



STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023



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An introduction to the City of Lincoln's 2022/23 Statement of Accounts by J Gibson, Chief Finance Officer, Section 151 Officer.

The Statement of Accounts

The purpose of the Accounts, which follow, is to give electors, those subject to locally levied taxes and charges, Members of the Council, employees and other interested parties clear information about the Council's finances. The Accounts show the financial performance for 2022/23 and the financial position at 31 March 2023. The Accounts present expenditure and income incurred by the Council in the financial year 2022/23 and highlight changes in the financial position of the Council over the course of the year.

The accounts of the Council are, by their nature, both technical and complex. The information contained within the Accounts for 2022/23 is presented as simply and clearly as possible and the Narrative Report explains some of the statements and provides a summary of the Council's financial performance as at 31st March 2023 and its financial prospects.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK (the Code) published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The Statement of Accounts consists of various sections and statements, which are briefly explained below:

A Narrative Report – this provides information on the format of this Statement of Accounts as well as a review of the financial position of the Council for the financial year.

The Statement of Responsibilities – this details the responsibilities of the Council and the Section 151 Officer concerning the Council's financial affairs and the actual Statement of Accounts.

The Audit Opinion and Certificate – this is provided by Mazars LLP following the completion of the annual audit.

The Accounting Policies – this statement explains the basis for the recognition, measurement and disclosure of transactions and other events in the accounts.

The Core Financial Statements, comprising:

- **The Movements in Reserves Statement** – this statement shows the movement in year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other unusable reserves.
- **The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)** – this statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with accounting standards, rather than the amount funded from taxation. The Council raises taxation to cover the cost of expenditure in accordance with

regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

- **The Balance Sheet** – this statement shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets (assets less liabilities) of the Council are matched by the reserves held by the Council.
- **The Cash Flow Statement** – this statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the year. It shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.

The Notes to the Financial Statements – these provide supporting and explanatory information on the Financial Statements.

The Supplementary Statements, comprising:

- **The Housing Revenue Income and Expenditure Statement** - this 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 Council charges rents to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The increase or decrease in the year, on the basis of which rents are raised, is shown in the Movement on the HRA Statement.
- **The Movement on the HRA Statement** – this statement takes the outturn on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement and reconciles it to the surplus or deficit for the year on the HRA Balance, calculated in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- **The Collection Fund Statement** - this statement is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities (such as the City of Lincoln Council) to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the Council in relation to the collection from Council Tax and Business Rate payers and distribution to Lincolnshire County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire (PCCL) and Government of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR).

Financial Summary 2022/23

Much has changed over the last twelve months with global events having played a significant part in shaping our financial year. The legacy effects of Covid19, the war in the Ukraine and Brexit have all impacted on global and national economies, creating disruption to global supply chains and commodity markets, elevating energy prices, exacerbating food shortages and critically forcing inflation to its highest level in 40 years.

The impact of these events has driven up the cost of goods and services, which in turn has put a financial strain on local government, and the Council itself. The past twelve months have seen the Council face mounting cost pressures arising from soaring energy prices, nationally agreed pay agreements and escalating contractual costs.

In addition, these global events and their specific impact on inflation has driven a national cost of living crisis in the UK. This in turn creates a growing demand for some of our key services as those more vulnerable in the City, a client group that was impacted the hardest during Covid19, look to the Council for support and rely on the safety net provided by local government.

These unforeseen and unavoidable cost pressures seriously impacted on the assumptions that underpinned our 2022/23 budget. As a result of which, when reporting the forecast position at the end of the first two quarters of the year, both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account were forecasting significant cost pressures. In response to this, we took swift action and implemented a range of mitigation actions, as part of a financial recovery programme to ensure we retained a sustainable financial position in 2022/23, and also in the medium term.

As a result of maintaining our strong financial discipline and the mitigating actions that were taken, both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account were able to reverse the forecast overspend positions and have financial outturns for 2022/23 of small underspends, resulting in higher than budgeted contributions to general balances.

Despite the challenges of an increasing cost base and rising demand for services and the capacity required to implement the mitigating actions, we have continued to ensure that our limited resources are directed and used in support of our Vision 2025. During 2022/23, we have invested in local services and projects to support the City's economy, business and residents and, in addition, we have prioritised support for those feeling the effects of the cost-of-living crisis. We have continued to fully fund our Local Council Tax Support Scheme, distributed support from the Household Support Fund, Council Tax Energy Rebate and Energy Bills Support Schemes, provided further support through our local Hardship Funds and supported our tenants through the creation of a new tenancy sustainment team (further details of the support provided is set out in the Performance section below).

Although both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account were able to respond to the financial challenges in 2022/23 and maintain balanced budget positions, this does not mean that the financial issues for the Council are resolved, it simply means that the in-year budget pressures were addressed.

We will continue to face significant financial challenges as we move into 2023/24, but we will build on our successful financial management to date, maintaining a vigilant watch on expenditure and income. The measures we have in place to manage our finances remain robust and continue to drive strong financial performance. Through constant forecasting and an ever present view of our service performance we continue to navigate the challenges of the cost of living crisis and the impacts of economic factors, to deliver value for money services for the people of Lincoln whilst also ensuring that our limited resources are directed towards the priority areas in our Vision 2025.

Performance

The City of Lincoln Council is a high performing and innovative organisation, focussed on providing quality services and delivering outcomes that matter. Our Vision 2025 is

an ambitious strategic plan that is helping to transform both the Council and the City through our five strategic priorities.

Vision 2025 was adopted by the Executive on 24th February 2020. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the delivery of this plan was put on hold as the duties of many of our employees were reprioritised to provide emergency support to our residents. Work on the delivery of this plan recommenced in 2022 in line with the recommencement of services and the return to more normal working conditions.

This recommencement of the plan in 2022 was an opportunity to review and relaunch Vision 2025 to ensure that the actions taken to meet the priorities will help tackle the needs of the City's residents and businesses following the Covid19 pandemic. As part of this work, the effect of Covid19 on the physical and mental health of residents was considered, and as a result resources were focussed towards prevention and addressing those areas, including health inequalities, that will be needed most over the next three year period to 2025.

Whilst delivery of this plan has continued to be challenging as a result of the financial and resource pressures being faced by the Council, listed below are some of the key Vision 2025 projects progressed over the past 12 months –

- Plans for the development of the Western Growth Corridor in the west of the city have continued to be progressed following receiving formal planning approval in 2022. The development will supply the city with 3,200 much needed new homes, a leisure village, industrial park, and transport infrastructure. Development work is expected to commence on site in 2023.
- The renovation and repurposing of Lincoln Central Market has continued. When complete this facility will provide a strong, sustainable indoor and outdoor market offer in Lincoln.
- Development of a residential scheme on land off Rookery Lane has been completed. The successful completion of the development has delivered a mix of affordable two, three, and four-bedroom houses, two-bedroom bungalows and one-bedroom flats.
- The Heritage Action Zone regeneration work has continued. The programme aims to maintain, protect and restore city centre shop fronts, historical buildings and heritage sites at risk, together with a public engagement strand based around cultural activity.
- Delivered the Lincoln Good Design awards, celebrating great architectural design in planning applications received over the last two years.
- Significant progress has been made with the re-imaging of Greyfriars, which was successful in securing it's round two funding bid from the National Heritage Lottery Fund of £1.952m in October 2022.
- Working in partnership with the Council, Heritage Trust Lincolnshire has secured funding for the Harlequin Project from the Architectural Heritage Fund, which will bring the Michaelgate properties, as the first part of this project back into use, with works anticipated to start later in 2023.
- Progress has continued on the Digital City agenda, which aims to see Lincoln becoming a smart place that is truly digitally enabled - having smart digital networks will support business innovation as well as access to transport, healthcare and a range of other services.
- Development of our workspaces and business premises offer has progressed helping to ensure businesses of all sizes and types can make Lincoln their home.

- Projects being delivered under the Town Deals work programme have continued to be progressed, such as improved transport schemes in the Sincil Bank area of the city.
- We have continued to deliver the Sincil Bank revitalisation project with the aim of making the area a better place for people to live and work.
- A review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan has been undertaken, which sets out where and how the city is going to develop over the next 20 years.
- Work to promote our green spaces and leisure areas has continued with the aim of inspiring residents to lead a healthy lifestyle.
- The Council has commenced work on the creation of Hope Wood on Council-owned land. The aim of the project is to enhance the existing biodiversity of the area through thoughtful planting of thousands of trees and shrubs. Upon completion of the works, the area will be an accessible space for residents and visitors to enjoy for years to come.
- Completed works on the regeneration of Boultham Park lake followed by an extensive community involvement scheme to encourage local people to become actively involved in the park.
- Completed major construction work to the dam wall in Hartsholme Country park.
- Undertaken further work to develop a cultural partnership for the city, which will lead to a new events and festivals strategy for Lincoln.
- Supported work to create Bio havens on the Brayford and have since commenced a project assessing how more greenery can be introduced into the city centre.
- Work has commenced on the development of a District Health and Wellbeing Strategy focused on improving the health of residents across the district.
- Grant funding has been made available to address issues of poor insulation and heating within the private sector.
- Following securing Safer Street funding the Council has upgraded its CCTV server room and installed a total of 34 CCTV cameras in Abbey, Carholme, Castle and Park wards. This has help provide safer routes for visitors, residents and students who choose to walk home after a night out in the city centre.
- Following completion of the De Wint Court supported housing development, a review of our other supported housing stock within the city has commenced. The review aims to assess the ongoing needs of our tenants alongside our Council housing stock.
- We have continued to deliver a campaign which encourages Private Sector landlords in the city to sign up to the Trusted Landlord Scheme.
- We have worked with partners on the Lincoln Climate Commission to develop a Climate Action Plan. This follows City of Lincoln Council being the second council in Lincolnshire to declare a climate emergency.
- The Council has achieved 'Green' level Environmental Management Accreditation by 'Investors in the Environment'.

In terms of service delivery, performance has continued to be affected over the past year, largely as a result of the current cost of living challenges and the ongoing recovery of the city following the Covid-19 pandemic. In direct response to these challenges we have worked hard to ensure our services and the support we can offer has reached those in need. Some examples of this work are provided below:

- Our Revenues and Benefits Team has continued to experience significant levels of demand, which has further continued to be impacted through the delivery

of several additional schemes to assist residents and businesses through Covid-19 and then into the cost of living challenges.

- The hard work of our Welfare Support teams has ensured our residents have continued to receive prompt, essential welfare and benefits advice.
- Across the Directorate for Housing and Investment, our housing teams have worked extremely hard maintaining Council homes to ensure they meet the decent homes standard, returning void properties back into use and collecting rent.
- The Housing Solutions Team has continued to provide invaluable support to our residents who are homeless or who are at risk of becoming homeless.
- Our Housing and Planning teams have worked to deliver much needed new affordable homes in the city on Rookery Lane.
- The Customer Services Team has managed an increasing number of telephone calls and e-mail enquiries as residents seek advice and support from the Council.
- The Council's Communication Team has provided clear guidance to residents and businesses on how they can access help and support. This communication has primarily been via our website and social media channels and has included the use of videos and a range of other media types to help effectively engage with our customers.
- The Council has continued to be a provider of apprenticeships. These apprenticeships have been across the areas of Business Administration, Customer Service, Team Leading and Management delivered by the Work Based Learning Team, together with Craft apprenticeships delivered by the Housing Repairs Service.

All of our achievements during 2022/23 should be set in the context of the significant difficulties in the recruitment and retention of staff currently being faced by local government, of which we are no exception. This creates capacity pressures in both operational services and in our support services. Whilst we have been able to continue to deliver against our priorities during 2022/23, some aspects of performance have been undoubtedly affected by our reduced resources, particularly when those resources have been under further pressure to respond to the financial and cost of living challenges arising in the year. Work continues both on a national and local level to develop a range of responses to encourage both new entrants into the sector as well as retain the existing workforce.



Revenue Income and Expenditure

General Fund

The General Fund covers all net spending by the Council on services other than those accounted for in the Housing Revenue Account. General Fund services are partly paid for by government grants and contributions from Retained Business Rates, with the balance being funded from Council Tax and income from fees and charges.

For 2022/23, the approved net expenditure budget for General Fund services was £8,907,490 including a planned contribution to reserves of £60,700.

As highlighted in the Financial Summary, 2022/23 has presented significant financial challenges for the Council and in particular the escalating cost of services provision, which were unforeseen and have far exceeded budgeted assumptions. The General Fund has experienced escalating costs in a number of key areas:

- Contractual services inflation increases – contracts for key front line service provision are linked to annual CPI/RPI price increases at set points in the year. The most significant of these contracts is in relation to waste and street cleansing. These two contracts are linked to inflation as at the previous December and have therefore seen increases of 5.4% for 2022/23.
- Gas and electric supplies - whilst the Council procures the majority of its energy supplies through a framework agreement, allowing it to benefit from economies of scale, it is still subject to the impacts of fluctuations in wholesale prices. Gas prices for 2022/23 have increased by 70% since April 2022 and electricity prices have increased by 100% from October 2022.
- Nationally agreed pay inflation - the pay offer, made by the National Employers for Local Government Services, was accepted by the Trade Unions in early November 2022. The pay deal sees a flat rate increase of £1,925 to all employees, equivalent to a 10.5% increase for the lowest paid members of staff and with the majority of officers receiving pay rises above 5%.

In terms of service delivery, during 2022/23 we have faced growing demands for some of our key services as those more vulnerable in the city look to the council for support as the cost-of-living crisis hits household incomes. This includes increased demand for; welfare advice; housing benefits; housing solutions, homelessness support, etc. Of particular challenge to the General Fund has been the cost of providing homelessness support, with escalating number of cases presenting increasing the cost of providing temporary accommodation.

In response to these escalating costs, we developed a range of mitigating actions as part of a financial recovery programme, in order to ensure we could maintain a sustainable financial position in 2022/23. Included within these actions was a review of the Council's Borrowing, Investment and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) strategies. This review resulted in a change to the MRP Policy (as approved by Full Council in February 2022), which has released significant savings in the medium term, whilst still maintaining a prudent provision. The net saving in 2022/23 is £0.790m

As a result of this reduction in capital financing costs, along with other actions taken during the year, including an in-year increase in some fees and charges and

temporary recruitment measures, and with some positive impacts of the economy on investment returns, the General Fund was able to reverse the forecast overspend position, estimated at quarter two, and has reported a small underspend outturn position for 2022/23. This underspend position includes additional contributions to a number of earmarked reserves in order to provide future resilience against a number of cost pressure risks that we are facing in future years.

The table that follows provides a summary of the final outturn position for the General Fund, against the net budget.

	ACTUAL 2022/23 £'000	REVISED BUDGET 2022/23 £'000	VARIANCE 2022/23 £'000
Chief Executive and Town Clerk	3,247	3,016	231
Directorate of Housing & Regeneration	1,050	1,100	(50)
Directorate of Communities & Environment	5,897	5,289	608
Directorate of Major Developments	457	489	(32)
Corporate	1,932	1,969	(37)
Net Operational Expenditure	12,582	11,863	719
Specific Grants	(899)	(859)	(40)
Savings Target	0	(54)	54
Earmarked Reserves	(5,627)	(5,626)	(1)
Insurance Reserve	(23)	40	(63)
Capital Accounting Adjustment	2,297	3,234	(937)
Contingencies	0	(112)	112
Total Expenditure	8,330	8,486	(156)
Contribution To/(From) General Balances	218	61	157
Total Net Budget	8,547	8,546	1
Retained Business Rates Income	(16,082)	(15,956)	(126)
Tariff	13,094	13,094	0
Section 31 grant	(3,192)	(3,108)	(84)
Levy Payment	967	759	208
Revenue Support Grant	(24)	(24)	0
Council Tax	(7,360)	(7,360)	0
Council Tax Section 31 Grant	0	0	0
Council Tax Deficit	6	6	0
NNDR Deficit	4,044	4,044	0
Total Resources	(8,547)	(8,546)	(1)

While total expenditure was £8.330m (£0.156m less than budget) this is offset by a £0.157m increase in the actual contribution to general balances. The actual

contribution to general balances was £0.218m compared to the approved budget of £0.061m.

Included within the General Fund Budget was an assumed savings target of £1.050m, which was to be delivered in 2022/23 as part of the Council's Towards Financial Sustainability (TFS) Programme. The provisional outturn performance shows that secured savings total £0.996m. This results in an under-achievement of the target in 2022/23 by £0.054m. This under-achievement should be set against the context of an overall positive position for the General Fund in 2022/23. The TFS programme continues to be successful, and work continues in developing and delivering new projects as part of the programme to secure the additional savings required in 2023/24 and future years.

Although the General Fund maintained a balanced budget position in 2022/23 this does not mean that the financial issues for the Council are resolved, it simply means that the in-year budget challenges have been addressed.

As at 31 March 2023, the Council held £9.455m General Fund revenue reserves, comprising £7.040m earmarked reserves (to cover specific or potential financial risks and liabilities) and £2.415m non-earmarked general reserves. General Balances are currently in line with the prudently assessed minimum requirements in the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy, which providing resilience for financial challenges we face.



Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account has to be kept as a separate account for all the expenditure and income relating to the landlord functions associated with the provision, management and maintenance of Council owned dwellings.

For 2022/23, the approved net operating budget for the Housing Revenue Account was set at £0.038m contribution to balances. Actual net expenditure for 2022/23 was £0.159m surplus, resulting in a £0.120m variance against the budget.

In line with the General Fund, a number of the key cost pressures; pay inflation, contractual inflation; energy price increases; and material and external labour prices, have impacted the Housing Revenue Account. These cost increases were unforeseen and far exceeded the assumptions underpinning the Housing Revenue Accounts budget.

As is being experienced across the Council, the Housing Revenue Account is also experiencing recruitment and retention challenges in relation to its craftworkers, increasing the reliance on external contractors.

These new financial and capacity pressures arose at a time when the Housing Revenue Account is still responding to the legacy effects of Covid19 and Brexit both in relation to service delivery, in terms of backlogs of outstanding housing repairs work, and also due to the ongoing impact on supply chains and availability of labour.

This combination of factors has led to a number of significant variances of both a positive and negative nature in the Housing Revenue Account, with underspends on general repairs and maintenance due to availability of resources and contractors and overspends on repairs to void properties due to a higher than normal level of void properties.

A range of measures have been implemented in 2022/23 to address some of the factors affecting the Housing Revenue Account, and these are producing positive results e.g., a reduction in voids backlogs. However, further work will be required in 2023/24 to fully address the performance issues and the subsequent financial variances this creates.

Overall, the net impact of these variances, including the positive effect of rising investment returns, resulted in the Housing Revenue Account reversing the forecast overspend position, estimated at quarter two, to reporting a small underspend outturn position for 2022/23. This underspend position includes additional contributions to a number of earmarked reserves in order to provide future resilience against a number of cost pressure risks that we are facing in future years.

The table that follows provides a summary of the final outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account, against the net budget.

	ACTUAL 2022/23 £'000	REVISED BUDGET 2022/23 £'000	VARIANCE 2022/23 £'000
<u>Operational Expenditure</u>			
Repairs & Maintenance	8,982	10,022	(1,040)
Supervision & Management	8,776	8,370	376
Provisions (including Bad Debt)	300	250	50
Rents, Rates and Other Premises	621	486	135
Other Expenditure	293	155	138
Capital Financing	7,862	7,450	412
Sub Total	26,834	26,733	71
<u>Add:</u>			
HRS – repatriation of surplus	222	0	222
Interest Payable & Similar Charges	2,432	2,580	314
Total Expenditure	29,488	29,313	944
<u>Income</u>			
Rents & Service Charges	(31,038)	(31,081)	43
Other Income	(892)	(710)	(181)
Interest	(614)	(66)	(547)

	ACTUAL 2022/23 £'000	REVISED BUDGET 2022/23 £'000	VARIANCE 2022/23 £'000
Net Expenditure	(3,683)	(2,544)	(20,662)
<u>Less:</u>			
Appropriation to/(from) Major Repairs Reserves	2,147	2,559	(412)
Appropriations to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	749	(53)	801
Net HRA (Surplus)/Deficit	(159)	(39)	(120)

As at 31 March 2023, the Council held £4.700m HRA revenue reserves, comprising £3.509m earmarked reserves (to cover identified specific, potential financial risks and liabilities) and £1.191m non-earmarked general reserves.

Capital Expenditure (Note 39)

Capital expenditure on the provision of new or enhanced assets is met from capital receipts, government grants, contributions from third parties and revenue contributions, with the balance funded from borrowing.

Capital spending in the year was £23.9m compared to the revised approved programme budget of £38.4m, representing an underspend of £14.5m against the profiled budget. The variance in 2022/23 is mostly due to the re-profiling of schemes within the general fund and housing programmes resulting from the delays in appointed contractors for the schemes. The 2022/23 capital spending and funding position is summarised as follows:

	ACTUAL 2022/23 £'000	BUDGET 2022/23 £'000	VARIANCE 2022/23 £'000
Capital Expenditure			
General Fund	11,213	17,860	(6,647)
Housing Revenue	12,647	20,499	(7,852)
Total Expenditure	23,860	38,359	(14,499)
Financed by:			
Borrowing	4,069	7,333	(3,264)
Capital Receipts	1,934	2,469	(536)
Capital Grants and Contributions	10,330	14,386	(4,056)
Major Repairs Reserve	7,465	7,348	(2,570)
Revenue Contributions	62	3,823	(4,073)
Total Financing	23,860	38,359	(14,499)

Major Capital works carried out during 2022/23 are set out in the following table:

	£'000
Housing	
Decent Homes and improvements to Council dwellings	5,998
Council house schemes	5,570
Other major works to housing stock	1,079
General Fund	
Crematorium	131
Central Market	4,345
Improvement and Renovation Grants	649
Boultham Park	11
Western Growth Corridor	133
Towns Fund Schemes	0
Other Schemes	0
Total	23,860

Capital Financing

The Council's capital programme is funded by a number of sources including the application of capital receipts, capital grants, contributions from the revenue account and long-term borrowing. A summary of significant transactions in capital funding in 2022/2023 is provided below:

Capital Receipts (Note 9)

The Council utilised £1.934m of capital receipts and received £3.173m of capital receipts in the year. The majority of these will be used to support the new build programme within the Housing Investment Programme and investment in the housing stock.

Major Repairs Reserve (Note 9)

The Council is required to maintain a Major Repairs Reserve, which controls an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure on HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the capital resources that have yet to be applied at the year-end.



Long Term Borrowing (Note 18)

The Council undertakes long term borrowing, for periods in excess of one year, in order to finance capital expenditure. An assessment of the use of borrowing to fund capital expenditure is made through the application of the CIPFA Prudential Code in the Council's annual Treasury Management Strategy. This approach provides a framework for decision making highlighting the level of capital expenditure, the impact on borrowing and investment levels and the overall controls in place to ensure activity remains affordable, prudent and sustainable.

The Council satisfies its long-term borrowing requirement by securing external loans.

Although the Council requires long-term borrowing in order to finance capital expenditure, it can temporarily defer the need to borrow externally by using cash set aside for longer term purposes (in line with its Treasury Management Strategy); this practice means that there is no immediate link between the need to borrow to pay for capital spend and the level of external borrowing. The effect of using the cash set aside is to reduce the level of cash that the Council has available for investment.

The Council's level of total principal debt outstanding (long and short-term), (excluding loans of £0.03m which the Council holds for local charities and Bonds worth £0.03m), as at 31 March 2023 was £122m.

Total Borrowing Outstanding			
31/03/22			31/03/23
£'000	Source of loan		£'000
94,177	Public Works Loan Board		93,962
31,000	Market and Other Long-Term Loans		28,000
125,177	Total		121,962

Short-term borrowing of £5m was taken during 2022/23. Short-term borrowing of £8m and £0.215m of PWLB borrowing was repaid during 2022/23. This represents a net decrease of £3.215m of borrowing since 31 March 2022. The Council remains under borrowed by £24.141m (i.e. the Council's actual borrowing is £24.141m less than its borrowing requirement at 31 March 2023).

This means that the borrowing need (CFR) has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This strategy is considered prudent whilst internal balances allow for this. Additional long-term borrowing may be taken in 2023/24 and future years to bring levels up to the Council's borrowing requirement, subject to liquidity requirements, if preferential interest rates are available.

Pension Costs

(Note 44)

The Council accounts for retirement benefits when it is committed to give them, even if the actual giving will be many years into the future. This means that:

- The financial statements reflect the liabilities arising from the Council's retirement obligations.

- The costs of providing retirement benefits to employees are recognised in the accounting period in which the benefits are earned by employees, and the related finance costs and any other changes in value of assets and liabilities are recognised in the accounting periods in which they arise.
- The financial statements disclose the cost of providing retirement benefits and related gains, losses, assets and liabilities.

The Balance Sheet shows a reduced Pension Fund Reserve / net liability position when compared to the start of the year - reducing from £80.999m at 1 April 2022 to £7.796m as at 31 March 2023. This decrease in the net liability is mainly a result of changes in financial assumptions following the latest actuarial report. This is recognised as re-measurements on defined benefit obligation, which is shown in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The statutory arrangements for funding the remaining liability of £7.796m means that this deficit will be made good by the increased level of annual employer contributions payable to the Pension Fund over the remaining estimated average working life of our employees in the Pension Scheme. The latest triennial revaluation of the Council's Pension Fund took place on 31 March 2022.

Although the overall funding position has improved, the employer contribution rates are still required to increase in order to improve the funding position further. Because of the guaranteed nature of Local Government Pension Scheme, a stabilisation overlay mechanism is applied, whereby the employer's current contribution rate is capped at an affordable level. Based on the latest tri-annual review, the council is facing an increase in pension contributions of over 6 percentage points, rising from 17.3% of payroll in 2022/23 to 23.4% of payroll for the 3-year period commencing 2023/24. This increase has reduced the need for additional monetary payments to the scheme.



Future Plans

Vision 2025 sets out the Council's vision for the future of the city, strategic priorities and core values. Although the Vision looks ahead for up to 30 years it specifically includes a programme of activity up to 2025, which seeks to not only deal with the most pressing issues in the city, but also details how the Council will work, with others, to further grow Lincoln's economy.

The Council's vision for 2025 remains as;

"Together, let's deliver Lincoln's ambitious future"

Underpinning this vision are now five strategic priorities, each with a number of supporting aspirations. The aspirations are in turn supported by groups of projects that will be delivered throughout the five-year programme.

The five strategic priorities are:

- Let's drive inclusive economic growth
- Let's reduce all kinds of inequality
- Let's deliver quality housing
- Let's enhance our remarkable place
- Let's address the challenge of climate change

These five strategic priorities are supported by a programme called One Council. One Council is made up of the following pillars:

- Organisational development
- Best use of assets
- Technology
- Create value processes

It aims to put the customer at the heart of everything we do, understanding their needs, wants and preferences. One Council will also define how the Council will need to work in the future to meet those changing demands and to work in an effective and efficient way.

A mid-term review of the proposals in the vision was undertaken in 2021/22. This review was an opportunity to review and relaunch Vision 2025, following the Covid19 pandemic, and to ensure that the actions taken to meet the priorities will help tackle the needs of the City's residents and businesses.

As part of this process, a public consultation was undertaken to understand which activities resident and businesses felt were of the greatest priority to them. Following this review, it was agreed there were no changes required to the Vision, the five priorities or the aspirations under each priority - these still remain relevant. However, we will ensure promoting positive health for the city will be a key feature of these goals wherever possible and as a result resources have been refocused towards prevention and addressing those areas, including health inequalities, that will be needed most in the period up to 2025.

The Vision 2025 Interim Review document can be accessed using the following link - <https://www.lincoln.gov.uk/downloads/file/1213/vision-2025-3-year-addendum>



General Fund

The financial challenges that the General Fund faces as a result of the current economic conditions and national cost-of-living crisis come at a time when we are still recovering from the detrimental financial effects of Covid19 and after facing a decade of austerity measures. These unforeseen and unavoidable pressures are though even more severe than the impacts of the pandemic, they are not temporary cost/income pressure spikes that will fall away as the economy stabilises, they represent structural changes in the Council's ongoing net cost base and have required budgets to be reset as part of this Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Furthermore, there still remains uncertainty around the level of funding for local government beyond the current Spending Review period. There are a number of proposed changes in the funding mechanisms for local government, which have the ability to fundamentally alter the course of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Whilst it has now been confirmed that they will not now be implemented until 2025/26 at the earliest, and the latest Local Government Finance Settlement announced some much-needed additional funding for local authorities, all this has done is to have shifted the financial challenges to the period following the next General Election. In addition, the large national deficit that has arisen as a result of the financial measures the Government implemented during the pandemic and more recently in response to the cost-of-living-crisis, will need to be addressed. This is likely to further impact on the funding available to councils in future years with a risk of a new round of austerity measures.

Despite this significant level of uncertainty, based on what is currently known, or can be reasonably assumed, the General Fund continues to face a significant and widening gap between the its spending requirements and the level of resources it estimates to receive, with the underlying need to reduce the net cost base by £1.750m by 2026/27 if the Council is to remain sustainable in the medium term.

The ability to deliver these further, significant, reductions in the net cost base must be set in the context of the Council having already delivered, over the last decade, annual revenue savings of nearly £10m. This is a significant amount in comparison to the net General Fund budget. This has already involved us having to take difficult decisions in terms of which services we can continue to provide, whilst minimising the impact on services most needed by local residents and businesses.

We still believe that our longer-term approach to closing the funding gap is fundamentally through economic growth and investment. This is ever more critical in light of the crippling effect Covid19 and now the current economic factors have on the local economy. Through Vision 2025 we will continue to seek ways to maximise

our tax bases by creating the right conditions for the economy to recover and grow, to increase Business Rates income, and to encourage housebuilding to meet growing demand, generating additional Council Tax. As well as continuing to support this we will also seek through direct interventions, such as through; the Town Deal; the Council House New Build Programme; the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Western Growth Corridor etc, to enhance the economic prosperity of the City.

The delivery of these benefits from economic development cannot however be realised in the short to medium term and will not directly contribute towards the required reductions in the net cost base in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. In order to deliver the level of savings required over the period of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, we will continue to adopt a range of options, but given the scale of the financial challenge we faces, we have little choice but to face some difficult decisions about the size and scope of the essential services we can continue to provide. We will need to review and revisit our investment priorities, beyond Vision 2025, and will be forced to look closely at the services we provide and will inevitably have to stop some of these to balance the books.

Closing a projected budget gap of this size is a challenge for the Council, but we have confidence in our track record of delivering strong financial discipline and that we can continue to rise to the challenge. Our successful financial planning has enabled the protection of core services for the people of Lincoln, whilst at the same time allowing for significant investment in the City, and its economy, and delivery of the Council's Vision. We will continue to adopt this approach, carefully balancing the allocation of resources to Vision 2025 and future investment plans, whilst ensuring we maintain a sustainable financial position and delivers the required reductions in its net cost base.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

HRA Self-financing was implemented from 1 April 2012 following a one-off settlement to the Treasury, in order to 'buy out' of the old subsidy system. The new system incentivised landlords to manage their assets well and yield efficiency savings. With this however also came the transfer of significant risks from Central Government to local authorities. The Council now bears the responsibility for the long-term security and viability of council housing in Lincoln and has to fund all activity related to council housing from the income generated from rents, through long term business planning.

It was anticipated that there would be greater certainty about future income as councils were no longer subject to annual funding decisions by Central Government, enabling them to develop long-term plans, and to retain income for reinvestment.

A key element of the self-financing regime is the Council's 30-year Business Plan. The Council's latest Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2016-2046 was approved in February 2016 following a fundamental review of resources, investment requirements and priorities. The Business Plan reflected the impact of government policy changes, the results of stock condition surveys and financial assumptions at the time. The Business plan sets out:

- the long-term plans for the Council's housing stock
- the finances to deliver plans
- how the Council will manage the income from its stock, demand for housing and stock condition

- identifies resources for its initial Council House New Build Programme.

Since adoption of the Plan, in 2016, a number of issues e.g., Brexit and the Covid19 pandemic have had a fundamental impact on the way we deliver our housing and landlord services, now and in the future. In addition, the refreshed and repurposed strategic plan, Vision 2025, includes a much greater focus on health outcomes and the environment e.g. net zero carbon target, with implications for the delivery of housing services and investment in the housing stock and new build standards. Furthermore, the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower and the introduction of new measures to improve fire and building safety will create additional requirements on the Council.

A full review of the Business Plan was scheduled for 2022, however, due to the current economic climate and the impact on the assumptions that underpin the HRA and Housing Business Plan it has not been possible to make accurate long-term financial forecasts at this time. As a result, an interim high-level refresh of the Business Plan was undertaken during 2022 with a full update to the Business Plan now scheduled for 2023, with a new a 30-year Business Plan to be in place for the start of 2024/25. This update will take into consideration the key issues that are impacting on the environment in which the Plan will be set with the goal of developing an exciting Business Plan that sets out what we want to achieve over the next 30 years.

Capital Expenditure

Despite the pressures our revenue budgets face, investment in our assets, to maintain income generation, provide new income generating assets, support service delivery and to act as a catalyst in the local economy is still critical. Our capital strategy plans to deliver projects to the value of £205m over the next five years, with £36m estimated to be spent in 2023/24. This includes significant investment in the Council's key strategic projects notably the Western Growth Corridor development, the Lincoln Town Deal Programme, Central Market redevelopment, and the Greyfriars development, all in addition to further investment on Council dwellings and Council buildings, including the construction of new council housing.



Capital resources for the next five years include capital receipts, government grants, contributions from third parties and revenue contributions.

The Housing element of the capital programme represents the largest element of capital expenditure over the next 5 years and is funded through a combination of borrowing and revenue contributions from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) through both depreciation charges and direct revenue contributions. The HRA Business Plan includes the release of capital resource to fund significant capital investment in new housing stock over the medium term. It is critical that there

continues robust budget management of the HRA to continue to allow the required investment.

Cash flows

The future cash flows will be dependent on the outcome of a number of key assumptions in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and HRA Business Plan, of which the Council has varying degrees of influence over the outcomes. Some of the key determinants will be:

- Actual Business Rates base in year compared to the assumed levels in the budget, and the ongoing risk of funding the backdated costs of any successful valuation office appeals by businesses within the city as well as potential reductions arising from the current economic conditions and legacy of Covid19.
- Collection rates for Council Tax, Business Rates and Rents, which continue to be detrimentally impacted by Covid19 and the current cost of living crisis.
- Income received compared to income targets (e.g. car parking, planning and building control), income in these areas plummeted during 'lockdown' and whilst they have recovered, the current cost-of-living crisis and current economic factors are now impacting on demand in some key areas.
- Interest rates achieved on investments and secured on new borrowing.
- Timescale for payment of invoices and collection of debts.
- Profile of capital spending and funding over the MTFS.

Summary

Although both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account have maintained balanced budget positions in 2022/23 this does not mean that the financial issues for the Council are resolved, it simply means that the in-year budget challenges have been addressed. Beyond 2022/23 we are set to face ongoing reductions in resources increased service costs, increased service demands and the ongoing impact of the current economic uncertainty. This will require ongoing reductions in the net cost base in order to live within a significantly reduced resources envelope. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023-2028, approved by Full Council in March 2023 sets out the detail of the financial challenge the Council faces.

Whilst addressing the financial challenges we face in the forthcoming years we will also continue to maintain the correct balance between these challenges and ensuring that our limited resources are directed towards the Council's strategic priorities.

Vision 2025 is supported by a programme of activity, resourced through the Medium Term Financial Strategy, that seeks to not only deal with the most pressing issues in the city, but also how the Council will work, with others, to embrace and encourage Lincoln's economy through schemes such as delivering homes and infrastructure, stimulating jobs and growth, tackling climate change, providing and enhancing support systems for our vulnerable residents, and delivering the Towns Deal Programme. The recovery and growth of the City's economy is now more important than ever.



Group Accounts

The increasing scope and scale of local authorities moving away from traditional ways of providing services makes it increasingly difficult for the Council's own financial statements to present fairly all the aspects of control over service provision and accountability for all resources and exposure to risks that the Council has taken on. A consolidated set of group accounts can make a vital contribution towards giving users a full picture of the Council's sphere of control and influence.

The Council has a collaborative arrangement with North Kesteven and West Lindsey District Councils to provide the Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit. This arrangement is hosted by North Kesteven District Council. The Council contributed £99k to the service which is contained within the Communities and Environment line of the CIES.

The Council also has a collaborative arrangement with North Kesteven to provide a shared Revenues and Benefits Service. This shared service is hosted by the City of Lincoln Council. The Council contributed £1.267m to the service which is contained within the Chief Executive's Directorate line in the CIES.

Both of these arrangements are governed through a Joint Committee representing each of the partner authorities. Under these arrangements the ventures use their own resources to undertake an activity subject to joint control, and as such do not require consolidation into the Council's accounts. The Council's proportion of activity is accounted for separately within the Core Financial Statements.

Further Information

Further information about the accounts is available on request from the Chief Finance Officer, City Hall, Beaumont Fee Lincoln LN1 1DB. In addition, local electors have a statutory right to inspect the accounts before the audit is completed. The availability of the accounts for inspection is advertised on the Council's website.

J Gibson FCCA
Chief Finance Officer
(Section 151 Officer)

COUNCIL APPROVAL

The Statement of Accounts for the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 has been prepared and I confirm that these Accounts were approved by the City of Lincoln Council, at the meeting held on 29 November 2023.



Councillor Biff Bean
Chair of Council

Date: 29 November 2023

THE STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is required:

- to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority, that officer is the Chief Finance Officer.
- to manage its affairs to ensure economic, efficient, and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- to approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Chief Finance Officer Responsibilities

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK ('the Code').

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

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

The Chief Finance Officer has also:

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

The Accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority at 31 March 2023 and its income and expenditure for the year ended on that date.



J Gibson FCCA
Chief Finance Officer
Date: 31st May 2023

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

	General Fund Balance £'000	Earmarked Reserves £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Major Repair Reserve £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Council Reserves £'000
Balance at 31 March 2021	2,668	26,043	1,074	14,139	4,511	4,026	52,461	174,723	227,184
Movement in reserves during 2021/22									
Surplus or (deficit) on provision of services	(3,207)	0	22,384	0	0	0	19,177	0	19,177
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32,922	32,922
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	(3,207)	0	22,384	0	0	0	19,177	32,922	52,098
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (note 9)	(4,662)	0	(22,097)	9,790	1,196	(1,929)	(17,702)	17,702	0
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(7,870)	0	287	9,790	1,196	(1,929)	1,475	50,624	52,098
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	7,400	(7,068)	(331)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/Decrease in Year	(470)	(7,068)	(50)	5,948	1,196	(1,929)	(2,368)	50,527	52,098
Balance at 31 March 2022 carried forward	2,197	18,975	1,030	20,088	5,708	2,097	50,094	229,188	279,283

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

	General Fund Balance £'000	Earmarked Reserves £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Major Repair Reserve £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Council Reserves £'000
Balance at 31 March 2022	2,197	18,975	1,030	20,088	5,708	2,097	50,094	229,188	279,283
Movement in reserves during 2022/23									
Surplus or (deficit) on provision of services	2,110	0	23,207	0	0	0	25,317	0	25,317
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	76,380	76,380
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	2,110	0	23,207	0	0	0	25,317	76,380	101,696
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (note 9)	(7,542)	0	(22,298)	2,544	1,239	(390)	(26,447)	26,447	0
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers (to)/from Reserves	(5,432)	0	909	2,544	1,239	(390)	(1,131)	102,827	101,696
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	5,650	(4,902)	(748)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/Decrease in Year	218	(4,902)	161	2,544	1,239	(390)	(1,131)	102,827	101,696
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	2,415	14,073	1,191	22,632	6,947	1,707	48,964	332,015	380,979

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2022/23

2021/22			Note	2022/23		
Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000		Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
34,108	(27,382)	6,726	Chief Executive's Directorate	33,658	(26,842)	6,816
3,425	(2,794)	631	Housing and Regeneration	3,898	(2,782)	1,116
8,475	(30,080)	(21,605)	Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	7,007	(31,929)	(24,922)
22,643	(12,589)	10,054	Communities and Environment	21,897	(13,082)	8,816
1,678	(811)	866	Major Developments	5,094	(948)	4,146
936	(454)	482	Corporate Services	1,063	(612)	450
71,265	(74,110)	(2,846)	Cost of Services	72,617	(76,195)	(3,578)
		467	Other Operating Expenditure			318
		4,843	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure			1,994
		(21,641)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income			(24,051)
		(19,177)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			(25,317)
		(2,990)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets	14		(980)
		0	Impairment Losses on Non- Current Assets charged to the Revaluation Reserve			0
		(63)	(Surplus) or deficit from investments in equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	26e		(8)
		(29,869)	Total re-measurements on defined benefit obligation	44		(75,391)
		(32,922)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(76,380)
		(52,098)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(101,696)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

31 March 2022 £'000	Notes	31 March 2023 £'000
416,478	Property, Plant & Equipment	14,39,41
2,768	Heritage Assets	15
36,016	Investment Property	14,16
207	Intangible Assets	14,17,39
816	Long Term Investments	18,47
724	Long Term Debtors	18,47
457,009	Long Term Assets	485,011
1,500	Assets Held for Sale	22
49,878	Short Term Investments	18,47
104	Inventories	19
0	Cash at Bank	21
24,916	Short Term Debtors	18,20,47
76,398	Current Assets	55,641
(103)	Cash and Cash Equivalents	18,21,47
(14,932)	Short Term Borrowing	18,47
(43,929)	Short Term Creditors	18,23,47
(58,964)	Current Liabilities	(40,649)
0	Long Term Creditors	18,47
(2,197)	Provisions	24
(111,962)	Long Term Borrowing	18,47
(80,999)	Other Long-Term Liabilities	44
(195,158)	Long Term Liabilities	(119,024)
279,283	Net Assets	380,979
50,094	Usable reserves	10,25
229,188	Unusable Reserves	26
279,283	Total Reserves	380,979

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

2021/22		Notes	2022/23
£'000			£'000
19,177	Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services		25,317
2,975	Adjustments to net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	28	(20,700)
(11,108)	Adjustments for items included in the net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	29	(13,114)
11,044	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		(8,497)
(24,808)	Investing Activities	30	7,138
13,098	Financing Activities	31	1,971
(666)	Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		612
563	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		(103)
(103)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	21	509

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The values held within the proceeding Notes to the Accounts may vary slightly when compared to the main Statements or other Notes, which may also include casting variances. This is due to amounts being rounded. It is not expected that a difference would be in excess of £2,000 in any single case.

Note 1 – Accounting Policies

1. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2022/23 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2023. The Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 (the Code), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under section 7 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

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

2. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

The revenue accounts of the Council are maintained on an accrual's basis meaning that activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular:

- Revenue from the sale of goods or services is recognised in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

3. Cash and 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 investments that mature within three 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 Council's cash management.

4. 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 prior period adjustment.

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Council's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

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

5. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Service revenue accounts, central support services and trading accounts are charged with the following amounts to reflect the cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

- depreciation of the assets used by the service.
- revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which losses can be written off.
- amortisation of intangible assets used by the service.

The Council is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance. This is referred to as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP). The Council's policy on MRP is approved by Council in March each year as part of the Treasury Management Strategy. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are

replaced by the MRP and VRP, by way of an adjusting transaction between the Capital Adjustment Account and the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement, for the differences between the two.

6. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

The Council (as the billing authority) acts as an agent, collecting council tax and non-domestic rates (NDR) on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Police (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 (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, all 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 is the Council's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax and NDR that must be included in the Council's General Fund. Therefore, the difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payment due under the statutory arrangements will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows.

7. Employee Benefits

Benefits payable during employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g., cars) for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements or 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 employees take 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.

Termination benefits

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

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, transfers are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post-Employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Lincolnshire County Council. This scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

The liabilities of the Lincolnshire County Council pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the protected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and forecasts of projected earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate determined by the pension scheme actuary (based on the yield of UK Government Bonds plus a 'credit spread' allowance to reflect the extra risk involved in using AA corporate bond yields).

The assets of the Lincolnshire County Council pension fund attributable to the Council 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.

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

- Current service cost – the increase in the present value of a defined benefit obligation resulting from employee service in the current period – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked.
- Past service cost – the change in the present value of the defined benefit obligation for the employee service in prior periods, resulting from a plan amendment or a curtailment and any gain or loss on settlement – 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 on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the Council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Re-measurements comprising:
 - the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the 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 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 balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pension Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

The Council also 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 decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

8. Events After the Balance Sheet Date

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

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

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

9. Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

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

For most of the borrowings that the Council has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable, with accrued interest due within one year shown under short term borrowings; and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the unexpired life of the original loan. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Financial Assets

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

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss (FVPL), and
- fair value through other comprehensive income

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

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument. They are initially measured at fair value and carried 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 Council, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable, with interest receivable within one year shown under short term investments and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

However, occasionally the Council may make loans to other parties (e.g., voluntary organisations) at less than market rates (soft loans). When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal. Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in the Reserves Statement.

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

Expected Credit Loss Model

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost (or where relevant FVOCI), 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.

The Council has a number of loans to local organisations. It may not have reasonable and verifiable information to support the measurement of lifetime losses on individual loans without undue cost or effort to support the measurement of lifetime expected losses. It has therefore assessed losses for the portfolio on a collective basis.

The Council has grouped the loans into four groups for assessing loss allowances:

- Group 1 – Commercial investments in line with treasury management policy including counterparties that have external credit ratings of A or better. Loss allowances will be assessed on a group basis using the simplified approach of collective assessment.
- Group 2 – Loans to related parties. Loss allowances for these loans are assessed on an individual basis and / or an individual borrower basis.
- Group 3 – Money Market funds. Loss allowance will be assessed on market value of the investment in the fund.

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 Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services

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

- Instruments with quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets – the market price
- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments in active markets for identical assets – 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 de-recognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

10. Foreign Currency Translation

Where the Council has entered into a transaction denominated in a foreign currency, the transaction is converted into sterling at the exchange rate applicable on the date the transaction was effective. Where material amounts in foreign currency are outstanding at the year-end, they are reconverted at the spot exchange rate at 31 March. Resulting gains or losses, if material, are recognised in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

11. Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

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

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

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

Business Improvement Districts

A Business Improvement District (BID) scheme applies across the whole of the Council. The scheme is funded by BID levy paid by non-domestic ratepayers. The Council acts as a principal under the scheme, and accounts for income received and expenditure incurred (including contributions to the BID project) within the relevant services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Council has elected to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The levy will be charged on new builds (chargeable development 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 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 may be used to fund revenue expenditure.

12. Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and controlled by the Council (e.g., software licences). Expenditure on intangible assets is capitalised when it is expected that future economic benefits or service potential will flow from the intangible asset to the Council for a period of more than one year.

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

Expenditure on the development of the Council's website is not capitalised as the website is primarily intended to promote or advertise the Council's services.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only re-valued where the fair value of the assets can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible asset held by the Council meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost.

Intangible assets are amortised over their useful life and charged to the relevant service lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. 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 £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

13. Interests in Companies and other Entities

Councils are required to produce Group Accounts to include services offered to Council Tax payers by organisations other than the Council itself but in which the Council has an interest. There are a number of criteria set out by which the Council must determine whether the value of the company and the Council's interest is significant enough for Group Accounts to be produced. The Council has complied with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, and while it has identified a company over which it has joint control, it has concluded that the company does not meet the criteria that would require consolidation into the Council's accounts on materiality grounds.

14. Inventories and Long-Term Contracts

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories is assigned using either the FIFO or weighted average costing formula.

Long term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Surplus and Deficit on the Provision of Services with the value of works and services received under the contract during the financial year.

15. Investment Property

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

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, based on the highest and best use value of the asset. Investment properties are not depreciated but are re-valued annually according to market conditions to ensure that they are held at the highest and best use value on the Balance Sheet date. 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 and Expenditure 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 £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

16. Joint Operations

Joint Operations are arrangements where the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities relating to the arrangement. The activities undertaken by the Council in conjunction with other joint operators involve the use of the assets and resources of those joint operators. In relation to its interest in a joint operation, the Council as a joint operator recognises:

- Its assets, including its share of any assets held jointly.
- Its liabilities, including its share of any liabilities incurred jointly.
- Its revenue from the sale of its share of the output arising from the joint operation.
- Its share of the revenue from the sale of the output by the joint operation.
- Its expenses, including its share of any expenses incurred jointly.

17. Leases

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

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

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

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

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

Lease payments are apportioned between:

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

Property, Plant and Equipment recognised under finance leases is accounted for using the policies applied generally to such assets, subject to depreciation being charged

over the lease term if this is shorter than the asset's estimated useful life (where ownership of the asset does not transfer to the Council at the end of the lease period).

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

Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the service benefiting from use of the leased asset. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease, even if this doesn't match the pattern of payments.

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

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

Operating Leases

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease. 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.

18. Overheads and Support Services

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

19. Non-Current Assets – Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the supply of 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.

Recognition

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

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- The purchase price.
- Any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.
- The initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

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

The 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 Council). In the latter case, where an asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Council.

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

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

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost.
- Dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH)
- Investment properties and surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective.
- 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 specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of current value.

For 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.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are re-valued 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. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. However, in exceptional circumstances, gains may be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to services.

When decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

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

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

Impairment

Assets are reviewed at each year-end for evidence of reductions in value i.e., impairment. Where impairment is identified, 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.

When impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

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

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

Depreciation

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Dwellings and Other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the Valuer.
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – straight-line allocation over the useful life of each class of asset

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

In relation to Council Dwellings, depreciation is based on the Existing Use Social Housing Value (EU-SHV) on the components, deemed to be land and buildings.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between the current value depreciation charge on assets and the depreciation that

would have been charged based on their historical cost, being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

20. Heritage Assets

The Council holds a number of Heritage Assets, which can be grouped into the following categories:

- Civic Insignia
- Art and Sculptures
- Musical Instruments
- Vehicles
- Ancient Monuments and War Memorials
- Miscellaneous

These are not held in a single collection but in a number of appropriate locations, where they are considered to contribute to increasing the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Council's history and local area.

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

- **Civic Insignia**

The collection of civic insignia includes the Mayor's and Sheriff's badges and chains of office, mace and ceremonial swords. These items are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. These insurance valuations are subject to periodic reviews by a specialist valuer. The civic insignia are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value; hence the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

- **Art and Sculptures**

This category includes paintings and a number of public art works such as statues and sculptures. Where a valuation is available e.g., an insurance valuation, the asset is reported in the balance sheet at this valuation. However, for a number of public art sculptures and statues, no cost or valuation information is available and consequently, these assets are not recognised in the balance sheet. Where artworks are recognised, they are deemed to have indeterminate lives and the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

- **Musical Instruments**

The Council holds a Steinway grand piano on loan to Lincoln College and a Stradivarius violin, which is on loan to the Halle orchestra. These items are not held on our balance sheet as they are deemed to be controlled by the loanee.

- **Vehicles**

The Council holds one diesel locomotive as a heritage asset. This is reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. The insurance valuations are subject to periodic reviews by a specialist valuer. The vehicle is deemed to have indeterminate life as it is not in operation but is on display; hence the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

- **Ancient Monuments and War Memorials**

This category includes various roman ruins and ancient structures and four war memorials. The Council does not consider that reliable cost or valuation information can be obtained for the items in this category. This is because of the nature of the assets held and the lack of market values. Consequently, these assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet.

- **Miscellaneous**

This category includes any other assets which are being held for their contribution to knowledge and culture but do not readily fall into the above categories. One example is the collection of Books of Remembrance held at the City crematorium. These items are reported in the Balance Sheet at either cost or insurance valuation where material. No depreciation is charged on these assets.

Heritage Assets – General

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment e.g., where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise as to its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's accounting policies on impairment. The Council may occasionally dispose of heritage assets which are unsuitable for public display or to an appropriate body which will ensure the asset is maintained and displayed within a suitable collection e.g., to a museum or historical trust. The proceeds of such items are accounted for in accordance with the Council's accounting policy on disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment. Disposal proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements and are accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts.

21. 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 re-valued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously recognised losses in the Surplus and Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

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

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

When an asset 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 the disposal (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e., netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of receipts relating to housing disposals (75% for dwellings, 50% for land and other assets, net of statutory deductions and allowances) is payable to the Government. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow. Receipts are transferred 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 assets is fully provided under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account in the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

22. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

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

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

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried 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 not 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 the reimbursement will be received if the Council settles the obligation.

Contingent Liabilities

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

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

Contingent Assets

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

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

23. Reserves

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

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

24. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Council has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in

the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of council tax.

25. VAT

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

26. Fair Value

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

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

The Council measures the fair value of an asset or liability on the same basis that market participants would use when pricing an asset or liability (assuming they were acting in their economic best interest).

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

The Council uses appropriate valuation techniques, which takes into account the three levels of inputs to valuations for fair value assets:

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

Note 2 – Accounting Standards Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted

The Code of Practice requires that the Authority discloses 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.

The standards introduced by the 2023/24 Code where disclosures are required in the 2022/23 financial statements in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 3.3.4.3 of the Code are:

- a) IFRS 16 Leases (but only for those local authorities that have decided to voluntarily implement IFRS 16 in the 2023/24 year).
- b) Where an authority adopted IFRS 16 in 2022/23 but chose to defer implementation of IFRS 16 to PFI/PPP arrangements until 2023/24 information on that more specific accounting change will be required in its 2022/23 statements of accounts.
- c) Definition of Accounting Estimates (Amendments to IAS 8) issued in February 2021.
- d) Disclosure of Accounting Policies (Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2) issued in February 2021.
- e) Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction (Amendments to IAS 12) issued in May 2021. f) Updating a Reference to the Conceptual Framework (Amendments to IFRS 3) issued in May 2020.

These changes are not expected to have a material impact.

Note 3 – Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies in Note 1, the Council 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:

- **Local Government funding** - There is a high degree of uncertainty about the future levels of funding for local government. However, the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities or reduce levels of service provision. The provisions in the Code on the going concern requirements reflect the economic and statutory environment in which local authorities operate.
- **Group Boundaries** - The Council has a collaborative arrangement with Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven and West Lindsey District Council to provide the Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit. This arrangement is hosted by North Kesteven District Council. The Council also has a collaborative arrangement with North Kesteven to provide a shared Revenues and Benefits Service. This shared service is hosted by the City of Lincoln Council. Both of these arrangements are governed through a Joint Committee representing each of the partner authorities. These arrangements are considered as a Joint Operation, where ventures use their own resources to undertake an activity subject to joint control, and as such do not require consolidation into the Council's accounts. The Council's proportion of activity is accounted for separately within the Core Financial Statements.
- **Leases** - The Council has examined its leases and classified them as either operational or finance leases. In some cases, the lease transaction is not always conclusive, and the Council uses judgement in determining whether the lease is a finance lease arrangement that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. In reassessing the lease, the Council has estimated the implied interest rate within the lease to calculate interest and principal payments.

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

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

The items in the Council's Balance Sheet as at 31 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
<p>Business Rates</p> <p>(Balance Sheet 31 March 2023 – Provision for Business Rate Appeals £1.852m)</p>	<p>Since the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme effective from April 2013, local authorities are liable for successful appeals against business rates charges to businesses in 2022/23 and earlier financial years in their proportionate share. Therefore, a provision has been recognised for the best estimate of the amount that businesses have been overcharged up to the 31st March 2023. A third-party independent specialist has been used to estimate the required provision using the latest Valuation Office ratings list of appeals and an analysis of successful appeals to date.</p>	<p>The Council's share (40%) of the balance of business rates appeals as at 31 March 2023 amounted to £1.852m, a decrease of £0.215m (10%) from the previous year.</p> <p>An increase or reduction of 10% of the estimated provision would increase/decrease the Council's share of NNDR appeals provision by £0.185m.</p>
<p>Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)</p> <p>(Balance Sheet 31 March 2023 – PPE £444m)</p>	<p>Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the levels of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Council will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to the assets.</p> <p>Operational property assets are valued at the Balance Sheet date in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors valuation standards and guidance. This involves the use of a number of estimation techniques including various property indices. These estimates can fluctuate as property market values and prices change in response to events.</p>	<p>If the useful lives of the assets reduce, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £0.079m and for council dwellings £0.254m for every year that the useful lives had to be reduced.</p> <p>The Gross Book Value (GBV) of the Council's operational property assets is £471m at 31 March 2023. A 1% change in these asset valuations would result in a £4.71m change in their GBV.</p>
<p>Assets held for sale and investment properties</p>	<p>Assets classified as Held for Sale or as Investment Property are carried at fair value based on a recently observed</p>	<p>A 1% increase / decrease in the value of investment properties and assets held for sale would</p>

<p>(Balance Sheet 31 March 2023 - assets held for sale £1.5m - Investment properties £36.6m)</p>	<p>market price. Market prices can fluctuate considerably due to global events. The value of these assets was current at the Balance Sheet date, but it cannot be determined for how long this value will be correct.</p>	<p>result in a gain / charge to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement of £0.381m.</p>
<p>Arrears Balance Sheet 31 March 2023 - Debtors total of £20.559m includes £4.014m debtors (subject to arrears)</p>	<p>As at 31 March 2023, the Council had a balance on current debtors of £20.559m. A review of significant balances suggested that an impairment of doubtful debts of £4.014m was required.</p>	<p>If collection rates were to deteriorate by 5% the amount of the impairment of doubtful debts would require an additional £0.201m to be set aside as an allowance.</p>
<p>Pension Liability (Balance Sheet 31 March 2023 - pensions liability £7.796m)</p>	<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 the expected return on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries (Barnett Waddingham) is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. For more information on the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme please refer to note 44.</p>	<p>The effects on the net pensions' liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.5% decrease in the discount rate assumption would result in an increase in the pension liability of £14.257m.</p>
<p>Investments (Balance Sheet 31 March 2023 Short Term - £36.932m Long Term - £0.824m)</p>	<p>At 31 March 2023, the Council held £36.932m of short-term investments. These include £14.685m invested in AAA-rated instant access Money Market Funds and £22m invested in A-rated UK institutions, all for periods of up to 1 year.</p>	<p>As most of the investments are either in AAA-rated MMF's or short-term deposits in A-rated UK banks, the risk of impairment is considered to be minimal.</p>
<p>Pension Fund Property Investment Assets Balance Sheet 31 March 2023 - Property Investment Assets £11.653m</p>	<p>The Council's net pension liability disclosed at note 44 includes an estimate of the total value of the Council's share of the Lincolnshire Pension Fund investment assets.</p>	<p>Less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the Council's share of these pension fund assets. The Council's actuary has estimated that the value of the Council's share of property investment assets as at 31 March 2023 was £11.653m.</p>

Note 5 – Prior Period Adjustment

None

Note 6 – Events after the Balance Sheet Date

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Chief Finance Officer on 31 May 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.

Note 7 – Expenditure and Funding Analysis

2021/22				2022/23				
Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund and HRA Balances	Movement of Trading A/C's & Levies etc.	Adjustments Between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund and HRA Balances	Movement of Trading A/C's & Levies etc.	Adjustments Between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
6,722	(1,032)	1,036	6,726	Chief Executive's Directorate	9,420	(3,113)	509	6,816
397	0	234	631	Housing and Regeneration	1,049	0	67	1,116
(1,600)	0	(20,005)	(21,605)	Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	(9,124)	0	(15,798)	(24,922)
6,556	0	3,498	10,054	Communities and Environment	8,602	0	213	8,815
689	0	178	867	Major Developments	4,037	0	108	4,146
(389)	871	0	482	Corporate Services	(471)	922	0	451
12,374	(161)	(15,058)	(2,845)	Net Cost of Services	13,515	(2,191)	(14,901)	(3,578)
(4,792)	161	(11,700)	(16,331)	Other Income and Expenditure	(8,992)	2,191	(14,938)	(21,739)
7,583	0	(26,759)	(19,176)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	4,522	0	(29,839)	(25,317)
	<u>GF</u>	<u>HRA</u>	<u>Total</u>			<u>GF</u>	<u>HRA</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(28,711)	(1,074)	(29,785)	Opening Balance		(21,172)	(1,030)	(22,202)
	7,539	44	7,583	Less/ Plus Surplus or (Deficit) in Year		4,684	(161)	4,523
	(21,172)	(1,030)	(22,202)	Closing Balance at 31 March		(16,488)	(1,191)	(17,679)

This analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, council tax and business rates) by Councils in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by Councils in accordance with generally accepted practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's different categories of expenditure and income. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Further analysis can be found in Note 8.

Note 7A – Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This note provides a reconciliation of the main adjustments to Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances to arrive at the amounts in the Comprehensive income and Expenditure Statement. The relevant transfers between reserves are explained in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING BASIS								
2021/22					2022/23			
Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments	Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s		£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
278	782	(23)	1,036	Chief Executive's Directorate	272	320	(20)	509
0	240	(6)	234	Housing and Regeneration	0	112	(23)	67
(21,622)	1,654	(37)	(20,005)	Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	(16,568)	923	(29)	(15,798)
2,911	625	(37)	3,498	Communities and Environment	1,941	270	(11)	213
91	84	3	178	Major Developments	91	26	(3)	108
0	0	0	0	Corporate	0	0	0	0
(18,343)	3,385	(101)	(15,058)	Net Cost of Services	(16,198)	1,384	(87)	(14,901)
(5,484)	1,344	(7,560)	(11,700)	Other Income & Expenditure from the Funding Analysis	(11,079)	804	(4,663)	(14,938)
(23,827)	4,729	(7,661)	(26,759)	Difference between General Fund Surplus/ Deficit and CIES Income & Expenditure Statement Surplus/ Deficit	(27,277)	2,188	(4,750)	(29,839)

Note 7B – Segmental Income Analysis

Income received on a segmental basis is analysed below:

	Income from Services	Income from Services
Services	2021/22	2022/23
	£'000s	£'000s
Chief Executive's Directorate	(5,891)	(6,298)
Housing & Regeneration	(1,103)	(1,450)
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	(29,593)	(31,243)
Communities & Environment	(11,818)	(12,459)
Major Developments	(621)	(596)
Corporate	0	0
Total Income analysed on a Segmental Basis	(49,026)	(52,046)

Note 8 – Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

The Authority's expenditure and income is analysed as follows:

	2021/22	2022/23
	£'000s	£'000s
Expenditure/ Income		
Expenditure		
Employee Benefit Expenses	27,188	27,732
Other Services Expenses	65,259	67,235
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	(5,757)	(11,289)
REFCUS	1,677	4,461
Interest Payments	5,875	5,106
Precepts and Levies	871	923
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	529	0
Total Expenditure	95,642	95,168
Income		
Fees, Charges and other Service Income	(63,412)	(68,663)
Interest and Investment Income	(81)	(1,171)
Income from Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates	(12,423)	(13,187)
Government Grants and Contributions	(37,969)	(36,859)
Gain/Loss on Disposal	(934)	(604)
Total Income	(114,819)	(120,485)
Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(19,177)	(25,317)

Note 9 – Adjustment 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 Council in year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Council to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

The following sets out a description of the reserves that the adjustments are made against.

General Fund Balance

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of an authority are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the Authority 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 (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.

Major Repairs Reserve

The Authority is required to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve, which controls an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure on HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the capital resources that have yet to be applied at the year-end.

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.

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.

2022/23	Usable Reserves					
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement In Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments to Revenue Resources						
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:						
Pensions costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	1,389	799	0	0	0	2,188
Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustments Account)	(2)	0	0	0	0	(2)
Council Tax and NNDR transfers to (or from) the Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(4,661)	0	0	0	0	(4,661)
Holiday Pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	(58)	(29)	0	0	0	(87)
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(3,323)	(17,748)	0	7,862	9,941	(3,291)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(6,679)	(16,978)	0	7,862	9,941	(5,853)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources						
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve		(3,239)	3,239	0	0	0
Admin costs of RTB	0	66	(66)	0	0	0
Payments to the Government Housing Receipts Pool (funded by a transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Posting of HRA resources to the Major Repairs Reserve	0	(1,459)	0	1,459	0	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	(824)	0	0	0	0	(824)
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(62)	(688)	0	0	0	(750)

2022/23	Usable Reserves					
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement In Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	(863)	(5,320)	3,173	1,459	0	(1,551)
<i>Adjustments to Capital Resources</i>						
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	(1,934)	0	0	(1,934)
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	(6,778)	0	(6,778)
Application of Capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	(10,330)	(10,330)
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	0	0	(1,934)	(6,778)	(10,330)	(19,042)
Total Adjustments	(7,542)	(22,298)	1,239	2,544	(390)	(26,446)

2021/22	Usable Reserves					
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement In Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments to Revenue Resources						
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:						
Pensions costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	3,075	1,654	0	0	0	4,728
Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustments Account)	(2)	0	0	0	0	(2)
Council Tax and NNDR transfers to (or from) the Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(7,558)	0	0	0	0	(7,558)
Holiday Pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	(64)	(37)	0	0	0	(101)
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	1,026	(18,142)	0	7,425	7,892	(1,799)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(3,524)	(16,525)	0	7,425	7,892	(4,732)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources						
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(30)	(3,257)	3,287	0	0	0
Payments to the Government Housing Receipts Pool (funded by a transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	0	72	(72)	0	0	0
Admin Costs of RTB	529	0	(529)	0	0	0
Posting of HRA resources to the Major Repairs Reserve	0	(2,365)	0	2,365	0	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	(1,444)	0	(150)	0	0	(1,594)
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(194)	(21)	0	0	0	(215)
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	(1,139)	(5,572)	2,537	2,365	0	(1,809)

2021/22	Usable Reserves					
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement In Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments to Capital Resources						
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	(1,340)	0	0	(1,340)
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	(3,842)	0	(3,842)
Application of Capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	(9,821)	(9,821)
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	0	0	(1,340)	(3,842)	(9,821)	(15,003)
Total Adjustments	(4,662)	(22,097)	1,196	5,949	(1,929)	(21,544)

Note 10 – Movements in Earmarked Reserves

These amounts are held to meet expenditure in future financial years. The movements on these Revenue Reserve Accounts during the year have been as follows:

	Balance @ 31.03.21 £'000	Movements	Appropriations		Balance @ 31.03.22 £'000	Movements	Appropriations		Balance @31.03.23 £'000
			Transfers In £'000	Transfers Out £'000			Transfers In £'000	Transfers Out £'000	
General Fund									
Business Rates Volatility	13,376	0	3,856	(11,666)	5,566	0	0	(5,132)	434
Council Tax Hardship Fund	531	0	0	(319)	213	0	0	(213)	0
Budget Carry Forwards	482	0	298	(113)	667	0	219	(369)	518
Grants & Contributions	1,385	0	754	(206)	1,932	0	125	(613)	1,446
Invest to Save (GF)	453	0	60	(414)	100	0	1	(63)	37
Strategic Growth (GF)	17	0	0	(12)	5	0	0	(5)	0
Unused DRF	341	0	45	(182)	204	0	0	(40)	164
Funding for Strategic Priorities	174	0	0	(85)	89	0	0	(89)	0
HiMO CPN Appeals	0	0	47	0	47	0	141	(19)	169
Income Volatility Reserve	0	0	320	0	320	0	0	0	320
Inflation Volatility Reserve	0	0	150	0	150	0	316	0	466
IT Reserve	124	0	167	(72)	219	0	65	0	284
Revenues & Benefits	0	0	25	0	25	0	0	0	25
Tree Risk Assessment	97	0	19	(32)	84	0	50	(31)	102
Vision2025	204	0	809	(312)	701	0	45	(212)	533
Lincoln Lottery Reserve	9	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	9
Mayoral Car	27	0	0	0	27	0	0	(20)	7
Active Nation Bond Reserve	180	0	200	0	380	0	0	(200)	180
AGP Sinking Fund	2	0	50	0	52	0	0	0	52
Private Sector Stock	27	0	12	0	39	0	12	0	51
Corporate Training	60	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	60
Corporate Maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
Professional Trainee Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	90
Section 106 Interest	32	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	32
Christmas Decorations	14	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	14
Electric Van Replacement	19	0	4	0	24	0	4	(2)	27

	Balance @ 31.03.21 £'000	Movements	Appropriations		Balance @ 31.03.22 £'000	Movements	Appropriations		Balance @31.03.23 £'000
			Transfers In £'000	Transfers Out £'000			Transfers In £'000	Transfers Out £'000	
Air Quality Initiatives	11	0	6	0	16	0	6	0	22
Commons Parking	20	0	10	(29)	1	0	12	0	13
Tank Memorial	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	10
Mercury Abatement	317	0	0	(317)	0	0	0	0	0
City Hall Sinking Fund	60	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	60
City Hall Improvement	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	50
Birchwood Leisure Centre	46	0	20	0	66	0	20	0	86
Staff Wellbeing	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	28
Covid Recovery Reserve	1,047	0	0	0	1,047	0	0	0	1,048
Covid Response	354	0	0	0	354	0	0	0	354
CX Capacity Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
MSCP & Bus Station	60	0	44	0	104	0	45	0	149
Western Growth Corridor Plan	80	0	0	(30)	49	0	0	(49)	0
Total General Fund	19,563	0	6,897	(13,792)	12,668	0	1,430	(7,057)	7,040
Earmarked Reserves									
HRA									
De Wint Court	73	0	0	0	73	0	0	0	73
De Wint Court Sinking Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10
Capital Fees Equalisation	110	0	0	0	110	0	0	0	110
NSAP/RSAP Sinking Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9
HRA Strategic Priority Reserve	722	0	0	(140)	582	0	240	(58)	764
Disrepair Management	0	0	300	0	300	0	0	0	300
HRA Business Plan	0	0	77	0	77	0	100	0	177
Tenant Satisfaction Survey	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	22
HRA Survey Works	54	0	0	(54)	0	0	0	0	0
Stock Retention	22	0	0	(22)	0	0	0	0	0
HRA IT Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	135	0	135
Strategic Growth Reserve	26	0	0	(21)	5	0	0	0	5
Invest to Save (HRA)	133	0	160	(40)	253	0	240	(77)	416
HRA Repairs Account	1,351	0	0	0	1,351	0	0	0	1,351
Housing Repairs Service	126	0	0	0	126	0	11	0	137

	Balance	Movements	Appropriations		Balance	Movements	Appropriations		Balance
	@ 31.03.21 £'000		Transfers In £'000	Transfers Out £'000	@ 31.03.22 £'000		Transfers In £'000	Transfers Out £'000	@31.03.23 £'000
Total HRA Earmarked Reserves	2,617	0	537	(277)	2,877	0	767	(135)	3,509
Total Earmarked Reserves	22,180	0	7,434	(14,069)	15,545	0	2,197	(7,192)	10,549
Insurance Fund	3,862	0	0	(432)	3,431	0	417	(324)	3,523
Total Earmarked Reserves	26,043	0	7,434	(14,501)	18,975	0	2,614	(7,516)	14,073

Insurance Reserve

The insurance fund has been set up to ensure adequate funding for the insurance risk covered by the City of Lincoln Council. In **2022/23** the risk in respect of Public Liability Insurance had an excess of £100,000 (per claim) with no cap ceiling. The movements on the fund are as follows:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
3,862	Opening Balance	3,430
(282)	Funding of claims/losses	(324)
(150)	Contributions from revenue	417
<u>3,431</u>	Closing Balance	<u>3,523</u>

Note 11 – Other Operating Expenditure

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
871	Levies	923
529	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	0
(934)	(Gains)/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	(604)
<u>467</u>	Total	<u>318</u>

Note 12 – Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
3,797	Interest payable and similar charges	3,840
2,077	Net interest on the net defined liability	1,266
(1,032)	Interest receivable and similar income	(3,112)
<u>4,842</u>	Total	<u>1,994</u>

Note 13 – Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
(7,047)	Council Tax income	(7,261)
(5,351)	Retained Business Rates income and expenditure	(5,927)
(1,328)	Non service related government grants	(899)
(23)	RSG	(24)
(7,892)	Capital grants and contributions	(9,941)
<u>(21,641)</u>	Total	<u>(24,051)</u>

Note 14 – Non-Current Assets including Property, Plant & Equipment, Investment Properties and Intangible Assets

The movement in the Council's Assets during the year was as follows:

Movements in 2022/23										
	Council Dwellings	Land & Buildings	Vehicles Plant & Equip	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Property Plant & Equip Subtotal	Intangible Assets	Investment Properties	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation										
At 1 April 2022	299,437	79,721	11,157	6,692	21,490	5,705	424,202	2,074	36,016	462,292
Additions	7,762	861	322	808	0	9,645	19,399	0	0	19,399
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	16	1,166	0	0	(252)	0	930	0	0	930
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	11,932	(44)	0	0	313	0	12,201	0	562	12,763
De-recognition and disposals	(2,611)	(23)	0	0	0	0	(2,634)	0	0	(2,634)
Other movements in cost or valuation	6,090	(891)	0	0	(402)	(4,797)	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2023	322,627	80,789	11,479	7,500	21,149	10,553	454,098	2,074	36,578	492,750
Depreciation										
At 1 April 2022	0	(1,824)	(5,780)	(119)	0	0	(7,723)	(1,868)	0	(9,591)
Depreciation/amortisation for year	(7,543)	(1,638)	(762)	0	0	0	(9,943)	(119)	0	(10,062)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	0	50	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	50

Movements in 2022/23										
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	7,458	137	0	0	0	0	7,594	0	0	7,594
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
De-recognition – disposals	65	0	0	0	0	0	65	0	0	65
De-recognition – other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2023	(20)	(3,276)	(6,542)	(119)	0	0	(9,956)	(1,986)	0	(11,943)
Net book value of assets at 31.03.23	322,607	77,513	4,937	7,381	21,149	10,553	444,141	88	36,578	480,807
Net book value of assets at 31.03.22	299,437	77,897	5,377	6,573	21,490	5,705	416,478	207	36,016	452,701
Owned	322,607	77,513	4,937	7,381	21,149	10,553	444,141	88	36,578	480,807

Movements in 2021/22										
	Council Dwellings	Land & Buildings	Vehicles Plant & Equip	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Property Plant & Equip Subtotal	Intangible Assets	Investment Properties	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation										
At 1 April 2021	274,502	81,265	9,169	5,918	20,967	8,241	400,062	1,992	34,203	436,256
Additions	12,398	1,265	1,961	774	0	3,755	20,153	64	0	20,218
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(36)	(455)	0	0	2,174	0	1,683	0	0	1,683
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	9,286	(1,433)	0	0	(286)	0	7,567	0	408	7,974
De-recognition and disposals	(2,340)	0	0	0	0	0	(2,340)	0	0	(2,340)
Other movements in cost or valuation	5,628	(922)	26	0	(1,365)	(6,291)	(2,924)	18	1,406	(1,500)
At 31 March 2022	299,437	79,721	11,157	6,692	21,490	5,705	424,201	2,074	36,016	462,291
Depreciation										
At 1 April 2021	(33)	(1,484)	(5,291)	(119)	(10)	0	(6,938)	(1,801)	0	(8,739)
Depreciation/amortisation for year	(7,159)	(1,604)	(488)	0	0	0	(9,251)	(66)	0	(9,318)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	33	1,271	0	0	3	0	1,307	0	0	1,307
Movements in 2021/22										
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	7,101	0	0	0	0	0	7,101	0	0	7,101

Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
De-recognition – disposals	58	0	0	0	0	0	58	0	0	58
De-recognition – other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	(7)	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2022	0	(1,824)	(5,780)	(119)	0	0	(7,723)	(1,868)	0	(9,590)
Net book value of assets at 31.03.22										
Net book value of assets at 31.03.22	299,437	77,897	5,377	6,573	21,490	5,705	416,478	207	36,016	452,701
Net book value of assets at 31.03.21	274,468	79,781	3,877	5,799	20,957	8,241	393,124	191	34,203	427,518
Owned										
Owned	299,437	77,897	5,377	6,573	21,490	5,705	416,478	207	36,016	452,701

Valuation

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment are to be measured at current value at least every five years.

The valuations of the Council's freehold and leasehold properties have been carried out in accordance with the Statements of Asset Valuation Practice and Guidance Notes of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. All valuations are either undertaken by Council Officers, by external valuers commissioned to value specific assets or by the District Valuer.

Principal Property Surveyor Mr P Clifton MRICS

The table below shows council owned assets re-valued in each accounting period:

	Council Dwellings	Land & Buildings	Community Assets	Vehicles, Plant & Equip.	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction
Valuation at historical cost			7,381	4,937		10,553
Valued at current value as at:						
31/03/2023	321,980	4,161			661	
31/03/2022	627	18,957			10,558	
31/03/2021		36,626			423	
31/03/2020		11,491			1,208	
31/03/2019		6,278			8,300	
Total cost or valuation	322,607	77,513	7,381	4,937	21,149	10,553

Depreciation

Tangible Assets

Depreciation, as stated in the Accounting Policies, is calculated on a straight-line basis. The following useful lives and depreciation rates have been used in the calculation of depreciation:

<u>Category Of Asset</u>	<u>Useful Economic Life</u>
Council Dwellings	60 years for new properties 30 years for properties over 30 years old
Other Land & Buildings	
- Council Buildings	50 years
- Car Parks	60 years
- Cemeteries	50 years
- Crematorium	21 years
- Community Centres	50 years
- Offices	50 years
- Depots & Workshops	50 years
- Public Conveniences	50 years
- Recreation Grounds	50 years
- Sports Centres	50 years
Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	
- Computers	5 years

<u>Category Of Asset</u>	<u>Useful Economic Life</u>
- Equipment	10 years
- Fixtures and Fittings	5 years
- Plant	7/10 years
- Vehicles	5/7 years

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are amortised to service headings within cost of services as part of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on a straight-line basis, as stated in the Accounting Policies. The standard useful life, used for amortisation purposes is:

<u>Category Of Asset</u>	<u>Useful Economic Life</u>
Intangible Asset	
- Software	5 years

Note 15 – Heritage Assets

Reconciliation of the Carrying Value of Heritage Assets Held by the Council

	Heritage Vehicles £'000	Musical Instruments £'000	Civic Insignia £'000	Other £'000	Total Assets £'000
Cost or Valuation					
At 1 April 2021	0	0	2,359	409	2,768
Additions	0	0	0	0	0
De-recognitions	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2022	0	0	2,359	409	2,768
Cost or Valuation					
At 1 April 2022	0	0	2,359	409	2,768
Additions	0	0	0	0	0
De-recognitions	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2023	0	0	2,359	409	2,768

Civic Insignia

The collection of civic insignia includes the Mayor's and Sheriff's badges and chains of office and mace. All items are on display at the Guildhall, Lincoln. It also includes four ceremonial and fighting swords of considerable historical significance, which together are valued at £2.4m. The Council's collection of civic insignia is reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. These

insurance valuations are reviewed annually and revalued during every ten-year period by an appropriately qualified external valuer. These were revalued at 31st March 2017 by external valuers Bamfords.

Other Heritage Assets

This category includes artwork and paintings and miscellaneous assets recognised in the Balance Sheet, such as the Books of Remembrance kept on display at the City Crematorium. These are reported at insurance valuation which is based on market values and are subject to periodic revaluation by an appropriately external qualified valuer. These were revalued at 31st March 2017 by external valuers Bamfords.

Heritage Assets not recognised in the Balance Sheet

In addition to the assets recognised in the Balance Sheet and disclosed in the above table, the Council holds a number of assets which are by their nature heritage assets but are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. The Council does not consider that reliable cost or valuation information can be obtained for these assets due to the nature of the assets and the lack of market values. Examples of this type of asset are ancient structures and ruins, War memorials and public art. These are listed below.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

St Paul in the Bail	Walls & Well
Saltergate Roman Wall and Posterngate	Wall & Gate
Mint Wall, West Bight	Wall
Pottergate	Arch
Lower West Gate & Wall, City Hall	Gate & Wall
St Marys Conduit	Conduit
Temple Gardens, Close Wall	Wall
Roman Wall, Mary Sookias House, Cecil Street	Wall

Memorials

High Street	War memorial
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Memorials

Dixon Street	War memorial
Birchwood Avenue	War memorial
Newark Road/Maple Street	War memorial

Public Art

The Chimes, Brayford Wharf North	Artwork
Empowerment, Waterside	Artwork
Exotic Cone I and II	Artwork
Lilies, Altham Terrace	Artwork
Lion, Arboretum	Artwork
Love Seat, The Lawn	Artwork
Dr Charlesworth Statue, The Lawn	Artwork
Mother and Child, The Lawn	Artwork
St Marks Obelisk	Artwork
Light Sculpture, Wigford Bridge	Artwork

Note 16 – Investment Properties and Surplus Assets

Movements in the value of Investment Properties are shown in note 14. The current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective.

The following items of income and expenditure have been accounted for in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
1,994	Rental income from investment property	2,191
(19)	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	(7)
408	Fair value gains/(losses) on investment properties	562
0	Gains/(losses) on disposal of investment properties	0
<u>2,383</u>	Net gain/(loss)	<u>2,746</u>

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

The movements in the value of investment properties are analysed below:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
34,203	Balance at 1 April	36,016
0	Additions	0
0	Disposals	0
408	Net gain/loss from Fair Value Adjustment	562
1,406	Transfers (to)/from Other Land and Buildings	0
<u>36,016</u>	Balance at 31 March	<u>36,578</u>

Fair Value Hierarchy

The Council's Investment Properties have been assessed as being Level 2 on the Fair Value Hierarchy (See Note 1 Accounting Policies, point 25 for an explanation of fair value levels).

Valuation Techniques Used to Determine Level 2 Fair Values for Investment Properties

An income-investment approach has been used to determine the fair value of Investment Properties. This technique involves an assessment of potential future net incomes flowing from the property. In the case of the majority of properties that are currently let, this reflects terms of the existing lease including passing rents and any scheduled rent reviews and, if later, ultimate reversion to full market rental value. In the case of properties that are currently vacant, it is assumed that a letting is immediately sought at full market rental value and otherwise on optimum letting terms from the perspective of a market participant. Potential future net income flows are

then capitalised using market all-risks term and reversionary yields to derive a present value, thus representing Market Value.

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

Highest and Best Use of Investment Properties

In estimating the fair value of the Council's investment properties, the highest and best use of the properties is deemed to be their current use.

Valuers

The Investment Properties that were valued at 31 March 2023 were valued in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

Surplus Assets

Movements in the value of Surplus Assets are shown in note 14.

The current value measurement base for surplus assets is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective. There have been no transfers between the levels of the hierarchy during the year. A transfer would occur when more detailed market information becomes available.

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.

The Council's surplus assets are all valued using level three inputs due to their latent value or specialist nature.

Note 17 – Intangible Assets

Movements in the value of Intangible Assets are shown in note 14. No internally generated intangible assets are recognised in the Balance Sheet. The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. Amortisation of £119k (£66k in 21/22) was charged to service headings in the Cost of Services.

Note 18 – Financial Instruments

The Council has the following investments at 31 March 2023:

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

Fair Value of Equity Instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income include the following:

	31/03/2022	31/03/2023
	£000	£000
Non-listed securities	504	504
Total	504	504

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

31 March 2023

	Unquoted Shares	Other	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Opening Balance	312	0	312
Transfers into level 3	0	0	0
Transfers out of Level 3	(312)	0	(312)
Total gains or losses for the period			
- Included in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0
- Included in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0
Additions	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
Closing Balance	0	0	0

The borrowings and investments disclosed in the Balance Sheet are made up of the following categories of financial instruments:

Summary of Financial Instruments		31/3/22	31/3/23
		£000s	£000s
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost			
Long Term Borrowing	Level 1	(111,962)	(109,243)
Short Term Borrowing	Level 1	(14,931)	(14,394)
Long Term Creditors	Level 1	0	0
Short Term Creditors	Level 1	(12,408)	(11,481)
Cash and Cash Equivalents	Level 1	0	0
Total Financial Liabilities		(139,302)	(135,118)
Financial Assets at amortised cost			
Short Term Investments	Level 1	49,878	36,932
Long Term Debtors	Level 1	724	611
Short Term Debtors	Level 1	8,891	8,313
Cash and Cash Equivalents	Level 1	(103)	509
Total Financial Assets		59,390	46,365
Financial Assets at FVOCI*			
Long Term Investments	Level 2	816	824
Total Assets at FVOCI		816	824

*Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income

** See table below for detail

Shares Held in Investors in Lincoln were transferred between levels in the hierarchy during 2022/23, from level 3 to level 2 making use of observable measures to produce a more appropriate valuation.

Under accounting requirements, the carrying value of the financial instrument value is shown in the balance sheet which includes the principal amount borrowed or lent and further adjustments for breakage costs or stepped interest loans (measured by an effective interest rate calculation) including accrued interest. Accrued interest is shown separately in short term debtors/creditors where the payments/receipts are due within one year. The effective interest rate is effectively accrued interest receivable under the instrument, adjusted for the amortisation of any premiums or discounts reflected in the purchase price.

Financial Instrument Gains/Losses

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

2022/23	Financial Liabilities	Financial Assets		Total
		Amortised Cost	FVOCI	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Interest Expense	3,840			3,840
Interest Income credited to services		(1,167)		(1,167)
Dividend Income			(40)	(40)
Surplus or deficit arising on revaluation of financial assets			(8)	(8)
Net (gain)/loss for the year	3,840	(1,167)	(48)	2,625

2021/22				
Interest Expense	3,721			3,721
Interest Income credited to services		(77)		(77)
Interest Income			(26)	(26)
Surplus or deficit arising on revaluation of financial assets			(63)	(63)
Net (gain)/loss for the year	3,721	(77)	(89)	3,555

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. Assets measured at Fair value through other comprehensive income are classified in this way due to the business model under which they are being held and that they have features which are not usually found in a basic lending agreement.

Financial assets measured at fair value				
Recurring fair value measurements	Input level in fair value hierarchy**	Valuation technique used to measure fair value	As at 31/3/23	As at 31/3/22
			£'000	£'000
Fair Value OCI				
Equity shareholding in Dunham Bridge Company	Level 2	Average price obtained during the last three share sales	504	504
Equity shareholding in Investors in Lincoln	Level 2	Share of Net Assets	320	312
Total			824	816

* The Authority's shareholding in Investors in Lincoln - the shares in this company are not traded in an active market and fair value of £319,882 has been based on the authorities share of net assets of the company.

**See Glossary for the definition of Fair Value Input Levels

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 carries at fair value (described in the table above), all other financial liabilities and financial assets held by the authority are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost:

- For loans from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) and other loans payable, premature repayment rates from the PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures;
- For loans receivable prevailing benchmark market rates have been used to provide the fair value.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised.
- Where an instrument has a maturity of less than 12 months, or is a trade or other receivable, the fair value is taken to be the carrying amount outstanding or the billed amount.
- The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

Financial Liabilities

31/03/22				31/03/23	
Carrying Amount	Fair Value		Fair Value hierarchy**	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
£'000	£'000			£'000	£'000
95,612	99,356	PWLB Debt	Level 2	95,394	75,156
16,174	25,339	Money Market Debt	Level 2	16,175	16,300
0	0	Bonds/Charity	Level 2	34	34
15,108	14,960	Other	Level 2/3	12,033	11,946
<u>126,894</u>	<u>139,655</u>	Total Debt		<u>123,636</u>	<u>103,435</u>

The fair value 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 is to be expected given that the current rates of interest are at a historically low level.

**See Glossary for the Definition of Fair Value Input Levels.

Financial Assets

31/03/22			31/03/23	
Carrying Amount	Fair Value		Carrying Amount	Fair Value
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
49,878	49,878	Money Market Investments <1 year	36,932	36,932
0	0	Money Market Investments >1 year	0	0
724	724	Long Term Debtors	611	611
<u>50,602</u>	<u>50,602</u>	Total Investments	<u>37,543</u>	<u>37,543</u>

The fair value of Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans of £75.156m 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.

However, the Council has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than from the markets, termed the PWLB Certainty Interest rates. A

supplementary measure of the fair value as a result of its PWLB commitments for fixed rate loans is to compare the terms of these loans with the new borrowing rates available from the PWLB. If a value is calculated on this basis, the carrying amount of £95.394m would be valued at £75.156m. But, if the Council 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. The exit price for the PWLB loans including the discounts available (due to increase in BOE base rate) would be £75.151m.

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

Note 19 – Inventories

In undertaking its work the Council holds reserves of inventories together with amounts of uncompleted work (work in progress).

	Consumable Stores	
	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance outstanding at the start of the year	138	104
Purchases	11	57
Recognised as an expense in the year	(45)	(6)
Balance outstanding at the year-end	104	155

Note 20 – Debtors

Debtors listed under current assets are monies due which the Council expects to collect within one year of the Balance Sheet date and are analysed as follows:

31/03/22 £'000		31/03/23 £'000
12,713	Central Government Bodies	3,769
5,345	Other Local Authorities	5,563
4	NHS Bodies	4
10,987	Other Entities and Individuals	11,224
29,049	Total Short-Term Debtors	20,559
(4,133)	Less Impairment Loss Allowance	(4,014)
24,916	Net Short-Term Debtors as per Balance Sheet	16,545

Debtors for Local Taxation

The past due but not impaired amount for local taxation (council tax and non-domestic rates) can be analysed by age as follows:

31/03/22		31/03/23
£'000		£'000
115	Less than three months	158
186	Three to six months	296
3,521	Six months to one year	903
5,171	More than one year	7,321
8,993	Total	8,678

Note 21 – Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

31/03/22		31/03/23
£'000		£'000
1	Cash held by the Council	1
(104)	Bank Current accounts	508
(103)		509

The balance at 31/3/2023 shows the financial position which includes creditor payments awaiting clearance through the bank account.

Note 22 – Assets Held for Sale

The Authority had a piece of development land classified as an asset held for sale at the end of the year. The sale of the asset has been approved but was not completed as at 31st March 2023.

Current		Current
2021/22		2022/23
£000		£000
0	Balance at start of the year	1500
0	Additions	0
	Newly classified:	
1,500	- Property Plant & Equipment	0
0	Revaluation gain/(loss)	0
0	Transfers from AHFS	0
0	Disposals	0
1,500	Closing Balance	1,500

Note 23 – Creditors

Creditors shown as current liabilities are amounts payable by the Council within one year of the Balance Sheet date and are analysed as follows:

31/03/22		31/03/23
£'000		£'000
(28,327)	Central Government Bodies	(12,603)
(607)	Other Local Authorities	(2,122)
(14,995)	Other Entities and Individuals	(11,529)
(43,929)	Total	(26,254)

Note 24 – Provisions

These amounts are set aside to provide for potential liabilities relating to specific occurrences and comprise the following balances:

	Business Rates RV Reduction the Think Tank	Compulsory Purchase Order	Business Rates Appeals
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April 2022	(37)	(94)	(2,067)
Additional Provisions made in 2022/23	0	0	(1,759)
Amounts used in 2022/23	0	0	114
Unused Amounts Reversed in 2022/23	0	0	1,859
Unwinding of Discounting in 2022/23	0	0	0
Interest Applied in 2022/23	0	(2)	
Balance at 31 March 2023	(37)	(96)	(1,852)

The provision for business rate appeals represents the Council's share (40% of £4.630m) of the total provision for appeals against the rateable valuation set by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) not settled as at 31 March 2023. The total provision is accounted for in the Collection Fund. The amount and timing of outflows against the Business Rates Appeals provision is dependent on the processing and determination of business rates appeals by the Valuation Office.

Note 25 – Usable Reserves

Movements in the Council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement and Note 10.

Note 26 – Unusable Reserves

The Council keeps a number of unusable reserves in the Balance Sheet. Some are required to be held for statutory reasons; some are needed to comply with proper accounting practice.

Reserve	Balance 31/03/22	Net Movemen t in Year	Balance 31/03/23	Purpose of Reserve	Further Details of Movements
	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Revaluation Reserve	31,542	457	32,227	Store of gains on revaluation of assets	a) below
Pensions Reserve	(80,999)	73,203	(7,796)	Balancing account to allow inclusion of Pensions Liability in the Balance Sheet	Note 44 to the financial statements
Capital Adjustment Account	282,571	24,178	306,748	Store of capital resources set aside to meet past expenditure	b) below
Deferred Capital Receipts	57	0	57	Expected future repayments from sales of assets received in instalments	c) below
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(48)	2	(46)	Balancing mechanism between the rates at which gains and losses are recognised under the Code of Practice	d) below
Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	801	8	809	Store of gains on revaluation of investments not yet realised through sales	e) below

Reserve	Balance 31/03/22	Net Movement in Year	Balance 31/03/23	Purpose of Reserve	Further Details of Movements
	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Collection Fund Adjustment Account – Council Tax	(29)	(94)	(123)	Store of Council's share of accumulated surpluses and deficits in relation to Council Tax on the Collection Fund	f) below
Collection Fund Adjustment Account – NNDR	(4,037)	4,754	717	Store of Council's share of accumulated surpluses and deficits in relation to NNDR on the Collection Fund	f) below
Accumulated Absences Account	(669)	91	(578)	Absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year (i.e. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March	g) below
	229,188	102,827	332,015		

a) Revaluation Reserve

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

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

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created.

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
(29,350)	Balance 1 April	(31,543)
(3,712)	Upward Revaluation of assets	(3,405)
722	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	2,425
<hr/>		<hr/>
(2,989)	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(980)
136	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	139
661	Amounts written out to the Capital Adjustment Account	157
<hr/>		<hr/>
<u>(31,542)</u>	Balance 31 March	<u>(32,227)</u>

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 Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties, *gains and losses on Assets held for Sale* and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Council.

The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

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		2022/23 £'000
(263,163)	Balance 1 April	(282,571)
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
9,318	Charges for depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	10,062
0	Other movements of depreciation	0
(14,668)	Revaluation (gains)/losses and impairments on Property, Plant and Equipment	(19,795)
(408)	Fair value movements on Investment Properties	(562)
1,677	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	4,461
2,282	Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2,411
0	Other adjustments	0
(1,799)		(3,423)
(797)	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(139)
(2,596)	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve prior period adjustment	(3,562)
	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	
	Capital Financing applied in year:	
(1,340)	Use of Capital Receipts to finance new capital expenditure	(1,934)
(150)	Use of Capital Receipts to reduce capital financing requirement	0
(3,842)	Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(6,778)
(215)	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(750)
(9,821)	Application of Capital Grants to finance new capital expenditure	(10,330)
(1,444)	Statutory Provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances (MRP/VRP)	(824)
(16,812)		(20,616)
(282,571)	Balance 31 March	(306,749)

c) Deferred Capital Receipts

This account contains the expected future repayments of capital from sales of assets which will be received in instalments over an agreed period of time. They arise principally from mortgages on sold council houses. When made, these payments are regarded as being of a capital nature and transactions during the year were as follows:

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
(57)	Balance 1 April	(57)
0	Council's share of (surplus)/deficit for the year	0
<u>(57)</u>	Balance 31 March	<u>(57)</u>

d) Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account provides a balancing mechanism between the rates at which gains and losses (such as premiums on the early repayment of debt) are recognised under the Code of Practice and are required by statute to be met from the General Fund and HRA balances.

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
51	Balance 1 April	48
0	Proportion of discounts incurred in previous financial years to be credited to the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory requirements.	0
(2)	Proportion of premiums incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory requirements.	(2)
<u>48</u>	Balance 31 March	<u>46</u>

e) Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve

The Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the authority arising from increases on the value of its investments measured at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are either revalued downwards or impaired and the gains lost or disposed of and the gains are realised.

2021/22 £'000	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	2022/23 £'000
(738)	Balance 1 April	(801)
0	Transfer from Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve	0
(63)	(Gain)/Loss on FVOCI revaluations in year	(8)
<u>(801)</u>	Balance 31 March	<u>(809)</u>

f) Collection Fund Adjustment Account – Council Tax

The Council Tax Adjustment Account was introduced on 1 April 2009 to comply with the new accounting requirements for the Collection Fund contained within the Statement of Recommended Practice 2009/10 (SORP 2009). The difference between accrued income for the year as shown in the Income and Expenditure Account and the amount required to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account. The balance on the account represents the Council's share of the accumulated surpluses and deficits on the Collection Fund at the Balance Sheet date.

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
196	Balance 1 April	29
	Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	94
(167)		
<u>29</u>	Balance 31 March	<u>123</u>

g) Collection Fund Adjustment Account – NNDR

The NNDR Adjustment Account was introduced on 1 April 2013 to comply with the new regime for the collection of Business Rates and the resulting accounting requirements. The difference between accrued income for the year as shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account. The balance on the account represents the Council's share of the accumulated surpluses and deficits on the Collection Fund at the Balance Sheet date.

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
11,428	Balance 1 April	4,037
	Amount by which council non-domestic rates credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(4,754)
(7,391)		
<u>4,037</u>	Balance 31 March	<u>(717)</u>

h) Accumulated Absences Account

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

2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
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	770	Balance 1 April		669
(770)		Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(669)	
669		Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	578	
		Amount by which officer remuneration charged in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements		(91)
		Balance 31 March		578

Note 27 – Cash Flow Statement - Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
62	Interest received	2,810
(3,786)	Interest paid	(4,129)
26	Dividends Received	40
(3,698)		(1,279)

Note 28 – Cash Flow Statement – Adjustment to surplus or deficit on provision of services for non-cash movements

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
9,252	Depreciation	10,062
(14,668)	Impairment and downward valuations	(19,916)
66	Amortisation	119
9,863	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(22,167)
(7,732)	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	7,265
35	(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(46)
4,728	Movement in pension liability	2,188
2,282	Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	2,569
(851)	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(774)
2,975		(20,700)

Note 29 – Cash Flow Statement – Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for items that are investing & financing activities

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
(3,216)	Proceeds from sale of PPE, investment property and intangible assets	(3,173)
(7,892)	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	(9,941)
<u>(11,108)</u>		<u>(13,114)</u>

Note 30 – Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
(19,966)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(19,458)
(150,686)	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	(249,659)
0	Other payments for investing activities	0
3,216	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	3,173
134,736	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	263,028
7,892	Other receipts from investing activities	10,054
<u>(24,808)</u>	Net cash flows from investing activities	<u>7,138</u>

Note 31 – Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
0	Cash payments for the reduction of outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases	0
11,381	Cash receipts of short & long-term borrowing	6,640
0	Other receipts from financing activities	0
(9,643)	Repayments of short- and long-term borrowing	(9,895)
11,360	Other payments for financing activities	5,226
<u>13,098</u>	Net cash flows from financing activities	<u>1,971</u>

Note 32 – Trading Operations

The Council operates a Housing Repairs Service (HRS), which carries out day to day maintenance on council housing and other public buildings as well as environmental works, street furniture etc. It also manages a number of industrial estates and commercial properties.

2021/22			2022/23			
Exp. £'000	Inc. £'000	Net £'000		Exp. £'000	Inc. £'000	Net £'000
9,118	(7,760)	1,359	HRS	9,732	(9,139)	594
54	(395)	(341)	Industrial Estates	40	(408)	(368)
67	(2,000)	(1,932)	Lincoln Properties	71	(2,161)	(2,090)
9,240	(10,154)	(914)	Total (Surplus)/Deficit	9,843	(11,708)	(1,865)

Note 33 – Agency Services

In accordance with the Code, the collection and distribution of National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) and Council Tax is deemed to be an agency arrangement. The costs of collection of NNDR and the surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund for the year, are shown in the Collection Fund Statement.

Note 34 – Members' Allowances

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 requires local authorities to publish the amounts paid to members under the members' allowance scheme.

The payments made to the City of Lincoln Council members during 2022/23 totalled £252,312 (£245,456 in 2021/22).

Payments are defined as:

- i. Basic Allowance
- ii. Special Responsibility Allowance
- iii. Other allowances

Note 35 – Officers' Remuneration

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to disclose remuneration paid to senior employees.

For the purposes of the regulation senior employees are persons whose salary is in excess of £150,000 per year or whose salary is £50,000 or more and are deemed to have responsibility for the management of the Council to the extent that they have the power to direct or control the major activities. The remuneration paid to the Council's senior employees is as follows:

Officers' Emoluments – Senior Employees

2022/23						
Post Title	Salary	Bonuses	Expense Allowances	Compensation for loss of office	Pension Contributions	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive ¹	130,602	0	0	0	22,594	153,196
Strategic Director of Housing & Regeneration	101,101	0	0	0	17,456	118,557
Strategic Director of Communities & Environment	100,904	0	0	0	17,456	118,360
Strategic Director of Major Developments	100,904	0	0	0	17,456	118,360
Total	433,512	0	0	0	74,963	508,473

- 1) The salary costs for the Chief Executive include £3.2k relating to election expenses in 22/23.

2021/22						
Post Title	Salary	Bonuses	Expense Allowances	Compensation for loss of office	Pension Contributions	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive ¹	141,540	0	0	0	22,686	164,226
Strategic Director of Housing & Regeneration	100,973	0	0	0	17,123	118,096
Strategic Director of Communities & Environment	98,979	0	0	0	17,123	116,102
Strategic Director of Major Developments	98,979	0	0	0	17,123	116,102

Total	440,470	0	0	0	74,056	514,525
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- 1) The salary costs for the Chief Executive include £16.1k relating to election expenses in 2021/22

The numbers of other Council employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions) were paid as follows:

Remuneration Band £	Number of Employees	
	2022/23	2021/22
50,000 - 54,999	13	6
55,000 - 59,999	4	3
60,000 - 64,999	3	2
65,000 - 69,999	3	5
70,000 - 74,999	3	0
75,000 - 79,999	1	1
80,000 - 84,999	1	1

For employees receiving remuneration of £85,000 or more for the year see previous table 'Officers' Emoluments – Senior Employees'.

The figure above for 2022/23 includes no employees for whom an exit package was agreed.

The numbers of exit packages with total cost per band and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the following table:

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band [b + c]		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23
							£	£
£0 - £20,000	0	0	4	8	4	8	32,934	57,313
£20,001 - £40,000	0	0	4	4	4	4	122,870	111,129
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	4	1	4	1	176,082	54,569
£60,001 - £80,000	0	0	1	1	1	1	60,530	65,547
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£100,000 - £150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total cost included in bandings							392,416	288,558
Add: Amounts provided for in CIES not							0	0

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band [b + c]		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23
							£	£
included in bandings								
Total cost included in CIES							392,416	288,558

None of the exit packages shown in the table above related to senior employees.

Note 36 – External Audit Costs

In 2022/23 the following fees relating to External Audit and Inspection were incurred and paid to Mazars, the Council's external auditors:

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
	<u>Fees payable for statutory audit services</u>	
41	Fees Payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	51
41		51
	<u>Fees payable for other audit services</u>	
10	Fees payable for the certification of grant claims and returns	7
51	Total fee payable to external auditors	58

The fees relating to external audit services include the amount of £50,920 for the provision of the annual audit and £7,100 for the Housing Benefit Assurance Process (HBAP).

Further audits in relation to 22/23 have been accrued for within the accounts as they will take place after the 31st May 2023 and as such are based on estimated costs and are excluded within this Note.

Note 37 – Grant Income

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

Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income		
2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
(23)	Revenue Support Grant	(24)
(213)	New Homes Bonus	(421)

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(8)	Transparency Code Setup Grant	(8)
(640)	COVID	0
(266)	Lower Tier Services Grant	(174)
0	Services Grant	(263)
0	Business rates levy surplus distribution	(32)
(201)	Local Council Tax Support Admin Subsidy	0
(1,351)	Total Non-Ring-fenced Grants shown on CIES	(923)
(852)	Disabled Facilities Grants	(852)
(173)	Section 106 agreement	(78)
(1407)	Lincolnshire County Council	0
(256)	Heritage Lottery Fund	(34)
(941)	Historic England	(1,019)
(13)	Department of Transport	0
(3,333)	Homes England	(931)
(498)	Towns Fund	(6,120)
(270)	Police & Crime Commissioner	0
0	Nottingham City Council	(12)
(150)	Other Capital Grants and Contributions	(896)
(7,892)	Total Capital Grants and Contributions shown on CIES	(9,941)
(5,211)	S31 Grants included in Non-Domestic Rates Income on CIES	(3,192)
(5,211)	S31 Grants included in Non-Domestic Rates Income on CIES	(3,192)
(14,455)	Total Non-Ringfenced Grants included in CIES	(14,056)

2021/22	Credited to Services	2022/23
£'000		£'000
(11,590)	Rent Allowances	(11,402)
(10,589)	Rent Rebates	(10,452)
(187)	Discretionary Housing Payments	(132)
(334)	Housing Benefit Administration	(340)
(789)	New Burdens Grant Determination	(446)
(48)	Historic England	(118)
(148)	Local Council Tax Support Admin Subsidy	(144)
(33)	Home Office	(167)

(11)	Towns Fund	(78)
(1,700)	Homeless Specific	(1,213)
0	Council Tax Energy Rebate Grant	(197)
(2,612)	COVID Business Support Grants	(494)
0	Homes England	(72)
(602)	Other Grants	(767)
(28,643)	Total Grants and Contributions credited to Services	(26,023)
(43,098)	Total Grants, Contributions and Donated Assets	(40,079)

Note 38 – Related Parties

It is a requirement for the Council to disclose any transactions with a related party, including non-financial transactions. A 'related party' is defined as being an organisation with which the Council has dealings and where Officers or Members of the Council have a controlling interest or influence in the activities of that organisation. The code requires local authorities to disclose material transactions with 'related parties'. The disclosure is required in order that the true and fairness of the accounts can be understood by the reader of the accounts having knowledge of any 'related parties' of the Council.

Members/Officers - For 2022/23 the Council sent a letter, dated 1 April 2023, to all Members, Chief Officers and Assistant Directors, requesting disclosure of any 'related party transactions'. All letters were returned, two Members and two Officers declared pecuniary interests in accordance with section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972.

In addition, the table below details both Member and Officer representation on the boards of levying bodies, assisted organisations with which the Council makes material financial assistance and Joint Ventures.

Name of Organisation	Member Representative	Officer Representative
Upper Witham – Drainage Board	Councillor G Hewson Councillor R Longbottom Councillor P Vaughan Councillor C Burke Councillor D Armiger Councillor C Watt Councillor R Metcalfe Councillor B Bushell Councillor D Nannestad	Chief Executive
Witham First – Drainage Board	Councillor G Hewson Councillor P Vaughan	Chief Executive

Name of Organisation	Member Representative	Officer Representative
Witham Third – Drainage Board	Councillor G Hewson Councillor P Vaughan Councillor D Nannestad Councillor B Bushell Councillor J Kik	Chief Executive
Lincoln Dial-a-Ride	Councillor G Hewson	Chief Executive
Lincoln Citizens Advice Bureau	Councillor S Burke	Chief Executive
Investors in Lincoln	Cllr Metcalfe Cllr Murray	Chief Executive/ Major Developments
Lincoln Business Improvement Group	Councillor C Burke Councillor R Metcalfe	Communities and Environment
Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Partnership	Councillor R Metcalfe Councillor C Burke Councillor N Tweddle Councillor G Hewson(Sub)	Communities & Environment
The Shared Revenues & Benefits Joint Committee	Councillor R Metcalfe Councillor Sue Burke Councillor D Nannestad(sub))	Chief Executive

None of the above Members or Officers took part in the decision making of any financial assistance awarded to any of the organisations.

UK Central Government - has significant influence over the general operations of the Council. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. housing benefits).

Details of transactions with government departments are set out in note 37.

Other Bodies - transactions with other bodies levying demands on the Council Tax - Levying bodies in 2022/23 were as follows:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
464	Upper Witham Drainage Board	493
139	Witham 1 st Drainage Board	148
268	Witham 3 rd Drainage Board	282
871	Total	923

Assisted Organisations - the Council made material financial assistance to the following organisations during the year: -

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
20	Lincoln Dial-a-Ride	57
28	Citizens Advice Bureau	0
23	Brayford Trust	25

Collaborative Agreements – The Council holds 6.3% (£12,350) of the ordinary share capital of £196,000 of Investors in Lincoln Ltd (ILL).

The principal activity of the company is the promotion of economic regeneration and the development and expansion of industry, commerce and enterprise of all forms for the benefit of the community in and around the City of Lincoln.

The company's accounting year-end is 31st March and the latest (audited) accounts are for the year ended 31st March 2022, showing net assets of £4.478m and a loss of £4,875. The accounts of the company may be obtained from The Company Secretary, c/o The Managed Workspace, Greetwell Place, 2 Lime Kiln Way, Lincoln LN2 4US.

The previous funding and management agreement that existed between ILL and the Council ended in January 2022 and a new lease agreement is now in operation until 2036 with break clauses within it. The lease continues the operation of Greetwell Place as a managed office workspace with the Council's staff operating the facility in the same way as previously, so there are no material changes to the businesses or operational approach. The annual rent payable to ILL is 50% of the rents collected, which is paid at £9,000 per month with an end of year reconciliation with payments or repayments made accordingly. The Council use the remaining 50% of the rent to cover operational and maintenance costs retaining any surpluses or funding any deficit accordingly.

Collaborative Agreements - The Council has a collaborative arrangement with North Kesteven and West Lindsey District Councils to provide the Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit. This arrangement is hosted by North Kesteven District Council. The Council also has a collaborative arrangement with North Kesteven to provide a shared Revenues and Benefits Service. This shared service is hosted by the City of Lincoln Council. Both of these arrangements are governed through a Joint Committee representing each of the partner authorities. These arrangements are considered as Jointly Controlled Operations, where ventures use their own resources to undertake an activity subject to joint control, and as such do not require consolidation into the Council's accounts. The Council's proportion of activity is accounted for separately within the Core Financial Statements.

Note 39 – Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below (including the value of assets acquired under finance leases), 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 Council, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR is a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically that has yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

Total Capital expenditure and financing during the year:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
	Capital investment	
20,154	Property, Plant and Equipment	19,399
0	Investment Properties	0
64	Intangible Assets	0
1,677	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	4,461
21,895		23,860
	Sources of finance	
(1,340)	Capital Receipts	(1,934)
(9,821)	Government grants and other contributions	(10,330)
(215)	Revenue Contributions	(62)
(3,842)	Major Repairs Reserve	(7,465)
(15,218)	Total sources of financing	(19,791)
(6,677)	Capital Financing Requirement	(4,069)
	Capital Financing Requirement - Funded by:	
(6,677)	Unsupported Borrowing	(4,069)
(6,677)		(4,069)
137,776	Opening CFR	142,859
6,677	Unsupported borrowing	4,069
0	Adjustments in respect of leases disposed under finance lease	0
(1,444)	Minimum Revenue Provision/Voluntary Revenue Provision	(824)
(150)	Application of capital receipts to reduce CFR	0
142,859	Closing CFR	146,104

The Council has a five-year Housing Investment programme, of which £2.254m is contractually committed for delivery in 2023/24. This relates to a partnership arrangement to ensure all our properties continue to meet Decent Homes Standard and move towards achieving The Lincoln Standard. In addition to this the Council also has a five-year General Investment Programme, of which £1m is contractually committed in 2023/24 to complete the Central Market refurbishment.

Note 40 – Leases

Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

The Council does not have any finance leases as Lessee.

Operating leases

The Council has acquired the use of a number of assets, such as vehicles, under operating leases.

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

31/03/2022		31/03/2023
£'000		£'000
170	Not later than one year	260
22	Later than one year and not later than five years	1,460
0	Later than five years	101
<u>192</u>		<u>1,820</u>

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

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
193	Vehicles Plant & Equipment	234
<u>193</u>	Minimum lease payments	<u>234</u>

Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

The Council has granted a long-term lease to Lincolnshire County Council for the use of The Collection (City and County Museum) accounted for as a finance lease. Rental is at a peppercorn, meaning no rentals are receivable. There was no net investment in this asset in 2022/23.

Operating Leases

The Council leases out property under operating leases for the following purposes:

- for the provision of community services, such as sports facilities and community centres

- for economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses

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

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
2,746	Not later than one year	2,727
9,860	Later than one year and not later than five years	9,312
20,650	Later than five years	18,974
33,257		31,013

The minimum lease payments do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered in to, such as rent reviews. In 2022/23, (£391k) contingent rents were foregone by the Authority (2021/22 £386k received).

Note 41 – Impairment Losses

There were no impairment losses during 2022/23.

Note 42 – Capitalisation of Borrowing Costs

As permitted by the code, the Council has adopted a policy of accounting for borrowing costs in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as they arise. No borrowing costs are capitalised.

Note 43 – Termination Benefits

The Council terminated the contracts of a number of employees in 2022/23, incurring liabilities of £0.289m (£0.392m in 2021/22) – see note 35 for the number of exit packages and total cost per band. These costs exclude any ill health retirements or departures as they are not termination benefits in accordance with the requirements of the code.

Note 44 – Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

Participation in Pension Schemes

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

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Lincolnshire County Council. This is a funded scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liability with investment assets.

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

The principal risks to the Council of the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, structural changes to the scheme, changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account the amounts required by statute as described in the accounting policies note.

Transactions Relating to Retirement Benefits

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the Net Cost of Services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge that is required to go against Council Tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out in the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
	<u>Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement</u>	
	Net Cost of Services:	
7,203	Current Service Cost	5,960
114	Administration Expenses	127
223	Past Service Costs (including curtailments)	122
	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:	
2,077	Net Interest Expense	1,266
9,617	Total Post-Employment Benefits charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	7,475

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:	
(14,956)	Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	9,476
(11,625)	Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	0
(7,348)	Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(104,550)

2,925	Other Actuarial gains / losses on assets	2,851
1,135	Other	19,683
(29,869)	Total re-measurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(75,391)
(20,252)	Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(67,916)

2021/22
£'000

2022/23
£'000

Movement in Reserves Statement

(9,617)	Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(7,475)
4,888	Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:	5,287

Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
(252,895)	Present value of the defined obligations	(174,264)
171,896	Fair value of plan assets	166,468
(80,999)	Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	(7,796)

Reconciliation of Movements in the fair value of the scheme assets:

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
158,769	Opening fair value of scheme assets	171,896
3,156	Interest Income	5,375
14,956	The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	(9,476)
(2,925)	Other actuarial gains / (losses)	0
4,888	Contributions from employer	5,287
1,017	Contributions from employees into the scheme	1,095
(7,851)	Benefits Paid	(7,582)
(114)	Administration Expenses	(127)
0	Settlement Prices received/(paid)	0
171,896	Closing Fair value of scheme assets	166,468

Reconciliation of Present Value of the scheme liabilities:

2021/22
£'000

2022/23
£'000

264,908	Opening balance at 1 April	252,895
7,203	Current Service Cost	5,960
5,233	Interest Cost	6,641
1,017	Contributions from scheme participants	1,095
	Re-measurement (gains) and losses:	
(11,625)	Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	0
(7,348)	Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(104,550)
1,135	Other	19,683
223	Past Service Cost	122
0	Liabilities assumed/(extinguished) on settlements	0
(7,662)	Benefits Paid	(7,394)
(189)	Unfunded pensions Payments	(188)
252,895	Closing Balance at 31 March	174,264

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

Quoted in Active Markets	Unquoted in Active Markets	Total		Quoted in Active Markets	Unquoted in Active Markets	Total
2021/22	2021/22	2021/22		2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
			Fixed Interest Government Securities:			
1,719	0	1,719	UK	1,665	0	1,665
0	0	0	Overseas	0	0	0
1,719	0	1,719	Sub-total Fixed Interest Government Securities	1,665	0	1,665
			Index Linked Government Securities:			
2,578	0	2,578	UK	1,665	0	1,665
0	0	0	Overseas	0	0	0
2,578	0	2,578	Sub-total Index Linked Government Securities	1,665	0	1,665
			Corporate Bonds:			
15,814	0	15,814	UK	14,982	0	14,982
0	0	0	Overseas	0	0	0
15,814	0	15,814	Sub-total corporate bonds	14,982	0	14,982
			Equities:			
26,988	0	26,998	UK	24,970	0	24,970
67,899	0	67,899	Overseas	68,251	0	68,251
94,887	0	94,887	Sub-Total equities	93,221	0	93,221
			Property:			
11,689	688	12,377	All	9,988	1,665	11,653
11,689	688	12,377	Sub-Total Property	9,988	1,665	11,653

			Others:			
344	4,813	5,157	Hedge Fund	0	6,659	6,659
516	12,033	12,548	Private Equity	0	11,653	11,653
1,031	5,844	6,876	Infrastructure	0	6,659	6,659
1,031	0	1,031	Commodities	0	0	0
0	0	0	Bonds	0	0	0
7,735	0	7,735	Credit – Diversified Income	8,323	0	8,323
0	1,719	1,719	Private Debt	0	3,329	3,329
2,407	172	2,578	Other Diversified Alternatives	0	1,665	1,665
0	172	172	Forward Current Contracts	0	0	0
6,532	0	6,532	Cash/Temporary Investments	4,994	0	4,994
19,596	24,753	44,349	Sub-Total Others	13,320	29,965	43,285
			Net Current Assets:			
172	0	172	Debtors	0	0	0
0	0	0	Creditors	0	0	0
172	0	172	Sub-Total Net Current Assets	0	0	0
146,455	25,441	171,896	Total assets	134,838	31,630	166,468

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.

The Local Government Pension Scheme has been assessed by Barnett Waddington, an independent firm of actuaries; estimates for the Lincolnshire Pension Fund are based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

2021/22		2022/23
	Mortality assumptions:	
	<u>Longevity (in years) at 65 for current pensioners:</u>	
19.8	Men	19.8
22.9	Women	22.9
	<u>Longevity (in years) at 65 for future pensioners:</u>	
22.1	Men	21.1
24.3	Women	24.4
4.25%	Rate of increase in salaries	3.90%
3.25%	Rate of increase in pensions	2.90%
2.60%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.80%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses 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 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 interrelated. 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 those used in the previous period.

Sensitivity Analysis:	Increase in Assumptions £'000s	Decrease in Assumptions £'000s
Adjustment to Discount Rate (increase or decrease by 1%)		
Present Value of Total Obligation	(2,623)	(5,375)
Projected Service Cost	(106)	109
Adjustment to Long Term Salary (increase or decrease by 1%)		
Present Value of Total Obligation	254	(251)
Projected Service Cost	2	(2)
Adjustment to Pension/Revaluation (increase or decrease by 1%)		
Present Value of Total Obligation	2,486	(2,422)
Projected Service Cost	111	(107)
Adjustment to Life Expectancy (increase or decrease by 1 year)		
Present Value of Total Obligation	7,300	(6,972)
Projected Service Cost	114	(112)

Impact on the Council's Cash Flow

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The County Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 20 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed on 31 March 2025.

The scheme will need to take account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Act 2013. Under the Act, the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and the other main public service schemes may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014. The Act provides for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework, to establish new career average revalued earnings schemes to pay pensions and other benefits to certain public servants.

Employer contributions payable to the scheme in 2023/24 are estimated to be £4.792m.

Note 45 – Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability is a possible liability arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the Council's control. Where a material loss can be estimated with reasonable accuracy a provision is accrued within the financial statements. If, however, a loss cannot be accurately estimated or the event is not considered sufficiently certain, a contingent liability will be disclosed in a note to the Balance Sheet. There is one contingent liability as at 31 March 2023.

As with other councils across the country a potential VAT liability exists in relation to an HMRC review of VAT treatment of market fees and the Council is liaising with their VAT advisor on this matter.

Note 46 – Contingent Assets

The Council has no Contingent Assets as at 31st March 2023.

Note 47 – Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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

- ✓ Credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council.
- ✓ Liquidity risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.
- ✓ Market risk - the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates movements.

Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets and implementing restrictions to minimise these risks. The procedures for risk management are set out through a legal framework set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and the associated regulations. These require the Council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Investment Guidance issued through the Act. Overall, these procedures require the Council to manage risk in the following ways:

- ✓ by formally adopting the requirements of the Code of Practice;
- ✓ by the adoption of a Treasury Management Policy Statement and treasury management clauses within its standing orders;
- ✓ by approving, annually in advance, prudential indicators for the following three years limiting:
 - The Council's overall borrowing.
 - Its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable rates.

- Its maximum and minimum limits on the maturity structure of its debt.
 - Its maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond a year.
- ✓ by approving an investment strategy for the forthcoming year setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with the Government Guidance.

These are required to be reported and approved at or before the Council's annual Council Tax setting budget. These items are reported with the annual Treasury Management Strategy, which outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the Council's financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is also reported semi-annually to Members.

The annual Treasury Management Strategy, which incorporates the prudential indicators was approved by Council on 1st March 2022. The strategy is updated at the mid-year point and revised estimates calculated as below. It is available on the Council's website (www.lincoln.gov.uk). The key issues during 2022/23 were:

- The Authorised Limit for 2022/23 was forecast to be £158m (revised to £137m). This is the maximum limit of external borrowings or other long-term liabilities during the year.
- The original Operational Boundary was expected to be £149m (revised to £133m). This is the expected level of debt and other long-term liabilities during the year. The maximum amounts of fixed and variable interest rate exposure were set at £134m and £55.4m (mid year update) based on the Council's net debt.
- The maximum and minimum exposures to the maturity structure of debt are shown within this note.

These policies are implemented by the Treasury team in Financial Services. The Council maintains written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk, and the investment of surplus cash through Treasury Management Practices (TMPs). These TMPs are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed regularly.

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 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 & Poors Ratings Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes maximum amounts and time limits in respect of each financial institution. Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they meet the minimum requirements of the investment criteria outlined above. Details of the Investment Strategy are contained within the Treasury Management Strategy and can be found on the Council's website (www.lincoln.gov.uk).

The Investment Strategy is based on the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services (treasury management advisors to the Council). This uses a wide range of market information to produce a list of investment counterparties with recommended maximum investment durations. Link uses credit ratings, support ratings and credit default swap prices to arrive at a recommended counterparty list.

The criteria used as a minimum within the Capita methodology are as follows:

- Short Term credit ratings of F1, Long Term A, Support 3 and viability rating BBB (Fitch or equivalent rating), using the lowest common denominator principle.
- Inclusion of part Government owned UK banks based on support assumptions.

The full Investment Strategy for 2022/23 was approved by full Council on 1st March 2022.

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk, based on experience of default assessed by the Fitch credit rating agency and the Council's experience of its customer collection levels over the last five financial years, adjusted to reflect current market conditions:

	Carrying Values at 31/03/23 £'000 a	Historical experience of default % b	Adjusted for market conditions at 31/03/23 % c	Estimated maximum exposure to default £'000 (a * c)
Deposits with banks and financial institutions				
• AAA* rated counterparties (investments up to 1 year)	14,685	0.0000%	0.0000%	0
• AA-* rated counterparties (investments up to 1 year)	3,000	0.0110%	0.0110%	0
• A* rated counterparties (investments up to 1 year)	9,000	0.0105%	0.0105%	1
• A+* rated counterparties (investments up to 1 year)	8,000	0.0130%	0.0130%	1
• A- rated counterparties (investments up to 1 year)	2,000	0.0040%	0.0040%	0
Debtors	8,313	7.17%	7.17%	596
	44,998			598

*See Glossary for a definition of ratings

**based on historical experience – this may change in future years due to the effect of Covid 19.

No breaches of the Council's counterparty criteria occurred during the reporting period and the Council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits and bonds.

Whilst the current credit crisis in international markets has raised the overall possibility of default, the Council maintains strict credit criteria for investment counterparties. As a result of these high credit criteria, historical default rates have been used as a good indicator under these current conditions.

Analysis of Investments by country of origin

	Principal invested	Short term		Long term	
		Fixed rate	Variable rate	Fixed rate	Variable rate
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

<u>UK Local Authorities</u>					
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	3,000	3,000	0	0	0
<u>UK Banks & Building Societies</u>					
Lloyds Bank plc	7,000	7,000	0	0	0
Goldman Sachs	3,000	3,000	0	0	0
National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	2,000	2,000	0	0	0
SMBC	2,000	2,000	0	0	0
Standard Chartered Bank	5,000	5,000	0	0	0
<u>UK Money Market Funds</u>					
Aberdeen Standard MMF	5,410	0	5,410	0	0
BlackRock MMF	4,600	0	4,600	0	0
BNP Paribas MMF	1,750	0	1,750	0	0
Federated Investors (UK) MMF	255	0	255	0	0
Goldman Sachs MMF	0	0	0	0	0
Morgan Stanley MMF	2,670	0	2,670	0	0
Total Investments	36,685	22,000	14,685	0	0

The Council allows credit for its trade debtors, such that £818,802 of the £3,014,903 balance is not past its due date for payment. The past due but not impaired amount can be analysed by age as follows:

31/03/22 £'000		31/03/23 £'000
269	Less than three months	425
399	Three to six months	251
521	Six months to one year	312
1,321	More than one year	1,208
2,510	Total	2,196

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

Liquidity risk

The Council manages its liquidity position through the risk management procedures above (the setting and approval of prudential indicators and the approval of the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy reports), as well as through a comprehensive cash flow management system, as required by the Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when it is needed.

The Council has ready access to borrowings from the Money Markets to cover any day to day cash flow need, and whilst the PWLB provides access to longer term funds, it also acts as a lender of last resort to councils (although it will not provide funding to a council whose actions are unlawful). The Council is also required to provide a balanced budget through the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is therefore no

significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows: -

31/03/22		31/03/23
£'000		£'000
14,931	Less than one year	14,394
2,720	Between one and two years	2,225
3,588	Between two and five years	4,104
105,654	More than five years	102,913
126,893	Total	123,636

Market risk

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

- ✓ borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise;
- ✓ borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the borrowing liability will fall;
- ✓ 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.

Borrowings are not carried at fair value in the Balance Sheet, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and affect the General Fund Balance, subject to influences from government grants. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure, unless the investments have been designated as Fair Value through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, in which case gains and losses will be posted to the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services.

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together the Council's prudential indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. From this Strategy a prudential indicator is set which provides maximum and minimum 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 rate borrowing would be postponed.

If all interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant the financial effect would be:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
(255)	Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(671)
<u>(255)</u>	Impact on Income and Expenditure Account	<u>(671)</u>
(81)	Share of overall impact credited to the HRA	(342)
<u>(174)</u>	Share of overall impact credited to the General Fund	<u>(329)</u>
<u>(255)</u>	Total	<u>(671)</u>

The approximate impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above but with the movements being reversed. These assumptions are based on the same methodology as used for Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities carried at Amortised Cost.

Price risk - The Council does not generally invest in equity shares but does have shareholdings to the value of £0.82m in a number of joint ventures and in local industry. Whilst these holdings are generally liquid, the Council is exposed to losses arising from movements in the prices of the shares.

As the shareholdings have arisen in the acquisition of specific interests, the Council is not in a position to limit its exposure to price movements by diversifying its portfolio. The majority of the shareholdings are in the Dunham Bridge Company (£0.504m) and Investors in Lincoln (£0.312m). A representative of the Council sits on the Investors in Lincoln Board, enabling the Council to monitor factors that might cause a fall in the value of specific shareholdings.

The shares are all held at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income, meaning that all movements in price will impact on gains and losses recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

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

MOVEMENT ON THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT STATEMENT

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
1,075	Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous year	1,030
22,384	Surplus or (deficit) for year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	23,207
(22,097)	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	(22,321)
287	Net increase or (decrease) before transfers to or from reserves	886
(331)	Transfers (to) or from reserves	(748)
(44)	Increase or (decrease) in year on the HRA	138
1,030	Balance on the HRA at the end of the current year	1,168

NOTES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

Note 1 – Assets

The number of dwellings in the Council's housing stock, as at 31 March 2023, totalled 7,795 properties. The type of properties and the period in which they were built, were as follows:

Property Type	<1945 No.	1945-64 No.	1965-74 No.	>1974 No.	TOTAL No.
Low Rise Flats (Blocks up to 2 Storeys)					
1 Bed	43	888	561	541	2,033
2 Bed	5	118	82	105	310
3 Bed	0	0	12	1	13
Sub-Total	48	1,006	655	647	2,356
Medium Rise Flats (Blocks of 3 up to 5 Storeys)					
1 Bed	0	50	235	268	553
2 Bed	0	215	110	148	473
3 Bed	0	15	4	1	20
4 Bed	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total	0	280	349	417	1,046
High Rise Flats (Blocks of 6 Storeys or more)					
1 Bed	0	56	138	0	194
2 Bed	0	30	70	0	100
Sub-Total	0	86	208	0	294
Houses / Bungalows					
1 Bed	156	142	32	25	355
2 Bed	708	751	97	343	1,899
3 Bed	780	529	68	308	1,685
4 or more Beds	96	24	1	30	151
Sub-Total	1,740	1,446	198	706	4,090
Total Dwellings 31 March 2023	1,788	2,818	1,410	1,770	7,795

Note 2 – Housing Revenue Account Assets Valuation

The Council's in-house Valuation Officers, and the District Valuer, have valued the HRA dwellings, land, and other property in accordance with Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyor guidelines.

The Balance Sheet value of council dwellings is calculated by applying a Social Housing discount factor. This represents the market value for the Council's total housing stock adjusted to reflect the fact that the property is socially rented (this adjustment is currently 42%). The discount factor is then applied to the open market or vacant possession value as determined by the District Valuer, as shown below:

	£ 000
Vacant possession value of council dwellings at 31 March 2023	766,580
Balance sheet valuation applying the Social Housing discount factor	321,964

The Balance Sheet value of HRA Assets is as follows:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
298,791	Council Dwellings	321,964
4,494	Other Operational Assets	4,432
18,015	Non-Operational Assets	16,750
321,300	Total at 31 March	342,966

Note 3 – Depreciation

The Depreciation of HRA Assets is as follows:

Depreciation:		
2021/23	Operational Assets:	2022/23
£'000		£'000
7,145	Council Dwellings	7,523
278	Other Operational Assets	339
7,423	Total at 31 March	7,862

Note 4 – Major Repairs Reserve

The Major Repairs Reserve is an earmarked reserve to which the Council transfers an amount annually to finance capital expenditure on council dwellings. This amount includes annual depreciation, which is charged to the Housing Revenue Account and then transferred to the Major Repairs Reserve. This may be supplemented by additional revenue contributions from the HRA to support the HRA capital programme. The balance on the Major Repairs Reserve shows the amounts that have yet to be applied to financing.

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
(14,139)	Balance on 1 April	(20,088)
	Amount transferred from the HRA	
	- Depreciation	
(7,145)	Dwellings	(7,523)
(280)	Other Assets	(339)
(2,365)	- Other revenue contributions	(2,147)
(23,929)		(30,097)
	Used in Financing	
3,842	- HRA Capital Expenditure	6,778
	-DRF	688
(20,088)		(22,631)

Note 5 – Housing Repairs Account

The Housing Repairs Account was set up on 1 April 2001 in order to assist with the longer-term planning of repairs and maintenance expenditure. The following analysis details the movement on the Housing Repairs Account during the year.

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
(1,351)	Balance on 1 April	(1,351)
	Expenditure in year	
3,702	Tenant Notified Repairs	3,991
1,949	Void Repairs	1,938
1,762	Servicing Contracts	1,792
24	Painting Programme	0
107	Asbestos Removal/Surveys	190
3	Specialist Property Surveys	1
392	Aids & adaptations	617
17	Aids & adaptations (Non HRS)	16
89	Cleansing	80
0	Minor Works	0
58	Decoration Grants	68
0	Tenants Compensation	6
64	COVID Charges	0
99	Skip Recharges	143
27	Control Centre Recharge	36
0	Estate Shops	0
137	Other Expenditure	105
8,428		8,983
	Income in year	
(8,326)	Contribution from HRA	(8,909)
0	Contribution to HRA	0
(101)	Repairs Account Income	(74)
0	Contribution from Leaseholders	0
0	Interest Received in year	0
(8,428)		(8,983)
(1,351)	Surplus Balance on 31 March	(1,351)

Note 6 – Capital Expenditure in the year

The Housing Revenue Account capital expenditure and sources of funding during the financial year are detailed in the following table:

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
	Capital investment	
15,263	Property, Plant and Equipment – HRA	12,647
1	Property, Plant and equipment – GF used as council housing	0
0	Non-Current Assets held for sale	0
0	Intangible Assets	0
0	Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute	0
15,264		12,647
	Sources of funding	
(867)	Capital Receipts	(1,917)
(21)	Revenue Contributions	0
(3,842)	Major Repairs Reserve	(7,465)
(4,178)	Prudential Borrowing	(2,770)
(6,356)	Government grants and other contributions	(495)
(15,264)		(12,647)
0	Balance unfunded at 31 March	0

* REFCUS is created when expenditure has been incurred on items that are not capitalised as assets but have been financed from capital resources. It is written down to the Housing Revenue Account over an appropriate period, usually in the same year in which the expenditure has been incurred. The total amount of REFUS is £0.000m for 2022/23 (£0.000m in 2021/22).

Prior to the implementation of HRA Self-financing on 1 April 2012, supported borrowing levels had been issued annually by Central Government, authorising the Council to borrow monies, which were funded by Central Government to cover capital expenditure. Additionally, the Council was able to take out unsupported or prudential borrowing, which must be financed from its own resources. Post self-financing implementation and the end of the housing subsidy system, all borrowing will be prudential borrowing. In 2022/23, there was £2,770m of prudential borrowing undertaken to fund the HRA capital investment.

Note 7 - Capital Receipts

The cash receipts from the disposal of land, houses and other property within the HRA in the year are summarised as follows:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
	Council dwellings	
(3,156)	- Right to Buy	(3,239)
(102)	- Discounts repaid	0
	Other Receipts	
0	- Land Sales reimbursements	0
0	- Reimbursement of expenditure on	0
0	General Fund property on sale	0
	Land receipts	
<u>(3,256)</u>		<u>(3,239)</u>
529	Less Pooled (Paid to Central Government)	0
<u>(2,727)</u>	Total	<u>(3,239)</u>

Note 8 - Rent Arrears

During the year 2022/23 total rent arrears increased by £40k equal to 1.86%, to £2.165m. A summary of rent arrears and prepayments is shown in the following table:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
1,165	Current Tenant Arrears @ 31 March	1,158
960	Former Tenant Arrears @ 31 March	1,007
<u>2,125</u>	Total Rent Arrears	<u>2,165</u>
(242)	Prepayments @ 31 March	(280)
<u>1,883</u>	Net Rent Arrears	<u>1,885</u>

A provision for doubtful debts of £300,400 has been made in this year's accounts in respect of potentially non-collectable rent arrears, as detailed above, and associated miscellaneous debts. The value of the bad debt provision held in the Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023 is £2,160,656 (£2,016m at 31 March 2022).

Note 9 - Pension Costs

In line with the full adoption of IAS 19 'Employee Benefits' the Net Cost of Services includes the cost of retirement benefits when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge that is required when determining the movement on the HRA Balance for the year is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out of the HRA in the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement. The following transactions have been made in the HRA during the year:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
	HRA Income & Expenditure Statement	
2,605	Current Service Cost	2,268
0	Past Service Costs	0
729	Net interest expense	462
3,503	Total	2,730
<u>(1,720)</u>	Amount to be met from HRA	<u>(1,931)</u>
<u>1,614</u>	Movement on Pension Reserve	<u>799</u>

THE COLLECTION FUND STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2021/22 £'000 Total		2022/23 £'000 Council Tax	2022/23 £'000 NDR	2022/23 £'000 Total	Note
INCOME					
(47,853)	Council Tax Payers	(50,192)	0	(50,192)	2
(115)	Income from Ministry of Defence	(124)	0	(124)	
<u>(33,168)</u>	Income from Business Ratepayers	<u>0</u>	<u>(40,286)</u>	<u>(40,286)</u>	3
(81,136)		(50,316)	(40,286)	(90,602)	
EXPENDITURE					
Precepts:					
6,956	- City of Lincoln Council	7,360	0	7,360	
33,248	- Lincolnshire County Council	36,248	0	36,248	
6,491	- Police & Crime Comm. Lincolnshire	6,993	0	6,993	
Business Rates:					
21,641	- Payments to Government	0	19,382	19,382	3
17,164	- Payments to City of Lincoln Council	0	15,501	15,501	3
4,291	- Payments to Lincs County Council	0	3,875	3,875	3
144	- Cost of Collection	0	142	142	
Bad and Doubtful Debts					
342	- Provisions	242	112	354	
385	- Write Offs	149	26	175	
(952)	- Provision for appeals	0	(536)	(536)	
<u>(28,175)</u>	Transfer of Collection Fund Surplus	<u>(37)</u>	<u>(10,110)</u>	<u>(10,147)</u>	4
61,535		50,955	28,392	79,347	
(19,601)	Deficit / (Surplus) for the year	639	(11,894)	(11,255)	
COLLECTION FUND BALANCE					
29,887	Balance brought forward at 1 st April	192	10,093	10,285	
<u>(19,601)</u>	Deficit/(Surplus) for the year (as above)	<u>639</u>	<u>(11,894)</u>	<u>(11,255)</u>	
10,286	Balance carried forward at 31st March	831	(1,801)	(970)	
Allocated to:					
4,066	- City of Lincoln Council	122	(720)	(598)	
1,145	- Lincolnshire County Council	595	(180)	415	
27	- Police & Crime Comm. Lincolnshire	114	0	114	
5,048	- Government	0	(900)	(900)	
10,286		831	(1,801)	(970)	

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

Note 1 - General

The Collection Fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation of billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) and its distribution to local government bodies and the Government.

The Council has a statutory requirement to operate a Collection Fund as a separate account to the General Fund. The purpose of the Collection Fund therefore, is to isolate the income and expenditure relating to Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Business Rates. The administrative costs associated with the collection process are charged to the General Fund.

Collection Fund surpluses declared by the billing authority in relation to Council Tax are apportioned to the relevant precepting bodies in the subsequent financial year. Deficits likewise are proportionately charged to the relevant precepting bodies in the following year. For the City of Lincoln, the Council Tax precepting bodies are Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire (PCCL).

In 2013/14, the local government finance regime was revised with the introduction of the retained business rates scheme. The main aim of the scheme is to give councils a greater incentive to grow businesses in the City. It does, however, also increase the financial risk due to non-collection and the volatility of the NNDR tax base.

The scheme allows the Council to retain a proportion of the total NNDR received. For 2022/23, the City of Lincoln's proportionate share remained consistent with that of 2021/22, as follows:

	2022/23 'Pool'
City of Lincoln	40%
Lincolnshire County Council	10%
Central Government	50%

NNDR surpluses declared by the billing authority in relation to the Collection Fund are apportioned to the relevant precepting bodies in the subsequent financial year in their respective proportions. Deficits likewise are proportionately charged to the relevant precepting bodies in the following year.

The national code of practice followed by local authorities in England stipulates that a Collection Fund Income and Expenditure account is included in the Council's accounts. The Collection Fund Balance Sheet meanwhile is incorporated into the Council's Balance Sheet.

Note 2 - Council Tax Base

Council Tax derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties, which have been classified into 9 valuation bands (A-H) for this specific purpose. Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required to be taken from the Collection Fund by the Council for the forthcoming year and dividing this by the Council Tax base (i.e. the equivalent numbers of Band D dwellings).

The Council Tax base for 2022/23 was 25,310.01 (24,372.38 in 2021/22). The increase between financial years is as a result of a combination of new builds and a reduction in the level of Council Tax Discounts and Exemptions. The tax base for 2022/23 was approved at the Executive on 21st February 2022 and was calculated as follows:

Band	Ratio	Dwellings	Equivalent Dwellings after discounts, exemptions and reliefs	Equivalent Band D Dwellings
A Reduced	5/9	48	42	23
A	6/9	28,070	23,360	15,573
B	7/9	9,053	7,961	6,192
C	8/9	4,893	4,382	3,895
D	9/9	2,539	2,299	2,299
E	11/9	1,384	1,124	1,373
F	13/9	442	366	528
G	15/9	141	135	225
H	18/9	38	12	24
Total		46,608	39,680	30,132
Deduction for Non-Collection				(527)
Crown Properties Adjustment				60
Adjusted to Band D Equivalent				29,665
Council Tax Relief Scheme				(4,355)
Tax Base for the Calculation of Council Tax				25,310

Dwellings for residents entitled to 'disabled relief reduction' are reduced to the next lowest band for the calculation of Council Tax. As band 'A' is the lowest band, 'A reduced' has been introduced to give effect to this reduction for those who reside in Band 'A' properties.

Income received from Council Taxpayers in 2022/23 was £50,192m (£47.853m in 2021/22).

Note 3 - Income from Business Ratepayers

The Council collects National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) for its area based on local rateable values provided by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) multiplied by a uniform business rate set nationally by Central Government. Historically the total amount due, less certain allowances, was paid to a central pool (the NNDR pool) administered by Central Government, which, in turn, paid to local authorities their share of the pool, such shares being based on a standard amount per head of the local adult population.

In 2013/14, the administration of NNDR changed following the introduction of a business rates retention scheme which aims to give councils a greater incentive to grow businesses but also increases the financial risk due to volatility and non-collection of rates. Instead of paying NNDR to the central pool, local authorities retain a proportion of the total collectable rates due. For 2022/23, the City of Lincoln's retained share remained consistent with that of the previous year as follows:

	2021/22 'Pool'	2022/23 'Pool'
City of Lincoln	40%	40%
Lincolnshire County Council	10%	10%
Central Government	50%	50%

The business rates shares payable for 2022/23 were estimated before the start of the financial year as **£19.376m** (£21.455m in 2021/22) to Central Government, **£3.875m** (£4.291m in 2021/22) to LCC and **£15.501m** (£17.164m in 2021/22) to the City of Lincoln Council. These sums have been paid in 2022/23 and charged to the Collection Fund in year.

When the scheme was introduced, Central Government set a baseline level for each authority identifying the expected level of retained business rates and a top up or tariff amount to ensure that all authorities receive their baseline amount. Tariffs due from authorities payable to Central Government or to Top-up authorities within an NNDR Pooling arrangement are used to finance the top ups to those authorities who do not achieve their targeted baseline funding. In 2022/23 the City of Lincoln made a tariff payment from the General Fund to the County Council to the value of **£13.094m** (£13.094m in 2021/22).

The total income from business rate payers collected in 2022/23 was **£40.286m** (£33.168m in 2021/22).

In addition to the top up/tariff, a 'safety net' figure is calculated at 92.5% of baseline amount which ensures that authorities are protected to this level of Business Rates income (either through support from Central Government if they are not in a NNDR Pool/Pilot or as first call on gains from pooling/pilot if authorities are members of an NNDR Pool/Pilot). For the City of Lincoln the value of the safety net figure (net of tariff) is **£3.528m** (£3.528m in 2021/22). The comparison of business rate income to the safety net uses the total income collected from business rate payers and adjusts for losses in collection, losses on appeal, transitional protection payments, the cost of collection and the revision to Small Business Rate Relief and other reliefs not allowed for when the safety net was set. The Council does not qualify for a safety net payment for 2022/23.

In addition to the local management of business rates, authorities are expected to finance appeals made in respect of rateable values as defined by VOA and hence business rates outstanding as at 31st March 2023. As such, authorities are required to make a provision for these amounts. Appeals are charged and provided for in proportion of the precepting shares. **The total provision withdrawn from the collection fund for 2022/23 has been calculated at £0.536m (£0.952m was withdrawn in 2021/22).**

For 2022/23, the total non-domestic rateable value at the year-end is **£111.7m** (£111.3m in 2021/22). The national multipliers for 2022/23 were **49.9p** for qualifying Small Businesses, and the standard multiplier being **51.2p** for all other businesses (49.9p and 51.2p respectively in 2021/22).

Note 4 - Contributions to Collection Fund Surpluses and Deficits

The Council has a statutory requirement to prepare an estimate each January of the surplus or deficit expected to arise at the end of the financial year. In January 2022 it was estimated that the Collection Fund would have a Council Tax deficit of **£37m** (£1.106m deficit in January 2021) and a Business Rates deficit of **£10.110m** (£27.665m deficit in January 2021), a combined Collection Fund deficit of **£10,147m** (£28.771m deficit in January 2021) and so the following amounts were due to or from the preceptors in 2022/23:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
11,232	City of Lincoln Council	4,050
3,558	Lincolnshire County Council	1,038
149	Police & Crime Comm. Lincolnshire	4
13,833	Central Government	5,055
28,772	Total	10,147

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO MEMBERS OF CITY OF LINCOLN COUNCIL

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of City of Lincoln Council ("the Council") for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Movement in Reserves, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement, Collection Fund 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, as amended by the Update to the Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets ("the Code Update"), published in November 2022.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities section of our report. We are independent of the Council 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Chief Finance Officer'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, and taking into account the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Code Update, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Council'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 Chief Finance Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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 Chief Finance Officer 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.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Chief Finance Officer's Responsibilities, the Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Code Update, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Chief Finance Officer is also responsible for such internal control as the Chief Finance Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Chief Finance Officer is required to comply with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 as amended by the Code Update and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis on the assumption that the functions of the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for assessing each year whether or not it is appropriate for the Council to prepare its accounts on the going concern basis and disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern.

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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Based on our understanding of the Council, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Local Government Act 2003 (and associated regulations made under section 21), the Local Government Finance Acts of 1988, 1992 and 2012, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- inquiring with management and the Audit Committee, as to whether the Council is in compliance with laws and regulations, and discussing their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- considering the risk of acts by the Council which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We evaluated the Chief Finance Officer's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates, and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- making enquiries of management and the Audit Committee on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management and the Audit Committee. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.

We are also required to conclude on whether the Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. We performed our work in accordance with Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statement and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom, and

Supplementary Guidance Note 01, issued by the National Audit Office in February 2023.

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 the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception

We are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we are not satisfied that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2023.

We have not completed our work on the Council's arrangements. On the basis of our work to date, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in January 2023, we have not identified any significant weaknesses in arrangements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

We will report the outcome of our work on the Council's arrangements in our commentary on those arrangements within the Auditor's Annual Report. Our audit completion certificate will set out any matters which we are required to report by exception.

Responsibilities of the Council

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

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

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Council 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 Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We have undertaken our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in January 2023.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

We are required by the Code of Audit Practice to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;

- we make a recommendation under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under sections 28, 29 or 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the members of City of Lincoln Council, 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 members of the Council 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 members of the Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have issued the certificate for 2021/22 and completed:

- the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the Council's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack;
- the work necessary to satisfy ourselves that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources.



Mark Surridge (Dec 22, 2023 10:30 GMT)

Mark Surridge, Key Audit Partner
For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

2 Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3AX

22 December 2023

1 The council's responsibility for sound governance

1.1 Scope of responsibility

City of Lincoln Council must ensure that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised.

Governance is about how we ensure that we are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. In discharging this overall responsibility, we must put in place proper governance arrangements to manage our affairs. The Council must ensure that there is a sound system of governance (incorporating the system of internal control) based on the principles of CIPFA's "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016"

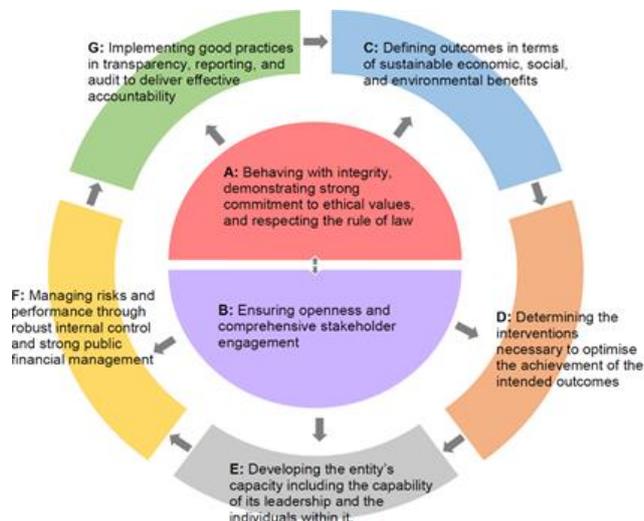
How we are meeting these defined responsibilities is detailed in the City of Lincoln's Code of Corporate Governance, which is available on our website at <https://www.lincoln.gov.uk/policies-publications/financial-policies-publications>.

The Council's Code of Corporate Governance was comprehensively reviewed in 2021, to account for the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Further minor changes have since been made, with the Code most recently updated in May 2023.

This Annual Governance Statement details how the City Council has complied with its own Code of Corporate Governance over the past year. The Statement meets all relevant statutory requirements, and continues to incorporate actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.2 The Code of Corporate Governance sets out the documentation, systems and processes by which the authority transparently controls its activities and defines its cultures and values. It enables us to monitor achievement of our strategic objectives and to consider whether these have led to the delivery of appropriate value for money services.

The code is based on a set of seven core principles:



1.3 Responsibility rests within a range of areas – the key ones are detailed in the table below:

KEY ELEMENTS OF COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK Key elements of the governance framework at City of Lincoln Council are summarised below:		
Council, Executive, Leader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Provide leadership; set, develop and implement policy ❖ Ensure the Vision 2025 strategies are taken forward ❖ Develop, adopt and implement the budget framework ❖ Support the city's diverse communities and neighbourhoods to thrive 	Leadership and decision making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ All decision meetings held in public (except those identified as 'part B') ❖ Decisions recorded on the Council's public website ❖ Resources directed according to priorities as set out in Vision 2025 	Risk management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Risk registers identify both operational and strategic risks ❖ Strategic risks are considered by CMT and Executive every quarter ❖ Internal audit provides independent objective assurance ❖ Council's arrangements comply with the requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit
Scrutiny and review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Scrutiny committees review council policy and can challenge decisions to hold Executive to account ❖ Audit and Performance committees review governance, costs vs budget, risk, internal control and delivery of agreed plans ❖ Ethics and Engagement Committee and/or Monitoring Officer deals with complaints about, or suspected breaches of member conduct ❖ Any two members can hold the Executive to account outside of scrutiny and review by requesting Call-In and reconsideration of an Executive decision 	Corporate Management Team (CMT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The CX is the Head of Paid Service and is responsible for all council staff and for leading an effective Corporate Management Team (CMT) ❖ CMT ensures there is clear accountability for the use of resources in achieving desired outcomes for service users and the community ❖ The Chief Finance Officer (CFO) is the council's Section 151 Officer and is responsible for safeguarding the council's financial position and securing value for money. The council's financial management arrangements comply with the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the role of Chief Financial Officer in Local Government ❖ The City Solicitor is the council's Monitoring Officer and is responsible for ensuring legality, good governance and promoting high standards of conduct 	

1.4 In the following sections, the AGS considers whether the Code has been applied effectively and provides commentary on how the framework itself has operated over the last 12 months. The first of these sections covers how the Council has continued to maintain good governance as it adapts to longer term impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the activities mentioned in this first section are also mentioned under the 'Core Principles' sections that follow.

1.5 Impact of COVID-19 on maintaining good governance

The COVID-19 pandemic caused major disruption to the day-to-day work of the Council, and has had a lasting impact on how we continue to deliver services to our residents and local businesses. We have now taken steps to fully embed the enhanced business continuity procedures and renewed governance arrangements initiated during the pandemic, for the benefit of our residents, businesses and visitors.

Actions taken to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022/23:

- Reviewed business continuity plans following the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Developed a new IT Disaster Recovery Plan, including coverage of all risks highlighted throughout the pandemic
- Undertaken an initial review of the longer-term effects of Covid-19 within the City (including health) via the Lincoln City Profile.

Proposed activity for the coming year 2023/24:

- Undertake a further review of all business continuity plans, in order that they may be aligned with the new IT Disaster Recovery Plan.

1.6 CORE PRINCIPLE A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law

Ethical values, standards and formal codes of conduct are defined in the Council's Constitution and form the basis for developing our policies, procedures, and the behaviour of our Members and employees. We have appropriate processes in place to ensure that Members and employees are not influenced by prejudice, bias or conflicts of interest when engaging and making decisions with stakeholders, as well as effective systems to protect the rights of employees. All Council decisions consider legal and equality implications with support from our Legal Services team.

Our Audit Committee includes an independent Member, and provides assurance on the adequacy of our internal control environment by ensuring high standards of conduct are embedded within the Council's culture. The Committee also monitors all governance issues raised, and oversees our internal and external audit arrangements.

Activity within Principle A in 2022/23:

- Undertook an annual update of the Code of Corporate Governance
- Reviewed the requirement to update our Members' Code of Conduct, which remains legally compliant
- Ensured we are compliant with the proposed Subsidy Control Bill

- Ensured we are compliant with the Electoral Integrity Bill
- Completed a successful Adults Safeguarding Audit (LAAF)
- Reviewed our Modern Slavery Charter and Statement
- Reviewed proposals contained within the new Planning Bill
- Reviewed our Money Laundering Policy
- Reviewed our Whistleblowing Policy and Guidance

Proposed activity for the coming year:

- Undertake scheduled annual update of our Code of Corporate Governance
- Continue to monitor our compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 as projects commence
- Continue to review our compliance with the Elections Act 2022 as the commencement orders come into place
- Review updated CIPFA guidance for Audit Committees, including a review of the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee to ensure they remain compliant with best practice

1.7 CORE PRINCIPLE B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

The Council makes sure our partners, in the private, public and voluntary sector as well individual citizens and service users, are engaged in and have full access to information relating to decision making. We expect reports to decision makers to be open, to provide all the necessary material to ensure informed decisions in the best interests of the city and communities, and to have engaged stakeholders and service users in arriving at proposals under consideration.

Activity within Principle B in 2022/23:

- Commenced a review of the Lincoln Citizens' Panel
- Explored more effective forms of stakeholder engagement for budget consultations
- Commenced a review of Consultation and Engagement staff guidance
- Undertook consultations with service users relating to climate change

Proposed activity for the coming year:

- Finalise the review of our Consultation and Engagement staff guidance
- Complete a review of the Citizens Panel, and recruit new Panel members in a way that reflects the current makeup of the City
- Create a 'Community Development Toolkit' for local Ward Councillors to provide additional help and support within their community
- Explore further options for engaging with stakeholders on budget consultations
- Continue to develop more permanent and usable feedback systems for services.

1.8 CORE PRINCIPLE C: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits

Vision 2025 is the Council's vision for the five years to 2025 and forms the second phase of our Vision from 2017 to 2030. As with previous strategic plans, Vision 2025 was developed using a robust evidence base including information

gained through consultation with local residents and businesses, and evidence from the Lincoln City Profile. The current priorities in Vision 2025 are:

- Let's drive inclusive economic growth
- Let's deliver quality housing
- Let's address the challenge of climate change
- Let's reduce all kinds of inequality
- Let's enhance our remarkable place

The next corporate planning cycle to develop our 'Vision 2030' will commence towards the end of the current year.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, progress has been made towards reinstating the five current Strategic Priority Boards. Meanwhile key strategic projects, including redevelopment of Central market/City Square and commencement of Western Growth Corridor, continue to be monitored through their respective MEGA Boards. All projects are also reported into the Portfolio Holders' annual reporting process.

A full mid-term evidence based review of the Vision 2025 was completed in 2022, and continues to be implemented.

Activity within Principle C in 2022/23:

- Re-energised implementation of the place strategy for Park Ward/Sincil Bank, highlighted as a priority area for regeneration following the Covid-19 pandemic, through progression of multiple contributing regeneration projects
- Progressed several projects set out in the Vision 2025 three year action plan including Central market/City Square, delivery of new homes at Rookery Lane, progression of our Climate Action Plan, and a range of projects within the High Street Heritage Action Zone
- Undertook promotion of the next phase of the three year Vision 2025 Delivery Plan
- Commenced a feasibility study for a 30-year Housing Business Plan, which will focus on regenerating our housing estates
- Advanced a detailed analysis of 2021 Census data, that will be incorporated into future Lincoln City Profile publications and used to support robust decision making

Proposed activity for the coming year:

- Further progress implementation of Phases 1a and 1b of Western Growth Corridor
- Progress further the implementation of the place strategy for Park Ward/Sincil Bank
- Finalise our 30-year Housing Business Plan for the period 2023 – 2053
- Complete our detailed analysis of 2021 Census data to support robust, evidence-based decision making

1.9 CORE PRINCIPLE D: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

The Council clearly defines its priorities and plans to ensure delivery of their

intended outcomes. Service plans were completed for 2022/23, and plans for the coming year are currently underway. Work has continued to ensure robust management of the Council's services, and projects continue to utilise the Lincoln Project Management Model (LPMM), through which we continuously assess the risks of not fully delivering plans and ensure that there are mitigating actions in place to support the achievement of intended outcomes.

The Council's financial management arrangements ensure that there is adequate resource available to deliver our plans. The Council reviews progress against delivering those outcomes through its performance management framework.

Activity within Principle D in 2022/23:

- Commenced work on delivering a five year ICT Strategy
- Prepared and audited a new IT Disaster Recovery Plan
- Procured and delivered a replacement online, self service Council Tax and NNDR system
- Progressed improving customers' experience by continuing to move them away from our Customer Contact Centre towards online forms

Proposed activity for the coming year:

- Complete delivery of a five year ICT Strategy
- Formally adopt a new IT Disaster Recovery Plan
- Undertake a further review of our business continuity plans, in order that they may be aligned with the new IT Disaster Recovery Plan.
- Establish micro-sites for key services including Building Control, Visitor services and Lincoln Central Market.
- Identify further high volume interactions with customers in our Customer Contact Centre and move them to online forms where possible to take pressure off contact centre
- Review the Council's Risk Management Strategy and provide refresher training to Members and officers

1.10 CORE PRINCIPLE E: Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

The Council ensures a management structure that provides leadership and creates the opportunity for staff to work effectively and efficiently to achieve our objectives. Under our One Council approach, we have in place an organisational development pillar that aims to ensure our workforce has the necessary skills and behaviours to deliver our Vision for the city, and is effectively engaged to champion the Council's corporate priorities. Partnership working extends capacity for key projects to be delivered beyond the Council's own resources and is embedded within our Vision 2025 objectives.

Activity within Principle E in 2022/23:

- Commenced a review of the Council's building assets including City Hall, Hamilton House and community centres etc
- Supported the relocation of Citizens' Advice into City Hall, to further strengthen City Hall's identity as a public service hub
- Reviewed our One Council organisational pillar, concluding that we have adapted new ways of working in response to all known issues arising from the Covid-19 pandemic

- Provided leadership development training to all service managers and team leaders

Proposed activity for the coming year:

- Continue to build on employee retention and professional training opportunities for our employees
- Review the Council's Our People Strategy
- Continue implementing our Organisational Development Action Plan, including a needs and skills gap analysis

1.11 CORE PRINCIPLE F: Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

The Council recognises the need to implement an effective performance management system that will allow us to deliver services effectively and efficiently. We understand that risk management, internal control and strong financial management are essential for us to achieve our objectives and we have put appropriate arrangements in place.

Activity within Principle F in 2022/23:

- Reviewed our Financial Procedure Rules
- Implemented revised reporting requirements as required by the revised Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code
- Reinstated our monthly Vision priority meetings
- Reviewed our Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy
- Reported a new agreed action plan to ensure compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code
- Introduced a revised process for following up actions identified in Internal Audit reports, significantly improving internal controls for monitoring actions and reducing the time taken to address them.

Proposed activity for the coming year:

- Review Contract Procedure Rules upon enactment of the Procurement Act
- Undertake a benchmarking exercise to review our treasury management strategy and prudential indicators reporting against best practice
- Introduce quarterly reporting of our treasury management activities
Fully implement all actions within our agreed action plan to ensure compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code
- Provide training to all officers with budget responsibility on revised Financial Procedure Rules and continue to develop a business partnering approach to financial management

1.12 CORE PRINCIPLE G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

The Council recognises that effective accountability is concerned not only with reporting on actions completed, but also ensuring stakeholders are able to understand and respond as the Council plans and carries out its activities in an open, transparent and proportionate manner. Performance is managed under the principles of the Performance Management Framework

Activity within Principle G in 2021/22:

- Commenced a review of the Lincoln Performance Management Framework
- Undertook an internal audit of our Performance Management function
- Reviewed a range of control measures associated with the Council's key performance indicators, including renewing control sheets and performance reporting

Proposed activity for the coming year:

- Complete a detailed review of the Lincoln Performance Management Framework and how this can best support Vision 2030
- Further develop our internal performance management system

2. Review of effectiveness of the governance framework

We undertook an assessment of the Council's governance framework during 2022/23, by reviewing our Code of Corporate Governance and the review process used to develop the AGS. Included in this review, we assessed how we identify and rate significant issues and other areas that may require monitoring. We also considered how all of the following governance information influenced the effectiveness of our overall governance framework:

- Internal and external audits
- Third party assurances and combined assurance
- Committee reports
- Risk management practices
- Performance management observations and issues
- Management of projects
- Partnership governance
- Financial management
- Feedback from our senior management team and statutory officers.

The Head of Internal Audit is required annually to provide an opinion on the overall effectiveness of the Council's governance, risk and control framework and the extent to which these can be relied upon. In 2022/23 the Council was noted as performing well across three areas (Governance, Risk and Financial Control) and performing adequately against Internal Control. The audit plan was again reduced due to a temporary shortfall in staffing resource. Two posts are currently going through the recruitment process.

Internal audits completed in 2022/23 include:

- Performance management
- Stores
- ICT Programme and Project Management
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Housing Benefit Subsidy
- Organisational Development
- Key Controls – General Ledger
- Key Controls – Bank
- Climate Change
- De Wint Court
- Key Controls – Property, Plant and Equipment

Of these internal audits, both Performance Management and Stores were rated as having 'limited assurance'. Significant progress has been made

against the action plan introduced in response to the Performance Management audit findings, with the remaining actions listed in Core Principle G of this AGS. Actions identified from the Stores audit will be monitored on a quarterly basis, with progress reported to the Audit Committee. Of the actions applicable to the areas rated 'limited assurance' none were considered significant enough to highlight as potential AGS significant governance issues.

The following internal audits remain in progress and are at draft report stage:-

- Staff Wellbeing
- IT Disaster Recovery
- IT Asset Management
- Follow-up of audit recommendations

As at April 2023 there were no high priority audit actions which were overdue.

3. Introduction of the CIPFA Financial Management Code 2019 (FM Code)

In December 2019, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) published its Financial Management code (the FM Code), providing guidance for good and sustainable financial management in local authorities. The FM Code aims to assist local authorities to demonstrate their financial sustainability through a set of seventeen financial management standards. CIPFA guidance issued in February 2021 requires Annual Governance Statements to now include an overall conclusion of the assessment of the organisation's compliance with these standards. An assessment against the FM Code was most recently undertaken and reported to the Audit Committee in March 2023, confirming an overall substantial level of compliance (65%), with six identified areas for improvement (35%).

It is not expected that there will be full compliance across all standards as continual improvement, routine revisions to policies and procedures, and assessment against best practice necessitate a need for new actions to be implemented following each annual assessment. The Council can be assured that it has achieved this level of substantial and reasonable assurance and that there are no areas of minimum compliance and no significant areas for improvement.

4. Level of assurance provided

We can provide a high level of assurance that the governance arrangements operating at City of Lincoln Council, in line with our Code of Corporate Governance are appropriate, fit for purpose and working well in practice.

5. Status of significant governance issues monitored from 2022/23

The Council has regularly monitored its 2021/22 significant governance issues through senior management and the Audit Committee during 2022/23.

The Disaster Recovery plan in place for IT arrangements: Substantial progress has been made over the last twelve months to put this plan in place. The final IT Disaster Recovery Plan is complete and is expected to be adopted in early 2023/24.

This is therefore no longer considered to be a significant governance issue.

6. Significant governance issues identified from 2022/23

No new significant governance issues have been identified during 2022/23.

7. Conclusion

The Council's governance arrangements are under continual review. No significant governance issues have been identified during 2022/23, however the Council will continue to monitor the effectiveness of its governance arrangements to enable the identification of new and emerging issues throughout the coming year.

Signed



Cllr R Metcalfe, Leader:

Date: 31/05/2023



Angela Andrews, Chief Executive:

Date: 31/05/2023

AGS - GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED

AGS	Annual Governance Statement
AD	Assistant Director
CPG	Capital Programme Group
CFO	Chief Finance Officer
CLT	Corporate Leadership Team
CMT	Corporate Management Team
CPR	Contract Procedure Rules
CS	City Solicitor
CX	Chief Executive
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DfT	Department for Transport
DR	Disaster Recovery
FPR	Financial Procedure Rules
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GLLEP	Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership
H&S	Health & Safety
HB	Housing Benefit
HPS	High Performing Services
HR	Human Resources
ICT	Information, Communication Technology
PIMS	Performance & Management Information System
LGA	Local Government Authority
LPMM	Lincoln Project Management Model
MTFS	Medium Term Financial Strategy
PIR	Post Implementation Review
PVP	Protecting Vulnerable People (group)
RO	Responsible Officer
RSG	Revenue Support Grant
TFS	Towards Financial Sustainability
SM	Service Manager
VFM	Value for Money

GLOSSARY

AAA FITCH RATING

Highest credit quality - 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

AA FITCH RATING

Very high credit quality - 'AA' ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events. The modifier "+" or "-", may be appended to the rating to denote relative status within the category.

A FITCH RATING

High credit quality - 'A' ratings denote a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings. The modifier "+" or "-", may be appended to the rating to denote relative status within the category.

ACCOUNTING PERIOD

The period of time covered by the accounts, normally a period of twelve months commencing on 1 April. The end of the accounting period is the Balance Sheet date.

ACCRUALS

Sums included in the final accounts to recognise revenue and capital income and expenditure earned or incurred in the financial year, but for which actual payment had not been received or made as at 31 March.

ACTUARIAL GAINS AND LOSSES

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial surpluses or deficits that arise because:

- Events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains and losses); or
- The actuarial assumptions have changed

ASSET

An item having value to the Council in monetary terms. Assets are categorised as either current or fixed:

- A current asset will be consumed or cease to have material value within the next financial year (e.g. cash and stock);
- A fixed asset provides benefits to the Council and to the services it provides for a period of more than one year and may be tangible e.g. a community centre, or intangible, e.g. computer software licences.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

An independent examination of the Council's financial affairs.

BALANCE SHEET

A statement of the recorded assets, liabilities and other balances at the end of the accounting period.

BORROWING

Government support for capital investment is described as either Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue) known as SCE(R) or Supported Capital Expenditure (Capital Grant) known as SCE(C). SCE can be further classified as either Single Capital Pot (SCP) or ring-fenced.

BUDGET

The forecast of net revenue and capital expenditure over the accounting period.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset, which will be used in providing services beyond the current accounting period, or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing fixed asset.

CAPITAL FINANCING

Funds raised to pay for capital expenditure. There are various methods of financing capital expenditure including borrowing, leasing, direct revenue financing, usable capital receipts, capital grants, capital contributions, revenue reserves and earmarked reserves.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The capital schemes the Council intends to carry out over a specific period of time.

CAPITAL RECEIPT

The proceeds from the disposal of land or other assets. Proportions of capital receipts can be used to finance new capital expenditure, within rules set down by the Government but they cannot be used to finance revenue expenditure.

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

CLAW-BACK

Where average council house rents are set higher than the Government's prescribed average limit rent, used in the calculation of rent rebates, the percentage difference reduces the amount of rent rebate subsidy due to the Council, i.e. it is "clawed-back" by the Government.

COLLECTION FUND

A separate fund that records the income and expenditure relating to Council Tax and non-domestic rates.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

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

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

The statement that shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount funded from taxation. The Council raises taxation to cover the cost of expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

CONSISTENCY

The concept that the accounting treatment of like items within an accounting period and from one period to the next are the same.

CONTINGENT ASSET

A contingent asset is a possible asset arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the Council's control.

CONTINGENT LIABILITY

A contingent liability is either:

- A possible obligation arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the Council's control; or
- A present obligation arising from past events where it is not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC CORE

The corporate and democratic core comprises all activities that local authorities engage in specifically because they are elected, multi-purpose authorities. The costs of these activities are thus over and above those which would be incurred by a series of independent single purpose, nominated bodies managing the same services. There is therefore no logical basis for apportioning these costs to services.

CREDITOR

Amount owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered within the accounting period, but for which payment has not been made by the end of that accounting period.

CURRENT SERVICE COST (PENSIONS)

The increase in the present value of a defined benefits pension scheme's liabilities, expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

DEBTOR

Amount owed to the Council for works done, goods received or services rendered within the accounting period, but for which payment has not been received by the end of that accounting period.

DEFERRED CHARGES

Expenditure which can be properly deferred (i.e. treated as capital in nature), but which does not result in, or remain matched with, a tangible asset. Examples of deferred charges are grants of a capital nature to voluntary organisations.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

Pension schemes in which the benefits received by the participants are independent of the contributions paid and are not directly related to the investments of the scheme.

DEPRECIATION

The measure of the cost of wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of the Council's assets during the accounting period, whether from use, the passage of time or obsolescence through technical or other changes.

DISCRETIONARY BENEFITS (PENSIONS)

Retirement benefits, which the employer has no legal, contractual or constructive obligation to award and are awarded under the Council's discretionary powers such as the Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996.

EQUITY

The Council's value of total assets less total liabilities.

EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, favourable or unfavourable, that occur between the Balance Sheet date and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue.

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

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

EXPECTED RETURN ON PENSION ASSETS

For a funded defined benefit scheme, this is the average rate of return, including both income and changes in fair value but net of scheme expenses, which is expected over the remaining life of the related obligation on the actual assets held by the scheme.

EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS

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

FAIR VALUE

The fair value of an asset is the price at which it could be exchanged in an arm's length transaction less, where applicable, any grants receivable towards the purchase or use of the asset.

FAIR VALUE INPUT LEVELS

Basis for recurring fair value measurements:

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

FINANCE LEASE

A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a fixed asset to the lessee.

GOING CONCERN

The concept that the Statement of Accounts is prepared on the assumption that the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Grants made by the Government towards either revenue or capital expenditure in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the Council. These grants may be specific to a particular scheme or may support the revenue spend of the Council in general.

HOUSING BENEFITS

A system of financial assistance to individuals towards certain housing costs administered by authorities and subsidised by Central Government.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

A separate account to the General Fund, which includes the income and expenditure arising from the provision of housing accommodation by the Council.

IMPAIRMENT

A reduction in the value of a fixed asset to below its carrying amount in the Balance Sheet.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

The revenue account of the Council that reports the net cost for the year of the functions for which it is responsible and demonstrates how that cost has been financed from precepts, grants and other income.

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

An intangible (non-physical) item may be defined as an asset when access to the future economic benefits it represents is controlled by the reporting entity. This Council's intangible assets comprise computer software licences.

INTEREST COST (PENSIONS)

For a defined benefit scheme, the expected increase during the period of the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

INVESTMENTS (PENSION FUND)

The investments of the Pension Fund will be accounted for in the statements of that fund. However, authorities are also required to disclose, as part of the disclosure requirements relating to retirement benefits, the attributable share of the pension scheme assets associated with their underlying obligations.

LIABILITY

A liability is where the Council owes payment to an individual or another organisation.

- A current liability is an amount which will become payable or could be called in within the next accounting period, e.g. creditors or cash overdrawn.
- A deferred liability is an amount which by arrangement is payable beyond the next year at some point in the future or to be paid off by an annual sum over a period of time.

LIQUID RESOURCES

Current asset investments that are readily disposable by the Council without disrupting its business and are either:

- Readily convertible to known amounts of cash at or close to the carrying amount; or
- Traded in an active market

LONG-TERM CONTRACT

A contract entered into for the design, manufacture or construction of a single substantial asset or the provision of a service (or a combination of assets or services which together constitute a single project), where the time taken to substantially complete the contract is such that the contract activity falls into more than one accounting period.

MATERIALITY

The concept that the Statement of Accounts should include all amounts which, if omitted or mis-stated, could be expected to lead to a distortion of the financial statements and ultimately mislead a user of the accounts.

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP)

The minimum amount which must be charged to the revenue account each year in order to provide for the repayment of loans and other amounts borrowed by the Council.

NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES (NNDR)

The National Non-Domestic Rate is a levy on businesses, based on a national rate in the pound set by the Government and multiplied by the assessed rateable value of the premises they occupy. It is collected by the Council on behalf of Central Government and then redistributed back to support the cost of services.

NET BOOK VALUE

The amount at which assets are included in the Balance Sheet, i.e. their historical costs or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

NET DEBT

The Council's borrowings less cash and liquid resources.

NON-DISTRIBUTED COSTS

These are overheads for which no user now benefits and as such are not apportioned to services

NON-OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Assets held by the Council but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples are investment properties, assets under construction or assets surplus to requirements pending sale or redevelopment.

OPERATING LEASE

A lease where the ownership of the fixed asset remains with the lessor.

OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Assets held and occupied, used or consumed by the Council in the pursuit of its strategy and in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility.

PAST SERVICE COST (PENSIONS)

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the increase in the present value of the scheme liabilities related to employee service in prior periods arising in the current period as a result of the introduction of, or improvement to retirement benefits.

PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES

The liabilities of a defined benefit pension scheme for outgoings due after the valuation date. Scheme liabilities measured during the projected unit method reflect the benefits that the employer is committed to provide for service up to the valuation date.

PRECEPT

The levy made by precepting authorities on billing authorities, requiring the latter to collect income from Council Tax on their behalf.

PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

Material adjustments applicable to previous years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. This does not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

PROVISION

An amount put aside in the accounts for future liabilities or losses which are certain or very likely to occur but the amounts or dates of when they will arise are uncertain.

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD (PWLB)

A Central Government Agency, which provides loans for one year and above to authorities at interest rates only slightly higher than those at which the Government can borrow itself.

RATEABLE VALUE

The annual assumed rental of a hereditament, which is used for NNDR purposes.

RELATED PARTIES

There is a detailed definition of related parties in FRS 8. For the Council's purposes related parties are deemed to include the Council's members, the Chief Executive, its Directors and their close family and household members.

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Code requires the disclosure of any material transactions between the Council and related parties to ensure that stakeholders are aware when these transactions occur and the amount and implications of such.

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. Pension contributions payable by the employer are excluded.

RESERVES

The accumulation of surpluses, deficits and appropriations over past years. Reserves of a revenue nature are available and can be spent or earmarked at the discretion of the Council. Some capital reserves such as the fixed asset restatement account cannot be used to meet current expenditure.

RESIDUAL VALUE

The net realisable value of an asset at the end of its useful life.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by employees that are payable after the completion of employment.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE

The day-to-day expenses of providing services.

REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT

A grant paid by Central Government to authorities, contributing towards the general cost of their services.

STOCKS

Items of raw materials and stores a Council has procured and holds in expectation of future use. Examples are consumable stores, raw materials and products and services in intermediate stages of completion.

TEMPORARY BORROWING

Money borrowed for a period of less than one year.

TRUST FUNDS

Funds administered by the Council for such purposes as prizes, charities, specific projects and on behalf of minors.

USEFUL ECONOMIC LIFE (UEL)

The period over which the Council will derive benefits from the use of a fixed asset.

WORK IN PROGRESS (WIP)

The cost of work performed on an uncompleted project at the Balance Sheet date, which should be accounted for.