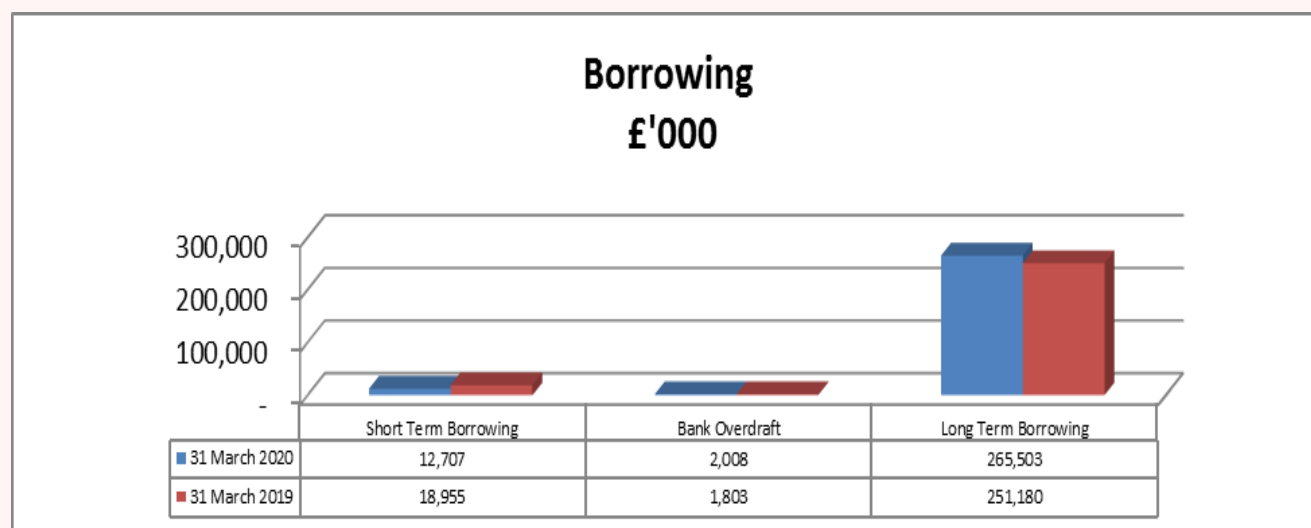
Further information on the non-current assets held by the council is included in note 9.

Borrowings

At 31 March 2020, the council's level of borrowing was £280.218m (including the bank overdraft of £2.008m). In accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management the council has based its management of the borrowing portfolio on a consolidated approach and not by individual services.

The council's Treasury Management Policy Statement (TMPS) for 2019/20 was approved by the Policy, Resources & Growth committee in February 2019. The TMPS includes treasury management practices which identify the procedures that the council follows to achieve the aims of the TMPS. The treasury management practices are supplemented by a number of "schedules" which contain specific details of the systems and routines employed by the council and the records maintained.

The council's borrowing strategy concentrates on managing the risk of when to undertake new long term borrowing. If borrowing is taken too early the difference between the borrowing rate and the investment rate could place severe pressures on the revenue budget in the short term. If the decision is delayed there is a possibility that long term interest rates would have risen, also placing pressures on the revenue budget in the long term. The council's TMPS sets out measures to reduce this risk through a series of forward deals, variable rate borrowing and short term borrowing. The level of borrowing (including the bank overdraft) has increased during the financial year by £8.281m. The following chart shows the council's level of borrowing as at 31 March:



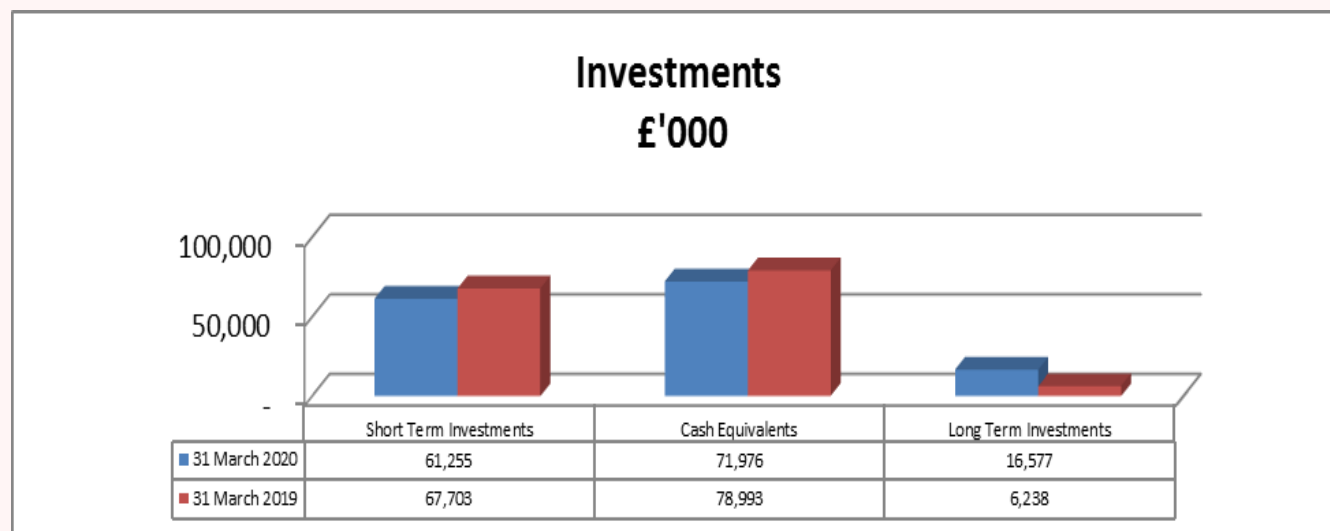
The council has raised new loans of £20.303m and repaid £9.861m during the financial year in respect of borrowings. Further information on borrowings is provided in note 11.

Investments

At 31 March 2020, the council held investments of £149.808m. Investments are made by the council's treasury management team and its external cash manager. The council uses an external cash manager to take advantage of investment opportunities in specialist markets, such as government stock.

The council's Annual Investment Strategy (AIS) for 2019/20 was approved by Full Council in February 2019. The AIS gives priority to security and liquidity. Security is achieved by selecting only those institutions that meet stringent credit rating criteria or, in the case of non-rated UK building societies, have a substantial asset base, and having limits on the amount invested with any one institution. For the purpose of determining credit ratings the council uses independent credit rating agencies. Rating criteria is only one factor taken into account by the council in determining investment counterparties. Other factors, such as articles in the financial press, are monitored and action taken where it is felt the risk attached to a particular counterparty has or is likely to worsen. Action will include the suspension of a counterparty in appropriate circumstances. Liquidity is achieved by limiting the maximum period for investment.

The level of the council's investments has decreased during the financial year by £3.126m. The following chart shows the level of investments made as at 31 March:

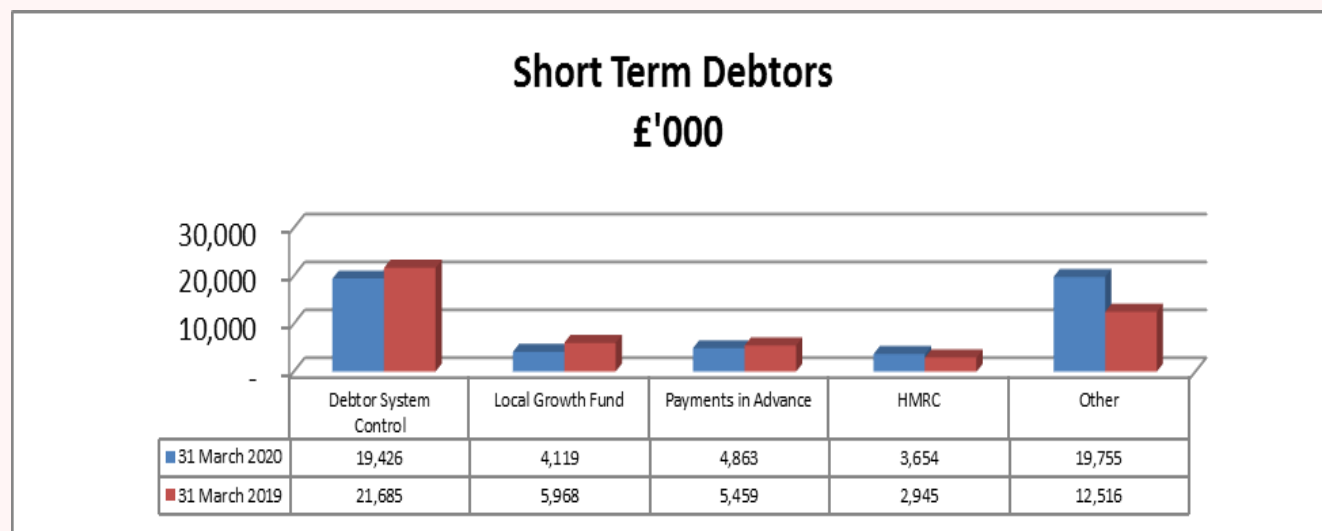


During the financial year, long term investments increased by £10.339m, short term investments decreased by £6.448m and cash equivalents decreased by £7.017m. Further information on investments is provided in note 11.

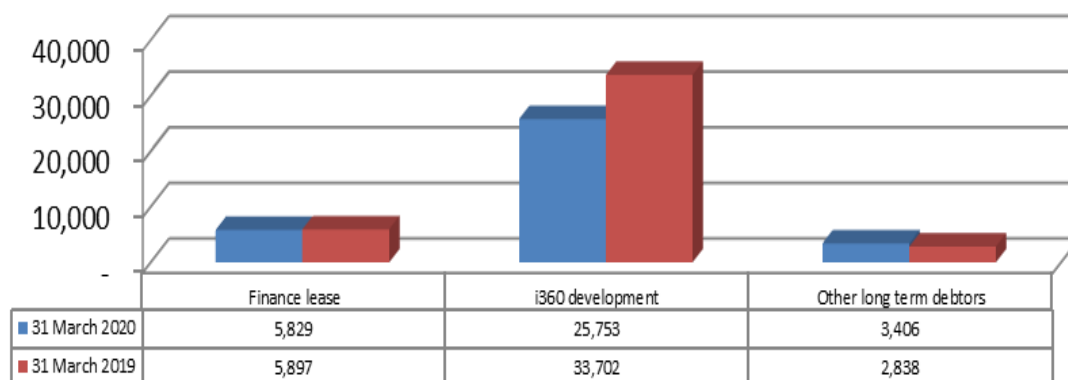
The council holds £16.577m of long term investments. This is made up of a £0.038m long term equity investment in the UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc, a £5.027m 10 year deposit with Danske Bank, £10.041m deposits with two local authorities and a £1.471m investment in the housing joint venture with Hyde Housing.

Debtors

At 31 March 2020, £86.805m was owed to the council by debtors over the short term (i.e. 12 months) and the longer term. The level of short term debtors has increased during the financial year by £3.244m; the level of long term debtors has decreased by £7.449m. The following charts show the level of debts owed to the council at 31 March:



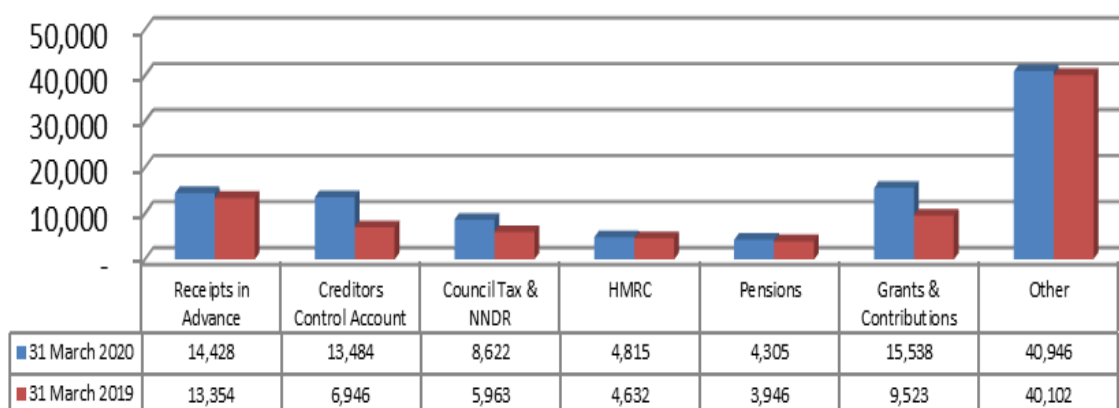
Long Term Debtors £'000



Creditors

At 31 March 2020, the council owed £102.138m to creditors; these amounts are owed over the short term. The level of short term creditors has increased during the financial year by £17.672m. The following chart shows the amounts owed by the council at 31 March:

Short Term Creditors £'000



Pensions Liability

The council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). East Sussex County Council acts as the Administering Authority of the East Sussex Pension Fund and is responsible for the management and administration of the Fund in line with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations. The scheme is a funded defined benefit scheme, meaning that the council and employees pay contributions into a Fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, assesses the position of the East Sussex Pension Fund.

Hymans Robertson LLP carried out an actuarial valuation of the East Sussex Pension Fund as at 31 March 2016 under regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. The purpose of this valuation is to assess the value of the assets and liabilities of the Fund as at 31 March 2016 and to calculate the required rate of employers' contributions to the Fund for the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020.

The council's net liability for future pension payments, as estimated by the pension actuary, Hyman Robertson LLP, has decreased from £353.823m at 31 March 2019 to £272.974m at 31 March 2020, a decrease of £80.849m.

The overall deficit on the pension fund of £272.974m represents the difference between the value of pension fund assets as at 31 March 2020 and the estimated present value of the future pension payments (i.e. liabilities) committed at that date. The value of pension fund assets have decreased by £74.386m from the level reported as at 31 March 2019 to £1,038.791m as at 31 March 2020.

The value of future pension payments liabilities have decreased by £155.235m from the level reported at 31 March 2019 to £1,311.765m as at 31 March 2020.

The liabilities reflect the council's long term underlying commitments to pay post employment benefits. These pension liabilities will be paid out over a period of many years, during which time the assets will continue to generate returns towards funding the liabilities.

The application of actuarial assumptions and other experience adjustments in relation to the pension liabilities has resulted in the pension liabilities decreasing by £225.243m of which the majority relates to financial and demographic assumptions; further details are included in the assumptions table in note 24.

Effectively, the financial assumptions made by the actuary at 31 March 2020 are more favourable than those made at 31 March 2019. Specifically, the discount rate used in the actuarial calculations has decreased during the financial year. Pension Scheme benefits are linked to price and salary inflation, therefore within the actuary's calculations, the real discount rate (i.e. net of price inflation) is compared from year to year when assessing the effect of changes in financial assumptions.

The discount rate is set by reference to long term yields. The discount rate has decreased from 2.4% to 2.3%. A lower real discount rate leads to a higher value being placed on the liabilities.

Statutory arrangements for funding the pension deficit mean that the current financial position is robust although future funding of pension liabilities is expected to add to the financial pressures facing local authorities. The deficit on the pension fund will need to be made good by increased contributions over the working life of employees, as assessed by the pension actuary.

The council recognises a reserve for the estimated net pension liability. Therefore, the net liability in relation to post employment benefits has no direct effect on the council tax requirement.

Further information on pension costs is provided in notes 23 and 24.

Collection Fund

The Collection Fund reflects the council's statutory obligation, as a billing authority, to establish and maintain a separate fund for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and business rates (i.e. non domestic rates) in accordance with section 89 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and 2012).

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

The council is responsible for collecting non-domestic rates in Brighton and Hove. Under the Business Rates Retention Scheme, the council is allowed to retain 49% of the NDR income it collects. Of the remainder, 50% is paid over to central government and 1% to the East Sussex Fire Authority.

In 2019/20, the council received £117.973m non-domestic rates income of which £57.244m was retained by the council. The council also made a tariff payment of £1.165m to central government; this payment is paid to central government as the council's share of locally retained NDR is more than its baseline funding level set by central government.

The level of NDR income on each business property depends on its 'rateable value' as calculated by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). Where local businesses believe the current

value for business properties is wrong they can appeal. Where rating appeals are successful, the settlement of the appeal is funded by the council.

The council has estimated the impact of outstanding appeals as at 31 March 2020 and has included a provision of £6.201m to cover its share. Further details on the judgement the council has made in calculating the provision are provided in note 3.

The council has also included a short term creditor of £8.622m in respect of the amount of non-domestic rates the council owes to central government and the East Sussex Fire Authority for their share of the in-year surplus, the business rates appeal provision, prepayments and the impairment allowance for doubtful debts less their share of non-domestic rates arrears.

Council Tax

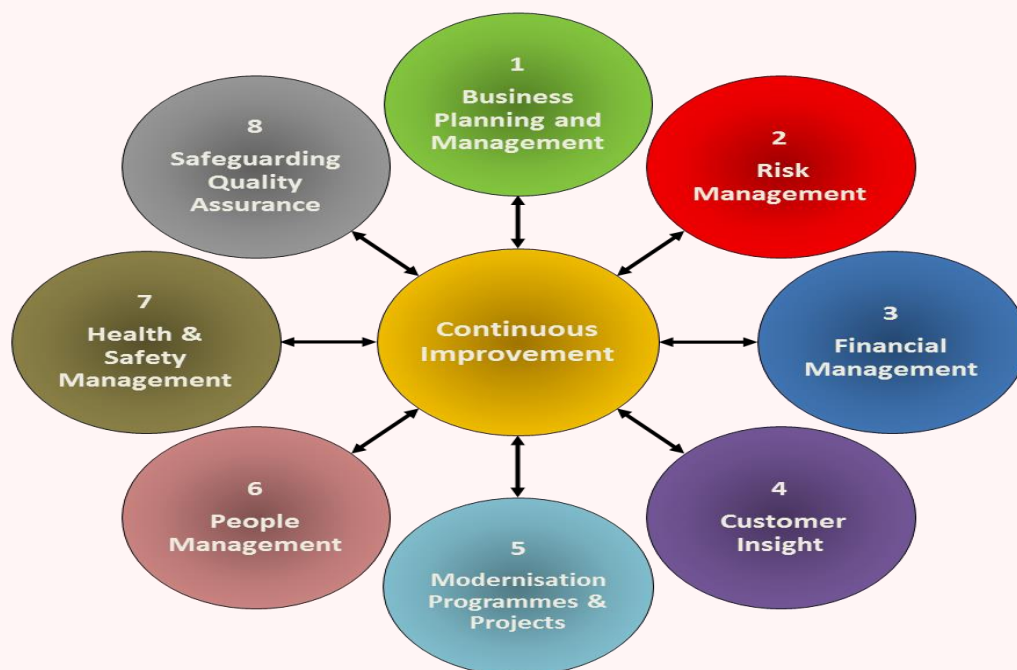
Council tax income derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties. In 2019/20, the council collected council tax income of £168.548m (after reductions made under the localised scheme). The amount included in the council's CIES was £141.780m (including £0.049m re Rottingdean Parish precept), being its share (approximately 84%) of the council tax income; the remaining income was collected on behalf of the preceptors, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and East Sussex Fire Authority.

Performance Indicators

The council's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) developed and agreed a set of Corporate Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which are mapped to the Corporate Plan in order to demonstrate delivery of the Corporate Plan outcomes. Using this KPI set the council can track performance outcomes and identify corrective actions where necessary. Performance reports are reviewed by ELT quarterly; accountable directors discuss corrective actions and ELT prioritises options. Members review performance at Policy & Resources Committee twice a year.

The council continues to keep under review its Corporate KPI set to ensure all indicators provide the right balance of information to manage the council's services against officers' time to provide performance updates.

The Performance Management Framework uses agreed targets and objectives to enable managers to measure and review performance, giving a clear indication as to whether the activities undertaken by individuals are contributing to the achievement of organisational goals. Effective performance management ensures the right actions are taken at the right time so that the council can achieve its purpose through delivering the principles and priorities as outlined in the Corporate Plan. The Framework consists of the following eight elements:



Where performance is a cause for concern, members or ELT can request additional exception reporting and incorporate it into the council's risk register if needed.

The council ensures year on year performance improvement through a rigorous target setting process. Performance targets for Corporate KPIs and other indicators are developed using the following criteria:

- Using the latest available benchmarking data (e.g. statistical neighbour data, national data or any other comparable data) or any statutory / contractual target, whichever is more challenging. Officers must explain why a particular set of benchmarking data has been selected;
- Where no benchmarking or statutory / contractual data is available, a sound rationale needs to be explained for a target figure (e.g. improvement from the current performance);
- Where performance is already better than benchmarking / comparable data, an improvement target is set to drive continuous improvement;
- In exceptional circumstances, where resources are reducing or being reallocated, or there are significant external factors which will impact on performance, a maintenance or reduction target can be set. This has to be clearly evidenced and agreed by ELT;
- Revisions to targets set for any reason requires ELT approval.

Year-end performance for 2019/20 was reported to the Policy & Resources Committee in July 2020.

Direction of Travel and Strategic Approach

Looking ahead, the Council faces unprecedented challenges in managing its budget, not only because of COVID-19, but also with all of the uncertainty around future funding levels. The level of government funding that the Council will receive between 2021/22 – 2023/24 is yet to be confirmed; Spending Review (SR) 2019 was for a single year, therefore funding will be announced at SR_2020, the date of which is still to be confirmed, but which could be subject to delay. Additionally, the Fair Funding Review and Business Rate Retention reform have been confirmed as delayed until at least 2021/22. Some aspects of government funding are therefore assumed to continue to reduce while in the same period there is considerable uncertainty as to the medium to longer term impact of COVID-19.

The UK left the European Union (EU) on 31 January 2020 and entered a transition period which is set to end on 31 December 2020. Negotiations to agree a deal for our future trading

relationship with the EU re-started in April after a pause at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is, however, a possibility that an agreement will not be reached and the UK will exit the transition period without a trade deal. If it becomes likely later this year that we will not reach a trade deal with the EU, we would expect national and local government to step up planning for any impact of no trade deal on our borders, businesses, procurement, and ability to deliver public services. This may involve Local Resilience Forums, and councils undertaking new regulatory functions, at the same time as playing a core role in the COVID-19 pandemic response. This would be a considerable challenge.

The council's overall approach is to transform how it, as a local authority, operates to improve outcomes, drives social value, and provides and commissions services that demonstrate good value for money. It will lead partners in efforts to help people into employment as a route to improved health, family stability and reduced need for social care and welfare benefits. The council will also need to become financially more self-sufficient through economic growth, increased community involvement and increased social action.

The Government has previously announced that funding for local government will be reduced by approximately 10% per annum on average and this reduction has been built into the council's MTFS forecasts based on information in the four year Comprehensive Spending Review announced in 2015. Beyond 2020/21 local government funding is very uncertain, however, for planning purposes the current trend is not anticipated to change significantly.

2019/20 was the final year of the current 4-year plan which continued to be challenging as demands and costs across social care escalated in common with the national picture. Although estimated additional recurrent funding of £6.220m is available through the Improved Better Care Fund and the Adult Social Care precept, these are negated by the reduction in the Revenue Support Grant of £7.621m. One-off Improved Better Care resources have also been provided to help local authorities move toward greater integration with Health and to manage the pressures on hospital discharge, although this will taper to zero by 2020/21.

The council has delivered savings of around £69.000m over 4 years with further savings needed to be found before the next Comprehensive Spending Review, meaning that further measures inevitably become harder to identify, carry greater delivery risks and may have greater impacts on residents, customers and service users.

The council is a large public service provider and commissioner covering around 700 individual services that support many different priorities and statutory requirements. The budget strategy is inevitably multi-stranded and complex as reflected by the wide range of savings proposals identified in the 4-year integrated service plans. Increasing demands and reducing government grant funding continue to be the principal drivers of the revenue budget gaps in 2020/21 and beyond. To address the gaps, service leads have explored what can be redesigned and what can or should be delivered with or by other providers.

Options have been considered in the context of future affordability and sustainability, the potential for cost reductions and efficiencies, the potential to manage demands more effectively, or the possibility of generating greater income.

The council will continue to lobby government to take into account a number of issues that are key to the financial resilience of the council. In particular, the long term funding of social care, ensuring that the Fair Funding Review takes into account key demographic factors affecting the authority and that the proposed move to 75% business rate retention is implemented with no detriment to the council at the point of implementation. In addition, the council needs to continue to plan for a resilient and buoyant tax base in order to protect vital public services in the city.

While the 2015 Comprehensive Spending Review provided some certainty, there remain significant areas of uncertainty over the medium term as mentioned above. In general, factors that have a material effect on the financial position of the council include:

- The lack of certainty in future resource levels and future funding distribution models;

- The level of Government's 'excessive council tax' thresholds including Adult Social Care precepts;
- Changes in function and funding;
- Changes in the economy including the impact on business rates income and rents;
- Changes in employer costs (e.g. pension or living wage changes);
- The level of future successful appeals against the business rating list;
- Impact of levels of house building on both council tax and new homes bonus;
- Achievement of performance targets for performance related funding;
- Climate change and weather impacts (e.g. on highway condition);
- Ability to manage identified service pressures, particularly on social care;
- Decisions on council tax and the council tax reduction scheme;
- Democratic support for change including partnership working and integration.

Risks to the council's MTFS arise from both external and internal factors. External risks include, for example, government policy decisions that can have an adverse impact on the council.

External risks are generally the most difficult to manage and plan for. Internal risks can also arise for a number of reasons, such as cost overruns, changing priorities or poor systems for demand management. It is therefore vital to have adequate mechanisms to manage all risks if financial stability is to be achieved.

The council's 4-year Integrated Service & Financial plans between 2016/17 and 2019/20 and associated MTFS aimed to minimise the impact of some of the major financial risks and the impact on the delivery of the city's Corporate Plan commitments.

The council's cash flow requirements are reviewed regularly and liquidity is achieved by limiting the maximum period for investment and matching investment periods to cash flow requirements. Cash flows can be affected by uncertain timing of income and expenditure, fixed term investments, the ability of counterparties to meet financial commitments and unforeseen financial pressures. The council mitigates these risks by developing an annual investment strategy which maximises capital security through investment in institutions with the highest credit rating and limiting periods of investments. A deposit cycle has been introduced in line with expected cash flows to ensure adequate cash is available when required, and the council also uses its facility to invest in short term instruments to provide liquidity to match its daily cash flow requirements.

Explanation of the Financial Statements

The objectives of the Statement of Accounts (i.e. financial statements) are to provide information about the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the council to a wide range of users for assessing the stewardship and accountability of the council's elected members and management of the resources entrusted to them and for making and evaluating economic decisions about the allocation of those resources.

The financial statements are presented on an International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) basis and have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 (the Code), issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and cover the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The Code specifies the format of the financial statements, disclosures and terminology that are appropriate for local authorities.

The council is required to present a complete set of financial statements (including comparative information). The financial statements are set out on pages 27 to 135 and are presented as follows:

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

The CIES shows the accounting cost in the financial year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation or rents. Authorities raise taxation and rents to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the EFA and the MiRS. The analysis of income and expenditure on the face of the CIES is specified by the council's operating segments which are based on the council's internal management reporting structure.

Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)

The MiRS shows the movement during the financial year on the different reserves held by the council, analysed into "usable reserves" (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and "unusable reserves". The MiRS shows how the movements in year of the council's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax or rents for the year. The net increase or decrease shows the statutory General Fund / HRA balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the end of the financial year of the assets and liabilities recognised by the council. The net assets (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held. Movement in these reserves is reported in the MiRS.

Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement

The Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement shows the economic cost in the financial year of providing housing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from rents and government grants.

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in the council's cash and cash equivalents during the financial year. 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 council's operations 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).

Collection Fund

The Collection Fund Statement shows the transactions of the council, as a billing authority, in relation to the collection from taxpayers and ratepayers and distribution to local precepting authorities and the Government business rates (i.e. non-domestic rates).

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes to the financial statements comprise explanatory information.

The financial statements also include a Statement of Responsibilities which sets out the council's and its Chief Financial Officer's responsibilities in respect of the financial statements.

The council uses rounding to the nearest £'000 in presenting amounts in its financial statements; some notes are rounded to the nearest £ to aid the presentation and understanding of the financial statements. The council has abbreviated £million as the symbol 'm' and £billion as the symbol 'bn'.

Further Information

Further information about the financial statements is available from Orbis Financial Accounting, 3rd Floor, Bartholomew House, Bartholomew Square, Brighton, BN1 1JE. In addition, interested members of the public have a statutory right to inspect the financial statements and their availability is advertised on the council's website, www.brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Nigel Manvell CPFA
Acting Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

Statement of Responsibilities

The Council's Responsibilities

The council is required to:

- (i) 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 Acting Chief Finance Officer;
- (ii) manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets;
- (iii) approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Acting Chief Finance Officer Responsibilities

The Acting Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the council's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA¹ Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom. The Acting Chief Finance Officer is required to sign and date the Statement of Accounts, stating that it presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the council at the Balance Sheet date and its income and expenditure for the financial year.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts the Acting Chief Finance Officer has:

- (i) selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- (ii) made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- (iii) complied with the local authority Code.

The Acting Chief Finance Officer has also:

- (i) kept proper accounting records which were up to date;
- (ii) taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

I certify that the Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Brighton & Hove City Council as at 31 March 2020 and its income and expenditure for the financial year ended 31 March 2020.

Nigel Manvell CPFA

Acting Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

27 October 2020

¹ Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

Certification by Chair

I confirm that this Statement of Accounts was approved by the Audit & Standards Committee at a meeting held on 27 October 2020.

Signed on behalf of Brighton & Hove City Council

Councillor D Yates
Chair
Audit & Standards Committee
Date 27 October 2020

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Brighton & Hove City Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Brighton and Hove City Council (the 'Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Cash Flow Statement, the Collection Fund

Statement, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The notes to the financial statements include the EFA, Notes to the Core Statements, Policies and Judgements, Notes to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES), Notes to the Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRs), Notes to the Housing Revenue Account Statement and Notes to the Collection Fund Statement. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2020 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The impact of macro-economic uncertainties on our audit

Our audit of the financial statements requires us to obtain an understanding of all relevant uncertainties, including those arising as a consequence of the effects of macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit. All audits assess and challenge the reasonableness of estimates made by the Acting Chief Finance Officer and the related disclosures and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. All of these depend on assessments of the future economic environment and the Authority's future operational arrangements.

Covid-19 and Brexit are amongst the most significant economic events currently faced by the UK, and at the date of this report their effects are subject to unprecedented levels of uncertainty, with the full range of possible outcomes and their impacts unknown. We applied a standardised firm-wide approach in response to these uncertainties when assessing the Authority's future operational arrangements. However, no audit should be expected to predict the unknowable factors or all possible future implications for an authority associated with these particular events.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Acting Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Acting Chief Finance Officer has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Authority's

ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In our evaluation of the Acting Chief Finance Officer's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 that the Authority's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the risks associated with the Authority's operating activities, including effects arising from macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit. We analysed how those risks might affect the Authority's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. In accordance with the above, we have nothing to report in these respects.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the absence of reference to a material uncertainty in this auditor's report is not a guarantee that the Authority will continue in operation.

Emphasis of Matter – effects of Covid-19 on the valuation of land and buildings and property investments

We draw attention to Note 3 of the financial statements, which describes the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the valuation of the Authority's land and buildings and the Authority's share of the pension fund's property investments as at 31 March 2020. As, disclosed in note 3 to the financial statements, the outbreak of Covid-19 means the property market remains uncertain and capital and rental values may change rapidly in the short to medium term. A material valuation uncertainty was therefore disclosed in both the Authority's property valuer's report and the pension fund's pooled property investment valuation reports. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The Acting Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, the Narrative Report and the Annual Governance Statement other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge of the Authority obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other information we are required to report on by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the 'delivering good governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition' published by CIPFA and SOLACE or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We

are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter required by the Code of Audit Practice

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements and our knowledge of the Authority gained through our work in relation to the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts, the Narrative Report and the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make a written recommendation to the Authority under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or;
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matters.

Responsibilities of the Authority, the Acting Chief Finance Officer and Those Charged with Governance for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Authority 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 authority, that officer is the Acting Chief Finance Officer. The Acting Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Acting Chief Finance Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Acting Chief Finance Officer is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention by government that the services provided by the Authority will no longer be provided.

The Audit and Standards Committee is Those Charged with Governance. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements - Conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2020, we are satisfied that the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Responsibilities of the Authority

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2020, as to whether in all significant respects the Authority had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criterion as that necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to be satisfied that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements - Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed the work necessary to issue our Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)

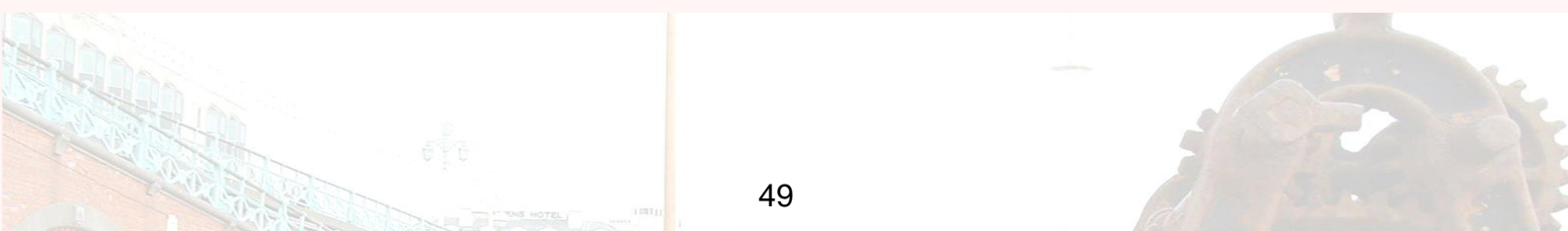
Component Assurance statement for the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2020. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Darren Wells, Key Audit Partner
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor

London
Date



Brighton & Hove City Council

Financial Statements 2019/20

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Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement							
Year Ended 31 March 2019			Note		Year Ended 31 March 2020		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure			Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£'000	£'000	£'000			£'000	£'000	£'000
111,484	(14,567)	96,917		Families, children & learning	122,576	(14,514)	108,062
119,257	(54,733)	64,524		Health & adult social care	123,970	(54,976)	68,994
132,254	(70,623)	61,631		Economy, environment & culture	135,497	(66,622)	68,875
41,448	(25,942)	15,506		Neighbourhood, communities & housing	45,078	(25,397)	19,681
162,312	(137,024)	25,288		Finance & resources	148,908	(123,084)	25,824
10,292	(4,223)	6,069		Strategy, governance & law	12,062	(4,620)	7,442
41,519	(60,529)	(19,010)		Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	39,725	(59,252)	(19,527)
15,648	(1,797)	13,851		Corporate budgets	27,541	(141)	27,400
188,343	(192,024)	(3,681)		Dedicated schools grant (DSG)	202,654	(198,583)	4,071
8,037	-	8,037		Exceptional item – HRA revaluation losses & gains reversing a previous revaluation loss	5,050	-	5,050
830,594	(561,462)	269,132		Cost of Services	863,061	(547,189)	315,872
Other operating expenditure							
	(6,098)			Gain on the disposal of non-current assets			(5,946)
	245			Precepts and levies			255
	1,457			Payments to the government housing capital receipts pool			1,234
	339			Non-current asset charges to academy schools			(184)
	(4,057)			Total Other Operating Expenditure			(4,641)
Financing and investment income and expenditure							
	26,840			Interest payable and Premiums			17,095
	7,262			Net interest on the net defined benefit pension liability			8,859
	(4,119)			Interest receivable and similar income			(4,421)
	(3,227)			Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties			(3,427)
	(1,586)			Changes in the fair value of investment properties			(2,048)
	25,170			Total Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure			16,058
Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure							
	(137,235)			Council tax income (including share of surplus / deficit)			(141,780)
	1,888			Share of non-domestic rates (surplus) / deficit			(1,989)
	(57,258)			Locally retained element of non-domestic rates income			(57,244)
	(37,294)			Non ring fenced government grants			(41,512)
	(19,521)			Capital grants and contributions			(27,437)
	(249,420)			Total Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure			(269,962)
	40,825			Deficit on the Provision of Services			57,327

Year Ended 31 March 2019	Note			Year Ended 31 March 2020
Net Expenditure				Net Expenditure
£'000				£'000
Items that will not be reclassified to the Deficit on the Provision of Services				
(22,677)	9	Surplus on revaluation of non-current assets		(21,562)
65,281	24	Re-measurements of the net defined benefit liability		(119,196)
42,604		Total Items that will not be reclassified to the Deficit on the Provision of Services		(140,758)
Items that may be reclassified to the Deficit on the Provision of Services				
97	7, 11	Deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets		-
(98)	7, 11	Recycled Available for Sale Assets for impairment / derecognition		-
(1)		Total Items that may be reclassified to the Deficit on the Provision of Services		-
42,603		Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		(140,758)
83,428		Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		(83,431)

Notes to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

The council's expenditure and income is subjectively analysed as follows:

Expenditure and Income analysed by Nature		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Employee expenses	317,396	344,135
Other service expenses	444,164	453,430
Non-current asset charges	71,545	72,110
Interest payable & Premiums on Loan Repayments	26,840	17,096
Precepts and levies	245	255
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	1,457	1,234
Total Expenditure	861,647	888,260
Fees, charges and other service income	(215,952)	(208,842)
Gain on disposal of non-current asset	(6,174)	(6,018)
Interest receivable	(4,119)	(4,361)
Income from council tax	(137,235)	(141,780)
Income from non-domestic rates	(55,370)	(59,233)
Government grants and contributions (Note 14)	(401,972)	(410,699)
Total Income	(820,822)	(830,933)
Deficit on the Provision of Services	40,825	57,327

The fees, charges and other service income (i.e. income received from external customers) is analysed further in the below table on an operating segment basis:

Income received from External Customers analysed over Operating Segments		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Families, children & learning	(7,937)	(7,435)
Health & adult social care	(33,109)	(32,607)
Dedicated schools grant	(12,034)	(15,077)
Economy, environment & culture	(69,508)	(65,740)
Neighbourhood, communities & housing	(17,360)	(16,481)
Finance & resources	(6,575)	(5,006)
Strategy, governance & law	(3,567)	(3,732)
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	(60,491)	(59,220)
Corporate budgets	(1,042)	(141)
Other income and expenditure	(4,329)	(3,403)
Total Income received from External Customers	(215,952)	(208,842)

Exceptional Items of Income and Expense

The council has included exceptional items of £5.050m on the face of its CIES relating to the reversal of previous financial year's revaluation losses on council dwellings charged to the CIES in previous financial years and revaluation losses on council dwellings.

Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)

Movement in Reserves Statement					
	Balance as at 1 April 2019 (Restated)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations	Net (Increase) / Decrease	Balance as at 31 March 2020
2019/20	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General fund balance (including GF earmarked reserves)	(57,067)	65,201	(64,225)	976	(56,091)
HRA balance (including HRA earmarked reserves)	(10,429)	(7,873)	8,625	752	(9,677)
Capital receipts reserve	(37,546)	-	5,397	5,397	(32,149)
Major repairs reserve	-	-	-	-	-
Capital grants unapplied	(8,315)	-	1,207	1,207	(7,108)
Total Usable Reserves	(113,357)	57,328	(48,996)	8,332	(105,025)
Collection fund adjustment account	2,371	-	(2,602)	(2,602)	(231)
Financial instruments adjustment account	10,053	-	(143)	(143)	9,910
Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	(1)	-	1	1	-
Pensions reserve	353,823	(119,197)	38,348	(80,849)	272,974
Accumulated absences account	3,363	-	767	767	4,130
Total Unusable Reserves Held for Revenue Purposes	369,609	(119,197)	36,371	(82,826)	286,783
Revaluation reserve	(511,228)	(21,562)	11,030	(10,532)	(521,760)
Capital adjustment account	(1,186,290)	-	1,525	1,525	(1,184,765)
Deferred capital receipts reserve	(6,209)	-	70	70	(6,139)
Total Unusable Reserves Held for Capital Purposes	(1,703,727)	(21,562)	12,625	(8,937)	(1,712,664)
Total Unusable Reserves	(1,334,118)	(140,759)	48,996	(91,763)	(1,425,881)
Total Reserves	(1,447,475)	(83,431)	-	(83,431)	(1,530,906)

Note

The total of General Fund and HRA balances (including earmarked reserves) at 1 April 2019 has been restated from £67.391m to £67.496m, an increase of £0.105m. The Capital Adjustment Account has also been restated from £1,186.396m to £1.186.290m, a decrease of £0.105m. Total Reserves remain unchanged at £1.447.475m.

Movement in Reserves Statement					
	Balance as at 1 April 2018	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations	Net (Increase) / Decrease	Balance as at 31 March 2019
2018/19	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General fund balance (including GF earmarked reserves)	(48,741)	46,660	(55,026)	(8,366)	(57,107)
HRA balance (including HRA earmarked reserves)	(8,822)	(5,834)	4,372	(1,462)	(10,284)
Capital receipts reserve	(41,377)	-	3,831	3,831	(37,546)
Major repairs reserve	48	-	(48)	(48)	-
Capital grants unapplied	(9,146)	-	831	831	(8,315)
Total Usable Reserves	(108,038)	40,826	(46,040)	(5,214)	(113,252)
Collection fund adjustment account	(584)	-	2,955	2,955	2,371
Financial instruments adjustment account	1,076	-	8,977	8,977	10,053
Available for sale financial instruments reserve	2	(2)	-	(2)	-
Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account		-	1	1	1
Pensions reserve	257,219	65,281	31,323	96,604	353,823
Accumulated absences account	3,675	-	(312)	(312)	3,363
Total Unusable Reserves Held for Revenue Purposes	261,388	65,279	42,944	108,223	369,611
Revaluation reserve	(497,991)	(22,677)	9,439	(13,238)	(511,229)
Capital adjustment account	(1,180,049)	-	(6,347)	(6,347)	(1,186,396)
Deferred capital receipts reserve	(6,213)	-	4	4	(6,209)
Total Unusable Reserves Held for Capital Purposes	(1,684,253)	(22,677)	3,096	(19,581)	(1,703,834)
Total Unusable Reserves	(1,422,865)	42,602	46,040	88,642	(1,334,223)
Total Reserves	(1,530,903)	83,428	-	83,428	(1,447,475)

The note below provides more detail on the usable reserves and the adjustments made between the accounting basis and funding basis under regulations. Note 7 provides more detail on the unusable reserves.

Notes to the Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)

The following analysis sets out the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the council in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to arrive at the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the council to meet future capital and revenue expenditure and sets out a description of the reserves that the adjustments are made against.

General Fund Balance

The General Fund balance is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of the council are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the council are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules provide otherwise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The balance therefore summarises the resources that the council is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the council is required to recover) at the year end. The General Fund balance shows the resources available to meet future running costs for non HRA housing services; it is not available to be applied to fund HRA services.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Balance

The HRA balance reflects the statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for local authority council housing provision in accordance with Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It contains the balance of income and expenditure as defined by the 1989 Act that is available to fund future expenditure in connection with the council's landlord function or (where in deficit) that is required to be recovered from tenants in future years.

Capital Receipts Reserve

The reserve holds the proceeds from the disposal of non-current assets, which are restricted by statute from being used other than to fund new capital investment or to be set aside to finance historical capital investment. Capital receipts may also be used under the flexible use of capital receipts direction to meet expenditure on any project that is designed to generate ongoing revenue savings in the delivery of public services and/or transform service delivery to reduce costs or to improve the quality of service delivery in future years. The balance on the reserve shows the resources that have yet to be applied for these purposes at the year end.

Major Repairs Reserve

The council is required to maintain a major repairs reserve, which controls an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure on HRA assets or the financing of historic capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the capital resources that have yet to be applied at the end of the financial year.

Capital Grants Unapplied Account

The capital grants unapplied account holds the grants and contributions received towards capital projects for which the council has met the conditions that would otherwise require repayment of the monies but which have yet to be applied to meet expenditure. The account also holds grants and contributions received towards capital projects for which there are no conditions for repayment attached where expenditure has yet to be incurred. The balance is restricted by grant terms as to the capital investment against which it can be applied and / or the financial year in which this can take place.

Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations						
2019/20	General Fund Balance	HRA Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Adjustments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources						
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the CIES are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements						
Pension costs (transferred to / (from) the pensions reserve)	(38,347)	-	-	-	-	(38,347)
Financial instruments (transferred to / (from) the financial instruments adjustment account)	124	18	-	-	-	142
Council tax and NDR (transferred to / (from) the collection fund adjustment account)	2,603	-	-	-	-	2,603
Employees' paid absences (transferred to the accumulated absences account)	(759)	(7)	-	-	-	(766)
Reversals of entries included in the CIES in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the capital adjustment account)	(67,321)	(7,407)	-	(13,715)	(180)	(88,263)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(103,700)	(7,396)	-	(13,715)	(180)	(124,991)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources						
Non-current asset sale proceeds	8,765	4,548	(13,313)	-	-	-
Payments to the government housing capital receipts pool	(1,234)	-	1,234	-	-	-
Statutory and voluntary provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the capital adjustment account)	8,564	731	-	-	-	9,295
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer from the capital adjustment account)	150	11,890	-	-	-	12,040
Use of capital receipts to fund voluntary severance costs	(8,070)	-	8,070	-	-	-
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	8,176	17,169	(4,009)	-	-	21,335
Adjustments to the Capital Resources						
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	9,407	-	-	9,407
Use of the major receipts reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-	13,715	-	13,715
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	29,387	396	-	-	1,386	31,169
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	(71)	-	-	-	-	(71)
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	29,316	396	9,407	13,715	1,386	54,220
Total Adjustments	(66,209)	10,169	5,398	-	1,206	(49,436)

Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations						
2018/19 Comparative Figures	General Fund Balance	HRA Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Adjustments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources						
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the CIES are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements						
Pension costs (transferred to / (from) the pensions reserve)	(30,076)	(1,246)	-	-	-	(31,322)
Financial instruments (transferred to / (from) the financial instruments adjustment account)	(4,110)	(4,865)	-	-	-	(8,975)
Council tax and NDR (transferred to / (from) the collection fund adjustment account)	(2,956)	-	-	-	-	(2,956)
Employees' paid absences (transferred to the accumulated absences account)	310	2	-	-	-	312
Reversal of entries included in the CIES in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the capital adjustment account)	(55,159)	(13,126)	-	(13,397)	-	(81,682)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(91,991)	(19,235)	-	(13,397)	-	(124,623)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources						
Non-current asset sale proceeds	3,591	9,052	(12,643)	-	-	-
Payments to the government housing capital receipts pool	(1,456)	-	1,456	-	-	-
Statutory and voluntary provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the capital adjustment account)	9,929	913	-	-	-	10,842
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances	397	13,222	-	-	-	13,619
Use of capital receipts to fund voluntary severance costs	(3,306)	-	3,306	-	-	-
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	9,155	23,187	(7,881)	-	-	24,461
Adjustments to the Capital Resources						
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	11,712	-	-	11,712
Use of the major receipts reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-	13,349	-	13,349
Use of earmarked reserves to finance capital expenditure	60	80	-	-	-	140
Reversal of entries included in the CIES in relation to capital grants unapplied	3,002	-	-	-	(3,002)	-
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	24,753	339	-	-	3,833	28,925
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	(4)	-	-	-	-	(4)
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	27,811	419	11,712	13,349	831	54,122
Total Adjustments	(55,025)	4,371	3,831	(48)	831	(46,040)

Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet			
As at 31 March 2019 <i>[Restated]</i> £'000	Note		As at 31 March 2020 £'000
Long Term Assets			
1,739,352	9	Property, plant and equipment	1,766,103
210,530	9	Heritage assets	215,828
58,559	9	Investment property	66,567
6,981	9	Long term intangible assets	7,060
6,238	11	Long term investments	16,577
42,437	12	Long term debtors	34,988
2,064,097		Long Term Assets	2,107,123
Current Assets			
67,703	11	Short term investments	61,255
1,053		Inventories	2,053
48,573	12	Short term debtors	51,817
78,993	11	Cash equivalents	71,976
3,978	9	Short term assets held for sale	1,830
114	14	Short term intangible assets	-
200,414		Current Assets	188,931
Current Liabilities			
(1,803)	11	Bank overdraft	(2,008)
(18,955)	11	Short term borrowing	(12,707)
(84,466)	13	Short term creditors	(102,138)
(252)	14	Short term provisions	(12)
(105,476)		Current Liabilities	(116,865)
Long Term Liabilities			
(8,426)	14	Long term provisions	(6,641)
(251,180)	11	Long term borrowing	(265,503)
(398,199)	24, 17	Other long term liabilities	(316,641)
(53,755)	15	Capital grant receipts in advance	(59,498)
(711,560)		Long Term Liabilities	(648,283)
1,447,475		Net Assets	1,530,906
(113,357)	6, 8	Usable reserves	(105,025)
(1,334,118)	7	Unusable reserves	(1,425,881)
(1,447,475)		Total Reserves	(1,530,906)

These financial statements replace the unaudited financial statements certified by the Acting Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) on 13 August 2020.

Nigel Manvell CPFA

Acting Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)
27 October 2020

Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement

Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement		
Year Ended 31 March 2019		Year Ended 31 March 2020
£'000		£'000
	Expenditure	
9,673	Repairs and maintenance	10,449
15,320	Supervision and management	17,733
1,625	Rents, rates, taxes and other charges	1,605
22,317	Non-current asset charges - depreciation, amortisation, revaluation and impairment	18,771
71	Debt management costs	43
318	Movement in allowance for bad debts	(341)
49,324	Total Expenditure	48,260
	Income	
(50,322)	Dwelling rents	(51,111)
(1,603)	Non-dwelling rents	(1,519)
(7,471)	Charges for services and facilities	(5,456)
(1,135)	Other income	(1,166)
(60,531)	Total Income	(59,252)
(11,207)	Net Income of HRA Services as included in the CIES	(10,992)
234	HRA share of corporate and democratic core	238
(10,973)	Net Income of HRA Services	(10,754)
	Share of the operating income and expenditure included in the CIES	
(4,872)	Gain on disposal of HRA non-current assets	(2,242)
(23)	Changes in the fair value of investment properties	(2)
(34)	Investment property income	(34)
5,167	Interest payable	5,098
4,983	Premium on loan restructuring	101
(48)	Interest receivable	(41)
(339)	Capital grants and contributions	(398)
305	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	398
(5,834)	Surplus on the Provision of HRA Services	(7,874)

Cash Flow Statement

Cash Flow Statement		
2018/19		2019/20
£'000		£'000
(40,825)	Net deficit on the provision of services	(57,327)
67,989	Non-current asset charges - depreciation, amortisation, revaluation and impairment	71,548
(869)	Increase / (decrease) in creditors	20,980
8,765	(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(3,142)
31,323	Movement in the pension liability (element charged to the surplus / deficit on the provision of services)	38,367
6,448	Carrying amount of non-current asset disposals	6,869
982	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	4,042
114,638	Adjustment to surplus / (deficit) on the provision of services for non-cash movements	138,644
(12,556)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(5,448)
(28,096)	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	(32,727)
(40,652)	Adjustment for items included in the net surplus / (deficit) on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(38,175)
33,161	Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	43,142
(72,830)	Purchase of non-current assets (including the movement in capital creditors and debtors)	(97,180)
(4,006)	Purchase of short and long term investments (net)	(3,722)
12,556	Proceeds from the disposal of non-current assets	5,518
40,728	Other receipts from investing activities	32,976
(23,552)	Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	(62,408)
36,683	Cash receipts of short and long term borrowing	20,303
2,732	Billing authorities - council tax and non-domestic rates adjustments	2,311
-	Reduction of outstanding PFI Liabilities	(709)
(35,175)	Repayment of short term and long term borrowing	(9,861)
4,240	Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	12,044
13,849	Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(7,222)
(2,512)	Bank current accounts	(1,803)
65,853	Short term deposits	78,993
63,341	Cash and Cash Equivalents as at 1 April	77,190
(1,803)	Bank current accounts	(2,008)
78,993	Short term deposits	71,976
77,190	Cash and Cash Equivalents as at 31 March	69,968

Operating activities include the following cash flows relating to interest

Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities relating to Interest		
2018/19		2019/20
£'000		£'000
4,201	Interest received	4,349
(17,694)	Interest paid	(16,360)
-	Dividends received	-
(13,493)	Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities relating to Interest	(12,011)

Reconciliation of Liabilities arising from Financing Activities

	1 April 2019 (Restated)	Financing Cash Flows	Non-Cash Changes	31 March 2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Long Term Borrowings	(251,180)	(14,323)	-	(265,503)
Short Term Borrowings	(18,955)	6,248	-	(12,707)
PFI Liabilities	(44,376)	709	-	(43,667)
Net cash outflow from financing activities	(314,511)	7,366	-	(321,877)

Collection Fund Statement

Collection Fund Statement				
Year Ended 31 March 2019		Year Ended 31 March 2020		
		Council Tax	Non Domestic Rates	Total
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
(160,892)	Council tax	(168,548)		(168,548)
(116,531)	Non-domestic rates		(117,973)	(117,973)
(277,423)		(168,548)	(117,973)	(286,521)
(4,383)	Transitional protection payments non-domestic rates		(1,988)	(1,988)
	Contributions towards previous year's Collection Fund deficit			
(1,724)	Central Government	-	(2,127)	(2,127)
(1,690)	Brighton & Hove City Council	(477)	(2,083)	(2,560)
-	Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	(51)	-	(51)
(34)	East Sussex Fire Authority	(28)	(42)	(70)
(3,448)		(556)	(4,252)	(4,808)
(285,254)	Total amount required by statute to be credited to the Collection Fund	(169,104)	(124,213)	(293,317)
	Precepts and demands from major preceptors and the council - council tax			
137,902	Brighton & Hove City Council	143,728		143,728
14,762	Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	17,099		17,099
8,097	East Sussex Fire Authority	8,434		8,434
160,761		169,261		169,261
	Shares of non-domestic rates income to major preceptors and the council			
57,258	Brighton & Hove City Council		57,244	57,244
1,169	East Sussex Fire Authority		1,168	1,168
58,427			58,412	58,412
58,427	Payment with respect to central share (including allowable deductions) of the non-domestic rates income to be paid to central government		58,412	58,412
	Impairment of debts / appeals for council tax			
526	Write off of uncollectable amounts	139		139
381	Allowance for impairment	1,442		1,442
907		1,581		1,581
	Impairment of debts / appeals for non-domestic rates			
290	Write off of uncollectable amounts		634	634
1,032	Allowance for impairment		507	507
1,322			1,141	1,141
6,150	Movement in the provision for business rates appeals		(2,508)	(2,508)
442	Charge to General Fund for allowable collection fund costs for non-domestic rates		445	445
6,592			(2,063)	(2,063)
	Contributions towards previous year's Collection Fund surplus			
2,091	Brighton & Hove City Council	-	-	-
220	Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	-	-	-
126	East Sussex Fire Authority	-	-	-
2,437		-	-	-
288,873	Total amount required by statute to be debited to the Collection Fund	170,841	115,903	286,744
3,618	Total movement on the Collection Fund Balance	1,738	(8,311)	(6,574)
934	Total Opening Collection Fund Balance	377	4,175	4,552
4,552	Total Closing Collection Fund Balance	2,115	(4,136)	(2,022)

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

i. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the council's transactions for the reported financial year and its position at the year end. The council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts (i.e. financial statements) by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which require the financial statements to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

ii. 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. Such errors include the effects of mathematical mistakes, mistakes in applying accounting policies, oversights or misinterpretations of facts, and fraud.

Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively (i.e. in the current and future financial 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.

iii. Accounting Concepts

The Code specifies many of the accounting policies and estimation techniques to be adopted for material items within the financial statements. In preparing information for the financial statements, the council has regard to the following underlying assumptions and qualitative characteristics:

- **Relevance** – the financial statements are prepared with the objective of providing information about the council's financial performance and position that is useful for assessing the stewardship of public funds and for making financial decisions;
- **Materiality** – the concept of materiality has been utilised in preparing the financial statements (i.e. if omitting or misstating information would affect the interpretation of the financial statements and influence decisions that users make);

- **Faithful Representation** – the financial information included in the financial statements is complete within the boundaries of materiality, free from material error and free from deliberate or systematic bias;
- **Comparability** – the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Code which establishes proper practice in relation to consistent financial reporting and aids comparability with other local authorities;
- **Verifiability** – the financial information included in the financial statements faithfully represents the financial position, performance and cash flows of the council. The council includes explanations and disclosures of the judgements, assumptions, methodology and other factors and circumstances in preparing its financial statements;
- **Timeliness** – the information included in the financial statements is available to decision makers in time to be capable of influencing their decisions;
- **Understandability** – the financial statements are based on accounting concepts and terminology which require reasonable knowledge of accounting and local government. Every effort has been made to ensure that the financial information included in the financial statements is presented clearly and concisely and notes and commentaries are provided that explain and interpret the key elements of the financial statements for the user;
- **Going Concern** – the financial statements are prepared on the assumption that the functions of the council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As Local Authorities cannot be created or dissolved without statutory prescription, the council must prepare its financial statements on a going concern basis.

iv. Fair Value Measurement

The council measures some of its non-financial assets and 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 in either:

- the principal market for the assets or liability; or,
- in the absence of a principal market, 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 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.

v. School Transactions

The council accounts for transactions relating to schools in accordance with the Code which 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's financial statements (and not 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.

vi. Grants and Contributions

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, grants and contributions 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 CIES until conditions attached to the grant or condition have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset acquired using the grant or condition are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

Revenue grants or contributions received for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried on the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service (in respect of attributable revenue grants and contributions) or taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure (in respect of non-ring fenced revenue grants) within the CIES.

Revenue grants or contributions with no conditions attached are recognised as income within the CIES at the point of receipt.

Capital grants or contributions received for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried on the Balance Sheet as capital grants receipts in advance. When the conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to taxation and non-specific grant within the CIES.

Where capital grants or contributions are credited to the CIES, they are reversed out of the General Fund / HRA balance in the MiRS. Where the grant or contribution 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 CAA. Amounts in the capital grants unapplied reserve are transferred to the CAA once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

vii. Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised in accordance with IFRS 15 - Revenue Recognition from Contracts with Customers and IPSAS 23 Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions (Taxes and Transfers). Prior to this revenue was recognised under IAS 18 – Revenue. Under IFRS15, the principles of revenue recognition are determining if the transaction is an exchange or non-exchange transaction. With non-exchange transactions there is no or only nominal consideration in return.

The obligating extent is often determined by statutory prescription (e.g. council tax, VAT or a fine for breach of law) or may be a donation or bequest. For exchange transactions, assets or services and liabilities of approximately equal value are exchanged. There is a contract which creates right and obligations. Performance obligations in the contract have to be measured and the transaction price allocated to these obligations.

Revenue is recognised when the performance obligations are satisfied. Examples include fees and charges for services and the sale of goods provided.

viii. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services and support services are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets during the financial 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 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 amortisations. 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 determined by the council in accordance with statutory guidance. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund / HRA balance (MRP), by way of an adjusting transaction with the CAA in the MiRS for the difference between the two.

ix. Tax Income (Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates)

Council Tax

As a billing authority, the council collects council tax under what is in substance an agency arrangement, the cash collected by the council from council tax belongs proportionately to the council and the major preceptors. There will therefore be a debtor or creditor position between the council and each major preceptor to be recognised since the net cash paid to each major preceptor in the financial year will not be its share of cash collected from council taxpayers. If the net cash paid to a major preceptor is more than its proportionate share of net cash collected from council tax debtors / creditors, the council recognises a debit adjustment for the amount overpaid to the major preceptor. Similarly, if the cash paid to a major preceptor is less than its proportionate share of net cash collected in the financial year from council tax debtors or creditors, the council recognises a credit adjustment for the amount underpaid to the major preceptor.

The Cash Flow Statement includes within operating activities only the council's own share of council tax net cash collected from council tax debtors; and the amount included for precepts paid excludes amounts paid to major preceptors. The difference between the major preceptors' share of the net cash collected from council tax debtors and net cash paid to major preceptors as precepts and settlement of the previous financial year's surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund is included as financing activities within the Cash Flow Statement.

Council tax income is included within the CIES and represents the council's share of accrued income for the financial year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax that must be included in the council's General Fund. Therefore, the difference between the income included within the CIES and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the collection fund adjustment account and reported in the MiRS.

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

Non-Domestic Rates

The council collects non-domestic rates income under what is in substance an agency arrangement; the cash collected by the council from non-domestic rates taxpayers belongs proportionately to the council, central government (by means of its central share) and its major preceptor. There will therefore be a debtor or creditor position between the council, central government and the major preceptor to be recognised since the net cash paid to central government and the major preceptor will not be its share of cash collected from non-domestic rates taxpayers. If the net cash paid to central government or the major preceptor is more than its proportionate share of net cash collected from non-domestic rates taxpayers, the council recognises a debit adjustment for the amount overpaid to central government or the major preceptor in the financial year. If the cash paid to central government or the major preceptor is less than its proportionate share of net cash collected from non-domestic rates taxpayers, the council recognises a credit adjustment for the amount underpaid to central government or the major preceptor in the financial year.

Non-domestic rates income is included within the CIES and represents the accrued income for the financial year. The allowance for the cost of collection is included within the CIES. However, regulations determine the amount of non-domestic rates that must be included in the council's General Fund. Therefore, the difference between the non-domestic rates income included within the CIES and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the collection fund adjustment account and reported in the MiRS.

The Cash Flow Statement includes within operating activities only the council's share of non-domestic rates income, net cash collected from non-domestic rates debtors and the amount paid excludes amounts paid to central government and the major preceptor. The difference between central government's and the major preceptor's share of the net cash collected from non-domestic rates debtors and net cash paid to central government and the major preceptor as precepts and settlement of the previous financial year's surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund for non-domestic rates income is reported as financing activities within the Cash Flow Statement.

Non-Domestic Rates top up/tariff payments are recognised within the CIES on an accruals basis under taxation and non-specific grant income.

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

x. Value Added Tax (VAT)

The CIES excludes amounts relating to VAT and VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). VAT receivable is excluded from income within the CIES.

The net amount due to or from HMRC in respect of VAT is included as a creditor or debtor on the Balance Sheet.

xi. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on demand. The council defines cash equivalents as highly liquid investments which are no longer than three months and represent the investment of cash surpluses lent to cover

cash shortages. They are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In terms of cash flow and treasury management, the council collectively manages its bank accounts under one umbrella, therefore the net cash position is shown either as cash, as part of cash and cash equivalents or bank overdraft on the Balance Sheet.

Within the Cash Flow Statement, 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 strategy.

The council uses the indirect method to present its revenue activities cash flows, whereby the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services is adjusted for the effects of transactions of a non-cash nature, any deferrals or accruals of past or future operating cash receipts or payments, and items of revenue or expense associated with investing or financing cash flows.

xii. Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable during Employment

Short term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave and non-monetary benefits for current employees. They are recognised as an expense for services in the financial year in which employees render service to the council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by the employees but not taken before the year end which employees can carry forward in the next financial year, being the year in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to services within the CIES, but then reversed out through the MiRS to the accumulated absences account so that holiday entitlements are charged to revenue in the year in which the leave absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

When the council is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment of an employee or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy, the costs of termination benefits are charged on an accruals basis to the respective service within the CIES. This is at the earlier of when the council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the council recognises costs for a restructuring.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund / HRA balance to be charged with the amount payable by the council to the pension fund or pensioner in the financial year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the MiRS, transfers are required to and from the pensions reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination 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.

Post-Employment Benefits

Pension schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees who worked for the council. However, arrangements for the Teachers' and NHS pension schemes mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically for the council and are therefore accounted for as if they were defined contributions schemes and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised on the Balance Sheet. Within the CIES the relevant services are charged respectively with

the employer's contributions payable to Teachers' Pension and NHS Pensions in the financial year.

The council does not recognise any liability for future payment of benefits on its Balance Sheet; it recognises a creditor on the Balance Sheet for deductions made in March which are not paid over to the scheme until the new financial year.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

The liabilities of the pension scheme attributable to the council are included on the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis. The basis of calculation is 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 earnings for current employees).

Liabilities are discounted to their present value, using a discount rate (determined in reference to market yields at the Balance Sheet date of high quality bonds).

The assets of the pension scheme attributable to the council are included on the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

- quoted securities – current bid price;
- unquoted securities – professional estimate;
- unitised securities – current bid price;
- property – market value.

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

- service cost comprising:
 - current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned in the current financial year – this cost is allocated within the CIES 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 financial years – this cost is debited to non-distributed costs within the CIES;
 - net interest on the net defined benefit liability (i.e. net interest expense for the council) – the change during the financial year in the net defined benefit liability that arises from the passage of time calculated by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, both as determined at the start of the financial year taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the year as a result of contribution and benefit payments – this is charged to financing and investment income and expenditure within the CIES;
- re-measurements comprising:
 - the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability – these are charged to other comprehensive income and expenditure within the CIES and to the pensions reserve;
 - 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 – these are charged to other comprehensive income and expenditure within the CIES and to the pensions reserve;

- contributions paid to the pension scheme – cash paid as employer's contributions to the scheme in settlement of liabilities – these are charged to services within the CIES.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund / HRA balance to be charged with the amount payable by the council to the pension scheme or directly to pensioners in the financial year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. Transfers are made through the MiRS 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 scheme and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at year end.

The negative balance that arises on the pensions reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund / HRA balance of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits 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 employee (including teachers) are accrued in the financial year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same accounting policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

xiii. Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place whereby the council has a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. For example, 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 within the CIES in the year that the council becomes aware of the 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 on the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the year end. 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 within the CIES.

xiv. Reserves

The council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover general contingencies and cash flow management.

When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service within the CIES. The reserve is then transferred back to the General Fund / HRA balance in the MiRS so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

The category of unusable reserves includes those reserves which are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, and retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the council; these reserves are covered in the relevant accounting policies and explained in the relevant notes.

The council carries out an annual review of the reserves to ensure they are still required and are set at the appropriate level.

xv. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent Liabilities

The council recognises a contingent liability where an event has taken place that gives the council a possible obligation which has arisen from past events whose existence has been confirmed by the occurrence of one or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the council's control. 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 on the Balance Sheet but are disclosed as a note to the financial statements.

Contingent Assets

The council recognises a contingent asset when 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 council's control.

Contingent assets are not recognised on the Balance Sheet but are disclosed as a note to the financial statements.

xvi. Overheads and Support Services

The costs of central and departmental overheads (i.e. management and administration costs) and support services are charged to those services that benefit from the supply or service in accordance with the council's arrangements for accountability and financial performance. Where the cost of support services are included within a service segment as part of management reporting arrangements they are not permitted to be apportioned across service segments within the CIES.

xvii. Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

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 PPE.

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of PPE 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 to the relevant service within the CIES as it is incurred.

The council has a de minimis level of £20,000 for land and buildings and vehicles, plant and equipment. Items of expenditure below this de minimis level are charged to the relevant service within the CIES in the year they are incurred. In certain cases, the council capitalises particular items of expenditure that is below its de minimis level (e.g. expenditure funded by grant where the conditions state that the grant should only be applied to capital items of expenditure). The council has no de minimis level for enhancement expenditure and therefore all enhancement expenditure is capitalised.

Measurement

PPE assets are initially measurement at cost comprising purchase price, any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the council, and the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

The council does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction.

The costs 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).

Assets are then carried on the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost;
- council dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH);
- assets where there is no market based evidence of fair value because of their specialist nature and the asset is rarely sold (e.g. schools) – depreciated replacement cost is used as an estimate of current value;
- surplus assets – current value measurement base is fair value estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective;
- non property assets that have short useful lives or low values (or both) (i.e. vehicles, plant and equipment) – depreciated historical cost is used as a proxy for current value;
- all other assets (i.e. other land and buildings) – current value determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

Assets included on the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the end of the financial year, but as a minimum every five years.

Where, following revaluation of an individual land and / or building asset, the value drops below the de-minimis level, the de-minimis value of the asset is revalued downwards to nil.

Increases in valuation are matched by credits to the revaluation reserve to recognise unrealised gains, unless the increase is reversing a previous revaluation decrease or impairment loss charged to services within the CIES in respect of the asset in which case the revaluation increase may be credited to the CIES.

Decreases in valuations 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 within the CIES.

Revaluation gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the General Fund balance therefore they are reversed out of the General Fund balance in the MiRS and posted to the CAA. HRA revaluation gains and losses are actual charges to the HRA balance.

The revaluation reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only, being the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the CAA.

Impairment

At the end of each financial year, assets are assessed 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 is estimated, and, where this is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall.

The council recognises impairment on assets carried at a revalued amount and historical cost.

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 accumulated gains);
- where there is no balance for the asset in the revaluation reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service within the CIES.

Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the reversal is credited to the relevant service within the CIES, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

Impairment losses and reversals are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the General Fund balance therefore they are reversed out of the General Fund balance in the MiRS and posted to the CAA. HRA impairment losses and reversals are actual charges to the HRA balance.

Depreciation

Depreciation is applied to all PPE assets, except for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land and community assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

The depreciation charge is based on the depreciable amount allocated over the useful life of the asset, using a straight line allocation method and is charged to the relevant services within the CIES.

General Fund depreciation charges are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the General Fund balance therefore they are reversed out of the General Fund balance in the MiRS and posted to the CAA.

HRA depreciation is a proper charge to the HRA however the impact on balances is mirrored by an equal increase in the major repairs reserve (effectively a transfer from revenue to capital).

The council does not charge depreciation in the year of acquisition but does charge a full year's depreciation in the year of disposal.

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 from the revaluation reserve to the CAA.

Disposals and 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, the council reclassifies the asset 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 other operating

income and expenditure within the CIES. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses recognised within the CIES. 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 is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset on the Balance Sheet (whether PPE or assets held for sale) is written off to other operating income and expenditure within the CIES as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line within the CIES 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 CAA.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of capital receipts relating to housing disposals is payable to the Government. The receipts are required to be credited to the capital receipts reserve and 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). Receipts are credited to the CIES and subsequently transferred to the capital receipts reserve from the General Fund / HRA balance in the MiRS. Amounts received for a disposal below £10,000 are credited to the CIES.

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 CAA from the General Fund / HRA balance in the MiRS.

Asset Componentisation

The council only considers assets for componentisation in the financial year the assets are valued and / or in the year following capital investment being incurred on the asset. As the council does not depreciate assets in the year of acquisition, capital additions are not considered for componentisation until the following financial year.

The council has a de-minimis threshold of £10m for componentising General Fund assets; individual assets with a gross book value of less than £10m are disregarded for componentisation. The de-minimis level is reviewed on an annual basis. The componentisation of the council's housing stock is considered separately on an annual basis.

Componentisation is only applied to building elements of assets categorised as PPE and that are subject to depreciation. Vehicles, plant and equipment assets are not componentised as they do not have separately identifiable components of significant value or a significant difference in asset life. Community assets are unlikely to be componentised as they are held at either cost or nil value.

Assets under construction are not considered for componentisation until they become operational. The council does not currently consider infrastructure assets for componentisation.

In respect of components, the carrying amount of a replaced part of the asset is derecognised, with the carrying amount of the new component being recognised subject to the recognition principles being met. Where it is not practicable to determine the carrying amount of the replaced part, the council uses the cost of the new part as an indication of

what the cost of the replaced part was at the time it was acquired or constructed (adjusted for depreciation and impairment, if required).

Where an item of PPE asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. Where there is more than one significant part of the same asset which has the same useful life and depreciation method, the council groups these parts in determining the depreciation charge.

xviii. Heritage Assets

The majority of the council's heritage assets are reported on the Balance Sheet at current insurance valuations. These insurance valuations are updated on an annual basis.

Acquisitions are recognised at cost. As heritage assets are deemed to have indeterminable lives and high residual value, the council does not charge depreciation for these assets.

Revaluations, disposals and impairments are accounted for in accordance with the respective policies for PPE.

The council has a de minimis level of £20,000 for heritage assets. Items of expenditure below this de minimis level are charged to the relevant service within the CIES in the financial year it is incurred.

xix. Interests in Companies and Other Entities

An assessment of the council's interest in companies and other entities has been carried out during the year in accordance with the Code to determine the group relationships that exist. Group accounts are required where the council has interest in subsidiaries, associates and/or joint ventures, subject to consideration of materiality. The council has no material interest in companies and other entities which require it to prepare group accounting alongside its own financial statements

xx. Leases and Lease Type Arrangements

The council classifies leases as either finance leases or operating leases based on the extent to which risks and rewards incidental to ownership of a leased asset lie with the lessor or the lessee. A lease is classified as a finance lease where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the asset 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. When the land has an indefinite economic life, the land element is normally classified as an operating lease unless title is expected to pass to the lessee by the end of the lease term.

When accounting for a lease of land and buildings, the minimum lease payments are allocated between the land and the buildings elements in proportion to their relative fair values. Where the amount that would initially be recognised for the land element is immaterial, the land and buildings are treated as a single unit for lease classification.

The council may enter into an arrangement, comprising a transaction or a series of related transactions, that does not take the legal form of a lease but conveys a right to use an asset in return for a payment or series of payments. Such arrangements are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of a specific asset or assets and the arrangement conveys a right to use the asset (i.e. the right to control the use of the underlying asset).

The Council as Lessee - Finance Leases

PPE held under a finance lease 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. The discount rate used is the rate implicit in the lease or, if it is not practicable to determine, the council uses its incremental borrowing rate. Any initial direct costs are added to the value of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability.

Lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge (interest) and the reduction of the outstanding liability (i.e. a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the asset). The finance charge is calculated so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability; the council uses approximation to allocate the finance lease payments between interest and capital. The finance charge is debited to financing and investment income and expenditure within the CIES.

Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the years in which they are incurred.

PPE recognised under a finance lease 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 use council tax to cover depreciation or revaluation or impairment losses arising on leased assets. Instead, a prudent annual contribution is made from revenue towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory arrangements. Depreciation and revaluation and impairment losses are therefore substituted by a revenue contribution in the General Fund / HRA balance (MRP), by way of an adjusting transaction with the CAA in the MiRS for the difference between the two.

The Council as Lessee - Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the CIES as an expense of the services benefiting from use of the leased asset.

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 on the Balance Sheet (whether PPE or assets held for sale) is written off to other operating income and expenditure within the CIES 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 within the CIES 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 on the Balance Sheet.

As lessor, the council recognises assets held under a finance lease as a receivable at an amount equal to the net investment in the lease. 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 financing and investment income and expenditure within the CIES).

The finance income is calculated so as to produce a constant periodic rate of return on the net investment; the council uses approximation to allocate lease payments between the repayment of principal and finance income.

The gain credited to the CIES on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund / HRA 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 / HRA balance to the capital receipts reserve in the MiRS. 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 / HRA balance to the deferred capital receipts reserve. 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 CAA from the General Fund / HRA balance.

The Council as Lessor - Operating Leases

Where the council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained on the Balance Sheet. As lessor, the assets are accounted for in accordance with the council's PPE policy.

Costs, including depreciation, incurred in earning the lease income are recognised as an expense.

Rental income from operating leases is recognised over the lease term and credited to other operating income and expenditure within the CIES.

Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging an operating lease are added to the carrying amount of the leased asset and recognised as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as the lease income.

xxi. Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

PFI contracts are contractual arrangements between the council and an operator where responsibility for providing public services, using assets provided either by the operator or the council, passes to the operator for a specified period of time. As the council is deemed to control or regulate the services that are provided under its PFI schemes, and as ownership of the assets will pass to the council at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the council carries the assets used under the contracts on its Balance Sheet as part of PPE.

Recognition

The PPE asset and related liability are recognised at the same time being the point that it is probable that future economic or service benefits associated with the asset will flow to the council; and at the point that the cost of the asset can be measured reliably. This is when the asset is made available for use unless the council bears an element of the construction risk. Where this is the case, the council recognises an asset under construction prior to the asset being made available for use where it is probable that the expected future benefits attributable to the asset will flow to the council. Separate assets are recognised in respect of land and buildings where appropriate.

PPE assets in relation to PFI arrangements recognised on the Balance Sheet are accounted for using the policies applied generally to other PPE owned by the council.

Measurement

For assets owned by the council prior to the PFI contract and then transferred to the operator as part of the contract, the asset is recognised at the fair value at the time the asset was transferred. For assets acquired or constructed by the operator under the contract, the asset is recognised at the cost of purchase or construction. This value is also used as the basis for calculating the liability for amounts due to the operator to pay for the assets.

Where a PFI arrangement can be separated into a service element and a construction element, the service element is expensed as incurred and the construction element is accounted for as if it were a finance lease and allocated into an element relating to the

repayment of the liability and an interest element in accordance with the arrangements for a finance lease. The interest element is charged as incurred to financing and investment income and expenditure within the CIES, with the balance of the payment used to reduce the outstanding liability on the Balance Sheet. Subsequent to initial recognition, the asset is measured following the council's principles for assets acquired under a finance lease. The liability is measured in a similar manner to the liability resulting from a finance lease. The liability is reported as a financial liability but is measured under the *leases* accounting policy.

Where a PFI arrangement cannot be separated into a service element and a construction element, the asset and related liability are measured initially at the fair value of the asset. In this case, subsequent to initial recognition, the asset is measured following the council's principles for assets purchased or constructed by the council. Where the PFI arrangement cannot be separated into construction and service elements, the amounts payable to the operator each year (i.e. the total unitary payment) are analysed into three elements:

- the service charge element – the fair value of the services received during the financial year – charged to the relevant service within the CIES;
- repayment of the liability – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability to the PFI operator;
- interest element – an interest charge (using the interest rate implicit in the contract) on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, charged to financing and investment income within the CIES. Where it is not possible to determine the rate implicit in the contract, the council uses its cost of capital rate (including inflation).

The liability is measured as a financial instrument based on the repayment of the liability element and the imputed finance charge element of the scheduled payments above, using the same actuarial method used for finance leases.

Prepayments and Capital Contributions

Where PFI contracts are structured to require payments to be made (either as part of a unitary payment or as a lump sum contribution) before the related asset is recognised as an asset on the Balance Sheet, these payments are recognised as prepayments. The prepayments are applied to reduce the outstanding liability.

Any prepayments and contributions are taken into account when estimating the fair value of the asset and liability and the separation of payments into the liability, interest and service charge elements.

Income Received

The council recognises any income received as a result of a revenue sharing clause with a PFI arrangement as it is earned. The council also recognises any income due from the operator under a PFI arrangement as it is earned over the life of the agreement.

xxii. Investment Property

The council only accounts for property that is used solely to earn rentals and / or for capital appreciation as investment property.

Property that is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods or is held for sale is not classified as investment property.

Investment property is 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 property is measured at the 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 financing and investment income and expenditure within the CIES. The same

treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal. However, General Fund revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the General Fund balance therefore they are reversed out of the General Fund balance in the MiRS and posted to the CAA and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the capital receipts reserve. HRA revaluation and disposal gains and losses are an actual charge to the HRA balance.

The council considers investment property for componentisation purposes under the componentisation policy for PPE.

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to financing and investment income and expenditure within the CIES.

xxiii. Intangible Assets

Expenditure on intangible assets is capitalised when it is probable that the expected future economic benefits or service potential attributable to the asset will flow to and from the intangible asset to the council. Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Expenditure incurred on an intangible asset after it has been recognised is charged to services within the CIES as it is incurred. Where the council acquires (either in full or in part) an intangible asset by the way of a government grant, both the asset and the grant or contribution are recognised initially at fair value. As there is no active market for the council's intangible assets, they are carried at amortised cost.

The council amortises intangible assets with a finite useful life over their expected useful life, using a straight line allocation method. The provision of amortisation is charged to the relevant service within the CIES. The amortisation charge is not permitted to have an impact on the General Fund / HRA balance and therefore is reversed of the General Fund / HRA balance in the MiRS and posted to the CAA. The council does not charge amortisation in the year of acquisition but does charge a full year's amortisation in the year of disposal.

An intangible asset is derecognised on disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from the asset. The gain or loss is recognised as other operating income and expenditure within the CIES. The gain or loss is not a proper charge to the General Fund / HRA balance therefore the amount of disposal proceeds (i.e. capital receipt) is credited to the capital receipts reserve with the write out of the asset being debited to the CAA. The cost of disposal in relation to the General Fund remains as a charge to the CIES against the General Fund balance; however, HRA disposal costs are met from capital receipts.

xxiv. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

Legislation allows some expenditure (e.g. grants and expenditure on property not owned by the council) incurred by the council to be classified as capital for funding purposes when it does not result in the expenditure being carried on the Balance Sheet as a non-current asset; this is to enable the expenditure to be funded from capital resources rather than be charged to the General Fund / HRA balance and impact on council tax.

Such expenditure is charged to the relevant service within the CIES. The council accounts for this statutory provision that allows capital resources to meet the expenditure by debiting the CAA and crediting the General Fund / HRA balance with the transfer being reported in the MiRS.

xxv. Financial Assets and Liabilities - Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the council becomes 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 for interest payable are charged to financing and investment income and expenditure within the CIES and are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective interest rate for the instrument; for most cases this means that the amount presented on the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest) and interest charged to the CIES is the amount payable for the loan agreement in the financial year.

The council derecognises a financial liability when it is extinguished (i.e. when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires).

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited or debited to the financing and investment income and expenditure line within the CIES in the year of repurchase or settlement. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium and discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write down to the CIES is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged or debited to the CIES, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund / HRA balance to be spread over future years. The council has a policy of spreading the gain and loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The difference between amounts charged to the CIES and the net charge required against the General Fund / HRA balance is managed by a transfer to or from the financial instruments adjustment account with the adjustment reported in the MiRS.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cash flow characteristics. There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

- amortised cost;
- fair value through profit or loss (FVPL);
- fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI).

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 Council, 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.

Where loans are made at less than market rates (soft loans), a loss is recorded in the CIES (debited to the appropriate service) for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal. Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet.

Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the CIES to the net gain 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.

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

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit of Loss

Financial assets that are measured at FVPL are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council 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 Council 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.

For pooled investment funds (i.e. money market fund, collective investment scheme as defined in section 235 (1) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, investment scheme approved by the Treasury under section 11(1) of the Trustee Investments Act 1961 (local authority schemes)) regulations allow a statutory override (for a period of 5 years from 1/4/18) any unrealised gains or losses can be transferred via the Movement in Reserves Statement to a Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account in the Balance Sheet.

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

Expected Credit Losses

The Council recognises expected credit losses (impairments) on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost or FVOCI either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. 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 expected credit loss model applies to financial assets measured at amortised cost and FVOCI, trade receivables, lease debtors, third party loans and financial guarantees.

A simplified approach is applied to trade receivables and lease debtors whereby consideration of changes in credit risk since initial recognition are not required and losses are automatically recognised on a lifetime basis. A collective assessment is made for groups of instruments where reasonable and supportable information is not available for individual instruments without undue cost or effort. The aim will be to approximate the result of recognising lifetime expected credit losses if significant increases in credit risk since recognition had been measurable for the individual instruments.

Loans have been grouped into three types for assessing loss allowances:

Group 1 – loans made to individual organisations. Loss allowances for these loans can be assessed on an individual basis.

Group 2 – loans supported by government funding. As the loan repayments are recycled and the contract allows for a level of default then no additional impairment loss is required.

Group 3 - car loans to employees. Loss allowances are based on a collective assessment.

Impairment losses are debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES. For assets carried at amortised cost, the credit entry is made against the carrying amount in the Balance Sheet.

For assets carried at FVOCI, the credit entry is recognised in Other Comprehensive Income against the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve. For loan commitments and financial guarantee contracts, the loss allowance is recognised as a provision.

Impairment losses are not applicable to FVPL assets as the future contractual cash flows are of lesser significance and instead current market prices are considered to be an appropriate reflection of credit risk, with all movements in fair value, including those relating to credit risk, impacting on the carrying amount and being posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services as they arise. Impairment losses on loans supporting capital purposes, lease debtors and share capital are not a proper charge to the General Fund balance and any gains or losses can be reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Debt Redemption

The council sets aside a statutory amount each year from its General Fund for debt redemption, in the form of a minimum revenue provision (MRP), as required by the Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) regulations. Guidance issued by the Secretary of State requires Full Council to approve an annual statement on the amount of debt that will be repaid in a financial year. The guidance identifies four options for calculating the MRP and the council determines which option it will adopt.

For debt where the Government provides revenue support, the council sets aside a sum of 2% of the notional debt relating to capital investment but excluding capital investment on the HRA housing stock because there is no housing subsidy payable on these repayments.

For debt where no Government support is received, the council sets aside a sum equivalent to repaying debt over the life of the asset in equal annual instalments.

For finance leases and on Balance Sheet PFI contracts, the MRP requirement is regarded as met by a charge equal to the element of the lease payment or unitary charge that is applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability in the financial year. In addition, the council may pay off or replace loans earlier than originally planned as part of its debt management strategy, dependent upon prevailing market conditions, risk and financial benefits that may accrue to the council.

xxvi. Events after the Reporting Period

Events after the end of the reporting period are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the financial year and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- adjusting events - those events that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the financial year. In this instance, the financial statements are adjusted to reflect such events;
- non adjusting events - those events that are indicative of conditions that arose after the year end. In this instance, the financial statements are 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 financial statements.

xxvii. Joint Operations

Joint operations are arrangements where the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to use the assets and obligations for the liabilities relating to the arrangement. The activities undertaken by the council in conjunction with other joint operators involve the use of the assets and resources of those joint operators rather than the establishment of a separate entity. All parties have joint control with decisions of the activities of the arrangement requiring unanimous consent from all parties. The council recognises on its Balance Sheet only its share of the jointly controlled assets and related liabilities. Within the CIES, the council only recognises those expenses it incurs on its behalf or jointly with others in respect of its interest in the joint operation and income that it earns from the activity of the operation.

2 Accounting Standards that have been issued but have not yet been adopted

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 (the Code) will introduce several changes in accounting policies which will be required from 1 April 2020. The Code requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted.

At the balance sheet date the following new standards and amendments to existing standards have been published but not yet adopted by the Code of Practice of Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom:

- Amendments to IAS 28 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures: Long-term Interests in Associates and Joint Ventures;
- Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2015–2017 Cycle;
- Amendments to IAS 19 Employee Benefits: Plan Amendment, Curtailment or Settlement.

The Code does not anticipate that the above amendments will have a material impact on the information provided in local authority financial statements i.e. there is unlikely to be a change to the reported information in the reported net cost of services or the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. The Code requires implementation from 1 April 2020 and there is therefore no impact on the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts.

The implementation of IFRS 16 - Leases was due in 2020/21 (effective date 1 January 2020) but has been deferred until 2021/22. The standard provides a single lessee accounting model, requiring lessees to recognise assets and liabilities for all leases, unless the lease term is less than one year or the underlying asset has a low value. Transition work is underway but currently the impact of IFRS 16 cannot be reasonably estimated.

3 Critical Judgements and Assumptions Made

In preparing the financial statements, the council has had to make judgements, estimates and assumptions for certain items that affect the application of policies and reported levels of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions have been based on historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors that are considered to be reasonable. These estimates and assumptions have been used to inform the basis for judgements about the carrying values of assets and liabilities, where these are not readily available from other sources.

However, because these cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from those assumptions and estimates made. Estimates, judgements and underlying assumptions are regularly reviewed by the council.

Changes in accounting estimates are adjustments of the carrying amount of an asset or a liability, or the amount of the periodic consumption of an asset, that results from the assessment of the present status of, and expected future benefits and obligations associated with assets and liabilities. Changes in accounting estimates result from new information or new developments, and accordingly are not corrections of errors.

The critical accounting judgements and assumptions made and the key sources of estimation uncertainty identified by the council, which have a significant effect on the financial statements are:

Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

- **Provisions / Contingent Assets and Liabilities** – The council is required to exercise judgement in assessing whether a potential liability should be accounted for as a provision or contingent liability. In calculating the level of provisions the council also exercises judgement; they are measured at the council's best estimate of the costs required to settle or discharge the obligation at the Balance Sheet date. The level of the council's provisions and details of its contingent liabilities and assets are set out in notes 14 and 18;

- **Asset Componentisation** – The council has componentised its building assets using categories of typical buildings that the vast majority of its asset base would fall under. The council has exercised judgement on the main components that make up these typical buildings based on professional advice from the council's quantity surveyors. The council has also exercised judgement in classifying its assets under each typical building category and whether assets fall outside these categories and require individual attention for asset componentisation purposes;
- **Future Levels of Government Funding and Levels of Reserves** – The future levels of funding for local authorities have a high degree of uncertainty. The council has set aside amounts in provisions, working balances and reserves which it considers are appropriate based on local circumstances including its overall budget size, risks, robustness of budget estimates, major initiatives being undertaken, budget assumptions, other earmarked reserves and provisions and the council's track record in financial management;
- **Classification of Leases** – The council has entered into a number of lease arrangements in respect of property and other assets. The council has exercised judgement in the classification of leases (i.e. operating or finance lease) using such factors as the length of the lease and rent levels. It also reviews contractual arrangements to assess for lease type arrangements which may indicate the substance of a lease (e.g. contract values and length of contract). The council classifies all leases under 40 years as operating leases unless it is clear that all risks and rewards have transferred. In cases, where the council has deemed that a lease contains both an operating and finance lease element, it applies a materiality percentage of 20% in classifying both elements as a finance lease.

Where the council sublets assets acquired under operating leases, these are treated, for disclosure purposes, as separate leases and are disclosed under operating leases where the council acts as the lessor. Details of the council's leases and lease type arrangements are set out in note 16;

- **Voluntary Aided Schools** – The council has determined that the buildings relating to voluntary aided schools do not meet the definition criteria of control under IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment; properties are owned by the diocese and the school occupies the premises under a licence with no interest being passed to the council. The council does not have sufficient control over the property to meet the definition criteria of an asset and therefore does not recognise the assets on its Balance Sheet;
- **Academy Schools** – The council has exercised judgement of the treatment of the assets of schools which have converted to academy status based on the current status of the asset and the terms and conditions of any leases that are in place as at the Balance Sheet date. In respect of both Brighton Aldridge Community Academy (BACA) and Portslade Aldridge Community Academy (PACA), the new schools are operational and have been transferred to the possession of BACA and PACA respectively. The schools land and buildings are subject to long term leases (125 years) to commence on completion of the contract; however, the final (legal) execution of the leases has been subject to delay and were not in place as at the Balance Sheet date. Therefore, the assets remain under the control of the council until the long term leases are signed and the council continues to hold the assets on its Balance Sheet for the financial year;
- **Heritage Assets** – The council has exercised judgement on the classification of assets held meeting the criteria of a heritage asset. Where there are clear indications of assets having an operational nature, there is no judgement exercised; however, in some cases, there is not a straightforward distinction. In such cases, the council has based its categorisation on the asset being of a nature that would attract visitors to the city;

- **Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes Ltd** – The council has exercised judgement of the existence of a group relationship between the company and the council based on the definition of control and tests set out in IFRS10 Consolidated Financial Statements. The council's main exercise of judgement is in relation to these tests and whether the council has the power to control the company, exposure or rights to variable returns and the ability to affect the company's returns. Following an assessment of the relationship, the council has concluded that the arrangement does not meet the definition under IFRS10 for group accounting purposes;
- **Homes for the City of Brighton and Hove LLP and Homes for the City of Brighton & Hove Design & Build Company Limited** - The council has exercised judgement on the existence of group relationships between the companies and the council based on the definition of control and tests set out by IFRS10 Consolidated Financial Statements. Following an assessment of the relationship, the council has concluded that the arrangement does meet the definition under IFRS10 for group account purposes, however the interest is not considered material in preparing the 2019/20 financial statements and therefore group accounts have not been produced;
- **Better Care Fund (BCF)** – The Brighton & Hove Better Care Fund is a joint arrangement, under a S75 agreement, between the council and the Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group for the commissioning of health and social care services from the Brighton & Hove Better Care Fund. The council has exercised judgement in accounting for the BCF as a joint operation under IFRS 11 *Joint Arrangements*. Although the parties to the BCF pooled budget agreement have joint control, no separate vehicle has been created in this arrangement;
- **The Keep** – The Keep is an archive and historical resource centre. The council has exercised judgement in recognising the Keep as a joint operation with East Sussex County Council under IFRS 11 *Joint Arrangements*. The council includes a one third share of the asset on its Balance Sheet.

Assumptions made about the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

- **Retirement Benefit Obligation** – The estimation of the net pension liability depends upon a number of complex judgements and estimates 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 actuaries is engaged to provide the council with expert advice about the assumptions it should consider applying. The council's net liability for future pension payments, as estimated by the pension actuary, is £272.974m as 31 March 2020. Changes in these assumptions can have a significant effect on the value of the council's retirement benefit obligation. The key assumptions made and sensitivities to these assumptions are set out in note 24.
- **Impairment of Financial Assets** – The council provides for the impairment of its receivables based on the age and type of each debt. The percentages applied reflect an assessment of the recoverability of each debt. The total allowance for impairment of receivables (including the Collection Fund) was reduced by £0.975m in the CIES in 2019/20, resulting in a total allowance of £40.460m as at 31 March 2020. If the recovery rate of debt were to fall the council will need to consider raising its allowance.
- **Property, Plant and Equipment** – Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions such as the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual types of asset, the expected length of service potential of the asset and the likelihood of the council's usage of the asset. The council carries out an

annual impairment review of its asset base which takes into account such factors as the current economic climate and local property value indices. The council depreciated its Property, Plant and Equipment by £57.394m during 2019/20 and the net carrying amount of Property, Plant and Equipment was £1,766.103m at 31 March 2020. If the useful life of assets reduced, depreciation would increase and the carrying amount of each asset would reduce. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for Property, Plant and Equipment would increase by £9.513m for every one year that useful lives had to be reduced.

As a result of the COVID-19 impact, the property market remains uncertain and capital and rental values may change rapidly in the short to medium term. In view of this, the valuers have advised that there is a material valuation uncertainty and less confidence than usual should be placed in the probability of the opinion of value exactly coinciding with the price achieved were there to be a sale. The view is that the greatest uncertainty is associated with properties held at fair value and this uncertainty has been quantified below. The financial impact on other categories of Property, Plant and Equipment cannot be quantified due to the ongoing situation in relation to COVID-19.

- **Fair Value Measurement** – When fair values of financial assets and 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 for 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. Information about the valuation techniques and inputs used in determining the fair value of the assets and liabilities of the council are disclosed in notes 9 and 11.

As a result of the COVID-19 impact, the property market remains uncertain and capital and rental values may change rapidly in the short to medium term. In view of this, the valuers have advised that there is a material valuation uncertainty and less confidence than usual should be placed in the probability of the opinion of value exactly coinciding with the price achieved were there to be a sale. Investment properties are valued using comparable house prices, land values, rent/yield basis or deferred market value. A 1% reduction in house prices and land values or 1% yield increase would alter the investment property valuations by £0.530m. A 10% reduction would be £5.302m. Surplus properties are valued using comparable land values, residual site values and rent/yield basis. A 1% reduction in land values or a 1% increase in yield would alter the surplus property valuations by £0.049m. A 10% reduction would be £0.490m. Across all properties valued at market value a 1% change would alter valuations by £1.440m.

- **Payments due under Private Finance Initiative (PFI)** – The council recognises and discloses its payments due under PFI arrangements based on financial models prepared at the time the PFI project commenced. The estimation of the repayment of PFI liability is estimated as £44.376m as at 31 March 2020 based on a judgement of the overall cost of the assets and the rate of return within each PFI project. The payment for services due under PFI arrangements is estimated to be £194.169m as at 31 March 2020 based on a projection for future inflation.

Changes in these assumptions can have a significant effect on the value of the payments under the PFI projects and an increase in inflation assumptions could result in an increase

in payment for services over the remaining period of the PFI arrangements. The key assumptions relating to PFI arrangements are set out in note 17.

- **Business rate appeals** – The council has applied judgement in calculating the provision for business rate appeals based on data from the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) regarding outstanding appeals where estimates of the likelihood of success, the amount of the reduction, nationally assumed reductions, and the backdating of the appeal have been based upon averages of historic settled appeals data. Different averages have been calculated for the different types of appeal. The council's share of the provision released to the collection fund was £1.219m in 2019/20 resulting in the council's share of the provision at 31 March 2020 being £6.201m.
- **Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)** – The council is required to set aside a prudent sum for the repayment of debt (MRP); this is provided for on a 2% straight line basis on supported debt, and an asset life basis for unsupported debt. The total sum set aside from revenue in 2019/20 is disclosed in note 10.

4 Events after the Reporting Period

The UK government imposed COVID-19 lockdown measures in England on 26 March 2020 and subsequently revised and extended them. The lockdown banned all non-essential travel and contact with people outside one's own household, many workers were furloughed and almost all schools, businesses, venues, facilities and amenities were closed. Three phases for easing lockdown measures have been announced with phase 1 beginning on 11 May, phase 2 on 1 June and phase 3 on 4 July.

Although March saw the first few weeks of the COVID-19 crisis, the full financial consequences will fall in 2020/21 and future years and therefore is considered as a non-adjusting event with conditions arising after the reporting date. The events after the reporting period do not indicate that the Council would be unable to continue as a going concern.

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Acting Chief Finance Officer on 27 October 2020. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes.

5 Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA) and note

The objective of the EFA is to demonstrate to council tax, rent and rate payers how the funding available to the council (i.e. government grants, fees and charges, rents, council tax and business rates) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by the council in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The EFA also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the council's directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The analysis of income and expenditure on the face of the EFA is specified by the council's operating segments which are based on the council's internal management reporting structure.

2019/20	As reported for resource management	Adjustments to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund & HRA	Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund & HRA balances	Adjustments between Funding & Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Families, children & learning	84,896	4,568	89,464	18,598	108,062
Health & adult social care	63,127	2,123	65,250	3,744	68,994
Economy, environment & culture	27,409	3,050	30,459	38,416	68,875
Neighbourhood, communities & housing	12,134	1,567	13,701	5,980	19,681
Finance & resources	23,999	(3,018)	20,981	4,843	25,824
Strategy, governance & law	6,224	(74)	6,150	1,292	7,442
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	-	(26,004)	(26,004)	6,477	(19,527)
Corporate budgets	(4,708)	28,986	24,278	3,122	27,400
Dedicated schools grant (DSG)	-	(4,337)	(4,337)	8,408	4,071
Exceptional items – HRA revaluation losses and gains reversing previous revaluation losses	-	5,050	5,050	-	5,050
Cost of Services	213,081	11,911	224,992	90,880	315,872
Other income and expenditure	(6,846)	(12,972)	(19,818)	(5,056)	(24,874)
Financing	(206,235)	2,347	(203,888)	(29,784)	(233,671)
Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	1,287	1,287	56,040	57,327

	General Fund	HRA Balance	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening General Fund and HRA balances at 1 April 2019 (<i>restated</i>)	(15,202)	(8,036)	(23,238)
Less (surplus) / deficit on General Fund and HRA balance in year	804	483	1,287
Net transfer to / (from) other usable reserves	5,408	(104)	5,304
Closing General Fund and HRA balances at 31 March 2020	(8,990)	(7,657)	(16,647)

2018/19	Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund & HRA balances	Adjustments between Funding & Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Families, children & learning	87,482	9,435	96,917
Health & adult social care	57,979	6,545	64,524
Economy, environment & culture	26,745	34,886	61,631
Neighbourhood, communities & housing	12,249	3,257	15,506
Finance & resources	20,771	4,517	25,288
Strategy, governance & law	6,516	(447)	6,069
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	(23,551)	8,122	(15,429)
Corporate budgets	12,515	1,336	13,851
Schools & Dedicated schools grant (DSG)	1,488	(5,169)	(3,681)
Exceptional items – HRA revaluation losses and gains reversing previous revaluation loss	8,037	-	8,037
Other	1,980	(5,561)	(3,581)
Cost of Services	212,211	56,921	269,132
Financing & Other income and expenditure	(221,003)	(7,304)	(228,307)
(Surplus) / Deficit on the Provision of Services	(8,792)	49,617	40,825

	General Fund	HRA Balance	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening General Fund and HRA balance at 1 April (including earmarked reserves)	(48,741)	(8,822)	(57,563)
Less (surplus) / deficit on General Fund and HRA balance in year	(8,366)	(1,462)	(9,828)
Net transfer to / (from) other usable reserves	-	-	-
Closing General Fund and HRA balance at 31 March (including earmarked reserves)	(57,107)	(10,284)	(67,391)

The following note sets out the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the council in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to arrive at the net expenditure chargeable to the General Fund balance and HRA balance (i.e. the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the council to meet future capital and revenue expenditure):

Adjustments from General Fund and HRA (Surplus) / Deficit to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – 2019/20	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (note i)	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustment (note ii)	Other Differences (note iii)	Total Adjustments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Families, children & learning	13,893	4,703	1	18,597
Health & adult social care	790	2,958	(4)	3,744
Economy, environment & culture	33,925	4,482	9	38,416
Neighbourhood, communities & housing	4,546	1,434	-	5,980
Finance & resources	2,253	2,594	(4)	4,843
Strategy, governance & law	245	1,048	(1)	1,292
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	6	1,414	7	1,427
Corporate budgets	(83)	3,190	14	3,122
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	-	7,665	743	8,408
Exceptional items – HRA revaluation losses and gains reversing previous revaluation loss	5,050	-	-	5,050
Net Cost of Services	60,626	29,488	765	90,879
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	-	8,859	(43,698)	(34,839)
Difference between General Fund and HRA (Surplus) / Deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Surplus) / Deficit	60,626	38,347	(42,933)	56,040

Adjustments from General Fund and HRA (Surplus) / Deficit to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – 2018/19	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (note i)	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustment (note ii)	Other Statutory Differences (note iii)	Other (Non-Statutory) Adjustments (note iv)	Total Adjustments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Families, children & learning	6,122	-	(17)	3,330	9,435
Health & adult social care	1,433	-	1	5,111	6,545
Economy, environment & culture	37,919	-	(4)	(3,029)	34,886
Neighbourhood, communities & housing	3,257	-	(2)	2	3,257
Finance & resources	1,551	4,067	(6)	(1,095)	4,517
Strategy, governance & law	151	-	(3)	(595)	(447)
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	12,776	-	(3)	(4,651)	8,122
Corporate budgets	(19)	-	(81)	1,436	1,336
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	-	-	(304)	(4,865)	(5,169)
Adjustments between funding & accounting basis for items within the operating segments	(29,909)	18,953	8,976	-	(1,980)
Support service and management and administration charges to / from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	-	-	-	(3,581)	(3,581)
Net Cost of Services	33,281	23,020	8,557	(7,937)	56,921
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(25,462)	7,262	2,959	7,937	(7,304)
Difference between General Fund and HRA (Surplus) / Deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Surplus) / Deficit	7,819	30,282	11,516	-	49,617

Note (i) – Adjustments for Capital Purposes

These adjustments include:

- items charged to services in relation to non-current assets (depreciation, impairment and revaluation gains and losses);
- adjustments for capital disposals (i.e. income on disposal on non-current assets and the amounts written off for those assets);
- adjustments for the statutory charges of capital financing (i.e. minimum revenue provision) and other revenue contributions as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices;
- adjustments for grants - capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure line in the CIES is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

Note (ii) - Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

These adjustments relate to the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 *Employee Benefits* pension related expenditure and income:

- For services (i.e. operating segments) this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the council as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs;
- For other income and expenditure this represents the net interest on the defined benefit liability charged to the CIES.

Note (iii) - Other Differences

This column includes other statutory adjustments between amounts debited / credited to the CIES and amounts payable / receivable to be recognised under statute and includes:

- adjustments to the General Fund / HRA surplus / deficit for the timing for premiums and discounts;
- adjustments to the General Fund surplus / deficit for employees' paid absences;
- adjustments for the timing difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and non-domestic rates that were projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices
- in the Code.

Note (iv) - Other (Non-Statutory) Adjustments

Other non-statutory adjustments between amounts debited/credited to service segments which need to be adjusted to comply with the presentational requirements in the CIES and includes adjustments for adjustments to service segments for interest income/expenditure, nonringfenced government grants and support service charges.

Further detail on these adjustments is provided in the note to the Movement in Reserves Statement.

6 Usable Reserves

Movements in the council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

7 Unusable Reserves

Capital Adjustment Account (CAA)

The CAA absorbs the timing differences arising from 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 CAA is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses, revaluation losses and amortisations are charged to the CIES (with reconciling postings from the revaluation reserve to convert fair value amounts to a historical cost basis). The account is credited with the amounts set aside by the council as finance for costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

The CAA also contains accumulated gains and losses on investment properties and revaluation gains accumulated on revalued non-current assets before 1 April 2007, the date that the revaluation reserve was created to hold such gains. The account is matched by non-current assets on the Balance Sheet and therefore is not a resource available to the council. The following table shows the balances on the CAA at the beginning and end of the financial year and the detailed movements during the year:

Capital Adjustment Account		
	2018/19 (restated)	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April	(1,180,047)	(1,186,290)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations		
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	55,623	57,429
Impairment losses on Financial Assets	3,773	9,917
Revaluation losses on non-current assets	22,324	30,714
Upward revaluations reversing previous revaluation losses on non-current assets	(15,110)	(18,536)
Amortisation of intangible assets	1,401	1,941
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	8,787	2,609
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal as part of the gain / loss on disposal to the CIES	6,448	6,869
Adjusting amounts written out to the revaluation reserve	(9,439)	(11,030)
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance new capital investment	(11,712)	(9,407)
Use of the HRA balance to finance new capital investment	(894)	(525)
Use of the major repairs reserve to finance new capital investment	(13,397)	(13,715)
Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	(25,093)	(29,783)
Application of grants to capital financing from the grants unapplied account	(3,831)	(1,386)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(4,781)	(4,957)
Voluntary provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(6,062)	(4,339)
Capital investment charged against the GF and HRA balances	(12,725)	(11,515)
Movements in the market value of investment properties to the CIES	(1,563)	(2,046)
Use of earmarked reserves to finance new capital investment	(96)	(441)
Other adjustments	104	(274)
Total adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(6,243)	(8,392)
Balance as at 31 March	(1,186,290)	(1,184,765)

Revaluation Reserve

The revaluation reserve contains the gains arising from increases in the value of revalued non-current assets (excluding investment property revaluations which are posted to the CAA). The balance on the reserve 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 CAA. The reserve is matched by non-current assets on the Balance Sheet and therefore is not a resource available to the council.

The following table shows the balances on the revaluation reserve at the beginning and end of the financial year and the detailed movements during the year:

Revaluation Reserve		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April	(497,991)	(511,229)
Other comprehensive income and expenditure		
Upward revaluation of non-current assets	(39,836)	(45,247)
Downward revaluation of non-current assets and impairment losses not charged to the surplus / deficit on the provision of services	17,159	23,685
Total other comprehensive income and expenditure	(22,677)	(21,562)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations		
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	5,445	5,892
Accumulated gains on non-current asset disposals	3,994	5,139
Total adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	9,439	11,031
Balance as at 31 March	(511,229)	(521,760)

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

The deferred capital receipts reserve holds the gains recognised on the disposal of non-current assets but for which cash settlement has yet to take place. Under statutory arrangements, the council does not treat those gains as usable for financing new capital investment until they are backed by capital receipts. When the deferred cash settlement eventually takes place, amounts are transferred to the capital receipts reserve. As at 31 March, the balance on the reserve was £6.139m (£6.209m 31 March 2019).

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 CIES as it falls due from council tax payers and business rate payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund. The amount held in this account is not a resource available to the council. As payments out of the Collection Fund are controlled by statutory provisions, the amount that can be credited / debited against the General Fund balance for surpluses / deficits is limited to the January estimate of the share of the Collection Fund balance for the previous financial year. The following table shows the balances on the collection fund adjustment account at the beginning and end of the financial year and the detailed movements in the year:

Collection Fund Adjustment Account		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April	(584)	2,371
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations		
Amount by which council tax income credited to the CIES is different from council tax income calculated in accordance with statutory requirements	2,757	1,471
Amount by which non-domestic rates income credited to the CIES is different from non-domestic rates income calculated in accordance with statutory requirements	198	(4,073)
Total adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	2,955	2,602
Balance as at 31 March	2,371	(231)

Pensions Reserve

The pensions reserve is a specific accounting mechanism used to reconcile the payments made for the year to various statutory pension schemes in accordance with those schemes' requirements and the net charge in the council's recognised liability for the same period. The 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 CIES 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. The debit balance on the pensions reserve therefore shows 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. The reserve normally is at the same level as the pensions liability carried on the top half of the Balance Sheet. The following table shows the balances on the pensions reserve at the beginning and end of the financial year and the detailed movements in the year:

Pensions Reserve		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April	257,219	353,823
Other comprehensive income and expenditure		
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability	65,332	119,196
Total other comprehensive income and expenditure	65,332	119,196
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations		
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits charged to the surplus / deficit on the provision of services	60,912	70,922
Employer's pensions contributions payable	(29,640)	(32,575)
Total adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	31,272	38,347
Balance as at 31 March	353,823	272,974

Accumulated Absences Account

The accumulated absences account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund and HRA balances from accruing for employees' paid absences earned but not taken in the financial year (e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March).

Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund and HRA balances is neutralised by transfers to / from the accumulated absences account. The following table shows the balances on the Accumulated Absences Account at the beginning and end of the financial year and the detailed movements in the year:

Accumulated Absences Account		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April	3,675	3,363
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations		
Settlement / cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding reporting period	(3,675)	(3,363)
Amounts accrued at the end of the current reporting period	3,363	4,130
Total adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(312)	767
Balance as at 31 March	3,363	4,130

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The financial instruments adjustment account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains in line with statutory provisions. The council also uses the account to manage premiums paid on the early redemption of loans. Premiums are debited to the CIES when they are incurred, but reversed out of the General Fund balance to the financial instruments adjustment account in the MiRS. Over time, the expense is posted back to the General Fund balance in accordance with statutory arrangements for spreading the burden on the council tax requirement. The movement on this reserve in the financial year relates solely to the amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different to those chargeable in accordance with statutory requirements. There were no premiums paid on the early redemption of loans in the year.

As at 31 March, the balance on the reserve was £9.910m (£10.053m 31 March 2019).

8 Earmarked Reserves

The following table shows amounts set aside from the General Fund and HRA balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund and HRA expenditure in the financial year:

Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves							
	Balance at 31 March 2018	2018/19 Transfers To	2018/19 Transfers From	Balance at 31 March 2019	2019/20 Transfers To	2019/20 Transfers From	Balance at 31 March 2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
EARMARKED GENERAL FUND RESERVES							
Schools LMS reserves	(2,003)	(2,222)	-	(4,225)	(122)	-	(4,347)
Capital reserves	(333)	(451)	384	(400)	(284)	248	(436)
Departmental carry forwards	(1,163)	(1,304)	1,163	(1,304)	(1,283)	1,304	(1,283)
Restructure redundancy reserve	(254)	(84)	129	(209)	(124)	333	-
Brighton Centre redevelopment reserve	(2,822)	(23)	-	(2,845)	(27)	-	(2,872)
Brighton i360 reserve	(3,656)	(1,437)	54	(5,039)	(1,425)	50	(6,414)
Insurance reserves	(5,593)	(44)	182	(5,455)	(51)	134	(5,372)
PFI reserves	(5,913)	(600)	172	(6,341)	(2,596)	4,092	(4,845)
Revenue grants carry forward reserve	(895)	(1,614)	694	(1,815)	(8,805)	1,111	(9,509)
City Deal New England House development reserve	(4,900)	-	-	(4,900)	-	-	(4,900)
Modernisation fund reserve	(1,067)	-	616	(451)	-	451	-
Business Rates S31 Adjustment Reserve	(1,348)	(533)	1,226	(655)	(14)	358	(311)
Other earmarked reserves	(7,866)	(1,965)	1,606	(8,225)	(621)	2,034	(6,812)
Total	(37,813)	(12,277)	6,226	(41,864)	(15,352)	10,115	(47,101)
EARMARKED HRA RESERVES							
Capital reserves	-	(1,500)	-	(1,500)	-	1,500	-
Restructure redundancy reserve	(388)	-	-	(388)	-	-	(388)
Other earmarked reserves	(681)	-	175	(506)	(2,032)	906	(1,632)
Total	(1,069)	(1,500)	175	(2,394)	(2,032)	2,406	(2,020)
Total Earmarked Reserves	(38,882)	(11,777)	6,401	(44,258)	(17,384)	12,521	(49,121)

Local Management of Schools (LMS) Reserve

The Local Management of Schools (LMS) reserve holds the balances held by the council's schools under a scheme of delegation. These reserves are held by each school and are used solely to provide education to the pupils of that school. The following table shows the level of reserves held by the council's schools as at 31 March:

Reserves Held by Schools				
	Balance as at 31 March 2019	2019/20		Balance as at 31 March 2020
		Unspent Balance	Overspent Balance	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Nursery schools	(64)	(40)	-	(40)
Primary schools	(3,812)	(3,684)	289	(3,395)
Secondary schools	11	(796)	12	(784)
Special schools	(360)	(128)	-	(128)
Total	(4,225)	(4,648)	301	(4,347)

Schools reserves are disclosed over the four phases of education; nursery, primary, secondary and special. Whilst the total reserves will be a credit balance, it is possible that individual phases may be in debit as schools reserves are viewed by the council as a whole.

Other Earmarked Reserves

The capital reserves hold resources earmarked to fund capital schemes as part of the council's capital investment strategy.

The departmental carry forwards reserve holds approved carry forwards of budget to meet future specific costs. For example, projects, initiatives and partnership work with agreed commitments.

The restructure redundancy reserve funds approved redundancy payments and associated severance and pension payments. The payments are either paid by services or are funded through this reserve subject to meeting defined business case criteria including demonstrating appropriate levels of future savings.

The Brighton Centre redevelopment reserve holds set aside resources which will be used to contribute towards the redevelopment of the Brighton Centre (Waterfront Development).

The Brighton i360 reserve - the council has provided a substantial loan facility to the developer of the Brighton i360. The i360 is expected to generate additional revenues to the council in addition to the one off arrangement and commitment fees, and an annual risk margin on the loan provided, subject to financial performance. The council's Policy & Resources Committee agreed that the resources generated by the Brighton i360 development should be allocated towards reinvestment in the wider development of the seafront and its infrastructure. This would also include undertaking essential works to the seafront so that existing scarce resources do not have to be re-prioritised from current and future revenue and capital service budgets. The Brighton i360 reserve holds the resources which have been set aside towards future seafront projects.

The insurance reserve is used to cover liabilities under policy excesses and to finance any claims for small risks not insured externally. In addition, the council carries a substantial amount of self-insurance which is financed from this reserve. An element of the insurance reserve is used to fund training on risk management to support the delivery of the risk management strategy and to fund measures to address any operational hazards and risks identified. The level of the reserve is informed by independent actuarial assessment of insurance risks.

The Private Finance Initiative (PFI) reserve relates to the schools, joint waste, and library PFI schemes. PFI contract payments generally increase gradually over the contract period. This reserve is used to offset the higher annual net costs during the later years of the contracts.

The revenue grants carry forward reserve holds revenue grants received by the council that have no conditions attached for which expenditure has not yet been incurred.

The City Deal New England House development reserve holds the funding secured as part of the Greater Brighton city deal to develop New England House into a growth hub.

The modernisation fund reserve represents money approved by the council's Corporate Modernisation Delivery Board, under delegation from full council, to fund projects and teams expected to improve value for money or lead to cost reductions in council services.

The Business Rates Section 31 Adjustment Reserves is used to offset the increased reliefs awarded in the collection fund funded by government Section 31 grant and the impact of revaluation covered by a reduced tariff payment which cannot be released into the budget until 2020/21.

Other Earmarked Reserves represents various other reserves with balances of less than £1.000m which are held for specific purposes.

9 Non-Current Assets

The council holds various non-current assets which are categorised as property, plant and equipment (PPE), heritage assets, investment property, assets held for sale or intangible assets.

Operational PPE is further categorised into a number of sub categories, namely council dwellings, other land and buildings, vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment, infrastructure assets and community assets. Non-operational PPE is categorised as assets under construction and surplus assets.

Properties classified as heritage assets include the Royal Pavilion, the Volks Railway, West Blatchington Windmill and the Rottingdean Windmill. Non-property heritage assets include historic motor vehicles, museum and gallery collections and works of art and rare books.

The following table shows the gross carrying amount and the accumulated depreciation at the beginning and end of the financial year and summarises the movement in value over the year for each sub category of non-current assets:

Non-Current Assets														
2019/20	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PPE	Heritage Assets	Investment Property	Assets Held for Sale (Short Term)	Assets Held for Sale (Long Term)	Intangible Assets	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Gross carrying amount	873,227	738,452	42,957	210,775	2,819	25,211	4,789	1,898,230	210,530	58,559	3,978	-	14,571	2,185,868
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation	-	(15,412)	(25,041)	(118,424)	-	-	-	(158,877)	-	-	-	-	(7,590)	(166,467)
Net Carrying Amount at 1 April 2019	873,227	723,040	17,916	92,351	2,819	25,211	4,789	1,739,353	210,530	58,559	3,978	-	6,981	2,019,401
Capital Additions														
Additions	34,529	23,370	2,475	7,642	12	16,395	8	84,431	350	5,959	-	-	2,055	92,795
Asset Disposals														
Derecognition - disposals	(2,273)	(2,660)	(629)	-	33	-	-	(5,529)	-	-	(2,170)	-	-	(7,699)
Derecognition - disposals (depreciation)	-	280	549	-	-	-	-	829	-	-	-	-	-	829
Transactions in respect of the surplus on revaluation of non-current assets within the CIES recognised in the revaluation reserve														
Revaluation increases	5,900	34,287	-	-	-	-	24	40,211	5,014	-	22	-	-	45,247
Revaluation losses	(11,487)	(12,133)	-	-	-	-	-	(23,620)	(66)	-	-	-	-	(23,686)
Impairment losses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions charged to the surplus / deficit on the provision of services in the CIES														
Reversal of previous revaluation losses and impairment losses	4,095	14,350	-	-	-	-	92	18,537	-	-	-	-	-	18,537
Depreciation / amortisation charge	(13,351)	(29,290)	(4,421)	(10,323)	-	-	(10)	(57,395)	-	-	-	-	(1,976)	(59,371)
Revaluation losses	(8,530)	(22,184)	-	-	-	-	-	(30,714)	-	-	-	-	-	(30,714)
Impairment losses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation of investment property	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,049	-	-	-	2,049
Other transactions														
Assets reclassified	3,304	183	-	-	(483)	(3,004)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2020	885,414	729,243	15,890	89,670	2,381	38,602	4,903	1,766,103	215,828	66,567	1,830	-	7,060	2,057,388
Gross carrying amount	885,414	746,208	44,803	218,417	2,381	38,602	4,903	1,940,728	215,828	66,567	1,830	-	16,626	2,241,579
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation	-	(16,965)	(28,913)	(128,747)	-	-	-	(174,625)	-	-	-	-	(9,566)	(184,191)
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2020	885,414	729,243	15,890	89,670	2,381	38,602	4,903	1,766,103	215,828	66,567	1,830	-	7,060	2,057,388

Non-Current Assets														
2018/19 Comparative Figures	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PPE	Heritage Assets	Investment Property	Assets Held for Sale (Short Term)	Assets Held for Sale (Long Term)	Intangible Assets	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Gross carrying amount	860,684	732,326	41,880	205,666	2,601	23,225	6,280	1,872,662	204,452	49,983	2,170	-	10,836	2,140,103
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation	-	(7,232)	(22,084)	(107,689)	-	-	-	(137,005)	-	-	-	-	(6,188)	(143,193)
Net Carrying Amount at 1 April 2018	860,684	725,094	19,796	97,977	2,601	23,225	6,280	1,735,657	204,452	49,983	2,170	-	4,648	1,996,910
Capital Additions														
Additions	25,525	15,752	2,748	5,109	217	8,577	-	57,928	53	7,302	-	-	3,734	69,017
Asset Disposals														
Derecognition - disposals	(4,134)	(1,927)	(1,672)	-	-	-	-	(7,733)	-	(312)	-	-	-	(8,045)
Derecognition - disposals (depreciation)	-	78	1,521	-	-	-	-	1,599	-	-	-	-	-	1,599
Transactions in respect of the surplus on revaluation of non-current assets within the CIES recognised in the revaluation reserve														
Revaluation increases	11,601	20,302	-	-	-	-	650	32,553	6,118	-	1,165	-	-	39,836
Revaluation losses	(7,785)	(9,187)	-	-	-	-	(62)	(17,034)	(93)	-	-	-	-	(17,127)
Impairment losses	(32)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(32)	-	-	-	-	-	(32)
Transactions charged to the surplus / deficit on the provision of services in the CIES														
Reversal of previous revaluation losses and impairment losses	3,425	11,598	-	-	-	-	-	15,023	-	-	87	-	-	15,110
Depreciation / amortisation charge	(13,119)	(26,445)	(4,478)	(10,735)	-	-	(67)	(54,844)	-	-	-	-	(1,401)	(56,245)
Revaluation losses	(11,174)	(11,150)	-	-	-	-	(1)	(22,325)	-	-	-	-	-	(22,325)
Impairment losses	(883)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(883)	-	-	-	-	-	(883)
Revaluation of investment property	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,586	-	-	-	1,586
Other transactions														
Assets reclassified	9,119	(1,073)	-	-	-	(6,592)	(2,010)	(556)	-	-	556	-	-	-
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2019	873,227	723,042	17,915	92,351	2,818	25,210	4,790	1,739,353	210,530	58,559	3,978	-	6,981	2,019,401
Gross carrying amount	873,227	738,452	42,957	210,775	2,819	25,211	4,789	1,898,230	210,530	58,559	3,978	-	14,571	2,185,868
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation	-	(15,412)	(25,041)	(118,424)	-	-	-	(158,877)	-	-	-	-	(7,590)	(166,467)
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2019	873,227	723,040	17,916	92,351	2,819	25,211	4,789	1,739,353	210,530	58,559	3,978	-	6,981	2,019,401

Summary of Transactions for Heritage Assets

The following table shows a summary of the transactions on heritage assets:

Summary of Transactions on Heritage Assets		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Cost of acquisitions		
Royal Pavilion	27	-
Collections	-	350
Volks Railway	27	-
Total Cost of Acquisitions	54	350
Revaluation increases / (losses)		
Royal Pavilion	4,797	4,948
Collections	959	-
West Blatchington Windmill	35	36
Rottingdean Windmill	80	29
Rare Books	247	-
Volks Railway	(93)	(66)
Total Revaluation increases / (losses) Recognised	6,025	4,948
Carrying amount as at 31 March		
Royal Pavilion	165,860	170,808
Collections	32,919	33,269
West Blatchington Windmill	1,211	1,248
Rottingdean Windmill	569	598
Rare Books	8,487	8,487
Volks Railway	1,484	1,418
Total Carrying Amount as at 31 March	210,530	215,829

Valuations

Land and building valuations were based upon valuation reports issued by valuers appointed by the council. The valuations 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 (RICS). The council requires that all valuers are RICS qualified. The council's valuation experts work closely with finance officers reporting directly to the Chief Finance Officer on a regular basis regarding all valuation matters.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

The council carries out a rolling programme for revaluing its PPE assets that ensures that all PPE assets required to be measured at current value are revalued at least every five years. The exception is the valuation of HRA dwellings and garages and car park assets which are undertaken annually; methods of valuation for these assets are conducted following government guidance on stock valuation for resource accounting.

Valuations are carried out by the council's internal valuers and by independent property managing companies contracted by the council: Avison Young, Savills UK Ltd and Montagu Evans. The valuation of the council's council dwellings is carried out annually by Savills UK Ltd.

The following table shows the progress of the council's rolling programme for the revaluation of PPE assets:

Rolling Programme for the Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment								
	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Carried at historical cost	-	-	44,803	218,417	2,381	38,602	-	304,203
Valued at current value:								
2019/20	885,414	422,777	-	-	-	-	4,903	1,313,094
2018/19	-	109,691	-	-	-	-	-	109,691
2017/18	-	164,841	-	-	-	-	-	164,841
2016/17	-	42,045	-	-	-	-	-	42,045
2015/16	-	6,854	-	-	-	-	-	6,854
Gross carrying amount	885,414	746,208	44,803	218,417	2,381	38,602	4,903	1,940,728
Accumulated depreciation	-	(16,965)	(28,913)	(128,747)	-	-	-	(174,625)
Net carrying amount	885,414	729,243	15,890	89,670	2,381	38,602	4,903	1,766,103

Surplus Assets

The fair value of the council's surplus assets is determined using the market value methodology. This method includes the yield methodology and adjusted sales comparison approach, or may include a development or residual appraisal if it is considered an alternative use provides the highest and best value. The approach is consistent with IFRS 13 *Fair Value Measurement*. The method involves a degree of judgement and uses data which is not widely publicly available. Inputs to the valuations, some of which are "unobservable" as defined by IFRS 13, include capitalisation rates, discount rates and comparable market values for both rents and vacant possession values. For these reasons, all valuations of the council's surplus assets are classified as Level 3 as defined by IFRS 13. There were no transfers between levels during the financial year.

Valuation process

Property is valued according to the market value method which includes both comparison and residual (cost based) approaches:

- yield methodology: the value of the income stream, by reference to market rent for similar properties, and capitalisation rates from similar properties traded in the same geographic region;
- adjusted sales comparison approach: the vacant possession value of similar properties and discount rates for similar properties traded in the same geographic region;
- residual appraisals: gross development values, construction costs, professional fees, finance costs, developer profit, statutory costs and development periods for assets considered to have development potential.

The valuer's role is to undertake the valuations by assessing all major inputs to the valuation process, including market rents, comparable vacant possession values for similar properties, yields and costs. The council's internal estates manager and lead valuer review the output from the valuation including the valuation techniques used for each property, adjustments made to default values for unobservable inputs, and the correlation of valuation inputs to data from the council's property and financial systems.

They assess valuation movements compared to the prior year valuation (at a property value, regional and property type level), and review ratios of let value to vacant possession value, values per square foot, effective yields and comparisons to property market indices.

The following table shows quantitative information about fair value measurement of surplus assets using significant unobservable inputs (level 3):

Quantitative Information about Fair Value Measurement (Surplus Assets)				
Property Type	Fair Value at 31 March 2020	Valuation techniques used to measure Fair Value	Unobservable inputs	Range of unobservable inputs
	£'000			
Surplus assets	4,903	Development appraisal	Rental values	Office: £64 to £175 per square metre (psm)
			Capital values	Residential: £2,650 to £7,000 psm
			Capitalisation rate	Office: 5% to 12%
			Construction costs	Residential: £1,560 to £2,153 psm
				Office: £1,481 to £1,617 psm
			Land values	Student housing: £20,000 to £25,000 per unit

The following table shows the relationship of significant unobservable inputs to fair value and the impact of significant changes to those outputs:

Unobservable input	Impact on Fair Value of Changes to Input	
	Increase in Input	Decrease in Input
Adjusted comparable vacant possession values	Increase in fair value	Decrease in fair value
Rental values	Increase in fair value	Decrease in fair value
Capitalisation rates	Decrease in fair value	Increase in fair value
Construction costs	Decrease in fair value	Increase in fair value

Heritage Assets

The valuations for all heritage assets are based on insurance valuations. The assets are insured by Zurich Municipal and Aviva Insurance Ltd and are based on a 1 November valuation date.

Investment Property

The fair value of the council's investment property is measured annually. Valuations are carried out by the council's internal valuers and by independent property managing companies contracted by the council: Avison Young, Montagu Evans and Savills UK Ltd.

The majority of the council's assets which are classified as investment properties are leased out under short term operating leases. These properties are used by the lessees for commercial purposes.

The fair value of the council's investment property portfolio is determined using a variety of techniques depending on the property type and the terms of the lease. These techniques include the yield methodology, adjusted sales comparison approach, and discounted cash flow. They involve a degree of judgement and use data which is not widely publicly available. Inputs to the valuations, some of which are "unobservable" as defined by IFRS 13, include capitalisation rates, discount rates and comparable market values for both rents and vacant possession values.

For these reasons, all valuations of the council's investment property portfolio are classified as level 3. There were no transfers between levels during the financial year.

Valuation process

The council's investment property is valued according to one or more of the following two approaches:

- yield methodology - the value of the income stream for the term of the lease, by reference to the current rent for the property, rent review provisions, market rent for similar properties, and capitalisation rates from similar properties traded in the same geographic region;
- adjusted sales comparison approach - the vacant possession value of similar properties, the time until vacant possession will be achieved, and discount rates for similar properties traded in the same geographic region.

The council's external valuers provide capitalisation and discount rates and undertake the majority of the valuations. Their role is to undertake the valuations by assessing all major inputs to the valuation process, including market rents, comparable vacant possession values for similar properties and the unexpired term of leases. The council's internal estates manager and lead valuer review the output from the valuation including the valuation techniques used for each property, adjustments made to default values for unobservable inputs, and the correlation of valuation inputs to data from the council's property and financial systems. They assess valuation movements compared to the prior year valuation (at a property valuer, regional and property type level), and review ratios of let value to vacant possession value, values per square foot, effective yields and comparisons to property market indices.

The following table shows quantitative information about fair value measurement of investment properties using significant unobservable inputs (level 3):

Quantitative Information about Fair Value Measurement (Investment Property)				
Property Type	Fair Value at 31 March 2020	Valuation techniques used to measure Fair Value	Unobservable inputs	Range of unobservable inputs
	£'000			
Urban commercial	66,567	Yield methodology	Rental values	Retail: £131 to £1,151 psm
				Office: £134 to £269 psm
				Car Park: £3 to £5 per space per day
				Garden Centre: £10 to £15 psm
				Public House (Ground Lease): £100 to £150 psm
			Capitalisation rate	Retail: 5% to 10%
				Office: 6% to 9.5%
				Car Park: 8%
				Garden Centre: 7%
				Public House (Ground Lease): 5 to 6%

The following table shows the relationship of significant unobservable inputs to fair value and the impact of significant changes to those outputs:

Relationship of Unobservable Inputs to Fair Value (Investment Property)		
Unobservable input	Impact on Fair Value of Changes to Input	
	Increase in Input	Decrease in Input
Adjusted comparable vacant possession values	Increase in fair value	Decrease in fair value
Rental values	Increase in fair value	Decrease in fair value
Capitalisation rates	Decrease in fair value	Increase in fair value

In estimating the fair value of the council's investment properties, the highest and best use of the properties is their current use.

The amount of gain in the financial year arising from changes in the fair value of the council's investment property was £2.048m.

Useful Lives

Assets of the same type generally have the same life but there are exceptions for specific assets. Operational buildings and surplus assets are generally valued with a life of either 20 or 50 years as advised by the council's valuers. In respect of the assets valued using depreciated replacement cost methodology as at 31 March 2020, the majority of assets were deemed to have a total useful life of 60 years with a remaining useful life of between 2 and 58 years.

The asset life of council dwellings is set as appropriate for the relevant components. The structure of the dwellings has an asset life of 60 years and the replaceable components vary as appropriate, for example, kitchens have a life of 25 years. Asset lives for vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are generally set at between five and ten years depending on the nature of the asset. The asset life for infrastructure assets is set at 20 years.

Asset lives for garages and car parks in respect of the HRA are set at 35 years.

All intangible assets have been assessed as having a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the intangible assets are expected to be of use to the council. The useful lives applied are generally between three and ten years depending on the nature of the intangible asset.

Impairment and Revaluation Losses

As part of the annual inspection and ongoing management of its property portfolio, the council makes an assessment of the impact of obsolescence, physical damage and changes of use which could affect asset values.

During 2019/20 the council has recognised significant revaluation losses on the following building: Brighton Dome & Museum (£3.422m). This revaluation loss occurred as a result of the revaluation of assets in accordance with the council's asset revaluation policy.

Contractual Commitments

At 31 March 2020, the council had entered into the following contractual commitments in respect of non-current assets:

Contractual Commitments in respect of Non-Current Assets		
		Total
Scheme Name	Description	£'000
Council Dwellings		
Housing stock programme	Council dwellings works in progress	6,588
Other Land and Buildings		
City Development & Regen	Various regeneration projects across Brighton & Hove	3,792
City Environmental Management	Schemes in various parks	3,140
Culture Tourism and Sport	Royal Pavilion Estate works	701
Education and Skills	Works at various schools	4,397
Housing Revenue Account	Various HRA housing works	710
Property	Works on various council properties	368
Transport	Various highways schemes	1,775
Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment		
Adult Social Care	Better care fund works	49
Education and Skills	Works at various schools	14
Housing Revenue Account	Various HRA housing works	111
IT & Digital	IT&D upgrades	158
Property	Works on various council properties	14
City Environmental Management	Purchase of vehicles	276
Intangible Assets		
Performance Improvement & Programmes	Carefirst replacement project	370

Income and Expenses in respect of Investment Property

The council lets properties in its investment portfolio at the full market rent achievable on the basis of the leases granted. The council received £3.427m of income in relation to investment properties in 2019/20 (£3.227m 2018/19). No revenue expenditure was incurred in relation to investment properties.

Intangible Assets acquired by way of a Government Grant

The council did not receive any grant funding to fund the acquisition of intangible assets in respect of ICT systems.

HRA Non-Current Assets

The council makes a local assessment of its capital spending needs to determine the amount to be paid into the Major Repairs Reserve; this assessment is based on the amount which needs to be set aside for depreciation, namely the cost of replacing or renewing all the components of the council dwellings plus an amount for the fabric of the building.

The council complies with the requirements of the Department for Communities and Local Government "Item 8 Credit and Debit (General) Determination from 1st April 2017" and the relevant CIPFA accounting guidance.

The following table shows the gross carrying amount and the accumulated depreciation at the beginning and end of the financial year and summarises the movement in value over the year for HRA non-current assets:

HRA Non-Current Assets								
2019/20	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Assets Under Construction	Total PPE	Investment Properties	Intangible Assets	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Gross carrying amount	873,227	16,955	451	6,725	897,358	238	611	898,207
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation	-	(325)	(150)	-	(475)	-	(439)	(914)
Net Carrying Amount at 1 April 2019	873,227	16,630	301	6,725	896,883	238	172	897,293
Capital additions								
Additions	34,529	1,757	48	8,960	45,294	-	476	45,770
Asset disposals								
Derecognition - disposals	(2,272)	(86)	(26)	-	(2,384)	-	-	(2,384)
Derecognition - disposals (depreciation)	-	8	26	-	34	-	-	34
Transactions in respect of the surplus on revaluation of non-current assets within the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement								
Revaluation increases	5,900	479	-	-	6,379	-	-	6,379
Revaluation losses	(11,487)	14	-	-	(11,473)	-	-	(11,473)
Impairment losses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions charged to the surplus / deficit on the provision of services within the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement								
Reversal of previous revaluation losses	4,094	14	-	-	4,108	-	-	4,108
Depreciation / amortisation charge	(13,351)	(270)	(60)	-	(13,681)	-	(34)	(13,715)
Revaluation losses	(8,530)	(628)	-	-	(9,158)	-	-	(9,158)
Impairment losses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation of investment property	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Other transactions								
Assets reclassified	3,304	(91)	-	(3,004)	209	-	-	209
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2020	885,414	17,827	289	12,681	916,211	240	614	917,065
Gross carrying amount	885,414	18,263	473	12,681	916,831	240	1,088	918,159
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation	-	(436)	(184)	-	(620)	-	(474)	(1,094)
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2020	885,414	17,827	289	12,681	916,211	240	614	917,065

HRA Non-Current Assets								
2018/19 Comparative Figures	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Assets Under Construction	Total PPE	Investment Properties	Intangible Assets	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Gross carrying amount	860,684	16,584	410	9,533	887,211	215	439	887,865
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation	-	(447)	(406)	-	(853)	-	(439)	(1,292)
Net Carrying Amount at 1 April 2018	860,684	16,137	4	9,533	886,358	215	-	886,573
Capital additions								
Additions	25,525	666	298	3,653	30,142	-	172	30,314
Asset disposals								
Derecognition - disposals	(4,133)	(122)	(257)	-	(4,512)	-	-	(4,512)
Derecognition - disposals (depreciation)	-	2	257	-	259	-	-	259
Transactions in respect of the surplus on revaluation of non-current assets within the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement								
Revaluation increases	11,601	1,187	-	-	12,788	-	-	12,788
Revaluation losses	(7,785)	(674)	-	-	(8,459)	-	-	(8,459)
Impairment losses	(32)	-	-	-	(32)	-	-	(32)
Transactions charged to the surplus / deficit on the provision of services within the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement								
Reversal of previous revaluation losses	3,425	13	-	-	3,438	-	-	3,438
Depreciation / amortisation charge	(13,119)	(277)	(1)	-	(13,397)	-	-	(13,397)
Revaluation losses	(11,174)	(301)	-	-	(11,475)	-	-	(11,475)
Impairment losses	(883)	-	-	-	(883)	-	-	(883)
Revaluation of investment property	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	23
Other transactions								
Assets reclassified	9,119	-	-	(6,462)	2,657	-	-	2,657
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2019	873,228	16,631	301	6,724	896,884	238	172	897,294
Gross carrying amount	873,227	16,955	451	6,725	897,358	238	611	898,207
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation	-	(325)	(150)	-	(475)	-	(439)	(914)
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2019	873,227	16,630	301	6,725	896,883	238	172	897,293

Council Dwellings

The council was responsible for managing 11,577 council dwellings at 31 March 2020 (11,551 at 31 March 2019) made up as follows:

Council Dwellings						
	0 Bed	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4+ Bed	Total
2019/20						
Bedsits	579	25	-	-	-	604
Bungalows	25	172	28	24	1	250
Flats	7	3,446	2,837	203	-	6,493
Houses	-	21	1,406	2,345	290	4,062
Maisonettes	-	2	98	62	6	168
Total	611	3,666	4,369	2,634	297	11,577
2018/19						
Bedsits	580	25	-	-	-	605
Bungalows	25	172	28	24	1	250
Flats	7	3,434	2,824	204	-	6,469
Houses	-	21	1,407	2,347	290	4,065
Maisonettes	-	-	97	59	6	162
Total	612	3,652	4,356	2,634	297	11,551

The following table summarises the movement in council dwellings within the year:

Movement in Council Dwellings		
	2018/19	2019/20
Stock at 1 April	11,552	11,551
Sales	(57)	(34)
Transferred to Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes Ltd	-	-
Conversions	56	60
Stock at 31 March	11,551	11,577

The council has removed £2.273m of council dwellings net book asset values from its Balance Sheet in respect of the movements detailed in the above table.

The vacant possession value in respect of council dwellings at 1 April 2020 was £2.683m as valued by the valuers, Savills UK Ltd, compared with the value of £0.885m for its existing use as social housing. The difference of £1.798m represents the cost of providing council housing at less than open market rents.

Housing Local Delivery Vehicle

Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes Ltd is a not for profit charitable company set up and funded by a third party independent to the council as a local delivery vehicle to raise investment for improvements to council dwellings. The company was incorporated in March 2009 and has leased 499 empty properties from the council. The properties were leased to the Housing Delivery Vehicle in batches over a period up to March 2017 under lease terms of up to 99 years. The properties are let to homeless households and people with particular needs nominated by the council.

10 Capital Investment and Capital Financing

The council made £97.310m of capital investments in 2019/20. The following table shows the total amount of capital investment analysed for each category of non-current asset together with the resources that have been used to finance the capital investment:

Capital Investment and Capital Financing		
	2018/19 (Restated)	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	356,253	357,224
Capital investment		
Property, plant and equipment	57,928	84,431
Heritage assets	53	350
Intangible assets	3,734	2,055
Investment property	7,302	5,959
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	8,787	2,609
Total Capital Investment	77,174	95,404
Long term debtors & investments	2,033	2,780
Sources of finance		
Capital receipts	(11,712)	(9,407)
Capital grants and contributions	(28,925)	(30,870)
Major repairs reserve (HRA)	(13,397)	(13,715)
Earmarked Reserves	(96)	(441)
HRA balances	(894)	(525)
Revenue contributions	(12,725)	(11,515)
Total Capital Financing (excluding borrowing)	(67,749)	(66,473)
Repayment of loans (MRP)	(10,843)	(9,295)
Application of Capital Receipts	(274)	(300)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	357,224	379,340
Explanation of movements in capital financing requirement		
Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	10,055	28,931
Repayment of loans (MRP)	(10,843)	(9,295)
Movement in Long term debtors & investments	2,033	2,780
Application of capital receipts	(274)	(300)
Increase / (Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	971	22,116

The council's capital financing requirement represents capital investment historically that is funded from borrowing which will be repaid in future financial years. In 2019/20, £28.931m of capital investment was financed through unsupported borrowing (i.e. not supported by the Government) and therefore impacted on the council's capital financing requirement. Where capital investment is funded by borrowing, a charge is made to revenue as non-current assets are used by the council.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

The council is required by statute to set aside a prudent sum for the repayment of debt (MRP). Guidance issued by the Government requires Full Council to approve an annual statement on the amount of debt that will be repaid in a financial year; the council's annual statement was approved on 28 February 2019. The following table shows the amount set aside from revenue:

Minimum Revenue Provision		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
GF supported debt (debt where central government provide revenue support)	2,328	2,328
GF unsupported debt (debt where no central government support is received)	5,149	3,608
HRA unsupported debt	913	731
Charge equal to write down on PFI liabilities	2,454	2,628
Total Amount Set Aside from Revenue	10,844	9,295

HRA Capital Investment and Financing

The council had £45.879m of capital investment in respect of the HRA in 2019/20. The following table shows the resources that have been used to finance the capital investment:

HRA Capital Investment and Financing		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Capital investment	30,257	45,879
Total Capital Investment	30,257	45,879
Major repairs reserve	(13,397)	(13,715)
Revenue contributions	(12,328)	(11,526)
Reserves	(35)	(268)
HRA balance	(894)	(525)
Capital receipts	(3,263)	(6,346)
Capital grants and contributions	(339)	(756)
Unsupported borrowing	-	(5,500)
General Fund balance	-	(7,242)
Total Funding	(30,257)	(45,879)

The following table shows a summary of the total capital receipts received in 2019/20 in respect of the HRA:

HRA Capital Receipts		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Right to buy sales of houses and flats	9,044	4,584
Sale of land and other property	82	9
Mortgages repayments	1	1
Discount repayments	-	-
Transferred properties to Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes Ltd	-	-
Total	9,128	4,594

11 Financial Assets and Liabilities – Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

Financial Assets	Long Term		Short Term	
	31 March 2019	31 March 2020	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fair value through profit or loss				
Investments	25	38	44,728	31,754
Amortised Cost				
Investments	6,213	16,539	101,968	101,477
Debtors	42,437	34,988	23,827	28,176
Total Financial Assets	48,675	51,565	125,795	161,407
Non-Financial Assets	-	-	24,746	23,641
Total	48,675	51,565	195,269	185,048

Note: There has been a restatement of the 2018/19 debtors figure from £39.850m down to £23.827m due to a balance of £16.023m impairment allowances being incorrectly classed as a non-financial asset when should have been included within the debtors figure. The non-financial assets balance has been increased from £8.723m to £24.746m by the corresponding amount. The impairment allowance was also incorrectly classed as a non-financial asset in the 2017/18 balances, if adjusted for the debtors figure would have decreased by £12.962m to £23.001m and the non-financial assets figure increased to up to £37.333m.

Financial Liabilities	Long Term		Short Term	
	31 March 2019	31 March 2020	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fair value through profit or loss				
Borrowings and Creditors	-	-	-	-
Amortised Cost				
Long Term Borrowing	(251,180)	(265,503)	-	-
Long Term Creditors	(44,376)	(43,667)	-	-
Short Term Borrowing	-	-	(20,758)	(14,715)
Short Term Creditors	-	-	(48,423)	(52,896)
Total Financial Liabilities	(295,556)	(309,170)	(69,181)	(67,611)
Non-Financial Liabilities	-	-	(36,043)	(49,242)
Total	(295,556)	(309,170)	(105,224)	(116,853)

Financial Instruments Designated at Fair Value through Profit or Loss

The balance of financial assets at 31 March 2020 was £31.792m an increase of £2.961m from the opening balance at 31 March 2019. Financial assets include £31.755m low volatility money market funds (LVNAV) and £0.038m UKMBA shares. Constant net asset value (CNAV) money market funds were reclassified as LVNAV under European Money Market reform.

There were no financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss.

Investments in Equity Instruments Designated at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income

No financial assets or liabilities were classed as fair value through other comprehensive income.

Reclassifications

No financial assets or liabilities were re-classified during the year.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2018/19		2019/20	
	Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Net gains / losses on:				
Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss - fair value	(1)	-	-	-
Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss - dividends	(339)	-	(415)	-
Total net (gains) / losses	(340)	-	(415)	-
Interest revenue				
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	(985)	-	(1,142)	-
Interest expense				
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	10,679	-	10,624	-

Fair Value

Basis for recurring fair value measurements:

- Level 1 Inputs – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities 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 or liability, either directly or indirectly;
- Level 3 Inputs – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Financial Assets	Input level in fair value hierarchy	Valuation technique used to measure fair value	As at 31 March 2019	As at 31 March 2020
			£'000	£'000
Fair value through profit or loss				
Money Market Funds	Level 1	Unadjusted quoted prices in active identical markets	34,728	31,754
Ultra-short duration sterling fund (Aberdeen)	Level 1	Unadjusted quoted prices in active identical markets	10,000	-
Municipal Bonds Agency Shareholding	Level 3		25	38

Transfers between Levels of the Fair Value Hierarchy

There were no transfers between levels 1 and 2 during the year.

Changes in the Valuation Technique

There has been no change in the valuation technique used during the year for the financial instruments.

Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements for Financial Assets Carried at Fair Value Categorised within Level 3 of the Fair Value Hierarchy for Financial Assets

There were no instruments, measured at fair value, that were at level 3 in the hierarchy.

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 PWLB payable, PWLB prevailing market rates (have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures;
- For non-PWLB loans payable, PWLB prevailing market rates have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures;
- 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.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

Financial Liabilities	31 March 2019		31 March 2020	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Amortised Cost	(251,180)	(329,868)	(265,503)	(321,460)
PFI & Finance Lease Liabilities	(44,376)	(62,388)	(43,667)	(62,626)
Total	(295,556)	(392,256)	(309,170)	(384,086)

The fair value of borrowings is higher than the carrying amount because the portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the prevailing rates at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future loss, based on economic conditions at 31 March 2020, arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates.

Financial Assets	31 March 2019		31 March 2020	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Amortised Cost	6,213	6,177	16,539	16,607
Long Term Debtors	42,437	42,437	34,988	34,988
Total	48,650	48,614	51,527	51,595

The amortised cost total above includes a £1.471m investment in Homes for the City of Brighton & Hove LLP, a joint venture between the Council and Hyde Housing Association.

The fair value of the financial assets is higher than the carrying amount because the portfolio of investments includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate receivable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future gain, based on economic conditions at 31 March 2020, attributable to the commitment to receive interest above current market rates. Short term debtors and creditors are carried at cost as this is a fair approximation of their value.

Fair value hierarchy of financial assets and financial liabilities that are not measured at fair value

	31 March 2020			
Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Financial liabilities				
Amortised Cost	-	(321,460)	-	(321,460)
PFI & Finance Lease Liabilities	-	-	(62,626)	(62,626)
Total	-	(321,460)	(62,626)	(384,086)
Financial assets				
Amortised Cost	-	16,607	-	16,607
Long Term Debtors	-	34,988	-	34,988
Total	-	51,595	-	51,595

	31 March 2019			
Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Financial liabilities				
Amortised Cost	-	(329,868)	-	(329,868)
PFI & Finance Lease Liabilities	-	-	(62,388)	(62,388)
Total	-	(329,868)	(62,388)	(392,256)
Financial assets				
Amortised Cost	-	6,177	-	6,177
Long Term Debtors	-	42,437	-	42,437
Total	-	48,615	-	48,614

The fair value for financial liabilities and financial assets that are not measured at fair value included in levels 2 and 3 in the table above have been arrived at using a discounted cash flow analysis, with the most significant inputs being the discount rate.

The fair value for financial liabilities and financial assets that are not measured at fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions.

Financial Assets

- early repayment or impairment is recognised;
- estimated ranges of interest rates at 31 March 2020 for loans receivable, based on new lending rates for equivalent loans at that date;
- the fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

Financial Liabilities

- no early repayment is recognised;
- estimated ranges of interest rates at 31 March 2020 for loans payable based on new lending rates for equivalent.

Nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments and how the council manages those risks

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 risk** - the possibility that the council might be requiring 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 or stock market movements.

Overall procedures for managing risk

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.

The procedures for risk management are set out through a legal framework based on the Local Government Act 2003 and associated regulations. These require the council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services and investment guidance issued through the Act. Overall, these procedures require the council to manage risk in the following ways:

- by formally adopting the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice;
- by the adoption of a Treasury Policy Statement and treasury management clauses within its financial regulations/standing orders/constitution;
- by approving annually in advance prudential and treasury indicators for the following three years limiting:

- The council's overall borrowing;
- Its maximum and minimum exposures to the maturity structure of its debt;
- Its management of interest rate exposure;
- Its maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond a year.
- by approving an investment strategy for the forthcoming year setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties.

These are required to be reported and approved at or before the council's annual Council Tax setting budget or before the start of the year to which they relate. These items are reported with the annual treasury management strategy which outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the council's financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is also reported after each year, as is a mid-year update.

The annual treasury management strategy which incorporates the prudential indicators was approved by council in February 2019 and is available on the council website.

The key issues within the strategy were:

- The Authorised Limit for 2019/20 was set at £420.000m. This is the maximum limit of external borrowings or other long-term liabilities;
- The Operational Boundary was expected to be £406.000m. This is the expected level of debt and other long-term liabilities during the year;
- The maximum and minimum exposures to the maturity structure of debt (see table below).

Risk management is carried out by a central treasury team, under policies approved by the council in the annual treasury management strategy. The council provides 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 authority's customers. This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which is available on the authority's website.

Credit Risk Management Practices

The council's credit risk management practices are set out in the Annual Investment Strategy. With particular regard to determining whether the credit risk of financial instruments has increased significantly since initial recognition.

The Annual Investment Strategy requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, in accordance with the Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's Credit Ratings Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also considers maximum amounts and time limits with a financial institution located in each category.

The credit criteria in respect of financial assets held by the council are detailed below:

The council uses the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services. This service uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's, 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 full Investment Strategy for 2019/20 was approved by Full Council in February 2019 and is available on the council's website.

Customers for goods and services are assessed, taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors, with individual credit limits being set in accordance with internal ratings in accordance with parameters set by the council.

The council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in financial institutions of £148.000m 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. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments.

A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the council's deposits, but there was no evidence at the 31 March 2020 that this was likely to crystallise.

Amounts Arising from Expected Credit Losses (ECL)

The changes in loss allowance during the year are as follows:

	12 month ECL	Lifetime ECL	Lifetime ECL - Simplified Approach	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance 1 April 2019	19	3,805	14,608	18,432
Increase / (Decrease) in credit loss allowance	(8)	9,945	(1,613)	8,323
Balance at 31 March 2020	11	13,750	12,995	26,755

12 Month ECL includes some third party loans. Lifetime ECL includes some third party loans, treasury investments and non-debtor system invoices. Lifetime ECL simplified includes debtors control, rents and penalty charge notices. The i360 seafront observation tower is included under lifetime ECL. The i360 allowance has been increased to £9.915m due to reduced visitor numbers impacting on revenue income and cash flows to meet loan repayments.

Collateral – During the reporting period the council held no collateral as security.

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 Treasury Management Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when needed.

The council has ready access to borrowings 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 provide a balanced budget through the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is

therefore no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

The maturity analysis of financial assets, excluding sums due from customers, is as follows:

	31 March 2019 (Restated)	31 March 2020
	£'000	£'000
Less than one year	197,939	196,425
Between one and two years	15,021	-
Between two and five years	-	5,012
Between five and ten years	6,238	11,535
Total	219,198	212,972

Note: The balances for 2018/19 in the table above have been restated to provide a more accurate analysis of the maturity profile of the financial assets and to incorporate any corrections to balances that have been categorised as financial assets as per the main Financial Instruments disclosure table on page 91.

Refinancing and Maturity risk

The council maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered against the refinancing 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 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 needs.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows, with the maximum and minimum limits for fixed interest rates maturing in each period (approved by council in the Treasury Management Strategy:

	Approved Minimum Limit	Approved Maximum Limit	31 March 2019 (Restated)	31 March 2020
	%	%	£'000	£'000
Less than one year	0%	40%	(73,092)	(64,482)
Between one and two years	0%	40%	(4,389)	(4,077)
Between two and five years	0%	50%	(47,482)	(52,617)
Between five and ten years	0%	75%	(50,873)	(45,404)
More than ten years	40%	100%	(180,152)	(210,201)
Total			(355,988)	(376,781)

Note: The figures above have been restated to correct the balances of financial liabilities included within the disclosure note.

Market risk

Interest rate risk - The council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the council, depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. For instance, a rise in variable and fixed interest rates would have the following effects:

- Borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise;
- Borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the borrowing will fall (no impact on revenue balances);
- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise; and
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall (no impact on revenue balances).

Borrowings are not carried at fair value on the balance sheet, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The council has a number of strategies 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 will 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.

According to this assessment strategy, at 31 March 2020, if all interest rates had been 1% higher (with all other variables held constant) the financial effect would be:

	31 March 2020
	£'000
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	52
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(590)
Impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(538)

Price risk

The council held a holding in a short dated Sterling fund at 31 March 2019 but this has been redeemed at 31 March 2020.

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.

12 Debtors

The following table shows an analysis of the council's short term debtors:

Short Term Debtors		
	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£'000	£'000
Debtor System Control	21,685	19,426
Local Growth Funds Grant	5,968	4,119
Payments in Advance	5,459	4,863
HMRC	2,945	3,654
Other	12,516	19,755
Total Short Term Debtors	48,573	51,817

£28.176m (£23.827m 31 March 2019) of short term debtors are classed as financial instruments and are included in note 11; those debtors not classified as financial instruments are statutory debtors, grant debtors and payments in advance.

The following table shows an analysis of the council's long term debtors:

Long Term Debtors		
	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£'000	£'000
Finance lease	5,897	5,826
i360 development	33,702	25,738
Other long term debtors	2,838	3,424
Total Long Term Debtors	42,437	34,988

All long term debtors are classed as financial instruments and are included in note 11.

13 Creditors

The following table shows an analysis of the council's short term creditors:

Short Term Creditors		
	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£'000	£'000
Receipts in Advance	(13,354)	(14,428)
Creditors Control Account	(6,946)	(13,484)
Council Tax & NNDR	(5,963)	(8,622)
HMRC	(4,632)	(4,815)
Pensions	(3,946)	(4,305)
Grants & Contributions	(9,523)	(15,538)
Other	(40,102)	(40,946)
Total Short Term Creditors	(84,466)	(102,138)

£52.896m (£48.423m 31 March 2019) of short term creditors are classed as financial instruments and are included in note 11; those creditors not classified as financial instruments are statutory creditors, grant creditors and receipts in advance.

14 Provisions

The council sets aside amounts as provisions for liabilities of uncertain timing or amount. The following table shows the level of the council's provisions as at 31 March, split between short term and long term, together with the movement during the financial year:

Provisions					
	Balance at 1 April 2019	2019/20			Balance at 31 March 2020
		Additional Provisions Made	Amounts Used	Unused Amounts Reversed	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Short Term Provisions					
Other provisions	(252)	-	240	-	(12)
Total	(252)	-	240	-	(12)
Long Term Provisions					
Voluntary severance scheme provision	(865)	(940)	1,489	-	(316)
Business rates appeals provision	(7,430)	(1,612)	813	2,028	(6,201)
Other provisions	(131)	(59)	66	-	(124)
Total	(8,426)	(2,611)	2,368	2,028	(6,641)

Voluntary Severance Provision

Voluntary severance is just one of the mechanisms that can help the council to meet its financial targets whilst minimising the risk of compulsory redundancies. The council has therefore put in place a mechanism to incentivise voluntary severance in services required to deliver approved budget savings in 2020/21. The mechanism enables employees under retirement age to consider leaving their employment in return for an enhanced severance package. Each case is separately reviewed and only approved where pre-set business case parameters are met. This provision will meet the costs of approved severance packages, including those over retirement age, which had not been finalised at the Balance Sheet date.

Business Rates Appeals Provision

As at 31 March 2020, the council had a number of appeals outstanding against the 2010 and 2017 rating lists. If successful, these appeals will result in a reduction in rateable value and the need to refund ratepayers for reduced rates liability in previous financial years. This provision covers the council's share of the amount that the council anticipates having to repay to ratepayers in the future following successful appeals against the rating lists.

Other Short Term Provisions

An amount of £0.012m (£0.152m at 31 March 2019) was set aside by the council to meet its obligations to purchase and surrender Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) allowances in relation to CO2 emissions under the CRC Energy Efficiency scheme. Allowances are purchased from the Government and then surrendered to the scheme in proportion to its reported emissions for the preceding year and in accordance with the scheme requirements.

15 Grants and Contributions

The council receives a number of grants (both from central government and non-government bodies) and contributions, both for revenue and capital purposes.

Government Revenue Grants

Grants received from central government can be either ring fenced for a specific purpose or non-ring fenced. The following table shows the government revenue grants received by the council and credited to the CIES:

Government Revenue Grants		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Non ring fenced government grants credited to taxation and non-specific grant income		
Department for Education	(66)	(57)
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	(35,917)	(40,213)
Department for Work and Pensions	(1,109)	(1,039)
Department of Health & Social Care	(202)	(203)
Total	(37,294)	(41,512)
Ring fenced government grants credited to cost of services		
Department for Education	(183,770)	(186,593)
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	(8,993)	(10,429)
Department for Work and Pensions	(128,354)	(117,734)
Department for Transport	(705)	(698)
Department of Health & Social Care	(20,140)	(19,823)
Other government departments	(2,327)	(4,303)
Total	(344,289)	(339,580)
Total Government Revenue Grants	(381,583)	(381,092)

Non Ring Fenced Grants

The significant non ring fenced grants received by the council from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government are:

- Revenue Support Grant of £6.523m which can be used by the council to finance revenue expenditure on any service;
- Improved Better Care Fund Grant of £6.220m which is pooled into the Brighton & Hove Better Care Fund partnership arrangement. See note 28 for further details
- New Homes Bonus Scheme Grant of £2.102m which is funding to incentivise housing growth and is based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised for new-build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use.
- Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) Grant of £4.588m which compensates the council for the loss of business rate income from both the doubling of SBRR and threshold changes to SSBR;
- PFI Grant of £3.003m which is in respect of the council's PFI projects which have become operational;
- COVID-19 support £8.157m to respond to pressures across services.

Ring Fenced Grants

The significant ring fenced grants received by the council from the Department for Education are:

- Dedicated Schools Grant of £163.900m; further details are provided below;
- Pupil Premium Grant of £8.805m which targets additional money at pupils from the most deprived background to help them achieve their full potential;
- Funding for sixth forms of £3.054m which provides funds for the council's locally maintained sixth form colleges.

The significant ring fenced grant received by the council from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government is in respect of the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant which provides funds to the council to support its homelessness service. (£5.774m)

The significant ring fenced grants received by the council from the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) are in respect of Housing Benefit to reimburse the council for rent allowances and rent rebates (£116.590m).

The significant ring fenced grant received by the council from the Department of Health & Social Care is in respect of the Public Health Grant (£19.559m) which provides funding for the council to discharge its public health responsibilities.

Non-Government Revenue Grants and Contributions

The following table below shows the non-government grants and revenue contributions received by the council and credited to the appropriate cost of service in the CIES:

Non-Government Revenue Grants and Contributions		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Non-government grants and revenue contributions credited to cost of services		
Non-government grants	(1,110)	(1,183)
Contributions from health	(19,002)	(20,098)
Contributions from other agencies and external bodies	(1,750)	(2,064)
Contributions from other local authorities	(2,122)	(1,780)
Other contributions, donations and sponsorship	(2,133)	(2,116)
Contributions from developers and stakeholders	(789)	(583)
Total Non-Government Revenue Grants and Contributions	(26,906)	(27,824)

Revenue Grants and Contributions with Conditions Attached

The council has received a number of revenue grants and contributions that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies and / or property to be returned to the giver if the conditions are not met. These are held within short term creditors on the Balance Sheet until the condition is met.

Capital Grants and Contributions

The council has received a number of capital grants and external contributions which are used to fund capital investment. The following table shows capital grants and external contributions received by the council and credited to the taxation and non-specific grant income in the CIES:

Capital Grants and Contributions		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Capital grants and contributions credited to taxation and non-specific grant income		
Department for Education	(6,770)	(11,538)
Department for Transport	(7,127)	(3,363)
Department of Health & Social Care	(3)	-
Other government departments	(1,393)	(1,151)
Heritage Lottery Fund	(1,308)	(2,381)
Contributions from developers and stakeholders	(629)	(2,725)
Other contributions	(2,291)	(6,278)
Total	(19,521)	(27,436)
Capital grants and contributions credited to cost of services		
Department for Education	(16)	(75)
Department of Health & Social Care	(1,941)	(2,096)
Other government departments	(10)	-
Other contributions	(6,608)	(359)
Total	(8,575)	(2,530)
Total Capital Grants and Contributions	(28,096)	(29,966)

Capital Grants and Contributions with Conditions Attached

The council has received a number of capital grants and contributions that are yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies and / or property to be returned to the giver if the conditions are not met. The following table shows the balances at the 31 March of those grants held as Capital Grants Receipts in Advance on the Balance Sheet:

Capital Grants and Contributions with Conditions attached		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Grants and contributions held under capital grants receipts in advance		
Department for Education	(40,683)	(37,038)
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	(617)	(1,171)
Department of Health	(390)	-
Department for Transport	-	(3,088)
Contributions from developers and stakeholders	(10,462)	(17,396)
Other contributions	(1,603)	(805)
Total Grants and Contributions with Conditions	(53,755)	(59,498)

Dedicated Schools Grant

The council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant provided by the Department for Education, in the form of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG is a ring fenced specific grant and can only be applied to meet expenditure included in the Schools Budget, as defined in the Schools Finance (England) Regulations 2008. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on a council wide basis and the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school. The following table shows details of the deployment of the DSG received:

Dedicated Schools Grant			
2019/20	Central Expenditure	Individual Schools Budget (ISB)	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Final DSG for 2019/20 before academy recoupment	(24,270)	(153,552)	(177,822)
Less academy figure recouped for 2019/20	-	13,748	13,748
Other budget adjustments	269	-	269
Total DSG after academy recoupment for 2019/20	(24,001)	(139,804)	(163,805)
Brought forward from 2018/19	(804)	-	(804)
Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2019/20	(24,805)	(139,804)	(164,609)
In year budget adjustments	(20)	20	-
Final budget distribution for 2019/20	(24,825)	(139,784)	(164,609)
Less actual central expenditure	24,642	-	24,642
Less actual ISB deployed to schools	-	139,784	139,784
Private, voluntary and independent providers to be funded by DSG in 2019/20	(520)	-	(520)
Carry forward to 2020/21	(703)	-	(703)

Dedicated Schools Grant			
2018/19	Central Expenditure	Individual Schools Budget (ISB)	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Final DSG for 2018/19 before academy recoupment	(24,545)	(150,423)	(174,968)
Less academy figure recouped for 2018/19	-	12,587	12,587
Other budget adjustments	(435)	(90)	(525)
Total DSG after academy recoupment for 2018/19	(24,980)	(137,926)	(162,906)
Brought forward from 2017/18	(201)	-	(201)
Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2018/19	(25,181)	(137,926)	(163,107)
In year budget adjustments	187	(187)	-
Final budget distribution for 2018/19	(24,994)	(138,113)	(163,107)
Less actual central expenditure	24,511	-	24,511
Less actual ISB deployed to schools	-	138,113	138,113
Private, voluntary and independent providers to be funded by DSG in 2019/20	(321)	-	(321)
Carry forward to 2019/20	(804)	-	(804)

16 Leases and Lease Type Arrangements

The council classifies leases as either finance leases or operating leases.

Council as Lessee – Finance Leases

The council has acquired a number of properties under finance leases which are used by the council for office accommodation and providing education, social care and library services. The terms of these leases range from 125 years to 150 years. The assets acquired under these leases are valued at £6.905m (£7.171m 2018/19) and are carried as PPE on the Balance Sheet categorised as other land and buildings. The decrease in valuation relates to the DRC valuations that were carried out in year as well as depreciation.

In the majority of cases, the council has paid a premium payment at the inception of the lease and pays a peppercorn rent over the lease term.

Council as Lessee – Operating Leases

The council has acquired a number of properties by entering into operating leases; these properties are being used for a number of purposes such as office accommodation and providing educational and social care services. The terms of the leases typically range from one to 25 years.

The council leases in a number of vehicles under operating leases, they are typically short term leases ranging from three to five years in length.

The council uses a number of properties for temporary accommodation for its clients; these properties are leased to the council under short term operating leases typically ranging from three to ten years.

The council also leases in a number of equipment assets, under operating leases. The terms of the leases typically range from three to five years.

The following table shows the future minimum lease payments owed by the council under non-cancellable operating leases in future financial years:

Future Minimum Lease Payments under Operating Leases (Lessee)		
	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	12,190	10,095
Later than one year and not later than five years	9,587	7,376
Later than five years	702	1,828
Total Future Minimum Lease Payments	22,479	19,299

In addition to the amount in the above table for payments due within 12 months, the council is also liable to pay £8.148m, within 12 months, in respect of six care service contracts which include lease type arrangements. In each case, the delivery of the contracts requires the use of specific properties. The nature of the service delivery makes it impracticable to separate the lease payments from other payments and therefore the disclosed amount includes payments for non-lease elements.

The expenditure incurred by the council in 2019/20 and charged to the relevant cost of service in the CIES in relation to operating leases was £12.891m (£15.048m 2018/19).

Council as Lessor - Finance Leases

The council has leased out a number of properties and land which are used by the lessees for a range of purposes; for example, commercial, residential, industrial and recreational purposes. The terms of these leases mainly range from 40 years to 125 years.

There have been no new long term finance leases entered into during the reporting period.

The council has a gross investment value in these leases being the minimum lease payments expected to be received over the remaining terms. The minimum lease payments comprise settlement of the long term debtor for the interest in the property acquired by the lessee and finance income that will be earned by the council in future years whilst the debtor remains outstanding. The gross investment in these leases as at the Balance Sheet date is made up of the following amounts:

Gross Investment in Finance Leases (Lessor)		
	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£'000	£'000
Finance lease debtor (net present value of minimum lease payments):		
• Current	7	7
• Non-current	5,890	6,131
Unearned finance income	38,247	37,659
Total Gross Investment in the Leases	44,144	43,797

Note: As the current debtor for finance leases is not material, the council has accounted for the whole finance lease debtor as a non-current asset in the financial year.

The following table shows the gross investment in finance leases and the minimum lease payments to be received in future financial years:

Gross Investment in Finance Leases and Minimum Lease Payments under Finance Leases (Lessor)				
	Gross Investment in the Lease		Present Value of Minimum Lease Payments	
	31 March 2019	31 March 2020	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	461	457	7	7
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,993	2,287	41	43
Later than five years	41,689	41,053	5,849	6,088
Total	44,144	43,797	5,897	6,138

Note: the minimum lease payments do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2019/20, £36.702m contingent rents were receivable by the council (£37.728m 2018/19).

Council as Lessor – Operating Leases

The council has leased out a number of its properties and land under operating leases, these properties and land are used by the lessees for a variety of purposes, such as: offices, residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial and recreational. The term of these leases is typically one to 30 years.

The following table shows the future minimum lease payments owed to the council under non-cancellable operating leases in future financial years are:

Future Minimum Lease Payments under Operating Leases (Lessor)		
	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	8,391	9,181
Later than one year and not later than five years	22,866	24,735
Later than five years	102,597	104,313
Total Future Minimum Lease Payments	133,854	138,229

Note: The minimum lease payments owed to the council do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments in future rental payments. In 2019/20, £11.791m contingent rents were receivable by the council (£12.041m 2018/19.)

17 Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Similar Contracts

The council has three PFI arrangements:

- The council entered into a 25 year contract with Brighton & Hove City Schools Services Limited for the expansion and refurbishment of four secondary schools. The contract commenced in April 2003. In 2005, the contract was varied to reduce the number of schools to three. In March 2010, the council negotiated the removal of "soft services" (i.e. caretaking, cleaning, catering, grounds maintenance) and utilities from the schools PFI contract;
- In conjunction with East Sussex County Council, the council jointly entered into a 25 year agreement for the provision of an integrated waste management service with South Downs Waste Services Ltd (now trading as Veolia ES South Downs Limited). The agreement commenced in April 2003 and has subsequently been extended by a further five years to 2033;
- The council entered into a 25 year contract with NU Library for Brighton Limited for the provision of a new library and library service which commenced in November 2004.

The extent and level of service provided under the schools PFI and library PFI arrangements are consistent year on year, with any major changes subject to contract variation procedures and periodic benchmarking. Payments under these contracts are therefore unlikely to change significantly year on year. The service provided under the waste PFI arrangement is based on volumes and changes to volumes may well affect the amount payable by the council.

In all cases the council has the right to use the assets provided by the PFI contractor and is entitled to receive the services specified within each contract. Each of the PFI contracts contain a payment mechanism whereby the council only pays for the services it receives. If the PFI contractor fails to provide the service or meet the standards required, the council is entitled to make deductions from the payments due.

On expiry of the contracts the assets created under the PFI arrangements automatically revert to the council at nil consideration. Termination of the contracts prior to the expiry is permitted by either party but only in exceptional circumstances and only after a period of negotiation. There have been no material changes to any of the PFI contracts in 2019/20.

Assets Held under PFI Arrangements

The assets held under the PFI arrangements are recognised on the council's Balance Sheet. The following table shows the value of assets held and an analysis of the movements in those asset values over the financial year:

The assets held under PFI arrangements are carried as PPE on the Balance Sheet with £77.743m (£78.897m 31 March 2019) classified as other land and buildings and £0.041m (£0.147m 31 March 2019) classified as vehicles, plant and equipment.

Assets held under PFI Arrangements				
2019/20	Schools PFI Contract (Restated)	Waste PFI Contract	Library PFI Contract	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April 2019				
Gross carrying amount	42,601	26,092	13,190	81,883
Accumulated depreciation	(689)	(2,150)	-	(2,839)
Net Carrying Amount at 1 April 2019	41,912	23,942	13,190	79,044
Capital additions				
Additions	824	-	-	824
Transactions in respect of the surplus on revaluation of non-current assets within the CIES recognised in the revaluation reserve				
Revaluation increases	77	-	67	144
Revaluation losses	-	-	(177)	(177)
Transactions charged to the surplus / deficit on the provision of services in the CIES				
Depreciation charge	(1,521)	(806)	(532)	(2,859)
Revaluation losses	(244)	(583)	-	(827)
Reversal of previous revaluation losses	1,613	-	-	1,613
Impairment loss reversals	22	-	-	22
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2020	42,683	22,553	12,548	77,784
Gross carrying amount	43,744	24,906	12,548	81,198
Accumulated depreciation	(1,061)	(2,353)	-	(3,414)
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2020	42,683	22,553	12,548	77,784

Note: The 2019/20 opening balance relating to the Schools PFI Contract in the table above has been restated from the value disclosed in the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts following an error correction of £2.212m. This does not affect any other part of the Statement of Accounts.

Assets held under PFI Arrangements				
2018/19 Comparative Figures	Schools PFI Contract	Waste PFI Contract	Library PFI Contract	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April 2018				
Gross carrying amount	39,933	27,005	13,817	80,755
Accumulated depreciation	(18)	(1,826)	-	(1,845)
Net Carrying Amount at 1 April 2018	39,915	25,178	13,817	78,910
Capital additions				
Additions	368	-	-	368
Transactions in respect of the surplus on revaluation of non-current assets within the CIES recognised in the revaluation reserve				
Revaluation increases	88	-	64	152
Revaluation losses	-	-	(171)	(171)
Transactions charged to the surplus / deficit on the provision of services in the CIES				
Depreciation charge	(1,425)	(963)	(532)	(2,920)
Revaluation losses	(103)	(273)	-	(376)
Reversal of previous revaluation losses	857	-	12	868
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2019	39,700	23,942	13,190	76,832
Gross carrying amount	40,354	26,092	13,190	79,636
Accumulated depreciation	(654)	(2,150)	-	(2,803)
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2019	39,700	23,942	13,190	76,832

Liabilities Resulting from PFI Arrangements

Although the payments made to the PFI contractor are described as unitary payments, they have been calculated to compensate the contractor for the fair value of the services they provide, the capital investment and interest payable on the debt used to fund the capital investments. The following table shows the value of liabilities outstanding to pay the contractor for capital investment resulting from the PFI arrangements and an analysis of the movement in those liability values over the financial year:

Liabilities Resulting from PFI Arrangements				
2019/20	Schools PFI Contract	Waste PFI Contract	Library PFI Contract	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 April 2019	9,801	32,009	5,194	47,004
Lease repayment	(681)	(1,640)	(308)	(2,629)
At 31 March 2020	9,120	30,369	4,886	44,375

Liabilities Resulting from PFI Arrangements				
2018/19 Comparative Figures	Schools PFI Contract	Waste PFI Contract	Library PFI Contract	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 April 2018	10,429	33,551	5,478	49,458
Lease repayment	(628)	(1,542)	(284)	(2,454)
At 31 March 2019	9,801	32,009	5,194	47,004

The above table includes long term liabilities of £44.375m (£47.004m 2018/19) and short term liabilities of £2.629m (£2.454m 2018/19) at 31 March 2020; the long term liability is included in other long term liabilities on the Balance Sheet and the short term liability included in short term creditors.

Payments Due under PFI Arrangements

The council makes an agreed payment each year in respect of PFI arrangements; the contractual payments for the schools and waste PFI arrangements are based on a projected annual inflation rate of 2.5%. The contractual payments for the library PFI arrangement are based upon a mix of projected inflation rates: retail prices at 2.5%, building maintenance at 4.0% and average earnings at 4.5%.

Schools are responsible for the procurement and payment of “soft services” (i.e. caretaking, cleaning, catering, grounds maintenance) and these costs are therefore not part of the schools PFI arrangement.

The following table details the payments due to be made by the council under the PFI arrangements at 31 March:

Payments due under PFI Arrangements				
2019/20	Repayment of Liability	Interest Costs	Payment for Services	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Schools PFI Contract				
Within 1 year	763	952	1,289	3,004
Within 2 to 5 years	4,007	2,925	5,522	12,454
Within 6 to 10 years	4,350	953	4,536	9,839
Total Payments Due - Schools	9,120	4,830	11,347	25,297
Waste PFI Contract				
Within 1 year	(388)	1,706	12,239	13,557
Within 2 to 5 years	7,884	6,122	43,960	57,966
Within 6 to 10 years	12,997	4,946	63,041	80,983
Within 11 to 15 years	9,878	1,112	42,597	53,586
Total Payments Due - Waste	30,370	13,887	161,836	206,093
Library PFI Contract				
Within 1 year	334	411	1,809	2,554
Within 2 to 5 years	1,645	1,339	7,831	10,815
Within 6 to 10 years	2,907	766	11,345	15,018
Within 11 to 15 years	-	-	-	-
Total Payments Due - Library	4,887	2,515	20,985	28,387
Total PFI Contracts				
Within 1 year	709	3,070	15,337	19,115
Within 2 to 5 years	13,536	10,386	57,313	81,235
Within 6 to 10 years	20,254	6,664	78,922	105,840
Within 11 to 15 years	9,878	1,112	42,597	53,586
Total Payments Due	44,376	21,232	194,169	259,777

Payments due under PFI Arrangements				
2018/19 Comparative Figures	Repayment of Liability	Interest Costs	Payment for Services	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Schools PFI Contract				
Within 1 year	681	1,021	1,259	2,961
Within 2 to 5 years	3,616	3,298	5,361	12,275
Within 6 to 10 years	5,504	1,532	5,986	13,022
Total Payments Due - Schools	9,801	5,851	12,606	28,258
Waste PFI Contract				
Within 1 year	1,640	1,793	9,984	13,417
Within 2 to 5 years	5,337	6,456	45,126	56,919
Within 6 to 10 years	12,234	5,613	61,456	79,303
Within 11 to 15 years	12,798	1,818	56,373	70,989
Total Payments Due - Waste	32,009	15,680	172,939	220,628
Library PFI Contract				
Within 1 year	308	437	1,753	2,498
Within 2 to 5 years	1,516	1,466	7,590	10,572
Within 6 to 10 years	2,712	994	10,961	14,666
Within 11 to 15 years	659	55	2,435	3,149
Total Payments Due - Library	5,194	2,952	22,738	30,885
Total PFI Contracts				
Within 1 year	2,629	3,251	12,996	18,876
Within 2 to 5 years	10,469	11,220	58,077	79,766
Within 6 to 10 years	20,450	8,139	78,403	106,991
Within 11 to 15 years	13,457	1,873	58,808	74,138
Total Payments Due	47,004	24,483	208,283	279,771

The payment for services includes lifecycle payments towards the enhancement and maintenance of PFI assets and inflation. Performance deduction is only included in the above table when it has occurred.

18 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent Liabilities

Insurance: the council is unable to identify with any accuracy which insurance claims will become payable in the future. Each individual claim is allocated a reserve at the time the claim is first brought against the council in accordance with common practice within the insurance industry. Actual payments can differ from initial estimates due to a number of factors including, but not limited to, the ability to successfully defend claims, the proportion of outstanding claims that become litigated, the level of legal fees and the judge presiding over trials.

Hove Station Footbridge: The footbridge at Hove Station is a Grade 2 listed structure that provides pedestrian access over the railway between Hove Park Villas and Goldstone Villas. The footbridge is now over 120 years old and, based on engineering experience and judgement, is therefore nearing the end of its economically maintainable life. An agreement dated 28 September 1889 outlines the responsibilities of both parties; in summary these are that the Bridge remains in the ownership of the railway company (now Network Rail) but that the cost of maintenance is recharged to the council (now Brighton & Hove City Council).

The agreements give no information on what financial arrangements would prevail in the event that the footbridge needed to be replaced or changed to improve access. The council therefore has a potential but unquantifiable financial liability dependent on when the footbridge may need remedial works and/or full replacement and on the determination of any responsibilities set out in the historic legal agreements.

Business Rates Relief: An application has been received by the council (and many other local authorities) with regard to claiming mandatory 80% charity relief on hereditaments occupied by NHS foundation trusts backdated to 1 April 2010. It is not clear when any decision will be made on this or whether or not central government would compensate local authorities for some or all of the loss if the application is successful.

Pensions: The McCloud and Sargeant judgements concerned the introduction of career average revalued earnings pension schemes to replace the former final salary based pension schemes as part of the Hutton recommendation to reform public service pension schemes. There was protection provided for older members under each scheme. The McCloud and Sargeant judgements have upheld the claimants' cases that the method of implementation of the new schemes discriminated against younger members. The government was refused leave to appeal the McCloud and Sargeant Judgements on 27 June 2019. This means that the various parties will return to the respective employment tribunals to formulate a remedy which will resolve the age discrimination of the pension changes. The Council did include the estimated impact of the McCloud judgement in the 2018/19 accounts as an IAS 19 liability and has done the same for 2019/20. However, until the remedy is agreed, the impact is only estimated and therefore there could be a significant risk of material adjustment to the carrying amount of the liability. This risk has therefore been included under Note 3 – Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of uncertainty.

Royal Pavilion Estate: Under normal circumstances the council does not self-insure any element of a material damage loss to the Royal Pavilion Estate. Due to outstanding risk improvement actions (RIAs), the property insurer has imposed a buildings insurance excess of £1.000m and a maximum claim value of £100.000m. The risk improvements are partially completed.

School: two employees at a school have raised the issue of their health being affected by building works carried out at an adjacent school. No outcome or potential costs are currently known.

Contingent Assets

Royal Mail: The council forms part of a class action against Royal Mail, relating to the charging of VAT on services for which it has not been able to recover as normal. The case has been ongoing for over 3 years and continues. The outcome and any potential financial settlement are uncertain. The council has no liability in relation to any potential costs if the claim is lost as it has entered into an insurance arrangement with a large number of other claimants.

Vehicles: The council is part of a class action, led by the Local Government Association, against a number of vehicle manufacturers which it is alleged have participated in price fixing across Europe. The council has bought many of its vehicles outright over many years. It is not yet possible to assess the likelihood of success or quantify any potential financial recompense. The council has no liability in relation to any potential costs if the claim is lost as it has entered into an insurance arrangement negotiated by the LGA and involving a large number of other claimants.

19 Related Parties

The council has the following material related party transactions:

Central Government

Central government has significant influence over the general operations of the council, provides the statutory framework within which the council operates, provides 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, housing benefits and business rates). Details of the general grants and specific grants received from government departments in 2019/20 can be found in note 15.

Levying Authorities

Other public bodies may levy the council by making a demand on the council tax requirement. For 2019/20, the council paid levies of £255,249 (£244,498 2018/19) to the Environment Agency, the Sussex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority and various enclosure committees. These costs are included in other operating expenditure within the CIES and also include a precept of £48,740 (£45,067 2018/19) for Rottingdean Parish Council.

Members

Members of the council have direct control over the council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2019/20 is shown in note 20. During 2019/20, works and services to the value of £13.025m (£13.067m 2018/19) were commissioned from companies in which members have declared an interest. Contracts were entered into in full compliance with the council's standing orders.

Members are not involved in the evaluation of tenders. Details of the entities with whom members are involved are recorded in the Register of Members' Interests which can be found on the council's website under each member.

Officers

During 2019/20, the council provided Chief Finance Officer (S151), financial and other services to the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) on a contractual basis. During 2019/20, the council received £0.328m (£0.318m 2018/19) in respect of these services. The council also had short term borrowing with the SDNPA of £6.450m as at 31 March 2020 (£3.641m 31 March 2019) in accordance with the service contract and the SDNPA Annual Investment Strategy. The officers involved in providing S151 and other financial services to SDNPA were not in a position to influence these financial transactions as they were paid in accordance with the agreed contract terms and were not party to the procurement process for these services.

Other Public Bodies (subject to common control by central government)

The council has entered into various Section 75 arrangements with NHS partners for the provision of personal social services and community health care for adults. Transactions in respect of these Section 75 arrangements are detailed in note 28.

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Council

The Sussex Innovation Centre acts as a business incubator and innovation support unit for Sussex and the South East. The council was a minority shareholder in this company but had no control or influence over the centre. The council surrendered to the company its shareholding in 2008/09. The share surrender was conditional upon Sussex University and the company undertaking that the premises and land would not be sold or transferred to a third party, nor a change be made for its usage regarding the purpose for which it was built

without consent of the council and also that there would be no change, amendment or alteration made to the company's objects. Under the surrender agreement the university is obliged, until 2034, to indemnify the council, as the accountable body to the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), for any repayment of grant in the event of a breach of the obligations as set out in the grant determination and terms of the surrender agreement.

The Brighton Dome & Museum Development Company Ltd is a special purpose vehicle set up for the redevelopment of the Brighton Dome and Museum. The council is a minority (19%) shareholder in this company; Brighton Dome & Festival Ltd is the majority shareholder. The council was one of the funding partners for the Brighton Dome & Museum Development Company Ltd, however the redevelopment is now complete and this company has fulfilled its original purpose. The company will remain in existence for future years but is dormant.

The council nominates two members to sit on the board of trustees of Brighton Dome & Festival Ltd. The trustees are also company members and their liability is limited to £1.

The council nominates two members to serve as directors on the board of Brighton Racecourse Company Ltd. The council is a minority shareholder (19%) in this company.

Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes Ltd is a not for profit charitable company set up and funded by a third party independent to the council as a local delivery vehicle to raise investment for improvements to council dwellings. The company was incorporated in March 2009 and has leased 499 empty properties from the council taking them on over a five year period covering November 2011 to 31 March 2017. The primary objectives of the company are not confined solely to the dwellings leased from the council and the company is able, within its charitable objectives and with the approval of its primary funder, to undertake new ventures. The properties are let to homeless households and people with particular needs nominated by the council. The Board membership comprises twelve directors of which the council may nominate up to four members to serve as directors.

The Brighton Open Market Company was formed in March 2011 for the redevelopment of the Open Market site. The council has a limited representation of no more than 19% of the member voting rights or Board Directors to avoid controlled company issues and the members have a limited liability of £1 each. The company is a not for profit company and was converted into a Community Interest Company (CIC) in June 2011. On 4 November 2015, a special Policy & Resources Committee meeting agreed a request from the CIC for a loan of £0.061m to address cash flow difficulties until the CIC moves into profit.

The council has supported the creation of a Local Government Municipal Bond Agency which will seek to raise capital funding for local authorities at preferential rates. On 29 September 2014, the council invested £0.025m to buy a shareholding in the company, UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc, and a further £0.025m was invested in the shareholding on 13 October 2015. This investment is shown at the purchase price. The value of the shares will be reviewed as more information becomes available as the Agency develops.

The council provided financial support to the East Sussex Credit Union in April 2016 with a membership deposit of £0.028m and a subordinated loan of £0.250m for the purpose of providing safe, affordable, accessible financial products to some of the city's most financially excluded and at-risk residents. The loan is interest free and repayable in 2026.

Better Brighton & Hove is a charitable trust (status pending) initiated by a local charity, The Pebble Trust, to create an independent think tank to generate ideas and propose solutions to meet the challenges facing the city of Brighton and Hove. The Trust has a Board of 10 Trustees, one of which is the council as a corporate Trustee. The council has committed to provide the Trust with £0.250m of in kind services. The Council will be able to control and/or influence the work of the trust with at least 40% of the funding going exclusively to identified Council priorities and having a say on how the rest is used.

The Homes for the City of Brighton & Hove LLP was formed in November 2017. The council has 50% of the Management Board voting rights through three members appointed as Designated Members of the company, neither partner of the LLP has a casting vote, any disputes require specific resolution as set out in the signed agreement. The aim of the company is to deliver 1,000 lower cost homes for rental and sale over a 5 year period. The company's strategic financial model requires the council to make available financing of circa £60.000m to build the new homes after allowing for the proceeds from the sale of new homes. In addition to providing affordable housing in the city, the company will provide a regular income stream from the new rental units. The council will receive distributions of 50% of the net surpluses of the company. The council will also provide Corporate & Financial Services to the company.

Further, the Homes for The City of Brighton & Hove Design & Build Company Limited was also formed in November 2017. The company is wholly owned by Homes for the City of Brighton & Hove LLP through its 100% shareholding. The council has nominated 3 of its members to serve as Directors of the company and decisions are taken by the unanimous decisions of the company's six Directors. The main purpose of the company is to construct the homes on behalf of the Homes for the City of Brighton & Hove LLP. The costs of construction will be charged to the LLP as they are incurred.

Orbis is a partnership between Brighton & Hove City Council, Surrey County Council and East Sussex County Council that aims to provide shared and resilient business services to the public sector, creating a compelling alternative to other providers. During 2018/19 the council entered into a revised Inter-Authority Agreement with the two partner authorities which commenced on 1 April 2018 which determines the 'contribution ratios', and financial management and planning arrangements. Orbis takes the form of a Joint Committee and the council has two members on the committee as do the other two founding partners.

The Orbis Public Law partnership between Brighton & Hove City Council, Surrey County Council, West Sussex County Council and East Sussex County Council was discontinued during 2019/20. It was governed by a Joint Committee, with each Partner represented by one elected Member on the Joint Committee.

The council provided a loan of £0.220m to Saltdean Lido Community Interest Company in December 2017 for the purpose of enabling a funding bid to restore the Saltdean Lido. The loan is interest free and repayable over 5 years dependant on a successful funding bid.

20 Officers' Remuneration

The remuneration paid to the council's senior employees is detailed in the following table:

		2018/19				2019/20			
	Note	Salary (including Fees & Allowances)	Compensation for loss of office	Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration including Pension Contributions	Salary (including Fees & Allowances)	Compensation for Loss of Office	Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration including Pension Contributions
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive - G Raw	6	156,075	-	26,689	182,764	182,860	-	31,269	214,129
Executive Director Finance & Resources (section 151 officer)	1,2,7	119,658	-	20,462	140,120	118,654	-	20,146	138,800
Executive Director Families, Children & Learning	3,5,8	119,658	-	20,462	140,120	111,356	-	20,165	131,521
Executive Lead for Strategy Governance & Law	9	100,823	-	17,241	118,064	108,224	-	18,083	126,307
Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture	10	114,455	-	19,572	134,027	122,482	-	20,871	143,353
Executive Director Health & Adult Social Care	11	119,658	-	20,361	140,019	122,051	-	20,971	143,022
Executive Director Neighbourhoods Communities & Housing	3, 4	110,987	-	18,979	129,966	127,414	-	21,726	149,140
Total		841,314	-	143,765	985,079	893,041	-	153,231	1,046,272

Notes - Officers' Remuneration

1. Executive Director Finance and Resources left on 17/1/2020;
2. Executive Director of Finance and Resources was covered on an interim job share basis from 18/1/2020;
3. Executive Director Families, children and learning transferred to become Acting Executive Director Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing from 11/11/19;
4. Executive Director Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing left on 10/11/2019;
5. Interim Director Families, children and learning in post from 11/11/2019;
6. The Chief Executive's total remuneration included payments totalling £27,709 for returning officer duties and these payments were fully funded by central government;
7. The Executive Director Finance & Resources total remuneration included payments totalling £406 for electoral services which were fully funded by central government;
8. The Executive Director Families, Children & Learning total remuneration included payments totalling £649 for electoral services which were fully funded by central government;
9. The Executive Lead for Strategy Governance & Law total remuneration included payments totalling £5,882 for returning officer duties and these payments were fully funded by central government;
10. The Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture total remuneration included payments totalling £431 for electoral services which were fully funded by central government;
11. The Executive Director Neighbourhoods Communities & Housing total remuneration included payments totalling £363 for electoral services which were fully by central government;
12. No expense allowances were paid in 2019/20 or 2018/19.

Other Employee Remuneration

The following table provides an analysis of the remuneration paid to other employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration (excluding employer's pension contributions):

Other Officer Remuneration		
Remuneration Band	2018/19	2019/20
	Number of Employees	Number of Employees
£50,000 - £54,999	127	132
£55,000 - £59,999	63	57
£60,000 - £64,999	36	49
£65,000 - £69,999	19	20
£70,000 - £74,999	11	14
£75,000 - £79,999	7	6
£80,000 - £84,999	11	14
£85,000 - £89,999	5	7
£90,000 - £94,999	5	7
£95,000 - £99,999	2	2
£100,000 - £104,999	1	1
£105,000 - £109,999	1	-
£110,000 - £114,999	-	1
£115,000 - £119,999	-	1
£145,000 - £149,999	1	-

21 Members' Allowances and Expenses

During 2019/20, the council paid £0.864m (£0.857m 2018/19) of allowances to members; £0.001m of expenses for travel / subsistence on approved duties outside the Brighton and Hove City area were claimed by members during 2019/20 (£0.001m 2018/19). In 2019/20 members contributed £0.007m towards parking costs. Expenses for duties within the city are covered by the allowance paid to members. Details of allowances and expenses paid in 2019/20 are posted on the council's website, www.brighton-hove.gov.uk.

22 Termination Benefits including Exit Packages

The council terminated the contracts of a number of employees during 2019/20, incurring liabilities of £1.753m (£1.917m 2018/19). The figures in the table below include £1.573m in respect of exit packages and £0.180m in respect of other exit packages and associated costs.

The council had an additional provision of £0.317m as at 31 March 2020 in respect of committed payments to 12 employees for agreed voluntary redundancy packages. Further details of the voluntary severance provision are included in note 14.

The following table shows the level and costs of exit packages for compulsory and other redundancies agreed in the financial year:

Exit Packages								
Cost Band	Number of Compulsory Redundancies		Number of Other Departures		Total Number of Exit Packages		Total Cost of Exit Packages	
	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20
							£'000	£'000
£0 - £20,000	-	-	87	54	87	54	625	402
£20,001 - £40,000	-	-	13	15	13	15	370	448
£40,001 - £60,000	-	-	7	7	7	7	339	342
£60,001 - £80,000	-	-	1	1	1	1	76	72
£80,001 - £100,000	-	-	2	2	2	2	180	178
£100,001 - £300,000	-	-	2	2	2	2	327	311
Total	-	-	112	81	112	81	1,917	1,753

Note: the costs included in the above table include voluntary redundancy costs, early retirement pension costs and pay in lieu of notice.

23 Pension Schemes accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes

Teachers employed by the council are members of the Teachers' Pensions Scheme, administered by the Teachers' Pensions service on behalf of the Department for Education, and Public Health employees employed by the council are members of the NHS Pension Scheme, administered by the NHS Business Service Authority on behalf of the NHS. The schemes provide employees with specified benefits upon their retirement and the council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

These schemes are technically defined benefit schemes. However, the schemes are unfunded and the administering authorities use a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. The council is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the schemes with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purpose of the financial statements, the schemes are therefore accounted for on the same basis as defined contribution schemes.

In 2019/20, the authority paid £13.378m (£10.295m 2018/19) to the Teachers' Pensions Scheme in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 16.48% from 1 April to 31 August 2019 and 23.68% from 1 September 2019 to 31 March 2020 (16.48% 2018/19) of pensionable pay. There were no contributions remaining payable at the end of the reporting period. The contributions payable in the next reporting period are estimated at £15.398m.

In 2019/20, the authority paid £0.039m (£0.055m 2018/19) to the NHS Business Service Authority in respect of public health employee's retirement benefits, representing 14.3% (14.3% 2018/19) of pensionable pay. There were no contributions remaining payable at the end of the reporting period. The contributions payable in the next reporting period are estimated at £0.042m.

The council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the schemes. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis.

24 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Employees of the council are entitled to become members of one of three separate pension schemes according to the terms of their employment:

- the Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by East Sussex County Council;
- the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education;
- the National Health Service (NHS) Pension Scheme, administered by the NHS Business Service Authority on behalf of the NHS.

Employees contribute to these schemes and the council also makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits as part of the terms and conditions of employment of its employees. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the council has to disclose the commitment in respect of the future payment of these benefits at the time that the employees earn their future entitlement.

The council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). East Sussex County Council acts as the scheme administrator of the East Sussex Pension Fund and is responsible for the management and administration of the Fund in line with the scheme regulations. Within the responsibilities of the Scheme Administrator is the requirement to liaise and communicate with employing authorities that participate in the Fund, ensure adequate record keeping in respect of each member of the Fund, to calculate and pay appropriate benefits to members and to produce the required information to comply with disclosure requirements.

The scheme is a funded defined benefit scheme, meaning that the employees and council pay contributions into a Fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.

In addition, the council has arrangements for the award of discretionary post-retirement benefits upon early retirement. This arrangement 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 pension liabilities, and the council has to generate cash, for example through associated savings on staffing costs, to meet actual pension payments as they eventually fall due.

Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, assesses the position of the East Sussex Pension Fund. The calculations and advice given by Hymans Robertson LLP in their actuarial report has been carried out in accordance with the Pensions Technical Actuarial Standard adopted by the Financial Reporting Council, which came into effect on 1 January 2013.

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

The scheme has been estimated by the actuary based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2016. Liabilities for the scheme have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method (i.e. an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future financial years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc.).

Actuarial assumptions are used by the actuary to calculate the valuation of the scheme. Risks and uncertainties are inherently associated with the assumptions that are adopted. The assumptions are in effect projections of future investment returns and demographic experience many years into the future and there is inevitably a great deal of uncertainty inherent in what constitutes the "best estimate" with such projections as required by IAS 19 "*Employee Benefits*".

The actuary has interpreted “best estimate” to mean that the proposed assumptions are “neutral” and has advised that there is an equal chance of actual experience being better or worse than the assumptions used.

The following table shows the principal assumptions used by the actuary as at 31 March:

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities		
	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
Long term expected rate of return on assets in the scheme		
Equity investments	2.40%	2.3%
Bonds	2.40%	2.3%
Property	2.40%	2.3%
Cash	2.40%	2.3%
Mortality assumptions		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
• men	22.1 years	21.6 years
• women	24.4 years	23.9 years
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
• men	23.8 years	22.5 years
• women	26.3 years	25,3 years
Financial assumptions		
Rate of inflation	2.5%	1.9%
Rate of increase in salaries	2.9%	1.9%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.5%	1.9%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.4%	2.3%
Expected total return on assets	2.4%	2.3%
Take up of option to convert annual pension in retirement grant	*	*

* Pre April 2008 50% and post April 2008 75%

IAS 19 requires the discount rate to be set with reference to the yields on high quality corporate bonds irrespective of the actual investment strategy of the Fund. As such, the figures prepared by the actuary in their actuarial report are unlikely to reflect either the actual eventual cost of providing the benefits or the likely level of contributions to fund the council’s obligations to the Fund. Also, the net liability position may change significantly due to relative changes in the equity and bond markets at the reporting date.

Sensitivity to Assumptions

The estimation of the defined benefit obligation is also sensitive to the actuarial assumptions used by the actuary:

- the cost of a pension arrangement requires estimates regarding future experience. The financial assumptions used by the actuary are largely prescribed at any point and reflect market conditions at the reporting date. Changes in market conditions that result in changes in the net discount rate (essentially the difference between the discount rate and the assumed rates of increase of salaries, deferred pension revaluation or pensions in payment) can have a significant effect on the value of the liabilities reported. In order to quantify the impact of a change in the financial assumptions used, the actuary has calculated and compared the value of the scheme liabilities as at 31 March 2019 on varying bases;

- a reduction in the net discount rate will increase the assessed value of liabilities as a higher value is placed on benefits paid in the future. A rise in the net discount rate will have an opposite effect of similar magnitude;
- there is also uncertainty around life expectancy of the UK population. The value of current and future pension benefits will depend on how long they are assumed to be in payment. To quantify the uncertainty around life expectancy, the actuary has calculated the difference in cost to the council of a one year increase in life expectancy. For sensitivity purposes, this is assumed to be an increase in the cost of benefits of broadly 1.9 to 2.3%. In practice the actual cost of a one year increase in life expectancy will depend on the structure of the revised assumption (i.e. if improvements to survival rates predominately apply at younger or older ages).

The following table shows the sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions that show the increase in percentage terms and monetary values that the changes have on the scheme liabilities.

Change in assumptions at 31 March 2020	Approximate % increase to Employer Liability	Approximate monetary amount £'000
0.5% decrease in real discount rate	10%	126,973
0.5% increase in salary increase rate	1%	10,212
0.5% Increase in pension increase rate	9%	115,920

The figures in the above table have been derived based on the membership profile of the council as at the date of the most recent actuarial valuation. The approach taken by the actuary in preparing the sensitivity analysis in the table above is consistent with that adopted in the previous financial year.

Transactions relating to Post-Employment Benefits

The council recognises post-employment benefits in the surplus / deficit on the provision of services within the CIES 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 to its General Fund and HRA is based on the cash payable in the financial year rather than the earned post-employment benefits which are therefore reversed out of the General Fund and HRA balances to the pensions reserve and reported in the MiRS.

The following table shows the transactions that have been made in the CIES and MiRS during the financial year in relation to the LGPS:

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)		
Cost of Services		
Service Cost Comprising:		
Current service cost	49,583	61,775
Past service cost	4,067	288
(Gain) / loss from settlements	-	-
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		
Net interest expense	7,262	8,859
Total Post Employment Benefits charged to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	60,912	70,922
Other Post Employment Benefits charged to the CIES		
Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability comprising:		
Return on scheme assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	(47,896)	105,980
Changes in demographic assumptions	-	(41,835)
Changes in financial assumptions	111,471	(136,864)
Other experience adjustments	1,757	(46,544)
Adjustment re remeasurements of the pension scheme	(51)	67
Total Post Employment Benefits charged to the CIES	65,281	(119,196)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund and HRA balance for pensions		
Employer's contributions payable to the scheme	(29,589)	(32,575)
Movement in Reserves Statement		
Reversal of net charges made to the surplus / deficit for the provision of services for post employment benefits	(60,912)	70,922
Net Adjustment to the Pension Reserve	(25,220)	(80,849)

Assets and Liabilities in relation to Post-Employment Benefits

The amount included on the Balance Sheet arising from the council's obligation in respect of its defined benefit scheme is shown in the following table:

Pension Assets and Liabilities recognised in the Balance Sheet		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Present value of the scheme liabilities	(1,467,000)	(1,311,765)
Fair value of scheme assets	1,113,177	1,038,791
Net Liability arising from Defined Benefit Obligation	(353,823)	(272,974)

Pension Scheme Liabilities

The present value of liabilities shows the underlying commitments that the council has in the long run to pay post-employment benefits. The total liability of £1,311.765m can be split between funded and unfunded equating to £1,282.969m and £28.796m respectively. The council is only required to fund the defined benefits when the pensions are actually paid.

The actuary will assess the need to increase contributions over the remaining working life of employees (i.e. before payments fall due) to make good the deficit on the Fund.

The following table shows a reconciliation of the movements in the present value of the scheme liabilities:

Reconciliation of Present Value of the Pension Scheme Liabilities (Defined Benefit Obligation)		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Opening Balance at 1 April	(1,288,793)	(1,467,000)
Current service cost	(49,583)	(61,775)
Interest cost	(35,173)	(35,677)
Contributions from scheme participants	(8,335)	(9,053)
Remeasurements:		
Actuarial gain / (loss) arising on changes in demographic assumptions	-	41,835
Changes in financial assumptions	(111,471)	136,864
Other experience adjustments	(1,757)	46,544
Benefits paid	32,179	36,785
Past service cost	(4,067)	(288)
Balance at 31 March	(1,467,000)	(1,311,765)

The movement in the scheme liabilities is partly as a result of the change in financial assumptions made by the actuary at 31 March 2020 being more favourable than those made at 31 March 2019. The application of assumptions has resulted in gains of £136.864m relating to financial assumptions, £41.835m demographic assumptions and £46.544m in relation to other experience adjustments.

The following table shows the scheme liabilities in respect of active members, deferred members and pensioner members:

Scheme Liabilities in respect of Active, Deferred and Pensioner Members			
2019/20	Liability Split	Liability Split	Weighted Average Duration
	£'000	%	Years
Active members	512,563	40.0%	-
Deferred members	311,721	24.3%	-
Pensioner members	458,685	35.7%	-
Total	1,282,969	100.0%	-

Scheme Liabilities in respect of Active, Deferred and Pensioner Members			
2018/19 Comparative Figures	Liability Split	Liability Split	Weighted Average Duration
	£'000	%	Years
Active members	708,731	49.5%	23.0
Deferred members	315,065	22.0%	22.9
Pensioner members	409,204	28.6%	11.6
Total	1,433,000	100.0%	18.1

Note: the figures in the above two tables are for the funded obligations only and do not include any unfunded pensioner liabilities. The weighted average durations are as at the previous formal valuation as at 31 March 2016.

Pension Scheme Assets

During 2019/20, there has been a decrease in the return on the scheme assets of £74.386m. The following table shows a reconciliation of the movements in the fair value of the scheme assets:

Reconciliation of the Movements in the Fair Value of the Pension Scheme Assets		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Opening Balance at 1 April	1,031,574	1,113,177
Interest income	27,911	26,818
Re-measurements:		
Return on scheme assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	47,896	(105,980)
Contributions from employer	29,640	32,508
Contributions from employees into the scheme	8,335	9,053
Benefits paid	(32,179)	(36,785)
Balance at 31 March	1,113,177	1,038,791

The scheme assets are broken down into categories that accurately reflect the risks that are faced by the scheme, splitting the assets into two types, those that have a quoted market price in an active market and those that do not. The pension scheme assets comprised:

Proportion of the Fair Value of the Scheme Assets by Category								
	2018/19				2019/20			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Quoted Prices not in Active Markets	Total	% of Total Assets	Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Quoted Prices not in Active Markets	Total	% of Total Assets
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Equity Securities								
Consumer	13,245.1	-	13,245.1	1%	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing	9,107.7	-	9,107.7	1%	-	-	-	-
Energy and utilities	2,628.4	-	2,628.4	0%	-	-	-	-
Financial institutions	12,409.6	-	12,409.6	1%	-	-	-	-
Health and care	2,019.3	-	2,019.3	0%	-	-	-	-
Information technology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2,171.0	-	2,171.0	0%	-	-	-	-
Total	41,581.1	-	41,581.1	4%	-	-	-	-
Debt Securities								
UK government	-	26,943.4	26,943.4	2%	-	-	-	-
Other	-	20,610.7	20,610.7	2%	-	9,166.66	9,166.66	1%
Total	-	47,554.1	47,554.1	4%	-	9,166.66	9,166.66	1%
Real Estate								
UK property	-	104,264.4	104,264.4	8%	-	95,353.4	95,353.4	9%
Overseas property	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	104,264.4	104,264.4	8%	-	95,353.4	95,353.4	9%
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts								
Hedge funds	-	719.4	719.4	0%	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure	-	6,600.2	6,600.2	1%	-	18,865.4	18,865.4	2%
Commodities	1,881.2	-	1,881.2	0%	-	-	-	-
Equities	-	614,480.5	614,480.5	55%	-	352,602.4	352,602.4	34%
Bonds	-	183,180.1	183,180.1	16%	-	178,547.2	178,547.2	17%
Other	-	226.6	226.6	0%	-	296,570.9	296,570.9	29%
Total	1,881.2	805,206.8	807,088.0	73%	-	846,585.9	846,585.9	82%
Derivatives								
Foreign exchange	-	(127.2)	(127.2)	0%	-	-	-	-
Total	-	(127.2)	(127.2)	0%	-	-	-	-
Private Equity	-	68,458.7	68,458.7	6%	-	68,480.2	68,480.2	7%
Cash and cash equivalents	44,390.8	(32.9)	44,357.9	4%	17,559.6	1,645.3	19,204.9	1%
Total Assets	87,853.1	1,025,323.9	1,113,177.0	100%	17,559.6	1,021,231.4	1,038,791.0	100%

Asset and Liability Matching (ALM) Strategy

East Sussex County Council, as the Scheme Administrator of the East Sussex Pension Fund has reported that a well-diversified investment strategy has been agreed, as a way of controlling risk. This applies in two ways:

Asset Allocation

The strategic investment benchmark is heavily weighted towards equities as the asset class expected to provide the highest return over the medium to long term. There is also a significant exposure to property and infrastructure (i.e. "real" assets with a different performance cycle to equities) and a small exposure to bonds (which more closely "match" the Fund's liabilities). The allocation to absolute return mandates provides further diversification. Uniquely, within those mandates, the managers of the Fund have the flexibility to alter allocations between asset classes.

Within equities, diversification is achieved by investing in different markets across the world, which provides exposure to many different stocks and sectors. The Fund also holds private equity which is expected to lead to higher returns over the longer term, without adding significantly to overall risk (consistent with the objectives of the Fund).

Manager Structure

The Fund employs a number of managers with differing styles and management approaches. This is a deliberate policy to avoid over dependence on the fortunes of a single manager and to concentrate on managers' particular areas of expertise. All managers are expected to maintain well diversified portfolios. The investment strategy is monitored annually or more frequently if necessary.

Impact on the Council's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are set out in East Sussex Pension Fund's Funding Strategy Statement (FSS), dated February 2017. In summary, these are:

- to ensure the long term solvency of the Fund;
- to ensure that employer contribution rates are reasonably stable where appropriate;
- to minimise the long term cash contributions which employers need to pay to the Fund;
- to reflect the different characteristics of different employers in determining contribution rates;
- to use reasonable measures to reduce the risk from an employer defaulting on its pension obligations.

The Fund has agreed a strategy with its actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 20 years. The funding level for the Fund is monitored on a regular basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed on 31 March 2020.

The contributions paid by the council are set by the Fund actuary at each triennial actuarial valuation or at any other time as instructed to do so by the Fund. The contributions payable over the period to 31 March 2021 are set out in the Rates and Adjustments certificate. For further details on the approach adopted to set contribution rates for the council, please refer to the 2019 actuarial valuation report dated 31 March 2020, which can be found on East Sussex County Council's website, www.eastsussex.gov.uk.

The total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the council in the financial year to 31 March 2021 will be in the region of £29.336m. An analysis of the projected amount to be charged to the CIES for the financial year to 31 March 2021 is shown below:

Projected Defined Benefit Cost for the Period Ended 31 March 2021			
	Assets	Liabilities	Net Liability
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Projected current service cost	-	(47,741)	(47,741)
Total Service Cost	-	(47,741)	(47,741)
Interest income on scheme assets	23,941	-	23,941
Interest cost on scheme liabilities	-	(30,404)	(30,404)
Total Net Interest Cost	23,941	(30,404)	(6,463)
Total Charge to CIES	23,941	(78,145)	(54,204)

The weighted average duration (i.e. the weighted average time until payment of all expected future discounted cash flows, determined based on membership and the financial and demographic assumptions as at the date of the 2019 actuarial valuation) of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 18.1 years for 2018/19.

25 External Audit Costs

In 2019/20, the council incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the financial statements and the certification of grant claims and returns:

External Audit Costs		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Fees payable to the external auditor with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	122	147
Fees payable to the external auditor for the certification of grant claims and returns	17	23
Total	139	170

In 2019/20 the council received a rebate of £0.015m from Public Sector Audit Appointments in regard to audit fees paid.

26 Agency Services

Under various statutory powers, the council may have arrangements with other local authorities and government departments to do work on their behalf. The council has the following significant agency arrangements:

Council Tax

The council, as a billing authority for council tax, acts as an agent on behalf of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and the East Sussex Fire Authority. The council has included a debtor of £0.860m (£0.511m 2018/19) for council tax income collected as an agent but which has not yet been paid to the two preceptors as at 31 March 2020.

Non Domestic Rates (NDR)

The council, as a billing authority for non-domestic rates, acts as an agent on behalf of central government and the East Sussex Fire Authority. The cash collected by the council from non-domestic rates taxpayers belongs proportionately to the council, central government (by means of its central share) and the precepting authority. The council has recognised a creditor of £8.622m (£5.963m 2018/19) for cash collected from non-domestic rates taxpayers as an agent for central government and the precepting authority, but which has not yet been paid to central government and the precepting authority as at 31 March 2020.

The Collection Fund Statement and note 30 provide more detail in respect of income and expenditure in relation to these agency services.

27 Partnership and Section 75 (S75) Arrangements

Under Section 75 (S75) of the National Health Service Act 2006, National Health Service (NHS) bodies and local authorities can form partnership arrangements for lead commissioning, integrated provision of services or pooled budgets. During 2019/20, the council was party to the following S75 arrangements:

Adult Social Care

With effect from 1 April 2002, some adult social care services have been provided within the geographical area covered by the council under a partnership arrangement between the council, Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) (from 1 April 2013), the Sussex Community Trust (SCT) and the Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT).

The CCG act as lead commissioner for short term services, mental health and dementia services, the council was the lead for the community equipment store up to 30 September 2015 when this service transferred under the Better Care Fund. SCT were the lead provider for the community equipment store until 30th September 2015 when the contract was outsourced, whilst SPFT are the lead provider for mental health and dementia services.

The council made a commissioning contribution of £16.351m (£15.048m 2018/19) to this S75 arrangement in 2019/20. This contribution is reflected in the health & adult social care cost of service within the CIES.

The gross income to the partnerships in 2019/20 is £20.075m (£18.956m 2018/19) including CCG commissioning contributions. This has been expended by lead providers as follows:

Section 75 - Adult Social Care		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust	508	324
Brighton & Hove City Council	15,048	16,351
Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group	3,400	3,400
Total	18,956	20,075

Better Care Fund (Adult Social Care)

The Better Care Fund has been established by the Government to provide funds to local areas to support the integration of health and social care and to seek to achieve national conditions and local objectives. It is a requirement of the Better Care Fund that the council and the Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) establish a pooled fund for this purpose. The CCG is the host partner for the pooled fund arrangement.

With effect from 1 April 2015, some adult social care services, covering the geographical area of the council, have been provided under the Brighton & Hove Better Care Fund partnership arrangement. The CCG acts as the lead commissioner for proactive care services, integrated primary care teams, homeless projects and dementia services. The council is the lead commissioner for the community equipment store (from 1 October 2015), protecting social care function, carers and keeping people well services. Although there are lead commissioners for services, all decisions are made jointly by both organisations and signed off within the Better Care governance framework, therefore the council accounts for the transactions on a net accounting basis.

The gross income to the partnership in 2019/20 was £31.102m (£24.647m 2018/19) as shown in the following table:

Better Care Fund		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Brighton & Hove City Council	(6,045)	(11,715)
Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group	(18,601)	(19,387)
Total	(24,647)	(31,102)

The council's contribution is reflected in the health & adult social care cost of service within the CIES.

The following table shows the memorandum account which records the transactions with the pooled fund:

Better Care Fund - Memorandum Account			
2019/20	CCG	Council	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and Expenditure			
Contribution to the pooled budget	(19,387)	(11,715)	(31,102)
Net expenditure from the pooled budget	11,576	19,526	31,102
Surplus / (deficit) to be shared across parties to the pooled budget			-
Balance Sheet			
Contribution to the pooled budget	(19,387)	(11,715)	(31,102)
Total spend	(19,387)	(11,715)	(31,102)
Cash	19,706	11,650	31,357
Debtors	-	65	65
Creditors	(319)	-	(319)
Cumulative surplus / (deficit)	-	-	-

Better Care Fund - Memorandum Account			
2018/19	CCG	Council	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and Expenditure			
Contribution to the pooled budget	(18,601)	(6,045)	(24,647)
Net expenditure from the pooled budget	11,003	13,644	24,647
Surplus / (deficit) to be shared across parties to the pooled budget			-
Balance Sheet			
Contribution to the pooled budget	(18,601)	(6,045)	(24,647)
Total spend	(18,601)	(6,045)	(24,647)
Cash	18,961	6,038	24,999
Debtors	13	20	34
Creditors	(373)	(13)	(387)
Cumulative surplus / (deficit)	-	-	-

Orbis Joint Operating Budget

Funding provided to the pooled budget in 2019/20 totalled £60.351m (£59.819m in 2018/19). The funding included: Surrey County Council £33.430m (£32.931m in 2018/19), East Sussex County Council £13.644m (£14.112m in 2018/19) and Brighton and Hove City Council £13.277m (£12.776m 2018/19). The expenditure met from the pooled budget in 2019/20 was £60.351m (£59.819m in 2018/19) resulting in a Net Surplus/Deficit on the pooled budget of £nil in both 2019/20 and 2018/19.

28 HRA Rent Arrears

At 31 March 2020, arrears of dwellings rent (excluding housing benefit overpayments) amounted to £2.530m (£1.840m 31 March 2019). This represents an increase in arrears as a proportion of gross rental income from 3.63% to 4.92%.

The following table shows the aggregate provision made by the council in respect of uncollectable debts:

Rent Arrears and other Bad Debts written off		
	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Impairment at 1 April	1,304	1,522
Change in impairment charged to the HRA	318	341
Rent arrears and other bad debts written off	(100)	(70)
Impairment for Bad Debts at 31 March	1,522	1,792

29 Collection Fund - Council Tax

Council tax income derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties, which have been divided into eight valuation bands using 1 April 1991 values for this specific purpose. Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required to be taken from the Collection Fund by the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, the East Sussex Fire Authority and the council for the forthcoming financial year and dividing this by the council tax base. The council's tax base was calculated as follows:

Council Tax Base				
Band	Estimated number of Chargeable Dwellings	Estimated number of Chargeable Dwellings after Discounts	Band Ratio	Band D Equivalent Dwellings
Band A*	23	18.75	5/9	10.40
Band A	25,870	17,493.50	6/9	11,662.30
Band B	27,862	21,225.75	7/9	16,508.90
Band C	31,502	26,309.50	8/9	23,386.20
Band D	18,519	16,456.00	9/9	16,456.00
Band E	10,878	10,047.00	11/9	12,279.70
Band F	4,542	4,254.50	13/9	6,145.40
Band G	2,652	2,513.00	15/9	4,188.30
Band H	162	152.50	18/9	305.00
				90,942.20
Less provision for losses in collection				(903.70)
Tax Base for 2019/20				90,038.50
Tax Base for 2018/19				88,976.40

* Entitled to disabled relief reduction.

The estimated gross council tax yield (before the provision for losses in collection) for 2019/20 of £170.960m was based on Band D equivalent dwellings of 90,942.20 multiplied by the average Band D council tax charge of £1,879.87. The actual gross council tax yield for 2019/20 of £169.702m is equivalent to a decrease of 669 Band D dwellings. The estimated and actual tax base amounts will vary due to a number of factors; these include the effects of banding appeals, new properties and entitlements to exemptions and discounts. The main reason for the decrease in the current reporting period are lower level of properties, increased awards for student exemptions and discounts and increasing awards of severely mentally impaired exemptions which can be backdated over a number of years.

30 Collection Fund – Non-Domestic Rates

The authority is responsible for collecting non domestic rates in Brighton and Hove. Under the Business Rates Retention Scheme, the authority is allowed to retain 49% of the non-domestic rates income it collects. Of the remainder 50% is paid over to central government and 1% to the East Sussex Fire Authority.

Non-domestic rates are charged on the basis of the rateable value for business premises multiplied by a non-domestic multiplier. The total non-domestic rateable value at 31 March 2020 was £311.376m (£311.703m at 31 March 2019). The non-domestic multiplier for 2019/20 was 50.4p and the small business non domestic multiplier was 49.1p.

31 Trust Funds

The council acts as trustee for various trust funds. The balances on these funds are excluded from the council's Balance Sheet. The following table shows the balances held by each trust fund:

Trust Fund Accounts					
Capital Market Value		Revenue Balance 1 April 2019 Restated	2019/20 Expenditure	2019/20 Income	Revenue Balance 31 March 2020
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
1,545	Brighton Fund	(117)	63	(53)	(107)
4,844	Gorham's Gift	118	89	(119)	88
841	Hedgcock Bequest	(162)	55	(53)	(160)
92	Royal Pavilion and Museums Foundation	(988)	560	(184)	(611)
	Other Trusts				
75	Music Trust	1	51	(64)	(12)
144	Various Libraries and Museums Bequests	(198)	-	(11)	(210)
7,542	Total	(1,346)	818	(484)	(1,011)

The capital market value shows the valuation of Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF) shares and other investments at the mid-market prices at 31 March 2020. The council acts as the sole trustee in respect of all funds listed with the exceptions of Gorham's Gift and the Royal Pavilion and Museums Foundation.

Brighton Fund

The objectives of the Brighton Fund are to help the relief of persons in the Brighton and Hove area who are in need, hardship or distress. 70% of grants given are to those over 60 years of age.

Gorham's Gift

The Gorham's Gift Trust was set up by a wealthy landowner to help maintain the village of Telscombe and the neighbouring area. The investment property for Gorham's Gift is included in the capital market value and was valued at £4.345m as at April 2019. The revenue balance at 1 April 2019 has been restated, to that published in the 2018/19 financial statement, following late notification of expenditure incurred in 2018/19. Investments are due to be sold in 2019/20 once the market has recovered to pay for final costs associated with the completion of the conversion of the Bank cottage back into 3 cottages.

Hedgcock Bequest

The Hedgcock Bequest awards small grants to formally constituted not for profit organisations, the majority of which are small community groups.

Royal Pavilion and Museums Foundation

The purpose of the Royal Pavilion and Museums Foundation is to advance appreciation in the arts and sciences by acquiring suitable objects and works of art for display in the museums and art galleries of Brighton. The capital market value of £0.092m relates to community assets.

Music Trust

The purpose of the Music Trust is to advance education by promoting the study and practice of music among students of all ages within the Brighton and Hove area.

Various Libraries and Museums Bequests

These relate to various small bequests made to Brighton and Hove libraries and museums which have conditions attached to their use.



Brighton & Hove City Council

Glossary of Terms 2019/20

Glossary of Terms

Accounting Policies are the specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by the council in preparing and presenting its financial statements.

The **Accruals Basis** is the recognition of items as assets, liabilities, income and expenses when they satisfy the definitions and recognition criteria. The accruals basis of accounting requires the non-cash effects of transactions to be reflected in the financial statements for the year in which those effects are experienced and not necessarily in the period in which any cash is received or paid.

The **Accumulated Absences Account** absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund /HRA balance from accruing for employees' paid absences earned but not taken in the year (e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March).

Actuarial Gains and Losses (Pensions) are changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation resulting from experience adjustments and the effects of changes in actuarial assumptions.

Amortisation is a method of allocating the cost of an intangible asset over its useful life.

The **Amortised Cost of a Financial Asset or Financial Liability** is the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition minus principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative amortisation using the effective interest method (i.e. a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset or a financial liability and of allocating the interest income or interest expense over the relevant period) of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount, and minus any reduction or impairment or uncollectability.

An **Asset** is a resource controlled by the council as a result of past events and from which future economic or service potential is expected to flow to the council.

An **Assets Held for Sale** is a non-current asset that meets the following criteria:

- the asset is available for immediate sale in its present condition subject to terms that are usual and customary for sales of such assets;
- the sale is highly probable; the appropriate level of management are committed to a plan to sell the asset and an active programme to locate a buyer and complete the plan has been initiated;
- the asset is being actively marketed for a sale at a price that is reasonable in relation to its current fair value;
- the sale is expected to qualify for recognition as a completed sale within one year of the date of classification and action required to complete the plan indicates that it is unlikely that significant changes to the plan will be made or that the plan will be withdrawn.

An **Audit of Financial Statements** is an examination by an independent expert of the council's financial affairs to check that the relevant legal obligations and codes of practice have been followed.

An **Available for Sale Financial Asset** is a non-derivative financial asset that is not classified as loans and receivables, held to maturity investments or held for trading.

The **Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve** records the unrealised revaluation gains arising from increases in the value of investments that have quoted market prices or otherwise do not have fixed or determinable payments.

The **Balance Sheet** shows the value of the assets and liabilities recognised by the council as at the Balance Sheet date.

Benefits Payable during Employment covers:

- short term employee benefits, such as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave and non-monetary benefits for current employees;
- benefits earned by current employees but not expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the year end in which the employees render the related service, such as long service leave and long term disability benefits.

A **Budget** expresses the council's service delivery plans and capital investment programmes in monetary terms.

The **Capital Adjustment Account (CAA)** 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 **Capital Financing Requirement** is the capital investment funded from borrowing which has yet to be repaid.

The **Capital Grants Unapplied Account (reserve)** holds the grants and contributions received towards capital projects for which the council has met the conditions that would otherwise require repayment of the monies but which have yet to be applied to meet expenditure. The reserve also holds grants and contributions received towards capital projects for which there are no conditions for repayment attached where expenditure has yet to be incurred.

Capital Investment is expenditure on the acquisition of an asset that will be used to provide services beyond the financial year or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing non-current asset.

The **Capital Investment Programme** is a financial summary of the capital projects that the council intends to carry out over a specified period of time.

A **Capital Receipt** is the proceeds from the sale of an asset.

The **Capital Receipts Reserve** holds the proceeds from the disposal of non-current assets, which are restricted by statute from being used other than to fund new capital investment or to be set aside to finance historical capital investment.

Capital Reserves represent resources earmarked to fund capital schemes as part of the council's capital investment strategy.

The **Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme** obligates the council to purchase and surrender CRC allowances in relation to carbon dioxide emissions.

The **Carrying Amount** is the amount at which an asset is recognised on the Balance Sheet after deducting any accumulated depreciation (or accumulated amortisation) and accumulated impairment losses.

Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits.

Cash Equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Cash Flows are the inflows and outflows of cash and cash equivalents.

The **Cash Flow Statement** shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the council during the financial year.

The **Collection Fund** is a separate fund recording the expenditure and income relating to council tax and non-domestic rates.

The **Collection Fund Adjustment Account** is used specifically to manage the accounting processes for council tax and non-domestic rates.

The **Commencement of the Lease Term** is the date from which the lessee is entitled to exercise its right to use the leased asset. It is the date of initial recognition of the lease (i.e. the recognition of the assets, liabilities, income or expenses resulting from the lease).

Community Assets are assets that the council intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life and that may have restrictions on their disposal.

The **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)** shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation.

A **Contingent Asset** is a possible asset that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the council.

A **Contingent Liability** is a possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the council, or a present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognised because:

- it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation; or
- the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Cost is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire an asset at the time of acquisition or construction.

Council Tax is the main source of local taxation to local authorities and is levied on households within its area by the billing authority.

Costs to Sell are the incremental costs directly attributable to the disposal of an asset, excluding finance costs.

Creditors are financial liabilities arising from the contractual obligation to pay cash in the future for goods or services or other benefits that have been received or supplied and have been invoiced or formally agreed with the supplier.

A **Current Asset** is an asset that is intended to be sold within the normal operating cycle; the asset is held primarily for the purpose of trading or the council expects to realise the asset within 12 months after the reporting date.

A **Current Liability** is an amount which will become payable or could be called in within the next financial year; examples are creditors and bank overdraft.

Current Replacement Cost is the cost the council would incur to acquire the asset on the reporting date.

Current Service Cost (Pensions) is the increase in the present value of a defined benefit obligation resulting from employee service in the current period.

Current Value is the amount that reflects the economic environment prevailing for the service or function the asset is supporting.

Curtailment (Pensions) occurs when the council significantly reduces the number of employees covered by the plan.

Customer and Client Receipts include rental income and income from fees and charges.

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.

The **Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve** holds the gains recognised on the disposal of non-current assets but for which cash settlement has yet to take place.

A **Deferred Liability** is a sum of money that is either not payable until some point after the next financial year or is paid off over a number of years.

The **Deficit (Pensions)** is the present value of the defined benefit obligation less the fair value of scheme assets.

A **Defined Benefit Scheme** is a pension scheme where the benefits to employees are based on their salaries, and where employers' contributions have to be adjusted to match estimates of future liabilities.

A **Defined Contribution Scheme** is a post-employment benefit scheme where the employer's liability is restricted to the amount that they contribute.

Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) is a method of valuation which provides the current cost of replacing an asset with its modern equivalent asset less deductions for all physical deterioration and all relevant forms of obsolescence and optimisation.

Depreciation is a method of allocating the cost of a tangible asset over its useful life.

The **Discount Rate (Pensions)** is the rate used to discount post-employment benefit obligations and is determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds.

The **Effective Interest Rate** is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

Employee Benefits are all forms of consideration given by the council in exchange for service rendered by employees or for the termination of employment.

Employee Expenses include total salaries, employers' national insurance contributions, employers' pension contributions and indirect employee expenses including redundancy costs and pension accounting adjustments.

Estimation Techniques are the methods adopted to arrive at estimated monetary amounts, corresponding to the measurement bases selected, for assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes to reserves.

Events after the Reporting Period are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the financial year and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Exceptional Items are material items which derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the council and which need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their size or incidence to give fair presentation of the financial statements.

Existing Use Value is the estimated amount for which an asset or liability should exchange, on the valuation date, between a willing buyer and a willing seller in an arm's length transaction after proper marketing and where the parties had acted knowledgeably, prudently and without compulsion, assuming that the buyer is granted vacant possession of all parts of the asset required by the business, and disregarding potential alternative uses and any other characteristics of the asset that would cause its market value to differ from that needed to replace the remaining service potential at least cost.

Existing Use Value – Social Housing (EUV-SH) is the estimated amount for which a property should exchange, on the date of valuation, between a willing buyer and a willing seller, in an arms length transaction, after proper marketing wherein the parties had each acted knowledgeably, prudently and without compulsion, subject to the following further assumptions that:

- the property will continue to be let by a body and used for social housing;
- at the valuation date, any regulatory body, in applying its criteria for approval, would not unreasonably fetter the vendor's ability to dispose of the property to organisations intending to manage their housing stock in accordance with that regulatory body's requirements;
- properties temporarily vacant pending reletting should be valued, if there is a letting demand, on the basis that the prospective purchaser intends to relet them, rather than with vacant possession;
- any subsequent sale would be subject to all of the above assumptions.

Exit Packages are departure costs paid to former employees who negotiate a package as part of their terms of leaving the council.

The **Expenditure and Funding Analysis** shows how the available funding (ie government grants, rents, council tax and non-domestic rates) has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the service directorates.

Expenses are decreases in economic benefits or service potential during the year in the form of outflows or consumption of assets or increases of liabilities that result in decreases in reserves.

Experience Adjustments (Pensions) are the effects of differences between the previous actuarial assumptions and what has actually occurred.

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.

Fees, Charges and Other Service Income includes customer and client receipts including, for example rents and other fees and charges and grants received from non-government bodies and other contributions received by the council.

Fee Expense (Financial Instruments) represents the cost of managing the council's debt and investment portfolios, including internal costs and external brokerage.

Fee Income (Financial Instruments) represents the contribution received from external bodies in respect of the management of that bodies' cash portfolio.

A **Finance Lease** is a lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. Title may or may not eventually be transferred.

A **Financial Asset** is any asset that is:

- cash;

- an equity instrument of another entity;
- a contractual right to receive cash or another financial asset from another entity, or to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially favourable to the entity.

A **Financial Liability** is any liability that is a contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity, or to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavourable to the entity.

A **Financial Instrument** is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity and includes trade payables and other payables, borrowings, bank deposits, trade receivables, loans receivable; other receivables and advances and investments.

The **Financial Instruments Adjustment Account** provides a specific accounting mechanism to reconcile the different rates at which gains and losses are recognised under proper accounting practices for borrowing and investments and are required by statute to be met from the General Fund balance.

Financing Activities are activities that result in changes in the size and composition of the principal received from or repaid to external providers of finance.

The **General Fund** is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of the council are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the council are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise.

The **General Fund Balance** summarises the resources that the council is statutorily empowered to spend on its General Fund services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the council is required to recover) at the year end.

Going Concern defines that the functions of the council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Government Grants are grants made by the Government towards either revenue expenditure or capital investment to support the cost of the provision of the council's services.

Grants and Contributions are assistance in the form of transfers of resources to the council in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the operation of activities.

A **Heritage Asset** is a tangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge or culture.

Historical Cost is the carrying amount of an asset as at 1 April 2007 (i.e. brought forward from 31 March 2007) or at the date of acquisition, whichever date is the later, and adjusted for subsequent depreciation or impairment (if applicable).

The **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)** reflects the statutory obligation of the council to maintain a revenue account for council housing provision in accordance with Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It contains the balance of income and expenditure as defined by the 1989 Act that is available to fund future expenditure in connection with the council's landlord function or (where in deficit) that is required to be recovered from tenants in future financial years.

An **Impairment Loss** is the amount by which the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount.

The **Inception of the Lease** is the earlier of the date of the lease agreement and the date of commitment by the parties to the principal provisions of the lease.

Income is the gross inflow of economic benefits or service potential during the year when those inflows or enhancements of assets or decreases of liabilities result in an increase in reserves.

An **Intangible Asset** is an identifiable non-monetary asset without physical substance (e.g. computer software).

The **Interest Cost (Pensions)** is the expected increase in the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

Interest Income (Pensions) is a component of the return on plan assets, and is determined by multiplying the fair value of the plan assets by the discount rate.

International Accounting Standards (IAS) for the preparation and presentation of financial statements.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) advise the accounting treatment and disclosure requirements of transactions so that the council's accounts present fairly the financial position of the council.

Inventories are assets:

- in the form of materials or supplies to be consumed in the production process;
- in the form of materials or supplies to be consumed or distributed in the rendering of services;
- held for sale or distribution in the ordinary course of operations;
- in the process of production for sale or distribution.

Investing Activities are activities relating to the acquisition and disposal of non-current assets and other investments not included in cash equivalents.

Investment Property is property (land or a building, or part of a building, or both) held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both, rather than for:

- use in the production or supply of goods or services or for administrative purposes;
- sale in the ordinary course of operations.

Item 8 Credit and Debit (General) Determination covers the actual charges for capital in the HRA.

A **Lease** is an agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee in return for a payment or series of payments the right to use an asset for an agreed period of time.

The **Lease Term** is the non-cancellable period for which the lessee has contracted to lease the asset together with any further terms for which the lessee has the option to continue to lease the asset, with or without further payments, when at the inception of the lease it is reasonably certain that the lessee will exercise the option.

A **Liability** is a present obligation of the council arising from past events, the settlement of which is expected to result in an outflow from the council of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential.

Lifecycle Payments are the element of the unitary charge which reflects expenditure incurred by the PFI provider in the financial year to enhance, renew and maintain PFI assets.

Loans and Receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market, other than:

- those that the entity intends to sell immediately or in the near term (held for trading); or
- those for which the holder may not recover substantially all of its initial investment, other than because of credit deterioration (available for sale).

Long Term Borrowing is loans raised to finance capital investment which have to be repaid over a period in excess of 12 months from the year end.

The **Major Repairs Reserve** holds an element of the capital resources required to be used on HRA assets or for capital financing purposes.

Materiality - omissions or misstatements of items are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the decisions or assessments of users made on the basis of the financial statements. Materiality depends on the nature or size of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances. The nature or size of the item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is the minimum amount which must be charged each year in order to provide for the repayment of loans and other amounts borrowed by the council.

The **Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)** shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the council, analysed into usable reserves and other reserves.

The **Net Defined Benefit Liability (Pensions)** is the deficit, adjusted for any effect of limiting a net defined benefit asset to the asset ceiling.

The **Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Pensions)** is the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability that arises from the passage of time.

The **Net Realisable Value** is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of operations less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale, exchange or distribution.

A **Non-Current Asset** is an asset that does not meet the definition of a current asset and has a long term benefit to the council.

Non Domestic Rates (NDR) is a scheme for collecting contributions from businesses towards the cost of local government services.

Non Ring Fenced Government Grants are revenue grants distributed by central government that do not relate to the performance of a specific service.

An **Operating Lease** is a type of lease (e.g. computer equipment, office equipment, furniture) where the balance of risks and rewards of holding the asset remains with the lessor.

Operating Activities are the activities of the council that are not investing or financing activities.

Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure comprises items of expense and income (including reclassification adjustments) that are not recognised in the surplus or deficit on the provision of services as required or permitted by the Code. Examples include changes in revaluation surplus; actuarial gains and losses on defined benefit schemes; and gains and losses on remeasuring available for sale financial assets.

Other Service Expenses include:

- Premises expenses including all running costs, expenditure on goods, services and contractors directly related to property and land;

- Transport expenses including all costs connected with the provision, hire or use of transport for employees and clients;
- Supplies and services covering all direct supplies and services expenditure incurred;
- Third party payments including, for example, payments to third party providers of local authority services (e.g. payments to government departments, voluntary associations, private contractors and other agencies);
- Transfer payments including, for example, education awards paid to school pupils and students in further education, housing benefits;
- Capital financing costs including costs of unsupported borrowing.

Owner Occupied Property is property held (by the owner or by the lessee under a finance lease) for use in the delivery of services or production of goods or for administrative purposes.

The **Past Service Cost (Pensions)** is the change in the present value of the defined benefit obligation for employee service in prior periods, resulting from a plan amendment (the introduction of, or withdrawal of, or changes to, a defined benefit scheme) or a curtailment (a significant reduction by the council in the number of employees covered by a scheme).

The **Pension Reserve** is a specific accounting mechanism used to reconcile the payments made for the year to various statutory pension schemes in accordance with those schemes' requirements and the net charge in the council's recognised liability under IAS 19 "*Employee Benefits*", for the same period.

Pooled Budgets are formal arrangements under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006, between local authorities and primary care trusts, to share the costs of various services which overlap in terms of the responsibilities of the various authorities. One council hosts the entire activity for the partnership, and the other parties contribute towards the total costs on an agreed basis.

Post-Employment Benefits are employee benefits (other than termination benefits and short term employee benefits) that are payable after the completion of employment.

Post-Employment Benefit Plans (Schemes) are formal (or informal) arrangements under which the council provides post-employment benefits for one or more employees.

A **Precept** is a levy made by precepting authorities on billing authorities, requiring the latter to collect income from council taxpayers on their behalf, such as the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and the East Sussex Fire Authority.

The **Present Value of a Defined Benefit Obligation (Pension)** is the present value, without deducting any plan assets, of expected future payments required to settle the obligation resulting from employee service in the current and prior periods.

A **Private Finance Initiative (PFI)** is a long term contractual public private partnership, under which the private sector takes on the risks associated with the delivery of public services in exchange for payments tied to agreed standards of performance.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) are tangible assets (i.e. assets with physical substance) that are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and which are expected to be used during more than one period.

A **Provision** is a liability of uncertain timing or amount.

The **Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)** is a central government agency which provides loans for one year and above to local authorities at interest rates only slightly higher than those at which the Government itself can borrow.

A **Qualified Valuer** is a person conducting the valuations who holds a recognised and relevant professional qualification and having sufficient current local and national knowledge of the particular market, and the skills and understanding to undertake the valuation competently.

The **Recoverable Amount (in respect of assets)** is the higher of fair value less costs to sell (i.e. not selling price) and its value in use.

Related Party - parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions or if the related party entity and another entity are subject to common control.

A **Related Party Transaction** is a transfer of resources or obligations between related parties, regardless of whether a price is charged.

Reserves are the residual interest in the assets of the council after deducting all its liabilities.

The **Residual Value** is the estimated amount that the council would currently obtain from the disposal of an asset, after deducting the estimated costs of disposal, if the asset was already of the age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

The **Revaluation Reserve** contains the unrealised revaluation gains arising from increases in the value of its revalued non-current assets (excluding investment property which is posted to the CAA).

Revenue is the gross inflow of economic benefits or service potential during the year when those inflows result in an increase in the council's net assets.

Revenue Expenditure is the day to day running costs relating to the financial year irrespective of whether or not the amounts due have been paid. Examples are salaries, wages, materials, supplies and services.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute is revenue expenditure incurred that may be funded from capital resources under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of non-current assets.

The **Return on Scheme Assets (Pensions)** is dividends and other income derived from the plan assets, together with realised and unrealised gains or losses on the plan assets less any costs of managing plan assets and any tax payable by the plan itself, other than tax included in the actuarial assumptions used to measure the present value of the defined benefit obligation.

Ring Fenced Government Grants are revenue grants distributed by central government that relate to a specific service.

A **Scheme Amendment (Pensions)** occurs when the council introduces, or withdraws a defined benefit scheme or changes the benefits payable under an existing defined benefit scheme.

Scheme Assets (Pensions) comprise assets held by a long term employee benefit scheme.

Scheme Liabilities (Pensions) comprise liabilities in relation to a long term employee benefit scheme.

Settlements (Pensions) is a transaction that eliminates all further legal or constructive obligations for part or all of the benefits provided under a defined benefit plan, other than a payment of benefits to, or on behalf of, employees that is set out in the terms of the plan and included in the actuarial assumptions.

Short Term Borrowing is a sum of money borrowed for a period of less than one year.

Short Term Paid Absences are periods during which an employee does not provide services to the council, but benefits continue to be paid.

Short Term Employee Benefits are employee benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the year end in which the employees render the related service.

Surplus Assets are those assets that are surplus to service needs but do not meet the definition of either an investment property or assets held for sale.

The **Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services** is the total of income less expenses, excluding the components of other comprehensive income and expenditure.

A **Tangible Asset** is an asset that has a physical form.

Termination Benefits are employee benefits provided in exchange for the termination of an employee's employment as a result of either the council's decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date, or the council's decision to accept an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment.

The **Third Sector** includes a range of organisations e.g. voluntary and community organisations.

Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure comprises all components of surplus or deficit on the provision of services and of other comprehensive income and expenditure.

Trust Funds are funds administered by the council for such purposes as prizes, charities and specific projects.

The **Unitary Charge** is the amount payable to the PFI contractor, by the council, for the provision of works and services as defined in each PFI contract.

Unsupported Borrowing is borrowing for which no financial support is provided by central government.

Unusable Reserves are those reserves that the council is not able to use to provide services and includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the MiRS as adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations.

Usable Reserves are those reserves that can be used to provide services and / or reduce local taxation, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use.

The **Useful Life** is the period which a non-current asset is expected to be available for use by the council.

Value Added Tax (VAT) is an indirect tax levied on most business transactions and on many goods and some services.



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Subject:	External Audit - Audit Findings Report 2019/20		
Date of Meeting:	27 October 2020		
Report of:	External Auditor (Grant Thornton)		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Nigel Manvell	Tel: 01273 293104
	Email:	nigel.manvell@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	(All Wards);		

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least 5 days in advance of the meeting) were that there were a number of queries in relation to the external audit of the accounts requiring resolution before the audit could be finalised and the Audit Findings Report concluded.

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Audit Findings Report (AFR) summarises the findings of the 2019/20 audit by the council's appointed auditor, Grant Thornton, which is now substantially complete. It includes the key messages arising from the audit of the financial statements and the results of work undertaken to assess the Authority's arrangements to secure value for money in its use of its resources.
- 1.2 The report indicates the anticipated opinion on the council's financial statements and value for money conclusion and advises the committee of any outstanding audit queries.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Audit & Standards Committee note the findings set out in the 2019/20 Audit Findings Report, asks questions of the auditor as necessary and raises any other matters relevant to the audit of the financial statements.

3 FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 3.1 The Audit Findings Report at Appendix 1 sets out the financial implications of the auditor's findings and confirms the audit fees for the year.

Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld

Date: 16/10/2020

Legal Implications:

- 3.2 The legal framework for approving the council's statement of accounts is provided by regulation 9 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (statutory instrument 2015/234).

- 3.3 The Regulations permit either Full Council or a committee of the council to approve the statement of accounts. At Brighton & Hove Council, the Audit & Standards Committee is the designated committee for this purpose. Consideration of the auditor's findings as set out in their report at Appendix 1 is commensurate with this duty.

Lawyer Consulted: Liz Woodley

Date: 19/10/20

Equalities Implications:

- 3.4 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 3.5 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Grant Thornton Audit Findings Report 2019/20

Background Documents

1. Audited Statement of Accounts 2019/20 (available on the council's web site).



The Audit Findings for Brighton and Hove City Council

Year ended 31 March 2020

27 October 2020



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The contents of this report relate only to those matters which came to our attention during the conduct of our normal audit procedures which are designed for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements. Our audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify control weaknesses, we will report these to you. In consequence, our work cannot be relied upon to disclose all defalcations or other irregularities, or to include all possible improvements in internal control that a more extensive special examination might identify. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.

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Headlines

This table summarises the key findings and other matters arising from the statutory audit of Brighton and Hove City Council ('the Council') and the preparation of the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 for the Audit and Standards Committee (those charged with governance).

Covid-19	<p>The outbreak of the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on the normal operations of the Council.</p> <p>Although the income and expenditure impacts in 2019/20 were not significant and are likely to be felt in 2020/21, the pandemic has presented the Council with significant front-line challenges such as administration of grants to businesses, providing adequate support and accommodation to the homeless and vulnerable and closure of schools among many others.</p> <p>The pandemic has also impacted on the Finance Team who like many other employees have had to adapt to working from home at short notice. Working from home was not the norm prior to Covid-19 and it did present some challenges with system access and capacity for staff.</p> <p>Authorities are still required to prepare financial statements in accordance with the relevant accounting standards and the CIPFA Code of Practice, albeit to an extended deadline for the preparation of the financial statements up to 31 August 2020 and the date for audited financials statements to 30 November 2020.</p>	<p>We updated our audit risk assessment to consider the impact of the pandemic on our audit and issued an audit plan addendum on 23 July 2020. In that addendum we reported an additional financial statement risk in respect of Covid -19 and highlighted the impact on our VfM approach. Further detail is set out on page 7.</p> <p>Restrictions for non-essential travel and home working during the pandemic have meant both Authority and audit teams have had to perform the audit entirely remotely. This has required the audit team to use regular video calls to ensure that both teams kept in close contact as we would when carrying out fieldwork on site. The audit team have also had to consider alternative approaches to obtaining audit evidence to corroborate transactions, estimates and judgements in the financial statements. Remote working also requires our teams to carry out additional tests to corroborate the completeness and accuracy of information produced by the Council which we would otherwise have performed in person on site (for example viewing a report being run from Council systems by the officer).</p> <p>The above has proved more time consuming than carrying out an audit under normal circumstances. There have been challenges for both the audit team and the Council's team to conduct the audit virtually during the pandemic with additional complexity that both teams had to face and address within a short space of time. However, we have worked together to overcome these issues to meet a tight audit timeframe.</p> <p>We started the audit in July 2020. Draft financial statements were provided to the audit team on the 22nd July 2020. An updated set of statements were subsequently provided on 13th August 2020. There were some key working papers that we required for our audit work to progress efficiently which were not available at the start of the audit, and some audit sample responses took some time to turn around due to internal capacity issues. These issues did delay audit progress at the start of the agreed timeframe.</p>
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Headlines (continued)

Financial Statements

Under International Standards of Audit (UK) (ISAs) and the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to report whether, in our opinion, the Council's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council and Council's income and expenditure for the year; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting and prepared in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We are also required to report whether other information published together with the audited financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), Narrative Report, is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

Our audit work was completed on remotely during July–October 2020. Our findings are summarised on pages 7 to 15. We have not identified any adjustments to the financial statements that have resulted in adjustment to the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement stated in the draft accounts. There were some changes to disclosure and classifications identified during the audit, and we identified some non-adjusting audit errors which were not material to the financial statements and management has decided not to adjust these in the accounts presented for members on 27 October. We are still working through the valuation of property, plant and equipment and in particular we are in discussion with the Council's valuer about council house dwelling valuation. Subject to the outcome of this work (as noted in the first bullet point below), this has the potential to result in a material adjustment to the balance sheet.

Audit adjustments are detailed in Appendix C. We have also raised recommendations for management as a result of our audit work in Appendix A. Our follow up of recommendations from the prior year's audit are detailed in Appendix B.

Our work is substantially complete, subject to the following outstanding matters:

- Receipt and consideration of all responses to our queries to the professional valuer around movements to the valuation of land and buildings, including council dwellings. We have challenged the applications of a Nil% indices valuation applied to council dwellings which were not revalued in year by the Beacon sample methodology and we are currently in discussion with the valuer and finance team to gain further evidence and assurance as to how dwellings are held at a materially correctly stated current value;
- Completion of testing of a sample of PPE valuation movements to the evidence of the direct inputs into those valuations;
- Resolving audit queries we have made to officers regarding prior period errors in the Financial Instruments disclosure note which have been corrected in the 2019/20 accounts (see page 11 Other Issues for further information);
- Closing minor queries coming out of our audit sample testing;
- obtaining a letter from the East Sussex Pension Fund auditor from which we take assurance over the systems and controls that take place at the Pension Fund and which could impact the pension liability;
- Review of the updated Note 3 disclosure of estimation uncertainty for the material uncertainty relating to the pension fund net liability when this is available.
- Completion of review of cash flow forecasts and budgetary documents to support the going concern disclosures in the accounts;

Headlines (continued)

Financial Statements (continued)

- Completion of our work in agreeing certain non-material disclosures and agreeing disclosures relating to Covid-19 are sufficient;
- Finalising quality reviews of the audit file which could potentially raise additional audit queries;
- Receipt of the signed management representation letter; and
- Review of the final amended set of financial statements.

We have concluded that the other information to be published with the financial statements is consistent with our knowledge of the Council.

Completion of our work closing the audit queries the Financial Instruments could lead to changes to accounts disclosures, but would be unlikely to lead to any adjustment to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or Balance Sheet.

Subject to the satisfactory resolution of the items noted above, our anticipated audit report opinion will be unqualified but will include an 'Emphasis of Matter' paragraph highlighting the 'valuation material uncertainties' in relation to property, plant and equipment valuation and property investments held by the pension fund. This is described in more detail at page 7.

Value for Money arrangements

Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to report if, in our opinion, the Council has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources ('the value for money (VFM) conclusion').

We have completed our risk based review of the Council's value for money arrangements. We have concluded that Brighton and Hove City Council has proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

We updated our VFM risk assessment to document our understanding of your arrangements to ensure critical business continuity in the current environment. We did not identify any new VFM risks in relation to Covid-19.

We therefore anticipate issuing an unqualified value for money conclusion, as detailed in Appendix E. Our findings are summarised on pages 18 to 25.

Statutory duties

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ('the Act') also requires us to:

- report to you if we have applied any of the additional powers and duties ascribed to us under the Act; and
- To certify the closure of the audit.

We have not exercised any of our additional statutory powers or duties.

We have completed the majority of work under the Code, but are unable to issue our completion certificate until we complete the Whole of Government accounts additional work as prescribed by the National Audit Office (NAO). The instructions for this Whole of Government accounts work has yet to be issued by the NAO.

Local residents have written to us seeking to object to the 2019/20 statement of accounts, requesting that the auditor makes a report in the public interest. We have not yet had the opportunity to consider the matters brought to our attention.

Audit approach

Overview of the scope of our audit

This Audit Findings Report presents the observations arising from the audit that are significant to the responsibility of the Audit and Standards Committee (as those charged with governance) to oversee the financial reporting process, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260 and the Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'). Its contents have been discussed with management.

As auditor we are responsible for performing the audit, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and the Code, which is directed towards forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements.

Audit approach

Our audit approach was based on a thorough understanding of the Council's business and is risk based, and in particular included:

- An evaluation of the Council's internal controls environment, including its IT systems and controls;
- Substantive testing on significant transactions and material account balances, including the procedures outlined in this report in relation to the key audit risks.

Conclusion

We have substantially completed our audit of your financial statements and subject to outstanding queries being resolved, we anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion in November 2020, as detailed in Appendix E. These outstanding items are reported on Page 4.

Our approach to materiality

The concept of materiality is fundamental to the preparation of the financial statements and the audit process and applies not only to the monetary misstatements but also to disclosure requirements and adherence to acceptable accounting practice and applicable law.

Materiality levels remain the same as reported in our audit plan and plan addendum.

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	Council Amount (£)	Qualitative factors considered
Materiality for the financial statements	£12,338k	We have determined financial statement materiality based on a proportion of the gross expenditure of the Council for the financial year.
Performance materiality	£9,253k	The maximum amount of misstatement the audit team could accept in an individual account or group of related accounts. This is less than materiality due to "aggregation risk".
Trivial matters	£617k	We are obliged to report uncorrected omissions or misstatements other than those which are 'clearly trivial' to those charged with governance
Materiality for related party transactions and senior officer remuneration	£50k	Our assessment of what users would consider to be material with respect to these disclosure areas.
Materiality for cash and cash equivalents	£500k	Our assessment of what users would consider to be material with respect to cash

Significant audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	Auditor commentary
Covid– 19	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> worked with management to understand the implications the response to the Covid-19 pandemic had on the organisation's ability to prepare the financial statements and update financial forecasts and assessed the implications for our materiality calculations. No changes were made to materiality levels previously reported. The completed draft financial statements were provided on 13th August 2020; liaised with other audit suppliers, regulators and government departments to co-ordinate practical cross-sector responses to issues as and when they arose. Examples include the material uncertainty disclosed by the Council's property valuation expert; evaluated the adequacy of the disclosures in the financial statements that arose in light of the Covid-19 pandemic; evaluated whether sufficient audit evidence could be obtained through remote technology; evaluated whether sufficient audit evidence could be obtained to corroborate significant management estimates such as assets and the pension fund liability valuations; evaluated management's assumptions that underpin the revised financial forecasts and the impact on management's going concern assessment; discussed with management the implications for our audit report where we have been unable to obtain sufficient audit evidence; engaged the use of auditor experts for higher risk (based on income and expenditure levels) councils. <p>As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the property market remains very uncertain. As a result of this, material uncertainties have been declared by the professional valuer relating to land and buildings, and also by an investment manager for pooled property investments underlying the net pension liability.</p> <p>We have discussed with management the disclosure of the uncertainty in the PPE valuation in the sources of estimation uncertainty note in the accounts. In the draft accounts presented for audit the PPE valuation material uncertainty was not disclosed with sufficient clarity. It was also not accompanied by supporting information to allow users to understand the sensitivity of the estimate to key variables. We discussed this with the finance team who agreed to update Note 3 Critical Judgements and Assumptions Made to include clearer wording around the material uncertainty which was in line with the professional valuation report, and also to include information around the sensitivity of the estimate. We have included a 'Emphasis of Matter' in our audit opinion to ensure that users of the accounts are aware of the material uncertainty. This has been included in our schedule of disclosure changes resulting from the audit in Appendix C.</p> <p>The material uncertainty relating to the pooled property investment underlying the net pension liability will be disclosed by the finance team in the accounts Note 3 Critical Judgements and Assumptions Made. We will include a emphasis of matter in our audit opinion to ensure that users of the accounts are aware of the material uncertainty. Note we have not included this in our schedule of disclosure changes resulting from the audit as this change came about as a result of information provided by the Pension Fund administrator. As at the date of issuing this report the Authority is awaiting information from the Pension Fund to inform this disclosure, and therefore we have included review of the reasonableness of this disclosure as outstanding work on page 3.</p> <p>See appendix C for changes to disclosures agreed during the audit.</p> <p>Subject to completion of the work on page 3, our work against this risk has not raised further issues.</p>

Significant audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Income from fees, charges and other service income

We have rebutted this presumed risk for revenue streams that are derived from Council Tax, Business Rates and Grants on the basis that they are income streams primarily derived from grants or formula based income from central government and tax payers and that opportunities to manipulate the recognition of these income streams is very limited.

Auditor commentary

For the material income streams where we have not rebutted the presumed risk of revenue recognition, we have:

- evaluated your accounting policy for recognition of income for appropriateness and compliance with LG Code of Practice;
- updated our understanding of your system for accounting for income and evaluate the design of the associated controls;
- reviewed and sample tested income to supporting evidence corroborating the occurrence of the service/good delivered and the accuracy of the amount recognised; and
- evaluated and challenged significant estimates and the judgments made by management in the recognition of income.

Subject to satisfactory resolution of matters identified on page 3, our audit work has not identified any further issues in respect of revenue recognition.

Management override of controls

We have:

- evaluated the design effectiveness of management controls over journals;
- analysed the journals listing and determined the criteria for selecting high risk unusual journals;
- tested unusual journals recorded during the year and as part of accounts production for appropriateness and corroboration;
- gained an understanding of the accounting estimates and critical judgements made by management and considered their reasonableness with regard to corroborative evidence;
- evaluated the rationale for any changes in accounting policies, estimates or significant unusual transactions.

Our audit work has not identified any further issues in respect of management override of controls.

Significant audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	Auditor commentary
Valuation of land and buildings	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluated management's processes and assumptions for the calculation of the estimate, the instructions issued to valuation experts and the scope of their work; evaluated the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation expert; written to the valuer to confirm the basis on which the valuation was carried out to ensure that the requirements of the Code are met and discuss this basis where there are any departures from the Code; challenged the information and assumptions used by the valuer to assess completeness and consistency with our understanding; assessed how management have challenged the valuations produced internally, by professional valuers and by independent property managing consultants to assure themselves that these represent the materially correct current value; tested revaluations made during the year to see if they had been input correctly into the Authority's asset register; evaluated the assumptions made by management for any assets not revalued during the year and how management has satisfied themselves that these are not materially different to current value; engaged an auditor's expert professional valuer to supplement our own auditor knowledge and expertise with qualified valuer expert insight and challenge into the valuation process, methods and assumptions used. <p>On all material areas of land and buildings which were revalued during the year we have reviewed and challenged the valuations method, and key assumptions and inputs into the valuation estimate.</p> <p>For Council Dwellings we have reviewed the indexation that has been applied to those dwellings which were not revalued via the beacon rolling basis valuation. The valuer has applied a nil indexation to properties which were not revalued via the Beacons methodology. We have calculated our own point estimate of movements of those properties using alternative indices of property valuation movements in the South-East and this indicated a valuation movement which is materially different to that assessed by the Council's valuer. We have challenged the professional valuer on this and requested a more detailed explanation and corroboratory evidence to support their judgement.</p> <p>We tested revaluations made during the year and the accuracy of the input into the asset register and financial statements. We identified four input errors which understated the valuation of land and buildings by £3,351k. Based on materiality, officers have decided not to adjust this error in the accounts presented to members. We include it as an unadjusted error in Appendix C.</p> <p>Recommendation: We recommend that a further internal check or reconciliation is performed between the valuation reports and fixed asset register prior to posting the revaluation journals (see Appendix A).</p> <p>Subject to satisfactory resolution of matters identified on page 3, our audit work has not identified any further issues in respect of valuation of land and buildings.</p>

Significant audit risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	Auditor commentary
Valuation of pension fund net liability	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• updated our understanding of the processes and controls put in place by management to ensure that the Authority’s pension fund net liability is not materially misstated and evaluated the design of the associated controls;• evaluated the instructions issued by management to their management expert (an actuary) for this estimate and the scope of the actuary’s work;• assessed the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the actuary who carried out the Authority’s pension fund valuation;• assessed the accuracy and completeness of the information provided by the Authority to the actuary to estimate the liability;• tested the consistency of the pension fund asset and liability and disclosures in the notes to the core financial statements with the actuarial report from the actuary; and• undertaken procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made by using an auditor’s expert. <p>We have provided information about our detailed review of the estimation process in the key judgement and estimates section.</p> <p>We report our commentary on sources of estimation uncertainty stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic impacts and their disclosure in the accounts at page 7, the Covid-19 audit risk.</p> <p>In 2018 the Court of Appeal ruled there was age discrimination in the judges and firefighters pension schemes where there was transitional protections given to scheme members – this also impacted Local Government Pension Schemes. Following the McCloud judgment the cases were referred back to Employment Tribunals for remedy. The tribunal issued an interim declaration providing that claimants who were active members on 31 March 2012 are entitled to be treated as having met the conditions for full transitional protection. In July 2020, the government released a consultation on applying the remedy, and this is the next phase of the Government’s response to address this discrimination. From an accounting perspective, we concluded that the consultation is an event after the reporting period which provides an indication of possible remedy. However, as there remain a number of uncertainties before this is implemented, we do not regard publication of the consultation to be an adjusting event. It may be some time before the outcome of the consultation is known, and an adjusting event crystallises, but management should continue to keep the development of the pension schemes under review. The accounts presented to members, correctly, do not reflect the impact of the government’s remedy consultation.</p> <p>At the time of writing this report, audit work to confirm the application of controls to ensure the validity and accuracy of membership data; contributions data and benefits data sent to the actuary by the pension fund and the fund assets valuation in the pension fund financial statements is still in progress. We gain assurance over this by obtaining a letter from the East Sussex Pension Fund auditor from which we take assurance over the systems and controls that take place at the Pension Fund and which could impact the pension liability.</p> <p>Subject to satisfactory resolution of matters identified on page 3, our audit work has not identified any further issues in respect of valuation of the net liability.</p>

Significant findings – other issues

This section provides commentary on new issues and risks which were identified during the course of the audit that were not previously communicated in the Audit Plan and a summary of any significant control deficiencies identified during the year.

Issue	Commentary	Auditor view
Financial Instruments – Prior period error		
The finance team have picked up 2 material prior period errors in the presentation and disclosure of the Financial Instruments note. The finance team made corrections for these errors in the comparatives for the 2019/20 accounts.	The accounts note headings and commentary in the draft accounts did not state that the prior year comparatives had been restated, or give any commentary on the nature of the change and the impact on financial statement lines which would allow the user of the accounts to understand the changes to the note.	<p>International Accounting Standards state that where there is a prior period restatement arising from an error, the disclosures should include an explanation of the nature of the change and the amount of the correction for each financial statement line item affected including the correction at the beginning of the earliest prior period presented.</p> <p>This was discussed with management and it was agreed to update the disclosures to comply with the Code.</p> <p>We requested further working papers and evidence to support the accuracy of the changes to the comparatives. We have detailed management’s changes to the comparatives in Appendix C.</p> <p>As stated on page 3, at the date of issuing this report we are still completing work to gain assurance over the material accuracy of the restated comparatives.</p> <p>Recommendation : Where the Authority does need to make material prior period corrections to Notes or primary statements, these should be supported by robust working papers and be counter-reviewed by another member of the finance team to check the accuracy and the trail from the prior year disclosure to the corrected amounts (Appendix A).</p>
PFI Accounting		
We carried out testing on the PFI models to gain assurance over the updating of the models during the year to produce materially correct accounting notes.	We identified some errors in disclosures where the Schools PFI model underlying workings had not been correctly updated to produce the disclosures of future liabilities. This has resulted in a £2.7m understatement of future payments in Note 17.	<p>We have included this as an unadjusted misstatement in Appendix C as the amount is not material.</p> <p>Recommendation : Management should ensure that checks are put in place around the updating of PFI models in line with PFI accounting concepts (Appendix A).</p>

Significant findings – key estimates and judgements

Accounting area	Summary of management's policy	Auditor commentary	Assessment
Land and Buildings – Council Housing - £885m	<p>The Council owns 11,577 dwellings and is required to revalue these properties in accordance with DCLG's Stock Valuation for Resource Accounting guidance. The guidance requires the use of beacon methodology, in which a detailed valuation of representative property types is then applied to similar properties. The Council engaged a professional valuer to complete the valuation of these properties. The year end valuation of Council Housing was £885m, a net decrease of £12m from 2018/19 (£873m).</p>	<p>We assessed the work of management's expert, in particular the method applied to confirm that it aligned to DCLG Stock Valuation for Resource Accounting guidance.</p> <p>We reviewed the process for the selection of beacons to confirm this was reasonable to ensure representative dwellings would be selected for full inspection as part of the beacons methodology.</p> <p>We reviewed the completeness and accuracy of the underlying information used to determine the estimate.</p> <p>We tested a sample of beacons revalued by comparing the valuation to expectations as set by the value of similar properties for sale in the local area and by property indices provided by our auditor's expert.</p> <p>Where the professional valuer had applied a desktop indexation to groups of dwellings which had not been selected for beacon valuation, we have reviewed and challenged the reasonableness of the index applied through discussion with the valuer to understand the assumptions made to conclude this index was applicable. We also used our own auditor valuer to gain expert assistance in reviewing the reasonableness of this index.</p> <p>We were satisfied that the beacons methodology was applied correctly by the authority and the valuer. The valuation method had not changed from previous years. Our sample testing of beacons showed that the selection of properties for full inspection was reasonable, and that the valuation of selected beacons was in line with our expectations.</p> <p>As at the date of this report, and as described on page 9, we are still completing our work in challenging the reasonableness of the judgement applied by the Council's valuer in respect of the valuation of council houses not part of the detailed beacon valuation made in year.</p>	<p>Work outstanding to conclude the process and assumptions are reasonable</p>

- Assessment**
- We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
 - We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
 - We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
 - We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

Significant findings – key estimates and judgements

Accounting area	Summary of management's policy	Auditor commentary	Assessment
Land and Buildings – Other - £729m	<p>Other land and buildings comprises £473.4m of specialised assets such as schools and libraries, which are required to be valued at depreciated replacement cost (DRC) at year end, reflecting the cost of a modern equivalent asset necessary to deliver the same service provision. The remainder of other land and buildings (£254.9m) are not specialised in nature and are required to be valued at existing use in value (EUV) at year end. The Council engaged several different valuers to complete the valuation of properties, some at 1 April 2019 and some at 31 March 2020 on a five yearly cyclical basis. 57% of OLB assets or £420.6m were revalued during 2019/20.</p> <p>The Council produced an impairment statement and market review, where no material impairments were noted in 2019/20.</p> <p>The Council also produced working papers showing the estimated movement for assets not valued in 2019/20 and those assets revalued at 1 April 2019 were not materially misstated as at 31 March 2020. Management assessed that these assets could be £8m greater than their carrying value in the balance sheet as at 31 March 2020.</p> <p>The total year end valuation of Other Land and Buildings was £729.3m, a net increase of £5.8m from 2018/19 (£723.5m).</p>	<p>We assessed the work of management's experts; in particular, their competency, objectivity and expertise and the valuation methods and assumptions applied. We confirmed their objectivity and expertise.</p> <p>We engaged an auditor's expert to provide us with expertise in assessing the valuation reports of the Council's valuer responsible for valuing £391m of £420.6m of OLB assets revalued in 2019/20. Through this challenge with the key OLB valuers, we were able to conclude that the valuation methodology and assumptions made by the valuers were reasonable and appropriate with reference to the CIPFA Local Government Code 2019/20 and RICS –Valuations Global Standards.</p> <p>We noted no changes to the valuation method or departures from the RICS code for all valuers. As a result of one of our challenges to Montagu Evans, the valuer issued an updated valuation report noting the limitation of scope in-so-far that a small portion of the portfolio had been valued on the basis of restricted information.</p> <p>We reviewed the completeness and accuracy of the underlying information used to determine the estimate. This included: recalculating floor plans areas provided to the valuers in order to determine our own estimate; querying yield percentage rates used by the valuer by requesting comparable market evidence; recalculating the capitalisation of rental income in fair value valuations to ensure accuracy; using transactional data to review for reasonableness of valuer estimate. We have also assessed the appropriateness of the valuation method, the type of inspection performed, the assumptions made in respect of obsolescence and any assumptions made in respect of local factors.</p> <p>Where possible, we have engaged with valuers to understand the valuation process, including the final calculations to satisfy ourselves that the valuers' estimates have a reasonable basis.</p> <p>In our sample testing of OLB assets, which is ongoing at the date of issuing this report, we have so far not identified any significant discrepancies in the valuers' calculations, in the source data or in the accounting treatment of the revaluation.</p> <p>To gain further assurance on the movement of assets not revalued in 2019/20 and assets valued at 1 April 2019, we made our own assessment of the potential value of these assets as at 31 March 2020 comparing against management's assessment and concluded that the potential estimated movement on these assets was not material.</p> <p>Subject to satisfactory resolution of matters identified on page 3, we are satisfied that the key estimates and judgements underlying the revaluation estimate for other land and buildings is reasonable.</p>	

Assessment

- We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
- We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
- We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

Significant findings – key estimates and judgements

Accounting area	Summary of management's policy	Auditor commentary	Assessment																								
Net pension liability – £273m	<p>The Authority recognises and discloses the retirement benefit obligation in accordance with the measurement and presentational requirement of IAS 19 'Employee Benefits'.</p> <p>The Council's actuary disclosed a material uncertainty in the valuation of the Council's pension fund liability at 31 March 2020 as a result of uncertainty around land and building valuations caused by Covid-19. The Council are including disclosures on this issue in Note 3 to the accounts.</p> <p>The net pension liability at 31 March 2020 is £273.0m (2019: £353.8m) comprising the East Sussex County Council Local Government pension scheme. You engage Hymans Robertson LLP to provide actuarial valuations of your assets and liabilities derived from this scheme. A full actuarial valuation is required every three years. The latest full actuarial valuation was completed in 2019. A roll forward approach is used in intervening periods, which utilises key assumptions such as life expectancy, discount rates, salary growth and investment returns. Given the significant value of the net pension fund liability, small changes in assumptions can result in significant valuation movements. There has been a £119.2m net actuarial gain during 2019/20 (2018/20: £65.3m loss).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We assessed management's actuarial expert and concluded that the clearly competent, capable and objective in producing the estimate; We engage an auditor's actuary expert to prescribe further work to challenge the reasonableness of the estimation method used and testing of the information provided to the actuary for completeness and accuracy. We were satisfied that the actuary was provided with complete and accurate information about the workforce, and that the method applied was reasonable. We carried out analytical procedures to conclude on whether the Council's share of LGPS pension assets and liabilities was reasonable. Through these procedures we concluded that the Council's share of assets and liabilities was analytically in line with our expectations. The auditors' expert has provided our team with an indicative ranges for assumptions by which we have challenge the assumptions made by management's expert. As set out below all assumptions were within the expected range and were therefore considered reasonable: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Assumption</th><th>Actuary Value</th><th>PwC range</th><th>Assessment</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Discount rate</td><td>2.3%</td><td>2.3%</td><td>●</td></tr> <tr> <td>Pension increase rate</td><td>1.9%</td><td>1.8-2.0%</td><td>●</td></tr> <tr> <td>Salary growth</td><td>1.9%</td><td>1.90-2.90%</td><td>●</td></tr> <tr> <td>Life expectancy – Males currently aged 45 / 65</td><td>21.6/ 22.5</td><td>20.5-22.2/ 21.6-23.3</td><td>●</td></tr> <tr> <td>Life expectancy – Females currently aged 45 / 65</td><td>25.3/ 23.9</td><td>24.6-26.3/ 22.9-24.6</td><td>●</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have concluded that the disclosure of the estimate in the financial statements was adequate; We agree that it is reasonable to communicate the material uncertainty around the valuation of the net liability, along with sensitivity analysis. 	Assumption	Actuary Value	PwC range	Assessment	Discount rate	2.3%	2.3%	●	Pension increase rate	1.9%	1.8-2.0%	●	Salary growth	1.9%	1.90-2.90%	●	Life expectancy – Males currently aged 45 / 65	21.6/ 22.5	20.5-22.2/ 21.6-23.3	●	Life expectancy – Females currently aged 45 / 65	25.3/ 23.9	24.6-26.3/ 22.9-24.6	●	
Assumption	Actuary Value	PwC range	Assessment																								
Discount rate	2.3%	2.3%	●																								
Pension increase rate	1.9%	1.8-2.0%	●																								
Salary growth	1.9%	1.90-2.90%	●																								
Life expectancy – Males currently aged 45 / 65	21.6/ 22.5	20.5-22.2/ 21.6-23.3	●																								
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Assessment

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- We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

Significant findings – going concern

Our responsibility

As auditors, we are required to “obtain sufficient audit evidence about the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern assumption in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and to conclude whether there is a material uncertainty about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern” (ISA (UK) 570).

Going concern material uncertainty disclosures

It has been a challenging year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Financially, the impact of this is being felt in increasing levels of expenditure and in some revenue generating parts of the Council seeing significant falls in income levels. This is expected given what we know about the key ways Covid-19 is impacting local government: support is being given to local businesses and residents, costs of providing accommodation to the vulnerable and homeless have increased, other health and social care costs have increased as these services become more complicated to deliver and Brighton's parking and attractions which generate fee income have seen many less visitors due to national restrictions on movement.

This has led to a forecast overspend against the budget set in February 2020. We have analysed performance against the budget in more detail in our Value for Money work on pages 18-25 below. At Month 5, the anticipated overspend on the General Fund revenue budget is £7.853m. In the July 2020 update to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) a budget gap of £17.3m has been forecast as a moderate level view scenario. The worst case scenario estimated by the Authority could be a budget gap of £33.85m. Management therefore anticipates that it may take a number of years before the Council's can fund its gross service expenditure without the use of its reserves. Given the sensitive nature of these disclosures, we have identified this as an area of focus in our audit.

Going concern commentary

Management's assessment process

- Detailed budget setting and budget review/approval governance processes are undertaken in February 2020;
- This includes consideration of the adequacy of reserves and the setting of a working balance level considered appropriate;
- Subsequent to the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, at Month 5 the 2020/21 budget has been reforecast to incorporate known impacts, and the MTFS was updated in July to reflect the uncertainty around COVID-19 impact and the level of funding that would be made available from government in the forthcoming funding settlement;
- The Council's cash flow forecast is prepared annually in advance as part of budgetary preparations, and is then maintained on a live basis and reviewed regularly to ensure liquidity to meet obligations as they fall due;
- Balance sheet positions, including the cash position, is forecast over the MTFS for further management assurance over liquidity, taking into account capital investment plans and planned use of reserves, and forecasts investment balances and borrowing needs for planning purposes;

Auditor commentary

Management have prepared the accounts on the going concern basis based on their assessment processes as documented adjacent. The use of the going concern basis is disclosed in Note 1 Accounting Policies. In Note 4 Events After the Reporting Period the Council has considered the financial impacts of lockdown which started on the 26 March 2020 as a non-adjusting event with conditions arising after the reporting date. The Council has also disclosed its conclusion that these events do not indicate that the Council would be unable to continue as a going concern. Further information provided in the Narrative Report discloses the forward looking view of the areas of additional costs and reduced revenue due to Covid-19.

We have reviewed management's process to assess the use of the going concern basis. We reviewed the 2020/21 budget and the reforecast MTFS, including the key assumptions, to confirm that they are reasonable in line with our knowledge of the Council and the sector.

We documented the cash-flow forecasting process, particularly given that there could be a potential cash flow impact from reduced certainty over revenues and grant income during 2020/21 and subsequent years. The Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Chief Finance Officer are both involved in reviewing key forecasting documents before they are reported to the Policy and Resources Committee for scrutiny, discussion and approval.

We were satisfied through our review of these processes that management have in place adequate processes to continually assess the use of the going concern basis, and adequate financial governance and risk scenario planning processes to anticipate and mitigate events which might present a risk to going concern.

We have not identified any material uncertainty over the going concern basis adopted, subject to completion of our review of the items on page 3 (review of cash flow forecasts and budgetary documents).

Other matters for communication

We set out below details of other matters which we, as auditors, are required by auditing standards and the Code to communicate to those charged with governance.

Issue	Auditor commentary
Matters in relation to fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with management and the Audit and Standards Committee. We have not been made aware of any significant or material incidents in the period and no issues have been identified during the course of our audit procedures.
Matters in relation to related parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are not aware of any related parties or related party transactions which have not been disclosed.
Matters in relation to laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have not made us aware of any significant incidences of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations and we have not identified any such incidences from our audit work.
Written representations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A signed letter of representation has been requested.
Confirmation requests from third parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We requested from management permission to send confirmation requests in respect of your bank, investments and loans balances. This permission was granted for all institutions and the requests were sent. All of these requests were returned with positive confirmation, with the exception of confirmations requested in respect of the bank accounts balances and a small number of investments balances. We are continuing to chase these confirmations requests with assistance from your officers and in the meantime will undertake alternative procedures to verify whether these balances are materially fairly stated as at 31 March 2020.
Disclosures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our review found no material omissions in your financial statements. We identified a number of disclosure adjustments which are set out later within this report.
Audit evidence and explanations/significant difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Except for the outstanding items noted on page 3, all information and explanations requested from management was provided.

Other responsibilities under the Code

Issue	Commentary
Other information	<p>We are required to give an opinion on whether the other information published together with the audited financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report), is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.</p> <p>The section of the Narrative Report referring to the impact of Covid-19 was drafted at April 2020 and had not been updated for subsequent updates to the budget and the Medium Term Financial Strategy. This was discussed with the Finance Team and the Statement was updated. No other inconsistencies have been identified. We plan to issue an unmodified opinion in this respect – refer to appendix E.</p>
Matters on which we report by exception	<p>We are required to report on a number of matters by exception in a numbers of areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the Annual Governance Statement does not meet the disclosure requirements set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance or is misleading or inconsistent with the other information of which we are aware from our audit; • If we have applied any of our statutory powers or duties. <p>We have nothing to report on these matters.</p>
Specified procedures for Whole of Government Accounts	<p>We are required to carry out specified procedures (on behalf of the NAO) on the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) consolidation pack under WGA group audit instructions. Note that full guidance from the NAO on the required procedures has yet to be issued.</p> <p>As the Council exceeds the specified group reporting threshold of £500m we examine and report on the consistency of the WGA consolidation pack with the Council's audited financial statements.</p> <p>Note that work is not yet completed and the work is planned to be completed subsequent to the accounts audit and signing of the financial statements. This would mean we cannot issue our completion certificate until this work has been finished.</p>
Certification of the closure of the audit	<p>For the reasons stated above, we are unable to certify the closure of the 2019/20 audit in the audit report.</p> <p>We are also considering matters brought to our attention by local residents.</p> <p>We will issue the completion certificate once we have considered the above point and completed the WGA work.</p>

Value for Money - Introduction

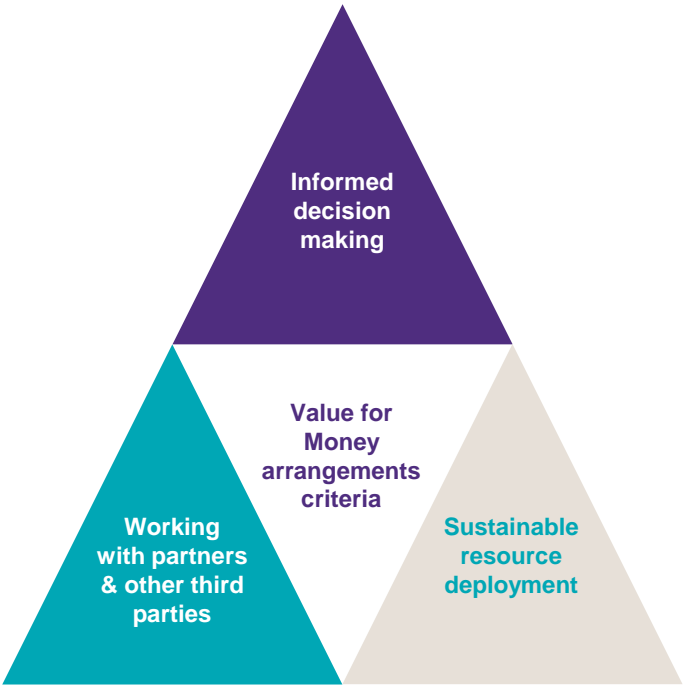
Background to our VFM approach

We are required to satisfy ourselves that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. This is known as the Value for Money (VFM) conclusion.

We are required to carry out sufficient work to satisfy ourselves that proper arrangements are in place at the Council. In carrying out this work, we are required to follow the NAO's Auditor Guidance Note 3 (AGN 03) issued in April 2020. AGN 03 identifies one single criterion for auditors to evaluate:

"In all significant respects, the audited body takes properly informed decisions and deploys resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people."

This is supported by three sub-criteria, as set out below:



Risk assessment

We carried out an initial risk assessment in February 2020 and identified a number of significant risks in respect of specific areas of proper arrangements using the guidance contained in AGN03. We communicated these risks to you in our Audit Plan at the 10 March 2020 meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee.

We have continued our review of relevant documents up to the date of giving our report, and have not identified any further significant risks where we need to perform further work. In our plan Addendum which was issued on the 23 July 2020 subsequent to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic we reported that we had updated our VfM risk assessment to document our understanding of your arrangements to ensure critical business continuity in the current environment. We did not identify any new VfM risks in relation to Covid-19. We were satisfied that our work addressing the Medium Term Financial Sustainability risk would allow us to address the ways that Covid-19 has impacted on the Authority's medium term financial sustainability, how management are forecasting the impacts on future income and expenditure, and the arrangements that have been put in place by management to respond to these impacts

We carried out further work only in respect of the significant risks we identified from our initial and ongoing risk assessment. Where our consideration of the significant risks determined that arrangements were not operating effectively, we have used the examples of proper arrangements from AGN 03 to explain the gaps in proper arrangements that we have reported in our VFM conclusion.

Overall conclusion

Based on the work we performed to address the significant risks, we are satisfied that the Council had proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

The text of our report, which confirms this can be found at Appendix E.

Recommendations for improvement

We discussed findings arising from our work with management and have agreed recommendations for improvement.

Our recommendations and management's response to these can be found on page 25.

Significant matters discussed with management

There were no matters where no other evidence was available or matters of such significance to our conclusion or that we required written representation from management or those charged with governance.

Value for Money – Introduction (continued)

Our work

AGN 03 requires us to disclose our views on significant qualitative aspects of the Council's arrangements for delivering economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

We have focused our work on the significant risk that we identified in the Council's arrangements, which was as follows:



Medium term financial sustainability

The Council has a strong track record of delivering a budget underspend at year-end, despite reduced funding from central government. Financial resilience of the Council will depend on its ability to balance its budget without use of reserves.

At month 9 of 2019-20, the forecast risk position to General fund budget outturn for the year is a £3.4m overspend. The authority has a £0.8m one-off financial risk safety net contingency fund to mitigate this forecast risk, and there are temporary spending and vacancy controls in place to improve the position. It is uncertain at this point whether the authority will manage to breakeven over the remainder of the year. Of the £12.2m savings target for 2019-20, £11.2m is on track, but £1m may not be delivered in year.

The Authority has set a balanced budget for the 2020-21 year, with priority areas of expenditure being sustainability/environmental improvements through carbon reduction, improving access to affordable housing along with reducing homelessness, and building and sharing community wealth. The budget allocates a total of more than £900m, and includes an increase of the council's element of council tax of 3.99% (including a 1.99% adult social care precept element) to allow income to be sustained at a level which supports the Councils Corporate Plan ambitions.

The budget includes a budget gap which the Authority is addressing with savings proposals of £9.7m. Achievement of savings plans is inherently uncertain and risk and this could put overall budget achievement in doubt. With the recent changes to the overall majority in central government, this is likely to lead to ongoing uncertainty in local government funding, and therefore there is currently no reasonable estimate that can be made for the impact of the ongoing Fair Funding Review and potential changes to Business Rate (continued on next page)

retention leading to ongoing medium term budgetary uncertainty going forwards.

Local Government reserves levels are under increased scrutiny with the high level of uncertainty over funding levels. The authority plans to maintain reserves at a level of General Fund working balance at £9m, representing about 3 weeks of Council Tax revenues.

There is a risk that the Council fails to achieve Economy, Efficiency, and Effectiveness in use of its resources in 2019-20 and beyond as a result of financial pressures.

To address this risk we will

review your Medium Term Financial Plan, including the robustness of assumptions, savings plans and revenue generating schemes;

discuss your plans and outcomes with management, as well as reviewing how finances were reported to Councillors;

we will assess how management have assessed the adequacy of reserves levels in the context of risk and future plans;

we will review the savings plans going forward, assessing savings achievements so far and challenging the robustness of underlying plans for savings totals identified in medium term financial planning documents.

We have set out more detail on the risk we identified, the results and conclusions of the work we performed, and the recommendations we have made on pages 20-25.

Value for Money - Summary

Overview

The financial resilience of the Council depends on its ability to balance income and expenditure, without over-reliance on reserves to fund the day to day cost of services. Although the Council had an overspend of £2.821m in 2019/20, it was able to offset this through a number of mitigations, without further depleting general fund reserves.

The Council has a strong track record of delivering savings plans. Over the last eight years, over £142m of savings have been achieved to enable cost and demand increases to be funded, alongside managing reductions in central government funding. In 2019/20, the Council achieved 92% of its ambitious savings target of £12.236m.

The financial position for 2020/21 and the medium term is challenging, in particular due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is presenting all councils with unprecedented pressures.

For Brighton & Hove, this is manifesting in reduced visitor numbers, commercial activity and increased demand-led services requirements. As at Month 5, the Council was forecasting a £7.853m net budget overspend (taking into account the most recent government COVID-19 funding support). Together with a forecast deficit on the Collection Fund of £11.818m, this indicates a total in year overspend of £19.671m, however the Council has additional flexibility over Collection Fund element meaning that it does not directly impact on the current year position.

The Executive Leadership Team is currently reviewing options to manage the in-year position and the Council has agreed a 'financial smoothing' strategy, whereby the overspend will be temporarily met from reserve balances, which will be replaced in future years.

In July 2020 the Council undertook scenario analysis to better understand the implications of COVID-19 and the subsequent economic downturn. The revised medium term projections for the moderate case project a budget gap of £17.3m in 2021/22 building to £43.161m by 2023/24. These deficits will ultimately need to be closed through further savings or additional government support.

VfM Conclusion 2019/20 – Financial Sustainability

The Council has implemented adequate financial governance arrangements including the timely monitoring of progress against budgets and the impact of COVID-19. We note the use of scenario analysis to manage uncertainty, alongside the ongoing consideration of adequacy of reserves and detailed foreword planning to bridge budget gaps. This will be invaluable in navigating the financial pressures arising from the COVID-19 pandemic over the medium term.

The Council successfully delivered a balanced budget in 2019/20 and is on track to manage the projected £7.853m budget overspend in 2020/21 through the use of reserves under the financial smoothing approach.

The Council faces a significant financial challenge in setting a balanced budget for 2021/22 and is in the process of developing a viable mitigation plan. The government's intentions in regard to further financial support as part of the 2021/22 funding settlement are not yet clear and therefore the current focus is on actions that can be taken to address funding pressures within the Council's existing resources.

It will be important that Council members and officers agree a financially sustainable financial plan for 2021/22 recognising that, without significant further support from government, this could require difficult decisions to be made around future service priorities.

Value for Money – 2019/20 and the financial impact of COVID-19

Financial performance 2019/20

The outturn for the Council in 2019/20 was an overspend of £2.821m. The most significant overspend (£4.701m) was in Health & Adult Social Care, which reflects increasing demands from client needs (e.g. additional care home placements and home care packages for Older People). This overspend was somewhat offset by underspends elsewhere in the budget, including £1.047m in Families, Children & Learning and £1.574m in Economy, Environment & Culture. The separate Housing Revenue Account (HRA) produced a small underspend of £0.679m.

The net overspend for 2019/20 has been offset without drawing on the general fund through a number of mitigations, including releasing the risk provision (£0.770m), a collection fund surplus (£0.947m), modernisation refinancing (£0.719m) and a one-off waste PFI surplus (£0.385m).

Of the £12.236m savings target, the Council achieved £11.288m with £0.948m (8%) unachieved. The area of greatest challenge was again in Health & Adult Social Care where £0.633m (15%) of the total approved savings of £4.354m was not achieved.

There was a capital programme underspend of £0.447m (0.5%) against a budget of £95.805m, which indicates an effective capital budgeting process is in place.

We note £300k of costs in relation to COVID-19 were recognised in 2019/20, which have been mitigated by a release of part of the government funding received. Approximately 47% of this additional cost falls within the Health & Adult Social Care directorate.

Despite an overspend at directorate level, the Council has been able to utilise underspends elsewhere in the budget, risk provisions and other one off measures to successfully protect the general fund working balance.

We note that the Health and Adult Social Care directorate incurred a significant £4.7m overspend on the 2019/20 budget, primarily relating to the cost of community care placements together with an element of greater than anticipated demand. The directorate has acknowledged that there is work to do in reducing residential care placements and reviewing policies and procedures around the framework rates as part of the Better Lives, Stronger Communities programme.

Progress against 2020/21 budget and impact of COVID-19

In February 2020, a balanced budget for 2020/21 was approved, which included ambitious savings targets. At M5, an overspend of £7.853m on the General Fund revenue budget is anticipated. This reflects a marked improvement on the forecast deficit in previous months, primarily due to the significant government support received as part of tranche 3 and the income support scheme.

In addition to this, there is a forecast net Collection Fund deficit of £11.818m, in 2020/21 bringing the total forecast deficit in year to £19.671m. Note that there are additional flexibilities that means the accumulated collection fund deficit can be addressed over a number of years, reducing the immediate impact on 2020/21 to the £7.853m described above.

Within this position, the most significant net overspend forecast (£10.760m) is in Health & Adult Social Care, which relates to increasing demands from client needs, supporting more people to be discharged from hospital, maintaining a resilient local provider market and supporting vulnerable clients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we recognise that COVID-19 has had a significant adverse impact on financial performance within Health and Adult Social Care, it is clear that there were pre-existing pressures that the Council has identified and is in the process of addressing. As this area forms one of the largest elements of the Council budget, it will need to be a key component of the strategy to secure financial sustainability to the Council in the medium to long term.

The second most significant overspend forecast (£9.274m) is in Economy, Environment & Culture, which relates to revenues from parking, museums and venues and for the Council's commercial property portfolio, all of which are dependent on visitor numbers and commercial activity. However, we also note that the Council started to see an improvement in parking and tourism related income over the summer period.

We note that at Month 5, £3.827m of the total savings planned in 2020/21 (£10.291m) were rated at risk by the Council. Most of this (£3.097m) is due to pressures arising from COVID-19. The most significant savings at risk are in Economy, Environment & Culture (£2.029m) and in Families, Children & Learning (£1.056m). No savings were planned in Health & Adult Social Care in 2020/21.

Of the £161.729m capital programme spend budget for 2020/21, an underspend of £2.417m (1.5%) is forecast, which relates entirely to the Housing Revenue Account.

Value for Money – Mitigation of COVID-19 financial impact

Plans to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in 2020/21

The Council had set aside a £0.750m risk provision to mitigate risks identified at the time of setting the original budget. This has now been fully released to manage the in year overspend, and the Council has developed a plan to manage the in year pressure through other means.

On 29 May 2020, a Policy & Resources (Recovery) Sub-Committee, was set up to help steer the Council and the city through the recovery phase of the COVID-19 outbreak. This covered financial, operational and strategic matters.

In July 2020 the Council presented detailed scenario planning to look at the potential range of financial outcomes outturns for 2020/21. This included the development of 'worst case', 'moderate view' and 'optimistic view' making assumptions around economic recovery and further funding receivable from government. The Council officers' best estimate of the position for 2020/21 at that point was a deficit outturn of £27.503m under the 'moderate view' scenario (including the collection fund deficit in year). This fell within a range of potential outcomes of between £17.003m (Optimistic View) and £39.073m (Worst Case).

The current projected outturn of £19.671m at month 5 (based on the revised Moderate View case including the collection fund deficit) reflects an improved outlook, primarily due to additional one off benefit from the government's income support scheme being greater than anticipated. As part of its General Fund planning update, the Executive Leadership Team reviewed all options available to it to manage the in-year position including:

- Use of Furlough as far as practicably possible for income-funded services;
- Use of normal vacancy management processes (with exceptions for essential and statutory service areas) across services;
- Curtailment of non-essential spend and continuing to look for economies and contract savings;
- Ensuring that Supplier Relief payments only provide for financial sustainability where services are not being delivered in full or at all;
- Continuing to look for opportunities to manage demands and pressures in partnership with other agencies, particularly the Clinical Commissioning Group;
- Pausing new Capital Schemes funded by borrowing.

The Council considered two options to manage the position in 2020/21:

- **Emergency Budget:** Take a prudential view and set an Emergency Budget including emergency reductions in non-statutory expenditure and services alongside all other available mitigation measures. This could include some use of reserves or the working balance with a plan for their replenishment over future years.
- **Financial Smoothing:** Use available mitigations, including one off measures as far as possible to manage the projected overspend in 2020/21 and then using reserves to manage any remaining shortfall, on the basis that these would need to be build back up in future years of the MTFS.

On 8 October, the Council resolved to follow the financial smoothing option, in the context of the improved outlook for 2020/21.

The July Budget Planning and Resources Update indicated that a maximum of £39.073m of reserves were technically available to support financial smoothing, reflecting the requirement under the worst case scenario. Total available reserves include the working balance of the general fund of £9m and Earmarked Reserves £41m. However, the paper points out that the majority of earmarked reserves and working balance that make up this amount were put in place to manage previously identified financial risks and commitments. Therefore this approach would require a plan for replenishment of these reserves over the following years. It also highlights the level of financial risk the Council would be exposed to would increase in proportion to the level of reserves deployed for financial smoothing and would reduce the Council's ability to respond to further financial shocks. We note that under the worst case scenario, this could become unsustainable.

In our view, the adoption of financial smoothing to manage the forecast overspend in 2020/21 is a valid mitigation strategy in the light of the improved outlook at month 5. However, it will mean a significant reduction in the reserves available to manage the significant financial pressures forecast from 2021/22 onwards. We recommend that the use of reserves to manage the in year deficit be reduced as far as possible through additional savings and other mitigating actions, in order to protect reserve balances so they can remain available to manage risk in future years.

Value for Money – Medium term financial outlook

Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

In February 2020, the MTFS to 2024/25 projected a balanced budget for 2020/21 and a budget gap and savings requirement of between £7m and £9m in all future years of the plan, building to £30.800m.

In July 2020, the MTFS was updated to reflect the uncertainty around COVID-19 impact and the level of funding that would be made available from government in the forthcoming funding settlement. The 'moderate view' MTFS outturn from 2021//22 to 2023/24 provides the current budget planning framework. Within this position the predicted budget gap (savings target) would build to £43.161m over the period, with in year gaps accumulating as follows:

- 2021/22: £17.300m
- 2022/23: £14.667m
- 2023/24: £11.194m

The 'moderate view' MTFS outturn from 2021//22 to 2023/24 includes the following key assumptions:

- Further government support received in the 2021/22 funding settlement estimated to be £11m (Adult social care, troubled families and COVID-19).
- Sales, fees and charges income assumed to return to pre-COVID budgeted levels from 2021/22 onwards.
- Maximum 1.99% Council Tax increases.
- Repayment of reserves used to manage the 2020/21 overspend, over a 10 year period, starting in 2022/23
- Pay awards averaging 2.20% (non-pay and income budgets inflating at 1%).
- Continued investment in priority services and Corporate Plan priorities.

In our view, these assumptions provide a reasonable basis for planning the 2021/22 budget at this point in time, but we note the reliance on the assumptions around the funding settlement and the recovery of sales fees and charges which carry a significant degree of uncertainty. We agree with the Council's assessment that any adverse variance to these assumptions, worse than expected performance on local taxation levels or higher than expected demand and/or cost inflation for social care would push the Council towards or in excess of the current projected worst case scenario for 2021/22 (currently a £33.850m deficit).

Progress on planning for the 2021/22 budget

The Council has taken a proactive approach to assessing the impact of COVID-19 into the medium term, which is an important step in the planning process for seeking balanced budgets and sustainable financial management.

The Council is currently developing a programme of savings and income initiatives to close the projected £17.3m funding gap in readiness for setting the 2021/22 budget. The current level of uncertainty will persist until the funding settlement is announced by government (expected in November/ December 2020), and the Council's approach is reasonable in this context.

We have discussed progress on the saving plans with the Council's strategic director team, and are satisfied that progress has been made and significant proposals are being developed.

Should the 2020/21 outturn fall in line with current projections, there may be scope for further financial smoothing through the use of reserves. However, in our view this will be limited due to the modest level of available reserves, the need to manage existing financial risks and the financial pressure that arises from future re-building of reserves. We therefore expect that that the bulk of any funding gap for 2021/22 would need to be met by savings, with some contribution from income generation.

The Council will need to continue to review its financial assumptions and forecast outturn and be fully prepared to take further mitigating action if necessary. Should the financial outlook worsen over the next few months the Council will need to be in a position to consider further measures it could take to set a balanced budget for 2021/22, beyond the current planning to mitigate a £17.3m deficit.

Value for Money – Medium term financial outlook

Financial governance – reserves

The Council closely monitors the adequacy of reserves, and this is carried through into the mitigation strategies developed to manage in year costs pressures and the MTFS. The adequacy of reserves are taken to Full Council annually along with the Medium Term Financial Strategy. In February 2020, it was agreed that the (minimum) working balance of £9.000m (representing approximately 3½ weeks of council tax revenue) on the working balance within the general fund reserve is retained for the next 5 years.

The current level of reserve balances has been based on the robustness of estimates information and the Corporate Risk Register, as well as other strategic, operational and financial risks. This will be reviewed in due course, in the light of the impact of COVID-19, however reserve levels have been a key consideration within the Council's 2020/21 budget mitigation strategy and revised MTFS.

Financial governance – monitoring budgets

The Council maintains a monthly Targeted Budget Management (TBM) process to monitor financial performance, including a Financial Dashboard Summary, a Revenue Budget RAG Rating, variance against budget from month to month, revenue budget performance, progress against savings targets and income collection performance monitoring.

Individual directorates are responsible for monitoring and reporting on performance against budgets. For example weekly meetings are held between the Director of Economy, Environment & Culture and the assistant directors and budget managers, to review prior month and prepare current month monitoring and reporting.

The Council operates a Business Partnering model, which is considered by the director team to be operating well. The Council is part of 'Orbis', which is a shared services partnership between Brighton and Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council, and Surrey County Council. The services includes Finance services such as advice and training to support the effective use of public funds. Our discussions with Directorate leads suggest that they feel well supported in keeping control of budgets and monitoring progress. There is a culture of accountability.

The Council is in the process of performing a skills audit of the 200+ budget managers and are designing a training programme to address skills gaps identified and to improve consistency and competence across the directorates. The Council currently operates a risk-based approach so that higher risk budgets get very intensive support.

Value for Money - Recommendations

Recommendations identified from 2019/20 VfM review

The following recommendations have been identified and will be monitored in future value for money reviews.

	Recommendation
1	While we recognise that COVID-19 has had a significant adverse impact on financial performance within Health and Adult Social Care, it is clear that there were pre-existing pressures that the Council has identified and is in the process of addressing. As this area forms one of the largest elements of the Council budget, it will need to be a key component of the strategy to secure financial sustainability to the Council in the medium to long term.
2	In our view, the adoption of financial smoothing to manage the forecast overspend in 2020/21 is a valid mitigation strategy in the light of the improved outlook at month 5. However, it will mean a significant reduction in the reserves available to manage the significant financial pressures forecast from 2021/22 onwards. We recommend that the use of reserves to manage the in year deficit be reduced as far as possible through additional savings and other mitigating actions, in order to protect reserve balances so they can remain available to manage risk in future years.
3	The Council will need to continue to review its financial assumptions and forecast outturn and be fully prepared to take further mitigating action if necessary. Should the financial outlook worsen over the next few months the Council will need to be in a position to consider further measures it could take to set a balanced budget for 2021/22, beyond the current planning to mitigate a £17.3m deficit.
4	It will be important that Council members and officers agree a financially sustainable financial plan for 2021/22 recognising that, without significant further support from government, this could require difficult decisions to be made around future service priorities.

Independence and ethics

We confirm that there are no significant facts or matters that impact on our independence as auditors that we are required or wish to draw to your attention. We have complied with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and confirm that we, as a firm, and each covered person, are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements

We confirm that we have implemented policies and procedures to meet the requirements of the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and we as a firm, and each covered person, confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements.

Further, we have complied with the requirements of the National Audit Office's Auditor Guidance Note 01 issued in May 2020 which sets out supplementary guidance on ethical requirements for auditors of local public bodies.

Details of fees charged are detailed in Appendix D

Independence and ethics




Audit and Non-audit services

For the purposes of our audit we have made enquiries of all Grant Thornton UK LLP teams providing services to the Council. The following non-audit services were identified, as well as the threats to our independence and safeguards that have been applied to mitigate these threats.




	Fees £	Threats identified	Safeguards
Audit related			
Certification of Housing capital receipts grant	2,500	Self-Interest (because this is a recurring fee) Self review (because GT provides audit services)	The level of these recurring fees taken on their own is not considered a significant threat to independence as the fee for these pieces of work is £23,000 in comparison to the total fee for the audit of £146,584 and in particular relative to Grant Thornton UK LLP's turnover overall. Further, it is a fixed fee and there is no contingent element to it. These factors all mitigate the perceived self-interest threat to an acceptable level. To mitigate against the self review threat , the timing of certification work is done after the audit has completed, materiality of the amounts involved to our opinion and unlikelihood of material errors arising and the Council has informed management who will decide whether to amend returns for our findings and agree the accuracy of our reports on grants.
Certification of Teachers Pension Return	3,500	Self-Interest (because this is a recurring fee) Self review (because GT provides audit services)	
Certification of Housing Benefit Claim	17,000	Self-Interest (because this is a recurring fee) Self review (because GT provides audit services)	

Action plan

We have identified 3 recommendations for the Council as a result of issues identified during the course of our audit. We have agreed our recommendations with management and we will report on progress on these recommendations during the course of the 2020/21 audit. The matters reported here are limited to those deficiencies that we have identified during the course of our audit and that we have concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported to you in accordance with auditing standards.

Assessment	Issue and risk	Recommendations
 Medium	PFI Accounting Model <p>We carried out testing on the PFI models in order to gain assurance over the updating of the models during the year to produce materially correct accounting notes.</p> <p>We identified an error in disclosures where the PFI models had not been correctly updated in line with PFI accounting concepts to produce the correct disclosures of future liabilities. The finance team agreed this was an error, but as it was not material they have not adjusted the accounts disclosure for this amount. See Appendix C for full details of the error.</p>	<p>Management should ensure that checks are put in place around the updating of PFI models in line with PFI accounting concepts.</p> <p>Management response Agreed.</p>
202  Medium	Financial Instruments – prior year error corrections <p>The finance team have picked up 2 material prior period errors in the presentation and disclosure of the Financial Instruments note. The finance team made corrections for these errors in the comparatives for the 2019/20 accounts.</p> <p>The audit team have found it difficult to understand changes made to prior year figures and to check these to clear working papers.</p>	<p>Where the Authority does need to make material prior period corrections to Notes or primary statements, these should be supported by robust working papers and be counter-reviewed by another member of the finance team to check the accuracy and the trail from the prior year disclosure to the corrected amounts</p> <p>Management response Agreed.</p>
 Medium	Input of PPE valuation entries into the Fixed Asset Register <p>In our testing of revaluations made during the year and the accuracy of the input of these into the asset register we identified four input errors. These understated the valuation of land and buildings by £3,351k. As this amount was below our performance materiality this was not adjusted in the accounts</p>	<p>We recommend that a further internal check or reconciliation is performed between the valuation reports and fixed asset register prior to posting the revaluation journals</p> <p>Management response Agreed.</p>

Controls

-  High – Significant effect on control system
-  Medium – Effect on control system
-  Low – Best practice

Follow up of prior year recommendations

We identified the following issues in the audit of [insert client name] Council's 2018/19 financial statements, which resulted in 4 recommendations being reported in our 2018/19 Audit Findings report. *We have followed up on the implementation of our recommendations and the actions taken by management are as follows:*

Assessment	Issue and risk previously communicated	Update on actions taken to address the issue
✓	Write off of unrecoverable receivables control In the Receivables walkthrough, we documented our understanding of and walked through the receivables write off process. The write off process per the control environment should occur quarterly but we were made aware that the write off process had only occurred twice during the year.	We recommended in 2018/19 that the receivables write off process is undertaken quarterly as per the Council's documented control processes, to ensure that old/unrecoverable receivables are correctly written off and not retained as receivable assets per the accounts. We have confirmed that the receivables write off process has been undertaken quarterly during the 2019/20 period.
✓	Assurance over assets not revalued We noted in our PPE valuation work we noted that management had not specifically set out in detail their own assumptions and estimates of the potential movements in value for assets not revalued during the year. Although management do revalue all very high value assets the total of assets not revalued, and particularly the total value of school land and buildings, is a material amount and a relatively small movement in the value of this total could be material to the accounts. In the absence of a detailed management working paper, we developed our own point estimate of the movement in values using information of possible variations provided by our own auditor's expert.	We recommended in 2018/19 that management strengthen future working papers in this area to provide a detailed assessment that can be audited. Management have produced a more detailed assessment of their assumptions and estimates relating to the potential movements in value for assets not revalued during 2019/20. The working papers in this area were much easier for the audit team to understand and interpret this year.
x	Order of the financial statements The Code of Local Authority Accounting gives a recommended order for the presentation of the main statements : Comprehensive income and expenditure statement; movement in reserves statement; balance sheet and cashflow statement followed by notes to the accounts. The Council starts its accounts with the Expenditure and Funding analysis which is a note to the accounts and is not a primary statement.. The accounting policies are set out after many of the detailed notes to which they relate. Typically, accounting policies are positioned as an early note to the accounts to set the context of the detail that follows.	We recommended that the Council considers the presentation order as part of its preparations for 2019-20. This action was not taken, and we observed a similar issue in the 2019-20 draft accounts. The Authority team have agreed to reposition the Expenditure and Funding Analysis as a Note to the accounts and not a primary statement. We have included this as a disclosure change made during the audit in Appendix C.

Assessment

- ✓ Action completed
- x Not yet addressed

Follow up of prior year recommendations (continued)

Assessment	Issue and risk previously communicated	Update on actions taken to address the issue
X	<p>PFI Accounting Model</p> <p>In our testing of the PFI accounting disclosures we reviewed and tested the PFI models to gain assurance that the accounting entries being generated by the accounting models were fairly stated. We noted that for one of the PFI schemes the full accounting model could not be located and we had to rely on the affordability model as an alternative. We concluded that this was a reasonable alternative to gain assurance over the material correctness of the accounting entries but we would expect the Council to hold a full accounting audit trail for its PFI schemes.</p>	<p>We recommended in 2018/19 that the Council reviews the documentation and audit trail available for PFI schemes to assure itself that these are complete.</p> <p>We were not satisfied that this action had been taken during 2019/20, as again there was not a very full audit trail for the PFI accounting models, and we have taken this forward as a control recommendation for the 2019/20 period.</p>

Assessment

✓ Action completed

X Not yet addressed

Audit adjustments

We are required to report all non trivial misstatements to those charged with governance, whether or not the accounts have been adjusted by management.

Impact of adjusted misstatements

There were no adjusted misstatements for the year ending 31 March 2020.

Misclassification and disclosure changes

The table below provides details of misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit which have been made in the final set of financial statements.

Disclosure change/ omission	Detail	Auditor recommendations	Adjusted?
Positioning of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA)	The Code of Local Authority Accounting gives a recommended order for the presentation of the main statements : Comprehensive income and expenditure statement; movement in reserves statement; balance sheet and cashflow statement followed by notes to the accounts. The EFA should be presented clearly as a Note to the statements rather than a main statement.	<p>We recommended that the EFA was repositioned in the accounts as a Note to the financial statements to more clearly communicate the relative importance of this analysis as against the main statements.</p> <p>Management response</p> <p>This was amended in the accounts.</p>	✓
PPE land and buildings material uncertainty	<p>The professional valuer has declared in their valuation report a material uncertainty over land and building valuations due to uncertainties in the property market caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. This material uncertainty is in line with national RICs guidance and has been declared by most professional valuers nationwide for valuations produced at 31/03/2020.</p> <p>The material uncertainty was not disclosed in the Authority's draft accounts Note 3 Critical Judgements and Assumptions Made.</p>	<p>We recommended that Note 3 was updated to include the disclosure of the material uncertainty declared by the professional valuer, and in line with Code guidance to include some information as to the sensitivity of the estimate, so users of the accounts could further understand the level of uncertainty.</p> <p>Management response</p> <p>This was amended in the accounts.</p>	✓
Other minor changes to disclosure wording content	<p>We made some other minor recommendations for changes/updates to disclosures in the accounts.</p> <p>These included updating the Impact of Covid-19 information in the Narrative Report and removal of Contingent Liability disclosures for Covid-19 and the i360 where our view was they did not meet the definition of contingent liabilities.</p>	<p>Management response</p> <p>This was amended in the accounts.</p>	✓

Audit adjustments (continued)

Misclassification and disclosure changes (continued)

Disclosure change/omission	Detail	Auditor recommendations	Adjusted?
Note 11 - Financial Instruments disclosures	<p>The authority made 2 material corrections of prior period errors in this note to the accounts, and expanded disclosure of reason for the error and the line by line impact have been expanded as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the classifications of financial assets there was a restatement of the 2018/19 debtors figure from £39.850m down to £23.827m due to a balance of £16.023m impairment allowances being incorrectly classed as a non-financial asset when should have been included within the debtors figure. The non-financial assets balance has been increased from £8.723m to £24.746m by the corresponding amount. The impairment allowance was also incorrectly classed as a non-financial asset in the 2017/18 balances, if adjusted for the debtors figure would have decreased by £12.962m to £23.001m and the non-financial assets figure increased to up to £37.333m; and 2. The Maturity of Financial Assets 2018/19 figures were restated to provide a more accurate analysis of the maturity profile of the financial assets and to incorporate the corrections to balances that have been categorised as financial assets as per the above item. <p>When the auditor requested working papers to support the second correction, the draft note was revised further by a material amount and further working papers to support this correction were requested.</p> <p>As at the date of issue of this report we had not obtained a sufficient audit trail working paper to gain full assurance that the second correction was materially correct.</p> <p>Note – these are disclosure issues only for categories of financial instruments and would not impact the main Balance Sheet financial statements.</p>	<p>We have made a recommendation to improve working papers around Financial Instruments as this was an area of the audit where it was difficult for the audit team to understand how the disclosure was composed from GL information.</p> <p>Our audit queries have led to material changes to the amounts presented in the Note. As at the date of the issue of the report we are resolving audit queries we have made to officers regarding these prior period errors. This work could lead to further changes to the disclosure.</p> <p>Management response</p> <p>The above material change in the Maturity of Financial Assets note was amended.</p>	✓

Audit adjustments (continued)

Misclassification and disclosure changes – unadjusted

The table below provides details of misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit which have not been amended in the final set of financial statements.

Disclosure change/omission	Detail	Auditor recommendations	Adjusted?
Note 17 PFI – Payments Due under PFI Arrangements	We carried out testing on the PFI models to gain assurance over the updating of the models during the year to produce materially correct accounting notes.	We have made a recommendation that management should ensure that checks are put in place around the updating of PFI models in line with PFI accounting concepts.	
	We identified some errors in disclosures where the Schools PFI model underlying workings had not been correctly updated to produce the disclosures of future liabilities. This has resulted in a £2.7m understatement of future payments in Note 17 against the schools PFI contract.	See Appendix A above for the management response.	X
	Note – This is a disclosure issue only for disclosing future PFI payment commitments and would not impact the main Balance Sheet financial statement.		

Audit adjustments (continued)

Impact of unadjusted misstatements

The table below provides details of adjustments identified during the 2019/20 audit which have not been made within the final set of financial statements. The Audit and Standards Committee is required to approve management's proposed treatment of all items recorded within the table below:

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Statement of Financial Position £'000	Impact on total net expenditure £'000	Reason for not adjusting
HRA Deferred Income An amount was found in our testing of debtors which should have been recorded as a creditor given the nature of the balance.	Nil	DR Debtors 1,766 CR Creditors 1,766	Nil	The difference is not material
PPE valuation input into FAR We identified four input errors in the FAR which led to an understatement of the valuation of PPE in the accounts by £3,307k.	CR Valuation gains/losses (1,207)	DR Land and buildings PPE 3,307 DR Movement in Reserves 1,207 CR Capital adjustment account 1,207 CR Revaluation Reserve 2,098	(1,207)	The difference is not material
Other Revenues We identified items in our sample testing of revenues which should have been classified as expenditure. We were able to extrapolate our error to estimate the overall potential impact of the error and demonstrate this would not be material, so this has been recorded as an extrapolated unadjusted misstatement.	DR Other service expenditure £933k CR Other Revenues £933k	Nil	Nil	The difference is not material
Overall impact	(1,207)	1,207	(1,207)	

Audit adjustments (continued)

Impact of prior year unadjusted misstatements

The table below provides details of adjustments identified during the prior year audit which had not been made within the final set of 2018/19 financial statements.

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Statement of Financial Position £' 000	Impact on total net expenditure £'000	Reason for not adjusting
HRA Income During our 2018/19 testing of income cut off we identified that recharges of repairs/maintenance/improvements to HRA properties recharged to leaseholders were not being correctly matched with the expenditure. This led to revenues being understated for 2018/19 and overstated for 2019/20.	3,171	(3,171)	3,171	The difference is not material
Overall impact	£3,171	(£3,171)	£3,171	

We are satisfied that the combined impact of prior year unadjusted misstatements and in year unadjusted misstatements is cumulatively below our performance materiality threshold and therefore we are satisfied these would not need to be adjusted in the 2019/20.

Fees

We confirm below our fees charged for the audit and **provision of non-audit services**:

Audit fees	Proposed fee	Final fee
Council Audit	146,584	TBC
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	£146,584	TBC

There is additional work which was necessary to be carried out during the audit and Value for Money work due to the added complexities of the impact of Covid-19. We are still completing this work and the extent of this fee will be discussed and proposed to the Chief Finance Officer.

Non-audit fees for other services	Proposed fee	Final fee
Audit Related Services		
Certification of Housing capital receipts grant 2019/20	2,500	TBC
Certification of Teachers Pension Return 2019/20	3,500	TBC
Certification of Housing Benefit Claim 2019/20	17,000	TBC
Total non- audit fees (excluding VAT)	23,000	TBC

We have not yet completed the work for these other services. We do not expect the final fees to differ from the proposed fees based on our estimate of the amount and complexity of the work involved.

Audit opinion

We anticipate we will provide the Council with an unmodified audit report.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Brighton and Hove City Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Brighton and Hove City Council (the 'Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Cash Flow Statement, the Collection Fund Statement, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The notes to the financial statements include the EFA, Notes to the Core Statements, Policies and Judgements, Notes to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES), Notes to the Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRs), Notes to the Housing Revenue Account Statement and Notes to the Collection Fund Statement. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2020 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The impact of macro-economic uncertainties on our audit

Our audit of the financial statements requires us to obtain an understanding of all relevant uncertainties, including those arising as a consequence of the effects of macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit. All audits assess and challenge the reasonableness of estimates made by the Acting Chief Finance Officer and the related disclosures and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. All of these depend on assessments of the future economic environment and the Authority's future operational arrangements.

Covid-19 and Brexit are amongst the most significant economic events currently faced by the UK, and at the date of this report their effects are subject to unprecedented levels of uncertainty, with the full range of possible outcomes and their impacts unknown. We applied a standardised firm-wide approach in response to these uncertainties when assessing the Authority's future operational arrangements. However, no audit should be expected to predict the unknowable factors or all possible future implications for an authority associated with these particular events.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Acting Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Acting Chief Finance Officer has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Authority's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In our evaluation of the Acting Chief Finance Officer's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 that the Authority's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the risks associated with the Authority's operating activities, including effects arising from macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19 and Brexit. We analysed how those risks might affect the Authority's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. In accordance with the above, we have nothing to report in these respects.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the absence of reference to a material uncertainty in this auditor's report is not a guarantee that the Authority will continue in operation.

Emphasis of Matter – effects of Covid-19 on the valuation of land and buildings and property investments

We draw attention to Note 3 of the financial statements, which describes the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the valuation of the Authority's land and buildings and the Authority's share of the pension fund's property investments as at 31 March 2020. As disclosed in note 3 to the financial statements, the outbreak of Covid-19 means the property market remains uncertain and capital and rental values may change rapidly in the short to medium term. A material valuation uncertainty was therefore disclosed in both the Authority's property valuer's report and the pension fund's pooled property investment valuation reports. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The Acting Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, the Narrative Report and the Annual Governance Statement other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge of the Authority obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other information we are required to report on by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the 'delivering good governance in Local Government Framework 2018 Edition' published by CIPFA and SOLACE or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Audit opinion

Opinion on other matter required by the Code of Audit Practice

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements and our knowledge of the Authority gained through our work in relation to the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts, the Narrative Report and the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make a written recommendation to the Authority under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or;
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matters.

Responsibilities of the Authority, the Acting Chief Finance Officer and Those Charged with Governance for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Authority 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 authority, that officer is the Acting Chief Finance Officer. The Acting Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Acting Chief Finance Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Acting Chief Finance Officer is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention by government that the services provided by the Authority will no longer be provided.

The Audit and Standards Committee is Those Charged with Governance. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements - Conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2020, we are satisfied that the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Responsibilities of the Authority

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2020, as to whether in all significant respects the Authority had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criterion as that necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to be satisfied that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements - Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed the work necessary to issue our Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) Component Assurance statement for the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2020. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

[Signature]



