Brighton & Hove City Council

AUDIT, STANDARDS & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE ADDENDUM 1

4.00PM, TUESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

ADDENDUM

Brighton & Hove City Council

Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee

Agenda Item 21

Subject: **External Audit - Audit Findings Report 2023/24**

Date of meeting: **24 September 2024**

Report of: **External Auditor (Grant Thornton)**

Contact Officer: **Name: Andy Conlan (Grant Thornton)**
Email: Andy.N.Conlan@gt.uk.com

Ward(s) affected: **All**

For general release

Note: Urgency

By reason of the special circumstances below, and in accordance with section 100B(4)(b) of the 1972 Act, the Chair of the meeting has been consulted and is of the opinion that this item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Note: Reasons for urgency

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 five days in advance of the meeting) were that final checks by officers and the council's external auditors were still being completed on the audited Statement of Accounts.

1 Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 The audit findings report sets out the findings of the 2023/24 audit by the council's appointed external auditor, Grant Thornton. 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. The latter will be covered in more detail in the external auditor's full annual report which is currently subject to final checks.

1.2 The report indicates the external auditor's anticipated opinion on the council's financial statements and advises the committee of any outstanding audit queries.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That the committee note the findings set out in the 2023/24 Audit Findings Report and ask questions of the auditor as necessary and raise any other matters relevant to the audit of the 2023/24 financial statements.

3 Context and background information

3.1 The council's 2023/24 Statement of Accounts are required under statute and regulation to be published in draft by 31 May and the audited version published by the deadline of 30 September 2024.

3.2 Committee consideration of the audit findings report and audited 2023/24 Statement of Accounts (subject to conclusion of final audit queries) are part of meeting the legal requirements prior to final publication.

4 Analysis and consideration of alternative options

4.1 This committee is the committee charged with responsibility for approval of the council's Statement of Accounts and as such is duty-bound to consider the findings and recommendations of the external auditor in considering its approval of the statements.

5 Community engagement and consultation

5.1 The draft 2023/24 Statement of Accounts were published/made available on the council's website on 3 July 2024 through to 11 August 2023 (30 working days).

6 Conclusion

6.1 The external audit feedback on the council's 2023/24 Statement of Accounts is set out in Grant Thornton's audit findings report at **Appendix 1**.

7 Financial implications

7.1 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: Nigel Manvell Date consulted: 17/09/24

8 Legal implications

8.1 The legal framework for approving the council's statement of accounts is provided by regulation 9 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (statutory 129 instrument 2015/234) as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (statutory instrument 2021/263). The Regulations permit either Full Council or a committee of the council to approve the statement of accounts. At Brighton & Hove City Council, the Audit, Standards & General Purposes 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.

Name of lawyer consulted: Victoria Simpson Date consulted: 17/09/24

9 Equalities implications

9.1 None directly applicable to this report.

10 Sustainability implications

10.1 None directly applicable to this report.

11 Other Implications

11.1 Not applicable.

Supporting Documentation

Appendices

Appendix 1: Grant Thornton Brighton & Hove City Council 2023/24 Audit Findings Report

Background documents

Working Papers in support of the audit which were available during the publicised Public Inspection period.

The Audit Findings for Brighton and Hove City Council

Year ended 31 March 2024

24 September 2024 – UPDATE FOR COMMITTEE
AS AT 17 SEPTEMBER 2024

Grant Thornton

Private and Confidential

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Brighton and Hove City Council

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24th September 2024

Dear Members of the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee

Audit Findings for Brighton and Hove City Council for the year ended 31 March 2024

This Audit Findings presents the observations arising from the audit that are significant to the responsibility of those charged with governance to oversee the financial reporting process and confirmation of auditor independence, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260. Its contents have been discussed with management and will be discussed with the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee.

As auditor we are responsible for performing the audit, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK), 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.

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.

We encourage you to read our transparency report which sets out how the firm complies with the requirements of the Audit Firm Governance Code and the steps we have taken to drive audit quality by reference to the Audit Quality Framework. The report includes information on the firm's processes and practices for quality control, for ensuring independence and objectivity, for partner remuneration, our governance, our international network arrangements and our core values, amongst other things. This report is available at transparency-report-2023.pdf (grantthornton.co.uk).

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the kind assistance provided by the finance team and other staff during our audit.

Paul Cuttle

Director
For Grant Thornton UK LLP

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Section Page

The contents of this report relate only to the matters which have come to our attention, which we believe need to be reported to you as part of our audit planning process. It is not a comprehensive record of all the relevant matters, which may be subject to change, and in particular we cannot be held responsible to you for reporting all of the risks which may affect the Council or all weaknesses in your internal controls. 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.

Your key Grant Thornton team members are:

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1. 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 2024 for the attention of those charged with governance.

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 the 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 and Narrative Report), is materially consistent with the financial statements and with our knowledge obtained during the audit, or otherwise whether this information appears to be materially misstated.

Our audit work was completed in a hybrid manner during June to September 2024. Our findings are summarised in Section 2, as well as in Appendices B to D. We have identified 5 adjustments to the financial statements that have resulted in a £9.7m credit adjustment to the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These have no impact on the level of the Council's useable reserves.

Audit adjustments are detailed at Appendix E. We have also raised recommendations for management as a result of our audit work. These are set out at Appendix C. Our follow up of recommendations from the prior year's audit are detailed at Appendix D.

Our work is substantially complete and there are no matters of which we are aware that would require modification of our audit opinion, subject to the following outstanding matters;

- Completion of audit manager and engagement lead reviews which could potentially raise further queries for the Council to respond to;
- Completion of land and buildings valuation testing, including a review of assets not revalued;
- Receipt of one investment confirmation;
- Review of the minimum revenue provision (MRP);
- Receipt of management representation letter;
- Review of the final set of financial statements; and
- Consideration of any post balance sheet events that arise prior to the sign off date

We have concluded that the other information to be published with the financial statements, including the Annual Governance Statement, is consistent with our knowledge of your organisation and with the financial statements we have audited.

Our anticipated financial statements audit report opinion will be unqualified. We anticipate signing your accounts in October 2024 once sufficient work has been completed in the Value for Money work such that the Key Audit Partner and Audit Manager are able to review the key work and conclusions formed in that piece of work.. The VFM audit is currently in progress, and we will take our Auditor's Annual Report to the next meeting of the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee. More extensive work around the risks of significant weakness and financial sustainability is being carried out, which has required additional meetings with senior management and further work by our VFM audit team members.

1. Headlines

Value for Money (VFM) arrangements	
Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to consider whether the Council has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Auditors are required to report in more detail on the Council's overall arrangements, as well as key recommendations on any significant weaknesses in arrangements identified during the audit. Auditors are required to report their commentary on the Council's arrangements under the following specified criteria: • Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness; • Financial sustainability; and • Governance	Our work on the Council's value for money (VFM) arrangements will be reported in our commentary on the Council's arrangements in our Auditor's Annual Report (AAR). The VFM audit is currently in progress, and we will take our report to the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee in the near future. More extensive work around the risks of significant weaknesses and financial sustainability is being carried out, which has required additional meetings with senior management and further work by our VFM audit team members.
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, however we will not be able to certify the completion of the audit when we give our audit opinion as this is likely to occur before we finalise our Auditor's Annual Report for Value for Money. The Auditor's Annual Report must be finalised as a draft within 30 days of us giving our audit opinion on the financial statements. We will certify the completion of the audit on finalisation of the Auditor's Annual Report.
Significant matters	We did not encounter any significant difficulties or identify any significant matters arising during our audit.

Newly Emerging Issue at September 2024

As at September, an emerging issue around pensions has been raised regarding the IFRIC 14 calculation of the asset ceiling and the impact of secondary contributions within the calculation, and whether these have been considered in the calculation in perpetuity or on a finite funding basis. We have discussed this with your finance team and we are carrying out further discussion and investigation with the Council's actuarial expert in order to understand whether this could indicate that the current calculation of the asset ceiling in the draft 23/24 financial statements (and potentially the calculation of the prior year asset ceiling) is misstated and by what amount. We will update members on this verbally at the Committee meeting.

1. Headlines

National context – level of borrowing

All Councils continue to operate in an increasingly challenging financial context. With inflationary pressures placing increasing demands on Council budgets, there are concerns as Councils look to alternative ways to generate income. We have seen an increasing number of councils look to ways of utilising investment property portfolios as sources of recurrent income. Whilst there have been some successful ventures and some prudently funded by councils' existing resources, we have also seen some councils take excessive risks by borrowing sums in excess of their revenue budgets to finance these investment schemes. Additionally, we have also seen some authorities lending money to their subsidiary companies, which may not be in a position to repay those loans.

The impact of these huge debts on Councils, the risk of potential bad debt write offs and the implications of the poor governance behind some of these decisions are all issues which now have to be considered by auditors across local authority audits. Borrowing levels have not been identified as a specific risk area for the Council. Financial sustainability, more generally, has however been identified as a risk of significant weakness for the VFM audit. The VFM audit is currently in progress, and we will take our report to the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee in the near future.

2. Financial Statements

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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 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 and will be discussed with the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee.

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 following the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee meeting on 24 September 2024. We plan to issue the opinion in October 2024 following our review of the VFM audit findings.

The outstanding items, referred to above, include:

- Completion of audit manager and engagement lead reviews;
- Completion of land and buildings valuation testing, including a review of assets not revalued;
- Receipt of one investment confirmation;
- Receipt of management representation letter;
- Review of the minimum revenue provision (MRP)
- Review of the final set of financial statements; and
- Consideration of any post balance sheet events that arise prior to the sign off date

Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the assistance provided by the finance team and other staff.

2. Financial Statements

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.

We have revised our materiality, performance materiality and triviality figures, communicated in the Audit Plan at the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee in June 2024.

We have revised the materiality, performance materiality and triviality from that reported in the Audit Plan. This is due to the actual gross expenditure changing significantly from the 2022/23 gross expenditure, which was used at the planning stage to determine the materiality, performance materiality and triviality reported in the Audit Plan.

We set out, in this table, our determination of materiality for Brighton and Hove City Council.

	Amount (£)	Qualitative factors considered
Materiality for the financial statements	14,950,000	In determining materiality, we have considered the following factors: - Debt arrangements: the Council has a significant level of debt, but the majority of this is with PWLB and the CIPFA Prudential Code is followed with regard to managing the levels of debt. We are not aware of significant debt covenants or other factors that would indicate an enhanced risk. - Business environment: the Council operates in a generally stable, regulated environment. However, in recent years, government policies have reduced the funding available, increasing the financial pressures on the Council. - Control environment: the risk assessment did not identify any significant deficiencies in the control environment. - Other sensitivities: there has been no change in key stakeholders, and no other sensitivities have been identified that would require materiality to be reduced.
Performance materiality	11,200,000	Performance materiality is based on 75% of the overall materiality. This is consistent with the approach adopted in the prior-year, on the basis that there were not a significant number of adjustments or deficiencies identified.
Trivial matters	745,000	Triviality is set at 5% of the overall materiality
Materiality for Cash	5,600,000	Cash is sensitive and so we have opted for a lower level of materiality (50% of our performance materiality)

2. Financial Statements: Significant risks

Significant risks are defined by ISAs (UK) as risks that, in the judgement of the auditor, require special audit consideration. In identifying risks, audit teams consider the nature of the risk, the potential magnitude of misstatement, and its likelihood. Significant risks are those risks that have a higher risk of material misstatement.

This section provides commentary on the significant audit risks communicated in the Audit Plan.

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	Commentary
ISA 240 fraudulent revenue recognition	Under ISA (UK) 240 there is a rebuttable presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to the improper recognition of revenue. This presumption can be rebutted if the auditor concludes that there is no risk of material misstatement due to fraud relating to revenue recognition. In the Audit Plan, we had determined that the risk of fraud arising from revenue recognition can be rebutted, because: • There is little incentive to manipulate revenue recognition. • Opportunities to manipulate revenue recognition are very limited. There have been no changes to our assessment as reported in the Audit Plan. To gain assurance over revenue, we: • Tested a sample of revenue to gain assurance over the accuracy and occurrence of revenue recorded during the financial year. • Performed testing over post year-end receipts to assess completeness of revenue and receivables recognition. **Identified misstatements relating to revenue recognition have been detailed in Appendix D. We will conclude on our testing of revenue recognition following the senior management quality review as set out on page 4.**

2. Financial Statements: Significant risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	Commentary
Fraudulent expenditure recognition	In line with the Public Audit Forum Practice Note 10, in the public sector, auditors must also consider the risk that material misstatements due to fraudulent financial reporting may arise from the manipulation of expenditure recognition (for instance by deferring expenditure to a later period). Having considered the risk factors relevant to the Council and the relevant expenditure streams, we determined that no separate risks relating to expenditure recognition were necessary, as the same rebuttal factors listed on page 9 relating to revenue recognition apply. Given that the Council is facing financial pressures that are ongoing over multiple years, the risk of fraudulent expenditure recognition is not relevant or significant. The Council's limited financial resources and the long-term nature of the financial challenges make it highly unlikely for there to be an incentive or opportunity to fraudulently recognise expenditure in any one particular year. We considered that any risk relating to expenditure recognition would likely relate to period-end journals and accruals which have been considered as part of the audit tests which we have tailored against the specific risks for this Council, and in our testing in relation to the significant risk of management override of controls set out below. In summary, we are satisfied that this did not present a significant risk of material misstatement in the 2023/24 accounts as: • We consider the control environment around expenditure recognition to be strong; • We have not found significant issues, errors or fraud in expenditure recognition in the recent, previous audits; • Our view is that, similarly to revenues, there is little incentive to manipulate expenditure recognition. There have been no changes to our assessment as reported in the Audit Plan. To gain assurance over expenditure, we: • Tested a sample of operating expenses to gain assurance over the accuracy and occurrence of expenditure recorded during the financial year. • Performed testing over post year-end transactions to assess completeness of expenditure recognition. • Discussed with management whether an equal pay provision should be recognised, following review of local media reports. We concluded insufficient information has been made available to the Council on the reported equal pay claim as at the date of the conclusion of our audit, and as such this does not meet the recognition criteria for a provision under IAS37. The Council includes a general contingent liability for legal cases, and we are satisfied based on the lack of detailed information that this is currently sufficient. **Identified misstatements relating to expenditure recognition have been detailed in Appendix D. We will conclude our testing of expenditure recognition following the senior management quality review, as set out on page 4.**
Management override of controls	Under ISA (UK) 240, there is a non-rebuttable presumed risk that the risk of management override of controls is present in all entities. The Council faces external scrutiny of its spending, and this could potentially place management under undue pressure in terms of how they report performance. We therefore identified management override of control, in particular journals, management estimates, and transactions outside the course of business as a significant risk for the Council, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement. There have been no changes to our assessment as reported in the Audit Plan. We undertook the following procedures: • Evaluated the design effectiveness of management controls over journals • Analysed the journals listing and determined the criteria for selecting high risk unusual journals • Identified and tested journals we considered to have the greatest risk of material misstatement or from our data analytics Journals that were identified to be unusual. We then tested these Journals for appropriateness and corroboration to evidence. • Gained an understanding of the accounting estimates and critical judgements applied by management and considered their reasonableness **Our audit work has not identified any issues in respect of management override of controls, but this remains subject to completion of the senior management quality review as set out on page 4.**

2. Financial Statements: Significant risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	Commentary
Valuation of land and buildings and investment properties	The Council revalues operational land and buildings on a rolling five yearly basis and investment properties every year to ensure the carrying value in the financial statements is not materially different from the current value or the fair value at the financial statements date. The Authority's heritage asset values are determined from insurance rebuild cost valuations. The valuations represents significant estimates by management in the financial statements due to the size of the numbers involved and the sensitivity of these estimates to changes in key assumptions. We therefore identified valuation of land and buildings, including heritage assets and investment properties, as a significant risk requiring special audit consideration. For assets which are not revalued by the external valuer in year, management will need to ensure that the carrying value in the Council's financial statements is not materially different from the current value or the fair value (for investment properties and surplus assets) at the financial statements date. We undertook the following procedures: • 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 experts. • Discussed with, and wrote to, the valuers to confirm the basis on which the valuation was carried out. • Engaged our own valuer expert to provide commentary on: the instruction process in comparison to requirements from CIPFA/IFRS/RICS (Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors); and the valuation methodology and approach, resulting assumptions adopted and any other relevant points. • Challenged the information and assumptions used by the valuers to assess completeness and consistency with our understanding. • For Land and Buildings: Recalculated the valuations, testing key inputs including BCIS rates, floor areas, obsolescence and other assumptions used in both Depreciated Replacement Cost and Existing Use Valuations. We also considered the appropriateness of each method to determine the assets valuation. • For Council Dwellings: Reviewed and tested a number of assets back to market data for properties in that area and tested the appropriateness of the beacon applied. • For Investment Properties: Recalculated the valuations, testing key inputs including yields applied, rental information used, and all other key assumptions applied in the valuers' calculations behind the asset's valuation. • Tested revaluations made during the year to see if they have been input correctly to the Council's asset register. • Confirmed the material accuracy of the carrying value, from the current value, of assets not revalued at 31 March 2024 through an indexation exercise using market data. **Our valuations work is not yet finalised. At this stage, the most significant matter identified within our Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) work relates to the material, adjusted impairment for several council dwelling assets. We also found several presentation and classification errors in the PPE notes, a capital payable which had been not accrued for and we have raised a control deficiency relating to the reporting of the Kingsway to the Sea project. Refer to detail of these findings in Appendix D.**

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2. Financial Statements: Significant risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	Commentary
Valuation of the net pension fund liability/asset	The pension fund net liability, as reflected in the Council's balance sheet as the "net liability/asset on defined pension scheme", represents a significant estimate in the financial statements. The pension fund net liability/asset is considered a significant estimate due to the size of the numbers involved and the sensitivity of the estimate to changes in key assumptions. We therefore identified valuation of the Council's pension fund net liability/asset as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement, and a key audit matter. We have pinpointed this significant risk to the assumptions applied by the professional actuary in their conclusion of the net pension liability/asset. We undertook the following procedures: • Updated our understanding of the processes and controls put in place by management to ensure that the Council's pension fund net liability/asset 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 Council's pension fund valuation • Assessed the accuracy and completeness of the information provided by the Council 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. • Undertook procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made by reviewing the report of the consulting actuary (as auditor's expert) and performing any additional procedures suggested within the report. • Obtained assurances from the auditor of East Sussex Pension Fund as to the controls surrounding 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; • Completed additional work related to IFRIC-14 guidance which requires us to assess whether the requirements of the standard have been considered when the Council reports a net surplus for its pension liability. The methods applied in the calculation of the IAS 19 estimates are routine and commonly applied by all actuarial firms in line with the requirements set out in the Code of practice for local government accounting (the applicable financial reporting framework). The source data used by the actuaries to produce the IAS 19 estimates is provided by administering Authority's and employers. We verified that this source data was accurate. **Our audit work has not identified any issues in respect of the net pension fund liability but remains subject to completion of the senior management quality review as set out on page 4.**

2. Financial Statements: new issues and risks

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 deficiencies identified during the year.

Issue	Commentary and Auditor View
Large Panel System (LPS) Council Dwellings	Eight Large Panel System blocks across Brighton & Hove City Council have had surveys undertaken that have indicated that major works are required for compliance regarding Health & Safety, Building Safety and Fire Safety. The Council have identified that there are a number of routes that they can take to ensure compliance and as a result are unable to quantify, with any accuracy, the future costs and timings that will result from this work. The Council is establishing a strategic group to plan the future works, and immediate safety measures. The measures implemented thus far include 24-hour security and the banning of combustible items. We identified that this new information would impact the valuation of the eight buildings at 31 March 2024, as well as for prior periods, representing an adjusting post balance sheet event. We engaged with management and the council's external valuer, who explained that in the absence of known costs or timeframes for the remediation works, it is very difficult to determine a revised valuation. The remediation works would likely be complex and require internal disturbance. The valuer and management agreed that this is likely to be a multi-year programme of work, with the scope of work still evolving. The valuer explained that the current measures of security, and banning of items within the buildings, adds to the picture of this being a significant matter, where costs and timeframes are currently not possible to accurately estimate. The valuer reached the conclusion that if asked to value these assets again, there would not be enough information available to provide a value other than nil. This constitutes both an adjusting post balance sheet event (an event that is indicative of conditions that existed at the balance sheet date and therefore would require adjustment in the accounts), and a prior-period adjustment (PPA) due to the panel systems being present in previous years. As such, management have agreed to impair these eight buildings to nil, with effect being from the prior-period presented in the financial statements, and with a "third" balance sheet being presented in line with IFRS/the Code. Given that works will be required in future periods to ensure that these assets are compliant with safety standards, we challenged management as to whether a provision should be disclosed in the accounts. We concluded that as the Council cannot quantify the present obligation with any accuracy, this does not meet the IAS 37 definition of a provision, and instead meets the criteria of a contingent liability. As such, management will disclose this in Note 19. We have reviewed the proposed wording of the contingent liability, and we are satisfied that it is reasonable, accurate and provides sufficient information to users of the accounts. As the situation develops, and the Council's plans and expected costs can be estimated more reliably, it is likely that we will revisit the valuation of these assets, and the assessment as to whether the criteria for a provision is met. **Refer to Appendix D for detail of the adjustments management are making with respect to this.**

2. Financial Statements: key judgements and estimates

This section provides commentary on key estimates and judgements in line with the enhanced requirements for auditors.

Significant judgement or estimate	Summary of management's approach	Audit Comments	Assessment
Land and Building valuations – £761.4m Investment Property valuations - £49.8m	Other land and buildings comprises 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. Other land and buildings, not specialised in nature, are required to be valued at existing use in value (EUV) at year-end. Investment properties are measured at fair value. The Council has engaged several different valuers to complete the valuation of properties as at 31 March 2024 on a five yearly cyclical basis. 59% of total land and buildings, and investment properties, were revalued during 2023/24. The Council produce an impairment statement and market review as part of their assessment of assets which may be impaired as at 31 March 2024 under the requirements of IAS 36. The Council also produced working papers showing the estimated valuation movements for assets not valued at 31 March 2024 from the last date of valuation. Management assets that these assets could be £26m greater than their carrying value in the balance sheet as at 31 March 2024. The total year-end valuation of land and buildings was £761.4m, a net decrease of £2.1m from 2022/23. The total year-end valuation of investment properties was £56.4m, a net decrease of £6.6m from 2022/23.	We undertook the following procedures: • We are reviewing the completeness and accuracy of the underlying information used to determine the valuation. This included testing accuracy of floor areas to plans provided to the valuer and testing of obsolescence and build cost assumptions. For investment properties, we reviewed the completeness and accuracy of rental income information, and the reasonableness of yield percentages applied in calculating the fair value. We have also assessed the appropriateness of the valuation method, the type of inspection performed, and any assumptions made in respect of local factors; • We are satisfied that the Council's expert is objective, competent and knowledgeable in their field of expertise; • We have reviewed the impact of any changes to the valuation method and incorporated this into our sample selection; • We have reviewed the consistency of valuations against our auditor's expert market trend report and adequacy of disclosure in the financial statements; • We engaged an auditor's expert to help assess the Council's valuation reports for land and building and investment property assets and used our expert to assess the method and assumptions. • We evaluated management's assessment of those assets not revalued in the year. We made our own assessment of the potential value of these assets at 31 March 2024. **Our audit work is ongoing on these estimates and so we cannot draw a conclusion at this stage.**	Our audit work is ongoing and so we cannot yet conclude on these estimates. **However, our assessment to date is that management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious.**

Assessment

- [Red] We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- [Amber] We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
- [Grey] We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
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2. Financial Statements: key judgements and estimates

Significant judgement or estimate	Summary of management's approach	Audit Comments	Assessment
Council Dwellings valuations - £1,056.7m.	The Council owns 12,309 dwellings and is required to revalue these properties in accordance with DCLG's Stock Valuation for Resource Accounting guidance. The year-end valuation of Council Dwellings was £1,056.7m, a net increase of £46.5m from 2022/23. The Council measures its dwellings at fair value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing, and is revalued on a cyclical approach using the Beacon methodology. The Council has appointed an external valuer to carry out this work.	We undertook the following procedures: • 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. • Discussed with, and wrote to, the valuer to confirm the basis on which the valuation was carried out. • Engaged our own valuer expert to provide commentary on: the instruction process in comparison to requirements from CIPFA/IFRS/RICS; and the guidance regarding the valuation of council dwellings and social housing. • Reviewed and tested a number of assets back to market data for properties in that area. • Reviewed a sample of assets to test the appropriateness of the Beacon applied as well as undertaking existence testing of a sample of assets. • Challenged the information and assumptions used by the valuer to assess completeness and consistency with our understanding. **Our valuations work is not yet finalised. At this stage, the most significant matter identified within our work relates to a material, adjusted impairment for several council dwelling assets. Refer to detail of this finding in Appendix D.**	Our audit work is ongoing and so we cannot yet conclude on these estimates. **However our assessment to date is that management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious.**

Assessment

- [Red] We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
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2. Financial Statements: key judgements and estimates

<table>
<tr><th>Significant judgement or estimate</th><th>Summary of management's approach</th><th>Audit Comments</th><th>Assessment</th></tr>
<tr>
<td>Net pension liability – £22.9m

IFRIC 14 addresses the extent to which an IAS 19 surplus can be recognised on the balance sheet and whether any additional liabilities are required in respect of onerous funding commitments.

IFRIC 14 limits the measurement of the defined benefit asset to the 'present value of economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan.</td>
<td>The Council recognises and discloses the retirement benefit obligation in accordance with the measurement and presentation requirement of IAS 19 Employee Benefits. The Council uses Barnett Waddingham to provide actuarial valuations of the Council's assets and liabilities derived from this scheme. A full actuarial valuation is required every three years.

The latest full actuarial valuation was completed in April 2023. Given the significant value of the net pension fund liability, small changes in assumptions can result in significant valuation movements. There has been a £9.5m net actuarial loss during 2023/24.

The actuary determined a net asset of £213.4m. An asset ceiling of £236.3m was then applied, to determine a net liability of £22.9m. This is in-line with IFRIC 14 guidance.</td>
<td>We undertook the following procedures:

We assessed management's actuarial expert and concluded that they are competent, capable and objective in producing the estimate;
We carried out analytical procedures to conclude whether the Council's share of LGPS pension assets and liabilities were reasonable. We concluded that the Council's share of assets and liabilities was analytically in-line with our expectations;
We are awaiting assurance from the auditor of East Sussex Pension Fund as to the controls over 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;
We engaged an auditor's actuary expert to challenge the reasonableness of the estimation method used and the approach taken by the actuary to verify the completeness and accuracy of the information used. We were satisfied that the actuary was provided with complete and accurate information about the workforce, and that the method applied was reasonable;
The auditors' expert provided us with indicative ranges for assumptions by which we have assessed the assumptions made by management's expert. As set out below, all assumptions were within the expected range or explained by management to a sufficient degree.

<table>
<tr><th>Assumption</th><th>Actuary Value</th><th>PwC range</th><th>Assessment</th></tr>
<tr><td>Discount rate</td><td>4.90%</td><td>4.80-4.95%</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Pension increase rate</td><td>2.95%</td><td>2.85–3.00%</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Salary growth</td><td>2.95%</td><td>3.95%</td><td>Challenged, and satisfied that this is reasonable</td></tr>
<tr><td>Life expectancy – Males currently aged 45/65</td><td>21.9/20.9 years</td><td>20.6 - 23.1 / 19.2 - 21.8 years</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Life expectancy – Females currently aged 45/65</td><td>25.4/23.8 years</td><td>20.6 - 23.1 / 19.2 - 21.8 years</td><td></td></tr>
</table>
</td>
<td>No issues identified</td>
</tr>
</table>

Assessment

- [Red] We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- [Amber] We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
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2. Financial Statements: key judgements and estimates

Significant judgement or estimate	Summary of management's approach	Audit Comments	Assessment
Minimum Revenue Provision - £12.6m	The Council is responsible on an annual basis for determining the amount charged for the repayment of debt known as its Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The basis for the charge is set out in regulations and statutory guidance. The year end MRP charge was £12.6m, a net increase of £1.4m from 2022/23.	We are currently completing our work on reviewing your estimate of MRP to conclude: • whether the MRP has been calculated in line with the statutory guidance • whether the Council's policy on MRP complies with statutory guidance. • assess whether any changes to the Council's policy on MRP have been discussed and agreed with those charged with governance and have been approved by full council • reasonableness of the increase in MRP charge Following consultation MHCLG have clarified and updated the regulations and the statutory guidance for minimum revenue provision. Although these take full effect from April 2025 , the consultation highlighted that the intention was not to change policy, but to clearly set out in legislation the practices that authorities should already be following. This guidance clarifies that capital receipts may not be used in place of a prudent MRP and that MRP should be applied to all unfinanced capital expenditure and that certain assets should not be omitted from the calculation unless exempted by statute.	Our audit work is ongoing and so we cannot yet conclude on these estimates. **However, our assessment to date is that management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious.**

Assessment

- [Red] We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- [Amber] We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
- [Grey] We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
- [Green] We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

2. Financial Statements: key judgements and estimates

Significant judgement or estimate	Summary of management's approach	Audit Comments	Assessment
Expected Credit Loss - £26.5m	The council approved loans to the i360 as the principal lender for the development of the i360 attraction. The loan comprised debt and rolled up interest over the design and construction period. The attraction soon encountered financial difficulty, principally due to lower-than-expected visitor numbers and was unable to make payments under the loan agreement. The Council, in-line with the requirements of the Code and IFRS 9, applied the simplified approach to this long-term debtor and assessed a lifetime credit loss of £26.5m as at 31 March 2024. This is an increase of £14.8m from the prior year.	As part of our independent work to gain assurance over the appropriate impairment loss being charged against an outstanding debtor, we have reviewed the ECL estimate and concluded on: • The appropriateness of he underlying information used to determine the estimate; • The reasonableness of the increase in the estimate; • The adequacy of the disclosure of the estimate in the financial statements. We are satisfied that the ECL estimate has been valued to a materially accurate degree.	No issues identified

Assessment

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2. Financial Statements: Information Technology

This section provides an overview of results from our assessment of Information Technology (IT) environment and controls which included identifying risks from the use of IT related to business process controls relevant to the financial audit. This includes an overall IT General Control (ITGC) rating per IT system and details of the ratings assigned to individual control areas.

			ITGC control area rating			
IT application	Level of assessment performed	Overall ITGC rating	Security management	Technology acquisition, development and maintenance	Technology infrastructure	Assessment
Civica	ITGC design assessment	●	●	●	●	We have not identified any deficiency in the design effectiveness of the IT application.
NEC (formerly Northgate)	ITGC design assessment	●	●	●	●	We have not identified any deficiency in the design effectiveness of the IT application.
iTrent	ITGC design assessment	●	●	●	●	We have not identified any deficiency in the design effectiveness of the IT application.
Carefirst	ITGC design assessment	●	●	●	●	We have not identified any deficiency in the design effectiveness of the IT application.

Assessment

- ● Significant deficiencies identified in IT controls relevant to the audit of financial statements
- ● Non-significant deficiencies identified in IT controls relevant to the audit of financial statements/significant deficiencies identified but with sufficient mitigation of relevant risk
- ● IT controls relevant to the audit of financial statements judged to be effective at the level of testing in scope
- ● Not in scope for testing

2. Financial Statements: Digital Audit

We have invested significantly in our digital tools and our audit approach is underpinned by a suite of tools, enabling us to capture and analyse the detailed data contained within the general ledger. This supports more efficient and effective testing, with a focus on higher risk areas and unusual transactions. The ability to obtain full ledger data quickly and effectively is key to the progress of audit work, as is documentation of the Council's methodology for mapping code structures to the financial statements and use of off-ledger adjustments. Difficulties and delays in obtaining data adversely impact on the scheduling and delivery of the audit and it is important that management engage with the audit teams to understand the requirements for data transfer, providing a clearly documented understanding of how financial statement entries are produced from underlying ledger and a timetable for doing so.

We requested several reports/documents from the Council to aid with this and these are summarised in the table below along with comments on delivery.

Document requested	Date requested	Date received	Comments
Closing trial balance for 2022/23	24th June 2024	13th June 2024	The Council delivered the core financial statement working papers ahead of time, with the information being clear and appropriately formatted. This supported efficient and effective testing.
Opening trial balance for 2023/24	24th June 2024	13th June 2024	
Closing trial balance for 2023/24	24th June 2024	13th June 2024	
All general ledger transactions during 2023/24	24th June 2024	13th June 2024	
Mapping between the trial balance and the financial statements for 2023/24	24th June 2024	13th June 2024	
Draft accounts for 2023/24	24th June 2024	13th June 2024	

2. Financial Statements: other communication requirements

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	Commentary
Matters in relation to fraud	We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee. We have not been made aware of any other incidents in the period and no other issues have been identified during the course of our audit procedures.
Matters in relation to related parties	We are not aware of any related parties or related party transactions which have not been disclosed.
Matters in relation to laws and regulations	You have not made us aware of any significant incidences of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations and we have not identified any incidences from our audit work.
Written representations	A letter of representation has been requested from the Council.
Confirmation requests from third parties	We requested from management permission to send a confirmation requests to relevant Investments and borrowings held with third parties. This permission was granted, and the requests were sent out. All, but one, requests have been received. We are currently chasing the outstanding response and expect to receive this before the end of September.
Accounting practices	We have evaluated the appropriateness of the Council's accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures. Our review has identified several disclosure misstatements/discrepancies, which have been summarised in Appendix D. Management have agreed to amend all matters identified in the accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures.
Audit evidence and explanations/ significant difficulties	All information and explanations requested from management was provided.

2. Financial Statements: other communication requirements

Our responsibility

As auditors, we are required to "obtain sufficient appropriate 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).

<table>
<tr><th>Issue</th><th>Commentary</th></tr>
<tr><td>Going concern</td><td>
In performing our work on going concern, we have had reference to Statement of Recommended Practice – Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statements of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2020). The Financial Reporting Council recognises that for particular sectors, it may be necessary to clarify how auditing standards are applied to an entity in a manner that is relevant and provides useful information to the users of financial statements in that sector. Practice Note 10 provides that clarification for audits of public sector bodies.
Practice Note 10 sets out the following key principles for the consideration of going concern for public sector entities:

the use of the going concern basis of accounting is not a matter of significant focus of the auditor's time and resources because the applicable financial reporting frameworks envisage that the going concern basis for accounting will apply where the entity's services will continue to be delivered by the public sector. In such cases, a material uncertainty related to going concern is unlikely to exist, and so a straightforward and standardised approach for the consideration of going concern will often be appropriate for public sector entities
for many public sector entities, the financial sustainability of the reporting entity and the services it provides is more likely to be of significant public interest than the application of the going concern basis of accounting. Our consideration of the Council's financial sustainability is addressed by our value for money work, which is covered elsewhere in this report.

Practice Note 10 states that if the financial reporting framework provides for the adoption of the going concern basis of accounting on the basis of the anticipated continuation of the provision of a service in the future, the auditor applies the continued provision of service approach set out in Practice Note 10. The financial reporting framework adopted by the Council meets this criteria, and so we have applied the continued provision of service approach. In doing so, we have considered and evaluated:

the nature of the Council and the environment in which it operates
the Council's financial reporting framework
the Council's system of internal control for identifying events or conditions relevant to going concern
management's going concern assessment.

Given the financial challenges that the Council currently faces, and the significant weakness in arrangements identified within financial sustainability since the 2021/22 audit, we have carried out some enhanced procedures to gain assurance that there is no material uncertainty related to going concern. These procedures have included a more detailed review of cash flow projections, as well as sensitivity analysis and stress testing of assumptions made within the Medium-Term Financial Plan.
On the basis of this work, we have obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence to enable us to conclude that:

a material uncertainty related to going concern has not been identified
management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

</td></tr>
</table>

2. Financial Statements: other responsibilities under the Code

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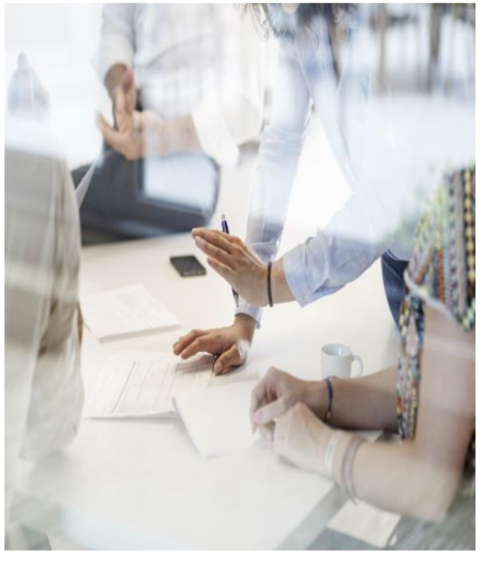
Issue	Commentary
Other information	We are required to give an opinion on whether the other information published together with the audited financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report), is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. No inconsistencies have been identified thus far, however subject to completion of the outstanding audit procedures detailed on page 4. We plan to issue an unmodified opinion in this respect.
Matters on which we report by exception	We are required to report on a number of matters by exception in a number of areas: • if the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with disclosure requirements set out in CIPFA/SOLACE guidance or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit, • if we have applied any of our statutory powers or duties. • where we are not satisfied in respect of arrangements to secure value for money and have reported [a] significant weakness/es. We have nothing to report on the first two matters. Regarding the VFM work, more extensive work around the risks of significant weaknesses and financial sustainability is being carried out, which has required additional meetings with senior management. The VFM work is in progress, and our detailed commentary will be set out in the separate Auditor's Annual Report, which will be presented at the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee in the near future.
Specified procedures for Whole of Government Accounts	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 work is not required as the Council does not exceed the threshold;
Certification of the closure of the audit	We intend to certify the closure of the 2023/24 audit of Brighton and Hove City Council on completion and reporting of the Auditor's Annual Report for Value for Money arrangements at the Council.



3. Value for Money arrangements (VFM)

Approach to Value for Money work for 2023/24

The National Audit Office issued its guidance for auditors in April 2020. The Code require auditors to consider whether the body has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

When reporting on these arrangements, the Code requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under the three specified reporting criteria.

Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

Arrangements for improving the way the body delivers its services. This includes arrangements for understanding costs and delivering efficiencies and improving outcomes for service users.

Financial Sustainability

Arrangements for ensuring the body can continue to deliver services. This includes planning resources to ensure adequate finances and maintain sustainable levels of spending over the medium term (3–5 years)

Governance

Arrangements for ensuring that the body makes appropriate decisions in the right way. This includes arrangements for budget setting and management, risk management, and ensuring the body makes decisions based on appropriate information

Potential types of recommendations

A range of different recommendations could be made following the completion of work on the body's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, which are as follows:

Statutory recommendation

Written recommendations to the body under Section 24 (Schedule 7) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. A recommendation under schedule 7 requires the body to discuss and respond publicly to the report.

Key recommendation

The Code of Audit Practice requires that where auditors identify significant weaknesses in arrangements to secure value for money they should make recommendations setting out the actions that should be taken by the body. We have defined these recommendations as 'key recommendations'.

Improvement recommendation

These recommendations, if implemented should improve the arrangements in place at the body, but are not made as a result of identifying significant weaknesses in the body's arrangements

The VFM work is in progress, and our detailed commentary will be set out in the separate Auditor's Annual Report, which will be presented at the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee in the near future.

As part of our work, we are considering whether there were any significant weakness in the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

More extensive work around the risks of significant weaknesses and financial sustainability is being carried out, which has required additional meetings with senior management.

4. Independence considerations

Ethical Standards and ISA (UK) 260 require us to give you timely disclosure of all significant matters that may bear upon the integrity, objectivity and independence of the firm or covered persons (including its partners, senior managers, managers). In this context, we disclose the following to you:

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 E.

Transparency

Grant Thornton publishes an annual Transparency Report, which sets out details of the action we have taken over the past year to improve audit quality as well as the results of internal and external quality inspections. For more details see Grant Thornton International Transparency report 2023.

4. Independence considerations

As part of our assessment of our independence we note the following matters:

Matter	Conclusion
Relationships with Grant Thornton	We are not aware of any relationships between Grant Thornton and the Council that may reasonably be thought to bear on our integrity, independence and objectivity
Relationships and Investments held by individuals	We have not identified any potential issues in respect of personal relationships with the Council or investments in the Council held by individuals
Employment of Grant Thornton staff	We are not aware of any former Grant Thornton partners or staff being employed, or holding discussions in respect of employment, by the Council as a director or in a senior management role covering financial, accounting or control related areas.
Business relationships	We have not identified any business relationships between Grant Thornton and the Council
Contingent fees in relation to non-audit services	No contingent fee arrangements are in place for non-audit services provided
Gifts and hospitality	We have not identified any gifts or hospitality provided to, or received from, the Council, senior management or staff that would exceed the threshold set in the Ethical Standard

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 and consider that an objective reasonable and informed third party would take the same view. The firm and each covered person, and network firms, have complied with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements

4. Independence considerations

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. These services are consistent with the Council's policy on the allotment of non-audit work to your auditors. All services have been approved by the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee.

None of the services provided are subject to contingent fees.

Service	Fees	Threats identified	Safeguards
Non-audit related			
Certification of Housing Benefits	£34,283	Self-Interest (because this is a recurring fee) Self-review (because GT provides audit services) Management threat (if GT were to recommend a particular action or make a decision on behalf of management)	The level of this recurring fee taken on its own is not considered a significant threat to independence as the fee for this work is £34,283 in comparison to the total fee for the audit of £442,676 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. The scope of this work does not include making decisions on behalf of management or recommending a particular course of action.
Certification of Teachers Pension Return	£12,500	Self-Interest (because this is a recurring fee) Self review (because GT provides audit services) Management threat (if GT were to recommend a particular action or make a decision on behalf of management)	The level of this recurring fee taken on its own is not considered a significant threat to independence as the fee for this work is £12,500 in comparison to the total fee for the audit of £442,676 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. The scope of this work does not include making decisions on behalf of management or recommending a particular course of action.
Homes England Compliance	£12,000	Self-Interest (because this is a recurring fee) Self review (because GT provides audit services) Management threat (if GT were to recommend a particular action or make a decision on behalf of management)	The level of this recurring fee taken on its own is not considered a significant threat to independence as the fee for this work is £12,000 in comparison to the total fee for the audit of £442,676 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. The scope of this work does not include making decisions on behalf of management or recommending a particular course of action.

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Appendices

A. Communication of audit matters to those charged with governance

Our communication plan	Audit Plan	Audit Findings
Respective responsibilities of auditor and management/those charged with governance	•	
Overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit, form, timing and expected general content of communications including significant risks	•	
Confirmation of independence and objectivity	•	•
A statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence. Relationships and other matters which might be thought to bear on independence. Details of non-audit work performed by Grant Thornton UK LLP and network firms, together with fees charged. Details of safeguards applied to threats to independence	•	•
Significant findings from the audit		•
Significant matters and issue arising during the audit and written representations that have been sought		•
Significant difficulties encountered during the audit		•
Significant deficiencies in internal control identified during the audit		•
Significant matters arising in connection with related parties		•
Identification or suspicion of fraud involving management and/or which results in material misstatement of the financial statements		•
Non-compliance with laws and regulations		•
Unadjusted misstatements and material disclosure omissions		•
Expected modifications to the auditor's report, or emphasis of matter		•

ISA (UK) 260, as well as other ISAs (UK), prescribe matters which we are required to communicate with those charged with governance, and which we set out in the table here.

This document, the Audit Findings, outlines those key issues, findings and other matters arising from the audit, which we consider should be communicated in writing rather than orally, together with an explanation as to how these have been resolved.

Respective responsibilities

As auditor we are responsible for performing the audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), 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.

Distribution of this Audit Findings report

Whilst we seek to ensure our audit findings are distributed to those individuals charged with governance, we are also required to distribute our findings to those members of senior management with significant operational and strategic responsibilities. We are grateful for your specific consideration and onward distribution of our report to all those charged with governance.

B. Action Plan – Audit of Financial Statements

We have identified 1 recommendation for the Council as a result of issues identified during the audit. We have agreed our recommendations with management, and we will report on progress on these recommendations during the course of the 2024/25 audit. The matters reported here are limited to those deficiencies that we have identified during the 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	**Reporting of Kingsway to the Sea Capital Project** We identified some weaknesses in management's accounting for, and reporting of, the Kingsway to the Sea capital programme. We noted several classification issues related to this programme. Firstly, capital expenditure was recorded to the Infrastructure asset class despite the assets not being operational. Whilst not material, these were still significant sums of money, thus creating a risk of material misclassification in future periods. Further, we identified one instance where an invoice for KttS works received in 2023/24 was not accrued for in the correct period. Multiple instances of misstatement under the same project has driven our control recommendation.	We would recommend that management review the process in which the reporting of events/transactions for significant capital programmes is carried out. We would recommend management corroborate the classification of all capital programme spend (where above a reasonable threshold) to asset class definitions as per the Code. We would also recommend management perform a review of all invoices received after year-end (up to a reasonable date, and above a reasonable threshold) to assure themselves that all significant accruals have been captured in the accounts. **Management response** There have been a number of contractual issues relating to the final stages of these works which have drawn the attention of management and reduced the capacity for oversight of other aspects of the contract. However, we will re-issue guidance to all capital scheme contract managers and remind them of the need to classify and code expenditure correctly and to alert Finance contacts where there is a backlog of analysis and review of expenditure. We will undertake a review of all 'non-trivial' capital expenditure (i.e. greater than £745,000) for construction projects to identify any other potential areas of misclassification or incorrect coding practice.

Controls

- High – Significant effect on financial statements
- Medium – Limited Effect on financial statements
- Low – Best practice

C. Follow up of prior year recommendations

We identified the following issues in the audit of Brighton and Hove City Council's 2022/23 financial statements, which resulted in 7 recommendations being reported in our 2022/23 Audit Findings report. We are pleased to report that management have implemented the majority of our recommendations, and that the remaining recommendations are low risk.

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Assessment	Issue and risk previously communicated	Update on actions taken to address the issue
X	**Reclassification in the CIES** Where there are reclassifications of amounts in the CIES, the accounts should disclose the amount of each item/class of items which are reclassified. In the prior-year, the Council had restated the prior-year so that both years were comparable, but we recommended that any changes in future years are fully disclosed in-line with the CIPFA Code.	There were reclassifications, which gave rise to significant variances in the CIES between 2023/24 and 2022/23. In the draft accounts, these were not explained, but management have agreed to include a disclosure to give further information. We are satisfied that management are now addressing these reclassifications with sufficient detail but would recommend management consider this ahead of producing the draft accounts.
✓	**Expenditure and Funding Analysis** There were discrepancies in the prior-year between the EFA note and the outturn report as per the Narrative Report. We recommended that the Council employs a consistency check between these figures for future periods.	No issues were noted on this in the 2023/24 accounts.
X	**Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)** Paragraph 90 of the Prudential Code states that there should be no difference when using the CIPFA balance sheet checker to determine the CFR. There was a £2.4m difference on this checker. We recommended that management reviews the balance sheet checker in future years to ensure it agrees to the CFR.	A historical issue remains within the Capital Financing Requirement, for the amount of £966k (see Appendix D).
✓	**Critical Judgements and Assumptions Made** We recommended management ensure the Critical Judgements and Assumptions note is compliant with the CIPFA Code.	No issues were noted on this in the 2023/24 accounts.
✓	**Related Parties** There were over disclosures in the Related Parties note in 2022/23 which we deemed “crowded out” the relevant information. We recommended that management streamline the Related Parties note.	No issues were noted on this in the 2023/24 accounts.
✓	**Overpayment of a staff member** We recommend that the Council ensures the changes in circumstances for employees go through the appropriate process, and that controls are implemented as designed.	No issues were noted on this in the 2023/24 accounts.
✓	**Collection Fund Statement** We recommended management ensure the Collection Fund statement note is compliant with the CIPFA Code section 3.4.2.31.	No issues were noted on this in the 2023/24 accounts.

Assessment

✓ Action completed X Not yet addressed

D. 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

All adjusted misstatements are set out in detail below along with the impact on the key statements and the reported net expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2024.

Detail	CIES £000	Balance Sheet £000	Impact on total net expenditure £000	Impact on general fund £000
Large Panel System Asset Impairment As documented in further detail on page 13, several council dwellings containing large panel systems, were deemed non-compliant with Health & Safety standards. We concluded that this information would impact the valuation of the eight buildings at 31 March 2024, as well as for prior periods, representing an adjusting post balance sheet event. We engaged with management and the council's external valuer, who explained that in the absence of known costs or timeframes for the remediation works, the best course of action was to revise the asset valuation to nil. As this is a prior-period adjustment, it will be required to be transacted in the prior-period opening PPE and reserves balances (at 1 April 2022) and so there is no impact on the CIES arising from the impairment for the 2023/24 or 2022/23 balances. The £29,006k impairment to PPE represents the carrying value of the assets at 1 April 2022. The £1,300k debit to revaluation reserve represents the balance of the reserve at 1 April 2022, and the £27,706k to the CAA reflects the balancing figure. The impact on the net assets on the Balance Sheet is, thus, a reduction of £29,006k.	Nil	Dr Revaluation Reserve **1,300** Dr Capital Adjustment Account **27,706** Cr PPE **29,006**	Nil	Nil
Overall impact	£nil	£nil	£nil	£nil

D. 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

All adjusted misstatements are set out in detail below along with the impact on the key statements and the reported net expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2024.

Detail	CIES £000	Balance Sheet £000	Impact on total net expenditure £000	Impact on general fund £000
Misclassification between 'Changes in the Fair Value of Investments Properties' and 'Economy, Environment and Community (EEC)' service line Two account codes, that should have been recorded to the 'Changes in the Fair Value of Investment Properties' were mistakenly mapped to the EEC service line	Dr EEC Income **1,991** Cr Changes in FV of IP **1,991**	Nil	Nil	Nil
Misclassification between 'Health & Adult Social Care' service line and 'Non-ring-fenced government grants' Three account codes, that should have been recorded to the 'Non-ring-fenced government grants' were mistakenly mapped to the HASC service line	Dr HASC Income **1,903** Cr Non-ring-fenced grants **1,903**	Nil	Nil	Nil
Misclassification between Fees, Charges and Other Service Income and Other Services Expenditure It was identified that several transactions (totalling £1,080k) recorded to Fees, Charges and Other Service Income should have been recorded to Other Services Expenditure.	Dr Fees, Charges & Other Service Income **1,080** Cr Other Services Expenditure **1,080**	Nil	Nil	Nil
Incorrect Accounting for Revaluation Movements of Land and Buildings We have noted that the revaluation movements charged to revaluation reserve and CIES do not reconcile with the fixed asset register.	Cr Gain on Revaluation **9,719**	Dr Revaluation Reserve **9,719**	**Cr 9,719**	**Dr 9,719**
Overall impact	**Cr £9,719**	**Dr £9,719**	**Cr £9,719**	**Dr £9,719**

D. Audit Adjustments

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/issue/Omission	Adjusted?	Reason for not adjusting
Presentational errors within Note 10 We have identified several presentation errors within the PPE Note. These are: - Inconsistencies within the transactions in respect of the surplus/deficit on revaluation for Council Dwellings - Omission of the depreciation written out line from the Note, and associated reclassifications between other lines - Omission of the 'Assets reclassified within PPE' line, and associated reclassifications between other lines - Infrastructure assets, and associated NBV movements, should be presented separately from the PPE Note in-line with the temporary relief offered by the CIPFA Code	✓	Not applicable
Amendment of Accounting Policies – Capitalisation of Proceeds Management informed us, during our work in the disposals testing, that the policy regarding the "capitalisation of proceeds from sale of assets" had changed to a threshold of £20k (compared with £10k in the prior-year). Effectively, only proceeds > £20k for the sale of PPE and Investment Property are now taken to the capital receipts reserve.	✓	Not applicable
Exit Packages Bandings The distribution of the bandings in the exit packages were not compliant with the CIPFA Code. A band of £100k - £350k was presented. This should be presented in bands of £50k.	✓	Not applicable
Voluntary Aided Schools Employee Expenditure The CIPFA Code requires that material employee costs for voluntary aided schools is split out on the I&E by Nature note (Note 6). As such, management are disaggregating out £34,476k in Note 6 (PY: £32,331k).	✓	Not applicable
Several presentational/formatting adjustments We have carried out a consistency review of the financial statements. Several small errors have been noted which have been amended by management.	✓	Not applicable
Several amendments to the Senior Officer Remuneration note Amendments to the pension contributions and salary costs for several senior officers will be made to Note 21. These arose from clerical errors.	✓	Not applicable
Explanation for material movements in the CIES The material movements between the Families, Children and Learning and Health & Adult Social Care largely relate to Adult Learning Disability cost centres which were part of FCL for the whole of 2022/23 but then reclassified to HASC from 1 April 2023. Management will include a statement below the CIES to explain this.	✓	Not applicable

D. Audit Adjustments

Disclosure/issue/Omission	Adjusted?	Reason for not adjusting
Several amendments to the Estimation Uncertainty and Critical Judgements Note (Note 3) We have identified several disclosure errors within Note 3. These are: - Coast to Capital not meeting the criteria of a critical judgement - A reference to IFRS 10 when assessing the group relationship for Homes for the City of Brighton & Hove LLP (this is not the appropriate standard) - Investment properties not meeting the criteria of an area of estimation uncertainty - Insufficient information regarding the uncertainty between the Revaluation Reserve and Capital Adjustment Account	✓	Not applicable
Amendment of Accounting Policies – Pensions The accounting policy regarding the accounting of contributions to the pension scheme was not compliant with the CIPFA Code or the statutory adjustments. We understand that this was only in the narrative of the policy, and not actually how the pension adjustments were being recorded.	✓	Not applicable
Amendment of Accounting Policies – De minimis for PPE The accounting policy for capitalisation of land and buildings and vehicles, plant and equipment stated that a £20,000 de minimis was applied. This was not the case, and thus management agreed to remove the policy. Further, a de minimis for componentisation of assets of £10m was described in the accounting policies note, which was also not being adopted. Management will be removing this from the accounts.	✓	Not applicable
Contingent Liability – Large Panel System Council Dwellings Works associated with the large panel system council dwellings (see page 13) will be required in future periods. As the Council cannot quantify the obligation with any accuracy, they have decided to include a contingent liability for it in the accounts.	✓	Not applicable
Bad Debt Provision Disclosure The total bad debt provision as disclosed in Note 12 omitted elements of the i360 loan bad debt provision. The long-term bad debt provision was misstated by £15.188m which management have agreed to amend.	✓	Not applicable
Presentation of Financial Instruments Note Management returned to the former disclosure (as in the 2022/23 accounts) of not splitting out Cash and Cash Equivalents for 23/24 in the financial assets. Management confirmed they would revise this for the 2023/24 accounts and will split out cash from the ST investments.	✓	Not applicable
MiRS - Capital Financing Requirement There is a difference of £966k reported on 'capital financing requirement'. This is due to the historic adjustments on HRA Non-Current assets and application of capital grant.	X	Immaterial

D. Audit Adjustments

Impact of unadjusted misstatements

The table below provides details of adjustments identified during the 2023/24 audit which have not been made within the final set of financial statements. The Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee is required to approve management's proposed treatment of all items recorded within the table below.

Detail	CIES £000	Balance Sheet £000	Impact on total net expenditure £000	Impact on general fund £000	Reason for not adjusting
Completed AuC Project not Transferred to Council Dwellings The Council have accumulated construction costs of £23,923k related to 3 blocks in Coldean Lane. In the preparation of the accounts, the Council have been informed that 2 out of the 3 blocks had been completed during the year. As a result, they have transferred 2/3 of the total construction costs incurred out of AuC to Council Dwellings. The related Council Dwellings were then revalued at their EUV-SH at year-end. The remaining 1/3 of the costs remained in AuC at year-end. However, further information after the preparation of the accounts came to light which confirms that the final block had also been completed during the year. As a result of this information, the £7,974k construction cost sitting at AuC at the end of the year is incorrect as the asset had become operational during the year. Additionally, the amount that was transferred to Council Dwellings would have been revalued to their EUV-SH at year-end. Based on Beacon values, we determined the valuation loss to be £3,559k.	Dr Loss on Revaluation 3,559	Dr PPE (Council Dwellings) 7,974 Cr PPE (AuC) 7,974 Cr PPE (Council Dwellings) 3,559	Dr 3,559	Cr 3,559	Immaterial
Misclassification of Kingsway to the Sea Capital Expenditure We identified a misclassification error within our additions testing, whereby additions to AuC were understated and Infrastructure assets were overstated by £6,341k. Further, due to capital spend being inappropriately allocated to Infrastructure in prior-periods, there is a further £1,388k that has been overstated in the Infrastructure class that should be in the AuC class. As such, the total misclassification is £7,729k (AuC understated, Infrastructure overstated).	Nil	Dr PPE (AuC) 7,729 Cr PPE (Infrastructure) 7,729	Nil	Nil	Immaterial
Completeness Expenditure: Omission of Capital Accrual Management failed to identify a capital accrual relating to the Kingsway to the Sea Project. An invoice, for the amount of £1,762k should have been accrued for in 2023/24, but was omitted.	Nil	Dr PPE (AuC) 1,762 Cr Payables 1,762	Nil	Nil	Immaterial

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D. Audit Adjustments

Impact of unadjusted misstatements

The table below provides details of adjustments identified during the 2023/24 audit which have not been made within the final set of financial statements. The Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee is required to approve management's proposed treatment of all items recorded within the table below.

Detail	CIES £000	Balance Sheet £000	Impact on total net expenditure £000	Impact on general fund £000	Reason for not adjusting
Large Panel System Asset Impairment – Gross Book Value Transactions Transactions recorded against the LPS assets (now fully impaired) in 2023/24 resulted in a decrease in their gross book value of £484k. Due to these assets now having been impaired to nil, via a prior-period adjustment, these transactions would need to be reversed. The reduction in the GBV of £484k was made up of: **Gross Book Value Adjustments:** - Additions of £1,924k - Revaluation gain of £167k - Revaluation loss to the CIES arising from adjustment of GBV of £1,474k - Revaluation loss to the Revaluation Reserve arising from adjustment of GBV of £1,101k We verified that the prior-year (2022/23) impact would be: - £1,766k net loss on the CIES - £116k gain in the Revaluation Reserve We are satisfied that the cumulative impact of these 2022/23 unadjusted misstatements is immaterial on the 2023/24 accounts.	Dr CIES (Additions impairment) 1,924 Dr CIES (Reversal of Reval gain) 167 Cr CIES (Reversal of Reval loss) 1,474	Cr PPE (Additions) 1,924 Cr PPE (Reval gain) 167 Dr PPE (Reval loss to CIES) 1,474 Dr PPE (Reval loss to RR) 1,101 Cr Revaluation Reserve 1,101	Dr 617	Cr 617	Immaterial
Large Panel System Asset Impairment – Accumulated Depreciation Transactions Reversing the transactions associated with depreciation recorded against the LPS assets in 2023/24 would have the following impact: **Adjustments for Accumulated Depreciation:** - Depreciation charge to CIES of £483k - Revaluation loss to the Revaluation Reserve arising from adjustment of AD of £367k - Revaluation loss to the CIES arising from adjustment of AD of £116k We verified that the prior-year (2022/23) impact would be: - £464k net loss on the CIES - £934k loss in the Revaluation Reserve We are satisfied that the cumulative impact of these 2022/23 unadjusted misstatements is immaterial on the 2023/24 accounts.	Cr CIES (Depreciation expense) 483 Dr CIES (Reversal of AD) 167	Dr PPE (Reversal of depreciation) 483 Cr PPE (Reversal of AD write back) 167 Dr Revaluation Reserve (Reversal of AD write back) 116 Cr PPE (Reversal of AD write back) 116	Cr 316	Dr 316	Immaterial
Overall impact	Dr £4,492k	Cr £4,492k	Dr £4,492k	Cr £4,492k	

D. Audit Adjustments

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 2022/23 financial statements. Satisfied where this is considered alongside any adjusted misstatements from the current year that these could not be cumulatively material.

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £000	Balance Sheet £000	Impact on total net expenditure £000	Impact on general fund £000	Reason for not adjusting
Land and Buildings Not Revalued We estimated that for the portfolio of land and building assets which had not been revalued at 31 March 2023, there would be a net impact of £3.725m on the balance sheet if these were revalued at 31 March 2023.	**This is not an error that would carry forward into the 2023/24 financial statements. We have carried out an updated review of assets not revalued at 31 March 2024 and reported our conclusions in the previous tabs.** Management did not adjust in the prior-year due it being not material.				
Investment Properties In our review of the Investment Properties disclosures in the 2022/23 accounts, it was identified that £698k, which should have been classified within the changes to the fair value of investment properties (financing and investment income and expenditure) was in fact classified within cost of services	Dr Changes to the Fair Value of Investment Properties £698k Cr Cost of Services (£698k)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Not material
Overall impact	£nil	£nil	£nil	£nil	

E. Fees and non-audit services

We confirm below our final fees charged for the audit and provision of non-audit services.

Audit fees	Proposed fee
Scale fee	£418,126
Additional audit risk assessment and business process documentation related to ISA 315	£12,550
Use of external audit valuation expert	£7,000
Additional fee in respective of audit work on LPS asset valuations	£5,000
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	**£442,676**

Non-audit fees for other services	Proposed fee
Certification of Housing Benefits	£34,253
Teachers Pensions return certification	£12,500
Total non-audit fees (excluding VAT)	**£46,753**

The fees reconcile to the financial statements, after adjustment of the additional £5,000 charged for the LPS asset valuation issues, and an increase from £3,000 to £7,000 for our use of the external audit expert. Work has not yet been completed with our external valuation expert, and so the total is to be confirmed. We have included this as an audit adjustment in Appendix D.

None of the above services were provided on a contingent fee basis.

This covers all services provided by us and our network to the Council, its directors and senior management and its affiliates, and other services provided to other known connected parties that may reasonably be thought to bear on our integrity, objectivity or independence.

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Brighton & Hove City Council

Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee — Agenda Item 22

Subject: **Audited Statement of Accounts 2023/24**

Date of meeting: **24 September 2024**

Report of: **Ali McManamon, Acting Corporate Director, Corporate Services**

Contact Officer: **Name: Nigel Manvell**
Email: nigel.manvell@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: **All**

For general release

Note: Urgency

By reason of the special circumstances below, and in accordance with section 100B(4)(b) of the 1972 Act, the Chair of the meeting has been consulted and is of the opinion that this item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Note: Reasons for urgency

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 five days in advance of the meeting) were that final checks by officers and the council's external auditors were still being completed on the audited Statement of Accounts.

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 This report provides information about the audit of the council's 2023/24 Statement of Accounts and recommends approval of the 2023/24 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 & General Purposes Committee.

1.2 The council's external auditors for 2023/24 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 their Audit Findings Report 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.

1.3 This report presents the updated 2023/24 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 provided at Appendix 3.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Committee notes the findings of the external auditor Grant Thornton as set out in their audit findings report (a separate item on this agenda).

2.2 That Committee notes the results of the public inspection of the accounts (paragraph 5).

2.3 That Committee approves the Letter of Representation on behalf of the council (Appendix 1).

2.4 That Committee approves the audited Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 (Appendix 3) subject to any final amendments.

2.5 That Committee delegates authority to the Chief Finance Officer for any final wording or immaterial adjustments to the accounts prior to publication

3. Context and 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 (as amended).

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.

3.3 The statutory deadline for consideration and approval of the accounts by Members is 30 September. Under the council's constitution, the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee is charged with the responsibility of the approval of the accounts.

Format of the Accounts

3.4 Local authority accounts are not viewed from a commercial perspective, for example, in terms of an authority's attractiveness for possible merger or acquisition. Instead, local authorities are viewed in terms of their financial resilience, effective financial management and general viability. The 'going concern' concept does apply to local authority accounts in principle but does not apply in practice as evidenced in the case of local authorities who have issued s114 notices and who would be insolvent if they were not local authorities effectively underwritten by the UK government.

3.5 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 2023/24?
- 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?

3.6 In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, the accounts include:

- A narrative report;
- A Statement of Responsibilities;
- The core financial statements (Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement ,Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement);
- The Supplementary statements (Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund), and;
- The Notes to the accounts.

3.7 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 2023/24 accounts is included in **Appendix 2** to this report.

3.8 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 2023/24 has been considered and it was concluded that there were no material transactions in the 2023/24 financial year that would have required Group Accounts.

3.9 Grant Thornton have made significant progress on their work on the audit of the accounts and will be reporting their findings separately to this Committee through the 2023/24 Audit Findings Report (elsewhere on this agenda). 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

3.10 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 2023/24 accounts cover the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. There has been no deviation from the requirements of the Code and all accounting policies adopted by the council for the 2023/24 accounts are in line with the requirements of the Code. For 2023/24 there were no significant changes in reporting requirements under the Code of Practice.

3.11 The accounts are 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. 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 2023/24 accounts.

3.12 In preparing the accounts, the council makes a number of critical judgements, accounting estimates and assumptions; the details are disclosed in Note 3 Critical Judgements and Assumptions Made in the accounts. 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.

3.13 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 2023/24 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

3.14 Grant Thornton has undertaken 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 agenda. As external auditor, Grant Thornton are responsible for forming an opinion on the financial statements and forming a conclusion on the arrangements that the Authority has in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (completing a Value for Money review).

3.15 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. As confirmed in the audit findings report the council's financial statements are free of material misstatements and omissions.

3.16 Grant Thornton's 2023/24 audit findings report states that an unqualified audit opinion is expected to be issued subject to the satisfactory conclusion of a number of outstanding audit queries by 30 September. The Grant Thornton Annual Auditor's Report (Value for Money work) is elsewhere on this agenda.

3.17 It is a requirement that the council's Annual Governance Statement is approved annually either before or alongside approval of the financial statements. This was approved at the June 2024 meeting of the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

4.1 Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, as amended, the council's 2023/24 accounts are to be approved by the Chief Finance Officer no later than 31 May and following the audit process are to be approved by Members no later than 30 September. Under the Council's constitution, the Audit, Standards & General Purposes 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.

5. Community engagement and 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. The accounts were formally made available for public inspection on the council's web site from 3 July to 11 August 2024. The council received one enquiry in respect of Early Years and refugee and asylum seeker support expenditure as part of the public inspection process.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Grant Thornton have carried out their audit of the 2023/24 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. As noted in the Audit Findings Reports, there are a small number of outstanding queries that the auditor will need to conclude before being able to issue their formal opinion and complete the audit.

7. Financial implications

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

Finance officer consulted: Jane Strudwick   Date consulted : 17/09/24

8. Legal implications

8.1 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), as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (statutory instrument 2021/263). Those Regulations permit either full Council or a Committee of the Council to consider the statement of accounts and formally approve it. At Brighton & Hove City Council, the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee has been given delegated responsibility to carry out this function.

Lawyer consulted: Victoria Simpson   Date consulted: 17.09.2024

9. Equalities implications

9.1 No direct implications

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 No direct implications

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

1. Letter of representation 2023/24
2. Brief Commentary on the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts
3. Brighton & Hove City Council 2023/24 Statement of Accounts

2. Background documents

1. Audited Brighton & Hove City Council 2023/24 Statement of Accounts and associated working papers.

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BN3 4AH

Grant Thornton UK LLP
30 Finsbury Square
London
EC2A 1AG

Date: **TBC {TO BE DATED SAME DATE AS DATE OF AUDIT OPINION]**

Our Ref: GT BHCC 2023/24

Contact: Nigel Manvell

Phone: 01273 293104

e-mail: nigel.manvell@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Dear Grant Thornton UK LLP

Brighton and Hove City Council
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of Brighton and Hove City Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the Council financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 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 2023/24 ("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, are reasonable. Such accounting estimates include Land and Building Revaluation, Investment property revaluation, valuation of pension fund net surplus, minimum revenue provision, accruals and provisions. 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. We understand our responsibilities includes identifying and considering alternative, methods, assumptions or source data that would be equally valid under the financial reporting framework, and why these alternatives were rejected in favour of the estimate used. We are satisfied that the methods, the data and the significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.

vi. 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. 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.

vii. Except as disclosed in the financial statements:

    a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent

    b. none of the assets of the Council has been assigned, pledged or mortgaged

    c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.

viii. 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.

ix. 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.

x. We have considered the adjusted misstatements, and misclassification and disclosures changes schedules included in your Audit Findings Report. The Council's financial statements have been amended for these misstatements, misclassifications and disclosure changes and are free of material misstatements, including omissions.

xi. We have considered the unadjusted misstatements schedule included in your Audit Findings Report. We have not adjusted the financial statements for these misstatements brought to our attention as they are immaterial to the results of the Council and its financial position at the year-end. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.

xii. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards. We confirm that we have made an assessment of the likelihood and potential value of all equal pay claims that we have knowledge of, and there are no equal pay liabilities that we believe should be provided for.

xiii. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

xiv. The prior period adjustments disclosed in Note 4 to the financial statements are accurate and complete. There are no other prior period errors to bring to your attention.

xv. We have updated our going concern assessment. We continue to believe that the Council's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern on the grounds that :

   a. the nature of the Council means that, notwithstanding any intention to cease its operations in their current form, it will continue to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting because, in such an event, services it performs can be expected to continue to be delivered by related public authorities and preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis will still provide a faithful representation of the items in the financial statements

   b. the financial reporting framework permits the entry to prepare its financial statements on the basis of the presumption set out under a) above; and

   c. the Council's system of internal control has not identified any events or conditions relevant to going concern.

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

xvi. We have considered whether accounting transactions have complied with the requirements of the Local Government Housing Act 1989 in respect of the Housing Revenue Account ring-fence.

xvii. The Council has complied with all aspects of ring-fenced grants that could have a material effect on the Council's financial statements in the event of non-compliance.

Information Provided

xviii. 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. access to persons within the Council via remote arrangements from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

xix. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.

xx. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

xxi. 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.

xxii. 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.

xxiii. 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.

xxiv. 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.

xxv. 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.

xxvi. 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

xxvii. 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

xxviii. 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 and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 24 September 2024.

Yours faithfully

Name: Nigel Manvell

Position: S151 Chief Finance Officer

Date: 17 September 2024

Signed on behalf of the Council

Appendix 2

Brief Commentary on the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts

Balance Sheet

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 fund liability reporting standards. This includes substantial 'unusable' reserves that are required to translate the council's activities from its funding basis to a standardised International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) basis. There are explanatory notes to the Balance Sheet in the Statement of Accounts.

Non-Current Assets

The value of total non-current assets has increased from £2.249 billion at 31 March 2023 to £2.293 billion at 31 March 2024 (please see Note 10 Non-Current Assets for details). 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 council has also invested in assets via the capital programme which forms part of this movement in value.

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 2024, the council's level of borrowing was £402 million - a net decrease in the year of £1 million (please see the Balance Sheet).

Investments

At 31 March 2024, the council held investments of £ 29 million (31 March 2023 £87 million). This is partly borrowing ahead of planned capital investment. 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 (please see Balance Sheet).

Net Pension Asset

The estimated pension asset for future pension payments increased in 2023/24 by £74 million from a £139 million net asset at 31 March 2023 to a £213 million net asset at 31 March 2024. This change is due to changes in the actuarial assumptions. The values included in the council's accounts in relation to post-employment benefits have no effect on the council tax requirement as the asset is offset by an unusable Pensions Reserve (please see Note 25 Defined Benefit Pension Scheme). Note that the liability of the employer (and level of employer contributions to the Pension Fund) are determined by the triennial actuarial pension fund valuation and not by this interim, annual pension fund liability calculation which is only produced for use in the annual Statement of Accounts.

Provisions

Provisions have been made in the accounts for liabilities existing at the 31 March 2024 that are reasonably certain and can be estimated with reasonable accuracy. Provisions include (please see Note 15 Provisions):

- Voluntary Severance provision – The provision is to meet the costs of expected severance packages resulting from a review of the staffing impacts of approved budget savings. The provision at 31 March 2024 is £2.34 million.
- Insurance provision - The insurance provision is used to cover liabilities under policy excesses and to finance any claims for small risks not insured externally. The council also self-insures some insurance risks from this provision. The level of the provision is informed by independent actuarial assessment of insurance risks. The provision at 31 March 2024 is £4.02 million.
- Business Rates Appeals provision - The council has made provision for its share of the amount that it anticipates to be repayable to ratepayers in the future following successful appeals against the rating lists. The provision at 31 March 2024 is £1.59 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 basis 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 2024 was £1.76 billion (please see the Balance Sheet and Note 9 Unusable Reserves for details).

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 not yet applied and earmarked reserves which have been set aside by the council for specified purposes or future commitments.

The level of General Fund working balance and general reserves held at 31 March 2024 was £8.2 million. The minimum level of working balance and general reserves deemed appropriate by the council’s Chief Finance Officer is £9 million, which represents approximately 4% of net budget or 3 weeks council tax income. The level of HRA working balance stands at £4.1 million as at 31 March 2024 which is in excess of the recommended minimum level of balances of £3 million. Please see Note 8 Usable Reserves for details. Usable reserves and provisions are reviewed during the annual budget setting and again during 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 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. At 31 March 2024, there was a deficit of £ 7.5 million (31 March 2023 £2.3 million) on the Collection Fund due to the challenging economic conditions and cost of living pressures (please see Collection Fund Statement and Notes).

Brighton & Hove City Council

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2023/24

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Chief Finance Officer’s Narrative Report

Introduction

The 2023/24 financial year saw continuing pressures across labour markets, higher pay settlements and persistent inflation. The latter has driven a national cost of living situation which has impacted on the local economy and visitor activity in the city, both of which are important to the council’s budget and resources. Although inflation has fallen from its high point, the council continued to face significant challenges financially including the wider implications of the cost of living situation and the impact of national policies such as significant National Minimum Wage increases, which impact on the cost of external provision including adult and children’s social care providers.

Council Overview

Brighton & Hove City Council (“the council”) was awarded city status in 2000 and is a south coast unitary authority formed of the merger of two former borough councils covering the geographical area of Brighton and Hove. Brighton & Hove is a thriving city located between the South Downs and the sea. It is home to more than 290,000 people making it England’s most populated ‘seaside resort’. The city is known for the Royal Pavilion, various visitor attractions, the historic lanes, independent shops, a vast array of pubs, restaurants and clubs, festivals, events, Regency architecture, and an attractive chalk cliff coastline.

Brighton & Hove City Council is a unitary, single tier authority with responsibility for a range of services including schools and education, social care, housing, libraries, waste collection and disposal, highways management, planning, licensing, and public health.

Operationally in 2023/24, the council was managed by the officer Executive Leadership Team and structured into five directorates: Families, Children & Learning; Health & Adult Social Care; Economy, Environment & Culture; Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities and Governance, People & Resources. Following completion of phase 1 of an organisation design, the council, from 1 April 2024, re-structured into 4 directorates: Corporate Services, City Services, Families, Children and Learning, and Housing, Care and Wellbeing with the Leadership team being reduced from 5 to 4 to reflect the new directorate structure and renamed as the Corporate Leadership team.

The council operates under 'executive arrangements' - a Leader & Cabinet system; this means that the Cabinet (or Executive) is responsible for day-to-day decision making on most services. Cabinet meets eleven times a year. This was a change effected in May 2024 with the council previously operating under a committee system. Please see committees, council meeting and decision making for further details.

The council’s latest overarching strategy document is the Brighton & Hove City Council plan for 2023 to 2027 (brighton-hove.gov.uk). This sets out the council’s vision “A better Brighton & Hove for all” and the council’s four outcomes to achieve the vision which are a city to be proud of, a fair and inclusive city, a healthy city where people thrive and a responsive council with well-run services. Please see: Brighton & Hove City Council plan 2023 to 2027 (brighton-hove.gov.uk) for full details. The council plan and its priorities are supported by a range of strategies and workplans which set out in more detail what the council will deliver to achieve its vision; please see How we will deliver the council plan 2023 to 2027 (brighton-hove.gov.uk).

The council has in place a robust performance management framework which includes corporate key performance indicators. Annual targets for a wide range of indicators and progress against these are reported regularly to the Cabinet. The final position for 2023/24 will be reported to the July 2024 meeting of the Cabinet.

The council also has a robust risk management approach as set out in the 2023/24 risk management framework. This was reported to the 30 January 2024 meeting of the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee; please see [Formal approval of the Risk Management Framework 202324.pdf (brighton-hove.gov.uk)] for further details. Regular update reports on the council's strategic risk register are also presented to this Committee.

The council's 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement, an annual legally required review of internal controls and governance, will be reviewed and agreed by the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee in June 2024.

2023/24 Budget Setting

The 2023/24 budget was set in unprecedented financial and economic environment. The high inflation experienced in 2022/23, and which continued into 2023/24, alongside a weakened economy, recruitment & retention challenges, and growing demands driven by the cost of living situation presented an exceptional financial challenge for local authorities across the country.

The budget shortfall for the council in 2023/24 was projected to be £14 million with further shortfalls of £44 million over the following 3 years. This required a savings package of £14 million in 2023/24 which was the fourteenth year in succession that the council had to address a budget deficit since 2010, with cumulative savings of £209 million having previously been identified through a mixture of economies, efficiencies, technological advances, changes in provision of social care, income generation and service reductions. The budget gaps had been driven by the growing demands for services, particularly social care, and homelessness, together with real terms government grant reductions of over £100 million and the capping of Council Tax increases over the period (including two years of freezes), which meant local taxation had not been able to keep pace with growing costs and demands, or inflation.

The government's Autumn Statement announced in November 2022 purported to provide substantial funding and an increase in Spending Power of 9.2% provided that councils take up the full Council Tax increase and Adult Social Care precept allowable (4.99%). However, this was clearly short of the resources needed just to stand still. Inflation in 2022/23 was running at over 10% (CPI) and, although predicted to fall throughout 2023/24, would be higher than in recent times. Unlike during the pandemic, no additional government support was provided in 2022/23 for the exceptionally high inflation experienced by local authorities, who did not have the ability to increase Council Tax in-year to compensate. The resources for 2023/24 therefore not only funded inflationary increases and pay awards but provided ongoing funding for the excess inflation incurred as well as covering ever-growing increases in demand for services, particularly in the cost of living crisis which had greater impacts on vulnerable and low income households.

The 2023/24 budget included:

- A general Council Tax increase of 2.99%.
- An Adult Social Care Precept increase of 2.00% (the maximum allowed before a local referendum was required).
- A net General Fund budget requirement of £232.385 million
- A substantial capital investment programme of £211.698 million.
- A recommended working balance of £9.000 million (approximately 3.9% of the net budget) to be maintained over the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The [2023/24 Budget Report] and supporting documents was approved by Budget Council in February 2023.

2023/24 Outturn

Revenue

The provisional revenue outturn is a £2.268 million underspend on the General Fund revenue budget and a balanced outturn on the Housing Revenue Account. A summary is set out below.

Directorate	2023/24 Budget £'000	Provisional Outturn £'000	Provisional Variance £'000
Families, Children & Learning	61,792	60,156	(1,636)
Health & Adult Social Care	103,704	103,692	(12)
Economy, Environment & Culture	34,093	34,134	41
Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities	18,677	19,325	648
Governance, People & Resources	33,108	32,453	(655)
Corporately-held Budgets	(11,028)	(11,682)	(654)
Total General Fund	**240,346**	**238,078**	**(2,268)**

The provisional outturn of £2.268 million underspend includes an underspend of £0.281 million on the council's share of the NHS managed Section 75 services. This is an improvement of £2.289 million from the position reported three quarters through the financial year and is due to significant improvements in City Environmental Management costs, the impact of ongoing vacancy and spending controls across all services, and use of new grant funding to alleviate pressures on revenue budgets.

Capital

The provisional capital outturn is an overspend of £1.982 million. A summary is set out below:

Directorate	2023/24 Budget £'000	Provisional Outturn £'000	Provisional Variance £'000
Families, Children & Learning	13,091	13,087	(4)
Health & Adult Social Care	623	621	(2)
Economy, Environment & Culture	51,797	51,633	(164)
Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities	3,513	3,513	0
Housing Revenue Account	68,587	70,739	2,152
Governance, People & Resources	4,628	4,628	0
Total Capital	**142,239**	**144,221**	**1,982**

There continues to be high reprofiling of the original project budgets (£14.345 million of reprofiling into future years). This is a consequence of a wide range of delays due to working restrictions, procurement delays, supply chain issues, recruitment, and skills challenges, impacts on consultation processes and many other impacts. Full details of capital financing are set out in **Note 11 Capital Investment and Capital Financing**. At 31 March 2024, the council had long term borrowing of £354.278 million (31 March 2023 £377.295 million). As previously stated, this is at the average total borrowing value for unitary authorities.

The 2023/24 outturn report will be considered and approved by Cabinet in June 2024.

Additional Government Funding

In previous years, the council received a significant amount of temporary additional government funding to support services and the local economy which is now reducing. Please see **Note 16 Grants and Contributions**.

Cashflow Management

The council regularly reviews its cash flow requirements and approves an annual Treasury Management Policy and Strategy which sets parameters within which the council's cash balances and reserves will be invested. Please see [Treasury Management Policy & Strategy 2023/24] (approved by Council in February 2023).

Budget Planning 2024/25 and Beyond

The Autumn Statement 2023 and additional funding announcement purport to increase Local Government Spending Power by 7.5% for 2024/25. However, this includes assumed maximum Council Tax increases of up to 4.99%, including an Adult Social Care precept of 2%, and a Business Rates increase of 6.7% in line with September 2023 CPI. Therefore, a substantial element of the increase will fall on local businesses and council taxpayers.

Whilst inflation appears to have peaked, it has been slower to level out than the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) had predicted which has led to ongoing cost pressures across all areas of spend including higher than anticipated pay award settlements. The high uplift of the National Living Wage in 2024/25 and next (around 10%) is also driving up costs across a number of sectors, most notably for councils across private and independent sector adult and children's social care providers from whom the council purchases the great majority of its statutory care services. The continuing impact of inflation and subsequently high interest rates on the economy is also a key factor, resulting in increased demands due to the cost of living crisis and the continued suppression of income from fees, charges and commercial rents, key sources of funding for most councils.

Real Terms inflation being experienced by the council is closer to 8% due to increases in the costs of social care provision, most of which is externally provided, together with energy cost uplifts, increased interest rates driving up capital financing costs, and increased external contract costs. However, this is before significant increases in demands are added including, for example, significant growth in adult and children's social care, home to school transport, and homelessness. A further impact that is compounding funding pressures is the impact of the cost of living crisis on council incomes including everything from reduced planning fees to lower commercial rent incomes to lower than expected parking and permit income.

As the Local Government Association (LGA) has noted, the Autumn Statement 2023 falls far short of the funding needed to meet demand and cost pressures across local government. The LGA estimates a £4 billion funding gap over the next two years, likely to require large cuts to local services and the use of at least £2.3 billion council reserves to avoid sector-wide Section 114 'bankruptcy' notices. A highly unsustainable position. The additional funding announcement on 24 January 2024 was welcomed by the sector but does not address the scale of the overall situation. In this council, the conservative estimate of the growth in costs and demands in 2024/25 is approximately £48 million, an unprecedented increase of over 20% of the council's net budget. This includes the combined impact of inflation, increased demands and reduced incomes as referred to above as well as an assumption for the nationally set Local Government pay award. The combination of unprecedented cost pressures and an Autumn Statement that offered nothing above the 2-year announcement made in 2022, despite inflation continuing to be much higher than forecast by the Office of Budget Responsibility together with increased interest rates and an ongoing cost of living crisis, has, unsurprisingly, resulted in the biggest financial challenge this council has ever faced.

The corollary of this is a very large projected budget shortfall (gap) of over £30 million in 2024/25, which is the largest in the council's history. This comprises increased costs, demands and income pressures of approximately £48 million offset by additional funding from Council Tax increases and growth, Business Rates increases, and Adult Social Care grant of £18 million. This inevitably results in some very difficult choices given that the council has no unallocated provisions or risk reserves to help the position in the short term. This is due to cumulative savings and cuts of over £240 million having been required since 2010 in the context of a loss of government grant of over £120 million in real terms, the capping of Council Tax increases, and very significant increases in demands and needs for statutory services such as social care over the same period.

The 2024/25 budget included:

- A general Council Tax increase of 2.99%.
- An Adult Social Care Precept increase of 2.00% (the maximum allowed before a local referendum was required).
- A net General Fund budget requirement for 2024/25 of £246.353 million
- A substantial capital investment programme of £211.470 million.
- A recommended working balance of £9.000 million (approximately 3.7% of the net budget) to be maintained or replenished over the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy

The 2024/25 Budget Report and supporting documents was approved by Budget Council in February 2023.

Explanation of Accounting Statements

The Statement of Accounts sets out the Council's income and expenditure for the year, and its financial position at 31 March 2024. It comprises core and supplementary statements together with disclosure notes. The Statement of Accounts has been prepared and published in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 ("the Code") issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The Code is based on International Financial Reporting Standards, as adapted for the UK public sector under the oversight of the Financial Reporting Advisory Board.

The four core statements are:

- The **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)** which records the council's income and expenditure for the year. The top half of the statement provides an analysis by service area (operating segment). The bottom half of the statement deals with corporate transactions and funding.
- The **Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)** is a summary of the changes to the council's reserves over the course of the year. Reserves are divided into "usable", which can be invested in capital projects or service improvements, and "unusable" which must be set aside for specific legal or accounting purposes.
- The **Balance Sheet (BS)** is a "snapshot" of the council's assets, liabilities, cash balances and reserves at the year-end date.
- The **Cash Flow Statement** shows the reason for changes in the council's cash balances during the year, and whether that change is due to operating activities, new investment, or financing activities (such as repayment of borrowing and other long-term liabilities).

The two supplementary financial statements are:

- The **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)** – this separately identifies the council's statutory landlord function as a provider of social housing under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- The **Collection Fund**, which summarises the collection and redistribution of council tax and business rates income for the Brighton and Hove area.

The notes to these financial statements provide further detail about the council's accounting policies and individual transactions. A glossary of key terms can be found at the end of this publication.

Further Information

Further information about the financial statements is available from the Corporate Accounting team located in room 167, Hove Town Hall, Hove, BN3 4AH. 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
Chief Finance 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 S151 Chief Finance Officer Responsibilities

The council's appointed S151 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 CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom. The S151 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 S151 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 S151 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 at 31 March 2024 and its income and expenditure for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

Nigel Manvell CPFA, Chief Finance Officer, Date: 13 June 2024

Certification by Chair

I confirm that this Statement of Accounts was approved (subject to final amendments and audit opinion post conclusion) by the Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee at a meeting held on [Date of committee].

Signed on behalf of Brighton & Hove City Council by
Councillor Pete West, Chair, Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee, Date:
[Date accounts approved by committee]

Brighton & Hove City Council

Core Financial Statements 2023/24

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) records the council's revenue income and expenditure for the year. Expenditure represents a combination of statutory duties and discretionary spend focused on local priorities and needs.

Note		Year Ended 31 March 2024			Year Ended 31 March 2023		
		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Families, Children & Learning	330,021	(250,343)	79,678	368,056	(244,009)	124,048
	Health & Adult Social Care	211,155	(82,708)	128,447	146,360	(68,725)	77,635
	Economy, Environment & Culture	158,743	(84,809)	73,934	134,660	(78,044)	56,616
	Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities	54,415	(31,712)	22,702	61,698	(31,062)	30,635
	Governance, People & Resources	40,052	(6,691)	33,360	38,504	(4,050)	34,453
	Corporately-held Budgets	133,015	(114,440)	18,576	131,287	(112,187)	19,100
	Housing Revenue Account	92,564	(71,309)	21,255	60,651	(64,602)	(3,951)
5		1,019,965	(642,013)	377,952	941,216	(602,681)	338,536
6	(Gain)/loss on the disposal of non-current assets			4,785			(4,518)
6	Precepts and levies			284			273
	Payments to the government housing capital receipts pool			0			0
	Non-current asset charges to academy schools			(464)			(433)
	Other operating expenditure			4,605			(4,679)
6	Interest payable and premiums			18,678			18,900
25	Net interest on the net defined benefit pension liability			(3,567)			(6,885)
6	Interest receivable and similar income			(10,670)			(6,640)
	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties			(3,102)			(3,538)
10	Changes in the fair value of investment properties			6,648			1,526
	Financing and investment income and expenditure			7,987			3,363
	Council tax income (including share of (surplus)/deficit)			(172,048)			(162,174)
	Share of non-domestic rates income (including share of (surplus)/deficit)			(49,422)			(52,871)
16	Non ring-fenced government grants			(75,795)			(63,191)
16	Capital grants and contributions			(45,158)			(36,499)
	Taxation and non-specific grant Income and expenditure			(342,423)			(314,735)
	(Surplus)/deficit on the Provision of Services			48,122			22,485
9,10	(Surplus)/deficit on revaluation of non-current assets			(69,593)			(64,386)
25	Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability			9,467			(313,375)
	Other comprehensive income and expenditure			(60,125)			(377,760)
	Comprehensive income and expenditure (surplus)/deficit			(12,003)			(355,276)

In 2022/23, £44m Adult Learning Disability expenditure was classified under Families, Children & Learning Cost of Service; this expenditure was reclassified from 01/04/23 as Health & Adult Social Care expenditure

Movement in Reserves Statement

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement in year on reserve balances held by the council. Further details can be found in Note 8 Usable Reserves and Note 9 Unusable Reserves.

2023/24	Balance 1 April £'000	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure £'000	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations £'000	Net (increase) / decrease £'000	Balance 31 March £'000
General Fund Reserves	(36,981)	30,853	(25,029)	5,824	(31,157)
Housing Revenue Account Reserves	(12,307)	17,269	(16,171)	1,097	(11,209)
Capital Receipts Reserve	(16,209)	0	2,619	2,619	(13,590)
Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	(5,677)	0	397	397	(5,279)
Usable Reserves	**(71,173)**	**48,122**	**(38,184)**	**9,938**	**(61,235)**
Capital Adjustment Account	(1,209,988)	0	44,725	44,725	(1,165,262)
Revaluation Reserve	(583,205)	(50,303)	2,922	(47,380)	(630,585)
Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	(6,115)	0	9	9	(6,105)
Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	1,107	0	(302)	(302)	805
Accumulated Absences Account	4,871	0	174	174	5,045
Financial instruments Adjustment account	9,375	0	(275)	(275)	9,100
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	2,413	0	1,830	1,830	4,244
Pensions Reserve	24,296	9,467	(10,899)	(1,432)	22,864
Unusable Reserves	**(1,757,244)**	**(40,835)**	**38,184**	**(2,651)**	**(1,759,896)**
Total Reserves	**(1,828,417)**	**7,287**	**0**	**7,287**	**(1,821,131)**

2022/23	Balance 1 April £'000	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure £'000	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations £'000	Net (increase) / decrease £'000	Balance 31 March £'000
General Fund Reserves	(82,261)	35,800	9,481	45,280	(36,981)
Housing Revenue Account Reserves	(13,104)	(13,315)	14,113	798	(12,307)
Capital Receipts Reserve	(24,193)	0	7,984	7,984	(16,209)
Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	(3,465)	0	(2,212)	(2,212)	(5,677)
Usable Reserves	**(123,023)**	**22,485**	**29,365**	**51,850**	**(71,173)**
Capital Adjustment Account	(1,174,102)	0	(35,885)	(35,885)	(1,209,988)
Revaluation Reserve	(533,236)	(64,386)	14,416	(49,969)	(583,205)
Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	(6,123)	0	9	9	(6,115)
Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	495	0	612	612	1,107
Accumulated Absences Account	4,144	0	727	727	4,871
Financial instruments Adjustment account	9,635	0	(260)	(260)	9,375
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	23,106	0	(20,693)	(20,693)	2,413
Pensions Reserve	325,962	(313,375)	11,709	(301,666)	24,296
Unusable Reserves	**(1,350,119)**	**(377,760)**	**(29,365)**	**(407,126)**	**(1,757,244)**
Total Reserves	**(1,473,142)**	**(355,276)**	**(0)**	**(355,276)**	**(1,828,417)**

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet shows the values of assets and liabilities held by the council. The net assets are matched by the reserves. The reserves are presented in two categories, usable and unusable. Usable reserves may be used to fund services subject to statutory limitations on their use and the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves for financial stability. Unusable reserves cannot be used to fund services. More details of the values shown in the balance sheet can be found in the notes to the accounts.

	Note	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2023 (Restated) £'000	01 April 2022 (Restated) £'000
Property, plant and equipment	10	1,972,714	1,928,348	1,818,093
Heritage assets	10	259,536	226,143	207,427
Investment property	10	49,796	56,357	58,062
Long term intangible assets	10	11,060	8,498	8,734
Long term investments	12	5,161	10,152	29,567
Long term debtors	13	22,486	37,352	44,620
Long Term Assets		**2,320,753**	**2,266,849**	**2,166,503**
Short term investments	12	23,768	76,668	131,582
Inventories		897	877	1,052
Short term debtors	13	79,086	74,309	83,355
Cash equivalents		59,748	86,566	105,146
Short term assets held for sale	10	340	451	0
Current Assets		**163,839**	**238,870**	**321,135**
Bank overdraft		(783)	(1,917)	(2,319)
Short term borrowing	12	(47,522)	(25,637)	(24,816)
Short term creditors	14	(128,841)	(133,005)	(204,758)
Short term provisions	15	(1,081)	(1,546)	(2,612)
Current Liabilities		**(178,227)**	**(162,104)**	**(234,505)**
Long term provisions	15	(8,108)	(6,946)	(9,055)
Long term borrowing	12	(354,278)	(377,295)	(341,318)
Capital grant receipts in advance	16	(69,678)	(72,533)	(66,045)
Other long term liabilities	18	(30,306)	(34,130)	(37,612)
Pension Scheme Liabilities	25	(22,864)	(24,296)	(325,962)
Long Term Liabilities		**(485,234)**	**(515,199)**	**(779,992)**
Net Assets		**1,821,131**	**1,828,417**	**1,473,142**
Usable reserves	8	(61,235)	(71,173)	(123,023)
Unusable reserves	9	(1,759,896)	(1,757,244)	(1,350,119)
Total Reserves		**(1,821,131)**	**(1,828,417)**	**(1,473,142)**

Please note the comparative figures in the above Balance Sheet have been restated to reflect the prior period adjustments for housing stock. Note 30 provides more detail.

The unaudited Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Chief Finance Officer on 13 June 2024 by the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) Nigel Manvell CPFA.

[needs updating following Audit, Standards & General Purpose Committee]

Cash Flow Statement

The cash flow statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as relating to operating, investing, or financing activities.

Note		2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
5	**Net Surplus / (Deficit) on the provision of services**	**(48,122)**	**(16,929)**
7, 9, 10	ges - depreciation, amortisation, revaluation and impairment	110,180	48,328
14	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(10,375)	(70,973)
13	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(2,472)	(6,733)
25	Movement in the pension liability (element charged to the surplus/deficit on the provision of services)	(10,899)	11,708
7, 9, 10	Carrying amount of non-current asset disposals	10,082	3,153
12	Non-cash movements on investments	36,000	56,000
	ırged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	677	5,430
	Adjustment to surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services for non-cash movements	**133,192**	**46,913**
7, 10	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(5,311)	(7,667)
16	grants applied to the surplus/deficit on provision of services	(48,684)	(40,812)
	Adjustment for items included in the net surplus / (deficit) on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	**(53,995)**	**(48,479)**
	Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	**31,075**	**(18,495)**
10,11	Purchase of non-current assets	(138,447)	(123,577)
12	Purchase of short and long term investments	(82,500)	(635,500)
12	Proceeds from short and long term investments	104,000	654,500
11	Proceeds from the disposal of non-current assets	5,232	7,674
	Capital grants received	47,000	47,300
	Other (payments) / receipts for investing activities	1,097	(3,112)
	Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	**(63,618)**	**(52,715)**
12	Cash receipts of short and long term borrowing	23,000	50,000
	authorities - council tax and non-domestic rates adjustments	5,167	19,655
18	Reduction of outstanding PFI Liabilities	(3,515)	(3,267)
12	Repayment of short term and long term borrowing	(27,439)	(13,356)
	Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	**(2,787)**	**53,032**
	Vet Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	**(35,330)**	**(18,178)**
	Bank current accounts	(1,917)	(2,319)
	Short term deposits	86,566	105,146
	Cash and Cash Equivalents as at 1 April	**84,649**	**102,827**
	Bank current accounts	(783)	(1,917)
	Short term deposits	59,748	86,566
	Cash and Cash Equivalents as at 31 March	**58,965**	**84,649**
	Movement in cash and cash equivalents	**(25,684)**	**(18,178)**

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies (summary)

General Principles

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No 234 as amended) require the Council to prepare a Statement of Accounts for each financial year in accordance with proper accounting practices. For 2023/24, these proper accounting practices principally comprise:

- the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 (the Code) supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
- the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2023/24 (SeRCoP).

The Statement of Accounts has been prepared on a 'going concern' basis. The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

The **detailed accounting policies** are set out at the end of this document.

2. Accounting Standards 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 and will be adopted in 2024/25:

a) IFRS 16 Leases issued in January 2016 (but only for those local authorities that have decided to voluntarily implement IFRS 16 in the 2023/24 year which the council has not)
b) Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in January 2020. The amendments:
    - specify that an entity's right to defer settlement must exist at the end of the reporting period;
    - clarify that classification is unaffected by management's intentions or expectations about whether the entity will exercise its right to defer settlement;
    - clarify how lending conditions affect classification; and,
    - clarify requirements for classifying liabilities an entity will or may settle by issuing its own equity instruments.
c) Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback (Amendments to IFRS 16) issued in September 2022. The amendments to IFRS 16 add subsequent measurement requirements for sale and leaseback transactions.
d) Non-current Liabilities with Covenants (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in October 2022. The amendments improve the information an entity provides when its right to defer settlement of a liability for at least 12 months is subject to compliance with covenants.
e) International Tax Reform: Pillar Two Model Rules (Amendments to IAS 12) issued in May 2023. Pillar Two applies to multinational groups with a minimum level of turnover. The amendments introduce:
    - a temporary exception to the requirements to recognise and disclose information about deferred tax assets and liabilities related to Pillar Two income taxes, and
    - targeted disclosure requirements for affected entities.

f) Supplier Finance Arrangements (Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7) issued in May 2023. The amendments require an entity to provide additional disclosures about its supplier finance with information to enable them to:
   - assess how supplier finance arrangements affect an entity's liabilities and cash flows, and
   - understand the effect of supplier finance arrangements on an entity's exposure to liquidity risk and how the entity might be affected if the arrangements were no longer available to it.

It is anticipated that, though they provide clarifications, items b), c) and d) will not have a significant impact on the amounts anticipated to be reported in the financial statements. There will be limited application by local authorities of items e) and f) and therefore it is anticipated that this will have no impact on the council's financial statements.

The implementation of IFRS 16 Leases, item a) (which will require authorities that are lessees to recognise most leases on their balance sheets as right-of-use assets with corresponding lease liabilities) will have a significant impact on the 2024/25 accounts. The standard provides a single lessee accounting model, requiring lessees (the council) to recognise assets and liabilities for all leases, unless the lease term is less than one year, or the underlying lease asset has a low value. The council has commenced work to implement this standard, however currently the impact of IFRS 16 in terms of the value of liabilities and right of use assets to be brought onto the balance sheet at 1 April 2024 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 that affect the application of policies and reported levels of assets, liabilities, income, and expenses. The 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. Estimates and underlying assumptions are regularly reviewed by the council.

The statement of accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors that are considered to be reasonable. The assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty disclosed below relate to the estimates that require the council's most difficult, subjective, or complex judgements. As the number of variables and assumptions affecting the possible future resolution of the uncertainties increases, those judgements become more subjective and complex. As a result, balances cannot be determined with certainty and actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2024 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

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 each 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.

Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes Ltd: The council has exercised judgement over the existence of a group relationship / joint arrangement between the company and the council based on the definition of control and associated tests set out in the relevant reporting standards. The council's main exercise of judgement is in relation to these tests and whether the council has the power to control the company, its exposure or rights to variable returns and the ability to affect the company's returns. The council has concluded that the arrangement does not meet the financial reporting definition for group / joint arrangements.

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 over the existence of a group relationship / joint arrangement between the companies and the council based on the definition of control and associated tests set out in the relevant reporting standards. The council has concluded that the arrangement does meet the financial reporting definition for group / joint arrangements as the interest is not considered material at the balance sheet date and therefore group accounts have not been produced.

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

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Pensions liability (asset)	Estimation of the net pension liability (asset) depends on 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. The council has engaged Barnett Waddingham as its consulting actuary to provide expert advice about the assumptions to be applied and the estimate of pension fund assets / liabilities including asset ceiling considerations. The underlying assumptions and the application of the asset ceiling are set out in **Note 25 Defined Benefit Pensions Schemes**. Changes in these assumptions can have a significant effect on the value of the council's retirement benefit obligation.	The effects on the net pension liability (asset) of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. The council's net liability for future pension payments, after the asset ceiling adjustment and as estimated by the pension fund actuary, is £22.864 million 31 March 2024 (compared to a £24.296 million net liability 31 March 2023). The sensitivities regarding the principle assumptions made by the actuaries are set out in **Note 25 Defined Benefit Pensions Schemes**.
Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)	The balance sheet value is highly sensitive to estimates of value. The council engages appropriately qualified valuers to value land and property assets. Asset valuations are based on current value and are periodically reviewed to	The net carrying amount of Property, Plant and Equipment was £1.973 billion on 31 March 2024. The council depreciated its

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
	ensure that the council does not materially misstate its non-current assets. The council's external valuers provided valuations at 31 March 2024 for approximately 50% of the value of its operational portfolio. The remaining balance of operational properties were also reviewed to ensure values reflect current values. The council's valuers use a combination of methodologies to value operational assets. This includes Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC), Existing Use Value (EUV) and comparable methods. These methods can cause estimation uncertainty due to the indices and inputs (such as floor area) that must be used to apply valuations. Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions such as the repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to the individual assets and the length of service potential of the asset. The current economic climate brings potential uncertainty about the level of spend on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets. More details are set out in **Note 10 Non-Current Assets**.	assets by £64.568 million during 2023/24. If significant revaluation increases or impairments were experienced there is a risk that the charge for depreciation to reflect the economic consumption of the asset may be over or under stated. If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the asset falls. The effect of any over or under estimation on the revaluation of property, plant and equipment cannot be quantified until an asset is disposed of. A reduction of 1% in the value of PPE at 31 March 2024 would reduce the balance sheet value by £19.727 million.
Valuation of HRA dwellings	The HRA residential portfolio is valued based on a beacon methodology, with a 33% EUV-SH (social housing) factor applied, which is the standardised Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities rate for the South East. The current value of the stock (at 33%) is £1.057bn. In order to value the whole portfolio, it was necessary to research a number of sources, including other agents and valuers' advice, the Land Registry, and other databases available to the council's valuers. In addition to this information the current economic overview is considered, in particular taking into account inflation relating to residential properties.	A reduction in the estimate value of HRA dwellings would result in a reduction to the revaluation reserve or a loss in the CIES. If the value of dwellings were to reduce by 10% this would lead to a reduction in value of approximately £105.7 million.
Fixed Asset Accounting	The Code section 4.1.3.2 states that "*On a revalued asset, a transfer between the*	This adjustment impacts only the Revaluation

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
	revaluation reserve and capital adjustment account shall be carried out that represents the difference between depreciation based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset and the depreciation based on the asset's historical cost." There have been some erroneous adjustments which have impaired/reduced the historic cost of certain assets in the council's fixed asset register. This has resulted in overstatement of the transfer between the Revaluation Reserve and Capital Adjustment Account for the difference between depreciation based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset and the depreciation based on the asset's historical cost. As it is unclear what has caused the error in the historic cost, this has resulted in there being a material uncertainty in the accuracy of the total adjustment between the Revaluation Reserve and the Capital Adjustment Account. The council is committed to developing a plan to resolve the estimation uncertainty issue; however at this stage the time frame for doing so is unknown.	Reserve and the Capital Adjustment account in the Unusable Reserves, meaning that the material uncertainty is limited to the value that these reserves are stated at within the Movement in Reserves Statement and **Note 9 Unusable Reserves**. This error in the historic cost does not impact the asset valuations, depreciation charge or depreciation written out on revaluation accounting entries, and therefore the issue is not considered to be pervasive or fundamental to the users' understanding of the financial statements.
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 debt. The total allowance for impairment of receivables (including the Collection Fund) provided for at 31 March 2024 is £47.969 million. It is not certain that this impairment allowance would be sufficient as the council cannot assess with certainty which debts will be collected or not. The economic impact of high inflation and cost of living crisis has made the estimation of debt impairment more difficult as there is more uncertainty about the economic viability of debtors and hence their ability to settle their debts. The council also reviews all other (non-service) debt and provides for Expected Credit Losses (ECL). The total ECL	An understatement of doubtful debts would lead to a future adjustment and impairment to be reflected. The impairment allowances held are based on policies adapted to historic experience and success rates experienced in collection. The nature of the debt and service area have been considered. Any understatement of the ECL would need to be reflected in the impairment of the associated non-service debtors.

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
	provided for at 31 March 2024 is £27.134 million. Please refer to **Note 13 Debtors** and **Note 12 Financial Instruments** for further details on short term and long term debtors	
Fair Value Measurement of Financial Assets and Liabilities	When fair values of financial assets and liabilities cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using valuation techniques (quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or valued using the Discounted Cash Flow model). Where possible, the inputs for these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible judgement is required. These judgements typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. Where Level 1 inputs are not available, the council employs relevant experts. More details are set out in **Note 12 Financial Instruments**.	Changes in the assumptions used would affect the fair value of the council's assets and liabilities.

4. Adjusting Post Balance Sheet Event and Prior Period Adjustment

The council has made an adjustment in the financial statements in respect of the impairment of housing stock assets. The council's housing stock is valued annually by external valuers, Savills. Since the 2023/24 valuations were undertaken, eight Large Panel System blocks across Brighton & Hove have had surveys undertaken that have indicated that major works are required for compliance regarding Health & Safety, Building Safety and Fire Safety. The council has identified that there are a number of routes that they can take to ensure compliance and as a result are unable to quantify, with any accuracy, the future costs and timings that will result from this work. The council is establishing a strategic group to plan the future works, and immediate safety measures with 24 hour security and the banning of combustible items already been implemented.

In light of this new information, the council further considered, in liaison with the council's external valuers, the valuation of the eight buildings at 31 March 2024 as well as for prior periods. The remediation works would likely be complex and take place over multiple years with the scope of the work still evolving. The council concluded that in the absence of known costs or timeframes for the remediation works, it is very difficult to determine a revised valuation other than nil.

Given that the amounts are material, this results in the requirement to adjust the financial statements and apply the adjustment retrospectively as the LPS blocks were present in previous years. The Code requires correction as an adjusting post balance sheet event and a prior period adjustment with disclosure of the impact at the start of the comparative period (the "third balance sheet" disclosure).

Given the works will be required in future periods to ensure these assets are compliant with safety standards, the council considered the disclosure of a provision in the accounts. However as the Council cannot quantify the present obligation with any accuracy, it concluded that a contingent liability should be included rather than a provision. This contingent liability is disclosed in **Note 19 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets**. As the situation develops and the plans and expected costs can be estimated more reliably, it is likely that the council will revisit the valuation of these assets and the assessment as whether a provision is required.

The Gross Book Carrying Values (GBV) published in the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts and originally valued in 2023/24 for these assets was as follows:

	GBV £'000	Change £'000
GBV as at 1 April 2022	29,006	
GBV as at 31 March 2023	30,340	1,334
GBV as at 31 March 2024	29,810	(530)

The adjustment for the GBV as at 1 April 2022 of £29.006 million has been adjusted in the Balance Sheet as follows. Please note the following tables only show extracts of the financial statements where figures have been adjusted to take account of these changes. As the subsequent GBV adjustments for 2022/23 and 2023/24 are not material (£1.334 million and £0.530 million), they have not been adjusted in the accounts.

Effect on the Balance Sheet as at 1 April 2022 (the third Balance Sheet)

	Originally Stated as at 1 April 2022 £'000	LPS Blocks Adjustment £'000	Restated as at 1 April 2022 £'000
Property, Plant & Equipment	1,847,099	(29,006)	1,818,093
Long Term Assets	**2,195,510**	**(29,006)**	**2,166,504**
Net Assets	**1,502,148**	**(29,006)**	**1,473,142**
Unusable Reserves	(1,379,125)	29,006	(1,350,119)
Total Reserves	**(1,502,148)**	**29,006**	**(1,473,142)**

Effect on the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023 (comparative figures)

	Originally Stated as at 31 March 2023 £'000	LPS Blocks Adjustment £'000	Restated as at 31 March 2023 £'000
Property, Plant & Equipment	1,957,354	(29,006)	1,928,348
Long Term Assets	**2,295,856**	**(29,006)**	**2,266,850**
Net Assets	**1,857,424**	**(29,006)**	**1,828,418**
Unusable Reserves	(1,786,251)	29,006	(1,757,245)
Total Reserves	**(1,857,424)**	**29,006**	**(1,828,418)**

5. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis demonstrates how the council has used available funding for the year (i.e. government grants, rents, council tax and business rates) in providing services, in comparison with those resources that the council has consumed or earned in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how the council has allocated this expenditure for decision making purposes between the council's directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented in detail in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	2023/24					2022/23				
	As reported for resource management	Adjustments to arrive at expenditure charged to GF and HRA balances	Expenditure chargeable to the GF and HRA balances	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the CIES	As reported for resource management	Adjustments to arrive at expenditure charged to GF and HRA balances	Expenditure chargeable to the GF and HRA balances	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the CIES
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Families, Children & Learning	60,155	6,931	67,087	12,591	79,678	107,720	(186)	107,533	16,514	124,048
Health & Adult Social Care	103,692	22,665	126,357	187	126,544	70,480	4,411	74,891	2,743	77,635
Economy, Environment & Culture	34,133	4,411	38,545	37,381	75,926	31,676	1,287	32,963	23,653	56,616
Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities	19,326	4,169	23,495	(793)	22,702	21,662	1,848	23,510	7,125	30,635
Governance, People & Resources	32,453	(1,369)	31,084	2,277	33,360	33,303	(4,625)	28,679	5,774	34,453
Corporately-held Budgets	(11,682)	29,846	18,163	412	18,576	(30,251)	49,272	19,021	79	19,100
Housing Revenue Account	(22,453)	26,261	3,808	17,447	21,255	0	9,627	9,627	(13,578)	(3,951)
Net Cost of Services	**215,624**	**92,915**	**308,539**	**69,502**	**378,041**	**234,590**	**61,634**	**296,224**	**42,312**	**338,536**
Other Income and Expenditure/Financing	(215,624)	(85,994)	(301,618)	(28,301)	(329,919)	(234,590)	(15,556)	(250,146)	(65,905)	(316,051)
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	**0**	**6,921**	**6,921**	**41,201**	**48,122**	**0**	**46,078**	**46,078**	**(23,593)**	**22,485**

The column adjustments to arrive at the expenditure charged to the General Fund (GF) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) shows the differences and adjustment between the outturn as reported for management accounting/performance monitoring purposes and the expenditure chargeable to the GF and HRA on the funding basis as stipulated by the Code.

	2023/24				2022/23			
	Opening Balance	(Surplus)/Deficit on Provison of Services	Closing Balance	Memorandum: Transfer (to)/from working balances per resource management	Opening Balance	(Surplus)/Deficit on Provison of Services	Closing Balance	Memorandum: Transfer (to)/from working balances per resource management
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Fund Working Balance	(8,753)	550	(8,203)	(2,269)	(14,509)	5,756	(8,753)	2,984
General Fund Earmarked Reserves	(28,228)	5,274	(22,954)	0	(67,752)	39,524	(28,228)	0
Housing Revenue Account Working Balance	(4,169)	48	(4,120)	0	(7,380)	3,211	(4,169)	0
Housing Revenue Account Earmarked Reserves	(8,138)	1,049	(7,089)	0	(5,725)	(2,413)	(8,138)	0
Total Reserves	**(49,287)**	**6,921**	**(42,366)**	**(2,269)**	**(95,366)**	**46,078**	**(49,287)**	**2,984**

Adjustments from the General Fund/Housing Revenue Account to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts.

	2023/24				2022/23			
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for Pensions Adjustment	Other Differences	Total Adjustments	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for Pensions Adjustment	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Families, Children & Learning	14,706	(2,233)	118	12,591	6,872	8,984	658	16,514
Health & Adult Social Care	922	(786)	51	187	395	2,336	13	2,743
Economy, Environment & Culture	38,363	(987)	5	37,381	19,960	3,655	38	23,653
Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities	(490)	(312)	9	(793)	5,888	1,204	33	7,125
Governance, People & Resources	2,979	(698)	(4)	2,277	3,280	2,709	(214)	5,774
Corporately-held Budgets	468	(56)	(0)	412	12	67	(0)	79
Housing Revenue Account	18,026	(451)	(129)	17,447	(15,047)	1,595	(126)	(13,578)
Net Cost of Services	**74,975**	**(5,523)**	**50**	**69,502**	**21,361**	**20,549**	**401**	**42,312**
Other Income and Expenditure/Financing	(24,301)	(5,376)	1,376	(28,301)	(37,050)	(8,840)	(20,015)	(65,905)
Difference between General Fund/HRA surplus/deficit and the CIES surplus/deficit on Provision of Services	**50,674**	**(10,899)**	**1,426**	**41,201**	**(15,688)**	**11,709**	**(19,614)**	**(23,593)**

Explanatory Notes

Adjustments for Capital Purposes

This column adds in depreciation and impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the service line. For other operating expenditure, it adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets. For financing and investment income and expenditure, it adjusts for the statutory charges for capital financing and investment i.e. Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. For taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure, capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those which were receivable in the year to those which were receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

Net change for the Pensions Adjustment

This column adjusts for the net change for the renewal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income. For services, 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 financing and investment income and expenditure, this adjusts for the net interest on the defined benefit liability which is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Other differences

Other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute. For services, this represents removal of the annual leave accrual adjustment. For financing and investment income and expenditure the other differences column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts and financial instruments. The charge under taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference, as any difference will be brought forward in future surpluses or deficits on the Collection Fund.

6. Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Employee expenses	331,231	334,059
Employee benefits of Voluntary Aided Schools	34,476	32,331
Other service expenses	551,857	519,810
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments	105,018	47,376
Interest payable	18,678	18,900
Payments to the government's Housing Capital Receipts Pool	0	0
Precepts and levies	284	273
Total Expenditure	**1,041,544**	**952,748**
Fees, charges and other service income	(249,655)	(233,417)
Net Loss/(Gain) on disposal of non-current assets	4,785	(4,517)
Interest receivable	(10,670)	(6,640)
Income from Council Tax/Non-Domestic Rates	(221,470)	(215,045)
Government grants and contributions	(516,412)	(470,645)
Total Income	**(993,422)**	**(930,263)**
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	**48,122**	**22,485**

Fees, charges, and other service income (income received from external customers) is analysed by directorate (service) area in the next table.

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Families, Children & Learning	(20,805)	(23,574)
Health & Adult Social Care	(52,947)	(42,722)
Economy, Environment & Culture	(77,063)	(76,277)
Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities	(15,084)	(16,816)
Governance, People & Resources	(3,242)	(3,324)
Corporately-held Budgets	(10,477)	(6,137)
Housing Revenue Account	(71,117)	(64,566)
Total Income from External Customers	**(250,735)**	**(233,416)**

IFRS15 Revenue from contracts with customers

Of the £250.735 million of income from fees, charges, and other service income, £104.467 million of this is income from contracts with customers. The balance of £146.267 million is outside the scope of this reporting standard and includes, for example, housing rents, commercial rents and car parking penalties.

7. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulation

The resources available to the council in any financial year and the expenses that are charged against those resources are specified by statute (the Local Government Act 2003 and the 2003 Regulations). Where the statutory provisions differ from the accruals basis used in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, adjustments to the accounting treatment are made in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that usable reserves reflect the funding available at the year-end. Unusable reserves are created to manage the timing differences between the accounting and funding bases.

2023/24	General Fund £'000	HRA £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Total £'000
Pension costs (transferred to/(from) the Pensions Reserve)	10,158	741	0	0	0	**10,899**
Financial instruments (transferred to/(from) the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account)	454	124	0	0	0	**578**
Council tax and NDR (transferred to/(from) the Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	(1,830)	0	0	0	0	**(1,830)**
Employees' paid absences (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Account)	(179)	5	0	0	0	**(174)**
Reversals of entries included in the CIES in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(87,433)	(31,662)	0	(16,085)	0	**(135,180)**
Adjustments to Revenue Resources	**(78,831)**	**(30,792)**	**0**	**(16,085)**	**0**	**(125,707)**
Non-current asset sale proceeds	836	4,476	(5,311)	0	0	**0**
Payments to the government housing capital receipts pool	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Statutory and voluntary provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	12,616	0	0	0	0	**12,616**
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	1,909	3,729	0	0	0	**5,638**
Use of capital receipts to fund voluntary severance costs	(3,818)	0	3,818	0	0	**0**
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	**11,543**	**8,205**	**(1,494)**	**0**	**0**	**18,254**
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	4,113	0	0	**4,113**
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	16,085	0	**16,085**
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	42,268	6,416	0	0	397	**49,081**
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	(9)	(0)	0	0	0	**(9)**
Adjustments to Capital Resources	**42,259**	**6,416**	**4,113**	**16,085**	**397**	**69,269**
Total Adjustments	**(25,029)**	**(16,171)**	**2,619**	**0**	**397**	**(38,184)**

2022/23	General Fund £'000	HRA £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Total £'000
Pension costs (transferred to/(from) the Pensions Reserve)	(10,648)	(1,061)	0	0	0	**(11,709)**
Financial instruments (transferred to/(from) the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account)	(461)	109	0	0	0	**(352)**
Council tax and NDR (transferred to/(from) the Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	20,693	0	0	0	0	**20,693**
Employees' paid absences (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Account)	(744)	17	0	0	0	**(727)**
Reversals of entries included in the CIES in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(37,784)	(6,336)	0	(15,239)	(2,277)	**(61,637)**
Adjustments to Revenue Resources	**(28,945)**	**(7,270)**	**0**	**(15,239)**	**(2,277)**	**(53,732)**
Non-current asset sale proceeds	1,147	6,514	(7,661)	0	0	**0**
Payments to the government housing capital receipts pool	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Statutory and voluntary provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	11,413	0	0	0	0	**11,413**
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	1,298	3,202	0	0	0	**4,500**
Use of capital receipts to fund voluntary severance costs	(4,569)	0	4,569	0	0	**0**
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	**9,289**	**9,717**	**(3,092)**	**0**	**0**	**15,913**
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	11,076	0	0	**11,076**
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	15,239	0	**15,239**
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	29,146	11,666	0	0	65	**40,877**
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	(9)	(0)	0	0	0	**(9)**
Adjustments to Capital Resources	**29,137**	**11,666**	**11,076**	**15,239**	**65**	**67,184**
Total Adjustments	**9,481**	**14,113**	**7,984**	**0**	**(2,212)**	**29,365**

8. Usable Reserves (Earmarked Reserves)

The council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies.

	Balance 31 March 2022 £'000	Transfers To £'000	Transfers From £'000	Balance 31 March 2023 £'000	Transfers To £'000	Transfers From £'000	Balance 31 March 2024 £'000
General Fund Reserves							
Collection Fund Section 31 Grants Adjustment Reserve	(21,479)	(683)	20,991	(1,171)	(163)	1,204	(130)
Brighton i360 Reserve	(9,082)	(1,352)	10,434	0	0	0	0
Local Management of Schools Reserves	(8,136)	0	3,595	(4,541)	0	4,259	(282)
PFI Reserves	(7,439)	(1,662)	929	(8,172)	(759)	330	(8,601)
Insurance Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other General Fund Earmarked Reserves	(5,851)	(956)	1,493	(5,314)	(742)	629	(5,428)
City Deal New England House Development Reserve	(4,485)	0	4,377	(108)	0	108	(0)
Revenue Grants Carry Forward Reserve	(3,815)	(5,595)	3,814	(5,596)	(6,152)	5,595	(6,152)
Brighton Centre Redevelopment Reserve	(1,132)	(167)	447	(852)	(195)	1,042	(5)
Departmental Carry Forwards	(5,962)	(2,317)	5,962	(2,317)	(1,751)	2,317	(1,751)
Capital Reserves	(214)	(259)	344	(129)	(779)	350	(558)
Restructure Redundancy Reserve	(157)	(63)	192	(28)	(83)	57	(54)
General Fund Working Balance	(14,509)	(7,975)	13,731	(8,753)	(913)	1,463	(8,203)
Total General Fund Reserves	**(82,261)**	**(21,029)**	**66,309**	**(36,981)**	**(11,537)**	**17,355**	**(31,164)**
HRA Reserves							
Capital Reserves	(1,160)	(1,596)	2,076	(680)	0	680	0
Other HRA Earmarked Reserves	(4,565)	(3,900)	1,007	(7,458)	(65)	434	(7,089)
Housing Revenue Account Working Balance	(7,380)	0	3,211	(4,169)	0	48	(4,121)
Total HRA Reserves	**(13,105)**	**(5,496)**	**6,294**	**(12,307)**	**(65)**	**1,162**	**(11,210)**
Other Usable Reserves							
Capital Receipts Reserve	(24,193)	(70,452)	78,436	(16,209)	(6,281)	8,901	(13,590)
Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	(3,465)	(3,176)	964	(5,677)	(587)	984	(5,280)
Total Usable Reserves	**(123,024)**	**(100,153)**	**152,003**	**(71,174)**	**(18,470)**	**28,402**	**(61,243)**

The single largest movement in the reserves (a decrease of £4.259 million) is for the Local Management of Schools, further details are provided below. The other large single movement (a reduction of £1.041 million) is for the Collection Fund Section 31 Grants Adjustment reserve which holds, at 31 March 2024, the balance of Section 31 compensation grants paid over by government to be utilised against the funded collection fund balance in 2024/25. This is a timing reserve. It is a combination of the final year funding of the 3 year spread of the 2020/21 deficit and additional grant due for a shortfall in business rates income both to be funded in 2024/25. It does not represent additional resources available to the council.

Local Management of Schools Reserve

The Local Management of Schools Reserve holds the school's balances under a scheme of delegation. These balances are used solely to provide education to the pupils of that school. The table shows the level of reserves held in total by the council's schools.

	Balance 1 April 2023	Unspent Balance	Overspent Balance	Balance 31 March 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Nursery schools	81	(87)	63	(24)
Primary schools	(1,185)	(1,235)	2,378	1,143
Secondary schools	(3,573)	(3,044)	996	(2,048)
Special schools	137	(246)	895	649
Total Reserves	**(4,541)**	**(4,612)**	**4,331**	**(281)**

9. Unusable Reserves

Unusable reserves are held to manage accounting processes and do not represent usable resources for the council.

	2023/24	2022/23	Change
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Revaluation Reserve	(630,585)	(583,205)	(47,380)
Capital Adjustment Account	(1,165,262)	(1,209,988)	44,725
Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	(6,105)	(6,115)	9
Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	805	1,107	(302)
Accumulated Absences Account	5,045	4,871	174
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	9,100	9,375	(275)
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	4,244	2,413	1,830
Pensions Reserve	22,864	24,296	(1,432)
Total Unusable Reserves	**(1,759,896)**	**(1,757,244)**	**(2,651)**

Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains arising from increases in the value of property, plant, and equipment. The balance on the reserve is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are revalued downwards or impaired (gains lost), used in the provision of services and (gains consumed via depreciation) or disposed of (gains realised). The reserve was created on 1 April 2007.

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Balance 1 April	**(583,205)**	**(533,235)**
Upward revaluation of non-current assets	(82,283)	(105,387)
Downward revaluation and impairment of non-current assets	31,980	41,002
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**(50,303)**	**(64,386)**
Difference between fair value and historic cost depreciation	8,250	12,744
Accumulated gains on non-current assets disposals	(5,327)	1,673
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulation	**2,922**	**14,415**
Balance 31 March	**(630,585)**	**(583,205)**

Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account (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 also contains accumulated gains and losses on property, plant, and equipment before 1 April 2007.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance 1 April	(1,209,988)	(1,174,102)
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	64,569	60,498
Impairment losses on Financial Assets	14,807	2,481
Revaluation losses on non-current assets	54,839	27,948
Upward revaluations reversing previous revaluation losses on non-current assets	(22,468)	(45,451)
Impairment losses on non-current assets	27,402	3
Amortisation of intangible assets	2,902	2,852
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	5,274	8,628
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	10,082	3,153
Adjusting amounts written out to the revaluation reserve	(2,922)	(14,416)
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance new capital investment	(4,113)	(11,076)
Use of the HRA balance to finance new capital investment	0	0
Use of the major repairs reserve to finance new capital investment	(16,085)	(15,239)
Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital funding	(48,259)	(40,812)
Application of grants to capital financing from the capital grants unapplied account	(822)	(65)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the GF and HRA balances	(5,843)	(5,594)
Voluntary provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the GF and HRA balances	(6,773)	(5,819)
Capital investment charged against the GF and HRA balances	(2,907)	(2,856)
Movements in the market value of investment properties debited/(credited) to the CIES	6,650	1,526
Use of earmarked reserves to finance new capital investment	(2,730)	(1,644)
Balance 31 March	(1,136,386)	(1,209,988)

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 these as usable for financing new capital investment until the payments (capital receipts) are received. The balance of this reserve at 31 March 2024 is £6.105 million.

Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account

The pooled investment funds adjustment account is a mechanism that is required by the capital finance and accounting regulations in England and Wales to hold the fair value movements in those pooled investment funds specified by the regulations. The difference between the amount charged or credited in the year to surplus or deficit on the provision of services in accordance with the Code and the amount charged or credited to the General Fund in accordance with regulations should be debited or credited to the General Fund balance with the double entry going to the pooled investment funds adjustment account such that the General Fund is charged or credited with the amount that accords with the applicable regulations. The balance of this reserve at 31 March 2024 is £0.302 million.

Accumulated Absences Account

The accumulated absences account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise from accruing for employees' paid absences earned but not taken in the financial year (e.g. the value of annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March). Statutory arrangements require that the impact is neutralised by transfers to/or from the accumulated absences account. The balance of this reserve at 31 March 2024 is £5.045 million.

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 balance of this reserve at 31 March 2024 is £9.100 million.

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 taxpayers and business rate payers compared with the statutory arrangements for transferring amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Balance 1 April	**2,413**	**23,106**
Amount by which council tax and non domestic rates income credited to the CIES is different from council tax and non domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	1,830	(20,693)
Balance 31 March	**4,244**	**2,413**

Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the CIES. As the benefits are earned by employees, the assets/liabilities are updated to recognise inflation and the assumptions that change in light of investment returns. Statutory requirements are that benefits earned should be financed as the council makes employer's contributions to the pension funds or pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The 31 March 2024 balance on the Pensions Reserve shows a surplus in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements in place will ensure that pension fund funding will match pension fund liabilities by the time the benefits come to be paid.

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April	**24,296**	**325,962**
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability	9,467	(313,375)
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits charged to the surplus / deficit on the provision of services	29,524	48,744
Employer's pensions contributions payable	(40,423)	(37,035)
Balance as at 31 March	**22,864**	**24,296**

10. 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 analysed between council dwellings, other land and buildings, vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment, infrastructure assets and community assets. Non-operational PPE consists of assets under construction and surplus assets. Properties classed as heritage assets include the Royal Pavilion, the Volks Railway, West Blatchington Windmill and the Rottingdean Windmill. Non-property heritage assets include museum gallery collections, works of art and rare books.

The following tables set out the gross carrying amount, accumulated depreciation and the movements in value over the year for non-current assets (excluding infrastructure assets which are shown separately below).

2023/24	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PPE *	Heritage Assets	Investment Property	Assets Held for Sale	Intangible Assets	Total non PPE	Grand Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April 2023													
Gross carrying amount	981,160	786,921	52,666	2,725	39,919	5,077	**1,868,469**	226,143	56,357	451	25,060	**308,011**	**2,176,480**
Accumulated depreciation	0	(23,482)	(35,364)	0	0	(0)	**(58,846)**	0	0	0	(16,562)	**(16,562)**	**(75,407)**
Net Carrying Amount at 1 April 2023	**981,160**	**763,439**	**17,302**	**2,725**	**39,919**	**5,077**	**1,809,623**	**226,143**	**56,357**	**451**	**8,498**	**291,449**	**2,101,072**
Capital Additions													
Additions	64,072	26,177	5,266	517	5,755	0	**101,788**	0	429	2	5,465	**5,896**	**107,683**
Asset Disposals													
Derecognition - disposals	(1,569)	(8,220)	(21,474)	0	0	0	**(31,263)**	0	0	(453)	(10,103)	**(10,555)**	**(41,818)**
Derecognition - disposals (depreciation)	0	197	21,437	0	0	0	**21,634**	0	0	0	10,103	**10,103**	**31,737**
Transactions in respect of the Surplus on Revaluation of Non Current Assets within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement recognised in the Revaluation Reserve													
Revaluation increases	12,547	20,475	0	0	0	0	**33,022**	33,393	0	0	0	**33,393**	**66,415**
Depreciation written out	12,150	11,256	0	0	0	0	**23,406**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**23,406**
Revaluation (losses)	(20,394)	(18,560)	0	0	0	(647)	**(39,600)**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**(39,600)**
Transactions charged to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement													
Depreciation charge	(16,085)	(33,169)	(3,536)	0	0	(0)	**(52,790)**	0	0	0	(2,902)	**(2,902)**	**(55,693)**
Depreciation written out	3,935	15,117	0	0	0	0	**19,052**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**19,052**
Revaluation (losses)	(35,179)	(20,428)	0	0	0	(456)	**(56,063)**	0	(6,655)	0	0	**(6,655)**	**(62,718)**
Revaluation loss reversals	1,029	4,947	0	0	0	0	**5,976**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**5,976**
Impairment (losses)	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
Impairment loss reversals	0	220	0	0	0	0	**220**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**220**
Other Transactions													
Assets reclassified (to) / from Assets Held for Sale, Investment Property and Heritage Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	(340)	340	0	**0**	**0**
Assets reclassified within Property, Plant and Equipment	25,983	0	0	0	(25,983)	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
Other movements in gross carrying amount	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
Other movements in depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2024	**1,027,651**	**761,451**	**18,994**	**3,242**	**19,691**	**3,975**	**1,835,004**	**259,536**	**49,791**	**340**	**11,060**	**320,727**	**2,155,730**
Comprising													
Gross carrying amount	1,027,651	791,532	36,458	3,242	19,691	3,975	**1,882,547**	259,536	49,791	340	20,422	**330,089**	**2,212,637**
Accumulated depreciation	(0)	(30,081)	(17,463)	0	0	0	**(47,545)**	0	0	0	(9,362)	**(9,362)**	**(56,906)**
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2024	**1,027,651**	**761,451**	**18,994**	**3,242**	**19,691**	**3,975**	**1,835,003**	**259,536**	**49,791**	**340**	**11,060**	**320,727**	**2,155,730**

* Total excluding infrastructure assets which are shown below

2022/23	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PPE *	Heritage Assets	Investment Property	Assets Held for Sale	Intangible Assets	Total non PPE	Grand Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April 2022													
Gross carrying amount	926,903	757,963	48,291	2,312	21,632	5,077	**1,762,178**	207,427	58,062	0	22,444	**287,933**	**2,050,112**
Accumulated depreciation	0	(25,706)	(32,828)				**(58,534)**	0	0	0	(13,709)	**(13,709)**	**(72,244)**
Net Carrying Amount at 1 April 2022	**926,903**	**732,257**	**15,463**	**2,312**	**21,632**	**5,077**	**1,703,644**	**207,427**	**58,062**	**0**	**8,735**	**274,224**	**1,977,868**
Capital Additions													
Additions	42,175	17,698	5,004	413	29,472	0	**94,762**	347	272	0	2,616	**3,235**	**97,997**
Asset Disposals													
Derecognition - disposals	(3,074)	(70)	(629)	0	0	0	**(3,773)**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**(3,773)**
Derecognition - disposals (depreciation)	0	5	616	0	0	0	**621**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**621**
Transactions in respect of the Surplus on Revaluation of Non Current Assets within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement recognised in the Revaluation Reserv													
Revaluation increases	11,975	50,525	0	0	0	101	**62,601**	18,368	0	0	0	**18,368**	**80,969**
Depreciation written out	10,546	16,382	0	0	0	0	**26,928**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**26,928**
Revaluation (losses)	(979)	(42,843)	0	0	0	(101)	**(43,923)**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**(43,923)**
Transactions charged to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement													
Depreciation charge	(15,239)	(30,757)	(3,152)	0	0	0	**(49,148)**	0	0	0	(2,852)	**(2,852)**	**(52,000)**
Reversal of previous year's depreciation	4,693	0	0	0	0	0	**4,693**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**4,693**
Revaluation (losses)	(7,706)	(20,481)	0	0	0	0	**(28,187)**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**(28,187)**
Revaluation loss reversals	731	40,157	0	0	0	0	**40,888**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**40,888**
Impairment (losses)	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
Impairment loss reversals	0	568	0	0	0	0	**568**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**568**
Other Transactions													
Assets reclassified (to) / from Assets Held for Sale, Investment Property and Heritage Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	(451)	451	0	**0**	**0**
Assets reclassified within Property, Plant and Equipment	11,186	0	0	0	(11,186)	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
Other movements in gross carrying amount	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	(1,526)	0	0	**(1,526)**	**(1,526)**
Other movements in depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2023	**981,161**	**763,442**	**17,303**	**2,726**	**39,919**	**5,078**	**1,809,624**	**226,143**	**56,358**	**452**	**8,500**	**291,450**	**2,101,073**
Comprising													
Gross carrying amount	981,161	786,921	52,666	2,725	39,919	5,077	**1,868,469**	226,143	56,363	451	25,060	**308,011**	**2,176,480**
Accumulated depreciation		(23,482)	(35,364)	0	0	0	**(58,846)**				(16,562)	**(16,562)**	**(75,408)**
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2023	**981,161**	**763,439**	**17,302**	**2,725**	**39,919**	**5,077**	**1,809,623**	**226,143**	**56,363**	**451**	**8,498**	**291,449**	**2,101,072**

* Total excluding infrastructure assets which are shown below

Infrastructure Assets

The following table set out the gross carrying amount, and the movements in value over the year for infrastructure assets:

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Opening Net Book Value as at 1 April	118,724	114,447
Additions	30,763	15,626
Depreciation charge	(11,778)	(11,349)
Closing Net Book Value as at 31 March	**137,710**	**118,724**

The following table set out the reconciliation of Total Property, Plant & Equipment:

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Closing Value of Property, Plant & Equipment (excluding Infrastructure Assets)	1,835,003	1,809,623
Closing Value of Infrastructure Assets	137,710	118,724
Total Property, Plant & Equipment as shown in the Balance Sheet	**1,972,713**	**1,928,347**

Heritage Assets

The following table shows the value of the council's heritage assets.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Royal Pavilion	0	347
Collections	0	0
Rare Books	0	0
Volks Railway	0	0
West Blatchington Windmill	0	0
Rottingdean Windmill	0	0
Cost of Acquisitions	**0**	**347**
Royal Pavilion	30,768	9,669
Collections	0	8,579
Rare Books	0	73
Volks Railway	2,309	27
West Blatchington Windmill	231	0
Rottingdean Windmill	85	21
Revaluation Increases/(Losses)	**33,393**	**18,368**
Royal Pavilion	203,982	173,213
Collections	41,498	41,498
Rare Books	8,313	8,313
Volks Railway	3,750	1,442
West Blatchington Windmill	1,444	1,213
Rottingdean Windmill	548	464
Carrying Amount as at 31 March	**259,536**	**226,142**

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. 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 council carries out a rolling programme for revaluing its PPE assets that ensures that all PPE assets measured at current value are revalued at least every five years. HRA dwellings and garages and car park assets are valued annually. The following table shows the valuation split of non-current assets.

	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Heritage Assets	Investment Property	Assets Held for Sale	Intangible Assets	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Valued at historical cost		49	36,458	258,536	3,242	19,690					20,422	**338,398**
Valued at insurance value (annually)								259,536				**259,536**
Valued at fair value:												
2023/24	1,027,651	426,285					3,975		49,794	340		**1,508,045**
2022/23		203,513										**203,513**
2021/22		62,479										**62,479**
2020/21		50,518										**50,518**
2019/20		46,566										**46,566**
2018/19		123										**123**
Before 2018/19		1,981										**1,981**
Gross carrying amount	**1,027,651**	**791,515**	**36,458**	**258,536**	**3,242**	**19,690**	**3,975**	**259,536**	**49,794**	**340**	**20,422**	**2,471,159**
Accumulated depreciation	0	(30,135)	(17,464)	(120,826)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	(9,361)	**(177,786)**
Net carrying amount	**1,027,651**	**761,380**	**18,994**	**137,710**	**3,242**	**19,690**	**3,975**	**259,536**	**49,794**	**340**	**11,060**	**2,293,373**

Surplus Asset Valuations

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.

Heritage Asset Valuations

The valuations for all heritage assets are based on insurance valuations. The assets are insured by Zurich Municipal and Protector at a 1 April valuation date.

Investment Property Valuations

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

Quantitative Information about Fair Value Measurement (Investment Property)				
Property Type	Fair Value at 31 March 2024 £'000	Valuation Techniques used to measure fair value	Unobservable Inputs	Range of unobservable inputs
Urban Commercial	49,794	Yield Methodology	Rental Values	Retail: £61 to £3,835 psm
				Office: £174 to £503 psm
				Car park: £3 to £3 per space per day
				Garden Centre: n/a
				Public House n/a
			Capitalisation rate	Retail: 6% to 10% (4.25% for ground rents)
				Office: 8% to 10%
				Car Park: 5%
				Garden Centre: n/a
				Public House (Ground lease): n/a

Relationship of Unobservable Inputs to Fair Value (Investment Property)		
	Impact on Fair Value of Changes to Input	
Unobservable 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

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 valuation methodology at 31 March 2024 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 HRA garages and car parks are estimated to be 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 assesses the impact of obsolescence, physical damage and changes of use which could affect asset values.

Contractual Commitments

At 31 March 2024, the council had entered into the following contractual commitments in respect of non-current assets.

Contractual Commitments		
Scheme Name	**Description**	**£'000**
Housing stock programme		7,776
Other Land and Buildings		
Adult Social Care	Knoll House building works	9,015
City Development & Regen	Various regeneration projects across Brighton & Hove	1,838
City Environmental Management	Various schemes across Brighton & Hove	1,504
Culture Tourism and Sport	Works on Royal Pavallion Estate, Kingsway to the Sea, Withdean Com	8,751
Education and Skills	Works at various schools	3,767
Finance	Enterprise Resource Planning Programme	2
Housing General Fund	Warm Safe Homes	45
Property	Works on various council properties	1,143
Transport	Various highways schemes	3,753
Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment		
Adult Social Care	Better Care Fund works	62
City Environmental Management	Various vehicle costs, new recycling bins and equipment at Hollngedea	2,253
Culture Tourism and Sport	Brighton Centre works	298
Education and Skills	Furniture and equipment at various schools	14
IT&D	IT equipment and upgrades, Wide Area Network costs	1,265
Property	Workstyles Phase 4 and Water Efficiency project	24
Transport	Various highways schemes	2,040
Intangible Fixed Assets		
City Development & Regen	Brighton Research & Innovation Fibre Ring	97
Cust Modernisation and Perf	Carefirst Replacement Project	100
Housing General Fund	Disabled facilities grants	86
IT&D	Foundational IT works and upgrades	12
Transport	Air Quality Monitoring programme	75
Grand Total		**43,919**

Investment Property Income and Expenses

The council lets properties in its investment portfolio at the full market rent. The council received £3.102 million of net income from investment properties in 2023/24 (£3.538 million 2022/23).

11. Capital Investment and Capital Financing

The council made £144.221 million of capital investments in 2023/24. The council's Capital Financing Requirement is the value of historic capital investment funded from borrowing which will be repaid in future financial years. In 2023/24, £68.888 million of capital investment was financed through unsupported borrowing (i.e. not supported by the government) and increased the council's Capital Financing Requirement. Please see details of movements in the table below.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	**453,960**	**429,094**
Property, plant and equipment	132,551	110,387
Heritage assets	0	347
Intangible assets	5,465	2,616
Investment property	429	272
Assets held for sale	2	0
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	5,274	8,638
Long term investments (which are part of the capital programme)	500	9,786
Long term debtors (which are part of the capital programme)	0	3,316
Capital Investment	**144,221**	**135,363**
Movement in long term debtors	0	(7,148)
Capital Investment (including long term debtors)	**144,221**	**128,215**
Capital receipts	(4,113)	(31,020)
Capital grants and contributions	(49,081)	(40,877)
Major repairs reserve (Housing Revenue Account)	(16,085)	(15,239)
Reserves	(2,730)	(1,644)
Revenue contributions	(2,907)	(3,155)
Schools Funding Adjustment	(416)	0
Capital Financing (excluding borrowing)	**(75,333)**	**(91,936)**
Repayment of loans (Minimum Revenue Provision)	(12,616)	(11,414)
Repayment of long term debt (application of capital receipts)	(500)	0
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	**509,732**	**453,960**
Explanation of movements in capital financing requirement		
Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government)	68,888	43,427
Repayment of loans (Minimum Revenue Provision)	(12,616)	(11,414)
Repayment of long term debt (application of capital receipts)	(500)	0
Movement in long term debtors	0	(7,148)
Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	**55,772**	**24,865**

Minimum Revenue Provision

The council is required by statute to set aside a prudent sum for the repayment of debt – the Minimum Revenue Provision (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 at Full Council in February 2023. The following table shows the amount set aside from revenue to repay debt.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Supported Debt (debt where the Government provides revenue support)	2,328	2,328
Unsupported Debt (debt where no Government support is received)	6,773	5,819
Housing Revenue Account 'unsupported debt'	0	0
Charge equal to write down on PFI liabilities	3,515	3,267
Total Amount Set Aside from Revenue	**12,616**	**11,414**

12. Financial Instruments

Financial Assets	31 March 2024 Long Term £'000	31 March 2024 Short Term £'000	31 March 2024 Total £'000	31 March 2023 Long Term £'000	31 March 2023 Short Term £'000	31 March 2023 Total £'000
Fair value through profit or loss						
Investments	38	0	38	38	0	38
Cash Equivalents	0	16,661	16,661	0	29,558	29,558
Amortised Cost						
Investments	5,123	23,769	28,893	10,114	76,670	143,790
Cash Equivalents	0	43,085	43,085	0	57,006	57,006
Debtors	22,486	44,490	66,976	50,679	39,625	90,304
Total Financial Assets	**27,647**	**128,006**	**155,653**	**60,831**	**202,859**	**263,690**
Not Financial Assets	0	34,596	34,596	0	34,684	34,684
Total Assets	**27,647**	**162,602**	**190,249**	**60,831**	**237,543**	**298,374**

Financial assets are investments, cash equivalents and some debtors both long and short term. Please see also **Note 13 Debtors**.

Financial Liabilities	31 March 2024 Long Term £'000	31 March 2024 Short Term £'000	31 March 2024 Total £'000	31 March 2023 Long Term £'000	31 March 2023 Short Term £'000	31 March 2023 Total £'000
Fair value through profit or loss						
Borrowings and creditors	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amortised cost						
Borrowing	(354,278)	(48,305)	(402,583)	(377,295)	(27,553)	(404,848)
Creditors	(30,306)	(68,227)	(98,533)	(34,130)	(54,273)	(88,403)
Total Financial Liabilities	**(384,585)**	**(116,532)**	**(501,116)**	**(411,424)**	**(81,826)**	**(493,251)**
Not Financial Liabilities	0	(60,614)	(60,614)	0	(78,732)	(78,732)
Total Liabilities	**(384,585)**	**(177,146)**	**(561,730)**	**(411,424)**	**(160,558)**	**(571,983)**

Financial liabilities are borrowing, creditors and long-term liabilities (excluding the pension fund liability). Please see also **Note 14 Creditors**.

Financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss

The balance of financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss at 31 March 2024 was £16.699 million. 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

	2023/24		2022/23	
	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
Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss - fair value	(302)	0	1,107	0
Financial assets measure at fair value through profit or loss - dividends	(2,577)	0	(1,326)	0
Total net (gains)/losses	**(2,879)**	**0**	**(219)**	**0**
Financial assets measured at amortised cost - **Interest Revenue**	(5,119)	0	(3,318)	0
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost - **Interest Expenses**	0	0	12,709	0

Fair Value

Basis for recurring fair value measurements

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

Fair value of financial assets

Financial Assets - Fair value through profit or loss	Input level in the fair value hierarchy	Valuation Technique used to measure Fair Value	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
			£'000	£'000
Money Market Funds (Low Volatility Net Asset Value Funds)	Level 1	Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical shares	7,466	20,666
Pooled Funds (Variable Net Asset Value funds)	Level 1	Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical shares	9,195	8,893
Municipal Bonds Agency Shareholding	Level 3		38	38

Transfer between levels of the fair value hierarchy

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

Changes in valuation technique

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

Fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities that are not measured at fair value but for which fair value disclosures are required

All other financial liabilities and financial assets are carried on the balance sheet at amortised cost. The fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that take place over the remaining life of the instruments based on the following assumptions:

- For loans payable from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) - PWLB market rates.
- For non-PWLB loans payable - PWLB market rates.
- For loans receivable - benchmark market rates.

- 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 fair value is carrying/billed value.
- For trade and other receivables fair value is the invoiced/billed value.

	31 March 2024		31 March 2023	
	Carrying Amount	Fair value	Carrying Amount	Fair value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Long term investments	5,161	5,179	10,152	10,025
Long term debtors	22,486	22,486	50,679	50,679
Total Financial Assets	**27,647**	**27,665**	**60,830**	**60,704**

At 31 March 2024, the fair value of the long-term financial assets is lower than the carrying amount because the portfolio of investments includes fixed rate loans where the interest rate receivable is lower than the rates available for similar loans. This shows a notional future loss based on economic conditions attributable to the commitment to receive interest above current market rates. Long term debtors are carried at cost as this is a fair approximation of their value.

	31 March 2024		31 March 2023	
	Carrying Amount	Fair value	Carrying Amount	Fair value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Long term borrowing	(354,278)	(229,246)	(377,295)	(276,253)
PFI liabilities	(30,306)	(35,881)	(37,612)	(40,651)
Total Financial Liabilities	**(384,585)**	**(265,127)**	**(414,907)**	**(316,904)**

The fair value of borrowings is lower than the carrying amount because the portfolio of loans includes fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is lower than the prevailing rates at the balance sheet date. This shows a notional future loss arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates. The reverse is the case for PFI fair values.

As there is no market comparison data for PFI liabilities the fair value valuation uses a PWLB Annuity discount rate approach.

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

Recurring fair value measurements using:	31 March 2024			
	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
Long Term Investments at Amortised Cost	0	5,179	0	5,179
Long Term Debtors	0	22,486	0	22,486
Financial Assets	**0**	**27,665**	**0**	**27,665**
Long term borrowing	0	(229,246)	0	(229,246)
PFI and Lease Liabilities	0	0	(35,881)	(35,881)
Financial Liabilities	**0**	**(229,246)**	**(35,881)**	**(265,127)**

Recurring fair value measurements using:	31 March 2023			
	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
Long Term Investments at Amortised Cost	0	10,025	0	10,025
Long Term Debtors	0	50,679	0	50,679
Financial Assets	**0**	**60,704**	**0**	**60,704**
Long term borrowing	0	(276,253)	0	(276,253)
PFI and Lease Liabilities	0	0	(40,651)	(40,651)
Financial Liabilities	**0**	**(276,253)**	**(40,651)**	**(316,904)**

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 input 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 2024 for loans receivable, based on new lending rates for equivalent loans at that date and the fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

Financial Liabilities

No early repayment is recognised and estimated ranges of interest rates at 31 March 2024 for loans payable is 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) and 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. 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 council's customers. This risk is minimised through via the council's Annual Investment Strategy which is available on the council'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 rating services. The Annual Investment Strategy also considers maximum amounts and time limits with a financial institution located in each category. The council uses the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services. This service uses a sophisticated modelling approach incorporating credit ratings from all three rating agencies. However, it does not rely solely on the current credit ratings of counterparties but also uses credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies, Credit Default Swap spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings and sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries. The Investment Strategy for 2023/24 was approved by Full Council in February 2023 and is available on the council's website. Customers for goods and services are assessed based on 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 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. There is a risk of not being able to recover all the council's deposits but there was no evidence at the 31 March 2024 that this was likely to occur.

Amounts arising from Expected Credit Losses (ECL)

The council has provision for bad debt across all services of £63.157 million at 31 March 2024 (£47.969 million short term and £15.188 million long term). Please see also **Note 13 Debtors**.

The council also reviews all other (non-service) debt and provides for Expected Credit Losses (ECL). The material changes in ECL for 2023/24 are in respect of the i360 seafront observation tower which has been increased by £14.807 million to £26.526 million.

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 which excludes sums due from customers is as follows:

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Less than one year	98,145	226,019
Between one and two years	22,486	5,029
Between two and five years	5,123	0
Between five and ten years	38	5,123
Total Financial Assets	**125,792**	**236,171**

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 long-term financial liabilities and long-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 value of the financial liabilities in the table below is based on the principal amounts owed to lenders rather than the carrying amount.

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Less than one year	(89,196)	(70,815)
Between one and two years	(21,926)	(22,724)
Between two and five years	(11,101)	(22,726)
More than five years	(352,752)	(368,264)
Total Financial Liabilities	**(474,975)**	**(484,530)**

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.
- 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The council has strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together the 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 monitors 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 long-term fixed rates borrowing would be postponed. The value of the risk if all interest rates had been +1% higher ('all other things being equal') is illustrated below.

Effect of +1% in interest rates	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	57	81
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(1,536)	(735)
Impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**(1,479)**	**(654)**

Price risk

The council has a total of £7.466 million invested in money market funds. The value (price) of shares in these funds will vary.

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.

13. Debtors

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Debtor System Control	25,946	21,341
Local Taxation	13,307	9,743
HMRC	8,417	6,041
HRA & Temporary Accommodation	7,225	4,475
Payments in Advance	4,081	4,413
Parking	1,120	367
Local Growth Fund Grants	0	4,099
Other	18,989	23,830
Total Short Term Debtors	**79,086**	**74,309**

£44.490 million (£39.624 million end March 2023) of the total of short-term debtors are classified as financial instruments and are included in Note 12 Financial Instruments. 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.

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
i360 development	8,955	23,771
Finance leases	5,796	5,806
Brighton Dome & Festival Limited	2,704	2,704
Royal Pavilion & Museums Trust	1,867	1,867
Other long term debtors	3,164	3,204
Total Long Term Debtors	**22,486**	**37,352**

All long-term debtors are classed as financial instruments and are included in Note 12 Financial Instruments.

14. Creditors

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Grants & Contributions	(21,679)	(25,253)
Creditors Control Account	(16,958)	(8,722)
Receipts in Advance	(17,502)	(18,708)
Pensions	(6,263)	(5,817)
HMRC	(6,165)	(5,653)
C2C Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)	(4,980)	(14,734)
PFI Finance Lease Liability	(3,790)	(3,482)
Local Taxation	0	(3,718)
Other	(51,504)	(46,918)
Total Short Term Creditors	**(128,841)**	**(133,005)**

£68.227 million (£54.273 million 31 March 2023) of short-term creditors are classed as financial instruments and are included in **Note 12 Financial Instruments**. Creditors which are not classified as financial instruments are statutory creditors, grant creditors and receipts in advance.

15. Provisions

The council sets aside amounts as provisions for liabilities of uncertain timing or amount. The following table sets out the council's provisions at 31 March split between short term and long term. Short term provisions include best estimates of uncertain liabilities including uninsurable costs relating to potential Health & Safety Executive penalties, potential historic pay settlements for some staffing groups, and other estimated litigation costs where there is uncertainty over the recovery of costs.

	Balance 1 April 2023	Additional Provisions Made	Amounts Used	Unused Amounts Reversed	Balance 31 March 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Other provisions	(1,546)	(600)	1,065	0	(1,081)
Short Term Provisions	**(1,546)**	**(600)**	**1,065**	**0**	**(1,081)**
Voluntary severance scheme	(642)	(2,505)	809	(1)	(2,339)
Insurance provision	(4,326)	0	305	0	(4,021)
Business rates appeals provision	(1,855)	0	542	(277)	(1,589)
Other provisions	(122)	(36)	0	0	(158)
Long Term Provisions	**(6,945)**	**(2,541)**	**1,656**	**(277)**	**(8,107)**
Total Provisions	**(8,491)**	**(3,141)**	**2,721**	**(277)**	**(9,188)**

Voluntary Severance Scheme 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 2023/24. This provision will meet the costs of approved severance packages which had not been finalised at the year end.

Insurance Provision

The insurance provision is used to cover liabilities under policy excesses and to finance any claims for small risks not insured externally. The council also self-insures financed from this provision. The level of the provision is informed by independent actuarial assessment of insurance risks.

Business Rates Appeals Provision

At the end of March 2024, the council had a number of appeals outstanding against both the 2010 and 2017 rating lists. If successful, these appeals will result in a reduction in rateable value and refunds for prior financial years. This provision covers the council's share of the amount that the council anticipates having to repay if the appeals are successful.

16. Grants and Contributions

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

Government Revenue Grants

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	(72,581)	(61,397)
Department of Health & Social Care	(2,100)	(687)
Department for Work and Pensions	(1,011)	(1,008)
Department for Education	(103)	(99)
Revenue government grants credited to taxation and non-specific grant income	**(75,795)**	**(63,191)**
Ring fenced revenue government grants credited to cost of services		
Department for Education	(223,372)	(213,356)
Department for Work and Pensions	(112,426)	(111,240)
Department of Health & Social Care	(33,115)	(27,731)
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	(14,354)	(12,593)
Department for Transport	(7,041)	(632)
Other government departments	(1,223)	(1,153)
Home Office	(447)	(147)
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	(39)	(62)
Ring fenced revenue government grants credited to cost of services	**(392,015)**	**(366,914)**
Total Government Revenue Grants	**(467,810)**	**(430,106)**

Non-Government Revenue Grants and Contributions

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Contributions from health	(29,163)	(27,066)
Contributions from other agencies and external bodies	(7,311)	(3,204)
Contributions from other local authorities	(2,043)	(1,617)
Other contributions, donations and sponsorship	(1,307)	(2,870)
Contributions from developers and stakeholders	(461)	(646)
Non-government grants	(532)	(639)
Total Non-Government Revenue Grants and Contributions credited to cost of services	**(40,816)**	**(36,043)**

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 funds to be returned if the conditions are not met. These are held within short term creditors.

Capital Grants and Contributions

The council has received a number of capital grants and external contributions which are used to fund capital investment.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	(12,202)	(12,409)
Department for Education	(11,112)	(7,771)
Department for Transport	(8,604)	(8,636)
Contributions from developers and stakeholders	(7,600)	(4,096)
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	(3,427)	0
Other government departments	(147)	(1,885)
Heritage Lottery Fund	(102)	(1,109)
Other contributions	(1,965)	(593)
Capital grants and contributions credited to taxation and non-specific grant income	**(45,158)**	**(36,499)**
Department of Health & Social Care	(2,700)	(2,335)
Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	(395)	(719)
Department for Transport	(260)	(390)
Department for Education	(89)	(597)
Other contributions	(51)	(272)
Capital grants and contributions credited to cost of services	**(3,495)**	**(4,313)**
Total Capital Grants and Contributions	**(48,654)**	**(40,812)**

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 funds to be returned if the conditions are not met (shown as "Capital grant receipts in advance" on the balance sheet).

	2023/24	2022/23
	£’000	£’000
Department for Education	(25,880)	(28,824)
Contributions from developers and stakeholders	(19,222)	(22,636)
Department for Transport	(14,684)	(12,559)
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	(7,078)	(4,860)
Other contributions	(2,461)	(2,401)
Department of Health and Social Care	(273)	(458)
Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	(80)	(796)
Total Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	**(69,678)**	**(72,533)**

Dedicated Schools Grant

The Council’s expenditure on schools is funded primarily by Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) received from the Education Funding Agency. DSG is ring-fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on a Council-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget (ISB) which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

2023/24	Central Expenditure	Individual Schools Budget (ISB)	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Final DSG for 2023/24 before academy and high needs recoupment			(214,669)
Less academy and high needs figure recouped for 2023/24			23,090
Total DSG after academy and high needs recoupment for 2023/24			**(191,578)**
Plus: Brought forward from 2022/23			(368)
Less: Carry-forward to 2023/24 agreed in advance			0
Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2023/24	**(35,671)**	**(156,276)**	**(191,946)**
In-year budget adjustments	24	(167)	(143)
Final budget distribution for 2023/24	**(35,647)**	**(156,442)**	**(192,089)**
Less actual central expenditure	34,372	0	34,372
Less actual ISB deployed to schools	0	156,442	156,442
Plus: Local authority contribution for 2023/24	0	0	0
Carry-forward to 2024/25	**(1,275)**	**0**	**(1,275)**
Plus/Minus: Carry-forward to 2024/25 agreed in advance			0
Carry-forward to 2024/25			(1,275)
DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2022/23			0
Addition to DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2023/24			0
Total of DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2023/24			0
Net DSG position at the end of 2023/24	**(1,275)**	**0**	**(1,275)**

2022/23	Central Expenditure	Individual Schools Budget (ISB)	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Final DSG for 2022/23 before academy and high needs recoupment			(205,883)
Less academy and high needs figure recouped for 2022/23			20,802
Total DSG after academy and high needs recoupment for 2022/23			**(185,080)**
Plus: Brought forward from 2021/22			(35)
Less: Carry-forward to 2023/24 agreed in advance			0
Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2022/23	**(32,976)**	**(152,139)**	**(185,115)**
In-year budget adjustments	(376)	434	58
Final budget distribution for 2022/23	**(33,352)**	**(151,705)**	**(185,057)**
Less actual central expenditure	32,984	0	32,984
Less actual ISB deployed to schools	0	151,705	151,705
Plus: Local authority contribution for 2022/23	0	0	0
Carry-forward to 2023/24	**(368)**	**0**	**(368)**
Plus/Minus: Carry-forward to 2023/24 agreed in advance			0
Carry-forward to 2023/24			(368)
DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2021/22			0
Addition to DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2022/23			0
Total of DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2022/23			0
Net DSG position at the end of 2022/23	**(368)**	**0**	**(368)**

17. Leases and Lease Type Arrangements

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 length of leases range from 60 to 150 years. The assets acquired under these leases in 2023/24 are valued at £8.984 million and are carried as PPE on the balance sheet under other land and buildings. 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 (for example: office accommodation and buildings 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. The terms of the leases typically range from three to five years. The following table shows the future minimum lease payments due from the council under non-cancellable operating leases in future financial years:

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	6,807	7,972
Later than one year and not later than five years	6,081	11,399
Later than five years	1,244	1,852
Total Future Minimum Lease Payments	**14,132**	**21,223**

The expenditure incurred by the council in 2023/24, in respect of the above leases, was £7.536 million (2022/23 £7.515 million).

In addition, the council has 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 payments due by the council within the next 12 months are £1.120 million.

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.

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Finance lease debtor (net present value of minimum lease payments):		
Current	9	9
Non current	6,106	6,107
Unearned finance income	36,310	36,310
Total Gross Investment in the Leases	**42,425**	**42,425**

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 at the balance sheet date.

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 the Lease 31 March 2024 £'000	Present Value of Minimum Lease Payments 31 March 2024 £'000	Gross Investment in the Lease 31 March 2023 £'000	Present Value of Minimum Lease Payments 31 March 2023 £'000
Not later than one year	457	9	457	9
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,287	58	2,287	54
Later than five years	39,681	6,048	39,681	6,053
Total	**42,425**	**6,116**	**42,425**	**6,116**

The minimum lease payments do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into such as rent reviews. In 2023/24,£14.929 million in contingent rents were receivable by the council (2022/23 £15.619 million).

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.

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000
Not later than one year	8,262	7,978
Later than one year and not later than five years	20,926	19,085
Later than five years	107,285	106,832
Total Future Minimum Lease Payments	**136,473**	**133,895**

The minimum lease payments owed to the council do not include changes to future rental payments.

18. Private Finance Initiative Contracts

The council has three Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts which are:

- A 25-year contract for the expansion and refurbishment of four secondary schools with Brighton & Hove City Schools Services Limited which started 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' (such as caretaking, cleaning, catering, grounds maintenance) and utilities from the contract.
- A 25-year contract for the provision of an integrated waste management services with South Downs Waste Services Ltd (now trading as Veolia ES South Downs Limited) jointly with East Sussex County Council. The agreement started April 2003 and has been extended by five years to the end of 2033.
- A 25-year contract for the provision of a new library and library service with NU Library for Brighton Limited which started in November 2004.

The extent and level of service provided under the schools and library PFI contracts are consistent year-on-year with any major changes subject to contract variation procedures and periodic benchmarking. Payments under these contracts are unlikely to change significantly year-on-year. The service provided under the waste PFI contract is based on waste disposal volumes and changes to volumes will 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 2023/24.

Assets - PFI Contracts

The assets held under the PFI arrangements are recognised on the council's balance sheet. The value of assets held under PFI contracts is £97.634 million at end March 2024 (£106.613 million March 2023).

2023/24	Schools PFI Contract £'000	Waste PFI Contract £'000	Library PFI Contract £'000	Total £'000
Balance as at 1 April 2023				
Gross carrying amount	51,054	42,705	15,124	**108,883**
Accumulated depreciation	(137)	(2,133)	0	**(2,270)**
Net Carrying Amount at 1 April 2023	**50,917**	**40,572**	**15,124**	**106,613**
Additions	426	23	235	**685**
Derecognition - disposals	(72)	(2,133)	0	**(2,205)**
Derecognition - disposals (depreciation)	72	2,133	0	**2,205**
Transactions in respect of the surplus on revaluation of non current assets within the CIES recognised in the revaluation reserve				
Revaluation increases	1,319	70	0	**1,389**
Revaluation losses	(460)	(5,147)	(363)	**(5,970)**
Transactions charged to the surplus / deficit on the provision of services in the CIES				
Depreciation charge	(4,426)	(1,260)	(353)	**(6,039)**
Revaluation (losses)	0	(154)	(31)	**(185)**
Reversal of previous impairment losses	395	746	0	**1,141**
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2024	**48,171**	**34,850**	**14,612**	**97,634**
Gross carrying amount	52,007	34,869	14,613	**101,489**
Accumulated depreciation	(3,836)	(19)	0	**(3,855)**
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2024	**48,171**	**34,850**	**14,613**	**97,634**

2022/23	Schools PFI Contract £'000	Waste PFI Contract £'000	Library PFI Contract £'000	Total £'000
Balance as at 1 April 2022				
Gross carrying amount	42,726	33,680	13,745	**90,151**
Accumulated depreciation	(2,739)	(2,232)	0	**(4,971)**
Net Carrying Amount at 1 April 2022	**39,987**	**31,448**	**13,745**	**85,180**
Additions	625	0	0	**625**
Transactions in respect of the surplus on revaluation of non current assets within the CIES recognised in the revaluation reserve				
Revaluation increases	0	54	1,968	**2,022**
Revaluation losses	(1,851)	(324)	0	**(2,175)**
Transactions charged to the surplus / deficit on the provision of services in the CIES				
Depreciation charge	(1,936)	(1,033)	(589)	**(3,558)**
Revaluation (losses)	0	(330)	0	**(330)**
Reversal of previous revaluation losses	1,802	0	0	**1,802**
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2023	**38,627**	**29,815**	**15,124**	**83,566**
Gross carrying amount	51,054	42,705	15,124	**108,883**
Accumulated depreciation	(137)	(2,133)	0	**(2,270)**
Net Carrying Amount at 31 March 2023	**50,917**	**40,572**	**15,124**	**106,613**

Liabilities - PFI Contracts

2023/24	Schools PFI Contract £'000	Waste PFI Contract £'000	Library PFI Contract £'000	Total £'000
At 1 April 2023	**6,549**	**27,266**	**3,797**	**37,612**
Lease Repayment	(1,046)	(2,043)	(427)	**(3,515)**
At 31 March 2024	**5,503**	**25,223**	**3,371**	**34,096**

2022/23	Schools PFI Contract £'000	Waste PFI Contract £'000	Library PFI Contract £'000	Total £'000
At 1 April 2022	**7,503**	**29,185**	**4,190**	**40,878**
Lease Repayment	(954)	(1,919)	(393)	**(3,266)**
At 31 March 2023	**6,549**	**27,266**	**3,797**	**37,612**

Payments Due - PFI Contracts

The future payments for the library PFI contract are based upon a mix of projected inflation rates (retail price index, building maintenance and average earnings). The payment for services includes lifecycle payments towards the enhancement and maintenance of PFI assets and inflation.

The future payments for the waste PFI contracts are based on the Office for Budget Responsibility projected RPIX annual inflation rate to 2027/28, and 2.5% thereafter. The payment for services includes lifecycle payments towards the enhancement and maintenance of PFI assets and inflation.

The future payments for the schools and waste PFI contracts are based on a projected annual retail price inflation rate. The payment for services includes lifecycle payments towards the enhancement and maintenance of PFI assets and inflation.

2023/24	Repayment of Liability £'000	Interest Costs £'000	Payment For Services £'000	Total £'000
Within 1 year	1,153	579	2,073	**3,805**
Within 2 to 5 years	4,350	953	6,553	**11,856**
Total Payments Due - Schools	**5,503**	**1,532**	**8,626**	**15,661**
Within 1 year	2,174	1,386	10,956	**14,516**
Within 2 to 5 years	10,150	4,281	53,722	**68,153**
Within 6 to 10 years	12,898	1,835	60,555	**75,288**
Total Payments Due - Waste	**25,222**	**7,502**	**125,233**	**157,957**
Within 1 year	463	284	2,068	**2,815**
Within 2 to 5 years	2,249	710	9,004	**11,963**
Within 6 to 10 years	659	55	5,724	**6,438**
Total Payments Due - Library	**3,370**	**1,049**	**16,796**	**21,216**
Within 1 year	3,790	2,249	15,097	**21,136**
Within 2 to 5 years	16,749	5,944	69,279	**91,972**
Within 6 to 10 years	13,557	1,890	66,279	**81,726**
Total Payments Due - All	**34,095**	**10,083**	**150,655**	**194,834**

2022/23	Repayment of Liability £'000	Interest Costs £'000	Payment For Services £'000	Total £'000
Within 1 year	1,046	687	1,779	**3,512**
Within 2 to 5 years	5,503	1,532	7,844	**14,879**
Total Payments Due - Schools	**6,549**	**2,219**	**9,623**	**18,391**
Within 1 year	2,043	1,496	10,881	**14,420**
Within 2 to 5 years	9,552	4,802	50,813	**65,167**
Within 6 to 10 years	15,670	2,700	70,937	**89,307**
Total Payments Due - Waste	**27,265**	**8,998**	**132,631**	**168,894**
Within 1 year	427	319	2,069	**2,815**
Within 2 to 5 years	2,103	887	8,973	**11,963**
Within 6 to 10 years	1,268	162	5,008	**6,438**
Total Payments Due - Library	**3,798**	**1,369**	**16,050**	**21,216**
Within 1 year	3,516	2,502	14,729	**20,747**
Within 2 to 5 years	17,158	7,221	67,630	**92,009**
Within 6 to 10 years	16,938	2,862	75,945	**95,745**
Total Payments Due - All	**37,612**	**12,586**	**158,304**	**208,501**

19. Contingent Assets and Contingent Liabilities

Contingent Assets

Vehicle Procurement

The council is part of a class action, led by the Local Government Association (LGA), against a group of vehicle manufacturers whom, it is alleged, have price fixed across Europe. The council has bought many of its vehicles outright over many years. The council is not able to quantify any potential financial compensation and is indemnified and insured against any material costs should the claim fail.

Credit Card Commission

The council is part of a class action, led by the Local Government Association, against Mastercard and Visa in relation to alleged fixing of interchange card fees. This action has been brought forward by a range of private and public sector organisations. The claim has succeeded in court and the council received an interim settlement of £120,382. A further compensation settlement is possible but is not quantifiable at this time.

Contingent Liabilities

General Legal and Litigation Claims

The council has some general legal claims or litigation cases which had not been resolved at the Balance Sheet date. None of these are quantifiable and nor are they material in value and the claims may be successfully defended.

Insurance Claims

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 range 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 Maintenance/Replacement Liability

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 over 120 years old and engineering experience and judgement indicate that it is likely to be nearing the end of its economically maintainable life. An agreement dated 28 September 1889 outlines the responsibilities for ownership and maintenance of the footbridge. In summary, the footbridge remains in the ownership of the railway company (now Network Rail) but the cost of maintenance is recharged to the local council (now Brighton & Hove City Council). This historic agreement does not clarify what the financial responsibilities would be if the footbridge had to be replaced and/or restructured, for example, to improve access. The council therefore has a potential but unquantifiable financial liability dependent on when the footbridge needs remedial works and/or full replacement and on the final agreed interpretation of the responsibilities as set out in the historic legal agreement. The council believes it would be the responsibility of the owner of the structure (Network Rail) to fund the removal and replacement of any new footbridge.

HRA Disrepair Claims

Due to the nature of disrepair claims the council is unable to identify with any accuracy which disrepair claims will become payable in the future. Each individual claim is met from within HRA revenue resources in year as claims are settled, actual payments arising are subject to legal review meaning that the level at which a claim is settled can vary from the initial estimation made.

Large Panel System Blocks

Eight Large Panel System blocks across the city have had surveys undertaken that have indicated that major works are required for compliance regarding Health & Safety, Building Safety and Fire Safety, the survey reports provide a recommended route for the council to take in relation to the work. There are a number of routes that the council can take to ensure compliance and as a result is unable to quantify with any accuracy any lability arising from the reports relating to the 8 Blocks. Works associated with the blocks will form part of the HRA's capital programme when they become quantifiable and will be included in the HRA's Medium Term Financial Strategy and 30-year business plan which will require approval by Cabinet.

20. 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 2023/24 can be found in **Note 16 Grants and Contributions.**

Levying Authorities

Other public bodies may levy the council by making a demand on the council tax requirement. In 2023/24, the council paid levies of £0.229 million (£0.220 million 2022/23) to the Environment Agency, the Sussex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority and various enclosure committees. These costs are included in other operating expenditure.

Members

Members of the council have direct control over the council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2023/24 is shown in **Note 22 Member's Allowances and Expenses**. 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.

The following member holds a position of control or significant influence in a related party to the council in 2023/24. Councillor Thomas Druitt is a managing director of The Big Lemon CIC (bus company). The council has a contract for bus services with the company and payments of £1.869 million were made in 2023/24.

Some members have relationships or hold positions with other public bodies, schools, charities, voluntary organisations, and trusts with which the council interacts but does not have a financially material relationship.

Officers

During 2023/24, the council provided Chief Finance Officer (S151), financial and other services to the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) on a contractual basis. During 2023/24, the council received £0.317 million (£0.332 million 2022/23) in respect of these services. The council also had short-term borrowing with the SDNPA of £4.587 million at 31

March 2024 (£7.455 million 31 March 2023) in accordance with the service contract and the SDNPA Annual Investment Strategy. The officers involved in providing S151 and other financial services to SDNPA could not 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 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 Partnership and Section 75 Arrangements**.

Entities which are not controlled / 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 (or successor entity), 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.

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 (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 company's 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.

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 £0.025 million to buy a shareholding in the company, UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc, and a further £0.025 million was invested in the shareholding on 13 October 2015. This investment is shown at 75% of the purchase price on the balance sheet.

The council provided financial support to the **East Sussex Credit Union Ltd** (trading as Wave Community Bank) in April 2016 with a membership deposit of £0.028 million and a subordinated loan of £0.250 million for the purpose of providing safe, affordable and 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 board (under review) 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 & Hove. The Trust has a board of ten Trustees including the council as a corporate Trustee. The council has committed to provide the Trust with £0.250 million 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 Royal Pavilion and Museums Trust is a charitable organisation that took over the management and operation of the Royal Pavilion and Museums' buildings and collections from Brighton & Hove City Council on the 1 October 2020. The buildings are leased to the Trust with a 25 year contract whereby the council is responsible for maintaining the buildings and provides a service fee to the Trust to run services. The Trust Board has 14 trustees of which three are Brighton & Hove City councillors. The transfer to the Trust aims to support the financial sustainability and resilience of the services provided, allowing for the potential to access grants not available to the Council and the freedom to develop and improve services. The Trust drew down on a £2 million loan facility with the council in 2021/22.

Entities which are significantly influenced by the council

The Homes for the City of Brighton & Hove Limited Liability Partnership (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, however, neither partner of the LLP has a casting vote and any disputes require specific resolution as set out in the signed agreement. The aim of the company is to deliver 1,000 affordable homes, through social rent and shared ownership tenures. The LLP's Business Plan sets out the mechanism to deliver these homes, via a development company model where by all homes are sold to the council or Hyde Housing Association upon completion. The company's strategic financial model still requires the council as defined by the original agreement signed in 2017 to provide finances to the LLP during the development of homes where a cash shortfall in the LLP is identified. This financing will be repaid before any surplus crystalizes from the sale of the properties to the councils' Housing Revenue Account.

The first two projects have completed during 2023/24 with all equity repaid by the LLP owed to the council during the year. The councils' Housing Revenue Account purchased 176 of the homes under the signed development agreement, these are to be let at social rents in accordance with the governments rent setting policy. As a result of the homes completing the profit in the LLP crystalised, meaning a distribution of profit of £3.760 million to the council during 2023/24 has been accounted for.

The council also provide Corporate & Financial Services to the LLP under a separate service contract.

The Homes for The City of Brighton & Hove Design & Build Company Limited (D&B Co) was also formed in November 2017. The company is wholly owned by the LLP through its 100% shareholding. The council has nominated three of its members (50% of the total) to serve as Directors of the company and decisions are taken by the unanimous decisions of the company's six Directors. Following the change of business plan, which resulted in the D&B co no longer being required for its original purposes a decision has been passed by the board to wind the company up during 2023/24. All liabilities of the D&B co have been settled during the year, with no cash balances being held by the company by 31st March 2024.

Orbis is a partnership between Brighton & Hove City Council, Surrey County Council and East Sussex County Council that aims to provide Internal Audit & Counter Fraud, Insurance, Treasury Management, Procurement, and IT & Digital services to the partners as well as selling services externally to the public sector. Various services are currently provided to South Downs National Park Authority, Tandridge District Council, Adur & Worthing District Councils, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Authority, Sussex Police, and the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership. For 2022/23 the inter-authority agreement, which governs the partnership, was updated to reflect revised agreed contribution ratios which recognised that significantly more of the IT&D budget should be treated as sovereign expenditure and therefore be regarded as expenditure 'managed on behalf of' (MOBO) each partner authority. MOBO budgets are therefore under the direct control of each partner but are managed by the Orbis IT&D service on their behalf. The 2022/23 contribution ratios were applicable in 2023/24 and remain in force until varied by agreement or until cessation of the Inter Authority Agreement. Member oversight of the partnership is provided by the Orbis Partnership Oversight Board which retains two members from each partner but is not a formal or public committee.

21. Officers' Remuneration

The remuneration paid to senior officers reporting directly to the Chief Executive, holding statutory posts or earning more than £150,000 per annum is detailed below.

		2023/24				2022/23			
	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 - Geoff Raw	1	£26,023	£0	£3,486	£29,510	£168,537	£0	£33,255	£201,791
Interim Chief Executive	2	£147,314	£0	£27,572	£174,886	£0	£0	£0	£0
Chief Executive	3	£7,151	£0	£1,416	£8,566	£0	£0	£0	£0
Executive Director Families, Children & Learning		£133,736	£0	£26,480	£160,216	£129,213	£0	£25,584	£154,797
Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture		£127,832	£0	£25,311	£153,143	£154,577	£0	£18,519	£173,096
Executive Director Health & Adult Social Care	4	£125,156	£307,392	£24,273	£456,821	£129,213	£0	£25,584	£154,797
Acting Executive Director Health & Adult Social Care	5	£6,348	£0	£1,257	£7,605	£0	£0	£0	£0
Executive Director Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities	6	£136,397	£127,660	£25,483	£289,541	£129,213	£0	£25,584	£154,797
Acting Executive Director Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities	7	£4,343	£0	£860	£5,203	£0	£0	£0	£0
Executive Director Governance, People & Resources		£133,736	£0	£26,480	£160,216	£122,679	£0	£24,291	£146,970
Chief Finance Officer	8	£113,368	£0	£22,374	£135,742	£109,177	£0	£21,617	£130,794
Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development	9	£113,235	£0	£22,374	£135,609	£109,177	£0	£21,617	£130,794
	Total	£1,074,641	£435,052	£207,364	£1,717,058	£1,051,786	£0	£196,051	£1,247,837

Notes

1. The Chief Executive left the council on 8 May 2023, total remuneration included payment of £8,415 for returning officer duties and this payment was fully funded by central government.
2. The Interim Chief Executive was appointed on 2 May 2023 and left the council on 24 March 2024. Total remuneration included payment of £1,128 for returning officer duties and this payment was fully funded by central government.
3. The Chief Executive was appointed on 18 March 2024.
4. Due to the pending deletion of this post, as part of the organisational redesign in 2024/25, the Executive Director Health & Adult Social Care left the council on 29 February 2024
5. Acting Executive Director of Health & Adult Social Care was appointed on 13 March 2024.
6. Due to the pending deletion of this post, as part of the organisational redesign in 2024/25, the Executive Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities left the council on 17 March 2024.
7. Acting Executive Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities was appointed on 18 March 2024.
8. The Chief Finance Officer's total remuneration included payment of £370 for election duties and this payment was fully funded by central government.

9. The Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development's total remuneration included payment of £237 for election duties and this payment was fully funded by central government.

No expense allowances were paid in either 2023/24 or 2022/23.

Other Employee Remuneration

The following table sets out the numbers of employees in each total remuneration band for all those employees receiving more than £50,000 per annum (excluding employer's pension contributions).

Remuneration Band	2023/24 Number of Employees	2022/23 Number of Employees
£50,000 - £54,999	231	171
£55,000 - £59,999	194	133
£60,000 - £64,999	63	54
£65,000 - £69,999	60	40
£70,000 - £74,999	35	22
£75,000 - £79,999	12	16
£80,000 - £84,999	14	8
£85,000 - £89,999	7	4
£90,000 - £94,999	7	4
£95,000 - £99,999	7	14
£100,000 - £104,999	10	1
£105,000 - £109,999	3	3
£110,000 - £114,999	2	2
£115,000 - £119,999	3	0
£120,000 - £124,999	0	0
£125,000 - £129,999	0	0
£130,000 - £134,999	0	0
£135,000 - £139,999	0	0
£140,000 - £144,999	0	0
£145,000 - £149,999	0	0
£150,000 - £154,999	0	1
£155,000 - £159,999	0	0
£160,000 - £164,999	0	0
£165,000 - £169,999	0	0
TOTAL	648	473

22. Members' allowances and expenses

In 2023/24 the council paid £0.891 million (£0.917 million 2022/23) of allowances to members. There was £0.001 million of expenses for travel/subsistence on approved duties outside the Brighton and Hove City area claimed by members during 2023/24 (£0.001 million 2022/23). In 2023/24 members contributed £0.007 million towards travel and parking costs (£0.005 million 2022/23). Full details of allowances and expenses paid in 2023/24 can be found on the council's website Members' allowances (brighton-hove.gov.uk)

23. Termination benefits (including exit packages)

The council terminated the contracts of a number of employees during 2023/24 at a cost of £1.409 million (2022/23 £1.030 million). This includes £1.251 million for exit packages and £0.158 million for associated costs.

The council had a provision of £2.340 million at 31 March 2024 for committed payments for agreed voluntary redundancy packages. Please see Note 15 Provisions.

The following table shows the numbers and cost ranges for exit packages for compulsory and other redundancies agreed in the financial year.

	Number of Compulsory Redundancies		Number of Other Departures		Total Number of Exit Packages		Total Cost of Exit Packages	
	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23
Cost Band	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	£'000	£'000
£0 - £20,000	0	0	29	23	29	23	170	159
£20,001 - £40,000	0	0	12	7	12	7	353	172
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	3	3	3	3	143	140
£60,001 - £80,000	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	144
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	2	2	2	2	185	172
£100,001 - £150,000	0	0	2	2	2	2	251	242
£150,001 - £200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£200,001 - £250,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£250,001 - £300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£300,001 - £350,000	0	0	1	0	1	0	307	0
Total	0	0	49	39	49	39	1,409	1,030

This includes voluntary redundancy costs, early retirement pension costs and pay in lieu of notice.

24. Pension Schemes accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes

Teacher's Pensions Scheme

Teachers employed by the council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme administered by the Department for Education. The scheme provides teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement and the council contributes towards the cost by making contributions based on a percentage of scheme members' pensionable salaries. The scheme itself is a defined benefit scheme but however is unfunded. The Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. The council accounts for the scheme on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme. In 2023/24 the council paid £16.873 million (2022/23 £16.371 million) to the Teachers Pensions Agency in respect of employees' retirement benefits.

NHS Staff Pension Scheme

Former NHS employees that work for the council can choose to maintain their membership of the NHS Pension Scheme. The scheme provides these 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. The scheme is an unfunded defined benefit scheme. The council accounts for the scheme on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme. In 2023/24 the council paid £0.038 million (2022/23 £0.041 million) to the NHS Business Service Authority in respect of employees' retirement benefits.

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 also accounted for on a defined benefit basis.

25. 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. These are:

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

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 is required to disclose the commitment in respect of the future payment of these benefits at the time that the employees earn their future entitlement.

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 savings on staffing costs to meet actual pension payments as they fall due.

Barnett Waddingham LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, provides the financial assessment of the council's Pension Fund. The calculations and advice given by Barnett Waddingham LLP in their actuarial report has been carried out in compliance with Technical Actuarial Standard 100: General Actuarial Standards (TAS 100) as issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC).

Transactions relating to Post-Employment Benefits

The cost of post-employment benefits in the reported cost of services is recognised 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, so the real cost of post-employment benefits is reversed out of the General Fund and HRA balances to the pensions reserve via the MiRS. The following transactions have been made in the CIES and MiRS during the financial year in relation to the scheme:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES)		
Cost of Services		
Service Cost Comprising:		
Current service cost	32,726	55,599
Past service costs	365	30
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		
Net interest expense	(3,567)	(6,885)
Total Post Employment Benefits charged to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	**29,524**	**48,744**
Other Post Employment Benefits charged to the CIES		
Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability comprising:		
Return on scheme assets	(38,423)	90,471
Other actuarial gains/(losses)	0	0
Change in demographic assumptions	(13,857)	0
Change in financial assumptions	(7,002)	(708,883)
Experience adjustments	3,850	142,587
Impact of asset ceiling	64,886	162,986
Adjustment re remeasurements of the pension scheme	13	(536)
Post Employment Benefits charged to Other Income and Expenditure in the CIES	**9,467**	**(313,375)**
Other amounts charged against the General Fund for pensions in the reporting period		
Employers Contributions	(38,249)	(35,050)
Past Service Costs / Non Funded Pensions	(2,174)	(1,985)
Other amounts charged against the General Fund for pensions in the reporting period	**(40,423)**	**(37,035)**
Net Adjustment to the Pension Reserve (balance sheet)	**(1,432)**	**(301,666)**
Movement in Reserves Statement		
Reversal of IAS 19 charges made to the surplus / deficit for the provision of services for post employment benefits	29,524	48,744

Pensions Assets and Liabilities recognised in the Balance Sheet

The amount included on the Balance Sheet in respect of the scheme is shown in the following table:

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Present value of the scheme liabilities	(1,253,851)	(1,210,159)
Fair value of scheme assets	1,467,298	1,348,849
Net Asset (unadjusted)	**213,447**	**138,690**
Asset ceiling adjustment for economic benefit	(236,311)	(162,986)
Net Liability	**(22,864)**	**(24,296)**

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 council is only required to fund the defined benefits when the pensions are due to be paid. The actuary will assess the need to increase contributions over the working life of scheme employees (i.e. before payments fall due) to make good the deficit on the fund as part of the triannual actuarial valuation.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Opening defined benefit obligation	**1,210,159**	**1,704,420**
Current service cost	31,571	54,592
Interest cost	58,115	45,508
Change in financial assumptions	(7,002)	(708,883)
Change in demographic assumptions	(13,857)	0
Experience gain/(loss) on defined benefit obligations	3,850	142,587
Estimated benefits paid net of transfers in	(40,645)	(38,578)
Past service costs including curtailments	365	30
Contributions by scheme participants and other employers	13,493	12,603
Unfunded pension costs	(2,198)	(2,120)
Closing defined benefit obligation	**1,253,851**	**1,210,159**

Pension Scheme Assets

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Opening fair value of fund assets	**1,348,849**	**1,378,458**
Interest on assets	70,121	52,393
Return on assets less interest	38,423	(90,471)
Administration expenses	(1,155)	(1,007)
Contribution by employer including unfunded	40,410	37,571
Contributions by scheme participants and other employers	13,493	12,603
Estimated benefits paid plus unfunded net of transfers in	(42,843)	(40,698)
Closing fair value of fund assets	**1,467,298**	**1,348,849**

Asset Ceiling

The asset ceiling is the present value of any economic benefit available to the Employer in the form of refunds or reduced future employer contributions.

The closing position at 31 March 2024 is a net asset of £213.447 million (net asset of £138.690 million at 31 March 2023) before any adjustment for the asset ceiling. The council's chosen methodology, as advised to the actuary, assumes that it has no unconditional right to a refund from the Fund and therefore there is no economic benefit available in this form. The methodology assumes that economic benefit is available to the council as a reduction in future contributions; the asset ceiling therefore reflects the economic benefit that may be achieved through future contributions and has been calculated on this basis. The economic benefit available as a reduction in future contributions cannot be negative and is therefore restricted to the size of the net asset.

The impact of the asset ceiling is shown in the table below:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Opening impact of asset ceiling	162,986	0
Interest on impact of asset ceiling	8,439	0
Actuarial losses / (gains)	64,886	162,986
Closing impact of asset ceiling	**236,311**	**162,986**

The actuaries calculation of the asset ceiling is as follows:

- There is no prospect of the council having an unconditional right to a refund of surplus on the basis that such a payment would be at the discretion of the Fund.
- The council is a scheduled body and assumed to participate indefinitely
- Primary contributions are considered to be a minimum funding requirement (MFR). The actuary has assumed the council can benefit from its negative secondary contributions. The appropriate period of assessment for the present value of the negative secondary contributions is the lesser of their expected participation period and the surplus spreading period.
- The MFR exceeds the current cost of accrual then the potential economic benefit from future contribution reductions is nil
- The value of the asset ceiling is therefore nil. The impact of the asset ceiling is shown above.

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised

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:

	31 March 2024	
	Quoted	Unquoted
Index Linked Government Securities - UK	0%	5%
Index Linked Government Securities - Overseas	0%	0%
Corporate Bonds - UK	0%	9%
Corporate Bonds - Overseas	0%	0%
Equities - UK	0%	0%
Equities - Overseas	8%	36%
Property	0%	7%
Absolute return portfolio	0%	17%
Private Equity	0%	8%
Infrastructure	0%	9%
Private Debt	0%	1%
Cash/Temporary Investments	1%	0%
Subtotal	**9%**	**92%**
	Total	**100%**

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

The scheme's assets and liabilities have been estimated by the actuary based on the latest full valuation of the scheme at 31 March 2022. 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 trends 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 at 31 March 2024.

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
Assumed life expectation at 65 retiring today - men	20.9	21.1
Assumed life expectation at 65 retiring today - women	23.8	24.1
Assumed life expectation at 65 retiring in 20 years - men	21.9	22.2
Assumed life expectation at 65 retiring in 20 years - women	25.4	25.6
Discount/return on assets rate	4.90%	4.80%
Pension increases	2.95%	2.90%
RPI inflation	3.25%	2.90%
Salary increases	2.95%	2.90%

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. 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.

	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustment to discount rate	+0.5%	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.5%
Present value of total obligation	1,157,980	1,233,693	1,253,851	1,274,532	1,362,860
Projected service cost	29,569	33,922	35,104	36,325	41,646
Adjustment to long term salary increase	+0.5%	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.5%
Present value of total obligation	1,260,085	1,255,080	1,253,851	1,252,629	1,247,829
Projected service cost	35,220	35,127	35,104	35,080	34,987
Adjustment to pension increases and deferred revaluation	+0.5%	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.5%
Present value of total obligation	1,358,258	1,273,679	1,253,851	1,234,517	1,161,852
Projected service cost	41,823	36,341	35,104	33,907	29,400
Adjustment to life expectancy assumptions		+1 Year	None	-1 Year	
Present value of total obligation		1,301,504	1,253,851	1,208,146	
Projected service cost		36,410	35,104	33,832	

Asset and Liability Matching Strategy

East Sussex County Council as the scheme administrator of the East Sussex Pension Fund has agreed a diversified investment strategy with the aim of limiting risk.

Approach to Investment Portfolio

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 Fund managers 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.

Approach to Fund Managers

The Fund employs several fund managers with differing styles and management approaches. This is a deliberate policy to spread the risk by avoiding over dependence on the expertise of a single manager. 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 and 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 last triennial valuation was completed on 31 March 2022 and reported a surplus of funds (estimated funding level of 123%).

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 2024 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 31 March 2022 actuarial valuation report which can be found on East Sussex County Council's website, www.eastsussex.gov.uk.

Projected pension expense for the year to 31 March 2025

The following table is the projected amount to be charged to the CIES for the financial year to 31 March 2025 and the expected employer contributions in 2024/25:

	31 March 2025
	£'000
Service cost	35,104
Net interest on the defined liability (asset)	170
Administration expenses	1,166
Total loss/(profit)	**36,440**
Employer contributions	**37,076**

Note that these figures exclude the capitalised cost of any early retirements or augmentations which may occur after 31 March 2024.

26. External Audit Costs

In 2023/24 the council incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the financial statements and the certification of grant claims and returns.

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Fees payable to the external auditors for audit services	434	212
Fees payable to the external auditors for certification of grant claims and returns	59	54
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Redmond Review	(58)	(61)
Total External Audit Costs	**435**	**205**

27. 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 is a billing authority for council tax and 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 £1.085 million (£0.953 million 2022/23) for council tax income collected as an agent which has been overpaid to the two preceptors at end March 2024.

Non Domestic Rates (NDR)

The council is a billing authority for non-domestic rates and 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 and the precepting authority. The council has recognised a debtor of £1.317 million (creditor of £3.718 million 2022/23) for cash collected from non-domestic rates taxpayers as an agent for central government and the precepting authority, but which has been overpaid at end March 2024.

The Collection Fund Statement and Notes provide more details of the income and expenditure relating to these agency arrangements.

28. Partnership and Section 75 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 2023/24, 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 and the 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 and the council was the lead for the community equipment store up to 30 September 2015 when this service transferred under the Better Care Fund.

The gross income to the partnership in 2023/24 is £27.123 million (2022/23 £28.712 million) including CCG commissioning contributions.

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust	518	414
Brighton & Hove City Council	18,551	22,274
Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group	8,054	6,024
Total Section 75 Contributions	**27,123**	**28,712**

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 & 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 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), the 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 2023/24 was £36.264 million (2022/23 £34.723 million).

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	**£'000**
Brighton & Hove City Council	(12,254)	(12,724)
Brighton & Hove Integrated Care Board	(24,010)	(21,999)
Total Better Care Fund	**(36,264)**	**(34,723)**

	ICB	Council	Total
2023/24	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Income and Expenditure			
Contribution to the Pooled Budget - Cash or Kind	(24,010)	(12,254)	(36,264)
Net Expenditure from the Pooled Budget	14,683	21,289	35,972
Surplus/(Deficit) to be shared across parties to the pooled budget			**(292)**
Balance Sheet			
Contribution to the pooled budget	(24,010)	(12,254)	(36,264)
Total Spend	**(24,010)**	**(12,254)**	**(36,264)**
Cash	24,011	11,961	35,972
Debtors	(147)	0	(147)
Creditors	0	147	147
Cumulative Surplus/Deficit	**(146)**	**(146)**	**(292)**

ORBIS Joint Operating Budget

Orbis is a shared back office services partnership between Brighton and Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council, and Surrey County Council. Funding provided to the pooled budget in 2023/24 was £12.858 million (2022/23 was £12.369 million). The funding included: Surrey County Council £5.883 million (2022/23 £5.460 million), East Sussex County Council £5.166 million (2022/23 £5.111 million) and Brighton and Hove City Council £1.809 million (2022/23 £1.798 million). The expenditure met from the pooled budget in 2022/23 was £12.858 million (2022/23 £12.369 million) resulting in a net surplus/deficit on the pooled budget of £nil in both 2023/24 and 2022/23.

29. Trust Funds

The council acts as trustee for various trust funds and holds funds on their behalf. The table below sets out the balances held on behalf of each trust fund.

Capital Market Value £'000		Balance 1 April 2023 £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Balance 31 March 2024 £'000
2,131	Brighton Fund	**(159)**	13	(64)	**(210)**
4,870	Gorham's Gift	**49**	200	(227)	**22**
1,157	Hedgcock Bequest	**(144)**	55	(52)	**(141)**
29	Music Trust	**(12)**	3	(3)	**(12)**
231	Various library and museum bequests	**(228)**	4	(18)	**(242)**
8,418	**Total Trust Fund Accounts**	**(494)**	**275**	**(364)**	**(583)**

The capital market value shows the valuation of Charities Official Investment Fund shares and other investments at the mid-market prices at 31 March 2024. The council acts as the sole trustee in respect of all funds listed with the exception of Gorham's Gift.

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 revenue balance at 1 April 2023 has been restated to match the trust's published 2022/23 financial statement (late notification of expenditure incurred in 2022/23).

Hedgcock Bequest

The Hedgcock Bequest awards small grants to formally constituted not for profit organisations, the majority of which are small community groups.

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 & Hove area.

Various library and museum bequests

These relate to various small bequests made to Brighton & Hove libraries and museums with conditions attached to their use.

Housing Revenue Account and Notes

Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement

This account shows the cost of financing, managing, and maintaining the council's housing stock. The total cost is met by income from rents, charges, and other income such as commercial rents.

	Year ending 31 March 2024	Year ending 31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Expenditure		
Repairs and maintenance	13,990	11,380
Supervision and management	28,694	28,267
Rents, rates, taxes and other charges	2,150	1,917
Non-current asset charges	47,154	18,502
Debt management costs	49	56
Movement in allowance for bad debts	571	340
Total Expenditure	**92,608**	**60,462**
Income		
Dwelling rents	(61,337)	(56,048)
Non-dwelling rents	(1,766)	(1,600)
Charges for services and facilities	(7,574)	(6,030)
Other income	(933)	(1,238)
Total Income	**(71,611)**	**(64,916)**
Net (Income)/Expenditure	**20,997**	**(4,454)**
Share of corporate and democratic core	258	253
Net (Income)/Expenditure included in CIES	**21,255**	**(4,201)**
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	(2,930)	(3,490)
Changes in the fair value of investment properties	4	(2)
Investment property income	(34)	(34)
Interest payable	6,011	6,490
Interest receivable	708	(128)
Capital grants and contributions	(6,416)	(11,666)
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	(291)	(716)
Non Ringfenced Government Grants	(53)	0
Share of Operating Income and Expenditure	**(3,002)**	**(9,545)**
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	**18,253**	**(13,746)**

Movement on the HRA statement

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous year	**4,169**	**7,380**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year per income and expenditure statement	(17,761)	13,315
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	17,249	(14,113)
Net increase/(decrease) before transfers to or from earmarked reserves	**(512)**	**(798)**
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves	(28)	(2,413)
Total increase/(decrease) in year	**(540)**	**(3,211)**
Balance on the HRA at the end of the year	**3,628**	**4,169**
Working balance	4,120	4,169
Earmarked reserves	7,089	8,138
Total HRA Reserves	**11,209**	**12,307**

More details of the movements on HRA reserves are provided in **Note 8 Usable Reserves**.

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account

1. HRA Asset Value

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Council dwellings	1,056,657	1,010,167
Other land and buildings	17,136	15,184
Assets Under Construction	17,250	37,902
Investment properties	283	286
Intangible assets	2,188	1,649
Vehicles, plant and equipment	430	310
Total	**1,093,944**	**1,065,499**

The vacant possession value of HRA tenanted dwellings is £3,202 million at 31 March 2024 (£3,061 million at 31 March 2023). The difference between the vacant possession value and the balance sheet value of council dwellings is an estimation of the economic cost of providing housing at below market rents. This cost is determined by applying the central government prescribed discount rate of 33% to the vacant possession value.

There are no impairment charges for land, dwellings and other property within the HRA in 2023/24 (£0.051 million 2022/23).

2. HRA in-year depreciation

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Council dwellings	16,085	15,239
Other land and buildings	259	256
Assets Under Construction	0	0
Intangible assets	468	321
Vehicles, plant and equipment	127	115
Total	**16,939**	**15,931**

3. HRA Rent Arrears and Bad Debt Provision

At 31 March 2024, arrears of dwellings rent (excluding housing benefit overpayments) amounted to £4.619 million (£3.791 million 31 March 2023). This represents an increase in arrears as a proportion of gross rental income from 6.63% to 7.41%. The provision for bad debts is detailed in the below table:

	2023/24	22/23
	£'000	£'000
Impairment 1 April 2023	**2,662**	**2,442**
Change in impairment charged to the HRA	571	545
Rent arrears and other bad debts written off	(150)	(325)
Impairment 31 March 2024	**3,083**	**2,662**

The following table shows the debts past their due date, but which have not been impaired:

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Less than 3 months	151	113
Between 3 and 6 months	343	265
Between 6 and 12 months	401	363
More than 12 months	3,117	2,354
Total	**4,012**	**3,094**

4. HRA Stock/Dwellings

The council managed 12,039 dwellings end March 2024 (11,818 end March 2023).

	0 Bed	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4+ Bed	Total
2023/24	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Bedsits	569	28	0	0	0	597
Bungalows	25	172	28	24	1	250
Flats	12	3,666	3,050	241	1	6,970
Houses	0	21	1,397	2,333	294	4,045
Maisonettes	0	5	101	65	6	177
Total Dwellings	**606**	**3,892**	**4,576**	**2,663**	**302**	**12,039**

2022/23	0 Bed	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4+ Bed	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Bedsits	570	28	0	0	0	598
Bungalows	25	172	28	24	1	250
Flats	11	3,563	2,962	223	1	6,760
Houses	0	21	1,395	2,331	292	4,039
Maisonettes	0	2	98	65	6	171
Total Dwellings	**606**	**3,786**	**4,483**	**2,643**	**300**	**11,818**

This movement in council dwellings is as follows:

	2023/24	2022/23
	No.	No.
Stock 1 April 2023	**11,818**	**11,707**
Sales	(18)	(39)
Conversions/new homes	239	150
Stock 31 March 2024	**12,039**	**11,818**

5. HRA Capital Investment and Financing

The council made £70.739 million of capital investment in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) in 2023/24. The following table sets out the resources that have been used to finance that investment.

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Total Capital Investment	**70,739**	**72,049**
Major Repairs Reserve	(16,085)	(15,239)
Revenue contributions	(2,652)	(2,302)
Reserves	(1,257)	(1,063)
Capital receipts	(2,563)	(4,593)
Capital grants and contributions	(10,589)	(14,014)
HRA Borrowing Requirement	(37,594)	(34,839)
Total Funding	**(70,739)**	**(72,049)**

6. Housing Capital Receipts

Receipts from the sale of HRA assets in 2023/24.

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Right to buy sales of houses and flats	3,689	6,514
Sale of land and other property	810	50
Total	**4,499**	**6,564**

Collection Fund Statement and Notes

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

Year Ended 31 March 2023		Year Ended 31 March 2024		
		Council Tax	Non Domestic Rates	Total
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
(193,260)	Council tax	(205,952)		**(205,952)**
(104,349)	Non-domestic rates		(94,962)	**(94,962)**
(297,609)		**(205,952)**	**(94,962)**	**(300,914)**
394	Transitional protection payments non-domestic rates		(6,691)	**(6,691)**
	Contributions towards previous year's Collection Fund deficit			
(19,963)	Central Government	0	0	**0**
(21,715)	Brighton & Hove City Council	(3,043)	0	**(3,043)**
(261)	Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	(374)	0	**(374)**
(523)	East Sussex Fire Authority	(172)	0	**(172)**
(42,462)	**Contributions towards previous year's Collection Fund deficit**	**(3,589)**	**0**	**(3,589)**
(339,677)	**Total amount required by statute to be credited to the Collection Fund**	**(209,540)**	**(101,653)**	**(311,193)**
	Precepts and demands from major preceptors and the council - council tax			
163,704	Brighton & Hove City Council	173,352		**173,352**
20,513	Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	22,068		**22,068**
9,063	East Sussex Fire Authority	9,601		**9,601**
193,280		**205,021**		**205,021**
	Shares of non-domestic rates income to major preceptors and the council			
52,362	Brighton & Hove City Council		52,579	**52,579**
1,069	East Sussex Fire Authority		1,073	**1,073**
53,431			**53,652**	**53,652**
53,431	Payment with respect to central share (including allowable deductions) of the non-domestic rates income to be paid to central government		**53,652**	**53,652**
	Impairment of debts / appeals for council tax			
1,051	Write off of uncollectable amounts	321		**321**
736	Allowance for impairment	2,152		**2,152**
1,787		**2,473**		**2,473**
	Impairment of debts / appeals for non-domestic rates			
165	Write off of uncollectable amounts		77	**77**
35	Allowance for impairment		817	**817**
200			**894**	**894**
(4,592)	Movement in the provision for business rates appeals		(542)	**(542)**
446	Charge to General Fund for allowable collection fund costs for non-domestic rates		441	441
(4,146)			**(101)**	**(101)**
	Contributions towards previous year's Collection Fund surplus			
0	Central Government	0	420	**420**
0	Brighton & Hove City Council	0	412	**412**
0	Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	0	0	**0**
0	East Sussex Fire Authority	0	8	**8**
0		**0**	**840**	**840**
297,983	**Total amount required by statute to be debited to the Collection Fund**	**207,494**	**108,937**	**316,431**
(41,695)	**Movement on the Collection Fund Balance**	**(2,046)**	**7,284**	**5,237**
44,001	**Opening Collection Fund Balance**	**3,582**	**(1,273)**	**2,309**
2,306	**Closing Collection Fund Balance**	**1,536**	**6,011**	**7,546**

Notes to the Collection Fund Account

1. 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.

Band	Estimated number of Chargeable Dwellings	Estimated number of Chargeable Dwellings after Discounts	Band Ratio	Band D Equivalent Dwellings
	No.	No.		No.
Band A*	27	22.25	5/9	12.40
Band A	26,338	17,523.50	6/9	11,682.30
Band B	28,594	21,784.25	7/9	16,943.30
Band C	32,350	27,043.50	8/9	24,038.70
Band D	19,005	16,946.50	9/9	16,946.50
Band E	11,214	10,337.50	11/9	12,634.70
Band F	4,628	4,335.50	13/9	6,262.40
Band G	2,710	2,577.00	15/9	4,295.00
Band H	174	165.75	18/9	331.50
				93,146.80
Less provision for losses on collection				(1,160.50)
Tax Base for 2023/24				**91,986.30**
Tax Base for 2022/23				**91,204.00**

* Entitled to disabled relief reduction.

The estimated gross council tax yield (before the provision for losses in collection) for 2023/24 of £207.608 million was based on Band D equivalent dwellings of 93,146.80 multiplied by the average Band D council tax charge £2,228.83. The actual gross council tax yield for 2023/24 was £206.868 million is equivalent to a decrease of 322 Band D dwellings. The estimated and actual tax base amounts will vary due to a number of factors; which these include, for example, the outcome effects of banding appeals, numbers of completed new residential properties and entitlements to exemptions and discounts. The year end deficit of £1.536 million results mainly from a shortfall in ultimate collection linked to challenging economic conditions and cost of living pressures.

2. Collection Fund – Non-Domestic Rates

The council is responsible for collecting non-domestic rates in Brighton and Hove. Under the Business Rates Retention Scheme, the council retains 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 based on the rateable value for business premises multiplied by the non-domestic multiplier. The total non-domestic rateable value at 31 March 2024 was £313.984 million (£308.121 million at 31 March 2023). The non-domestic multiplier for 2023/24 was 51.2p and the small business non-domestic multiplier was 49.9p.

Accounting Policies

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 by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended) 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) underpinned 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. It is not the council's policy to adjust for immaterial cross-casting differences between the main statements and the disclosure notes.

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

Prior period adjustments may arise due to 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 where the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, 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.

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.

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: 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 and Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

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). 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.

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 received. Amounts recognised as due to the council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income Expenditure Statement (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-ringfenced 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/Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement (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 Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the capital grants unapplied reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS)15 Revenue Recognition from Contracts with Customers and International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) 23 Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions (Taxes and Transfers). Which of the two standards is applicable depends on determining whether the transaction is an exchange (IFRS 15) or non-exchange transaction (IPSAS 23). 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 (e.g. fees and charges for services and the sale of goods provided). There is a contract which creates both right and obligations. Under IFRS15, the 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.

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 and;
- **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 – the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) - 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 MRP in the General Fund/HRA balance via the Capital Adjustment Account in the MiRS for the difference between the two.

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 an agency arrangement. The cash collected by the council from non-domestic rates taxpayers belongs proportionately to the council, central government, 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.

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.

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.

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 and are quoted securities (current bid price),unquoted securities (professional estimate), unitised securities (current bid price) and property (market value). The change in the net pension liability of the council is analysed into:

- **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 and **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 the General Fund and HRA.

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.

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.

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.

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 at least an annual review of the reserves to ensure they are still required and are set at the appropriate level.

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.

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.

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 measured 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:

- **Community assets and assets under construction** - historical cost;
- **Infrastructure assets** - 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 and;
- **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) and 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 Capital AA. 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, 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) and 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 statute to have an impact on the General Fund/HRA balances therefore they are reversed out of the General Fund balance in the MiRS and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account.

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 statute 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 Capital Adjustment Account.

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 Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £20,000 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 £20,000 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 Capital Adjustment Account 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 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 a major component, whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the component is 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.

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.

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 entries which require it to prepare group accounting alongside its own financial statements.

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 (the Minimum Revenue Provision) via the Capital Adjustment Account 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 Capital Adjustment Account 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.

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. 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. After 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, after initial recognition, the asset is measured following the council's principles for assets purchased or constructed by the council. The amounts payable to the operator each year (i.e. the 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/Capital Contributions/Income Received

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. 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.

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.

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 Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £20,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve. 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.

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.

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 Capital Adjustment Account and crediting the General Fund/HRA balance with the transfer being reported in the MiRS.

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) and 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 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 MiRS. 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 (FVPL)

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 and other instruments with fixed and determinable payments and 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 available 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 and;
- **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 five years from 1 April 2018). Any unrealised gains or losses can be transferred via the MiRS 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 CIES.

Expected Credit Losses (ECL)

The council recognises expected credit losses (impairments) on 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 are 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 and;
- **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 MiRS to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Debt Repayment/Redemption

The council sets aside a statutory amount each year from its General Fund for debt redemption, in the form of the 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.

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. The two types of events are:

- **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 and;
- **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.

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.

Glossary of Terms

Accounting Estimates are monetary amounts in financial statements that are subject to measurement uncertainty.

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.

Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund /Housing Revenue Account 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.

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.

The **Asset Ceiling (Pensions)** is the present value of any economic benefit available to the Employer in the form of refunds from the plan or reduced future employer contributions to the plan.

Assets Held for Sale are non-current assets 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 is 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.

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.

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.

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.

Balance sheet shows the value of the assets and liabilities recognised by the council 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 and 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.

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 and 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 (i.e. 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 participates 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 or 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 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 to be consumed or distributed in the rendering of services, held for sale or distribution in the ordinary course of operations and/or 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 or for sale in the ordinary course of operations.

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 time period.

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 and 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.

The **Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account** is a mechanism that is required by the capital finance and accounting regulations in England and Wales to hold the fair value movements in those pooled investment funds specified by the regulations. The difference between the amount charged or credited in the year to surplus or deficit on the provision of services in accordance with the Code and the amount charged or credited to the General Fund in accordance with regulations should be debited or credited to the General Fund balance with the double entry going to the pooled investment funds adjustment account such that the General Fund is charged or credited with the amount that accords with the applicable regulations.

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.

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.

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

To be added in once finalised

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