



AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

21st September 2023

Wednesday, 27th September, 2023, 6.00 pm in Town Hall, Market Street, Tamworth

SUPPLEMENT – ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Further to the Agenda and Papers for the above meeting, previously circulated, please find attached the following further information, which was not available when the agenda was issued:

Agenda No. Item

4. **Audit Findings Report and Management Representation Letter**
(Pages 3 - 46)
(Report of the External Auditors to recommend approval of the Audit Findings Report and Management Representation Letter)
5. **Annual Statement of Accounts and Report 2022/23** (Pages 47 - 220)
(Report of the Interim Executive Director Finance and S151 Officer)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chief Executive

To Councillors: D Maycock, B Clarke, S Daniels, S Doyle, B Price, R Pritchard and
P Thurgood.

The Audit Findings for Tamworth Borough Council

Year ended 31 March 2023



Contents



Your key Grant Thornton team members are:

Laurelin Griffiths

Key Audit Partner

E laurelin.h.griffiths@uk.gt.com

William Guest

Audit Manager

E william.guest@uk.gt.com

Philip Wood

Assistant Manager

E philip.wood@uk.gt.com

Aaron Smallwood

Assistant Manager

E aaron.k.smallwood@uk.gt.com

Section

1. Headlines
2. Financial statements
3. Value for money arrangements
4. Independence and ethics

Appendices

- A. Communication of audit matters to those charged with governance
- B. Follow up of prior year recommendations
- C. Audit Adjustments
- D. Fees and non-audit services
- E. Auditing developments
- F. Management Letter of Representation
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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.

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, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260. Its contents have been discussed with management and the Audit and Governance Committee.

Laurelin Griffiths
For Grant Thornton UK LLP
19 September 2023

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1. Headlines

This table summarises the key findings and other matters arising from the statutory audit of Tamworth Borough Council ('the Council') and the preparation of the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 for the attention of those charged with governance.

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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 its 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 inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

Our audit work has been substantially completed during July - August. Our findings are summarised on pages 6 to 11. To date we have not identified any adjustments to the financial statements, however, we do have some matters outstanding as set out below which could lead to an amendment of the financial statements. We have identified some errors in the financial statements which have not been adjusted, these are detailed in Appendix C. Our follow up of recommendations from the prior year's audit are detailed in Appendix B.

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

- receipt and review of the pension fund auditor's assurances in relation 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;
- Review of responses to queries in relation to our samples for debtors, creditors, fees and charges and operating expenditure
- review of responses in relation to queries outstanding with regard to the council dwelling and other land and buildings revaluation samples;
- receipt and review of responses in relation to queries outstanding with regard to the business rates appeals provision;
- review of the disclosures included within the financial statements in relation to financial instruments;
- review of movements to and from earmarked reserves;
- final senior management quality review process;
- receipt of management representation letter - see appendix F; and
- review of the final set of financial statements

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

Our anticipated financial statements audit report opinion will be unmodified. Our work on the Council's value for money (VFM) arrangements is not yet complete. The outcome of our VFM work will be reported in our commentary on the Council's arrangements in our Auditor's Annual Report (AAR). We are satisfied this work does not have a material effect on our opinion on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

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

We have not yet completed all of our VFM work and so are not in a position to issue our Auditor's Annual Report. An audit letter explaining the reasons for the delay is attached in the Appendix H to this report. We expect to issue our Auditor's Annual Report by the end of January 2024. This is in line with the National Audit Office's revised deadline, which requires the Auditor's Annual Report to be issued no more than three months after the date of the opinion on the financial statements.

As part of our work, we considered whether there were any risks of significant weakness in the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We have not identified any risks of significant weakness at this stage.

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 expect to certify the completion of the audit upon the completion of our work on the Council's VFM arrangements, which will be reported in our Auditor's Annual Report in January 2024.

Significant matters

There have been changes to the finance team over the last year which have led to some difficulty in receiving responses to our queries in a timely manner or evidence which is sufficient for our audit purposes. This has meant that the audit is not as progressed as we had anticipated at this stage. We are working closely with the finance team to resolve these outstanding matters.

1. Headlines

National context – audit backlog

Nationally there have been significant delays in the completion of audit work and the issuing of audit opinions across the local government sector. Only 12% of local government bodies had received audit opinions in time to publish their 2021/22 accounts by the extended deadline of 30 November. There has not been a significant improvement over this last year, and the situation remains challenging. We at Grant Thornton have a strong desire and a firm commitment to complete as many audits as soon as possible and to address the backlog of unsigned opinions.

Over the course of the last year, Grant Thornton has been working constructively with DLUHC, the FRC and the other audit firms to identify ways of rectifying the challenges which have been faced by our sector, and we recognise the difficulties these backlogs have caused authorities across the country. We have also published a report setting out our consideration of the issues behind the delays and our thoughts on how these could be mitigated. Please see [About time? \(grantthornton.co.uk\)](https://www.grantthornton.co.uk/about-time/)

National context – level of borrowing

All Councils are operating in an increasingly challenging national context. With inflationary pressures placing increasing demands on Council budgets, there are concerns as Councils look for 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 well in excess of their revenue budgets to finance these investment schemes.

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. Tamworth Borough Council's borrowings have remained consistent over recent years.

2. Financial Statements

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 the Audit and Governance 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; and
- Substantive testing on significant transactions and material account balances, including the procedures outlined in this report in relation to the key audit risks

We have not had to alter our audit plan, which was communicated to you on the 27 June 2023.

Conclusion

We have substantially completed our audit of your financial statements. We are not yet in a position to issue our audit opinion. We are expecting the pension fund auditor to provide their assurances by the end of October 2023 and therefore our audit opinion will not be available before this date.

Acknowledgements

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

We have faced challenges in completing our audit again this year, including: evidence supplied not being sufficient for audit purposes requiring the team to spend longer on substantive testing; and queries in relation to property, plant and equipment valuations where significant errors have been identified.

This resulted in us having to spend longer than anticipated on certain audit tests, as summarized within appendix D to gain sufficient audit assurance in respect of our auditor's opinion on the financial statements.

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 the performance materiality due to the actual gross expenditure changing significantly from that anticipated at the planning stage resulting in a review of the appropriateness of the materiality figure.

We set out in this table our determination of materiality for Tamworth Borough Council.

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	Council Amount (£)	Qualitative factors considered
Materiality for the financial statements	1,250,000	Gross expenditure increased between the prior year and current year. Whilst the materiality value has increased, we have reduced the percentage applied to c.1.8%.
Performance materiality	875,000	There have been changes to the finance team in year which we have considered when setting our performance materiality.
Trivial matters	62,500	This is 5% of the materiality value set above.
Materiality for senior officers' remuneration	10,000	This disclosure is likely to be of interest to the public, and therefore we set a lower materiality to detect errors to a higher precision.

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
<p>Management override of controls</p> <p>Under ISA (UK) 240 there is a non-rebuttable presumed risk that the risk of management over-ride 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.</p> <p>We therefore identified management override of control, in particular journals, management estimates and transactions outside the course of business as a significant risk, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.</p>	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluated the design effectiveness of management controls over journals; analysed the journals listing and determined the criteria for selecting high risk unusual journals; tested high risk unusual journals recorded during the year and after the draft accounts stage for appropriateness and corroboration; gained an understanding of the accounting estimates and critical judgements applied made by management and considered their reasonableness with regard to corroborative evidence; and evaluated the rationale for any changes in accounting policies, estimates or significant unusual transactions. <p>Our detailed testing of journals and accounting policies is complete, subject to final senior management reviews. We have not identified any issues from our work at this time.</p> <p>Our review of significant estimates in the financial statements has identified a small number of matters which are reported on in more detail later in this report. These matters include an error on the valuation of garages within property, plant and equipment. The Council have not adjusted for this and this is reported within Appendix C.</p>

2. Financial Statements: Significant risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Risk of fraud in revenue recognition and expenditure (Rebutted)

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.

Having considered the risk factors set out in ISA240 and the nature of the revenue streams at the Council, we have 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

The culture and ethical frameworks of local authorities, including Tamworth Borough Council mean that all forms of fraud are seen as unacceptable.

Whilst not a presumed significant risk, we have had regard to Practice Note 10, which comments that for certain public bodies, the risk of manipulating expenditure may well be greater than that of income.

Having considered the risk of improper recognition of expenditure at Tamworth Borough Council we are satisfied that this is not a significant risk for the same reasons set out above.

Commentary

Notwithstanding that we have rebutted this risk, we have still undertaken a significant level of work on the Council's revenue streams, as they are material. We have:

Accounting policies and systems

- Evaluated the Council's accounting policies for recognition of income and expenditure for its various income streams and compliance with the CIPFA Code
- Updated our understanding of the Council's business processes associated with accounting for income

Fees, charges and other service income

- Agreed, on a sample basis, income and year end receivables from other income to invoices and cash payment or other supporting evidence.

Taxation and non-specific grant income

- Income for national non-domestic rates and council tax is predictable and therefore we have conducted substantive analytical procedures
- For other grants we have sample tested items back to supporting information and subsequent receipt, considering accounting treatment where appropriate.

Expenditure

- Updated our understanding of the Council's business processes associated with accounting for expenditure
- Agreed, on a sample basis, expenditure and year end creditors to invoices and cash payment or other supporting evidence

We have also tested a sample of post year end invoices raised, invoices received, payments made, and payments received in order to test whether items have been accounted for in the correct financial year

We have identified one issue in relation to invoices received post year end which the Council cannot evidence have been accrued for in 2022/23. This related to an invoice from Equans for the value of £40k. Whilst a year end accrual was estimated and raised based on jobs completed but unpaid at year end, it is not possible to directly trace back this invoice to prove it has been accrued for, we are therefore treating this as an error. We have tested 6 similar transactions as part of this test and are satisfied the error can be isolated due to the nature of how the accrual is calculated. The expected error is £110k. This has been included within Appendix C.

We also identified two further errors in relation to income and expenditure completeness however the impact of these is trivial and therefore no further action has been taken.

2. Financial Statements: Significant risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Valuation of council dwellings, other land and buildings and investment property

Revaluation of council dwellings, other land and buildings and investment property should be performed with sufficient regularity to ensure that carrying amounts are not materially different from those that would be determined at the end of the reporting period. The Council revalues its land and buildings on a rolling basis to ensure that the carrying value is not materially different from the current value or fair value (for surplus assets) at the financial statements date.

This valuation represents a significant estimate by management in the financial statements due to the size of the numbers involved and the sensitivity of this estimate to changes in key assumptions.

We reported to you in our audit plan that we would pinpoint the risk once the draft financial statements had been published and our final accounts audit had begun. We concluded that significant risk assets were those where the movement in valuation was outside of our expectation when compared to market data.

Commentary

We have:

- evaluated management's processes and assumptions for the calculation of the estimate, the instructions issued to valuation experts and the scope of their work;
- evaluated the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation expert;
- written to the valuer to confirm the basis on which the valuation was carried out to ensure that the requirements of the CIPFA code are met;
- challenged the information and assumptions used by the valuer to assess completeness and consistency with our understanding;
- tested, on a sample basis, revaluations made during the year to see if they had been input correctly into the Council's asset register and accounted for correctly; and
- Evaluated the assumptions made by management for those assets not revalued during the year and how management has satisfied themselves that these are not materially different to current value at year end.

Council Dwellings

We have substantially completed our work in relation to the valuation of council dwellings. However, one query is outstanding with the Council's valuer, Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), in relation to a beacon property which may be overvalued. The impact of this issue is not expected to be material to the financial statements. A response has been received on the 14th September is being reviewed by the audit team.

Other Land and Buildings

We have substantially completed our work in relation to the valuation of other land and buildings. We have identified two errors to date. Firstly, the valuer had incorrectly split the valuations of a number of land and buildings to the wrong asset code. This has meant that the valuation of the building element of the asset has been entered onto the land code and vice versa. This has led to an error in the revaluation reserve of £63k. The second error is in relation to the valuation of land of garages. The value had been overstated by £565k as the valuer had counted the land element of the valuation twice.

Investment properties

Our work on this area is complete, subject to final senior management review. We have not identified any issues in relation to the valuation of investment properties, however, we have identified that £68k of rental income relating to other land and buildings properties has been incorrectly classified as investment property income. Management are not proposing to adjust for this error.

2. Financial Statements: Significant risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Valuation of pension fund net asset

The Council's pension fund net asset, as reflected in its balance sheet as Other Long-Term Assets, represents a significant estimate in the financial statements.

The pension fund net assets is considered a significant estimate due to the size of the numbers involved (£1m in the Council's balance sheet) and the sensitivity of the estimate to changes in key assumptions.

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). However, for the first time since IFRS have been adopted the council has had to consider the potential impact of IFRIC 14 - IAS 19 -the limit on a defined benefit asset. Because of this we have assessed the recognition and valuation of the pension asset as a significant risk.

The source data used by the actuaries to produce the IAS 19 estimates is provided by administering authorities and employers. We do not consider this to be a significant risk as this is easily verifiable.

The actuarial assumptions used are the responsibility of the entity but should be set on the advice given by the actuary.

A small change in the key assumptions (discount rate, inflation rate, salary increase and life expectancy) can have a significant impact on the estimated IAS 19 asset.

We have concluded that there is a significant risk of material misstatement in the IAS 19 estimate due to the assumptions used in their calculation. With regard to these assumptions, we have therefore identified valuation of the Council's pension fund net asset as a significant risk.

Commentary

We have:

- updated our understanding of the processes and controls put in place by management to ensure that the Council's pension fund net asset is not materially misstated and evaluate 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 asset;
- 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;
- undertaken 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; and
- obtained assurances from the auditor of Staffordshire 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.

We have not yet:

- obtained assurances from the auditor of Staffordshire 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.

Our work on this area is not yet complete, we have not identified any errors from our work at this stage.

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 – £23m	<p>Other land and buildings comprises £6.7m of specialised assets such as community halls and cultural buildings, which are required to be valued at depreciated replacement cost (DRC) at year end, reflecting the cost of a modern equivalent asset necessary to deliver the same service provision. The remainder of other land and buildings (£16.3m) are not specialised in nature and are required to be valued at existing use in value (EUV) at year end. The Council has engaged Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) to complete the valuation of properties as at 31 March 2023. 100% of total assets were revalued during 2022/23.</p> <p>The total year end valuation of land and buildings was £23m, a net decrease, as a result of the revaluations, of £0.3m from 2021/22.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have not noted any issues with the completeness and accuracy of the underlying information used to determine the estimate, but this work is still ongoing. We have no concerns over the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation experts used by the Council. We have assessed the consistency and reasonableness of the valuer's methods and assumptions; we have not identified any issues; and We have considered the movements in the valuations of individual assets and their consistency with indices provided by Montagu Evans as our auditor's expert. <p>Our work on this area is still ongoing as detailed on page 10.</p>	We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious (TBC)

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Assessment

- [Dark Purple] We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- [Blue] 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
- [Light Purple] 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
Investment Property Valuation - £22m	<p>The Council has engaged JLL to complete the valuation of properties as at 31 March 2023. 100% of total assets were revalued during 2022/23.</p> <p>The total year end valuation of investment property was £22.4m, a net decrease, as a result of revaluations, of £3.1m from 2021/22 (£25.5m).</p>	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tested a sample of investment property valuations, focusing our sample on assets which are outside of our expectation or that have had a large movement in assumptions compared to 2021/22; considered the movements in the valuations of individual assets and their consistency with indices provided by Montagu Evans as our auditor's expert; and no concerns over the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation experts used by the Council. <p>We have not identified any errors in relation to the valuation of investment property.</p>	We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious
Land and Buildings – Council Housing - £243m	<p>The Council owns 4,305 dwellings and is required to revalue these properties in accordance with DCLG's Stock Valuation for Resource Accounting guidance. The guidance requires the use of beacon methodology, in which a detailed valuation of representative property types is then applied to similar properties. The Council has engaged JLL to complete the valuation of these properties. The year end valuation of Council Housing was £243m, a net decrease, as a result of revaluations, of £7.5m from 2021/22.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have not noted any issues with the completeness and accuracy of the underlying information used to determine the estimate. We have no concerns over the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation expert used by the Council. There have been no changes to the valuation method this year. We have considered the movements in the valuations of individual assets and their consistency with indices provided by Montagu Evans as our auditor's expert. Disclosure of the estimate in the financial statements is considered adequate. <p>Our work on this area is still ongoing as detailed on page 10.</p>	We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious (TBC)

2. Financial Statements: key judgements and estimates

Significant judgement or estimate	Summary of management's approach	Audit Comments	Assessment																								
<p>Net pension asset – £1m</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The Council's net pension asset at 31 March 2023 is £1m (PY – liability of £32.3m) comprising the Staffordshire Pension Fund Local Government Pension Scheme. The Council uses Hymans Robertson to provide actuarial valuations of the Council's assets and liabilities derived from this scheme. A full actuarial valuation is required every three years.</p> <p>A full actuarial valuation was completed in 2022/23. Given the significant value of the net pension fund asset, small changes in assumptions can result in significant valuation movements. There has been a £37m net actuarial gain during 2022/23.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have no concerns over the assessment of management's expert We have no concerns over the assessment of the actuary's approach taken We have used PwC as auditors expert to assess assumptions made by the actuary – see table below for comparison made We have confirmed that the Council's share of LGPS pension assets is in line with expectations We have confirmed that the disclosure of the estimate in the financial statements is considered adequate. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Assumption</th> <th>Actuary Value</th> <th>PwC range</th> <th>Assessment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Discount rate</td> <td>4.75%</td> <td>4.75%</td> <td>●</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pension increase rate</td> <td>3.00%</td> <td>2.85% - 3.00%</td> <td>●</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salary growth</td> <td>3.5%</td> <td>3.45% - 5.45%</td> <td>●</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Life expectancy – Males currently aged 45/65</td> <td>21.1/21.9</td> <td>NA</td> <td>●</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Life expectancy – Females currently aged 45/65</td> <td>24.1/26.0</td> <td>NA</td> <td>●</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>PwC have not provided ranges for the mortality assumptions of Hymans Robertson as the actuary uses individual employer level life expectancies. PwC have confirmed that the methodology used is reasonable.</p> <p>Our work on this area is still ongoing as we have not yet received the assurances from the auditor of Staffordshire Pension Fund.</p>	Assumption	Actuary Value	PwC range	Assessment	Discount rate	4.75%	4.75%	●	Pension increase rate	3.00%	2.85% - 3.00%	●	Salary growth	3.5%	3.45% - 5.45%	●	Life expectancy – Males currently aged 45/65	21.1/21.9	NA	●	Life expectancy – Females currently aged 45/65	24.1/26.0	NA	●	<p>We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious (TBC)</p>
Assumption	Actuary Value	PwC range	Assessment																								
Discount rate	4.75%	4.75%	●																								
Pension increase rate	3.00%	2.85% - 3.00%	●																								
Salary growth	3.5%	3.45% - 5.45%	●																								
Life expectancy – Males currently aged 45/65	21.1/21.9	NA	●																								
Life expectancy – Females currently aged 45/65	24.1/26.0	NA	●																								
<p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● [Dark Purple] We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated ● [Blue] 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 ● [Light Purple] 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
Provisions for NNDR appeals - £1.8m	The Council are responsible for repaying a proportion of successful rateable value appeals. Management use historic data relating to appeal success rates and the latest information about outstanding rates appeals provided by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) to calculate the level of provision required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have not identified any issues with the completeness and accuracy of the underlying information used to determine the estimate. We have considered the approach taken by the Council to determine the provision, and it is in line with that used by other bodies in the sector. Disclosure of the estimate in the financial statements is considered adequate. There have been no changes to the overall calculation method this year but see below for a change related to a specific item. <p>Our work on this area is not yet complete as we are yet to receive responses in relation to our queries.</p>	We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious (TBC)

Assessment

- [Dark Purple] We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- [Blue] 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
- [Light Purple] We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious





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.

IT application	Level of assessment performed	Overall ITGC rating	ITGC control area rating			Related significant risks/other risks
			Security management	Technology acquisition, development and maintenance	Technology infrastructure	
E-financials	ITGC assessment (design effectiveness only)					Management override of controls

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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: 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.

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Issue	Commentary
Matters in relation to fraud	We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with the Audit and Governance Committee. We have not been made aware of any 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 which is set out in Appendix F.
Confirmation requests from third parties	We requested from management permission to send confirmation requests to the Council's counterparties. This permission was granted and the requests were sent. Where responses were not received, we undertook alternative procedures to confirm balances with no issues noted.

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).

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Issue	Commentary
Going concern	<p>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.</p> <p>Practice Note 10 sets out the following key principles for the consideration of going concern for public sector entities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>On the basis of this work, we have obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence to enable us to conclude that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

2. Financial Statements: other responsibilities under the Code

Issue	Commentary
Other information	<p>We are required to give an opinion on whether the other information published together with the audited financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report), is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.</p> <p>No inconsistencies have been identified. We plan to issue an unmodified opinion in this respect – refer to appendix G</p>
Matters on which we report by exception	<p>We are required to report on a number of matters by exception in a number of areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>We have nothing to report on these matters at the time of writing this report</p>
Specified procedures for Whole of Government Accounts	<p>We are required to carry out specified procedures (on behalf of the NAO) on the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) consolidation pack under WGA group audit instructions.</p> <p>This work is not expected to be required as the Council does not exceed the threshold set in previous years.</p>
Certification of the closure of the audit	<p>We intend to certify the closure of the 2022/23 audit of Tamworth Borough Council once our work on the whole of government accounts procedures and value for money work are complete.</p>



3. Value for Money arrangements (VFM)

Approach to Value for Money work for 2022/23

The National Audit Office issued its guidance for auditors in April 2020. The Code requires 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.



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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

We have not yet completed all of our VFM work and so are not in a position to issue our Auditor's Annual Report. An audit letter explaining the reasons for the delay is attached in the Appendix H to this report. We expect to issue our Auditor's Annual Report by January 2024. This is in line with the National Audit Office's revised deadline, which requires the Auditor's Annual Report to be issued no more than three months after the date of the opinion on the financial statements.

As part of our work, we considered whether there were any risks of significant weakness in the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We have not identified any risks of significant weakness.

4. Independence and ethics

Audit and non-audit services

For the purposes of our audit we have made enquiries of all Grant Thornton UK LLP teams providing services to the Council. The following audit related services were identified as well as the threats to our independence and safeguards that have been applied to mitigate these threats.

We confirm that there are no significant facts or matters that impact on our independence as auditors that we are required or wish to draw to your attention. We have complied with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and confirm that we, as a firm, and each covered person, are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements

We confirm that we have implemented policies and procedures to meet the requirements of the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and we as a firm, and each covered person, confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements.

Further, we have complied with the requirements of the National Audit Office's Auditor Guidance Note 01 issued in May 2020 which sets out supplementary guidance on ethical requirements for auditors of local public bodies.

Details of fees charged are detailed in Appendix D.

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 [Transparency report 2020 \(grantthornton.co.uk\)](https://www.grantthornton.co.uk/transparency-report-2020)

Service	Fees £	Threats	Safeguards
Audit related			
Housing Benefit subsidy certification 2021/22 (May 2022 – January 2023)	16,000	For these audit-related services, we consider that the following perceived threats may apply:	The level of recurring fees taken on their own is not significant in comparison to the confirmed scale fee for the audit and in particular relative to Grant Thornton UK LLP's turnover overall. Further, each is a fixed fee and there is no contingent element to any of them. These factors all mitigate the perceived self-interest threat to an acceptable level.
Certification of Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts 2021/22 (January 2023)	6,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self Interest (because these are recurring fees) 	Our team has no involvement in the preparation of the form which is certified, and do not expect material misstatements in the financial statement to arise from the performance of the certification work. Although related income and expenditure is included within the financial statements, the work required in respect of certification is separate from the work required to the audit of the financial statements, and is performed after the audit of the financial statements has been completed.
Housing Benefit subsidy certification 2022/23 (May 2023 – January 2024)	18,800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self Review Management 	The scope of work does not include making decisions on behalf of management or recommending or suggesting a particular course of action for management to follow. Our team perform these engagements in line with set instructions and reporting frameworks. Any amendments made as a result of our work are the responsibility of informed management.
Certification of Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts 2022/23 (September 2023 – October 2023)	7,500		

There were no non-audit related services

5. Independence and ethics

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 Company 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 investments 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, 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, a member of the Council's Audit and Governance Committee, senior management or staff.

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 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

Following this consideration we can confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements. In making the above judgement, we have also been mindful of the quantum of non-audit fees compared to audit fees disclosed in the financial statements and estimated for the current year.

Appendices

- A. Communication of audit matters to those charged with governance
- B. Follow up of prior year recommendations
- C. Audit Adjustments
- D. Fees and non-audit services
- E. Auditing developments
- F. Management Letter of Representation
- G. Audit opinion
- H. Audit letter in respect of delayed VFM work

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. Follow up of prior year recommendations

We identified the following issues in the audit of Tamworth Borough Council's 2021/22 financial statements, which resulted in three recommendations being reported in our 2021/22 Audit Findings report. We have followed up on the implementation of our recommendations and note two are still to be completed.

Assessment	Issue and risk previously communicated	Update on actions taken to address the issue
X	<p>We have identified a deficiency regarding the review of security logs. The Council do not review security logs on all of their systems due to the number and size of the logs.</p> <p>The Council received updates regarding potential threats from their various cyber security information sources such as NCSC and West Midlands Police and where relevant would review specific logs in response, but they do not review generally on a periodic basis.</p>	<p>The Council should review security logs on a periodic basis.</p> <p>Management response</p> <p>Due to the number of threats, it is not currently practical or possible to resource a manual review of all security logs unless there's a specific reason i.e. in response to a known threat or alert from our cyber security information sources. In mitigation we have various services which alert us to known cyber threats, we also proactively scan our network for vulnerabilities and patch our systems regularly.</p> <p>However, this issue has been recognised and an assessment is underway on the options for a cost effective Security Incident and Event Management system (SIEM) which automates reviewing of security logs for key infrastructure.</p>
TBC	<p>We have identified that the Council have several assets within their asset register which are held at a nil net book value. The gross book value of these assets is £3.6m and whilst there is no impact on the balance sheet, this does inflate the gross book value and accumulated depreciation in note 14.</p> <p>From the work that we have performed we have assurance that these assets are not materially misstating the financial statements. However, a significant balance of assets being held at nil net book value may indicate that these assets were depreciated prematurely.</p>	<p>The Council has conducted a review of the assets which had a nil net book value and disposed of these where appropriate. We are in the process of reviewing this adjustment and have some queries outstanding which may impact the conclusion of this matter.</p>

Assessment

- ✓ Action completed
- X Not yet addressed

B. Follow up of prior year recommendations

Assessment	Issue and risk previously communicated	Update on actions taken to address the issue
X	<p>Tamworth Borough Council are part of a joint waste service with Lichfield District Council. The Council's share of the assets and liabilities is 41.7% however management have previously assessed that these do not need to be included within the Council's financial position.</p> <p>Our view is that, in line with the Council's accounting policy for 'Joint Operations', the Council should be recognising its share of these assets and liabilities, as it does with its share of the income and expenditure.</p> <p>The total net book value of the assets in question is £nil and the total lease liability is immaterial, so we are satisfied that this does not lead to a material misstatement in the Council's balance sheet.</p>	<p>It has been agreed that as the impact on the balance sheet is not material that the Council would not adjust for this error.</p> <p>When the arrangement is renewed it is expected to be material to the financial statements, and the Council's assessment of the appropriate accounting treatment will need to be revisited at this point.</p>

Assessment

- ✓ Action completed
- X Not yet addressed

C. 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.

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	Auditor recommendations	Adjusted?
The disclosure within note 2 of the Housing Revenue Account is overstated by £24k.	Whilst this is a trivial difference, management have opted to adjust for this.	Yes
Note 18 includes a reduction in debtors for invoices raised in advance for 2022/23. This line should not be included separately within debtors.	Management should remove the debits and credits relating to these items. Management response Management have determined that they are not going to adjust for this matter as they feel it accurately reflects the position with regard to debtors and adds additional information which is useful to the user.	No
Note 19 does not correctly present the cash balances of the Council due to reserve account balance being netted off with the current account balances	The financial statements should be updated to accurately reflect the cash position of the Council.	Yes
Within the related party disclosure note there is a difference in other income amount.	The financial statements should be updated to accurately reflect the other income attributed to the related party.	Yes
Cash Flow Statement and Supporting Notes - some differences have been noted when reconciling figures per the Cash Flow Statements and supporting Notes to other Notes within the Draft Accounts.	The financial statements should be updated to ensure they are consistent throughout.	Yes
The audit fees do not reconcile to those presented in the audit plan	The financial statements should be updated to reflect the correct audit fee.	Yes
We have identified various trivial presentation matters.	These items include changes to; references, prior year values to remain consistent with the audited financial statements of the prior year and removal of rows within the financial statements which were not necessary.	TBC

C. Audit Adjustments (continued)

Impact of unadjusted misstatements

The table below provides details of adjustments identified during the 2022/23 audit which have not been made within the final set of financial statements. The Audit and Governance Committee is required to approve management's proposed treatment of all items recorded within the table below.

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Statement of Financial Position £' 000	Impact on total net cost of services £'000	Impact on general fund £'000	Reason for not adjusting
Dr Revaluation Reserve £64k Cr Capital Adjustment Account £64k Being incorrect treatment of Housing revaluations in the Other Land and Buildings category.	-	64 (64)	-	-	Impact is not material
Dr VPFE – Accumulated Depreciation £250k Cr VPFE – Cost £250k Being assets held with a nil net book value that should have been disposed of by the Council.	-	250 (250)	-	-	Impact is not material
Dr Debtors £168k Cr Creditors £168k Being creditors understated for amounts received in advance for invoices raised prior to year-end.	-	168 (168)	-	-	Impact is not material
Dr Investment Property Income £68k Cr General Fund Housing Income £68k Being rental income from OLB housing incorrectly treated as Investment Property income.	68 (68)	-	(68)	-	Impact is not material

C. Audit Adjustments (continued)

Impact of unadjusted misstatements (continued)

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Statement of Financial Position £' 000	Impact on total net cost of services £'000	Impact on general fund £'000	Reason for not adjusting
Dr Revaluation Entries £565k Cr Other Land and Buildings £565k Being overstatement of the valuation of garage land as this was double counted by the valuer.	TBC	(565)	-	-	Impact is not material
Dr Other Expenditure £110k Cr Creditors £110k Being the under-accrual of expenditure. This has been identified through our completeness testing.	110	(110)	£110		Impact has been extrapolated and is not material
Overall impact	£110	(£675)	£42	£-	

C. Audit Adjustments



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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 2021/22 financial statements

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000	Balance Sheet £'000	Impact on Cost of Services £'000	Reason for not adjusting
Joint waste arrangements Liabilities of the joint waste arrangement are not shown on Tamworth Borough Council's balance sheet.	143	(143)	143	Impact is not material
Assets not revalued The Council uses a rolling programme for revaluing its property, plant and equipment. There have been £732k of assets not revalued in year which if they were revalued would increase in value by £224k.	(224)	224		Impact is not material
Overall impact	(81)	81	143	

D. Fees and non-audit services

We confirm below our proposed fees for the audit, subject to PSAA approval.

Audit fees	Proposed fee
Scale fee 2022/23	45,876
Additional work on Value for Money (VfM) under new NAO Code	9,000
Increased audit requirements of revised ISAs 540 / 240 / 700	2,100
Enhanced audit procedures on journals testing (not included in scale fee)	3,000
Additional testing in relation to payroll – change in circumstances	500
Additional testing in relation to collection fund reliefs	750
Increased audit requirements of revised ISA 315	3,000
Inefficiencies due to changes in the finance team*	£7,250
Increased audit work in relation to revaluations due to insufficient evidence and errors identified*	£10,500
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	£81,976

*These have not been included within the financial statements as we have not yet completed the work.

D. Fees and non-audit services

Non-audit fees for other services	Proposed fee
Audit Related Services	
Housing Benefit subsidy certification 2021/22	16,000
Certification of Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts 2021/22	6,000
Housing Benefit subsidy certification 2022/23	18,800
Certification of Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts 2022/23	7,500
Total non-audit fees (excluding VAT)	£48,300

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Only the 2022/23 fees in the table above are included within the 2022/23 financial statements. The fees therefore reconcile to the financial statements.

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. (The FRC Ethical Standard (ES 1.69))

E. Auditing developments

Revised ISAs

There are changes to the following ISA (UK):

ISA (UK) 315 (Revised July 2020) 'Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement'

This impacts audits of financial statement for periods commencing on or after 15 December 2021.

ISA (UK) 220 (Revised July 2021) 'Quality Management for an Audit of Financial Statements'

ISA (UK) 240 (Revised May 2021) 'The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements'

A summary of the impact of the key changes on various aspects of the audit is included below:

These changes will impact audit for audits of financial statement for periods commencing on or after 15 December 2022.

Area of change	Impact of changes
Risk assessment	The nature, timing and extent of audit procedures performed in support of the audit opinion may change due to clarification of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the risk assessment process, which provides the basis for the assessment of the risks of material misstatement and the design of audit procedures the identification and extent of work effort needed for indirect and direct controls in the system of internal control the controls for which design and implementation needs to be assess and how that impacts sampling the considerations for using automated tools and techniques.
Direction, supervision and review of the engagement	Greater responsibilities, audit procedures and actions are assigned directly to the engagement partner, resulting in increased involvement in the performance and review of audit procedures.
Professional scepticism	The design, nature, timing and extent of audit procedures performed in support of the audit opinion may change due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased emphasis on the exercise of professional judgement and professional scepticism an equal focus on both corroborative and contradictory information obtained and used in generating audit evidence increased guidance on management and auditor bias additional focus on the authenticity of information used as audit evidence a focus on response to inquiries that appear implausible
Definition of engagement team	The definition of engagement team when applied in a group audit, will include both the group auditors and the component auditors. The implications of this will become clearer when the auditing standard governing special considerations for group audits is finalised. In the interim, the expectation is that this will extend a number of requirements in the standard directed at the 'engagement team' to component auditors in addition to the group auditor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration is also being given to the potential impacts on confidentiality and independence.
Fraud	The design, nature timing and extent of audit procedures performed in support of the audit opinion may change due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clarification of the requirements relating to understanding fraud risk factors additional communications with management or those charged with governance
Documentation	The amendments to these auditing standards will also result in additional documentation requirements to demonstrate how these requirements have been addressed.

F. Management Letter of Representation

Dear Grant Thornton UK LLP

Tamworth Borough Council
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of Tamworth Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2023 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 2022/23 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:

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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 2022/23 ("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 property, plant and equipment revaluations, measurement of the defined net pension asset, bad debt provisions, depreciation, provisions and fair values of financial assets and liabilities. 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.

F. Management Letter of Representation

- xi. We have considered the unadjusted misstatements schedule included in your Audit Findings Report and attached. 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.
- 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. 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 :
- 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
 - the financial reporting framework permits the entry to prepare its financial statements on the basis of the presumption set out under a) above; and
 - 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
- xv. 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.
- xvi. 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

- xvii. We have provided you with:
- 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;
 - additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and
 - access to persons within the Council via remote arrangements from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- xviii. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.
- xix. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- xx. 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
- xxi. 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:
- management;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- xxii. 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.
- xxiii. 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.
- xxiv. 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.
- xxv. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

F. Management Letter of Representation

Annual Governance Statement

xxvi. 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

xxvii. 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 and Governance Committee at its meeting on 27 September 2023.

G. Audit opinion

Our audit opinion is included below. We anticipate we will provide the Council with an unmodified audit report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Tamworth Borough Council

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Tamworth Borough Council (the 'Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the HRA Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Statement of Movement on the HRA Balance, the Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2023 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law, as required by the Code of Audit Practice (2020) ("the Code of Audit Practice") approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We are responsible for concluding on the appropriateness of the Interim Executive Director Finance's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the auditor's opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.

In our evaluation of the Interim Executive Director Finance's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 that the Authority's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuation of services provided by the Authority. In doing so we had regard to the guidance provided in Practice Note 10 Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2022) on the application of ISA (UK) 570 Going Concern to public sector entities. We assessed the reasonableness of the basis of preparation used by the Authority and the Authority's disclosures over the going concern period.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Interim Executive Director Finance's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Interim Executive Director Finance with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

G. Audit opinion

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office in April 2020 on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition' published by CIPFA and SOLACE, or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters required by the Code of Audit Practice

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements, the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of the Authority and the Interim Executive Director Finance

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page 23, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Interim Executive Director Finance. The Interim Executive Director Finance is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Interim Executive Director Finance determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Interim Executive Director Finance is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they have been informed by the relevant national body of the intention to dissolve the Authority without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity.

G. Audit opinion

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Authority and determined that the most significant which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those related to the reporting frameworks (the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Local Government Act 2003).

We enquired of management and the Audit and Governance Committee, concerning the Authority's policies and procedures relating to:

- the identification, evaluation and compliance with laws and regulations;
- the detection and response to the risks of fraud; and
- the establishment of internal controls to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We enquired of management, internal audit and the Audit and Governance Committee, whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had any knowledge of actual, suspected or alleged fraud.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Authority's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by evaluating management's incentives and opportunities for manipulation of the financial statements. This included the evaluation of the risk of management override of controls. We determined that the principal risks were in relation to journal entries and significant estimates. Our audit procedures involved:

- evaluation of the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud;
- journal entry testing, with a focus on high risk journals, journals posted by members of the finance team who had left the authority and material journals;
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates in respect of land and buildings, investment property, provisions, bad debt provisions, depreciation, fair values of financial instruments and defined benefit pensions asset valuations; and
- assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement item.

These audit procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error and detecting irregularities that result from fraud is inherently more difficult than detecting those that result from error, as fraud may involve collusion, deliberate concealment, forgery or intentional misrepresentations. Also, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members. We remained alert to any indications of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, throughout the audit.

Our assessment of the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team included consideration of the engagement team's:

- understanding of, and practical experience with audit engagements of a similar nature and complexity through appropriate training and participation
- knowledge of the local government sector
- understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements specific to the Authority including:
 - the provisions of the applicable legislation
 - guidance issued by CIPFA/LASAAC and SOLACE
 - the applicable statutory provisions.

G. Audit opinion

In assessing the potential risks of material misstatement, we obtained an understanding of:

- the Authority's operations, including the nature of its income and expenditure and its services and of its objectives and strategies to understand the classes of transactions, account balances, expected financial statement disclosures and business risks that may result in risks of material misstatement.
- the Authority's control environment, including the policies and procedures implemented by the Authority to ensure compliance with the requirements of the financial reporting framework.

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

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

Matter on which we are required to report by exception – the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we have not been able to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Our work on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources is not yet complete. The outcome of our work will be reported in our commentary on the Authority's arrangements in our Auditor's Annual Report. If we identify any significant weaknesses in these arrangements, these will be reported by exception in a further auditor's report. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on our opinion on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities of the Authority

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

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

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

We undertake our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in January 2023. This guidance sets out the arrangements that fall within the scope of 'proper arrangements'. When reporting on these arrangements, the Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under three specified reporting criteria:

- Financial sustainability: how the Authority plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;
- Governance: how the Authority ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the Authority uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

We document our understanding of the arrangements the Authority has in place for each of these three specified reporting criteria, gathering sufficient evidence to support our risk assessment and commentary in our Auditor's Annual Report. In undertaking our work, we consider whether there is evidence to suggest that there are significant weaknesses in arrangements.

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

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for Tamworth Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed:

- our work on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

G. Audit opinion

- the work necessary to issue our Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) Component Assurance statement for the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2023.

We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 44 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

H. Audit letter in respect of delayed VFM work

Dear Cllr Maycock,

The original expectation under the approach to VFM arrangements work set out in the 2020 Code of Audit Practice was that auditors would follow an annual cycle of work, with more timely reporting on VFM arrangements, including issuing their commentary on VFM arrangements for local government by 30 September each year at the latest. Unfortunately, due to the on-going challenges impacting on the local audit market, including the need to meet regulatory and other professional requirements, we have been unable to complete our work as quickly as would normally be expected. The National Audit Office has updated its guidance to auditors to allow us to postpone completion of our work on arrangements to secure value for money and focus our resources firstly on the delivery of our opinions on the financial statements. This is intended to help ensure as many as possible could be issued in line with national timetables and legislation.

As a result, we have therefore not yet issued our Auditor's Annual Report, including our commentary on arrangements to secure value for money. We now expect to publish our report no later than January 2024.

For the purposes of compliance with the 2020 Code, this letter constitutes the required audit letter explaining the reasons for delay.

Yours faithfully

Laurelin Griffiths

Director

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AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

27th SEPTEMBER 2023

REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FINANCE

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & REPORT 2022/23

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

PURPOSE

To approve the Statement of Accounts (the Statement) for the financial year ended 31st March 2023 following completion of the external audit.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members:

- 1. approve the Annual Statement of Accounts 2022/23;**
- 2. delegate authority to the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee to approve any changes and re-sign the accounts, if necessary, once the audit is concluded by the external auditors.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Legislation detailed in Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, requires the Council to prepare a Draft Statement of Accounts by 31st May (approved by the Council's Chief Finance Officer - the Executive Director Finance), a Committee of the Council to approve the Statement by 31st July and for the Council to publish the Statement together with the Auditors' opinion by 31st July.

However, because of the impact of continuing issues regarding accounts and audit completion., the requirement was amended again for 2022/23, with the deadline for publishing audited statements being pushed back to 30th September 2023.

The Finance team planned for the completion of the Statutory Accounts by 30th June, and the final draft accounts as signed by the Executive Director Finance were issued to the External Auditor and published on the Council's website on 22nd June 2023.

As part of the annual audit process for 2022/23, the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton, have prepared their Audit Findings Report (to be considered separately on this agenda) for consideration prior to issue of their opinion, conclusion & certificate.

It has previously been reported to Members that as a result of the need to close the accounts earlier (and sometimes rely on estimates in doing so) it is more likely that there will be changes required to the draft accounts before they are finalised.

The external auditors have during the course of their audit identified a number of misstatements as set out in their Audit Findings Report, including £565k arising from an error in the valuations of Garages Land as part of Other Land and Buildings. The impact of the misstatements is less than the £1.25m materiality limit and therefore does not require any amendments to the accounts.

Following identification as part of the audit, a number of other amendments to the Draft (as published on the website on 22nd June) have been discussed & agreed with Grant Thornton.

The agreed changes have been actioned within the Final Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 as attached at **Appendix 1**. It is important to note that these adjustments relate to presentational or disclosure issues and have not changed the overall figures within the main financial statements and the associated notes and do not have any impact on the reported outturn position and net balances of the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account or Collection Fund.

Regulations require the Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee meeting to sign and date the Statement of Accounts with the intention that the Chair's signature formally represents the completion of the Council's approval process of the accounts.

However, whilst the External Auditors have concluded the vast majority of their work on the accounts, we have been advised that concluding work is needed and the opinion on the accounts is not yet available, pending the completion of the audit. For this reason it is proposed to delegate authority to the Chair to approve any changes and re-sign the accounts, if necessary, once this work is complete and the audit can be concluded. Members of Audit and Governance Committee will be advised of any significant changes at the earliest available opportunity.

It is worth noting that both the External Audit team and the Finance teams have faced significantly higher assurance and information demands arising from the additional testing requirements and higher sample sizes now required by the audit regulator – including for valuations, journals, income and expenditure, cut off testing, and assurances around ICT.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

For 2022/23, a revenue budget underspend for the General Fund of £0.717m is reported with an increase in General Fund closing balances of £0.46m compared to the budgeted/planned decrease of £1.206m.

It should be noted that the Medium Term Financial Strategy, approved in February 2023, identified estimated budgeted General Fund balances of £9.17m (at 1st April 2023) compared to the actual closing balances of £9.615m - additional balances of £0.445m. There has been no material change from the Provisional Outturn forecast closing balances of £9.531m.

The main variances for the year include:

Variance between Budget & Actual Outturn	£000	£000
Increased / Non-Budgeted Income*		
Additional car park income	(119)	
Additional S31 grant income associated with administering LA grant schemes (net of transfer to reserve for future year costs)	(135)	
Higher business rates pooling returned levy due to increased business rate income	(1,155)	
Higher levels of investment income due to the rise in interest rates during the year, including item 8 recharge and property fund dividends	(1,577)	
		(2,986)
Shortfalls in Income		
Summer Fest - lower income levels than forecast	500	
Bad debt provision for unpaid rent invoices	705	
		1,205
Non-Budgeted Expenditure / Overspends		
Joint waste service – additional costs due to current economic conditions	183	
Higher levels of interest payable to the HRA and reserves	513	
Increased provision for property fund valuation reduction	520	
		1,216
Savings / Underspends		
Unspent contingency	(132)	
		(132)
Other Variances - Net (Underspends) / Overspends		(20)
Total (Favourable) / Unfavourable Variance		(717)

The Housing Revenue Account reports an overspend of £1.003m with a decrease in Housing Revenue Account closing balances of £2.956m. For the HRA balances of £4.431m were forecast at 1st April 2023 compared to the actual closing balances of £2.761m – reduced balances of £1.67m. There has been no material change from the Provisional Outturn forecast closing balances of £2.845m.

The main variances for the year include:

Variance between Budget & Actual Outturn	£000	£000
Increased / Non-Budgeted Income		
Increased investment income on balances (item 8)	(358)	(358)
Non-Budgeted Expenditure / Overspends		
Higher provision for depreciation due to increased asset valuation	1,102	
Housing Repairs - additional costs associated with response to COVID-19 including payments made under the Government guidance note PPN02/20	130	
Increased Contribution to Capital due to reinvestment of affordable rents in line with agreed policy	395	
Increased interest on debt due to rising interest rates	133	1,760
Savings / Underspends		
Housing Repairs - reduced planned maintenance	(219)	
Contingency Budget not required	(130)	(349)
Other Variances - Net (Underspends) / Overspends		(50)
Total (Favourable) / Unfavourable Variance		1,003

The outturn for the 2022/23 capital programme identifies an underspend of £34.4m against the approved budget of £53.166m. The actual spend was £18.765m (no change since the Provisional Outturn).

It has been approved that £29.154m of scheme spend be re-profiled into 2022/23. This will result in an overall underspend of £5.2m for the 2022/23 capital programme.

Deferred Capital Expenditure	£000	£000
Housing Capital Programme		
Enhancements to Council Dwellings	3.3	
Improvements to the High Rise Flats	0.7	
Regeneration & Acquisition of Council Dwellings	3.7	
Other	0.1	7.9
General Fund Services		
Future High Street Fund Town Centre Regeneration	17.1	
Gungate Development	0.7	
Repairs to Castle	0.4	
Amington Community Woodland	0.8	
Disabled Facilities Grant	1.3	
Other Capital Schemes	1.0	21.3
Total		29.2

LEGAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Legislation detailed in Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, requires the draft statement of accounts to be prepared by 31st May and for a Committee of the Council to approve the audited Statement and for the Council to publish the Statement together with the Auditors' opinion by 31st July.

However, because of the impact of continuing issues being experienced with regard to accounts and audit completion., the requirement was amended again for 2022/23, with the deadline for publishing audited statements being pushed back to 30th September 2023.

REPORT AUTHOR

Jo Goodfellow, Interim Executive Director Finance

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Quarter Four 2022/23 Performance Report (including Provisional Outturn Report 2022/23) – Corporate Scrutiny Committee, 20th June 2023 and Cabinet, 29th June 2023

Tamworth Borough Council

Statement of Accounts 2022/23

*Tamworth – celebrating our heritage,
creating a better future*



Tamworth
Borough Council

**Tamworth Borough Council,
Marmion House,
Lichfield Street,
Tamworth,
Staffordshire
B79 7BZ
Tel: 01827 709709
Email: enquiries@tamworth.gov.uk
Website: www.tamworth.gov.uk**

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

2022/23

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THE NARRATIVE REPORT

The aim of this Narrative Report is to provide a context to the accounts by presenting a clear and simple summary of the Authority's financial position and performance for the year and its prospects for future years.

The statement of accounts presents the financial position and performance of the Authority for the year ended 31st March 2023. This narrative report describes the nature and purpose of each of the statements which follow and highlights the most significant matters which are contained within the accounts and the major influences affecting the Authority's income, expenditure and cash flows.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines contained within the latest Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom for 2022/23.

The Code is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and has been developed by the CIPFA/Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee (LASAAC) Code Board overseen by the Financial Reporting Advisory Board.

The Authority's accounts for 2022/23 are set out on pages 24 to 138 and consist of the following:

Core Financial Statements:

- **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account (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. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The net effect to the Council taxpayer is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

A surplus of £28.3m is reported for 2022/23 (£74.1m surplus 2021/22). This is mainly explained by a re-measurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability relating to the pension fund which resulted in a surplus of £37.0m (a surplus of £21.7m was reported in 2021/22) resulting mainly from financial assumption changes.

It also included a £6.8m gain on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment Assets, as well as a deficit on the provision of services of £15.5m.

- **Movement in Reserves Statement:** shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'Usable Reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves.

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows a net General Fund surplus of £0.5m for the year. This equates to a favourable variance of £0.7m (the planned transfer from balances at the start of the year in the original budget was £0.2m) and has resulted in General Fund Balances of £9.6m (£9.2m – 2021/22). Earmarked General Fund Reserves have increased by £0.1m to £15.6m resulting in total General Fund Reserves of £25.2m (£24.7m – 2021/22) and reflect the risks and uncertainties facing the Authority over the medium term.

- **Balance Sheet:** shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets of the Authority (assets less liabilities) are £299.9m (£271.6m 2021/22) which are matched by the reserves held by the Authority.

Key items are:

Long Term Assets

The Authority holds property, plant and equipment assets of £273.9m (£272.2m 2021/22) – mainly due to Council dwellings of £243.0m (£241.9m 2021/22).

Working Capital

Net working capital has increased to £49.8m (£48.3m 2021/22) mainly due to a reduction of £7.4m in the level of creditors offset by a reduction of £6.4m in the level of short term investments and cash equivalents as at 31/3/23.

Provisions, Usable Reserves and Balances

The working balances as at 31st March 2023 are £55.6m (£59.1m 2021/22) and comprise provisions, earmarked reserves, revenue balances and the unused element of capital receipts.

31st March 2022 £000	Provisions, Usable Reserves and Balances	31st March 2023 £000
1,916	Provisions	1,827
27,494	Earmarked Reserves	26,160
14,872	Revenue Balances	12,377
14,804	Unused Capital Receipts & Grants	15,285
59,086	Total Working Balances	55,649

Working balances of £26.6m (£27.0m 2021/22) relate to capital (including the Capital Reserve of £10.2m). Deferred capital expenditure of £29.2m from 2022/23 and previous years carried forward to 2023/24 will be financed in part from these balances (£30.5m 2021/22).

Borrowing Facilities

The Authority borrows funds where necessary to meet both long term capital expenditure commitments and short-term cash flow demands. Funds are borrowed from the Government (Public Works Loan Board - PWLB) and from the commercial money market (banks, building societies and other lenders). The Authority's debt at 31st March 2023 was £63.1m (£63.1m 2022/23) and was all borrowed from the PWLB.

Pensions

The pension fund has a surplus in the year of £1.1m (£32.4m deficit in 2021/22) and is required to be shown on the Balance Sheet of the Authority.

The change in financial assumptions adopted together with other experience for period ending 31st March 2023 can be approximately broken down as follows:

Change in Financial Assumptions and Other Experience	31 st March 2023 £'000
Pension increase Rate	4,610
Salary increase Rate	280
Discount rate	46,152
Changes in demographic assumptions	2,216
Other experience (obligations)	(6,640)
Other experience (Assets)	(4,174)
Return on assets	(5,410)
Total gain	37,034

- Pension Increase Rate – Market derived CPI inflation has fallen over the period, which has led to a 0.20% reduction in this assumption. This has served to reduce the Employer's obligations and led to a gain of around £4.6m on the balance sheet.
- The change in the CPI inflation assumption is a result of underlying changes in market implied RPI (after allowance for the inflation risk premium adjustment), coupled with any changes in the RPI-CPI gap from the previous year and the adjustment to CPI to reflect the high inflationary environment in year 1.
- Salary Increase Rate – the salary increase assumption has fallen over the period by 0.1%. This has served to reduce the Employer's obligations and led to a gain of around £0.3m on the balance sheet.
- Discount rate – The corporate bond yield (upon which the discount rate is derived) has risen over the period, which has led to a 2.05% increase in this assumption. This has served to reduce the Employer's obligations and led to a gain of around £46.1m on the balance sheet.

- Changes in demographic assumptions (c.£2.2m gain on the balance sheet). The assumptions have changed from the previous accounting period to reflect the latest available longevity information and the results of the 2022 funding valuation exercise. This update has served to reduce the Employer's obligations.
- Other experience (c.£6.6m loss on the balance sheet). There are 3 possible elements that lead to the 'Other experience' item on the obligations side.
 - a) Actual pension increase order – The actual PI order for April 2023 was 10.1%, which is significantly higher than the pension increase rate assumption built into the obligations at the start of the accounting period. This increases pensions in payment, deferred pensions and CARE pots and leads to a loss of around £8.4m. After allowing for the above Pensions Increase Order impact, the remainder of the 'Other experience' item is in relation to funding valuation remeasurement experience and any unfunded obligations experience (only in cases where the Employer has historically granted such unfunded benefits):
 - b) 31 March 2022 funding valuation - In the period following a funding valuation, employers may experience a 'step-change' in their accounts as the difference between the projected membership experience and actual membership experience emerges. For employers/pools (particularly those with significant membership changes), a valuation remeasurement experience item of c10% of the expected closing obligations (positive or negative) would not be that unusual.
 - c) Unfunded pensioners – Where the Council has experienced more (or less) unfunded pensioner deaths over the period, this will give rise to a typically small experience gain (or loss) on the balance sheet.
- Other experience (Assets) (c.£4.2m loss on the balance sheet) - in the first accounting report following a funding valuation, a step-change also occurs on the asset side caused by actual experience. This item can be large as three years of actual experience flows through the accounts.
- Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest (c.£5.2m loss on the balance sheet). Any excess return (over and above the expected accounting return, i.e. the discount rate at the start of the accounting period) is recognised in the OCI. The total investment return achieved by the Fund over the accounting period was -1.7%, compared to an expected accounting return of 2.7%.

It should be noted that there has been no impact on the net cost to the taxpayer arising from this - contribution levels remain unchanged (an ongoing annual contribution plus a fixed lump sum element) arising from the formal valuation on 31st March 2022 (following the triennial review).

- **Cash Flow Statement:** shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Authority during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Authority generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.
- **Supplementary Statements:**
 - **Housing Revenue Account:** reflects the statutory requirement to maintain a separate account for Council Housing.

The overall revenue financial position relating to Council Housing as given on page 126 shows a reduction in HRA balances for the year of £2.9m (£0.1m increase in 2021/22).

This equates to an overspend of £1.0m when compared to the approved budget for the year. This has resulted in a decrease in balances from £5.7m to £2.8m to be carried forward to 2023/24. Earmarked HRA Reserves have increased by £1.0m (£0.3m increase – 2021/22) to £8.5m resulting in total HRA Reserves of £11.3m (£15.3m – 2021/22).

- **The Collection Fund:** shows the Council Tax income collected on behalf of Staffordshire County Council, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), the Staffordshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority and this Authority's General Fund.

The fund also includes Non Domestic Rates income under the Business Rates Retention Scheme. The Collection Fund, subject to collection of outstanding arrears, achieved the following:

- Council Tax – surplus of £1.2m (£1.5m – 2021/22, the Authority's share is 10%), of which £0.6m (£0.75m – 2021/22) will be distributed to preceptors during 2023/24;
- NDR – deficit of £2.1m (£4.6m deficit in 2021/22) of which the Authority's share is 40%, mainly as a result of the significant level of additional business rates relief for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The deficit relating to the NDR collection fund includes a reduced provision of £4.5m, (£4.8m – 2021/22) with £1.8m being the Authority's share (£1.9m – 2021/22), for appeals outstanding on the 31st March 2023 of £37.5m (£35.2m – 2021/22).

This will mean that the deficit will be £0.8m (share for this Authority) for 2023/24 comparable to a deficit of £0.3m included within the 2023/24 budget. It should be noted that this will be funded in 2023/24 through additional section 31 Government grants received during 2022/23 (and transferred to reserve).

These accounting statements are supported by appropriate notes to the accounts and the General Accounting Policies. For 2022/23, the notes to support the primary statements include the relevant accounting policies as well as further detail regarding individual transactions.

CHANGES TO THE ACCOUNTS 2022/23

An updated Code of Practice, applicable for 2022/23 was issued by CIPFA in August 2022.

Changes reflected in the 2022/23 updated Code do, on the whole, have to be incorporated into the Authority's accounts but do not necessarily impact on the Authority's accounting policies. This is because the changes are principally around additional or changed disclosure notes, points of clarification and additional guidance etc.

The Code is based on approved accounting standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and interpretations of the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee, except where these are inconsistent with specific statutory requirements. The Code also draws on approved accounting standards issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board and the UK Financial Reporting Council where these provide additional guidance. The Code has been prepared on the basis of accounting standards and interpretations in effect for accounting periods commencing on or before 1 January 2022.

This is with the exception of IFRS 16 Leases. While the CIPFA/LASAAC Code Board is strongly of the view that IFRS 16 is the best form of reporting local authority leases, it has made a decision to defer mandatory implementation of IFRS 16 as a pragmatic response to severe delays in the publication of audited local authority financial statements in England. The decision should not be viewed as a commentary on the usefulness of the information derived from the implementation of the standard. While mandatory implementation has been deferred until 2024/25, adoption in earlier accounting periods (ie 2022/23 or 2023/24) is permitted on a voluntary basis. This Authority has decided not to adopt IFRS 16 Leases before 2024/25.

The key accounting changes applicable to the Authority in the 2022/23 edition of the Code include:

- a) Amendments to Section 1.3 (Applicability of the Code) to clarify and expand the applicability of the Code to Welsh authorities and bodies including corporate joint committees.
- b) Revision of Section 4.2 (Leases) to allow authorities to voluntarily adopt the provisions of IFRS 16 in advance of mandatory implementation, in line with requirements set out in Appendix F of the Code.
- c) Revision of Section 4.3 (Service Concession Arrangements: Local Authority as Grantor) to specify that if IFRS 16 is adopted in advance of mandatory implementation, then the service concession arrangement liability is measured in accordance with the measurement requirements of IFRS 16, as set out in Appendix F of the Code.

- d) Amendments to Section 8.2 (Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets) to clarify the treatment of social benefits under IAS 37/IPSAS 19 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.
- e) Confirmation in Appendix C of the Code (Changes in Accounting Policies: Disclosures in the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Financial Statements) of the transitional reporting requirements of the new standards introduced in the 2022/23 Code, while also having regard to requirements in relation to voluntary adoption of IFRS 16.
- f) Confirmation in Appendix D (New or Amended Standards Introduced to the 2022/23 Code) of the new standards introduced to the 2022/23 Code.

Under the oversight of the Financial Reporting Advisory Board, the CIPFA/LASAAC Code Board is in a position to issue mid-year updates to the Code. This will only be done in exceptional circumstances.

In England and Wales, the Code constitutes a 'proper accounting practice' under the terms of Section 21(2) of the Local Government Act 2003. In Scotland, the Code constitutes proper accounting practice under Section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. In Northern Ireland, the status and authority of the Code derives from Regulation 2 of the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 and through the relevant accounts direction issued by the Department for Communities (Northern Ireland).

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

The Medium Term Financial Planning process is being challenged by the ongoing uncertain economic conditions. The forecast is based on a 5 year period, but does contain a number of uncertainties.

On 12th December 2022, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities published a written ministerial statement which was accompanied by a policy statement on the 2023/24 local government finance settlement and assumptions about the 2024/25 local government finance settlement.

This statement came ahead of the 2023/24 provisional local government finance settlement announcement, which was published in December 2022, detailing local authority-level figures for 2023/24.

This settlement represents a 'holding position' until the next Parliament, aiming at stability. The ruling out of a business rates reset, or a fair funding review, means that the funding distribution will stay fairly stable (with the exception of Extended Provider Responsibility funding). But this means that the big questions about the future of the funding system remain unaddressed one way or another.

While this means the Council will be able to retain its business rate growth for 2023/24 and 2024/25, it also means that the uncertainty continues and potentially the Council still faces losing this growth from 2025/26.

There is a high risk that these reforms will have a significant effect on the Council's funding level from 2025/26.

Members will face difficult decisions around prioritising services, when faced with significant reductions in funding.

There are also further uncertainties arising from current cost pressure and inflationary increases which have compounded the likely price increases for supplies that are required for building or construction/maintenance works.

In addition, and following the recent mini budget on 23rd September, there are cost pressures expected due to the financial markets' response to the contents of that budget. There is an increased likelihood of a rise in interest rates, and it can be expected that this will have a negative effect on the price of goods and services but a positive effect from the return from the Council's Treasury investments.

Financial resilience is and has been the key requirement for local authorities at any time, but in the current crisis it has assumed unprecedented importance. Cabinet on 22nd October 2020 approved the Recovery and Reset programme which aims to consider how we can tackle the financial challenges facing the council as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

This included reviewing services, reducing waste demand on services (basically this is any action or step in a process that does not add value to the customer), exploring opportunities for income generation and identifying any further savings.

The Recovery & Reset Programme package of savings originally reported in July 2022 estimated savings to be in the region of c£3.5m over 5 years; £2.8m of which was unbudgeted capital costs for continuing to occupy Marmion House.

As part of the update report to Cabinet on 6th April 2023, including those already built into the medium-term financial plan, the revised programme potentially delivers efficiencies of c£5.1m over the next 5-year medium term. This includes the c£3.5m already identified; plus, an additional £1.6m already delivered through the service re-design project within the programme.

In light of the base budget and MTFS forecast considered by Cabinet on 1st December 2022, following the Leaders Budget Workshop on 30th November 2022, Managers were asked to identify further areas for potential savings – which have now been included in the policy changes, amounting to c.£1.8m over 5 years.

The overriding goal is to make sure our organisation remains fit for the future, while protecting services to the most vulnerable in our community.

The Council remains committed to promoting and stimulating economic growth and regeneration; meeting our housing needs; creating a vibrant town centre economy and protecting those most vulnerable in our communities. The Council is responding to these challenges by considering the opportunities to grow our income. We are ambitious with our commercial view and will continue to work hard to identify income streams that enable us to continue to meet the needs of our residents.

More than ever, we recognise that our financial capacity will be less than in previous years which means that we will need to maintain our approach to innovation, collaboration and transformation.

This approach will change the organisation and how it works; will require Members to put evidence and insight at the heart of our decision making to ensure that we are transparent about the rationale for our decisions and plans; will involve managed risks and will sustain essential services critical in supporting the most vulnerable in our communities at a time when demand is increasing and resources reducing.

There have been increasing demands for councils to assess their going concern status in recent years. This assessment has become more relevant with doubts being expressed about whether some local authorities will be able to deliver their full range of service commitments given the financial pressures they face and with some councils issuing warnings about their future financial viability. These concerns have gained greater weight following the recovery

following the COVID-19 outbreak, the inflationary cost pressures and the significant impact that it has had on council finances.

It is important to be clear that the Code of Practice under which local authorities operate confirms that councils have no ability to cease being a going concern.

It would not therefore be appropriate for local authority financial statements to be prepared on anything other than a going concern basis. However, as part of putting these accounts together, alongside its overall response to the recovery following COVID-19, the Council's financial monitoring and planning has continued focus on providing assurance that its financial position remains secure. This includes looking at the recovery related expenditure pressures, the direct impact on council income, assessment of any bad debt provisions and impairments required against existing debts and continued analysis of the Council's cashflow requirements.

In the immediate future, the level of the Council's reserve balances is a good indicator of its financial health and ability to withstand any short-term shocks. In addition, the statutory environment in which local authorities operate means that, were an authority to encounter financial difficulties, the prospect would be that central government would implement alternative arrangements for the continuation of services or provide assistance to allow the recovery of any deficit over more than one year. In the light of this and in the opinion of the Executive Director Finance, the Council remains in a sound financial position considering the statutory position held by local authorities and the relative strength of its sources of revenue. In the longer-term, the extent of recovery towards a more familiar operational environment and the continued work to redefine a new local government funding mechanism provide significant uncertainty for the whole sector.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

General Fund

The main components of the General Fund approved budget and how these compare with actual income and expenditure are set out below.

General Fund	Actual £000	Approved Budget £000	Variance £000
(Surplus) or Deficit for the Year	5,863	6,580	(717)

The net expenditure of the Authority was £5.9m, representing an underspend of £0.7m. Major differences between the budget and the outturn are as follows:-

Variance between Budget & Actual Outturn	£000	£000
Increased / Non-Budgeted Income*		
Additional car park income	(119)	
Additional S31 grant income associated with administering LA grant schemes (net of transfer to reserve for future year costs)	(135)	
Higher business rates pooling returned levy due to increased business rate income	(1,155)	
Higher levels of investment income due to the rise in interest rates during the year, including item 8 recharge and property fund dividends	(1,577)	
		(2,986)
Shortfalls in Income		
Summer Fest - lower income levels than forecast	500	
Bad debt provision for unpaid rent invoices	705	
		1,205
Non-Budgeted Expenditure / Overspends		
Joint waste service – additional costs due to current economic conditions	183	
Higher levels of interest payable to the HRA and reserves	513	
Increased provision for property fund valuation reduction	520	
		1,216
Savings / Underspends		
Unspent contingency	(132)	
		(132)
Other Variances - Net (Underspends) / Overspends		(20)
Total (Favourable) / Unfavourable Variance		(717)

Council Housing

A summary of the Housing Revenue Account for 2022/23, compared with the approved budget (including decisions made by Members during the financial year) is shown below:-

Housing Revenue Account	Actual £000	Approved Budget £000	Variance £000
(Surplus) or Deficit for the Year	2,954	1,951	1,003

The net deficit was £2.9m, representing an overspend of £1.0m. Major differences between the budget and the outturn are as follows:-

Variance between Budget & Actual Outturn	£000	£000
Increased / Non-Budgeted Income		
Increased investment income on balances (item 8)	(358)	(358)
Non-Budgeted Expenditure / Overspends		
Higher provision for depreciation due to increased asset valuation	1,102	
Housing Repairs - additional costs associated with response to COVID-19 including payments made under the Government guidance note PPN02/20	130	
Increased Contribution to Capital due to reinvestment of affordable rents in line with agreed policy	395	
Increased interest on debt due to rising interest rates	133	1,760
Savings / Underspends		
Housing Repairs - reduced planned maintenance	(219)	
Contingency Budget not required	(130)	(349)
Other Variances - Net (Underspends) / Overspends		(50)
Total (Favourable) / Unfavourable Variance		1,003

Capital Expenditure

During 2022/23 the Authority spent £18.8m on capital expenditure (£17.8m in 2021/22). A breakdown by category and sources of finance is shown as Note 34 to the Core Financial Statements on page 101.

The majority of expenditure is related to improvement, enhancement or ongoing construction works:

Capital Expenditure	£m	£m
Housing Capital Programme		
Enhancements to Council Dwellings	7.8	
Improvements to the High Rise Flats	2.3	
Regeneration & Acquisition of Council Dwellings	3.8	13.9
General Fund Services		
Future High Street Fund Town Centre Regeneration	4.1	
Refurbishment Castle Grounds Tennis Courts	0.2	
Disabled Facilities Grants	0.2	
Other Capital Schemes	0.4	4.9
Total		18.8

A total of £29.2m spending originally planned for 2022/23, or earlier, has been deferred to 2023/24 (£30.5m in the previous year). Included within this deferred expenditure:

Deferred Capital Expenditure	£000	£000
Housing Capital Programme		
Enhancements to Council Dwellings	3.3	
Improvements to the High Rise Flats	0.7	
Regeneration & Acquisition of Council Dwellings	3.7	
Other	0.1	7.9
General Fund Services		
Future High Street Fund Town Centre Regeneration	17.1	
Gungate Development	0.7	
Repairs to Castle	0.4	
Amington Community Woodland	0.8	
Disabled Facilities Grant	1.3	
Other Capital Schemes	1.0	21.3
Total		29.2

- During the year, the Authority disposed of land and property with capital receipts totalling £2.5m, primarily relating to the disposal of 31 Council Dwellings through Right to Buy sales.

NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

In February 2022 Council approved a new Vision, Strategic priorities and the Council's Corporate Plan for the period 2022 to 2025 following a detailed review and refresh to respond to the demands from local people .

This was brought together by councillors, during a number of councillor-led workshops and seminars, into a new refocused vision to reflect new priorities following more collaborative budget setting workshops which were held to ensure all councillors were able to have involvement in what is important to them and their residents.

Our vision is '**Tamworth – celebrating our heritage, creating a better future**'

In order to achieve that vision, we have developed this new Corporate Plan which will be delivered with a workforce and organisation that has adapted to an unprecedented national challenge, working hand in hand with our partners and communities.

This new vision, together with our new Corporate Plan, details five areas of focus for the borough; including the key outcomes we are seeking to achieve and how we will work to achieve them. Each priority has a number of supporting areas of focus and progress will be achieved through the delivery of corporate and transformational projects; each having clearly defined objectives and outcomes.

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TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL: VISION	
<i>'Tamworth - celebrating our heritage, creating a better future'</i>	
OUR PRIORITIES	AREAS OF FOCUS
1. The Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement and education with regard to litter and fly-tipping • Development of infrastructure for acting on climate change • Support more people to recycle and to reduce waste • Working with partners to protect, maintain and improve the green space offer
2. The Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of business initiatives to promote start up and growth • Support business growth to generate employment opportunities by working with businesses • Provision of good quality and affordable housing

OUR PRIORITIES	AREAS OF FOCUS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve tourism in terms of good access information for visitors to help local businesses and Tamworth as a destination as a whole, maximise and improve the quality of the visitor experience
3. Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Local Plan to improve the transport links within Tamworth • Improve existing walkways and cycling routes • Ensure more people can access council services digitally / digital enhancement with partners and within Council housing stock
4. Living in Tamworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate supply of affordable housing through the Local Plan review • Investment in Neighbourhood and Place environment • Through our Economic Development team, we will support job creation and business retention and expansion through interventions and advice, and seek to protect the local economy where we can influence this. • Improve and promote Tamworth’s historic and cultural assets and events • Community safety focus on neighbourhoods and place • Working with partners to ensure the fear of crime within Tamworth is reduced
5. Town Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop street market and extend supporting events around the market to add vibrancy within the town centre • Create a branding scheme for “created in Tamworth” • Provide the infrastructure to improve evening and night time economy • Embrace Tamworth’s history and culture so as to build a sense of local pride and to support our children education and understanding of the significant part Tamworth played in British history • Continue to promote all outdoor events • Development of a new Tamworth Enterprise Centre as part of the structural transformation of the town centre • Make the town centre more accessible • Improve leisure and food offer • Improve night time transport

Further details on the Authority's Key Performance Indicators for 2022/23 (and previous years) together with our vision and priorities for Tamworth, our values along with our performance are set out in **our Corporate Plan** which sets out our plans and priorities for the coming year, and is available from the Authority's website:





<http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/performance>

HIGH LEVEL CORPORATE PLAN PROJECTS/PROGRAMMES

An update on the 2022 to 2025 Corporate Plan actions is shown below.

Project	Project Status	Due Date	Project Comments
Place Investment Strategy	✔	31-Mar-2024	
FHSF	✔	31-Mar-2024	
Net Zero	✔	31-Mar-2024	
Self-Assessment Compliance Framework (housing)	●	31-Mar-2023	
Garage Site Development Caledonian Regeneration	⚠	30-Aug-2024	<i>Initial procurement exercise received no interest from the market. Tenders invited through a framework arrangement. Initial costs higher than anticipated and some cost clarifications required. Anticipate being in a position to make a decision on the project in November. The lack of interest during the initial phase has resulted in the project timetable being pushed back</i>
Asset management Strategy	⚠	31-Mar-2024	<i>Draft reviewed, minor additions/amendments needed. Process of Asset Management Plans has commenced</i>
ICT Strategy Implementation Plan	✔	31-Mar-2025	
OD Strategy	✔	31-Mar-2024	
Local Government Boundary Review	✔	31-Mar-2024	
Development of Tourism Strategy	✔	31-Mar-2025	
Town Centre Masterplan	✔	30-Sep-2023	
Town Hall	✔	31-Mar-2024	
Gungate	✔	31-Mar-2025	
Reset and Recovery management of overall programme	●	31-Mar-2023	


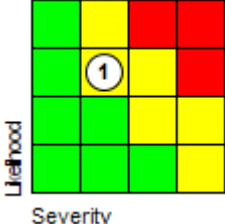

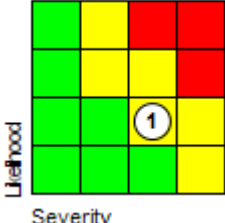

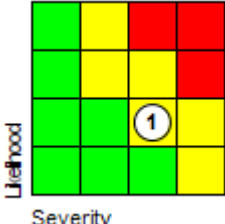
Key to Symbols


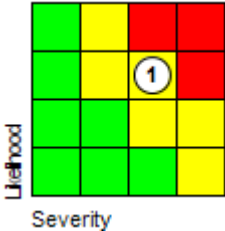


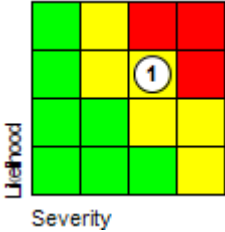
RAG Status	Overall Project Status
	Action / Key Workstream / Project on track and in control
	Action / Key Workstream / Project not on track but is in control
	Action / Key Workstream / Project Completed
	Action / Key Workstream / Project not on track and not in control




CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

The Authority's Corporate risks for 2022/23 are outlined below.

Corporate Risk Register 2022/23

Corporate Risk Heading	Status	Status	Current Risk Matrix	Executive Leadership Team
Finance/Financial stability		Warning		Stefan Garner
Modernisation and commercial agenda		Warning		Anica Goodwin
Governance		Warning		Anica Goodwin

Corporate Risk Heading	Status	Status	Current Risk Matrix	Executive Leadership Team
Community Focus		Warning		Rob Barnes
Economic Growth and Sustainability		Warning		Stefan Garner
Organisational Resilience		Warning		Rob Barnes

Risk Status	
	High Risk
	Medium Risk
	Low Risk

Further information about the Statement of Accounts is available from the Interim Executive Director Finance, Tamworth Borough Council, Marmion House, Lichfield Street, Tamworth, Staffs. B79 7BZ.

Telephone : 01827 709241.

Email: joanne-goodfellow@tamworth.gov.uk

This is part of the Authority's policy of providing full information about the Authority's affairs. In addition, interested members of the public have a statutory right to inspect the accounts before the audit is completed. The availability of the accounts for inspection is advertised on the Authority's website at www.tamworth.gov.uk

The information in this document may be made available in other selected languages. Copies may be made available on tape, in Braille or large print.

Statement of Responsibilities

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is required to:

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

The Executive Director Finances' Responsibilities

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

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Executive Director Finance has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- complied with the Local Authority Code.

The Executive Director Finance has also:

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

This Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Tamworth Borough Council and its expenditure and income for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Joanne Goodfellow FCCA
Interim Executive Director Finance

Dated: 27th September 2023

This is an electronic copy without an electronic signature. The original was signed as dated above and a copy can be obtained from the Interim Executive Director Finance.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

This statement 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. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

A breakdown of the individual services contained within the CIES headings are detailed within the Appendix to the CIES on page 163.

A detailed breakdown of the movement on the HRA is shown within the HRA Statements on page 125.

	2021/22			Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	Notes	2022/23		
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000			Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
	2,446	(835)	1,611	Chief Executive		2,768	(682)	2,086
	2,615	(2,276)	339	Assistant Director Growth and Regeneration		8,166	(2,272)	5,894
	743	(276)	467	Executive Director Organisation (GF)		816	(259)	557
	3,143	(1,225)	1,918	Assistant Director People (GF)		3,685	(1,363)	2,322
	4,994	(3,359)	1,635	Assistant Director Operations and Leisure (GF)		6,992	(3,564)	3,428
	144	(50)	94	Executive Director Finance		144	(50)	94
	14,881	(13,163)	1,718	Assistant Director Finance		14,494	(13,529)	965
	(252)	(352)	(604)	Assistant Director Assets (GF)		2,126	(430)	1,696
	1,411	(714)	697	Assistant Director Neighbourhoods (GF)		1,487	(596)	891
	2,021	(404)	1,617	Assistant Director Partnerships		1,330	(434)	896
	148	(74)	74	Executive Director Communities (HRA)		157	(100)	57
	7,214	(19,473)	(12,259)	HRA Summary		15,418	(20,027)	(4,609)
	242	-	242	Assistant Director People (HRA)		280	-	280
	211	-	211	Assistant Director Operations and Leisure (HRA)		295	-	295
	1,156	(613)	543	Assistant Director Assets (HRA)		1,408	(446)	962
	4,768	(1,107)	3,661	Assistant Director Neighbourhoods (HRA)		5,312	(1,184)	4,128
	4,233	(69)	4,164	Housing Repairs		5,352	(75)	5,277
	1,339	(2,304)	(965)	Exceptional Item : Response to COVID		-	-	-
	51,457	(46,294)	5,163	Cost of Services	7	70,230	(45,011)	25,219

Gross Expenditure £000	2021/22	Net Expenditure £000	Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	Notes	2022/23		
	Gross Income £000				Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
		(8)	Other Operating Expenditure	11			(47)
		(2,196)	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (FIIE)	12			5,474
		(13,022)	Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	13			(15,121)
		(10,063)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	7			15,525
		(42,338)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment Assets	23a			(6,827)
		(21,667)	Re-measurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability	23c			(37,034)
		(64,005)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(43,861)
		(74,068)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(28,336)

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'Usable Reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Authority's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account for Council Tax setting and dwellings rent setting purposes. The Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves undertaken by the Authority.

The reserve movements for 2021/22 and 2022/23 are shown on the following pages.

**Movement in Reserves Statement
2022/23**

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	Total General Fund Balances	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked HRA Reserves	Total HRA Balances	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve Note HRA 3	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1st April 2022	9,155	15,505	24,660	5,717	9,542	15,259	14,384	2,447	420	57,170	214,436	271,606
Movement in Reserves during 2022/23												
Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	(7,596)	-	(7,596)	(7,929)	-	(7,929)	-	-	-	(15,525)	-	(15,525)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,861	43,861
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(7,596)	-	(7,596)	(7,929)	-	(7,929)	-	-	-	(15,525)	43,861	28,336
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Regulations (Note 9)	8,111	-	8,111	3,971	-	3,971	(72)	(388)	555	12,177	(12,177)	-
Net (Increase) / Decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves	515	-	515	(3,958)	-	(3,958)	(72)	(388)	555	(3,348)	31,684	28,336
Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves (Note 10)	(55)	55	-	1,002	(1,002)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase / (Decrease) in 2022/23	460	55	515	(2,956)	(1,002)	(3,958)	(72)	(388)	555	(3,348)	31,684	28,336
Balance as at 31st March 2023	9,615	15,560	25,175	2,761	8,540	11,301	14,312	2,059	975	53,822	246,120	299,942

**Movement in Reserves Statement
2021/22**

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	Total General Fund Balances	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked HRA Reserves	Total HRA Balances	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve HRA 3 Note	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1st April 2021	8,002	18,108	26,110	5,611	9,241	14,852	19,987	2,010	295	63,254	134,284	197,538
Movement in Reserves during 2021/22												
Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	9,160	-	9,160	903	-	903	-	-	-	10,063	-	10,063
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64,005	64,005
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	9,160	-	9,160	903	-	903	-	-	-	10,063	64,005	74,068
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Regulations (Note 9)	(10,610)	-	(10,610)	(496)	-	(496)	(5,603)	437	125	(16,147)	16,147	-
Net (Increase) / Decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(1,450)	-	(1,450)	407	-	407	(5,603)	437	125	(6,084)	80,152	74,068
Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves (Note 10)	2,603	(2,603)	-	(301)	301	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase / (Decrease) in 2021/22	1,153	(2,603)	(1,450)	106	301	407	(5,603)	437	125	(6,084)	80,152	74,068
Balance as at 31st March 2022	9,155	15,505	24,660	5,717	9,542	15,259	14,384	2,447	420	57,170	214,436	271,606

Balance Sheet

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

31 st March 2022 £000	Balance Sheet	Notes	31 st March 2023 £000
272,244	Property, Plant & Equipment	14	273,934
3,677	Heritage Assets	15	3,677
25,502	Investment Property	16	22,410
439	Intangible Assets		325
13,095	Long Term Investments	17	10,842
12,777	Long Term Debtors	17	12,716
-	Other Long Term Assets	23c/38	1,091
327,734	Long Term Assets		324,995
55,195	Short Term Investments	17	59,843
29	Inventories		25
3,459	Short Term Debtors	18	3,596
13,458	Cash & Cash Equivalents	19	2,395
72,141	Current Assets		65,859
(1,233)	Cash & Cash Equivalents	19	(876)
(309)	Short Term Borrowing	17	(310)
(21,727)	Short Term Creditors	21	(14,377)
(549)	Provisions	22	(529)
(23,818)	Current Liabilities		(16,092)
-	Long Term Creditors	17	(407)
(1,367)	Provisions	22	(1,298)
(63,060)	Long Term Borrowing	17	(63,060)
(32,366)	Other Long Term Liabilities	23c/38	-
(7,612)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	32	(10,009)
(46)	Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance		(46)
(104,451)	Long Term Liabilities		(74,820)
271,606	Net Assets		299,942
57,170	Usable Reserves		53,822
214,436	Unusable Reserves	23	246,120
271,606	Total Reserves		299,942

Joanne Goodfellow FCCA
Interim Executive Director Finance

Dated: 27th September 2023

This is an electronic copy without an electronic signature. The original was signed as dated above and a copy can be obtained from the Executive Director Finance.

Cash Flow Statement

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

2021/22 £000	Cashflow Statement	Notes	2022/23 £000
(10,063)	Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services		15,525
(9,970)	Adjustments to Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services for non-cash movements		(23,172)
6,547	Adjustments for items included in the Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities		7,269
(13,486)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities (Surplus)/Deficit	24	(378)
18,909	Investing Activities	25	9,382
(6,674)	Financing Activities	26	1,702
(1,251)	Net (increase) or decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents		10,706
10,974	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		12,225
12,225	Cash and & Cash Equivalents at 31st March 2023	19	1,519

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting Policies

BASIS FOR PREPARATION

The notes relating to specific financial statement lines include the corresponding accounting policy. As a result, there is not an overall principal accounting policies note. However, the general accounting policies where there are not any accompanying notes are detailed within this note.

i. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2022/23 financial year and its position at the year end of 31st March 2023. The Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015 require the Authority to prepare an Annual Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of Non Current Assets and Financial Instruments.

ii. ACCRUALS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received, other than prepayments which are accounted for on a cash basis. In particular:

- a) Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract;
- b) Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as Inventories on the Balance Sheet;
- c) Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made;
- d) Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract;
- e) Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written

down and a charge made to revenue in financing and investment income and expenditure for the income that might not be collected.

The Authority's policy is to review all accruals over £1k together with payments and receipts over £5k made in February, March and April to ensure that they are recorded in the appropriate period. Any accruals below this amount are not considered to be material.

iii. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS, CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES AND ERRORS

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

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

iv. CHARGES TO REVENUE FOR NON CURRENT ASSETS

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

- a) depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service;
- b) revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off; and
- c) amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service.

The Authority is not required to raise Council Tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement, equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Authority in accordance with statutory guidance.

Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

v. COUNCIL TAX AND NON-DOMESTIC RATES (ENGLAND)

Billing authorities act as agents, collecting council tax and non-domestic rates (NDR) on behalf of the major preceptors (including government for NDR) and, as

principals, collecting council tax and NDR for themselves. Billing authorities are required by statute to maintain a separate fund (ie the Collection Fund) for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of Council Tax and NDR. Under the legislative framework for the Collection Fund, billing authorities, major preceptors and central government share proportionately the risks and rewards that the amount of Council Tax and NDR collected could be less or more than predicted.

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

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

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

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the statutory arrangements will not be made (fixed or determinable payments), the asset is written down and a charge made to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure line in the CIES. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows.

vi. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

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

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it is demonstrable that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the authority will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset. Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and is restricted to that incurred during the development phase (research expenditure cannot be capitalised).

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only revalued where the fair value of the assets held by the authority can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible asset held by the authority meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or

abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

vii. VAT

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

viii. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

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

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

The authority 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 authority 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 authority 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.

The Authority uses internal and external valuers to provide a valuation of its assets and liabilities in line with the highest and best use definition within the accounting standard. The highest and best use of the asset or liability being valued is considered from the perspective of a market participant.

Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of the Authority's fair value measurement of its assets and liabilities are categorised within the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1 – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the authority can access at the measurement date.

Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

ix. INTERESTS IN COMPANIES AND OTHER ENTITIES

The authority has no material interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures and require it to prepare group accounts. In the authority's own single-entity accounts, the interests in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses.

2. Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK (the Code) requires an authority to disclose information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted by the Code for the relevant financial year.

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:

There are a number of amendments as a result of the annual IFRS improvement programme but these are not expected to have a material impact on the Council's accounts.

3. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts, the Authority has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- The Authority has a Joint Waste Management arrangement with Lichfield District Council (LDC) as the host Authority responsible for management of the arrangement including the refuse fleet. Each Council is responsible for showing its share of income and expenditure and assets and liabilities within its Financial Statements.

In February 2016 the LDC procured a new waste fleet using a contract hire arrangement that has been evaluated under IAS 17 as a finance lease. The value of assets procured and the finance lease obligation was £2.2m.

A further £680k of assets was added to this during 2016/17. At 31 March 2023 the Net Book Value of the assets was £nil and the value of the finance lease obligation was £342k. The assets of the operation in respect of vehicles, equipment, land and buildings have been assessed as being under the control of Lichfield District Council and are therefore shown that Authority's Balance Sheet. The Joint Waste Service shares joint income and expenditure based on the ratio of properties in each area and the current ratio is 58.09% Lichfield and 41.91% Tamworth

The authority only includes within its accounts the payments it makes to LDC in respect of the service and its own assets which are used for the provision of the service. Payments to LDC are based on an agreed percentage of the total net cost of providing the service, based on the number of properties in each area, currently 41.91% for the Authority.

4. Assumptions Made About the Future & Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

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

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

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Pensions	<p>Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets.</p> <p>A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.</p>	<p>Adjustment to the level of liability on the Balance Sheet. During the year the overall liability decreased from £32.4m to a surplus of £1.1m (following a decrease in the deficit from £50.2m to £32.4m in 2021/22) – see Note 38 on page 107.</p> <p>Variations in the key assumptions will have the following impact on the net liability: A 0.1% decrease in the real discount rate will increase the net pension liability by £1.8m (2%); A 0.1% increase in the assumed level of salary increases will increase the net pension liability by £0.2m (0%); and A 0.1% increase in the assumed level of pension increases will increase the net pension liability by £1.6m (1%).</p>
Business Rates Retention	<p>The Local Government Finance Act 2012 introduced a Business Rates Retention Scheme that enabled local authorities to retain a proportion of the Business Rates generated in their area. The arrangements for the Business Rates came into effect on 1st April 2013. Billing authorities acting as agents on behalf of the major preceptors, Central Government and themselves and are required to make provisions for refunding ratepayers who have successfully appealed against the rateable</p>	<p>The Authority has included a provision of £1.8m (the overall provision in the Business Rates Collection Fund is £4.5m and the Authority's share of the Local Business Rates Retention scheme is 40%) for appeals outstanding on the 31st March 2023 of £37.5m. Local businesses can appeal against the Rateable Value on the 2010 Rating list under limited circumstances and can also appeal against the Rateable Value on the 2017 Rating List.</p>

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
	<p>value of their properties on the rating List.</p> <p>Staffordshire was successful in the application to become a 75% Business Rate Retention Pilot for 2019/20.</p> <p>The Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Business Rates Pilot consisted of Staffordshire County Council (SCC); Stoke on Trent City Council (SoTCC), all 8 District /Borough Councils and the Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire and Rescue and Crime (SPFCC) – for both the Police and Fire and Rescue Services (FARS). The pilot allowed 75% of Business Rates to be retained locally with 40% retained by the Districts, 34% by the County (74% for SoTCC as a Unitary Authority) and 1% for the FARS.</p> <p>Previously, the Council was a Member of the GBSLEP business rates pool. Half of the rates revenue was retained locally with Billing authorities acting as agents on behalf of the major preceptors (SCC 9% / SFARS 1%), Central Government (50%) and themselves (40%).</p> <p>The government announced that business rate pilot pools established for 2019/20 would not be allowed to continue and the pilot business rate pool ceased on 31st March 2020.</p> <p>The bid for a new business rate retention pool reverting back to the 50% retention scheme consisting of SoTCC, SCC, SFARS and the 8 District Councils was successful for 2020/21 and has continued into 2022/23.</p>	<p>The 2017 Rating List is subject to a fresh approach to appeals known as “Check, Challenge & Appeal” (CCA) which means that before an appeal is made the Rateable Value may be amended upon negotiation between the Valuation Office and the ratepayer (or their agents). This process will inevitably lead to a delay in appeals being made.</p> <p>It is difficult to estimate the likelihood of businesses both submitting and being successful with an appeal in the future and the Authority has therefore made provision in the accounts based on professional advice from independent valuers.</p> <p>The pool currently has large growth, however, there is uncertainty for the level of future income, which cannot be quantified at present, due to the planned reform of Local Government funding and the potential for a large rise in appeals arising from the closure of the 2017 list at the end of March 2023 and the new 2023 list from April 2023.</p>

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment and Investment Properties	<p>Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Authority will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets. Asset valuations are based on market prices and are periodically reviewed to ensure that the Council does not materially misstate its non-current assets. The Council's external valuers provided valuations as at 31st March 2023 following a review of all (100%) of its operational portfolio.</p> <p>The estimated remaining useful life of all operational assets is reviewed annually based on the advice from the Council external valuers.</p>	<p>If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for Council dwellings would increase by c.£74k for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.</p> <p>A reduction in the estimated valuations would result in reductions to the Revaluation Reserve and / or a loss recorded as appropriate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.</p> <p>An increase in estimated valuations would result in increases to the Revaluation Reserve and / or reversals of previous negative revaluations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and / or gains being recorded as appropriate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.</p> <p>Depreciation charges for operational buildings will change in direct relation to changes in estimated current value. The net book value of non-current assets subject to potential revaluation is £266.0m (£243.0m Council Dwellings and £23.0m Other Land and Buildings). A 1% movement in their valuation would equate to £26.6m. With regard to investment properties, a 1% movement in their valuation would equate to £2.3m.</p>

This list does not include assets and liabilities that are carried at fair value based on a recently observed market price.

5. Material Items of Income and Expense

When items of income and expense are material, their nature and amount is disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the notes to the accounts, depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the Authority's financial performance. This note identifies material items of income and expense. For the purposes of this note the Authority considers material items to be those greater than £1m. There were no material items during 2022/23.

6. Events after the Reporting Period

Events after the Balance Sheet reporting period are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the Balance Sheet date (31st March 2023) and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue (22nd June 2023). Two types of events can be identified:

- a) those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events. There have been no such events;
- b) those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where such 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.

While not yet completed, extensive work has been undertaken to scope and deliver the closure of Marmion House and relocation to new town centre premises for the Council. Much of the groundwork has been laid including feasibility studies, market analysis, and comprehensive considerations of need. A staged move to the ground floor was approved by Cabinet in November 2022 and it is anticipated this will be achieved by Summer of 2023. This will mean a significant amount of surplus accommodation within the building and an alternative valuation for Marmion House, in anticipation of the move, has been commissioned. The reduced valuation would have been £0.3m compared to the £1.9m existing use valuation as at 31st March 2023 as included within these accounts.

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

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Executive Director Finance on 22nd June 2023. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31st March 2023, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

7. Expenditure and Funding Analysis and Adjustment Detail

This statement shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, council tax and business rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the council's directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

			Expenditure Funding Analysis		
2021/22				2022/23	
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
			Cost of Services		
1,581	30	1,611	2,084	2	2,086
28	311	339	772	5,123	5,894
434	33	467	527	29	557
1,733	187	1,918	2,079	242	2,322
984	651	1,635	3,118	310	3,428
95	(1)	94	95	-	94
1,492	226	1,718	745	221	965
327	(931)	(604)	289	1,407	1,696
585	112	697	782	109	891
904	713	1,617	596	300	896
76	(2)	74	58	(1)	57
(16,017)	3,758	(12,259)	(15,589)	10,980	(4,609)
219	23	242	250	30	280
184	27	211	265	30	295
445	98	543	870	90	962
3,278	383	3,661	3,768	360	4,128
4,164	-	4,164	5,277	-	5,277
(965)	-	(965)	-	-	-
(453)	5,618	5,163	5,986	19,232	25,219
			Net Cost of Services		

2021/22			Expenditure Funding Analysis	2022/23		
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
1,496	(16,722)	(15,226)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(2,545)	(7,149)	(9,694)
1,041	(11,104)	(10,063)	(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	3,441	12,083	15,525
(9,962)			General Fund and HRA balances B/fwd	(39,921)		
1,043			(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	3,441		
(9,919)			Closing General Fund and HRA Balances	(36,480)		

				Expenditure Funding Analysis Adjustment Detail				
2021/22				2022/23				
Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note a)	Net Change for Pensions Adjustments (Note b)	Other Differences (Note c)	Total Adjustments					
£000	£000	£000	£000	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note a)	Net Change for Pensions Adjustments (Note b)	Other Differences (Note c)	Total Adjustments	
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
				Cost of Services				
-	29	1	30	-	6	(4)	2	
8	292	11	311	4,852	280	(9)	5,123	
-	32	1	33	-	32	(3)	29	
178	22	(13)	187	202	38	2	242	
224	420	7	651	(91)	404	(3)	310	
-	-	(1)	(1)	-	-	-	-	
-	228	(2)	226	-	227	(6)	221	
(963)	30	2	(931)	1,388	20	(1)	1,407	
23	92	(3)	112	24	81	4	109	
621	92	-	713	239	58	3	300	
-	-	(2)	(2)	-	-	(1)	(1)	
3,733	25	-	3,758	10,949	31	-	10,980	
-	24	(1)	23	-	30	-	30	
-	27	-	27	-	29	1	30	
-	94	4	98	-	92	(2)	90	
11	374	(2)	383	10	350	-	360	
3,835	1,781	2	5,618	17,573	1,678	(19)	19,232	
(11,173)	1,045	(6,594)	(16,722)	(7,121)	925	(953)	(7,149)	
(7,338)	2,826	(6,592)	(11,104)	10,452	2,603	(972)	12,083	
				(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services				

7a) Adjustments for Capital Purposes

Adjustments for capital purposes – this column adds in depreciation and impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the services line, and for:

- **Other operating expenditure** – adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.
- **Financing and investment income and expenditure** – the statutory charges for capital financing 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.
- **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 receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income and Expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

7b) Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

Net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 *Employee Benefits* pension related expenditure and income:

- **For services** this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the Authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
- **Financing and investment income and expenditure** – the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

7c) Other Differences

Other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:

- **Financing and investment income and expenditure** the other differences column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.
- **Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure** represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and NDR 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.

8. Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

2021/22 £000	Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature	2022/23 £000
	Expenditure	
12,767	Employee Benefits Expenses	14,269
32,701	Other Services Expense	36,527
3,260	Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	25,575
2,822	Retirement Benefits	2,603
641	REFCUS	1,379
418	Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-
52,609	Total Expenditure	80,353
	Income	
(426)	Gain on Disposal of Assets	(47)
(32,540)	Fees, Charges and Other Service Income	(33,627)
(1,415)	Interest and Investment Income	(3,293)
(6,457)	Income from Council Tax, NNDR and District Rates Income*	(7,083)
(21,834)	Government Grants and Contributions	(20,778)
(62,672)	Total Income	(64,828)
(10,063)	(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	15,525

* Net of NDR Tariff payment of £10.4m (£10.4m 2021/22).

9. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Regulations

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Authority in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Authority to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Regulations	Usable Reserves					Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
2022/23						
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Charges for depreciation and impairment of Non-Current Assets;	(5,219)	(14,305)	-	-	-	19,524
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment;	127	(654)	-	-	-	527
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties;	(3,092)	-	-	-	-	3,092
Movement in Fair Value of Capital Property Fund Investments	(2,254)	-	-	-	-	2,254
Amortisation of Intangible Assets;	(143)	(35)	-	-	-	178
Capital Grants and Contributions Applied;	3,813	1,000	-	-	-	(4,813)
Movement in the Donated Assets Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS);	(1,379)	-	-	-	-	1,379
Amounts on Non Current Assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.	(92)	(2,318)	-	-	-	2,410
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment – Minimum Revenue Provision;	204	-	-	-	-	(204)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment – Voluntary Revenue Provision;	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances.	337	6,524	-	-	-	(6,861)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:						
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	555	-	-	-	(555)	-
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/ loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;	37	2,459	(2,496)	-	-	-
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure;	-	-	2,528	-	-	(2,528)

Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Regulations	Usable Reserves					Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs of Non-Current Asset disposals;	-	(40)	40	-	-	-
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government Capital Receipts Pool;	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash.	(12)	-	-	-	-	12
Adjustment primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/ loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finance Leases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer of Kickstart loans from Birmingham City Council	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustments primarily involving the Major Repairs Reserve:						
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA;	-	4,035	-	(4,035)	-	-
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure.	-	-	-	4,423	-	(4,423)
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (see Note 38);	(3,904)	(1,249)	-	-	-	5,153
Employer's pensions contribution and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year.	1,940	610	-	-	-	(2,550)
Adjustment primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which Council Tax and Non Domestic Rating Income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from Council Tax and Non Domestic Rating Income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	955	-	-	-	-	(955)
Adjustment primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	15	2	-	-	-	(17)
Total Adjustments 2022/23	(8,112)	(3,971)	72	388	(555)	12,178

	Usable Reserves					Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Regulations						
2021/22						
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Charges for depreciation and impairment of Non-Current Assets;	(376)	(9,120)	-	-	-	9,496
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment;	1,043	2,331	-	-	-	(3,374)
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties;	1,691	-	-	-	-	(1,691)
Movement in Fair Value of Capital Property Fund Investments	1,311	-	-	-	-	(1,311)
Amortisation of Intangible Assets;	(119)	(21)	-	-	-	140
Capital Grants and Contributions Applied;	3,149	-	-	-	-	(3,149)
Movement in the Donated Assets Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS);	(641)	-	-	-	-	641
Amounts on Non Current Assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.	(7)	(1,378)	-	-	-	1,385
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment – Minimum Revenue Provision;	158	-	-	-	-	(158)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment – Voluntary Revenue Provision;	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances.	231	4,512	-	-	-	(4,743)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:						
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	125	-	-	-	(125)	-
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/ loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;	29	1,815	(1,844)	-	-	-

Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure;			6,996	-	-	(6,996)
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs of Non-Current Asset disposals;	-	(33)	33	-	-	-
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government Capital Receipts Pool;	(418)	-	418	-	-	-
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash.	(12)	-	-	-	-	12
Adjustment primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/ loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finance Leases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer of Kickstart loans from Birmingham City Council	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustments primarily involving the Major Repairs Reserve:						
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA;	-	3,065	-	(3,065)	-	-
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure.	-	-	-	2,628	-	(2,628)
Adjustment primarily involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (see Note 38);	(3,998)	(1,240)	-	-	-	5,238
Employer's pensions contribution and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year.	1,851	565	-	-	-	(2,416)
Adjustment primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which Council Tax and Non Domestic Rating Income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from Council Tax and Non Domestic Rating Income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	6,594	-	-	-	-	(6,594)
Adjustment primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	(1)	-	-	-	-	1
Total Adjustments 2021/22	10,610	496	5,603	(437)	(125)	(16,147)

10. Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves

The Authority sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by transferring amounts out of the General Fund or Housing Revenue Account balance.

When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year to score against the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then transferred back into the General Fund or Housing Revenue Account balance so that there is no net charge against Council Tax or housing rent for the expenditure.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for Non Current Assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Authority – these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund and HRA Balances in Earmarked Reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from Earmarked Reserves to meet General Fund and HRA Expenditure in 2022/23.

Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	Balance at 1 st April 2021 £000	Transfers Out 2021/22 £000	Transfers In 2021/22 £000	Balance at 31 st March 2022 £000	Transfers Out 2022/23 £000	Transfers In 2022/23 £000	Balance at 31 st March 2023 £000
General Fund:							
Future Capital Expenditure	1,295	(51)	347	1,591	(274)	172	1,489
Temporary Reserves	1,279	(528)	826	1,577	(681)	1,002	1,898
Retained Funds	10,841	(7,217)	2,793	6,417	(1,672)	981	5,726
Commutated Sums	2,136	(1,955)	3,379	3,560	(1,241)	2,312	4,631
Other Reserves	2,557	(761)	564	2,360	(1,040)	496	1,816
Total	18,108	(10,512)	7,909	15,505	(4,908)	4,963	15,560
HRA:							
Future Capital Expenditure	8,312	(4,512)	4,776	8,576	(6,523)	4,856	6,909
Temporary Reserves	573	(267)	316	622	(308)	334	648
Retained Funds	294	(31)	19	282	(29)	668	921
Other Reserves	62	-	-	62	-	-	62
Total	9,241	(4,810)	5,111	9,542	(6,860)	5,858	8,540

Future Capital Expenditure: The Authority maintains a Capital Reserve under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. It is Authority policy to make advances from this fund to various services.

Temporary Reserves: These have been established by the transfer of funds from revenue in order to finance specific identified schemes or potential needs.

Retained Funds: These have been established in order to finance recurring irregular expenditure for a specific purpose.

Commuted Sums: These are monies deposited by contractors to finance future maintenance expenditure incurred as a result of the various developments.

Other Reserves: The largest of these is the Building Repairs Fund that is held for the maintenance of Municipal buildings, including commercial properties.

11. Other Operating Expenditure

2021/22 £000	Other Operating Expenditure	2022/23 £000
418	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-
(426)	(Gains) / losses on the disposal of Non Current Assets	(47)
(8)	Total	(47)

12. Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure

2021/22 £000	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	2022/23 £000
2,604	Interest payable and similar charges	2,958
1,031	Pension interest costs and expected return on pensions assets	909
(576)	Interest receivable and similar income	(2,454)
(839)	Finance Lease Income	(838)
(3,105)	(Income) and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	2,646
(1,311)	Investment impairment	2,253
(2,196)	Total	5,474

13. Taxation & Non Specific Grant Income

2021/22 £000	Taxation and Non Specific Grant Incomes	2022/23 £000
(4,291)	Council Tax income	(4,447)
(12,572)	Non Domestic Rates	(13,042)
10,406	Non Domestic Rates - Tariff	10,406
730	Non Domestic Rates - Levy to Pool	1,264
(4,021)	Non ringfenced government grants	(3,934)
(3,274)	Capital grants and contributions	(5,368)
(13,022)	Total	(15,121)

A detailed breakdown of the grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2022/23 is shown in Note 32 on page 95.

14. Property, Plant & Equipment

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

a) Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, subject to a de minimus level of £10k, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

b) Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- i. the purchase price;
- ii. 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 management; and
- iii. the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

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

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

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

- i. Infrastructure, Community Assets and Assets Under Construction – depreciated historical cost;
- ii. Dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH); and
- iii. all other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (Existing Use Value – EUV).

Where there is no market-based evidence of current value because of the specialised nature of an asset, Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of current value. Where non property assets that have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for current value. In the case of the Assembly Rooms and Cemeteries valuations, there is no active market and so DRC is used.

Assets included in 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 year end, but as a minimum every five years – including an annual desktop review of all Council Dwellings. A review of the valuation of all significant assets is undertaken annually.

Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

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

- i. where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down firstly against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains);
- ii. 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 lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

c) Impairment

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

Where the Authority has incurred capital expenditure on Council dwellings this is included within the Gross Book Value (GBV) and where it is not considered to add value it is included as impairment. These impairments are subject to write out annually.

The Authority has an ongoing programme of regeneration including disposal and redevelopment of garage sites. Where the decision had been made to dispose of a garage site, the value of the buildings element has been impaired to zero leaving only a residual land value.

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

- i. where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down firstly against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains);
- ii. 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 lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

d) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land and certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. Assets Under Construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- i. **Council Housing Stock:** on a straight line basis to an appropriate residual value over the expected useful life of the asset of 50 years.
- ii. **Other Buildings:** on a straight line basis to a nil residual value over the expected useful life of the asset being a range of 5 years to 70 years.

Historical properties: on a straight line basis to a nil residual value over the expected useful life of the asset being over 100 years

- iii. **Vehicles, Plant and Equipment:** on a straight line basis to a nil residual value over the expected useful life of the asset, being between 1 and 30 years.
- iv. **Infrastructure:** on a straight line basis to a nil residual value over the expected useful life of the asset of 30 years.
- v. **Community Assets:** on a straight line basis to a nil residual value over the expected useful life of the asset of 100 years.
- vi. **Heritage Assets:** the Authority considers that the Heritage Assets held will have indeterminate lives and a high residual value; hence the Authority does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation for the assets.
- vii. **Computer Hardware:** is depreciated over a period of 3 years on a straight line basis to a nil residual value.
- viii. **Investment Properties and Surplus Assets:** no depreciation has been applied to either the land or building value of Investment Properties or Surplus Assets.

- ix. **Intangible Fixed Assets:** computer software licences are amortised to revenue over a period of 3 years.
- x. **Furniture and equipment** – minor purchases by the Authority are charged to revenue in the year of acquisition and are not capitalised in the accounts.
- xi. **De minimus items** of expenditure on computer equipment and software are capitalised under the concept of ‘Grouped Assets’ where the value of such items is material. A charge is made for these assets (depreciation for equipment and amortisation for software), calculated using the straight line method over a period of three years.

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately – as detailed within the Component Accounting Policy for Property, Plant and Equipment.

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

e) Disposals and Non Current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and current value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to current value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in current value are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses recognised in the (Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale, they are reclassified back to Non Current Assets and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as Held for Sale; adjusted for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations that would have been recognised had they not been classified as Held for Sale, and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

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

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10k are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of capital receipts relating to housing disposals is payable to the government. The balance of receipts remains within the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the authority's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement) (England and Wales). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

f) Component Accounting Policy for Property, Plant and Equipment

i. De Minimus Level

The de minimus threshold for the Authority is a current net book value of £250k. Individual assets with a value less than £250k will be disregarded for componentisation. This level will be reviewed annually.

ii. Policy for Componentisation

The code requires that each part of an asset should be separately identified and depreciated where the cost is significant in relation to the overall cost of the asset.

To be separately identified as a component, an element of an asset must meet the following criteria:

- have a cost of at least 20% of the cost of the overall asset and
- have a materially different useful life (at least 20% different) and/or
- have a different depreciation method that materially affects the amount charged

The componentisation policy will be applied to new capital spend and new assets with a total cost of over £250k will be considered under the componentisation policy as follows:

- when an asset is enhanced, the cost of the replacement component is compared with the cost of the total asset and the result is measured against the agreed de minimus threshold;
- When an asset is acquired: the cost of any component parts are compared with the overall cost of the new asset and the results assessed against the agreed de minimus threshold;

iii. Valuation

The 5 year valuation cycle remains and therefore componentisation needs to be considered for each asset in the portfolio.

In addition in each financial year, a list of assets that have had capital expenditure incurred will be passed to the valuers who can consider componentisation for any properties not already reviewed.

iv. Impairment

We will continue to complete a desktop Impairment review on an annual basis.

Movement in 2022/23	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation							
At 1st April 2022	241,940	23,543	5,136	378	1,159	3,999	276,155
Additions	10,270	1,315	233	-	-	5,504	17,322
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment written off to Gross Carrying Amount;	(13,867)	(1,016)	-	-	-	-	(14,883)
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve;	6,270	556	-	-	-	-	6,826
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services;	358	(885)	-	-	-	-	(527)
Derecognition - Disposals;	(1,994)	(483)	(883)	-	-	-	(3,360)
At 31st March 2023	242,977	23,030	4,486	378	1,159	9,503	281,533
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment							
At 1st April 2022	-	(32)	(3,595)	(278)	(5)	-	(3,910)
Depreciation Charge;	(3,609)	(1,040)	(181)	(12)	-	-	(4,842)
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment written off to Gross Carrying Amount;	13,867	1,016	-	-	-	-	14,883
Impairment losses / (reversals) recognised in the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services;	(10,270)	-	-	-	-	(4,411)	(14,681)
Derecognition - disposals.	12	56	883	-	-	-	951
At 31st March 2023	-	-	(2,893)	(290)	(5)	(4,411)	(7,599)
Net Book Value							
at 31st March 2022	241,940	23,511	1,541	100	1,154	3,999	272,245
at 31st March 2023	242,977	23,030	1,593	88	1,154	5,092	273,934
Nature of Holdings at year end							
Owned	242,977	23,030	1,593	88	1,154	5,092	273,934

Movement in 2021/22	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation							
At 1st April 2021	198,139	24,321	4,543	378	1,155	100	228,636
Additions	8,414	1	593	-	7	3,899	12,914
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment written off to Gross Carrying Amount;	(9,013)	(584)	-	-	-	-	(9,597)
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve;	43,427	(1,090)	-	-	-	-	42,337
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services;	2,337	1,037	-	-	-	-	3,374
Derecognition - Disposals;	(1,364)	(27)	-	-	(3)	-	(1,394)
Assets reclassified (to) / from Investment Properties;	-	(115)	-	-	-	-	(115)
At 31st March 2022	241,940	23,543	5,136	378	1,159	3,999	276,155
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment							
At 1st April 2021	-	(287)	(3,466)	(265)	(4)	-	(4,022)
Depreciation Charge;	(2,965)	(334)	(129)	(13)	(1)	-	(3,442)
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment written off to Gross Carrying Amount;	9,013	584	-	-	-	-	9,597
Impairment losses / (reversals) recognised in the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services;	(6,054)	-	-	-	-	-	(6,054)
Derecognition - disposals.	6	5	-	-	-	-	11
At 31st March 2022	-	(32)	(3,595)	(278)	(5)	-	(3,910)
Net Book Value							
at 31st March 2021	198,139	24,034	1,077	113	1,151	100	224,614
at 31st March 2022	241,940	23,511	1,541	100	1,154	3,999	272,245
Nature of Holdings at year end							
Owned	241,940	23,511	1,541	100	1,154	3,999	272,245
Finance Lease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

a) Capital Commitments

At 31st March 2023, the Authority has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2021/23 and future years. The major commitments for schemes valued in excess of £1m are:

2021/22 £000	Capital Contract	2022/23 £000
6,860	Housing Repairs & Investment	7,614
2,233	Improvements to High Rise Blocks	1,269
1,390	Retention of Garage Sites	814
3,200	Decarbonisation	1,117
-	Caledonian Depot New Build	1,500
3,527	Regeneration & Affordable Housing - purchase of properties at Wilnecote	1,009
-	Future High Street Funds	18,991
17,210	Total	32,314

b) Revaluations

The Authority carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at current value is revalued at least every five years. The effective date of revaluation is 31st March 2023. The valuations have been carried out by Jones Lang Lasalle. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Valuations of vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are carried at historical cost as a proxy for current value.

The Authority carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at current value is revalued at least every five years – including a desktop review of all Council Dwellings. A review of the valuation of all significant assets is undertaken annually. All assets have been revalued as at 31st March 2023.

The following statement shows the progress of the Authority's rolling programme for revaluation of Non Current Assets:

Valuations (Cost or Valuation)	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Intangible Assets	Total Property, Plant & Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Valued at Historical Cost	-	-	4,487	378	1,160	9,503	596	16,124
Valued at Current Value in:								
2022/23	242,977	23,030	-	-	-	-	-	266,007
2021/22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2020/21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2019/20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018/19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	242,977	23,030	4,487	378	1,160	9,503	596	282,131

15. Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are assets that are held by the Authority because of their cultural, environmental or historical value. Tangible Heritage Assets include historical buildings, paintings, sculptures / statues, archives and other works of art.

The Authority's Museum, Art and Civic Heritage Assets are held in various sites. The Museum Collection has four main collections, General Collection, Art, Furniture and Archaeological Collection and Ephemera.

The collections are used for education, learning, research, enjoyment and are preserved for the use of future generations.

Valuation of Heritage Assets

The Code requires that Heritage Assets are measured at valuation in the 2022/23 financial statements (including the 2021/22 comparative information). The Authority will recognise in the Balance Sheet each asset shown in the table which has an identified value.

Heritage Assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the Authority's accounting policies on Property, Plant and Equipment. However, some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to Heritage Assets as detailed below.

The accounting policies in relation to Heritage Assets that are deemed to include elements of intangible Heritage Assets are also presented below.

- **General Collection:** Tamworth Castle has held collections and maintained a museum since it was purchased for the Borough in 1897. The collections are crucial for maximising access to and understanding of Tamworth's heritage. These items are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on Market values. Acquisitions, although rare, are initially recognised at cost.
- **Art Collection:** The collection consists principally of views of Tamworth by local artists although some are nationally recognised. The mediums covered include oil, watercolour, lithographs, mezzotints and prints. These too are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation based on Market values.
- **Archaeological Collection and Ephemera:** The archaeological collection consists mainly of finds from various excavations local to Tamworth, usually as a result of building development around Tamworth Castle site but also in the town and further afield. These are not recognised on the Balance Sheet as cost or valuation information is not reliable for items of this type due to the diverse nature, and lack of comparable market values for the assets held.
- **Civic Collection and Statues:** The Authority's Civic Collection and Statues were valued in April 2012 by external valuers. These assets are deemed to have an indeterminate life with high residual values; hence the Authority does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

- **Tamworth Castle:** The castle dates from c1070 but has been updated and modernised during the interim period. The current value is based on historic cost but there are regular works to maintain the property.

Movement in 2022/23	Art Collection	Civic Regalia	Museum Exhibits	Statues	Castle	Total Heritage Assets
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation						
At 1st April 2022	97	174	624	254	2,528	3,677
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31st March 2023	97	174	624	254	2,528	3,677

Movement in 2021/22	Art Collection	Civic Regalia	Museum Exhibits	Statues	Castle	Total Heritage Assets
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation						
At 1st April 2021	97	174	624	256	2,424	3,575
Additions	-	-	-	-	104	104
Disposals	-	-	-	(2)	-	(2)
At 31st March 2022	97	174	624	254	2,528	3,677

16. Investment Properties

Investment Properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods.

Investment Properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use. Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

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

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

2021/22	Investment Properties	2022/23
£000		£000
(1,774)	Rental income from Investment Property	(1,645)
360	Direct operating expenses arising from Investment Property	1,214
(1,414)	Net (Gain) / Loss	(431)

There are no restrictions on the Authority's ability to realise the value inherent in its Investment Properties or on the Authority's right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The Authority has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or repairs, maintenance or enhancement.

The following table summarises the movement in the fair value of Investment Properties over the year:

2021/22 £000	Fair Value of Investment Properties	2022/23 £000
23,691	Balance at 1st April 2022	25,502
5	Additions: Subsequent expenditure	-
115	Transfers: to / from Property, Plant and Equipment	-
1,691	Valuations: Changes in market valuation	(3,092)
25,502	Balance at 31st March 2023	22,410

Fair Value Hierarchy - All the Authority's investment properties have been value assessed as Level 2 on the fair value hierarchy for valuation purposes (see Note 1 for an explanation of the fair value levels).

Valuation Techniques Used to Determine Level 2 Fair Values for Investment Property - The fair value of investment property has been measured using an income approach, by means of discounted cashflow method, where the expected cash flows from the properties are discounted (using a market – derived discount rate) to establish the present value of the net income stream. The approach has been developed using the Authority's own data requiring it to factor in assumptions such as the duration and timing of cash inflows and outflows, rent growth, occupancy levels, bad debt levels, maintenance costs, etc.

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

Highest and Best Use - In estimating the fair value of the Authority's investment properties, the highest and best use is their current use.

Valuation Process for Investment Properties - The Authority's investment property has been valued as at 31st March 2023 by Jones Lang Lasalle, in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

17. Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

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

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

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

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

Expected Credit Loss Model

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

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.

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

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

Fair value of an asset is the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurements of the financial assets are based on the following techniques:

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

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

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

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

a) Categories of Financial Instruments

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

Financial Assets	Non-Current		Current			
	Investments		Investments		Debtors	
	31st March 2022 £000	31st March 2023 £000	31st March 2022 £000	31st March 2023 £000	31st March 2022 £000	31st March 2023 £000
Amortised Cost						
Principal	-	-	55,000	59,000	-	-
Investment Interest Accrual	-	-	195	843	-	-
Cash & Cash Equivalents (CCE)	-	-	-	-	13,448	1,490
CCE Accrued Interest	-	-	-	-	7	23
Total Investments	-	-	55,195	59,843	13,455	1,513
Trade Debtors	12,777	12,716	-	-	5,140	5,555
Total Amortised Cost	12,777	12,716	55,195	59,843	18,595	7,068
Fair Value Through Profit and Loss (Investment in Property Funds)	13,095	10,842	-	-	-	-
Total Financial Assets	25,872	23,558	55,195	59,843	18,595	7,068

The current trade debtors outstanding includes contractual debtors but excludes non-contractual debtors for council tax, business rates and Government departments.

Non-current trade debtors of £12m relate to a long term finance lease for the Ankerside Shopping Centre including car park, with a remaining term of 67 years. The Authority has a gross investment in the lease, made up of the minimum lease payments expected to be received over the remaining term and the residual value anticipated for the property when the lease comes to an end. 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 Authority in future years whilst the debtor remains outstanding.

Financial Liabilities	Non-Current		Current	
	Borrowings		Creditors	
	31st March 2022 £000	31st March 2023 £000	31st March 2022 £000	31st March 2023 £000
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Amortised Cost				
Principal	63,060	63,060	-	-
Interest Payable Accrual	-	-	309	310
Total Borrowings	63,060	63,060	309	310
Bank Overdraft	-	-	1,233	876
Trade Creditors	-	-	4,797	7,446
Total Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	63,060	63,060	6,339	8,632

b) Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and Movement in Reserves Statements in relation to financial instruments are made up as follows.

Financial Instruments	Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services
	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Net gains/losses on:		
Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss	(1,311)	2,253
Total net gains/losses	(1,311)	2,253
Interest revenue:		
Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost	(576)	(2,454)
Total interest revenue	(576)	(2,454)
Interest expense		
Fee expense:		
Financial Assets or Financial Liabilities that are not at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss	2,604	2,958
Total fee expense	2,604	2,958

c) Fair Value of Financial Assets

Some of the authority's financial assets are measured at fair value on a recurring basis and are described in the following table, including the valuation techniques used to measure them.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value				
Recurring Fair Value Measurements	Input level in fair value hierarchy	Valuation technique used to measure fair value	31st March 2022	31st March 2023
			£000	£000
Fair Value Through Profit and Loss				
Other Financial Instruments Classified as Fair Value Through Profit and Loss	Level 1	Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical shares (Investments in Property Funds)	13,095	10,842
Total			13,095	10,842

Investments made in property funds are as follows:-

Schroders UK Real Estate Fund - £1.9m, with a gross return/yield of 3.89% at 31st March 2023.

Threadneedle Property Unit Trust - £6.0m, with a gross return/yield of 4.14%

Hermes Federated Property Unit Trust - £4.1m, with a gross return/yield of 3.14%

Total investments - £12.0m, with an estimated return of c. 3.8% plus any capital growth. The total value of these investments at 31st March 2023 is £10.8m (£13.1m at 31st March 2022).

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

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

- For loans from the PWLB payable, PWLB new market rates have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures. An additional note to the tables sets out the alternative fair value measurement applying the premature repayment/borrowing rates, highlighting the impact of the alternative valuation;

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

The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount. The fair values calculated are as follows:

Financial Liabilities	31st March 2022		31st March 2023	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
PWLB Debt*	63,369	84,747	63,370	57,408
Creditors	4,797	4,797	7,446	7,446
Total Financial Liabilities	68,166	89,544	70,816	64,854

* includes short term interest accrual of £310k.

The fair value of the liabilities is greater than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans in the market at the balance sheet date. This shows a notional future loss (based on economic conditions at 31st March 2023) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates.

The fair value of Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans of £57.4m measures the economic effect of the terms agreed with the PWLB compared with estimates of the terms that would be offered for market transactions undertaken at the Balance Sheet date. The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value measures the additional interest that the authority will pay over the remaining terms of the loans under the agreements with the PWLB, against what would be paid if the loans were at prevailing market rates.

The authority has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than from the markets. If a value is calculated on this basis, the carrying amount of £63.1m would be valued at £57.4m. But, if the authority were to seek to avoid the projected loss by repaying the loans to the PWLB, the PWLB would raise a penalty charge for early redemption in addition to charging a premium for the additional interest that will not now be paid/giving a discount for the reduced interest income that will be avoided. The exit price for the PWLB loans including the penalty charge would be £67.5m.

Loans and Receivables	31st March 2022		31st March 2023	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Money Market Loans <1 year	55,195	55,195	59,843	59,843
Cash & Cash Equivalents	13,455	13,455	1,513	1,513
Long Term Investments	13,095	13,095	10,842	10,842
Debtors	5,140	5,140	5,555	5,555
Long Term Debtors	12,777	12,777	12,716	12,716
Total Financial Assets	99,662	99,662	90,469	90,469

The current trade debtors outstanding includes contractual debtors but excludes non-contractual debtors for council tax, business rates and Government departments.

Where the fair value of the assets is lower than the carrying amount this is because the Authority's portfolio of investments includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate receivable is lower than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date and vice versa. For 2022/23, a notional future gain (based on economic conditions at 31st March 2023) was attributable to the commitment to receive interest above current market rates.

Short-term debtors and creditors are carried at cost as this is a fair approximation of their value.

e) Fair value hierarchy for financial assets and financial liabilities that are not measured at fair value

Recurring Fair Value Measurements Using:	Other Significant Observable Inputs	Other Significant Observable Inputs
	(Level 2)	(Level 2)
	31st March 2022	31st March 2023
	£000	£000
Financial Liabilities		
Financial Liabilities Held at Amortised Cost:		
PWLB	63,369	63,370
Total	63,369	63,369
Financial assets		
Financial Assets Held at Amortised Cost:		
	68,650	61,356
Total	68,650	61,356

18. Debtors

2021/22 £000	Debtors	2022/23 £000
	Trade Receivables:	
554	Other Local Authority	227
2,473	Housing Rent	2,504
2,809	Other Entities and Individuals	3,543
5,836		6,274
	Other Receivable Amounts:	
1,147	Government Departments	1,581
156	Business Rates	88
125	Council Tax Payers	144
1,428		1,813
(696)	Invoices raised in Advance for 2022/23	(719)
(696)		(719)
(3,109)	Less Provision for Bad Debt/Expected Credit Losses	(3,772)
(3,109)		(3,772)
3,459	Total Debtors	3,596

The past due amount for local taxation (council tax and non-domestic rates) can be analysed by age as follows:

Debtors 2021/22 £000	Bad debt Provisions 2021/22 £000	Debtors for Local Taxation - Council Tax & Non-domestic Rates	Debtors 2022/23 £000	Bad Debt Provisions 2022/23 £000
1,891	667	Less than one year	1,826	645
784	406	One to two years	897	443
597	391	Two to three years	586	365
1,383	1,191	More than three years	1,714	1,485
4,655	2,655	Total	5,023	2,938

19. Cash & Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by Cash in Hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in 3 months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In 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 Authority's cash management.

The balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents is made up of the following elements:

2021/22 £000	Cash and Cash Equivalents	2022/23 £000
3	Cash held by the Authority	6
(1,233)	Bank current accounts	(876)
13,455	Short term deposits with Banks and Building Societies	2,389
12,225	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,519

20. Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and current value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses recognised in the (Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale, they are reclassified back to Non Current Assets and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as Held for Sale; adjusted for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations that would have been recognised had they not been classified as Held for Sale, and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

There were no assets held for sale at 31st March 2023 (there were no assets held for sale at 31st March 2022).

21. Creditors

2021/22 £000	Creditors	2022/23 £000
	Trade Payables:	
950	Other Local Authorities	909
580	Housing Rent	559
3,267	Other Entities and Individuals	5,978
4,797		7,446
	Other Payables:	
14,217	Government Departments	2,519
133	Council Tax Payers	149
658	Precepting Authorities (Business Rates)	2,437
1,422	Precepting Authorities (Council Tax)	1,106
500	Business Rates Payments	720
16,930		6,931
21,727		14,377

22. Provisions

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

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

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

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

a) Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI)

This provision has been established as a result of the decision to trigger the 'Scheme of Arrangement' (SOA) with regard to Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI), at a meeting of the Board of Directors on 13th November 2012. Under this SOA, the Authority is liable to pay a levy up to the value of claims paid since 1993 (£252k) and a provision of £33k was established to cover the potential additional levy of up to 28%. There is currently a remaining provision of £8k.

b) Business Rates Appeals

Under Business Rates Retention arrangements, Billing authorities acting as agents on behalf of the major preceptors (10%), Central Government (50%) and themselves (40%) are required to make provisions for refunding ratepayers who have successfully appealed against the rateable value of their properties on the Rating List. The Authority has included a provision of £1.8m (£1.9m – 2021/22)- the overall provision in the Business Rates Collection Fund is £4.5m (£4.7m – 2021/22) and the Authority's share of the Local Business Rates Retention scheme is 40% for appeals outstanding on the 31st March 2023 of £37.5m (£35.2m 2021/22).

Further details regarding the approach to determining the NDR provision can be found in Note 39 - Contingent Liabilities as local businesses could still appeal against the Rateable Value on the 2010 Rating List under limited circumstances and can also appeal against the Rateable Value on the 2017 Rating List.

Provisions	Municipal Mutual Insurance £000	Short-Term Non Domestic Rates Appeals £000	Short Term Provisions Total £000	Long Term - Non Domestic Rates Appeals £000
Balance at 1st April 2021	8	722	730	1,906
Additional provisions made in year	-	(153)	(153)	(460)
Amount used in year	-	(27)	(27)	(80)
Balance at 31st March 2022	8	542	550	1,366
Additional provisions made in year	-	120	120	357
Amount used in year	-	(141)	(141)	(425)
Balance at 31st March 2023	8	521	529	1,298

23. Unusable Reserves

31st March 2022 £000	Unusable Reserves	31st March 2023 £000
110,363	Revaluation Reserve	114,035
394	Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve	(314)
126,313	Capital Adjustment Account	119,643
(33,340)	Pensions Reserve	1,091
12,662	Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	12,650
(293)	Accumulated Absences Account	(276)
(1,663)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(708)
214,436	Total Unusable Reserves	246,121

a) Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Authority arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost;
- used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation; or
- disposed of and the gains are realised.

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1st April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

2021/22 £000	Revaluation Reserve	2022/23 £000
69,726	Balance at 1st April 2022	110,363
42,338	Revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	6,827
42,338	Surplus or deficit on the revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	6,827
(1,701)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(3,155)
(1,701)	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	(3,155)
110,363	Balance at 31st March 2023	114,035

b) Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of Non Current Assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

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

Note 9 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

2021/22 £000	Capital Adjustment Account	2022/23 £000
112,618	Balance at 1st April 2022	126,313
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
(9,496)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of Non Current Assets;	(19,524)
3,374	Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment;	(527)
917	Movement in Fair Value of Capital Property Fund Investments	(1,544)
(140)	Amortisation of Intangible Assets;	(178)
(641)	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute;	(1,379)
(1,385)	Amounts of Non Current Assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gains / loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;	(2,410)
(7,371)		(25,562)
1,701	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	3,155
(5,670)	Net written out amount of the cost of Non Current Assets consumed in the year	(22,407)
	Capital financing applied in the year:	
6,996	Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure;	2,528
2,628	Use of Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure;	4,423
3,149	Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing;	4,813
158	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances - Minimum Revenue Provision;	204
4,743	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA Balances.	6,861
17,674		18,829
1,691	Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.	(3,092)
126,313	Balance at 31st March 2023	119,643

c) Pension 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 Authority accounts for post employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Authority makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible.

The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Authority has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

2021/22 £000	Pensions Reserve	2022/23 £000
(52,185)	Balance at 1st April 2022	(33,340)
21,667	Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability / (asset)	37,034
(5,238)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(5,153)
2,416	Employer's contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	2,550
(33,340)	Balance at 31st March 2023	1,091

c) 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 Authority does not treat these gains as usable for financing new capital expenditure until they are backed by cash receipts. When the deferred cash settlement eventually takes place, amounts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve. The majority of the current balance relates to the accounting arrangements for finance leases under IFRS.

2021/22 £000	Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	2022/23 £000
12,674	Balance at 1st April 2022	12,662
(12)	Transfer to Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	(12)
12,662	Balance at 31st March 2023	12,650

e) Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year, e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31st March 2023. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account.

2021/22 £000	Accumulated Absences Account	2022/23 £000
(292)	Balance at 1st April 2022	(293)
292	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	293
(293)	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(276)
(1)	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	17
(293)	Balance at 31st March 2023	(276)

f) Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of council tax and business rates income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it falls due from tax payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

2021/22 £000	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	2022/23 £000
(8,257)	Balance at 1st April 2022	(1,663)
6,594	Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rating income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	955
(1,663)	Balance at 31st March 2023	(708)

The reduction in the balance on the CFAA is due to a reduction in the deficit on the NDR Collection Fund of £2.1m (£4.6m in 2021/22) arising from the additional relief provided to local businesses as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Government have provided funding for the additional reliefs through Section 31 grants to Local Authorities.

It should be noted however, that this represents the total Collection Fund impact, and the Council's 40% share of this equates to c.£0.8m which has been reflected in the Councils accounts and transferred to reserve to fund the deficit carried forward to 2023/24 (in line with collection fund accounting practice – whereby the deficit is funded in the following financial year as part of the budget process).

24. Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

The cash flows for the operating activities include the following items:

2021/22 £000	Cash Flow Statement - Operating Activities	2022/23 £000
	The cash flows for operating activities include the following items	
(2,037)	Interest received	5,025
2,604	Interest paid	2,958
567		7,983
10,063	Net Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	(15,525)
	Adjusted for non cash movements	
9,496	Depreciation and Impairment	19,524
(3,374)	Downward Valuations	527
140	Amortisation	178
2,625	Increase / Decrease in Creditors	(5,737)
(818)	Increase / Decrease in Debtors	(2,948)
9	Increase / Decrease in Inventories	4
3,835	Movement in Pension Liability	4,668
1,385	Carrying amount of Non Current Assets and Non Current Assets Held for Sale, sold or de-recognised	2,409
(3,328)	Other non cash items charged to the Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	4,547
9,970		23,172
	Adjusted for items that are Investing or Financing Activities	
(4,736)	Proceeds from Short-Term (Not Considered to be Cash Equivalents) and Long-Term investments (Includes Investments in Associates, Joint Ventures and Subsidiaries)	(4,813)
(1,811)	Proceeds from the sale of Property, Plant and Equipment, Investment Property and Intangible Assets	(2,456)
(6,547)		(7,269)
13,486	Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities Surplus/(Deficit)	378

25. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

2021/22 £000	Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities	2022/23 £000
14,803	Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment; Investment Property and Intangible Assets	17,386
(1,811)	Proceeds from the sale of Property, Plant and Equipment; Investment Property and Intangible Assets	(2,456)
16,535	Proceeds from Short Term and Long Term Investments	3,291
(10,618)	Other receipts from Investing Activities	(8,839)
18,909	Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	9,382

26. Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

2021/22 £000	Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities	2022/23 £000
(6,674)	Other receipts from Financing Activities	1,702
(6,674)	Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	1,702

27. Acquisitions & Discontinued Operations

Acquired Operations

There were no acquired operations during 2022/23 (2021/22 – none).

Discontinued Operations

The results of discontinued operations are shown as a single amount on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement comprising the profit or loss of discontinued operations and the gain or loss recognised either on measurement to fair value less costs to sell or on the disposal of the discontinued operation. A discontinued operation is a unit that has been disposed of, or is classified as an Asset Held for Sale.

There were no discontinued operations during 2022/23 (2021/22 – none).

28. Trading Operations

The Authority has a number of trading operations required to operate in a commercial environment as follows:

2021/22 Income £000	2021/22 Income £000	2021/22 (Surplus)/ Deficit £000	Trading Operations	2022/23 Expendit ure £000	2022/23 Income £000	2022/23 (Surplus)/ Deficit £000
5	(18)	(13)	Markets	4	(18)	(14)
(2,646)	(965)	(3,611)	Industrial Estates	617	(910)	(293)
1,315	(809)	506	Other Land and Property	3,690	(735)	2,955
(1,326)	(1,792)	(3,118)	Total	4,311	(1,663)	2,648

Trading Operations are incorporated into the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

29. Members' Allowances

The Authority paid the following amounts to members of the Authority during the year.

2021/22 £000	Members Allowances	2022/23 £000
172	Basic Allowance	171
101	Special Responsibility	109
4	Other Allowances/Expenses	4
277	Total	284

30. Officers' Remuneration

Benefits Payable During Employment

Short term employee benefits are those due to be settled wholly 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 (e.g. staff health cover) for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Authority. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

The remuneration paid to the Authority's Senior Employees is as follows:

Officers Remuneration	Year	Salary, Fees and Allowances	Expenses Allowances	Sub-Total	Pension Contribution	Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive	2022/23	125,704	1,014	126,718	20,690	147,408
	2021/22	125,414	1,094	126,508	20,357	146,865
Executive Director Organisation	2022/23	100,100	1,015	101,115	16,466	117,581
	2021/22	97,736	1,094	98,830	16,148	114,978
Executive Director Communities	2022/23	94,781	1,291	96,072	15,588	111,660
	2021/22	92,417	1,370	93,787	15,270	109,057
Executive Director Finance	2022/23	94,781	1,015	95,796	15,588	111,384
	2021/22	92,417	1,094	93,511	15,270	108,781
Assistant Director Neighbourhoods	2022/23	82,378	1,015	83,393	13,542	96,934
	2021/22	80,014	1,094	81,108	13,224	94,332
Assistant Director Growth and Regeneration	2022/23	82,878	1,015	83,893	13,624	97,517
	2021/22	78,386	1,094	79,480	13,955	93,435
Assistant Director People	2022/23	82,378	1,291	83,669	13,542	97,211
	2021/22	80,014	1,370	81,384	13,224	94,608
Assistant Director Partnerships	2022/23	71,378	1,291	72,669	11,727	84,395
	2021/22	69,014	1,370	70,384	11,409	81,793
Assistant Director Operations and Leisure	2022/23	71,494	1,239	72,734	11,746	84,479
	2021/22	69,130	1,370	70,500	11,428	81,928
Assistant Director Finance*	2022/23	66,061	52	66,113	10,849	76,962
	2021/22	70,666	1,105	71,771	11,536	83,307
Assistant Director Asset Management	2022/23	71,378	1,015	72,393	11,727	84,119
	2021/22	69,014	1,277	70,291	11,409	81,700

*New appointment 2022/23.

With regard to pension contribution levels - following the triennial review carried out by the Actuary employed by the Pension Fund in March 2022 - contribution levels remain unchanged for the 3 years commencing 1st April 2023. This includes an ongoing lump sum relating to past liabilities and a set rate for future employer contributions of 22.1% p.a. (This rate has changed from 16.5% previously with an corresponding fall in the lump sum contribution level).

The Authority's employees receiving more than £50k remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions) not including those reported in the Senior Employees table above were paid the following amounts:

2021/22 Total Number of Employees	Remuneration Band	2022/23 Number of Employees Left During Year	2022/23 Number Employed at 31st March 2023	2022/23 Total Number of Employees
4	£50,000 - £54,999	-	4	4
1	£55,000 - £59,999	-	1	1
-	£60,000 - £64,999	-	-	-
-	£65,000 - £69,999	-	1	1
5	Total	-	6	6

This table excludes the senior officers reported earlier.

There have been no new exit packages in 2022/23 (nil – 2021/22).

31. External Audit Costs

The agreed external audit fees paid for 2022/23 were £90k (£81k 2021/22).

2021/22 £000	External Audit Costs	2022/23 £000
62	Fees payable to Grant Thornton with regard to the external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year;	64
19	Fees payable to Grant Thornton for the certification of grants and returns for the year;	26
81	Total	90

The indicative fee for certification of grants and returns for 2022/23 is £26k. The agreed fee for the 2022/23 audit (payable in 2023/24) is £64k.

32. Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

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

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

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

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Authority has elected to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The levy will be charged on new builds (chargeable developments for the authority) with appropriate planning consent. The council charges for and collects the levy, which is a planning charge. The income from the levy will be used to fund a number of infrastructure projects (these include transport, flood defences and schools) to support the development of the area.

CIL is received without outstanding conditions; it is therefore recognised at the commencement date of the chargeable development in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with the accounting policy for government grants and contributions set out above. CIL charges will be largely used to fund capital expenditure. However, a proportion of the charges for this Authority may be used to fund revenue expenditure. CIL income of £584k was received in 2022/23 including income for monitoring costs of £29k.

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2022/23:

2021/22 £000	Grant Income	2022/23 £000
	Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	
189	Revenue Support Grant	195
12,572	NNDR	13,039
(10,406)	Non Domestic Rates - Tariff	(10,406)
(730)	Non Domestic Rates - Levy to GBSLEP	(1,264)
679	New Homes Bonus	917
3,055	S31 Grant - Small Business Rate Relief	2,728
99	Other Grants	95
3,274	Capital Grants and Contributions	5,368
8,732	Total	10,672

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to Cost of Services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2022/23:

2021/22 £000	Credited to Services Government Grant	2022/23 £000
284	DWP Admin Grant	280
88	NNDR Cost of Collection	88
11,268	Benefits	10,783
138	Discretionary Housing Payment	98
25	Nature Reserve	9
41	Safer Stronger Communities	71
14	Electoral Process	14
123	Homelessness Reduction Act	40
33	Domestic Abuse Services	33
8	Heritage Lottery Funding	137
73	Welfare Benefit Reform Changes	48
297	Flexible Homelessness Support	252
13	Earned Autonomy	-
2	National Community Clean Up	-
127	SCC Test & Trace	-
10	Skills officer - GBSLEP	-
107	Arts council	-
-	Fly-Tipping Intervention Grant (FTIG)	25
-	DEFRA	10
-	Shared Prosperity Fund	303
-	Warm Spaces	6
-	Homes For Ukraine	62
-	Energy Rebate Scheme	5,015
-	Tenant Satisfaction Measures New Burdens	14
12,651	Total	17,288

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

31st March 2022 £000	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	31st March 2023 £000
1	DCMS Free Swimming Grant	1
3	Lottery BMX Track	3
74	HLF Mercian Trail	-
23	Other	8
4,779	Future High Streets Funds	8,313
1,513	S106 Leisure Grants	1,514
1,170	Social Housing Decarbonisation Grant	170
49	Cyber Security Grant	-
7,612	Total	10,009

33. Related Parties

The Authority is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have control or joint control, or significant influence over the Authority, or are a member of the key management personnel of the Authority. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Authority might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Authority.

a) Central Government

Central Government has effective control over the general operations of the Authority – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Authority operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Authority has with other parties (e.g. Council Tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are set out in the subjective analysis in Note 8. Grant receipts outstanding at 31st March 2023 are shown in Note 32.

b) Members

Members of the Authority have direct control over the Authority's financial and operating policies. The total of Members' Allowances paid in 2022/23 is shown in Note 29. During the financial year ended 31st March 2023, there were no material transactions between the Authority and its Members, other than the payment of Member Allowances. Details of all transactions are recorded in the Register of Members' Interests, available on the Council's website.

Members are required to disclose information regarding any material transactions between them and any other organisation in which they could exert control. During the financial year ended 31st March 2023, the only such transactions were with regard to the Leader of the Council and Solway (Tamworth) Ltd, as detailed in paragraph (d) below.

c) Officers

During the financial year ended 31st March 2023, there were no material transactions between the Authority and its Chief Officers, other than the payment of officer salaries. The total of Senior Officers' Remuneration is shown in Note 30.

Senior Officers are required to disclose information regarding any material transactions between them and any other organisation in which they could exert control. During the financial year ended 31st March 2023, the only such transactions were with regard to the Chief Executive and the Executive Director Finance and Solway (Tamworth) Ltd, detailed below (no change since 2021/22).

d) Solway (Tamworth) Ltd

In line with plans set out in the Council's Commercial Investment Strategy, the above trading company was established in 2018. The company is wholly owned by the Council, with the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive, and Executive Director Finance established as Directors of the company. It had been intended that land owned by the Council at Solway Close would be disposed of and purchased by the company for the development of private housing for rent. However, following a meeting of Corporate Scrutiny Committee in March 2022, where updated options for the site were presented, based on latest market demand, costing information, projected returns and assessment of the risks involved, and in light of the changing economic situation, the decision was made to shelve plans for developing the Solway site via the limited company, and instead to market the site for sale to a private developer.

e) Staffordshire County Council, OPCC and Fire Authority Precepts.

Staffordshire County Council and OPCC Staffordshire, and Staffordshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority, issue precepts on the Authority, as follows:

31st March 2022 £000	Precepts	31st March 2023 £000
30,432	Staffordshire County Council	32,185
5,336	OPCC Staffordshire	5,709
1,762	Staffordshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority	1,845
37,529	Total	39,740

During the year, there were 6 Councillors who were both a Member of the Council and Staffordshire County Council (6 – 2021/22).

f) Staffordshire County Council

Under the Recycling Credit Scheme, the Authority also receives recycling credits from Staffordshire County Council. These are then paid over to the Joint Waste Service under arrangements with Lichfield District Council.

31st March 2022 £000	Recycling Credit Scheme	31st March 2023 £000
(527)	Recycling Credits	(504)
(527)	Total	(504)

g) Joint Waste Service

The Authority's Joint Waste Service with Lichfield District Council was launched in July 2010, and a joint committee - 'Lichfield and Tamworth Waste Collection Services' - was established. The organisation provides waste and recycling services to approximately 73,000 properties across the two Authorities. Lichfield District Council is responsible for hosting the service including employment of staff.

The parties have an agreement in place for funding this operation with contributions to the agreed budget of 58.3% from Lichfield District Council and 41.7% from Tamworth Borough Council (no change since 2021/22). The same proportions are used to meet any deficit or share any surplus arising on the operation's budget at the end of each financial year.

The revenue outturn of the Joint Waste Service for the year ended 31st March 2023 is as follows:

2021/22 £000	Joint Waste Arrangement Income / Expenditure	2022/23 £000
	Funding Provided to the Operation	
(1,268)	Contribution from Tamworth Borough Council	(2,550)
(1,773)	Contribution from Lichfield District Council	(1,839)
(3,041)	Total Funding Provided to the Operation	(4,389)
	Expenditure	
3,004	Employee Costs	4,169
-	Premises Related Expenses	6
1,308	Transport Costs	1,904
1,951	Supplies and Services	1,485
-	Third Party Payments	11
607	Central Support Costs	607
6,870	Total Expenditure	8,182
	Income	
(1,480)	Recycling Credits	(1,186)
(1,609)	Green Waste Service	(1,601)
(740)	Other Income	(1,006)
(3,829)	Total Income Received	(3,793)
3,041	Total Net Expenditure	4,389
-	Net (Surplus)/Deficit arising on the pooled budget during the year	-
41.70%	Tamworth Borough Council's share of Service	41.91%
0	Tamworth Borough Council's share of Net (Surplus)/Deficit	-

Lichfield District Council are the lead Authority for this arrangement, with the Tamworth Borough Council reimbursing Lichfield for services on the basis of a proportion of actual spend. For 2022/23, the cost of the arrangement to the Authority was £1.8m.

34. Capital Expenditure & Financing

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation of a Non Current Asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Authority has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund or Housing Revenue Account to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of Council Tax or housing rent.

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

2021/22 £000	Capital Expenditure and Financing	2022/23 £000
73,506	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	73,831
	Capital Investment	
16,996	Property, Plant and Equipment	17,322
104	Heritage Assets	-
5	Investment Properties	-
252	Intangible Assets	64
641	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	1,379
	Sources of Finance	
(6,996)	Capital receipts	(2,528)
(2,531)	Government grants and other contributions	(3,434)
(7,371)	Sums set aside from revenue - Direct Revenue Contributions	(11,284)
(158)	Sums set aside from revenue - Minimum Revenue Provision	(204)
(617)	Grants - Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	(1,379)
73,831	Closing Capital Financing Requirement	73,767
	Explanation of movements in year:	
	Increase in underlying need to borrow:	
483	Unsupported by government financial assistance	140
(158)	Sums set aside from revenue - Minimum Revenue Provision	(204)
325	Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	(64)

35. Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property, plant or equipment from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.

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

a) Authority as Lessee

Operating Leases

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

The Authority currently uses vehicles, plant and equipment financed under terms of an operating lease. The amount paid under these arrangements in 2022/23 was £267k (£271k – 2021/22). These leases have options for annual extensions beyond the original lease term, a number of these options are currently being taken up.

2021/22 £000	Minimum Lease Payments	2022/23 £000
271	Minimum lease payments	267
271	Total Minimum Lease Payments	267

The Authority was committed at 31st March 2023 to making payments of £1.2m under operating leases, comprising the following elements:

31st March 2022 £000	Operating Leases	31st March 2023 £000
271	Not later than one year	327
1,425	Later than one year not later than five years	897
1,696	Total Operating Leases	1,224

b) Authority as Lessor

i. Finance Leases

Where the Authority grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal.

At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal.

A gain, representing the Authority's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal), matched by a lease (Long Term Debtor) asset in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

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

The gain credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt. Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Where the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When the future rentals are received, the element for the capital receipt for the disposal of the asset is used to write down the lease debtor. At this point, the deferred capital receipts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

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

The Authority has leased out property at the Ankerside Shopping Centre including car park, on a finance lease with a remaining term of 67 years.

The Authority has a gross investment in the lease, made up of the minimum lease payments expected to be received over the remaining term and the residual value anticipated for the property when the lease comes to an end. 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 Authority in future years whilst the debtor remains outstanding.

The gross investment is made up of the following amounts:

31st March 2022 £000	Assets Held for Leases (Lessor)	31st March 2023 £000
	Finance lease debtor (NPV of minimum lease payments)	
12,560	Non current	12,548
43,598	Unearned finance income	42,759
12	Unguaranteed residual value of property	12
56,170	Gross Investment in the Lease	55,319

The gross investment in the lease and the minimum lease payments will be received over the following periods:

Minimum Lease Payments 31st March 2022 £000	Gross Investment in the Lease 31st March 2022 £000	Minimum Lease Payments	Minimum Lease Payments 31st March 2023 £000	Gross Investment in the Lease 31st March 2023 £000
851	851	Not later than one year	851	851
3,404	3,403	Later than one year not later than five years	3,404	3,404
51,903	51,916	Later than five years	51,053	51,065
56,158	56,170	Total	55,307	55,319

The Authority does not set aside any amount for future uncollectable amounts.

The minimum lease payments do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews.

ii. Operating Leases

Where the Authority grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Credits are made on a straight line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

The Authority leases out property and equipment under operating leases for the following purposes:

- for the provision of community services, such as community centres; and
- for investment purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses.

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

31st March 2022 £000	Future Minimum Lease Payments	31st March 2023 £000
	Operating Leases	
1,125	Not later than one year	1,152
4,086	Later than one year not later than five years	4,412
47,727	Later than five years	49,224
52,938	Total	54,788

The minimum lease payments receivable do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews.

The minimum lease payments do not include cancellable rents received during the period, these amounted to £595k in 2022/23 (£559k – 2021/22). There were 19 void units at the 31st of March 2023 (8 voids at the 31st March 2022).

36. Impairment Losses

Charges for impairment of £14m have been made during 2022/23 (£6m – 2021/22). This amount reflects the expenditure on capital assets which has not produced a similar increase in the value of the assets.

Total HRA Capital Expenditure was £14m (£10m – 2021/22) of which £10m (£6m – 2021/22) related to improvements to bathrooms, kitchens, central heating, electrical upgrades and disabled adaptations; with £4m (£4m – 2021/22) related to the regeneration of garage sites and new housing development schemes. The impairment has been recognised as the advice of the Authority's valuer is that such improvements have not increased the overall value of the asset.

A further impairment of £4m relating to properties acquired under the Future High Street Funds scheme has also been recognised. Expenditure on the acquisitions of the Co-Op site and Middle Entry shops have been classified as Assets Under Construction and accounted for on a historic cost basis. However, in recognition of the demolition of the Co-Op building since acquisition and to reflect the current condition of the buildings, a valuation at fair value was provided by our external valuers and a subsequent charge of £4m for impairment made.

37. Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Authority to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service segment or, where applicable, to a corporate service segment at the earlier of when the authority can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the authority recognises costs for a restructuring.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund or Housing Revenue Account to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards.

In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations 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.

There were no terminations of employee contracts during 2022/23 (0 in 2021/22).

38. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

The pension costs included in these accounts have been determined in accordance with government regulations and IAS 19. The standard requires the full recognition of the pensions liability (and the movement of its constituent parts) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These requirements are included within the accounts in accordance with CIPFA recommended practice.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is accounted for as a defined benefit statutory scheme, administered in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013:

- i. The liabilities of the Staffordshire Local Government Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- ii. Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 4.75%.

This is based on an approach whereby a Corporate Bond yield curve is constructed based on the constituents of the iBoxx AA Corporate Bond Index.

Separate discount rates are then set (and corresponding RPI/CPI inflation assumptions) for individual employers, dependent on their own weighted average duration.

- iii. The assets of Staffordshire Local Government Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
 - quoted securities – current bid price;
 - unquoted securities – professional estimate;
 - unitised securities – current bid price;
 - property – market value.
- iv. The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into the following components:

Service Cost Comprising:

- **Current Service Cost:** The increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked;
- **Past Service Cost:** The increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs;

- **Net Interest Cost:** net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), ie net interest expense for the authority – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

Remeasurements comprising:

Expected Return on Plan Assets: excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure:

- **Actuarial Gains and Losses:** changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure;
- **Contributions paid to the Staffordshire Local Government Pension Fund:** Cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year end.

The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

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

a) Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the Authority makes contributions towards the cost of post employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Authority has a commitment to make the payments that needs to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The authority participates in two post employment schemes:

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

b) Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

We recognise the cost of retirement benefits in the reported Cost of Services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge we are required to make against Council Tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post employment / retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund (and HRA) via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

Local Government Pension Scheme 2021/22 £000	Discretionary Benefit Arrangements 2021/22 £000	Defined Benefit Pension Schemes	Local Government Pension Scheme 2022/23 £000	Discretionary Benefit Arrangements 2022/23 £000
		Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
		Service Cost Comprising:		
4,207	67	Current service costs	4,244	67
-	-	Past service costs	-	-
-	-	Settlements and curtailments	-	-
		Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		
3,189	-	Interest costs	4,127	-
(2,158)	-	Expected return on scheme assets	(3,218)	-
5,238	67	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	5,153	67
		Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability Comprising:		
(10,955)	(3)	Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest expense)	5,511	(101)
(829)	-	Actuarial gains and losses on changes in demographic assumptions	(2,216)	-
(10,186)	-	Actuarial gains and losses on changes in financial assumptions	(51,042)	-
306	-	Other	10,814	-
(16,426)	64	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(31,780)	(34)

Movement in Reserves Statement

Local Government Pension Scheme 2021/22 £000	Discretionary Benefit Arrangements 2021/22 £000	Defined Benefit Pension Schemes	Local Government Pension Scheme 2022/23 £000	Discretionary Benefit Arrangements 2022/23 £000
		Movement in Reserves Statement:		
16,426	(64)	Reversal of net charges made to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the code	31,780	34
2,416	-	Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:	2,550	-
-	67	Employers' contributions payable to the scheme	-	67
-	-	Retirement benefits payable to pensioners	-	-
18,842	3	Total Movement in Reserves Statement	34,330	101

Under the Housing Repairs contract, a separate pension scheme is operated for staff transferred as part of a TUPE arrangement.

c) Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

Local Government Pension Scheme 2021/22 £000	Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet	Local Government Pension Scheme 2022/23 £000
152,409	Present Value of the Defined Benefit Obligation	111,012
(120,043)	Fair Value of Plan Assets	(112,103)
32,366	Net Liability Arising From Defined Benefit Obligation	(1,091)

d) Reconciliation of the Movements in the Fair Value of Scheme (Plan)

Assets

Local Government Pension Scheme 2021/22 £000	Reconciliation of Fair Value of Scheme Assets	Local Government Pension Scheme 2022/23 £000
109,007	Balance at 1st April 2022	120,043
2,158	Interest Income on Plan Assets	3,218
10,958	Return on Assets excluding amounts included in net interest	(5,410)
1,402	Employer contributions	1,576
569	Contributions by scheme participants	644
(4,051)	Benefits paid	(3,794)
-	Other Experience	(4,174)
67	Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits	67
(67)	Unfunded benefits paid	(67)
120,043	Balance at 31st March 2023	112,103

e) Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities (Defined Benefit Obligation)

Local Government Pension Scheme 2021/22 £000	Discretionary Benefit Arrangements 2021/22 £000	Reconciliation of Present Value of Scheme Liabilities (Defined Benefit Obligation)	Local Government Pension Scheme 2022/23 £000	Discretionary Benefit Arrangements 2022/23 £000
158,150	1,054	Balance at 1st April 2022	151,425	984
4,274	-	Current service costs	4,311	-
3,189	-	Interest Cost on Defined Benefit Obligation	4,127	-
569	-	Plan Participants Contributions	644	-
(829)	-	Changes in Demographic Assumptions	(2,216)	-
(10,183)	(3)	Changes in Financial Assumptions	(50,941)	(101)
306	-	Other Experience	6,640	-
(4,051)	(67)	Benefits paid	(3,794)	(67)
151,425	984	Balance at 31st March 2023	110,196	816

f) Local Government Pension Scheme Assets Comprised:

The asset values shown below are at bid value as required under IAS19.

As at 31st March 2022					As at 31st March 2023			
Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Quoted Prices Not in Active Markets	Total	Percentage of Total Assets	Fair Value of Employers Assets	Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Quoted Prices Not in Active Markets	Total	Percentage of Total Assets
£000	£000	£000	%		£000	£000	£000	%
				Equity Securities				
4,041	-	4,041	3.4	Consumer	3,774	-	3,774	3.4
3,298	-	3,298	2.7	Manufacturing	3,080	-	3,080	2.7
906	-	906	0.8	Energy & Utilities	846	-	846	0.8
				Financial Institutions	4,017	-	4,017	3.6
4,302	-	4,302	3.6	Health Care	4,242	-	4,242	3.8
4,543	-	4,543	3.8	Information Technology	4,879	-	4,879	4.4
5,224	-	5,224	4.4	Other	-	-	-	0.0
-	-	-	0.0					
				Debt Securities				
				Corporate Bonds (Investment Grade)	6,586	-	6,586	5.9
7,052	-	7,052	5.9					
				Private Equities				
-	5,948	5,948	5.0	All	-	5,555	5,555	5.0
				Real Estate				
-	9,613	9,613	8.0	UK Property	-	8,977	8,977	8.0
				Investment Funds & Unit Trusts				
57,025	-	57,025	47.3	Equities	53,253	-	53,253	47.3
7,513	-	7,513	6.3	Bonds	7,016	-	7,016	6.3
-	44	44	0.0	Hedge Funds	-	41	41	0.0
-	320	320	0.3	Infrastructure	-	299	299	0.3
-	5,509	5,509	4.6	Other	-	5,145	5,145	4.6
				Cash & Cash Equivalents				
4,705	-	4,705	3.9	All	4,394	-	4,394	3.9
98,609	21,434	120,043	100.0	Total Assets	92,087	20,016	112,103	100.0

g) Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and Discretionary Benefits liabilities have been assessed by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31st March 2023. The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

Local Government Pension Scheme 2021/22	Discretionary Benefit Arrangements 2021/22	Assumptions	Local Government Pension Scheme 2022/23	Discretionary Benefit Arrangements 2022/23
2.70%	-	Long-term expected rate of return on assets in the scheme:		
		Equity Investments	4.75%	-
2.70%	-	Government Bonds		
2.70%	-	Bonds	4.75%	-
2.70%	-	Property Managed Funds	4.75%	-
2.70%	-	Cash	4.75%	-
2.70%	-	Other	4.75%	-
		Mortality assumptions (in years):		
		Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
21.2	21.2	Men	21.1	21.1
23.8	23.8	Women	24.1	24.1
		Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
22.2	22.2	Men	21.9	21.9
25.5	25.5	Women	26.0	26.0
3.20%	3.20%	CPI Rate	3.00%	3.00%
3.60%	3.60%	Rate of increase in salaries	3.50%	3.50%
3.20%	3.20%	Rate of increase in pensions	3.00%	3.00%
2.70%	2.70%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.75%	4.75%
50%/75%	-	Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum	65.00%	-

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analysis below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be inter related. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from that used in the previous period.

Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme		Change in Assumptions at 31st March 2023	Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme	
Approx. % Increase to Liability 2021/22 %	Approx. Monetary Value 2021/22 £000		Approx. % Increase to Liability 2022/23 %	Approx. Monetary Value 2022/23 £000
2.00%	2,790	0.1% Decrease in Real Discount Rate	2.00%	1,792
4.00%	6,096	1 Year in Member Life Expectancy	4.00%	4,440
-	230	0.1% Increase in the Salary Increase Rate	-	194
2.00%	2,540	0.1% Increase in the Pension Increase Rate	1.00%	1,624

The total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the Authority in the year to 31st March 2024 is £1.57m (£1.4m – 2022/23).

39. Contingent Liabilities

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

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

The Authority has included a provision – detailed in Note 22 – relating to Business Rate appeals outstanding as at 31st March 2023.

Local businesses can appeal against the Rateable Value on the 2010 Rating list under limited circumstances and can also appeal against the Rateable Value on the 2017 Rating List. The 2017 Rating List is subject to a fresh approach to appeals known as "Check, Challenge & Appeal" (CCA) which means that before an appeal is made the Rateable Value may be amended upon negotiation between the Valuation Office and the ratepayer (or their agents). This process will inevitably lead to a delay in appeals being made.

It is difficult to estimate the likelihood of businesses both submitting and being successful with an appeal and the Authority has therefore made provision in the accounts based on professional advice from independent valuers. The contingent liability element relates to any potential successful appeals beyond the provision made. The level of historic appeals together with the average level of success and savings in Rateable Value is shown for the 2005, 2010 and 2017 lists below:

Indicator 2022/23	2005 List	2010 List	2017 List	Total
A Total of original Rateable Values resolved	£116.06m	£239.73m	£150.90m	£506.69m
B Total original Rateable Value of successful check/ challenge/ appeal	£51.93m	£70.26m	£12.52m	£134.71m
Average success rate (% of RV) (B/A)	44.74%	29.31%	8.30%	26.59%
C Total revised Rateable Value of successful check/ challenge/ appeal	£47.63m	£62.15m	£11.77m	£121.55m
D Total reduction in Rateable Value (C-B)	£4.29m	£8.11m	£0.75m	£13.15m
Average % reduction in Rateable Value (D/B)	8.27%	11.54%	5.99%	9.76%
E Years the List has been active	5	7	6	-
F Average annual reduction in Rateable Value (D/E)	£0.86m	£1.16m	£0.13m	-
G Standard Business Rate Multiplier in 2023/24	51.2p	51.2p	51.2p	51.2p
H Average annual cost of reduction based on 2023/24 Multiplier (FxG)	£0.44m	£0.59m	£0.06m	£1.10m
District Council Share at 40% (Hx0.4)	£0.18m	£0.24m	£0.03m	£0.44m
I Checks/ challenges/ appeals outstanding 31/03/23	£0.00m	£0.21m	£37.32m	£37.53m
J Provision included	£0.00m	£0.13m	£4.41m	£4.54m
Provision as a % of checks/ challenges/ appeals outstanding (J/I)		61.90%	11.82%	12.11%

Indicator 2021/22	2005 List	2010 List	2017 List	Total
A Total of original Rateable Values resolved	£116.06m	£320.46m	£125.17m	£561.69m
B Total original Rateable Value of successful check/ challenge/ appeal	£51.93m	£90.25m	£11.36m	£153.54m
Average success rate (% of RV) (B/A)	44.74%	28.16%	9.08%	27.33%
C Total revised Rateable Value of successful check/ challenge/ appeal	£47.63m	£87.12m	£10.74m	£145.49m
D Total reduction in Rateable Value (C-B)	£4.29m	£3.13m	£0.62m	£8.04m
Average % reduction in Rateable Value (D/B)	8.27%	3.47%	5.46%	5.24%
E Years the List has been active	5	7	5	-
F Average annual reduction in Rateable Value (D/E)	£0.86m	£0.45m	£0.12m	-
G Standard Business Rate Multiplier in 2022/23	51.2p	51.2p	51.2p	51.2p
H Average annual cost of reduction based on 2022/23 Multiplier (FxG)	£0.44m	£0.23m	£0.06m	£0.73m
District Council Share at 40% (Hx0.4)	£0.18m	£0.09m	£0.03m	£0.29m
I Checks/ challenges/ appeals outstanding 31/03/22	£0.00m	£33.30m	£1.92m	£35.22m
J Provision included	£0.00m	£0.93m	£3.84m	£4.77m
Provision as a % of checks/ challenges/ appeals outstanding (J/I)		2.79%	200.00%	13.55%

40. Nature & Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

Key Risks

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

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

The Authority'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 and is based on the framework set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and associated regulations.

As directed by the Act, the Authority has formally adopted the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and complies with the CIPFA Prudential Code. As part of the adoption of the Treasury Management Code, the Authority approves a Treasury Management Strategy before the commencement of the year to which it relates, this strategy sets out the parameters for the management of risks associated with financial instruments.

The Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23 (including the Annual Investment Strategy) was approved by Full Council on 17th February 2022 and is available on the Authority's website.

The strategy also includes an Annual Investment Strategy for the forthcoming year, setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with Government guidance.

Risk management is carried out by a central treasury team, under policies approved by the Authority in the annual Treasury Management Strategy. The Authority 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).

a) 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 the Annual Investment Strategy, which is available on the Authority's website.

Credit Risk management Practices

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

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

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

This Authority uses the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services. This service uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's, forming the core element. However, it does not rely solely on the current credit ratings of counterparties but also uses the following as overlays:

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

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

The Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in financial institutions of £72.2m cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Authority's deposits, but there was no evidence at the 31st March 2023 that this was likely to crystallise.

Amounts Arising from Expected Credit Losses

Credit Risk Exposure

The Authority has assessed its short and long term investments and concluded that the expected credit loss is not material therefore no allowances have been made.

A summary of the credit quality of the Council's investments at 31st March 2023 is shown below, along with the potential maximum exposure to credit risk, based on experience of default and uncollectability.

Credit Risk	Amount at 31st March 2023 £000 A	Historical Experience of Default % B	Historical Experience Adjusted for Market Conditions at 31st March 2023 % C	Estimated Maximum Exposure to Default and Uncollectability at 31st March 2023 £000 (A x C)	Estimated Maximum Exposure at 31st March 2022 £000
AAA rated counterparties	1,633	0.04%	0.04%	1	5
AA rated counterparties	29,330	0.02%	0.02%	6	3
A rated counterparties	30,392	0.05%	0.05%	15	20
BBB rated counterparties	-	-	-	-	-
Caa rated counterparties	-	-	-	-	-
Escrow	-	-	-	-	-
Trade Debtors	5,555	28.42%	28.42%	1,579	1,805
Total	66,910	-	-	1,601	1,833

The Authority does not generally allow credit for customers, such that £1.9m is past its due date for payment. The past due amount as at 31st March 2023 but not impaired amount can be analysed by age as follows:

31st March 2022 £000	Arrears	31st March 2023 £000
234	Less than six months	874
160	Six months to one year	73
87	More than one year	32
1,185	More than two years	933
1,666	Total	1,912

The Authority initiates a legal charge on property where, for instance, works have to be carried out in default but those responsible cannot afford to pay immediately. The total collateral at 31st March 2023 was £29.3k (£41.2k – 2021/22).

b) Liquidity Risk

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

The Authority 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 Authority is also required to provide a balanced budget through the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is therefore no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. The maturity analysis of financial assets, excluding sums due from customers, is as follows:

31st March 2022		Financial Assets	31st March 2023	
Average Rate %	Amount £000		Average Rate %	Amount £000
0.54%	55,195	Less than one year	3.53%	59,843
-	-	Maturing in 1 - 2 years	-	-
0.54%	55,195	Total	3.53%	59,843

All trade and other payables are due to be paid in less than one year – debtors of £1.9m are not included in the table above.

c) Refinancing and Maturity Risk

The Authority 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 Authority relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. This risk relates to both the maturing of longer term financial liabilities and longer term financial assets.

The approved treasury indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits placed on investments placed for greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Authority 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 Authority's day to day cash flow needs, and the spread of longer term investments provide stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer term cash flow needs.

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

31st March 2022		Financial Liabilities	Approved Minimum Limits	Approved Minimum Limits	31st March 2023	
Average Rate %	Amount £000				Average Rate %	Amount £000
4.05%	63,060	PWLB			4.05%	63,060
-	-	Other Lenders			-	-
4.05%	63,060	Total			4.05%	63,060
-	309	Less than one year (Interest Due)	0%	20%	-	310
-	-	Less than one year	0%	20%	-	-
-	-	Maturing in 1 - 2 years	0%	20%	-	-
-	-	Maturing in 2 - 5 years	0%	25%	-	-
4.25%	1,000	Maturing in 5 - 10 years	0%	75%	4.25%	1,000
4.72%	4,000	Maturing in 10 - 15 years	0%	100%	4.72%	4,000
4.00%	58,060	Maturing in over 15 years	0%	100%	4.00%	58,060
4.05%	63,369	Total			4.05%	63,370

d) Market Risk

i) Interest Rate Risk

The Authority is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Authority, depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods.

For instance, a rise in variable and fixed interest rates would have the following effects:

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

Borrowings are not carried at fair value on the Balance Sheet, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in Interest Payable and Receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance, subject to influences from Government grants (i.e. HRA). Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

The risk of interest rate loss is partially mitigated by Government grant payable on financing costs. As at 31st March 2023, the Authority had no variable rate debt or investments. There would therefore be no material impact if all interest rates had been higher or lower during the year.

ii) Price Risk

The Council holds £10.8m (valued at £13.1m – 2021/22) in property funds, and their price varies. However, any movements in price will not impact on the General Fund Balance as regulations are in force to ameliorate the impact of fair value movements.

The market prices of the Council's fixed rate bond investments and its units in pooled bond funds are governed by prevailing interest rates and the market risk associated with these instruments is managed alongside interest rate risk.

The Council's investment in a pooled property fund is subject to the risk of falling commercial property prices. This risk is limited by the Council's maximum exposure to property investments of £10.8m. A 5% fall in commercial property prices would result in a £0.5m charge to Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure – this would have no impact on the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services until the investment was sold.

Approval of Accounts

I confirm that these accounts were approved by the Audit and Governance Committee at the meeting held on 27th September 2023

Signed on behalf of Tamworth Borough Council

Councillor D.Maycock, Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee

Dated 27th September 2023

This is an electronic copy without an electronic signature. The original was signed as dated above and a copy can be obtained from the Executive Director Finance.

Housing Revenue Account

The HRA Income and Expenditure Statement shows the economic cost in the year of providing housing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from rents and government grants. The Authority charges rents to cover expenditure in accordance with legislative framework; this may be different from accounting cost. The increase or decrease in the year, on the basis which rents are raised, is shown in the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement.

2021/22 £000	HRA Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2022/23	
		£000	£000
	Expenditure:		
4,965	Repairs and Maintenance	6,220	
6,732	Supervision and Management	7,378	
52	Rents, rates, taxes and other charges	58	
6,809	Depreciation and impairment of Non Current Assets	14,994	
7	Debt management costs	8	
156	Movement in the allowance for bad debts	176	
18,721	Total Expenditure		28,834
	Income:		
(18,782)	Dwelling rents	(19,551)	
(356)	Non dwelling rents	(332)	
(1,136)	Charges for services and facilities	(995)	
(1,837)	Contributions towards expenditure	(1,594)	
(22,111)	Total Income		(22,472)
(3,390)	Net Expenditure of HRA Services as included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		6,362
26	HRA services' share of Corporate and Democratic Core		28
(3,364)	Net Expenditure / (Income) for HRA Services		6,390
	HRA Share of the Operating Income and Expenditure Included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
(405)	(Gain) or loss on sale of HRA Non Current Assets		(101)
2,678	Interest payable and similar charges		2,816
(53)	Interest and investment income		(394)
241	Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets		218
-	Capital grants and contributions receivable		(1,000)
(903)	(Surplus) or Deficit for the Year on HRA Services		7,929

Statement of Movement on the HRA Balance

2021/22 £000	Statement of Movement on the HRA Balance	2022/23	
		£000	£000
5,611	Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous year		5,717
903	Surplus or (Deficit) for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	(7,929)	
(496)	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	3,971	
407	Net Increase or (Decrease) before transfers to or from reserves	(3,958)	
(301)	Transfers (to) / from Reserves	1,002	
106	Increase or (Decrease) on the HRA		(2,956)
5,717	Balance on the HRA at 31st March 2023		2,761

Analysis of Adjustments

2021/22 £000	Analysis of Adjustments	2022/23 £000
-	Difference between any other item of income and expenditure determined in accordance with the code and determined in accordance with HRA requirements	(2)
(404)	Gain or loss on sale of HRA Non Current Assets	(101)
675	HRA share of contributions to or from the Pensions Reserve	639
21	Amortisation of intangible assets	35
(4,512)	Capital expenditure funded by the HRA	(6,524)
-	Capital Grants and Contributions Applied;	(1,000)
(3,065)	Transfer to / from the Major Repairs Reserve	(4,035)
6,789	Transfer to / from the Capital Adjustment Account	14,959
(496)	Total Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Statute	3,971

NOTES TO THE HRA

HRA1. Number & Type of Dwelling

The Authority is responsible for managing a housing stock, made up as follows:

	Houses and Bungalows	High and Medium Rise Flats	Low Rise Flats	Total
Housing Stock as at 1st April 2022	2,784	666	886	4,336
Demolitions	-	-	-	-
Sales	(29)	-	(2)	(31)
Additions	-	-	-	-
Assets Under Construction	-	-	-	-
Reclassification of Assets	-	-	-	-
Housing Stock as at 31st March 2023	2,755	666	884	4,305

In order to comply with the requirements of Resource Accounting, garages are now identified within other property. Non operational assets are those held by an authority but not directly occupied or used in the delivery of its services.

HRA2. Vacant possession value of dwellings

The Vacant Possession Valuation as at 31st March 2023 is £607.4m (31st March 2022 Vacant Possession Value was £604.9m).

However, assets are valued on the Balance Sheet at their existing use reflecting the valuation of a property if it were to be disposed with sitting tenants benefiting from sub-market rents. This reflects the economic cost to the Government of providing council housing at less than open market value.

Council dwellings are held on the Balance Sheet at Existing Use Value Social Housing (EUV-SH) which for 2022/23, a nationally set adjustment factor for the West Midlands of 40% of vacant possession value has been used (40% - 2021/22).

Movement in 2022/23	EUV-SH Council Dwellings £000	Other Land and Buildings £000	Plant , Vehicles and Equipment £000	Asset Under Construction £000	Total £000
Cost or Valuation					
As at 1st April 2022	241,940	3,473	143	1,560	247,116
Additions;	10,270	1,076	4	2,527	13,877
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment written off to Gross Carrying Amount;	(13,867)	(371)			(14,238)
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve;	6,270	687			6,957
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services;	358	(1,012)			(654)
Derecognition - Disposals.	(1,994)	(385)			(2,379)
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	-
Assets reclassified (to)/ from Investment Property	-	-	-	-	-
Other movements in cost or valuation	-	-	-	-	-
As at 31st March 2023	242,977	3,468	147	4,087	250,679
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment					
As at 1st April 2022	-	-	(24)	-	(24)
Depreciation Charge;	(3,609)	(419)	(41)	-	(4,069)
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment written off to Gross Carrying Amount;	13,867	370			14,237
Impairment losses/ (reversals) recognised in the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services;	(10,270)				(10,270)
Derecognition - disposals.	12	49			61
As at 31st March 2023	-	-	(65)	-	(65)
Net Book Value					
As at 1st April 2022	241,940	3,473	119	1,560	247,092
As at 31st March 2023	242,977	3,468	82	4,087	250,614
Nature of holdings at year end Owned	242,977	3,468	82	4,087	250,614

HRA3. Movement on the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR)

The Major Repairs Reserve represents the long term average amount of capital spending required to maintain the stock in its current condition.

The Capital Expenditure shown was spent on maintaining council dwellings.

2021/22 £000	Major Repairs Reserve	2022/23 £000
2,010	Balance at 1st April 2022	2,447
3,065	Contributions to the Major Repairs Reserve	4,035
(2,628)	Capital Spending on Dwellings	(4,423)
2,447	Balance at 31st March 2023	2,059

The contribution in 2022/23 represents a depreciation charge of £4.0m (2021/22 contribution included £3.1m depreciation).

HRA4. Capital Expenditure Summary

The following table details how £13.8m Capital Expenditure was financed during the year.

2021/22 £000	Capital Expenditure	2022/23 £000
	Capital Expenditure Type:	
8,414	Dwellings	10,270
-	Land	1,076
70	Plant, Vehicles and Equipment (PVE)	4
1,508	Assets Under Construction	2,527
9,992	Total Capital Expenditure	13,877
	Funded by:	
2,852	Usable capital receipts	1,841
4,512	Revenue contributions	6,524
-	Borrowing	89
-	External grants and contributions	1,000
2,628	Major Repairs Reserve	4,423
9,992	Total Funding	13,877

HRA5. Capital Receipts

During the year capital receipts totalling £2.5m were received in respect of dwellings sold, of which £0.4m would have been repaid to DCLG under the pooling regime. However, due to a change in the retention regulations, this could be retained, and not paid over, for 2022/23. The un-pooled element of capital receipts are retained for financing housing capital investment and regeneration works.

2021/22 £000	Capital Receipts	2022/23 £000
1,815 (418)	Sale of dwellings under Right to Buy Amounts pooled to Central Government	2,459 -
1,397	Net Capital Receipts	2,459

HRA6. Depreciation & Impairment Charges

Council Dwellings are depreciated on a straight line basis over the period of their useful economic life. The charge for the year was £3.6m.

The charge for depreciation of £0.4m on non council dwellings has been calculated on a straight line basis over the period of their useful economic life.

Charges for impairment of £10.3m have been made during 2022/23. This amount reflects the expenditure on capital assets which has not produced a similar increase in the value of the assets.

HRA7. HRA Pensions Reserve

2021/22 £000's	Pensions	2022/23 £000's
888	Difference between current service cost of pensions and past service cost in accordance with IAS 19 and actual employers' contributions	1,003
745	Interest on share of pensions liability	988
504	Expected return on share of assets	770
2,137	Total	2,761

HRA8. HRA Rent Arrears

2021/22 £000	Rent Arrears	2022/23 £000
1,825	Gross arrears	1,919
9.7%	Gross arrears as percentage of gross rent income	9.8%

Of the rent arrears, 57.3% (53.3% - 2021/22) refer to former tenants.

2021/22 £000	Provision for Bad Debts	2022/23 £000
1,442	Rent Arrears	1,465
	Balance at 1st April 2022	
126	Contribution from / (to) HRA in year	167
(103)	Written off in year	(78)
1,465	As at 31st March 2023	1,554
36	Sundry Debtors	66
	Balance at 1st April 2022	
30	Contribution from / (to) HRA in year	9
-	Written off in year	(3)
66	Balance at 31st March 2023	72
1,531	Total Provision for Bad Debts	1,626

Collection Fund

The Collection Fund statement shows the transactions of the Authority, as billing authority, in relation to the collection of Council Tax income on behalf of Staffordshire County Council, the OPCC, the Staffordshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority and this Authority's General Fund together with non-domestic rates collected on behalf of the Government, Staffordshire County Council, the Staffordshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority and this Authority's General Fund.

2021/22 Council Tax £000	2021/22 NDR £000	2021/22 Total £000	Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Statement	2022/23 Council Tax £000	2022/23 NDR £000	2022/23 Total £000
			INCOME			
(42,914)	-	(42,914)	Income from Council Tax	(44,692)	-	(44,692)
(161)	-	(161)	Transfers from General Fund - Council Tax benefits	(265)	-	(265)
	(30,243)	(30,243)	Income collectable from business ratepayers		(33,879)	(33,879)
(43,075)	(30,243)	(73,318)	Total Income	(44,957)	(33,879)	(78,836)
			EXPENDITURE			
			Precepts			
4,180	-	4,180	- Tamworth Borough Council	4,407		4,407
5,336	-	5,336	- OPCC Staffordshire	5,709		5,709
1,762	-	1,762	- Staffordshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority	1,846		1,846
30,431	-	30,431	- Staffordshire County Council	32,185		32,185
			Business rates			
-	13,166	13,166	- Tamworth Borough Council	-	13,252	13,252

2021/22 Council Tax £000	2021/22 NNDR £000	2021/22 Total £000	Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Statement	2022/23 Council Tax £000	2022/23 NNDR £000	2022/23 Total £000
-	16,458	16,458	- Central Government	-	16,565	16,565
-	329	329	- Staffordshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority	-	331	331
-	2,962	2,962	- Staffordshire County Council	-	2,982	2,982
-	88	88	Costs of Collection	-	88	88
			Transfer Credits to GF	-	2	2
			Bad and Doubtful Debts			
256	259	515	- Provisions	396	2	398
-	(1,534)	(1,534)	- Provision for appeals	-	1,190	1,190
			Distribution of previous year's surpluses/deficits			
60	(7,137)	(7,077)	- Tamworth Borough Council	75	(1,200)	(1,125)
75	-	75	- OPCC Staffordshire	96	-	96
26	(178)	(152)	- Staffordshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority	31	(30)	1
430	(1,600)	(1,170)	- Staffordshire County Council	548	(270)	278
-	(8,928)	(8,928)	- Central Government	-	(1,500)	(1,500)
42,556	13,885	56,441	Total Expenditure	45,293	31,412	76,705
(519)	(16,358)	(16,877)	(Surplus)/ Deficit for the year	336	(2,467)	(2,131)
(979)	20,932	19,953	Fund Balance Brought Forward	(1,498)	4,574	3,076
(1,498)	4,574	3,076	Fund Balance at 31st March 2023	(1,162)	2,107	945

2021/22 Council Tax £000	2021/22 NNDR £000	2021/22 Total £000	Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Statement	2022/23 Council Tax £000	2022/23 NNDR £000	2022/23 Total £000
			Analysis of Fund Balance (Surplus)/ Deficit			
(148)	1,830	1,682	- Tamworth Borough Council	(114)	843	729
(194)	-	(194)	- OPCC Staffordshire	(151)	-	(151)
(62)	46	(16)	- Staffordshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority	(48)	21	(27)
(1,094)	411	(683)	- Staffordshire County Council	(849)	189	(660)
-	2,287	2,287	- Central Government	-	1,054	1,054
(1,498)	4,574	3,076	Total	(1,162)	2,107	945

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

CF 1. NDR Rateable Value

The rateable value of Non Domestic properties in the Borough as at 31st March 2023 was £81,997,535 (£78,603,121 at 31st March 2022).

The NDR multiplier for 2022/23 was 51.2p in the pound (51.2p – 2021/22). The qualifying small business multiplier for 2022/23 was 49.9p in the pound (49.9p – 2021/22).

CF 2. Council Tax Base Calculation

The Council base was as follows:

Number of Chargeable Properties 2021/22	Adjusted Property Base (Band D Equivalent) 2021/22	Calculation of Ctax Base	Number of Chargeable Properties 2022/23	Adjusted Property Base (Band D Equivalent) 2022/23
		Valuation Band (Multiplier)		
22	12	A - Disabled Relief Reduction (5/9)	19	11
8,178	5,452	A - (6/9)	8,161	5,441
10,884	8,465	B - (7/9)	10,971	8,533
5,460	4,853	C - (8/9)	5,558	4,940
3,584	3,584	D - (9/9)	3,625	3,625
1,945	2,377	E - (11/9)	2,015	2,463
524	757	F - (13/9)	522	754
105	175	G - (15/9)	113	188
3	6	H - (18/9)	3	6
	(2,835)	LCTS ADJUSTMENT		(2,500)
30,705	22,846	Totals	30,987	23,461
	97.90%	Assumed Collection Rate		97.90%
	22,366	Total Taxbase		22,968

CF 3. Authorities making precepts or demands on the fund

Council Tax

Precept 2021/22 £	Distribution of Previous Years Estimated Surplus/ (Deficit) 2021/22 £	Total Movement on the Collection Fund 2021/22 £	Precepts Analysis	Precept 2022/23 £	Distribution of Previous Years Estimated Surplus/ (Deficit) 2022/23 £	Total Movement on the Collection Fund 2022/23 £
4,179,982	148,629	4,328,611	Tamworth Borough Council	4,407,330	114,194	4,521,524
5,335,857	194,050	5,529,907	OPCC Staffordshire	5,709,156	151,204	5,860,360
1,761,993	62,171	1,824,164	Staffordshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority	1,845,479	48,139	1,893,618
30,431,627	1,093,775	31,525,402	Staffordshire County Council	32,185,058	848,551	33,033,609
41,709,459	1,498,625	43,208,084	Total	44,147,023	1,162,088	45,309,111

NDR

Business Rates 2021/22 £	Distribution of Previous Years Estimated Deficit 2021/22 £	Total Movement on the Collection Fund 2021/22 £	Precepts Analysis	Business Rates 2022/23 £	Distribution of Previous Years Estimated Deficit 2022/23 £	Total Movement on the Collection Fund 2022/23 £
13,166,215	1,829,738	14,995,953	Tamworth Borough Council	13,252,313	842,896	14,095,209
329,155	45,743	374,898	Staffordshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority	331,308	21,072	352,380
2,962,398	411,689	3,374,087	Staffordshire County Council	2,981,770	189,649	3,171,419
16,457,769	2,287,171	18,744,940	Central Government	16,565,391	1,053,616	17,619,007
32,915,537	4,574,341	37,489,878	Total	33,130,782	2,107,233	35,238,015

The reduction in the balance on the CFAA is due to a reduction in the deficit on the NDR Collection Fund of £2.1m (£4.6m in 2021/22) arising from the additional relief provided to local businesses as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Government have provided funding for the additional reliefs through Section 31 grants to Local Authorities.

It should be noted however, that this represents the total Collection Fund impact, and the Councils 40% share of this equates to c.£0.8m which has been reflected in the Councils accounts and transferred to reserve to fund the deficit carried forward to 2023/24 (in line with collection fund accounting practice – whereby the deficit is funded in the following financial year as part of the budget process).

CF 4. NDR credits

NDR credit accounts relate to credit balances in the Collection Fund which could not be repaid to the businesses concerned as they cannot be traced, have not responded to efforts made to repay funds or no longer exist.

No credits have been transferred to the General Fund during 2022/23.

CF 5. Bad and Doubtful Debts

The following provisions and write offs were made in the year:

2021/22 £000	Provision for Bad Debts	2022/23 £000
1,494	Council Tax	
255	Balance at 1st April 2022	1,712
(37)	Increase /(decrease) in provision	396
	Written off in year	(23)
1,712	As at 31st March 2023	2,085
686	Business Rates	
259	Balance at 1st April 2022	943
(2)	Increase /(decrease) in provision	2
	Written off in year	(93)
943	As at 31st March 2023	852

CF 6. Appeals – Business Rates

The following provisions and settlements were made in the year:

2021/22 £000	Provision for Appeals	2022/23 £000
6,572 (1,534) (266)	Business Rates Balance at 1st April 2022 Increase /(decrease) in provision Resolved in year	4,772 1,190 (1,416)
4,772	As at 31st March 2023	4,546

Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

What is Governance?

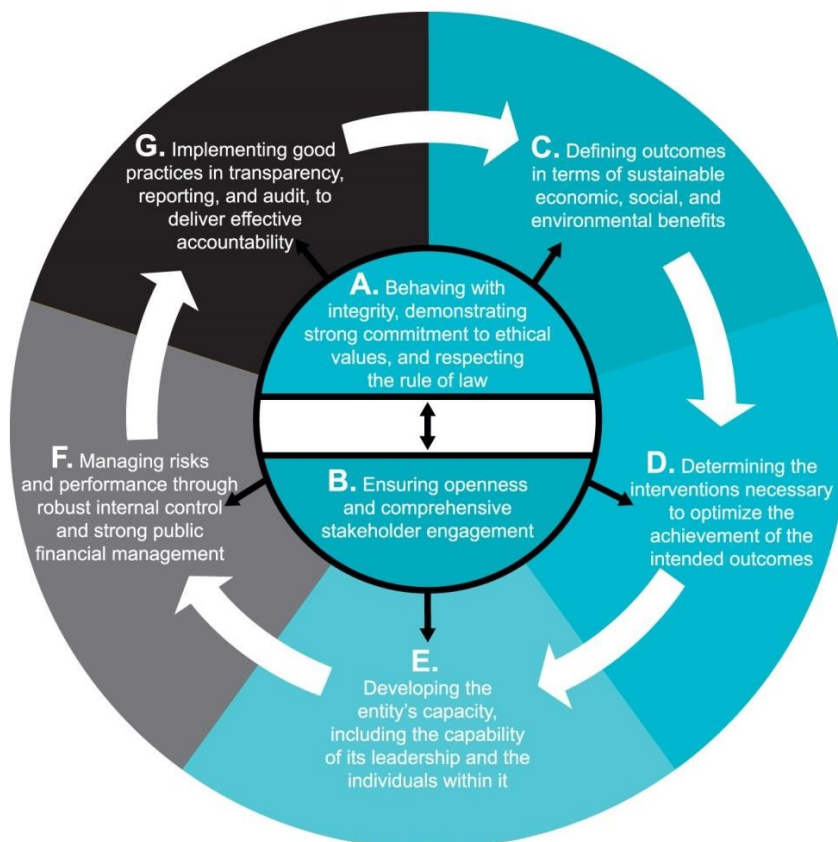
Governance comprises the arrangements put in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for stakeholders are defined and achieved.

To deliver good governance in the Authority, both governing bodies (Members) and individuals working for the Authority must try to achieve the Authority's objectives whilst acting in the public interest at all times.

Acting in the public interest implies primary consideration of the benefits for society, which should result in positive outcomes for service users and other stakeholders.

The Core Principles of Good Governance

The diagram below, taken from the International Framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector, illustrates the various principles of good governance in the public sector and how they relate to each other.



Responsibility

The Authority is responsible for ensuring that its business is completed in line with the law and statutory legislation, and that public money is spent wisely and properly accounted for. We will ensure that we continually improve the way we provide our services whilst taking into account value for money.

We will ensure that we put in place proper arrangements to ensure our risks are managed, and that controls and the governance process are in place.

We have approved and adopted a Code of Corporate Governance which is consistent with principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*. The Code demonstrates the supporting principles which underpin the core principles and identifies the assurance as outlined in the Framework. It also demonstrates what level of assurance we get and thus, identifies any areas for improvement. This forms the assurance framework for good governance and demonstrates that we know our governance arrangements are working. Links to all supporting evidence identified in the assurance framework are contained within the Code of Corporate Governance and are not repeated in this statement. The Code of Corporate Governance document is available on the Council's website.

Our Outcomes

Our desired outcomes for 2022-25 are detailed in the Corporate Plan and Council Vision. The Corporate Plan details our Vision and sets out our Thematic Priorities. Under each thematic priority, we detail our ambitions and how we are going to realise these. All outcomes we aim to achieve, along with changes we want to see and supporting information are detailed in the Corporate Plan.

For each activity or process we complete, we ensure that the appropriate governance arrangements are in place.

For 2022/23, we together with the rest of the UK, have faced an unprecedented global crisis through both recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic and other geopolitical situations. This has been and will remain, a significant factor affecting our operations in 2023/24 and beyond. This was further supported by the Council's Recovery & Reset programme designed to build resilience and maximise opportunities arising from the Pandemic which completed during 2022/23.

While the Corporate Plan remains relevant to our future outcomes, these will no doubt be affected by both the ongoing effects of Covid-19 and other geopolitical situations. As part of our AGS this year, we have included the measures we have taken to ensure our governance effectiveness has not been impacted or compromised by the pandemic, this mirrors the approach taken during 2020/21 and 2021/22..

The Corporate Plan was revised during 2021/22 and a new plan for the period from 2022 to 2025 was approved at Cabinet on 17 March 2022.

This work has all been brought together by councillors, during a number of councillor-led workshops and seminars, into a new refocused vision to reflect new priorities. Again, this year collaborative budget setting workshops were held to ensure all councillors were able to have involvement in what is important to them and their residents.

Our new vision is 'Tamworth – celebrating our heritage, creating a better future'

In order to achieve that vision, we have developed this new Corporate Plan which will be delivered with a workforce and organisation that has adapted to an unprecedented national challenge, working hand in hand with our partners and communities.

This new vision, together with our new Corporate Plan, details five areas of focus for the borough; including the key outcomes we are seeking to achieve and how we will work to achieve them.

Our primary areas of focus will be:

- The Environment
- The Economy
- Infrastructure
- Living in Tamworth
- The Town Centre

Each priority has a number of supporting areas of focus and progress will be achieved through the delivery of corporate and transformational projects; each having clearly defined objectives and outcomes.

CORPORATE PLAN SUMMARY

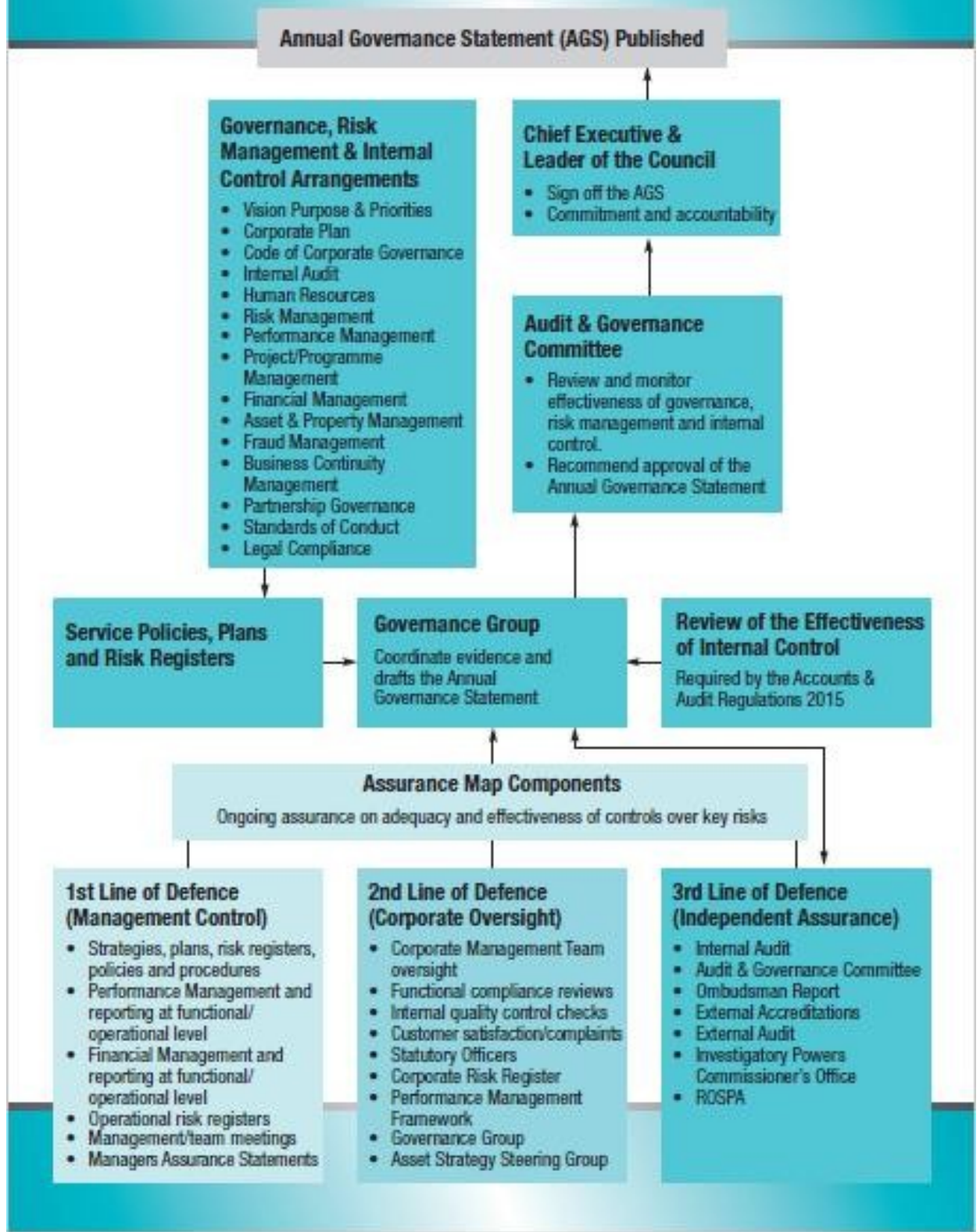
TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL VISION

‘Tamworth – celebrating our heritage, creating a better future’

1. THE ENVIRONMENT	3. INFRASTRUCTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Enforcement and education with regard to litter and fly-tipping ▶ Development of infrastructure for acting on Climate Change ▶ Support more people to recycle and to reduce waste ▶ Working with partners to protect, maintain and improve the green space offer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Review Local Plan to improve the transport links within Tamworth ▶ Improve existing walkways and cycling routes ▶ Ensure more people can access council services digitally/digital enhancement with partners and within Council housing stock
2. THE ECONOMY	4. LIVING IN TAMWORTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Development of business initiatives to promote start up and growth ▶ Support business growth to generate employment opportunities by working with businesses ▶ Provision of good quality and affordable housing ▶ Improve tourism in terms of good access to information for visitors to help local businesses and Tamworth as a destination as a whole, maximise and improve the quality of the visitor experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ensure adequate supply of affordable housing through the Local Plan review ▶ Investment in Neighbourhood and Place environment ▶ Through our Economic Development team, we will support job creation and business retention and expansion through interventions and advice, and seek to protect the local economy where we can influence this. ▶ Improve and promote Tamworth’s historic and cultural assets and events ▶ Community Safety focus on neighbourhoods and place ▶ Working with partners to ensure the fear of crime within Tamworth is reduced
5. TOWN CENTRE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Continue to develop street market and extend supporting events around the market to add vibrancy within the town centre ▶ Create a branding scheme for “Created in Tamworth” ▶ Provide the infrastructure to improve evening and night time economy ▶ Embrace Tamworth’s history and culture so as to build a sense of local pride and support our children’s education and understanding of the significant part Tamworth played in British history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Continue to promote all outdoor events ▶ Development of a new Tamworth Enterprise Centre as part of the structural transformation of the town centre ▶ Make the town centre more accessible ▶ Provide the environment where the leisure and food offer can grow and flourish ▶ Working with others seek to improve the night-time transport offer to support the overall night-time economy

The Assurance Framework

The diagram below shows how the Assurance Framework is made up



What have we done to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our governance arrangements during 2022/23 including ensuring that those arrangements have not been compromised by the impact of the pandemic.

The Authority has the responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by:

- The work of Internal Audit which is detailed in the Internal Audit's Annual Report.
- Responsibility of Corporate Management Team for the development and maintenance of the internal control environment.
- Reports received from our External Auditors and any other review agencies or inspectorates.

During 2022/23, our operations were impacted by the global pandemic and its subsequent recovery. The Council continued to support vulnerable people, deliver critical front line services and continued response to the effects of the COVID19 pandemic during the year including the payment of significant levels of support to local businesses and individuals (through the council tax energy rebate scheme) and expanded businesses rates relief to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses. Importantly, the COVID-19 emergency tested the Council's ability to move at pace, prioritise its service delivery and demonstrate its core values & purpose. To ensure our governance arrangements remained effective, the following actions have contributed to the evaluation of the effectiveness of the arrangements:

- The Council has continued to respond rapidly and effectively to the pandemic related restrictions as they have been announced by Government. Most staff switched to virtual working and establishments, such as the Castle and Assembly Rooms were initially closed, however have now re-opened. Public health and safety became a priority for a number of teams working collaboratively to manage Covid outbreaks within our communities and to ensure the safe return of people to the town centre as Covid restrictions were eased. Resilience plans were activated in partnership with the Civil Contingencies Unit and businesses were supported by the authority with the distribution of c.£30m in Government grants since the start of the pandemic, through a variety of different schemes – together with expanded Business Rates Relief totalling over £25million to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses, including a further 50% relief in 2022/23. The Council's aim was to ensure public service delivery could continue safely where permitted.
- The Council's Recovery & Reset Programme was formally closed on 31 March 2023, agreed at Cabinet on 6 April 2023. The programme was subject to post implementation review by BDO (internal audit) and recognized as giving substantial assurance with significant success factors reported.
- Increased residents' resilience and access to information through empowering and working with 'anchor' and third sector organisations to support our most vulnerable
- Support our most vulnerable through preventing homelessness and helping people access suitable housing amidst major Government initiatives including the "everyone" in campaign, whilst also pausing non-essential moves
- Following meetings being held remotely the Council recommenced its meeting programme through face to face meetings which were additionally streamed
- The internal audit programme included provision of days for Covid-19 flash assurance audits to ensure that those charged with governance were able to get dynamic assurance over risks affecting the Council from the pandemic, for example in terms of productivity and governance. The ICT audit programme included remote working to gain further assurance with most staff transitioning to working from home in relation to ICT Back Ups.

In addition to the above, the Council's 'business as usual' governance arrangements have continued to operate, for example:

- The Code of Corporate Governance, set out in line with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*, has been reviewed and updated.
- Internal audit have reported to the Audit & Governance Committee on a quarterly basis and provided an opinion on the overall effectiveness of the system of internal control based upon the work completed. The statement for the 2022/23 financial year is as follows:
'On the basis of audit work completed, Internal Audit's opinion on the council's framework of governance, risk management and internal control is reasonable in its overall design and effectiveness. Certain weaknesses and exceptions were highlighted by audit work. These matters have been discussed with management, to whom recommendations have been made. All of these have been, or are in the process of being addressed'.
- Our External Auditors report to each Audit & Governance Committee. In their Audit Findings Report (2021/22), they gave an unqualified opinion on the Statement of Accounts and did not identify any significant weaknesses, with a few improvement recommendations in respect of the Authority securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- The Corporate Risk Register is owned and reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Corporate Management Team and reported in the Quarterly Health Check to Cabinet. It is also reported in the risk management update to the Audit & Governance Committee..
- Managers Assurance Statements have been completed by Executive Directors and Assistant Directors and have not identified any significant control issues.
- Financial Guidance and Financial and Contract Procedure Rules are reviewed on a regular basis, the latest review being approved by the Audit & Governance Committee in April 2023. A full review of the constitution took place and was approved by Council in December 2020, this has been updated and will be presented to Council during 2023/24.
- The Chief Finance Officer and Audit Manager are suitably experienced and qualified and comply with the CIPFA Statements on their respective roles.
- No issues were raised through the Counter Fraud and Corruption and Whistleblowing Policies.
- There were 20 data security breaches reported to the Data Protection Officer during the financial year, 3 of which were reported to the Information Commissioners Officer.
- Internal Audit are required to comply with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. As part of this requirement, Internal Audit are required to complete an annual self-assessment against the Standards and produce a Quality Assurance & Improvement Programme(QAIP) which identifies areas for improvement both to ensure compliance with the Standards and other quality areas. The self-assessment against the standards and the QAIP are reported to the Audit & Governance Committee. The five yearly External Quality Assessment was completed during 2022/23 and the service achieved the highest level of compliance 'generally conforms'. An action plan for actions identified during the review has been agreed and will be implemented during 2023/24.
- The Performance Management Framework ensures that the Financial Health Check is reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis and made readily available on the Authority's website.

- The Authority is currently compliant with the PSN Code of Connection. The compliance process includes assessments against governance, service management, information assurance conditions and technical controls and assures access to the Public Services Network. Our current compliance certificate expires in May 2024, the renewal process will be started prior to that to ensure continuity of PSN services.
- An annual update report is presented to the Audit & Governance Committee on the use of RIPA powers. During 2022/23, no RIPA authorisations were made.
- To assist in a more co-ordinated approach to managing projects, a Corporate Project Management template and process is now in place.
- A self-assessment of the Audit & Governance Committee's effectiveness was completed in February 2023.
- The Chairs of the Audit & Governance and Scrutiny Committees submitted their Annual Reports to Full Council.
- The Authority complies with the Financial Management Transparency Code.
- Counter fraud work continues to be completed with the retained expertise of in-house staff to investigate corporate fraud.
- Internal Audit completes an annual assessment of the risk of fraud which is reported to the Audit & Governance Committee annually. The counter fraud plan and risk assessment were reported to the Committee in October 2022 and it was concluded that the Authority has adopted a response that is appropriate for its fraud and corruption risks and commits to maintain its vigilance to tackle fraud.
- In compliance with the Localism Act 2011, a report was presented to Full Council in October 2020 advising them of the number of complaints received regarding Members Conduct. A report was not submitted during 2022/23.
- The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman annual report letter was reported to Audit & Governance Committee in October 2022.
- The review of the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation was approved by Council in December 2020. It will be due to be refreshed in the Summer 2023
- The Anti-Money Laundering Policy was reviewed and refreshed by the Audit & Governance Committee in October 2022 and a new Prevention of Tax Evasion Policy was approved by the Audit & Governance Committee in October 2020.
- A new Diversity and Equality Scheme (2020-24) was formally approved by full council in October 2020 with supporting action plan.
- The annual Pay Policy was approved by Council in December 2022

- The authority has continued to progress implementations of the organisation's response to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The Data Protection Officer continues to raise its awareness of GDPR across the authority. As part of wider IT Governance work, policies and procedures have been reviewed or are being developed to meet our obligations under the GDPR and to ensure a robust governance framework is in place for our ICT systems and information assets. The Information Security Policy and Data Protection Policy is being rolled out across the authority and is a mandatory requirement for new starters. The authority's Corporate Privacy Notice along with Departmental Fair Processing Notices have been developed with reviews being undertaken when necessary. Information on our website has been reviewed and updated with guidance to support our customer's rights of access to their data. Work is progressing with suppliers to ensure the security and compliance of personal data held within our software systems. An ongoing programme of cyber security awareness and training is undertaken across the authority with regular signposted updates on Infozone.
- As part of the remit of the Audit & Governance Committee during 2022/23 they reviewed the risks around the Future High Street Fund. The sub-committee meets quarterly and reports directly to the Audit & Governance Committee.
- Partnership working arrangements continued to strengthen and further develop with both our statutory and community and voluntary sector partners. The response to the pandemic was unprecedented and has created a good foundation for closer links and partnership work as we move into recovery.
- The Tamworth Advice Centre commissioned through the partnership team continues to provide valuable generalist debt and specialist advice to our most vulnerable citizens and will be re-commissioned in 2021/22. This tender was successfully procured and awarded in April 2022 to Mid Mercia CAB.
- We value our community and voluntary sector and the work they do within our community. In 2020/21, despite lockdown we awarded grants through our Community Grants and Councillor Grants Programme to aid community response to the pandemic. Full details can be found on our website:
https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/misc_docs/2021-22_Grants.pdf
- The Place Based Approach continues to grow and further develop; this is a collaborative partnership approach through the County Council Building Resilient Families programme that uses multi skilled teams, universal services, voluntary sector organisations, and communities at the right time to improve outcomes for children, young people, vulnerable people and our community. As part of this Place Based Approach we have been working in partnership to identify community and voluntary sector organisations that can offer children, families and vulnerable people help and support at the earliest opportunity.

- Financial resilience is and has been the key requirement for local authorities at any time, but in the current crisis it has assumed unprecedented importance. Cabinet Recovery and Reset programme which ran from Sept 2020 to April 2023 – its aims to consider and respond to the financial challenges facing the council as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. A service review project within the programme, aimed at reducing waste demand on services (basically this is any action or step in a process that does not add value to the customer), exploring opportunities for income generation and identifying any further savings – all of which resulted in £6.9m of service efficiencies contributing to a balanced MTFS 2023

- The Authority has both a moral and legal obligation to ensure a duty of care for children and adults with care and support needs across its services. We are committed to ensuring that all children and adults with care and support needs are protected and kept safe from harm whilst engaged in services organised and/or provided by the Council. We do this by:
 - Having a Safeguarding Children & Adults at Risk of Abuse & Neglect Policy and procedures in place
https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/community_docs/Safeguarding-children-and-adults-at-risk-of-abuse-and-neglect.pdf ;
 - Having Safeguarding Children & Adults Processes which give clear, step-by-step guidance if abuse is identified;
 - Safeguarding training programme in place for staff and members;
 - Carrying out of the appropriate level of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks on staff and volunteers;
 - Working closely with Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board & Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership; and Staffordshire Police.

- The Authority recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. In addition to the Authority's responsibility as an employer, it also acknowledges its duty as a Borough Council to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking as introduced by section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Authority is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking. The Authority has included modern slavery and human trafficking information within the corporate safeguarding policy and training. A Modern Slavery statement is prepared each year and endorsed by Corporate Management Team and Audit and Governance Committee.
<https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/safeguarding>
 The Council will continue to develop and strengthen its approach to modern slavery trafficking in 2022/23 and updated statement prepared by September 2023.

- The Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership continues to meet each week and the Council is also committed to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to ensure that partner organisations are working together to coordinate efforts to support high risk victims of domestic abuse, children, young people, families and vulnerable people across Tamworth.
- Tamworth launched a Social Housing Regulatory Programme in April 2023, building on a commissioned self assessment of its regulatory compliance with the consumer standards for its stock retained services in 2021/2022. This assessment resulted in a risk based improvement plan, areas of which will be built into service plans from 2022-2025. The Programme oversight is championed by tenants and forms part of the Council's reporting on performance.

Declaration

We have been advised on the implications of the result of the review of the effectiveness of the Governance Framework by the Audit & Governance Committee and that the arrangements continue to be regarded as fit for purpose. The issues which remain outstanding from previous years' Annual Governance Statements are detailed at **Annex 1** with actions to address them. No additional governance issues were highlighted during 2022/23. Other minor issues highlighted through the assurance gathering process have been noted with planned actions to address these issues. Monitoring of the completion of all these issues will be completed through reporting to the Audit & Governance Committee.

We propose over the coming year to take steps to address those matters raised to further enhance our governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operations as part of our next review.

Signed

P Turner

A Barratt

Leader

Chief Executive

Date

On behalf of the Authority

This information can be produced on request in other formats and languages. Please contact Internal Audit Services on 01827 709234 or email enquiries@tamworth.gov.uk

This is an electronic copy without an electronic signature. The original was signed as dated above and a copy can be obtained from the Executive Director Finance

Significant Governance Issues

The significant governance issues identified in relation to previous iterations of our Annual Governance Statement, which remained significant issues for us during 2022/23 and are detailed below:

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No	Issue	Previous Action	Update 2022/23
1	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)</p> <p>Whilst actions have been taken to ensure that the MTFS remains balanced, this is still a significant risk to the Authority. Revenue Support grant will be removed around 2020. Opportunities and risks associated with the 100% Business Rates Retention will need to be identified. The increasing demands of our customers also need to be considered.</p>	<p>The Medium Term Financial Planning process is being challenged by the ongoing uncertain economic conditions. The attached forecast is based on a 5 year period, but does contain a number of uncertainties.</p> <p>For two years, the government has only held single-year Spending Reviews, with 2019 being a single year due to the political turbulence around Brexit, and 2020 being a single year, given the COVID-19 pandemic. However, on 7th September 2021, the Chancellor wrote to Secretaries of State to confirm the government’s intention to complete a multi-year Spending Review (SR2021), setting revenue and capital budgets for 2022/23 to 2024/25.</p>	<p>On 12th December 2022, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Communities and Local Government published a written ministerial statement which was accompanied by a policy statement on the 2023/24 local government finance settlement and assumptions about the 2024/25 local government finance settlement.</p> <p>This statement came ahead of the 2023/24 provisional local government finance settlement announcement, which was published in December 2022, detailing local authority-level figures for 2023/24.</p> <p>The Government has set out some planning assumptions for the 2024/25 local government finance settlement as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Review of Relative Needs and Resources (‘Fair Funding Review’) and a

		<p>As part of the recent Spending Review, no announcement was made about the government's plans for funding reform or a reset of the Business Rates Retention (BRR) system, both of which were originally expected to be implemented in 2019/20, but which have been delayed a number of times.</p> <p>The 2022/23 local government finance settlement has now been published, for one year only and is based on the Spending Review 2021 (SR21) funding levels. This is the first time since 2015 that, in the context of a multi-year Spending Review, the government has only provided local authorities with a single-year settlement.</p> <p>No detailed announcements were made on funding reform, though Government confirmed that it is committed to ensuring that funding allocations for councils are based on an up-to-date assessment of their needs and resources.</p> <p>While this means the Council will be able to retain its business rate growth for 2022/23, it also means that the</p>	<p>reset of Business Rates growth will not be implemented in the next two years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council tax referendum principles will continue the same as 2023/24. • Revenue support grant will continue and be uplifted in line with baseline funding levels (assumed now to be now based on September 2023 CPI), while social care grants will increase as set out in the table above. • Business rates pooling will continue. • The Government will set out the future position of New Homes Bonus ahead of the 2024/25 local government finance settlement. <p>This settlement represents a 'holding position' until the next Parliament, aiming at stability. The ruling out of a business rates reset, or a fair funding review, means that the funding distribution will stay fairly stable (with the exception of Extended Provider Responsibility funding). But this means that the big questions about the future of the funding system remain unaddressed one way or another.</p> <p>While this means the Council will be able to retain its business rate growth for 2023/24 and 2024/25, it also means that the uncertainty continues and potentially the Council still faces losing this growth from 2025/26.</p>
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		<p>uncertainty continues and potentially the Council still faces losing this growth from 2023/24 as, over the coming months, the Government have stated that they will work with the sector before consulting on funding reform.</p>	<p>There are also further uncertainties arising from current cost pressure and inflationary increases which have compounded the likely price increases for supplies that are required for building or construction/maintenance works.</p> <p>The Recovery & Reset Programme package of savings originally reported in July 2022 estimated savings to be in the region of c£3.5m over 5 years; £2.8m of which was unbudgeted capital costs for continuing to occupy Marmion House.</p> <p>As part of the update report to Cabinet on 10th November 2022, including those already built into the medium-term financial plan, the revised programme potentially delivers efficiencies of c£5.1m over the next 5-year medium term. This includes the c£3.5m already identified; plus, an additional £1.6m already delivered through the service re-design project within the programme.</p> <p>In light of the base budget and MTFS forecast considered by Cabinet on 1st December 2022, following the Leaders Budget Workshop on 30th November 2022, Managers were asked to identify further areas for potential savings – which have now been included in the policy changes, amounting to c.£1.8m over 5 years.</p>
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No	Issue	Previous Action	Update 2022/23
2	<p>Regeneration/Capital Projects</p> <p>The Authority needs to ensure that capital projects are managed effectively to ensure that they are delivered and grant monies are spent appropriately and timely.</p> <p>There is a risk that developers will not develop timely in accordance with the Local Plan need.</p>	<p>Re-profiling of capital scheme spend from 2021/22 into 2022/23 is forecast at c. £30.4m relating mainly to new affordable Housing development, housing capital works, Disabled Facilities Grants, Acquisitions and Commercial Investments.</p> <p>It is anticipated that this spend will now occur during 2022/23 but the situation will be closely monitored. As part of the MTFs, Council in February 2021 approved the updated Capital Strategy which sets out the Council's approach to capital investment and the approach that will be followed in making decisions in respect of the Council's Capital assets.</p> <p>Capital investment is an important ingredient in ensuring the Council's vision is achieved and given that capital resources are limited it is critical that the Council makes best use of these resources – including the development of a long term strategic</p>	<p>Re-profiling of capital scheme spend from 2022/23 into 2023/24 is forecast at c. £29.2m relating mainly to the Future High Street Fund Regeneration schemes of c.£17m together with Disabled Facilities Grants (£1.3m). There is also lower levels of re-profiling for new affordable Housing development (£3.4m) and housing capital works (£4.4m) including a Decarbonisation scheme (£1.1m).</p> <p>It is anticipated that this spend will now occur during 2023/24 but the situation will be closely monitored. As part of the MTFs, Council in February 2022 approved the updated Capital Strategy which sets out the Council's approach to capital investment and the approach that will be followed in making decisions in respect of the Council's Capital assets.</p> <p>Capital investment is an important ingredient in ensuring the Council's vision is achieved and given that capital resources are limited it is critical that the Council makes best use of these resources – including the development of a long term strategic plan to address the identified maintenance and repairs backlog for corporate assets.</p>

		<p>plan to address the identified maintenance and repairs backlog for corporate assets.</p> <p>It is recognised that significant further work is required in this area in order to deliver a robust capital strategy, and the updated Asset Management Plan is nearing completion, with an upto date stock condition survey (with appropriate budget provision approved within the MTFS) planned. This should set out the detailed capital resources /expenditure required to maintain assets, together with the associated timeframe, to inform options appraisal and feed into the capital strategy for ASSG/CMT review of potential schemes.</p>	<p>It is recognised that significant further work is required in this area in order to deliver a robust capital strategy, and the updated Asset Management Plan has been completed in draft following Scrutiny Committee consideration during the year, with an upto date stock condition survey. This sets out the detailed capital resources /expenditure required to maintain assets, together with the associated timeframe, to inform options appraisal and feed into the capital strategy for ASSG/CMT review of potential schemes.</p>
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No	Issue	Previous Action	Update 2022/23
3	<p>Welfare & Benefit Reform</p> <p>There is a risk of reduced income corporately due to welfare reform changes (including council tax support scheme and Universal Credit with further austerity measures from the Welfare reform Act 2015). As well as the potential for reduced income and an increase in bad debts, there are additional impacts arising from increased needs in services – eg., homelessness, requirement for additional support to vulnerable people, increased issues of ASB etc. meaning an increase in demand on 3rd sector and statutory agency services.</p>	<p>Income levels have been largely maintained in 2021/22 (due to the mitigations put in place) despite the Covid-19 crisis.</p> <p>The Corporate Working Group has continued to meet to take forward an organisation wide approach including preparations for implementation of the Debt Respite Scheme (Breathing Space).</p> <p>Following a tender process in 2021, further work was being commissioned around corporate debt to secure a one council approach focusing on not only the management of multiple debt households but seeking to understand how resources are better aligned to secure VFM.</p> <p>Third Sector Support and Vulnerability Strategy is one of the Recovery and Reset Programme projects – recognising that one of the most positive outcomes to the Pandemic is the overwhelming ability of ‘anchor organisations and communities’ to mobilise and</p>	<p>Income levels have been largely maintained in 2022/23 (due to the mitigations put in place) despite the effects of the Covid-19 crisis and recent geopolitical issues.</p> <p>The Corporate Working Group has continued to meet to take forward an organisation wide approach including preparations for implementation of the Debt Respite Scheme (Breathing Space). Following a tender process in 2021, further work was being commissioned around corporate debt to secure a one council approach focusing on not only the management of multiple debt households but seeking to understand how resources are better aligned to secure VFM.</p> <p>The work with the Voluntary Sector continues to thrive and baseline statistics have been produced through UK Share Prosperity Fund to understand the Council’s approach and underpin projects around identified priority vulnerability areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Exclusion • Financial Exclusion • Mental Health

		<p>support each other, this project will explore how the Council's commissioning framework can be aligned to build on these foundations going forward and how we define and develop our vulnerability strategy, building on the baseline assessment commissioned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital Exclusion• Housing and Homelessness <p>The work also includes baseline to produce a Borough Wellbeing Strategy</p>
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GLOSSARY

Accrual

A sum included in the accounts for income or expenditure in relation to the financial year, but not received or paid as at 31st March.

Amortisation

A measure of the cost of economic benefits derived from intangible fixed assets that are consumed during the period.

Balances

The total sum available to the Council, including the accumulated surplus of income over expenditure. Balances form part of the Council's reserves.

Balance Sheet

This shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council.

Business Rates Retention Scheme

This was introduced with effect from 1st April 2013, and requires the Council to operate a Collection Fund to account for Business Rates in a similar way to Council Tax. Rather than collecting Business Rates on behalf of the Government, the Council can now retain a share of the Business Rates it collects, and pays out a share to Government, Staffs County Council and the Staffordshire Commissioner (Fire and Rescue).

Capital Adjustment Account

This reserve reflects the difference between the cost of fixed assets consumed and the capital financing set aside to pay for them.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on the acquisition and enhancement of significant fixed assets that will be of use or benefit to the Council in providing its services beyond the year of account e.g. land and buildings.

Capital Financing Requirement

This represents the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes.

Capital Grants Unapplied

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 balance is restricted by grant terms as to the capital expenditure against which it can be applied and/or the financial year in which this can take place.

Capital Receipts

Proceeds from the sale of assets e.g. land or buildings, which may be used to finance new capital expenditure or are payable to the Central Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool.

Capital Receipts Reserve

The Capital Receipts Reserve holds the proceeds from the disposal of land or other assets, which are restricted by statute from being used other than to fund new capital expenditure or to be set aside to finance historical capital expenditure. The balance on the reserve shows the resources that have yet to be applied for these purposes at the year-end.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash includes bank balances and on demand deposits. Cash Equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments where the date of maturity is three months or less from the date of acquisition that are readily convertible to cash with an insignificant risk of change in value.

Cash Flow Statement

This shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period.

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) is the professional body for accountants working in the public sector.

Code of Practice

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom is produced by CIPFA and complied with by local authorities in the production of the financial statements.

Collection Fund

A fund administered by the Borough Council into which Business Rates and Council Tax monies are received and paid out to Government and precepting authorities.

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of Council Tax and Business Rates income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it falls due compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

Community Assets

The class of fixed assets held by the Council in perpetuity that have no determinable useful life and may have restrictions on their disposal, such as parks, historical buildings, works of art, etc.

Component Accounting

Where a Property, Plant or Equipment asset has major components, with a cost significant in relation to the overall cost of the asset; materially different useful lives; and/or different methods of depreciation, the components are separately identified and depreciated.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the total income received and expenditure incurred by the Council during the year in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation.

Contingency

The sum of money set aside to meet unforeseen expenditure.

Contingent Assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible asset which 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 in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible obligation, subject to uncertain future events not wholly within the Council's control. Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Creditors

Amounts owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered which have not been paid for by the end of the financial year.

Current Service Cost

An estimate of the true economic cost of employing people in a financial year.

Debtors

Amounts due to the Council for work done or services supplied, for which income has not been received by the end of the financial year.

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.

Depreciation

The measure of the wearing out, consumption, or other reduction in the useful economic life of a fixed asset, whether arising from use, passage of time or obsolescence through technical or other changes.

Exceptional Items

A material item of income or expenditure, significant to an understanding of the Council's financial performance, disclosed separately within the CIES or in a note to the accounts.

Expected Credit Loss Model

The Expected Credit Loss Model was introduced under IFRS 9 Financial Instruments, and applies to financial assets, lease receivables and contract assets.

Fixed Assets

Tangible assets that yield benefits to the Council for a period of more than one year.

General Fund Balance

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. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund Balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The General Fund Balance therefore summarises the resources that the Council is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the Council is required to recover) at the end of the financial year (however, the balance is not available to be applied to funding HRA services).

Housing Revenue Account Balance

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

IFRS

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) are a set of accounting standards used for the production of accounts from 2010/11 onwards. The introduction of IFRS is intended to make the

Statement of Accounts more robust and comparable with other local authorities and the wider public sector.

Intangible Assets

Non-financial assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the Council as a result of past events or through custody or legal rights (e.g. software licences).

Investment Property

Under IFRS, investment property is defined as a property which is held exclusively for revenue generation or for the capital gains that the asset is expected to generate - not used directly to deliver the Council's services.

Joint Operations

These are activities undertaken by the Council in conjunction with other venturers that involve the use of the assets and resources of the venturers rather than the establishment of a separate entity.

Leasing

A method of financing capital expenditure where rental charges are paid over a specified period of time. There are two main types of leasing arrangements:

- (a) finance leases which transfer all the risks and rewards of ownership of a fixed asset to the lessee and such assets are included within the fixed assets in the Balance Sheet;
- (b) operating leases where the ownership of the asset remains with the lessor and annual rental is charged direct to the revenue account.

Liabilities

Amounts due to individuals or organisations which will have to be paid some time in the future. Current liabilities are usually payable within one year of the Balance Sheet date.

Major Repairs Reserve

The Major Repairs Reserve represents the long term average amount of capital spending required to maintain the HRA Council housing stock in its current condition.

Materiality

An item is material if its omission, non disclosure or misstatement could be expected to lead to a distortion of the view given by the financial statements.

Minimum Revenue Provision

The minimum amount which must be charged to a revenue account each year and set aside to repay debt, presently 4% of the General Fund Capital Financing Requirement. No MRP is required for the Housing Revenue Account.

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves.

National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR)

The tax paid on non domestic properties, set annually by Government. In previous years, this tax was collected by billing authorities and paid over to the Government, with the Council receiving a share of the national pool as part of its resources used to meet total net expenditure. Under the new scheme introduced with effect from 1st April 2013, local authorities now retain a proportion of the Business Rates generated in their area.

Non Current Assets Held For Sale

Non Current Assets held for sale are those where the value of the asset will be recovered mainly by selling the asset rather than through its continuing use.

Pension Reserve

This absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions.

Post Balance Sheet Events

Those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the Balance Sheet date and the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the responsible financial officer.

Precept

This is a demand for payment made by Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Commissioner (Police and Crime) and Staffordshire Commissioner (Fire and Rescue). The payment is met from the Council's collection fund and is based on the Council Tax base.

Prior Period Adjustments

Those material adjustments applicable to prior years, arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of material errors. They do not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

Provision

An amount set aside to meet a liability that is likely to be incurred, and a reasonable estimate can be made, charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the CIES.

Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)

A government agency that provides longer-term loans to local authorities, at interest rates below market rate. It also acts as a lender of last resort (at a higher rate of interest).

Related Party

Two or more parties are related parties when at any time during the financial period:

One party has direct or indirect control of the other party; or

The parties are subject to common control from the same source; or

One party has influence over the financial and operational policies of the other party, to an extent that the other party might be inhibited from pursuing at all times its own separate interests; or

The parties, in entering a transaction, are subject to influence from the same source, to such an extent that one of the parties to the transaction has subordinated its own separate interests.

Remuneration

All sums paid to or receivable by an employee and sums due by way of expenses allowances (as far as those sums are chargeable to UK income tax) and the money value of any other benefits received other than in cash.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)

This is expenditure that is defined as Capital but where there is no matching asset in the accounts - legislation allows the treatment of some expenditure as capital where it does not result in the creation of a fixed asset. An example of this is where grants are awarded to third parties for capital expenditure.

Revaluation Reserve

This reserve records the net gain from revaluations of the Council's plant, property and equipment, and Intangible Assets, made after 1st April 2007.

Revenue Expenditure

The day-to-day expenditure incurred by the Council in providing services. It is financed by government grants, non-domestic rates, Council Tax and fees and charges.

Revenue Support Grant (RSG)

A general government grant in support of local authority expenditure.

Specific Grants

Government Grants to local authorities in aid of particular projects or services.

Usable Reserves

The purpose of each usable reserve is detailed below:

General Fund Balance

These funds are available to meet the future running costs for the Council for non-housing services.

Housing Revenue Account

This reserve holds funds that are available to meet future running costs relating to the Council's housing stock.

Capital Receipts Reserve

This reserve holds all of the Council's receipts generated from the disposal of Non Current Assets and although this is in the usable reserves section, this reserve can only be used to finance new capital investment or to repay debt.

Major Repairs Reserve

This reserve is to meet the capital investment requirements of the Council's housing programme.

Capital Grants Unapplied

This reserve is used to hold capital grants without conditions or where conditions have been satisfied, but the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure.

Earmarked Reserves – General Fund / Housing Revenue Account

Earmarked Reserves are amounts set aside for a specific purpose in one financial year and carried forward to meet expenditure in future years. Further details of the significant reserves within this heading are shown in Note 10.

Appendix to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

Chief Executive

- Chief Executive
- Electoral Process
- Audit & Governance
- Joint Waste Arrangement

Assistant Director Growth & Regeneration

- Strategic Planning & Development
- Environmental Health
- Economic Regeneration
- Tourism
- Tamworth Castle

Executive Director Organisation

- Executive Director Organisation
- Legal Services
- Democratic Services
- Land Charges
- Mayoralty

Assistant Director People

- Human Resources
- Payroll
- Customer Services
- Communications and Public Relations
- Information Technology

Assistant Director Operations & Leisure

- Streetscene
- Arts & Events
- Community Leisure
- Environmental Management

Executive Director Finance

- Executive Director Finance

Assistant Director Finance

- Corporate Finance
- Procurement
- Corporate Risk
- Revenue Services
- Benefits

Executive Director Communities

Executive Director Communities

Assistant Director Partnerships

Partnerships

Community Safety

Safeguarding

Private Sector Housing

Strategic Housing

Assistant Director Neighbourhoods – General Fund

Civil Contingencies

Street Wardens

CCTV

Assistant Director Neighbourhoods – HRA

Landlord Services

Assistant Director Assets – General Fund

Commercial Property

Facilities Management

Assistant Director Assets - HRA

Asset Management and Investment

HRA Summary

Housing Repairs

Independent auditor's report to the members of Tamworth Borough Council

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