

Statement of Accounts

2023 - 2024



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Chief Finance Officer's Narrative Report

The Council's Draft Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024, together with the accompanying notes, explains how the Council spent your council tax, business rates and other sources of funding on the provision of services during the year. The narrative report provides a financial summary focusing on the current financial challenges and opportunities as identified within the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), details of the financial performance for 2023/24, a focus on the Council's Corporate Plan, risk and performance framework, identification of the Council's key strategic partnerships, and an explanation of the key financial statements. These draft statements have yet to be audited and so may be subject to change.

Staffordshire Moorlands District

The district of Staffordshire Moorlands covers an area of 57,600 hectares, of which 32% is classed as rural, and serves a resident population of 95,800¹. There are 45,012 domestic households on the council tax valuation list and 3,185 non-domestic properties on the business rates list as at 31 March 2024.

Local authorities have continued to face significant financial challenges over recent years managing cost pressures within services and greater volatility in financing streams where there has been a shift in focus towards locally generated income streams, such as council tax, business rates, and other income, with core central government funding reduced substantially. This increases the control and influence the Council has over locally generated income, but makes it more vulnerable to fluctuations within the local economy, increasing financial risk.

Future Challenges and Opportunities

The narrative below sets out some of the more significant recent developments and changes to local government finance that have or may have an impact on the financial position of the Council:

Business rates: As part of the current Business Rates Retention system, local authorities (the billing authority, county council and fire authority) retain a proportion of 50% of any growth in business rates over and above a centrally established baseline after a system of tariffs and levies. The review of the Retention system has been subject to further delay. Therefore, as in previous years, no financial assumptions of a new system have been included with the Council's financial plans thus far.

¹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwalescensus2021>

Council tax: The Council has the capacity to vary council tax levels, but any increase above a threshold set by government is subject to a local referendum. For both 2023/24 and 2024/25, the threshold was 3%. The Council set a 0% Band D increase in 2023/24 and a 2.99% increase in 2024/25.

New homes bonus: This is a grant awarded to authorities who demonstrate an increase in housing provision on an annual basis. The Council received £59,450 in 2023/24. The provisional local government finance settlement in December 2023 further reduced the funding to £13,440 for 2024/25 as a result of low levels of housing growth in the district. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) assumes that the Council will receive funding at a level of £80,000 in the following years pending the outcome of the government's current consultation.

Other government funding: The provisional local government finance settlement in December 2023 confirmed government support to the Council in 2024/25 consisting of Funding Guarantee Grant of £545,080; Services Grant of £16,690; Rural Services Delivery Grant of £70,900; and a Revenue Support Grant of £104,660. It is assumed that the Funding Guarantee Grant will continue at a lesser amount in later years of the plan, whereas the other grants will be on-going throughout the life of the MTFP.

Inflation pressures

The high-inflation environment experienced over the last year have placed significant stress on the finances of the Council and its partner organisations. The continued global volatility arising out of the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, together with supply chain issues across numerous sectors of the economy, have an on-going impact on all services areas across the Council. Costs have shown signs of stabilising over recent months, albeit at increased levels.

Levelling Up

Under the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda to support local economic growth and regenerate town centres and high streets, the Council was successful in its bid to round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and was awarded £17.1million to regenerate Leek town centre. The funds will be used over the next two to three years to deliver three projects: the creation of a wellbeing hub at Brough Park Leisure Centre, improvements to the Butter and Trestle markets, and refurbishment works at the Grade II listed Nicholson Institute. The Council has also been allocated an award of £3,428,937 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)² as part of the Levelling Up agenda in its support for places across the UK to deliver enhanced outcomes. The allocation of funding to the Council is

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/ukspf-allocations>

based on the three investment priorities of UKSPF: Communities & Place, Supporting Local Business, and People & Skills. The funding is to be used by 31 March 2025.

Efficiency & rationalisation programme

With the continuing underlying principles of protecting frontline service delivery, maintaining staffing levels, and moving towards being self-financing (i.e. not as reliant on direct government funding), the development of a new Efficiency and Rationalisation Strategy commenced in conjunction with stakeholders in the Autumn of 2022. A programme of £890,000 in savings has been included in the 2024/25 MTFP approved in February 2024. This programme is profiled across 2024/25 £250,000, 2025/26 £250,000, 2026/27 £300,000 and 2027/28 £90,000. The Council carries the longstanding earmarked reserve of £492,000 established to support with costs of delivering the programme and any reprofiling requirements.

Climate change action

The Council has undertaken various works in the last two years contributing to its ambition of becoming carbon neutral in its internal operations and within the services it delivers by 2030. These include:

- Replacement of the fossil fuel heating system at Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre with an integrated air source heat pump and photovoltaic panel system. This work was funded in part by a £1.9million grant from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and is expected to reduce carbon emissions by approximately 300 tonnes per year.
- Installation of low energy LED lighting in the car parks it operates funded by £0.13million from internal Council resources .
- Vehicle replacement programme to the value of £0.55million incorporating clean engine Euro 6 technology into the Council's waste collection, streets, and horticulture fleet.

Wider initiatives around agile working and virtual meetings have also reduced the Council's carbon footprint by reducing the number of miles travelled by its employees in the course of delivering Council services.

Going Concern

The Statement of Accounts 2023/24 has been prepared on a 'going concern' basis. This means the Council considers that it has sufficient financial resources to be able to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. The Council has a firmly embedded financial planning process, which includes a rolling four-year MTFP. This includes the Chief Finance Officer's statement regarding the adequacy of reserves and balances.

As part of establishing the Council's Medium Term Financial plans all service areas engage with finance to identify cost pressures and opportunities. A forward look is taken to assess possible impacts of government policy along with an assessment of key risks. Where this exercise leads to provisional fundings gaps, the Council's efficiency programme is reassessed to determine the extent to which it may need to be developed along with any other measures to ensure there is balanced financial position.

All known events that could impinge on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern are mitigated systematically. For example, budget deficits are primarily addressed through a well-developed approach towards the achievement of efficiency savings, which has a proven track record of success. There is an established quarterly reporting process to Cabinet to monitor in year financial performance. The Council's cash and liquidity position and overall treasury function is scrutinised by the Audit & Accounts Committee.

2023/24 Financial Performance

Revenue spending

Revenue spending represents the net cost of consuming supplies and providing services delivered by the Council in its day-to-day business during the year. The financial planning process for 2023/24 was driven by the need to provide effective services while satisfying the on-going economic pressure to become ever more efficient in our use of resources, delivering high levels of value for money for our residents and businesses.

Planned spend

The 2023/24 net general fund budget was set at £11,694,640 with £5,130 to be funded from reserves.

Actual spend

The Council's actual performance against budget resulted in a £416,265 operating deficit in 2023/24, analysed in the table below:

	Budget	Actual	Variance
	£	£	£
Activities	11,694,640	12,549,662	855,022
Funding: External	(11,689,510)	(11,805,910)	(116,400)
Reserves	(5,130)	(327,487)	(322,357)
Operating Deficit / (Surplus) in the Year		416,265	416,265

Funding levels achieved were £116,400 above expectations. This was primarily due to an increase of funding received through business rates retention, made up of a smaller levy payable to the Business Rates Pool, and a surplus levy distribution from central

government. The actual use of reserves was £322,357 greater than budgeted as the Council identified a number of in-year activities where it was appropriate to apply previously earmarked funds.

The General Revenue Reserve is primarily held as a contingency to provide the Council with operational funds and as a safeguard against financial risk (such as the Coronavirus pandemic). Current risk-based assessments set the Council's need for a revenue contingency at £1.498million although the current economic climate and volatile financial environment means that this is very much considered to be a minimum and greater headroom than has been typical will be required to mitigate against the impact of future financial shocks. At the end of 2023/24, the reserve stood at £2.690million, which is £1.192million above the minimum contingency level. The current Medium Term Financial Plan anticipates the use of £1.152million in 2024/25 with further use of £0.029million over the remaining life of the plan.

How the money was spent

The Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES) (page 22) summarises the resources that have been generated and consumed in providing services and managing the Council this year. It shows net expenditure for the year was £12.548million across the service areas around which the Council organises its budget. This figure includes nominal charges made for the use of capital assets and future pension liability. Their inclusion is a requirement to allow comparison between Councils as to the true cost of providing services. However, statutory provisions require that such charges are excluded from the amount charged to council taxpayers.

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA) (page 26) reconciles the service outturn reported in the CIES with the £12.548million spend on activities as measured against the 2023/24 budget. The table below summarises that reconciliation and, by adding in external sources of funding and the use of reserves, reveals the actual gross expenditure and income behind the £0.416million deficit generated in the year.

	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£'000	£'000	£'000
CIES	35,764	(19,808)	15,956
Nominal Adjustments	(4,609)	1,201	(3,408)
EFA	31,155	(18,607)	12,548
Funding :			
External		(11,806)	(11,806)
Reserves		(326)	(326)
	31,155	(30,739)	416

Capital spending

Capital spending either maintains or creates new assets that will contribute to the Council's aims and objectives over more than one year. The Council therefore plans and budgets for capital expenditure by means of a four-year 'rolling' capital programme. This programme was last updated in February 2024 and included capital commitments of £47.7million over the period 2024/25 to 2027/28.

How the money was spent

The actual spend in 2023/24 was £6.978million. Major areas of capital expenditure and significant individual projects included:

- Levelling Up Fund (LUF) – Nicolson Institute, Brough Park Leisure Centre and Leek Butter Market (£1.459million)
- Fleet management – acquisition and enhancement of vehicles through direct purchase for the Council's joint operation, Alliance Environmental Services (£0.163million)
- Housing standards – disabled facilities grants (DFG), (£2.641million)
- Leisure – Biddulph Leisure Centre Energy efficiency works (£1.901million), grants to Sports clubs (£0.83million), Birchall playing field Improvements (£0.116million)

How it was paid for

There are several sources from which the Council can fund capital expenditure. In 2023/24 this included £5.658million external grants, £0.870million general fund reserves, and £0.060million borrowing need.

The balance sheet perspective

At the end of 2023/24 the Council's net worth, as reported on the Balance Sheet, stood at a net asset value of £38.724.million. When compared to a restated opening value of £44.043million at the beginning of the year. This represents an decrease in net worth of £5.319million – the main cause being modest increases in the Council's pension liability and a decreased in the portfolio of investments at the end of the year.

Published	Restated		
31 March 2023	31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£'000	£'000		£'000
39,563	39,746	Long Term Assets	41,523
10,000	10,000	Capital Loan - Service Investment (Housing)	10,000
13,238	13,223	Net Current Assets (debtors, inventories, less creditors, other liabilities)	10,020
(7,642)	(7,642)	Borrowing	(7,688)
(7,357)	(10,069)	Pensions Liability	(12,997)
(1,047)	(1,215)	Other Long Term Liabilities and Provisions	(2,134)
46,755	44,043	Net Assets	38,724
31,018	31,018	Represented by: Usable Reserves	25,315
15,737	(13,025)	: Unusable Reserves	13,409

The Council's Corporate Plan

Following the local elections in May 2019, the Council developed a new Corporate Plan covering the period 2019-2023 which supports the vision of 'Achieving excellence in the delivery of high quality services that meet the needs and aspirations of our communities'. The vision is articulated by four aims which are supported by a number of objectives that provide the framework for delivery of individual service plans.

Aim 1: Help create a safer and healthier environment for our communities to live and work

- Increased supply of good quality affordable homes
- Develop a positive relationship with communities
- Effective relationship with strategic partners
- Effective support of community safety arrangements including CCTV
- Provision of sports facilities and leisure opportunities focused upon improving health

Aim 2: Use resources effectively and provide value for money

- Effective use of financial and other resources to ensure value for money
- Ensure services are easily available to all our residents in the appropriate channels and provided "right first time"
- A high performing and well-motivated workforce
- Effective procurement with a focus on local business
- Effective use of ICT
- More effective use of Council assets

Aim 3: Help create a strong economy by supporting further regeneration of towns and villages

- Encourage business start-ups and enterprises
- Flourishing town centres that support the local economy
- Encourage and develop tourism
- High quality development and building control with an "open for business" approach

Aim 4: Protect and improve the environment and respond to the climate emergency

- Effective recycling and waste management
- Meeting the challenges of climate change
- Provision of high quality public amenities, clean streets and environmental health
- Provision of quality parks and open spaces
- Car parking arrangements that meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors

Our Performance Framework, which measures our success in delivering the Corporate Plan, also reflects the three pillars of value for money: economy, efficiency and effectiveness and is fully aligned to the Council's corporate objectives. The Council publishes an Annual Report, which takes stock of the progress made in delivery of the Corporate Plan objectives and uses comparative performance and cost measures to help shape the Council's refreshed objectives.

Risk Management

The Council ensures that it undertakes a deliberate and systematic identification of the key risks that might prevent, degrade, delay or enhance the achievement of its objectives and priorities. The Council's Risk Management Strategy sets out the process for undertaking this on an ongoing basis. In addition to the identification of risks, managers also have to quantify them in terms of likelihood and potential impact. The risks are then recorded in the Council's Risk Registers for strategic, operational and project risks. These are reviewed on a quarterly basis and reported into the Corporate Risk Management Group and the Audit and Accounts Committee on an exception basis.

Our Performance in 2023/24

The Council used a range of financial and other indicators to measure performance in 2023/24. At the end of March 68% of the Council's performance targets for the year had been met, which is an 8% increase on last year. The Council also exceeded its targets in a number of areas including: processing of new benefits and change of circumstances claims, external sports funding secured, settled accommodation outcome, customer interactions, customer portal accounts, business unit occupancy, town centre vacancy rates, missed bins, sickness absence, council tax and business collection rates, value of sundry debt, internal audit recommendations implemented, high risk food premises inspected and planning applications processed in timescale.

The areas which fell short of target include homelessness applications opened at prevention stage, use of temporary accommodation in excess of six weeks, FOI request response times, complaints within target, agent satisfaction with the planning process, housing land supply, use of the contracts register, procurement activity on forward plan, street and environmental cleanliness, % routine premises inspected, and private water supplies sampled.

For those measures that fell below the target set for the year we have developed actions for improvement, where feasible, as part of our performance reporting to senior managers and members. As well as comparing performance over time and against target, we also compare our performance with other Councils nationally through local benchmarking clubs and data platforms such as CFOi Insights, Place Analytics and LG Inform.

Delivering against our Corporate Aims: The Council's Corporate Plan has four key aims, and below we have highlighted some of our achievements last year in relation to each of them:

Help create a safer and healthier environment for our communities to live and work:

This aim covers our objectives around affordable housing, sports and leisure, community safety, community relations and the effectiveness of our strategic partnerships. Last year we:



- ✓ Secured funding of £346,616 to support the physical activity and sports strategy
- ✓ Completed the Tean Road improvement plan
- ✓ Completed the Move More Strategy, a ten year plan setting out why moving is important, what needs to be done to enable people to get involved and how we will do it
- ✓ Commenced work on a £2.4million scheme to install new technology to reduce more than 290 tonnes of carbon emissions every year at Biddulph Valley leisure centre
- ✓ Developed major plans to transform Brough Park leisure centre utilising the £17.1million funding awarded from the Government's Levelling Up Fund
- ✓ Continued the investment in improving facilities at Birchall playing fields by creating a new exercise path around the boundary creating a walking, jogging and wheeled resource

Meet financial challenges and provide value for money: this aim covers our objectives around value for money, customer access, use of assets and a high performing and motivated workforce. Last year we:



- ✓ Carried out a staff survey and developed an action plan in response to the feedback and insights provided
- ✓ Implemented the electric vehicle salary sacrifice scheme for all employees
- ✓ Launched the new staff Appraisal scheme focussed on four key areas: Health & Wellbeing, Goals & Priorities, Enabling Performance, Development & Aspirations
- ✓ Employed 2 graduates under the new National Graduate development Programme and 4 apprentices (Alliance): (1 at level 4, 3 at level 7) and utilised 100% of the apprentice levy
- ✓ Launched the new 'Alliance: Our Future' programme, working with every service area to understand their processes and review their IT systems to create new accessible, intelligent and relevant services
- ✓ 49,949 customer portal accounts in use
- ✓ Hosted our second Corporate Peer Challenge whereby the Peers reviewed the recommendations from February 2022 as well as the current position. The challenge was held over 3 days and included a number of meetings with councillors, staff, neighbouring council leaders and partners

- ✓ Commenced the development of a new SharePoint intranet and Procurement workflow tool working with M365 specialists who will also deliver training across the suite of M365 applications

Help create a strong economy by supporting further regeneration of

towns and villages: This aim covers our objectives around tourism, flourishing town centres, encouraging new business and promoting an open for business approach in our development and building control functions. Last year we:



- ✓ Issued the monthly business newsletter to over 1,100 businesses of which 934 are subscribers
- ✓ Commenced work on the £3.4million transformation of Leek’s indoor market halls utilising the funding from the Government’s £17.1million Levelling Up Fund together with additional funding from the Council
- ✓ In conjunction with Staffordshire County Council, commenced preparations for the refurbishment and repurpose of the Nicholson Institute
- ✓ Launched six new grants from the UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Funds to help businesses and the community build pride in the place they live and work, and increase life chances for all residents
- ✓ Achieved a town centre average vacancy rate of 11.4% (national average 11.8%)
- ✓ Determined 100% of ‘major’ planning applications in time
- ✓ Visited 100% priority 1 planning enforcement cases within 24 hours

Protect and improve the environment: This aim covers our objectives around waste and recycling, clean streets, environmental health, quality parks and open spaces, climate change and car parking. Last year we:



- ✓ Presented the Climate Change Annual report to Councillors and established the Climate Change working group
- ✓ Achieved 100% air quality compliance against national reporting requirements in relation to air quality
- ✓ Completed the improvement plans at Brough Park and John Hall Gardens
- ✓ Installed new modern ticket machines that take both cash and card payments at all District Council car parks
- ✓ Maintained the Green Flag award at Ladderedge Country Park for the 10th consecutive year
- ✓ Supported 284 community clean-up campaigns
- ✓ Commenced a modelling exercise for various waste collection options in response to the emerging new national waste and recycling strategy
- ✓ Used only 926 reams of paper across the Alliance
- ✓ Achieved low residual waste tonnages and high recycling rates

Key Strategic Partnerships



In 2008 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council entered into a **Strategic Alliance** (the Alliance) with our neighbours, High Peak Borough Council. The primary aim of the Alliance is to drive through service improvements through joint working whilst reducing costs to increase value-for-money and minimise future council tax increases. The arrangement, which features a fully integrated Joint Senior Management Team and widespread joint service delivery, crosses both county and regional boundaries. The Alliance sits at the heart of the Council's Efficiency and Rationalisation Strategy.



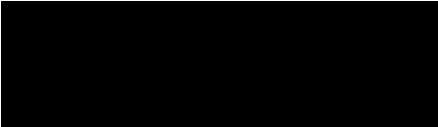
Alliance Environmental Services Limited (AES) Joint Venture: From 2017 the Council established a joint venture partnership with Alliance partner High Peak Borough Council and Ansa (a subsidiary of Cheshire East Council) to deliver waste collection, street cleansing, grounds maintenance and fleet management services. The collaborative arrangement has been assessed to be a joint operation and is therefore consolidated into the single entity financial statements of both Councils. This is described in note 2: Interests in companies & other entities and joint arrangements.



Alliance Norse Limited (ANL) Facilities Management Services Joint Venture: The Council established a joint venture partnership in 2022 with Alliance partner High Peak Borough Council and Norse Commercial Services (a trading arm of Norse Group under Norfolk County Council) to deliver facilities management, property services and other maintenance services. From 1 April 2023 the Council's Disabled Facilities Grant programme is also delivered through Alliance Norse Ltd with partner N-Able. The collaborative arrangement has been assessed to be a joint operation with and is therefore consolidated into the single entity financial statements of both Councils respectively. This is described in note 2: Interests in companies & other entities and joint arrangements.

Reporting of the Financial Statements

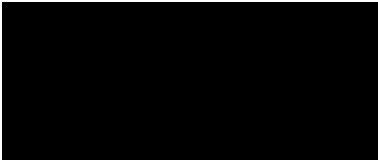
The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 has been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The format and content of the financial statements are prescribed by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, which in turn is underpinned by the International Financial Reporting Standards.



Martin Owen, MBA FCCA CMgr FCMI
Executive Director & Chief Finance Officer
Date: 14th January 2025

Certificate of Approval by Audit & Accounts Committee

I confirm that these accounts were approved by the meeting of the Audit and Accounts Committee held on 29th November 2024



Councillor Matthew Spooner
Chair of the Audit & Accounts Committee
Date : 14th January 2025

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council 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 Council, that officer is the Executive Director & Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient, and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets
- Approve the Statement of Accounts

The Executive Director's Responsibilities

The Executive Director (CFO) is responsible for the preparation of the Council's financial statements, which under the CIPFA/ LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ('the Code of Practice') are required to present the true and fair financial position of the Council at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Executive Director (CFO) has:

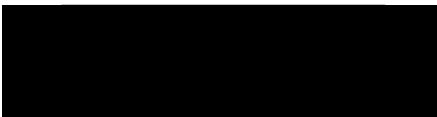
- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently
- Made judgements and decisions that were reasonable and prudent
- Complied with the Code of Practice

The Executive Director (CFO) has also:

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

Certificate of the Executive Director (CFO)

I certify that this Statement of Accounts gives a 'true and fair' view of the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2024 and its income and expenditure for the year.



Martin Owen, MBA FCCA CMgr FCMI
Executive Director & Chief Finance Officer
Date: 14th January 2025

Statement of Accounting Policy

The purpose of this section is to explain the basis for the recognition, measurement and disclosure of transactions and other events in the accounts.

1. Accounting Policies

The Accounting Policies included at the foot of this Statement of Accounts have been applied in producing the statements. They are based on best practice and legislative requirements, including CIPFA's Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom for 2023/24 (the Code).

2. Accounting Standards Issued, Not Adopted

A number of new or amended standards have been issued in the Code for the forthcoming year, which are not yet adopted. The Council is required to disclose any information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by the new standard.

IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standard) **16 Leases** introduces a single lessee accounting model. The Council has commenced with identifying the relevant assets and liabilities of all leases with a term of more than 12 months including right-of-use assets. Subsequent recognition in the statements requires valuation of both the asset and the Council's obligation to make lease payments. Work is ongoing to quantify the impact and further detail will be included in the 2024/25 accounts when the standard has been adopted.

These new or amended standards may provide clarification but are unlikely to have a significant impact on the amounts anticipated to be report in the financial statements of this Council:

- Classification of liabilities as current or non-current (amendments to IAS (International Accounting Standards) 1) issued in January 2020.
- Lease liability in a sale and leaseback (amendments to IFRS 16) issued in September 2022
- Non-current liabilities with covenants (amendments to IAS1) issued in October 2022

These new or amended standards are anticipated to be of limited application to this Council:

- International tax reform: pillar two model rules (amendments to IAS12) issued in May 2023.
- Supplier Finance arrangements (amendments to IAS7 and IFRS7): issued in May 2023.

3. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in part 1 of this section, the Council has had regard to the materiality of the transactions being reported. It has also had to make certain judgments about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgments made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- The collaboration companies Alliance Environmental Services Ltd (between Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, High Peak Borough Council and Ansa Environmental Services Ltd) and Alliance Norse Ltd. (between Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, High Peak Borough Council and Norse Commercial Services Ltd) have been determined to be Joint Operations and are therefore consolidated in to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's and High Peak Borough Council's single entity financial statements, i.e. there is no requirement for separate group accounts. The relationship, details of this assessment and financial performance and results of the companies are included in note 2: Interests in companies & other entities and joint arrangements.

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 at 31 March 2024 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are:

Pensions liabilities – uncertainties: Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on several complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied (Note 4f highlights key assumptions). A 1% change in the assessed carrying value of the Council's pension liability equates to £129,970 (total £12,997,000).

Pension funds exist to provide retirement benefits into the future and their valuation reflects both these commitments and the predicted income streams from contributions and investments over the long term. This extended timeframe means that while valuations may reflect immediate economic conditions their impact will tend to smooth out over time.

Asset valuations – uncertainties: The valuations of property, plant and equipment reported in the Balance Sheet and the related depreciation charges made to the CIES are based on an estimation of their value and asset life. A firm of qualified valuers is engaged

by the Council to carry out, for the major assets, a programme of physical valuations to ensure that their carrying values are subject to professional and independent assessment. A 1% change in the assessed carrying value of the Authority's assets equates to £415,190 (total £41,519,000).

Financial Statements

Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS)

The movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council is analysed into 'usable reserves' (those which can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The surplus/ (deficit) on the provision of services shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the CIES. This is different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the general fund balance for Council Tax setting purposes. The net increase/ decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves shows the statutory general fund balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

	Notes	General Fund & Earmarked Reserves	Capital		Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Council Reserves
			Receipts Reserve	Grants Unapplied			
			£000	£000			
Balance at 31 March 2022		(10,460)	(4)	(4,673)	(15,137)	(5,513)	(20,650)
(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of Services		1,373	0	0	1,373	0	1,373
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0	0	0	(27,478)	(27,478)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		1,373	0	0	1,373	(27,478)	(26,105)
Adjustment between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	5	(976)	4	(1,001)	(1,973)	1,973	0
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	12	397	4	(1,001)	(600)	(25,505)	(26,105)
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward		(10,063)	0	(5,674)	(15,737)	(31,018)	(46,755)
Restated Balance							
Balance at 31 March 2022		(10,460)	(4)	(4,673)	(15,137)	(5,513)	(20,650)
(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of Services		1,373	0	0	1,373	0	1,373
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0	0	0	(24,766)	(24,766)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		1,373	0	0	1,373	(24,766)	(23,393)
Adjustment between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	5	(976)	4	(1,001)	(1,973)	1,973	0
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	12	397	4	(1,001)	(600)	(22,793)	(23,393)
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward		(10,063)	0	(5,674)	(15,737)	(28,306)	(44,043)
(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of Services		(94)	0	0	(94)	0	(94)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0	0	0	5,225	5,225

Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		94	0	0	94	5,225	5,319
Adjustment between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	5	1,518	(82)	798	2,234	(2,234)	0
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	12	1,612	(82)	798	2,328	2,991	5,319
Balance at 31 March 2024 carried forward		(8,451)	(82)	(4,876)	(13,409)	(25,315)	(38,724)

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

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

Published			Restated					2023/24		
2022/23			2022/23				Notes	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure			£000	£000	£000
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000			£000	£000	£000
501	0	501	501	0	501	Alliance Leadership Team		400	(1)	399
132	0	132	132	0	132	Audit		106	0	106
890	(1)	889	890	(1)	889	ICT		1,126	(1)	1,125
57	0	57	57	0	57	Human Resources		57	0	57
419	0	419	419	0	419	Member Services		607	0	607
2,454	(870)	1,584	2,454	(870)	1,584	Property Services		2,655	(864)	1,791
10,108	(10,094)	14	10,108	(10,094)	14	Benefits		10,702	(10,849)	(147)
738	(485)	253	738	(485)	253	Revenues		854	(317)	537
950	(802)	148	950	(802)	148	Planning Applications		978	(856)	122
40	0	40	40	0	40	Building Control		59	0	59
606	(3)	603	606	(3)	603	Customer Services		636	(4)	632
282	(14)	268	282	(14)	268	Legal Services		256	(10)	246
62	(21)	41	62	(21)	41	Electoral Services		217	(53)	164
1	(237)	(236)	1	(237)	(236)	Licensing		1	(133)	(132)
834	(171)	663	834	(171)	663	Regeneration		809	(478)	331
446	(27)	419	446	(27)	419	Communities and Cultural		531	(30)	501
405	(280)	125	405	(280)	125	Housing Strategy		480	(363)	117
267	0	267	267	0	267	Transformation		330	0	330
161	(20)	141	161	(20)	141	Community Safety and Enforcement		229	(45)	184
445	0	445	445	0	445	Finance and Procurement		444	0	444

662	(120)	542	662	(120)	542	Corporate Finance		611	(232)	379
5,769	(2,539)	3,230	5,769	(2,539)	3,230	Waste Collection		6,869	(2,784)	4,085
870	(371)	499	870	(371)	499	Street Scene		903	(334)	569
1,113	(123)	990	1,113	(123)	990	Leisure Services		1,587	(234)	1,353
944	(273)	671	944	(273)	671	Horticulture		950	(237)	713
1,535	(1,906)	(371)	1,535	(1,906)	(371)	Environmental Health		3,402	(1,983)	1,419
30,691	(18,357)	12,334	30,691	(18,357)	12,334	Cost of Services		35,799	(19,808)	15,991
1,511	(21)	1,490	1,511	(21)	1,490	Other Operating Expenditure	3a	1,703	(82)	1,621
782	(1,046)	(264)	782	(1,046)	(264)	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	3b	445	(1,482)	(1,037)
	(12,187)	(12,187)		(12,187)	(12,187)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and expenditure	3c		(16,481)	(16,481)
		1,373			1,373	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services				94
		(4,504)			(4,504)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment Assets	13a			(14)
		(22,974)			(20,262)	Remeasurement of the net defined pension benefit liability	4a			5,239
		(27,478)			(24,766)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				5,225
		(26,105)			(23,393)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				5,319

Balance Sheet

Providing an overall summary of the financial position of the Council at the year end. It shows the Council's balances and reserves and its long-term indebtedness, and the value at the balance sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council.

Published	Restated			
31 March 2023	31 March 2023		Notes	31 March 2024
£000	£000			£000
34,515	34,698	Property, Plant & Equipment	6a	36,370
584	584	Heritage Assets		584
4,228	4,228	Investment Properties	6b	4,375
236	236	Intangible Assets		194
10,052	10,052	Long Term Debtors	8	10,122
49,615	49,798	TOTAL LONG TERM ASSETS		51,645
7,465	7,465	Short Term Investments	14a	5,641
79	79	Inventories		84
3,383	4,283	Short Term Debtors	8	4,767
9,658	9,570	Cash and Cash Equivalents	7	8,841
20,585	21,397	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		19,333
(3,038)	(3,038)	Short Term Borrowings	14a	(3,084)
(6,641)	(7,468)	Short Term Creditors	9	(8,739)
(758)	(758)	Provisions	10	(696)
(10,437)	(11,264)	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		(12,519)
(4,604)	(4,604)	Long Term Borrowing	14a	(4,604)
(7,357)	(10,069)	Pensions Liability	4c	(12,997)
(48)	(216)	Other Long Term Liabilities		(203)
(999)	(999)	Grants Receipts in Advance - Capital	11	(1,931)
(13,008)	(15,888)	TOTAL LONG TERM LIABILITIES		(19,735)
46,755	44,043	TOTAL NET ASSETS		38,724
15,737	15,737	Usable Reserves	12	13,409
31,018	28,306	Unusable Reserves	13	25,315
46,755	44,043	TOTAL RESERVES		38,724

The audited accounts were issued on 14th January 2025

Martin Owen, MBA FCCA CMgr FCMI
Executive Director & Chief Finance Officer

Cash Flow Statement

The inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.

Published	Restated			
2022/23	2022/23		Notes	2023/24
£000	£000			£000
(1,373)	(1,373)	Net Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services		(94)
(5,394)	(5,467)	Adjustment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements	17a	12,886
10,153	10,153	Adjust for Items Included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities	17a	(2,334)
3,386	3,313	Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		10,458
(3,027)	(3,042)	Investing Activities	17c	1,418
(4,724)	(4,724)	Financing Activities	17d	(12,605)
(4,365)	(4,453)	Net Increase or (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents		(729)
14,023	14,023	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period	7	9,570
9,658	9,570	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period		8,841

Notes to the Financial Statements

Some of the notes to the core financial statements are dictated by statute while others are included to add clarity.

1. Amounts reported for resource allocation decisions

Decisions about resource allocation are taken by the Council's Cabinet based on financial reports prepared on a different basis from the accounting policies used in the financial statements: no charges are made in relation to capital expenditure (whereas depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses in excess of the balance on the Revaluation Reserve and amortisations are charged to services in the CIES), and the cost of retirement benefits is based on cash flows (payment of employer's pensions contributions) rather than current service cost of benefits accrued in year.

The following tables analyse and show the relationship between the statutory statements and the financial information reported to and used by the decision makers.

1a. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The objective of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis is to demonstrate to council tax payers how the funding available to the Council (government grants, council tax and business rates) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's service areas. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the CIES.

2022/23				2023/24		
Net Expenditure to General Fund Balance	Adjustments Funding & Accounting	Net Expenditure in the CIES		Net Expenditure to General Fund Balance	Adjustments Funding & Accounting	Net Expenditure in the CIES
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
359	142	501	Alliance Leadership Team	394	5	399
93	39	132	Audit	99	7	106
812	77	889	ICT	1,055	70	1,125
56	1	57	Human Resources	57	0	57
419	0	419	Member Services	607	0	607
1,106	478	1,584	Property Services	1,089	702	1,791
14	0	14	Benefits	(147)	0	(147)
116	137	253	Revenues	527	10	537
61	87	148	Planning Applications	99	23	122
40	0	40	Building Control	59	0	59
555	48	603	Customer Services	620	12	632
247	21	268	Legal Services	243	3	246
41	0	41	Electoral Services	164	0	164
(232)	(4)	(236)	Licensing and Land Charges	(132)	0	(132)
516	147	663	Regeneration	199	132	331
377	42	419	Communities and Cultural	423	78	501
120	5	125	Housing Strategy	123	(6)	117
241	26	267	Transformation	326	4	330
125	16	141	Community Safety and Enforcement	168	16	184
367	78	445	Finance and Procurement	425	19	444
1,357	(815)	542	Corporate Finance	705	(326)	379
2,332	898	3,230	Waste Collection	3,565	520	4,085
402	97	499	Street Scene	474	95	569
177	813	990	Leisure Services	208	1,145	1,353
623	48	671	Horticulture	662	51	713
478	(849)	(371)	Environmental Health	536	883	1,419
10,802	1,532	12,334	Cost of Services	12,548	3,443	15,991
(10,405)	(556)	(10,961)	Other Income and Expenditure	(10,936)	(4,961)	(15,897)
397	976	1,373	Cost of Services	1,612	(1,518)	94
(10,460)			Opening General Fund Balance	(10,063)		
397			Less (Surplus) or Deficit in Year	1,612		
(10,063)			Closing General Fund Balance	(8,451)		

1b. Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This note provides a reconciliation of the main adjustments to net expenditure chargeable to the general fund to arrive at the amounts in the CIES:

2022/23					2023/24			
Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change of the Pension Adjustment	Other Differences	Total Adjustments		Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change of the Pension Adjustment	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000
0	142	0	142	Alliance Leadership Team	0	9	(4)	5
0	40	(1)	39	Audit	0	3	4	7
83	0	(6)	77	ICT	70	0	0	70
0	0	1	1	Human Resources	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	Member Services	0	0	0	0
224	52	202	478	Property Services	498	3	201	702
0	0	0	0	Benefits	0	0	0	0
0	137	0	137	Revenues	0	10	0	10
0	97	(10)	87	Planning Applications	0	8	15	23
0	61	(13)	48	Customer Services	0	4	8	12
0	19	2	21	Legal Services	0	1	2	3
0	0	0	0	Electoral Services	0	0	0	0
0	0	(4)	(4)	Licensing	0	0	0	0
39	44	64	147	Regeneration	41	4	87	132
1	40	1	42	Communities and Cultural	68	4	6	78
0	10	(5)	5	Housing Strategy	0	1	(7)	(6)
0	26	0	26	Transformation	0	3	1	4
16	0	0	16	Community Safety and Enforcement	16	0	0	16
0	84	(6)	78	Finance and Procurement	0	6	13	19
(211)	(1,249)	645	(815)	Corporate Finance	(225)	(1,124)	1,023	(326)
450	450	(2)	898	Waste Collection	453	65	2	520
97	0	0	97	Street Scene	95	0	0	95
813	0	0	813	Leisure Services	1,145	0	0	1,145
48	0	0	48	Horticulture	51	0	0	51
(965)	131	(15)	(849)	Environmental Health	876	9	(2)	883
595	84	853	1,532	Cost of Services	3,088	(994)	1,349	3,443
(233)	782	(1,105)	(556)	Other Income and Expenditure	(4,349)	413	(1,025)	(4,961)
362	866	(252)	976	Difference between General Fund (Surplus)/ Deficit and Comprehensive Income and	(1,261)	(581)	324	(1,518)

				Expenditure Statement				
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Adjustments for capital purposes

Adjustments to general fund balances to meet the requirement of generally accepted accounting practices.

Within cost of services:

- adds in depreciation and impairment on assets used by the service; and
- adjusts for any revaluation gains and losses on those assets.

Within other income and expenditure

- Adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets,
- Statutory charges for capital financing i.e. Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices,
- Capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year,
- Credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

Net change for the pensions adjustments

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

Within cost of services

- The removal of the employer pension contributions made by the Council as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.

Within other income and expenditure

- Records the net interest on the defined benefit liability charged to the CIES.

Adjustments for other differences

Other differences between amounts debited/ credited to the CIES and amounts payable/ receivable to be recognised under statute.

Within cost of services

- Statutory adjustment for a financial instrument relating to a decision to issue a soft loan (below market rates),

- Accounting for the employee accumulated absence liability.

Within other income and expenditure

- Adjustments to the general fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts,
- The difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and business rates that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future surpluses or deficits on the collection fund.

1c. Expenditure and income analysed by nature

This represents a subjective analysis of the surplus/ deficit on the provision of services as reported in the CIES.

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
10,102	Employee Expenses	9,873
18,883	Other Service Expenses	21,393
2,342	Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	4,800
147	Interest Payments	179
1,477	Precepts & Levies	1,557
34	Derecognition and Disposal Value of Fixed Assets	144
32,985	Total Expenditure	37,946
(5,764)	Fees, Charges & Other Service Income	(5,951)
(765)	Interest and Investment Income	(1,201)
(7,375)	Council Tax	(7,485)
(4,224)	Business Rates	(4,900)
(11,537)	Government Grant	(12,982)
(1,926)	Capital Grants and Contributions	(5,251)
(21)	Capital Receipts	(82)
(31,612)	Total Income	(37,852)
1,373	(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	94

1d. Segmental Analysis

This Table shows a further breakdown by service of fees, charges and other income reported at 1c.

2022/23		2023/24
£000	Fees, Charges and Other Income	£000
0	Alliance Leadership Team	(1)
(1)	ICT	0
(1,077)	Property Services	(1,062)
62	Benefits	(68)
(173)	Revenues	(178)
(802)	Planning Applications	(726)
(3)	Customer Services	(4)
(14)	Legal Services	(10)
(3)	Electoral Services	(3)
(229)	Licensing	(130)
(177)	Regeneration	(175)
0	Communities and Cultural	(4)
(57)	Housing Strategy	(59)
(2)	Finance and Procurement	0
0	Corporate Finance	(57)
(2,537)	Waste Collection	(2,783)
(371)	Street Scene	(334)
(3)	Leisure Services	0
(271)	Horticulture	(237)
(106)	Environmental Health	(120)
(5,764)	Total Analysed on a Segmental Basis	(5,951)

2. Net cost of services

The following notes consider transactions included in the Cost of Services in the CIES in more detail.

2a. Members' allowances

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

2022/23		2023/24
£		£
254,795	Allowances	378,170
4,353	Expenses	4,957
259,148	Total	383,127

2b. Officers' remuneration (senior employees)

Under the management arrangements for the Alliance, costs and responsibilities for senior posts are shared between Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and High Peak Borough Council based on the proportion of time allocated to the two Councils including Housing Revenue Account responsibilities at High Peak. In line with the regulations, the remuneration of senior officers is included in the disclosure within the Statement of Accounts of the Authority for which they are employed and paid.

2023/24	Salary, Fees and Allowances	Expense s Allowances	Total (excl Pension cont)	Pension Contribution	Total (inc Pension cont)	Proportion of Total charged to HPBC	Net Charge to SMDC
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Senior Officer with Salary over £150,000							
Chief Executive Officer	179,211	36,712	215,923	39,964	255,887	148,009	107,878
Senior Officers with Salary over £50,000 to £150,000							
Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer	119,093	963	120,056	26,558	146,614	87,968	58,646
Executive Director & Monitoring Officer	140,474	4,015	144,489	31,326	175,815	105,489	70,326
Head of Audit	68,667	6,910	75,577	15,313	90,890	54,534	36,356
Head of Finance	79,103	963	80,066	17,640	97,706	58,624	39,082
Head of Environmental Health	68,667	5,241	73,908	15,313	89,221	44,610	44,611
Head of Revenues & Benefits	68,667	963	69,630	15,313	84,943	42,471	42,472
Head of Communities & Climate Change	63,420	4,561	67,981	14,143	82,124	49,274	32,850
Head of Democratic Services	63,360	6,300	69,660	14,129	83,789	41,895	41,894
	850,662	66,628	917,290	189,699	1,106,989	632,874	474,115

In the above note, the Council has disclosed all senior officers who have remuneration over £50,000.

As can be seen from the tables above, there is a recharge to High Peak BC of £632,874 for the posts paid by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. However, as several of the Directors and Senior Service Managers are employed and paid by High Peak Borough Council, there is a recharge back to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council of £332,048 as detailed below.

2023/24	Salary, Fees and Allowances	Expenses Allowances	Total (excl Pension cont)	Pension Contribution	Total (inc Pension cont)	Charge to SMDC	Net Charge to HPBC
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Executive Director	171,097	963	172,060	19,796	191,856	76,742	115,114
Head of OD & Transformation	76,539	963	77,502	15,997	93,499	37,400	56,099
Head of Legal	76,539	963	77,502	15,997	93,499	37,400	56,099
Head of Regeneration	68,667	963	69,630	14,351	83,981	41,991	41,990
Head of Development Services	76,539	963	77,502	15,997	93,499	46,750	46,749
Head of Housing	68,667	963	69,630	14,351	83,981	16,796	67,185
Head of Commissioning	60,706	963	61,669	12,687	74,356	37,178	37,178
Head of Customer Services	68,667	963	69,630	14,351	83,981	37,791	46,190
	667,421	7,704	675,125	123,527	798,652	332,048	466,604

2022/23 comparatives

2022/23	Salary, Fees and Allowances	Expenses Allowances	Total (excl Pension cont)	Pension Contribution	Total (inc Pension cont)	Proportion of Total charged to HPBC	Net Charge to SMDC
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Senior Officer with Salary over £150,000							
Chief Executive Officer*	169,753	15,005	184,758	28,179	212,937	125,120	87,817
Senior Officers with Salary over £50,000 to £150,000							
Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer	107,565	899	108,464	17,856	126,320	75,792	50,528
Executive Director & Monitoring Officer	135,907	3,629	139,536	22,560	162,096	97,258	64,838
Head of Audit	66,345	6,647	72,992	11,013	84,005	50,403	33,602
Head of Finance	63,781	963	64,744	10,588	75,332	37,666	37,666
Head of Environmental Health	66,345	5,241	71,586	11,046	82,632	41,316	41,316
Operations Manager Contract Management	37,576	544	38,120	6,217	44,337	24,385	19,952
Head of Revenues & Benefits	63,781	963	64,744	10,588	75,332	41,432	33,900
Head of Communities & Climate Change	60,963	4,551	65,514	10,120	75,634	37,817	37,817
Head of Democratic Services	60,903	6,290	67,193	10,110	77,303	38,651	38,652
	832,919	44,732	877,651	138,277	1,015,928	569,840	446,088

*Executive Director & Chief Finance Officer start date 25 April 2022

2022/23	Salary, Fees and Allowances	Expenses Allowances	Total (excl Pension cont)	Pension Contribution	Total(in c Pension cont)	Charge to SMDC	Net Charge to HPBC
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Executive Director	109,815	963	110,778	14,715	125,493	56,472	69,021
Organisational Development & Transformation Manager	66,345	963	67,308	8,890	76,198	30,479	45,719
Legal & Electoral Services Manager	54,536	963	55,499	7,308	62,807	25,123	37,684
Asset Manager*	49,207	963	50,170	6,594	56,764	18,732	38,032
Regeneration Manager**	23,144	963	24,107	3,035	27,142	13,571	13,571
Head of Regeneration***	11,058	161	11,219	1,482	12,701	6,350	6,351
Operational Manager - Planning & Building Control	66,345	963	67,308	8,890	76,198	38,099	38,099
Operational Manager - Housing & Benefits	66,345	963	67,308	8,890	76,198	15,240	60,958
Operational Manager - Customer Services	66,345	963	67,308	8,890	76,198	34,289	41,909
	513,140	7,865	521,005	68,694	589,699	238,355	351,344

*Asset Manager left 08.01.23

**Regeneration Manager left 03.08.22

***Head of Regeneration start date 01.02.23

Termination benefits paid to the Council's non senior employees:

As with 2022/23; there were no termination benefit departures during 2023/24.

2c. Related parties

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

Central government has effective control over general operations of the Council. It provides the statutory framework, provides most of the funding and prescribes the terms of many transactions with other parties (such as Housing Benefit).

Local authorities such as Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority and local Parish Councils issue precepts on the Council which are shown in the Collection Fund. The County administers the Council's pension fund. There are other transactions with these authorities involving service provision and funding.

Council members make disclosures of relevant interests to the Council's Monitoring Officer, and have to make declarations on individual committee decisions. The Register of Member Interests is open to public inspection, subject to prior notice, at Moorlands House. Members have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The Council also nominates Members to sit on outside bodies. Several Council Members are also Members of Staffordshire County Council, local parish councils, or various local voluntary organisations, which the Council supports financially. Those charitable organisations that received Council funding that could be considered a material proportion of their total turnover, where Members have declared an interest were:

Charity	Council Funding
	£000
Cheadle in Bloom	6
Foxlowe Arts Centre	17
Staffordshire North and Stoke-on-Trent Citizens Advice Bureau	59
Leek Citizens Advice Bureau	6
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	179
Biddulph Youth & Community Zone	15
Ipstones Agricultural Society	5
@21 Youth Club	5

Officers have scope, in some circumstances, to influence Council policy. The Chief Executive Officer maintains a record of officer interests which, together with the Council's standards and procedures, acts as a guard against undue influence.

Related party transactions: Material transactions with central and other local government organisations are separately reported throughout the statements, including the analyses of precepts, grants, and pension contributions. There are no material transactions or evidence suggesting undue influence in relation to members or officers.

Subsidiary, associated companies or joint ventures: The Council has a Strategic Alliance with High Peak Borough Council, whilst retaining its political and financial independence and accountability. The Strategic Alliance has joined with Ansa (a wholly owned subsidiary of Cheshire East Council) in the joint operation Alliance Environmental Services Limited (AES), and with Norse Commercial Services (a trading arm of Norse Group under Norfolk County Council) in the joint operation Alliance Norse Ltd (ANL). Note 2: Interests in other companies gives further detail about the Strategic Alliance, AES, and Alliance Norse.

2d. Audit costs

The costs set out below have been incurred in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and statutory inspections and to non-audit services provided by the Council's external auditors Grant Thornton.

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
61	Fees payable to the appointed auditors for external audit services carried out for the year	146
13	Fees payable to the external auditors for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	36
9	Fees payable in respect of other services provided by the external auditors during the year	9
83	Total	191

2e. Interests in companies & other entities and joint arrangements

The Council has financial interests with several entities and actively pursues working in partnership with other organisations where this can improve efficiency and effectiveness in achieving key priorities. Some of the more significant joint arrangements are detailed below:

Strategic Alliance with High Peak Borough Council

The strategic Alliance between Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and High Peak Borough Council was formally sealed on 11 June 2008. The Alliance involves continuous development of joint working at all levels, producing savings through joint procurement, expertise and staff to ultimately improve service provision. Any costs and savings incurred and accruing in an accounting period are accounted for by the relevant Council. The

Alliance-related expenditure of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council amounted to £3.359million in 2023/24 (£3.021million in 2022/23). The corresponding income received from High Peak Borough Council was £3.75million in 2023/24 (£3.209million in 2022/23).

	Paid by SMDC to HPBC	Paid by HPBC to SMDC
	£000	£000
Contribution to Employee Costs	2,739	2,450
Contribution to Other Costs	620	1,300
Total	3,359	3,750

Alliance Environmental Services Ltd: company number 10760856

Alliance Environmental Services Ltd (AES) delivers waste, fleet, street cleansing and grounds maintenance services in the Staffordshire Moorlands and High Peak areas. The company has three shareholders: Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, High Peak Borough Council and Ansa, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cheshire East Council. The company was incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 on 9 May 2017 as a private company limited by shares. It has issued ordinary shares of £1.00 each in the volume of 150 to Ansa, 25 to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and 25 to High Peak Borough Council. The registered office of the company is c/o Ansa Environmental Services Ltd, Environmental Hub C/o Ansa Environmental Services Limited, Cledford Lane, Middlewich, Cheshire, England, CW10 0JR.

The relationship between the shareholders has been assessed to establish the nature of the collaborative activity and how this should be presented in the Council's financial statements. There is a signed shareholders' agreement between all three parties setting out the terms and conditions on which all parties have agreed to participate in the company and the rights and obligations of each of them as its members, thus the collaborative activity constitutes an arrangement. Furthermore, specific clauses in the agreement confirm that unanimous consent is implicit in the agreement, therefore the authorities equally have joint control of the arrangement. The agreement indicates that the Council has rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities of the company, rather than rights to net assets, therefore the arrangement is classified as a joint operation. A joint operation does not require separate group accounts, instead a proportion of the company's balance sheet and the outturn on service expenditure and income, in line with the percentage provision of services to each Council, are consolidated line by line into the Council's own CIES, cash flow statement and balance sheet. This consolidation has the effect of analysing the elements of the management fee paid to AES for service delivery between employees, transport, supplies & services, and income and brings in the surplus achieved on the company's profit and loss showing the overall cost of the service.

The company has reported a profit at the balance sheet date, which is shown on the company's balance sheet in reserves. During the year, AES has provided services in proportion of 51% to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and 49% to High Peak Borough Council. These proportions are consolidated into the respective Councils' financial statements.

2022/23	Council share of AES Income and Expenditure Statement	2023/24
£000		£000
(6,142)	Turnover	(7,435)
5,068	Cost of sales	6,513
(1,074)	Gross profit	(922)
1,048	Administrative expenses	921
(26)	Profit from operating activities	(1)
(8)	Finance costs	(17)
6	Corporation tax	4
(28)	(Profit)/ loss for year	(14)

31 March 2023	Council Share of AES Balance Sheet	31 March 2024
£'000		£'000
1,055	Current assets	1,403
1,055	Total	1,403
(756)	Current liabilities	(1,108)
(18)	Long term liabilities	0
(774)	Total	(1,108)
281	Total Net Assets	295
	Capital and Reserves	
253	Brought forward retained earnings	281
28	Retained Earnings	14
281	Total Reserves	295

This share of the company's profit is included in the net expenditure position in the Council's CIES for waste collection, fleet, streets, and horticulture services along with the net management fee paid to the company:

2022/23	AES net management fee included in CIES	2023/24
£'000		£'000
4,760	Net management fee	6,199
(28)	Less Joint Operation profit allocation	(14)
4,732	Total	6,185

Alliance Norse Ltd: company number 13861679

Alliance Norse Limited (ANL) delivers facilities management, property services and other maintenance services in the Staffordshire Moorlands and High Peak areas. The company has three shareholders: Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, High Peak Borough Council and Norse Commercial Services Ltd, a trading arm of the Norse Group which is wholly owned by Norfolk Country Council. The company was incorporated under the Company Act 2006 on 20 January 2022 as a private company limited by shares. It has issued ordinary shares of £0.25 each in the volume of 30 to Norse Commercial Services Ltd, 5 to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and 5 to High Peak Borough Council. The registered office of the company is 280 Fifers Lane, Norwich, Norfolk, NR6 6EQ. Phase 1 of the project to deliver corporate cleaning and caretaking services went live on 1 April 2022, phase 2, for the delivery of the remainder of the services on 4 July 2022, and the Council's Disabled Facilities Grant Programme is now delivered via partner N-Able from 1 April 2023.

The relationship between the shareholders has been assessed to establish the nature of the collaborative activity and how this should be presented in the Council's financial statements. There is a signed shareholders' agreement between all three parties setting out terms and conditions on which all parties have agreed to participate in the company and the rights and obligations of each of them as its members, thus the collaborative activity constitutes an arrangement. Furthermore, specific clauses in the agreement confirm that unanimous consent is implicit in the agreement, therefore the authorities equally have joint control of the arrangement. The agreement indicates that the Council has rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities of the company, rather than rights to net assets, therefore the arrangement is classified as a joint operation. A joint operation does not require separate group accounts, instead the Council's share of the company's Balance Sheet and the outturn on service expenditure and income are consolidated line by line into the Council's own CIES, cash flow statement and balance sheet. This consolidation has the effect of analysing the elements of the total fee paid to ANL for service delivery between employees, transport, supplies & services, and income and brings in the surplus achieved on the company's profit and loss showing the overall cost of the service.

The company has reported a profit at the balance sheet date, which is shown on the company's balance sheet in reserves. During the year ANL has provided services in proportion of 10% to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and 90% to High Peak Borough Council (12% to the General Fund activities, and 78% to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) activities). These proportions are consolidated into the respective Councils' financial statements.

2022/23	Council share of ANL Income and Expenditure Statement	2023/24
£000		£000
(902)	Turnover	(3,019)
938	Cost of sales	3,144
36	Gross profit	125
(249)	Overheads	(159)
(213)	Profit from operating activities	(34)
80	Council discount	11
23	Corporation tax	6
(110)	(Profit)/ loss for Year	(17)

31 March 2023	31 March 2023	Council Share of ANL Balance Sheet	31 March 2024
Published	Restated		
£'000	£'000		£'000
33	216	Non current Assets	222
256	1,068	Current Assets	1,828
289	1,284	Total	2,050
(149)	(977)	Current liabilities	(1,720)
(30)	(197)	Long term liabilities	(203)
(179)	(1,174)	Total	(1,923)
110	110	Total Net Assets	127
		Capital and Reserves	
0	0	Brought forward retained earnings	110
110	110	Retained Earnings	17
110	110	Total Reserves	127

The total net assets for the prior period balance sheet dated 31 March 2023 remain at £110,000, but have been redistributed across assets and liabilities to reflect the proper allocations to each asset or liability class as reported on ANL's balance sheet.

This share of the company's profit is included in the net expenditure position in the Council's CIES for property services along with the total management fee paid to the company and the contract discount:

2022/23	Norse net management fee included in CIES	2023/24
£'000		£'000
760	Management fee	844
(81)	Less contract discount	(11)
679	Net management fee	833
(110)	Less Joint Operation profit allocation	(17)
569	Total	816

2f. Prior Period Adjustment

As described in note 2e, the total net assets relating to the consolidation of the Council's share of ANL balance sheet for the prior period balance sheet dated 31 March 2023 remain at £110,000. However they have now been redistributed across assets and liabilities to properly reflect the allocations to each asset or liability class as reported on ANL's balance sheet dated 31 March 2023. The impact on the Council's brought forward balance sheet is shown in the table below as well as on each impacted note:

Published	Change	Restated	
31 March 2023	Alliance Norse	31 March 2023	
£000		£000	
34,515	183	34,698	Property, Plant & Equipment
49,615	183	49,798	TOTAL LONG TERM ASSETS
3,383	900	4,283	Short Term Debtors
9,658	(88)	9,570	Cash and Cash Equivalents
20,585	812	21,397	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS
(6,641)	(827)	(7,468)	Short Term Creditors
(10,437)	(827)	(11,264)	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES
(48)	(168)	(216)	Other Long Term Liabilities
(13,008)	(168)	(13,176)	TOTAL LONG TERM LIABILITIES
46,755	0	46,755	TOTAL NET ASSETS

Following a review of IFRIC 14, the Council was required to make a Prior Period adjustment

Published	IFRIC 14	Restated	
31 March 2023		31 March 2023	
£000	£000	£000	
(7,357)	(2,712)	(10,069)	Pensions Liability
(13,008)	(2,712)	(15,720)	TOTAL LONG TERM LIABILITIES
46,755	(2,712)	44,043	TOTAL NET ASSETS
31,018	(2,712)	28,306	Unusable Reserves
46,755	(2,712)	44,043	TOTAL RESERVES

3. Corporate income and expenditure

The following notes consider transactions included in the CIES in more detail:

3a. Other operating expenditure

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
1,477	Parish Council Precepts	1,559
(21)	Capital Receipts	(82)
34	Derecognition and Disposal Value of Fixed Assets	144
1,490	Total	1,621

3b. Financing and investment income and expenditure

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
147	Interest payable and similar charges	179
782	Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	412
(765)	Interest receivable and similar income*	(1,201)
(428)	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	(427)
(264)	Total	(1,037)

3c. Taxation and non-specific grant income & expenditure

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
(7,376)	Council Tax Income	(7,485)
(1,655)	Retained Business Rates	(1,850)
(3,124)	Non ringfenced government grants	(3,753)
(32)	Capital grants and contributions	(3,393)
(12,187)	Total	(16,481)

3d. Grant income

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
	Non ringfenced government grants	
(620)	Central Government support grants	(3,050)
(2,504)	Business Rates grants	(703)
(3,124)		(3,753)
(32)	Capital grants and contributions	(3,393)

	Capital grants applied to CIES	
(1,774)	Disabled Facilities Grant	(1,774)
(121)	Capital grants	(83)
(1,895)		(1,857)
	Grants Credited to Services	
(10,019)	Housing Benefit	(10,611)
(78)	Central Government support grants	(243)
(500)	New Burdens and capacity funding	(494)
(383)	Other third party funds	(934)
(10,980)		(12,282)
(12,875)	Total grants applied to CIES	(14,139)

3e. Grants: authority as an agent

During 2023/24 the Council continued to administer grants on behalf of central government to facilitate support to local businesses and residents, for which the eligibility criteria and grant award amounts were prescribed by central government. Therefore, under accounting practice, the Council has acted as an agent in delivering these grant schemes, rather than a principal where the Council has a degree of control or discretion in grant awards. Where the Council acted as an agent in delivering grants, the balance of any funding received to deliver these grants is included in the balance sheet as a creditor where there are future grants to be awarded or surplus funding to be returned to central government upon closure of the grant scheme. These grants are summarised below:

1 April 2023	Grants - Authority as Agent	2023/24 Grants/ (Repayments)	2023/24 Funding Movement (Receipts)/ Repayments	31 March 2024 Debtor/ (Creditors) Balance Carried Forward
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
(21)	Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLGF)	7		(14)
(5)	Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) Closed	5		0
(1)	Christmas support payment		1	0
(4)	Closed Business Lockdown Payment (CBLP)	4		0
(378)	Energy Support Grant	81	297	0
(55)	Covid 19 Isolation Scheme	55		0
(464)		152	298	(14)

4. Retirement benefits

The following notes consider the impact of accounting for retirement benefits on the Council's statement of accounts in more detail.

4a. Participation in pension scheme

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its employees, the Council offers retirement benefits through membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Council has a commitment to make the payments at such time when employees earn their future entitlements. The Council is a member of the Staffordshire County Pension Fund, which is administered by Staffordshire County Council in accordance with the LGPS Regulations 1997. Overall strategy for the Fund is set by the Pensions Committee, which also monitors performance and administers the scheme. The appointment of investment managers is the responsibility of the Pensions Panel. Both bodies are made up of elected members. Further information can be found in Staffordshire County Council's Superannuation Fund's Annual Report, which is available upon request from the Pension Services Section, 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford ST16 2DH or via the Fund's website (www.staffspf.org.uk).

The Scheme is referred to as a 'Defined benefit' and 'Funded' scheme:

Defined benefit: the levels of benefit retiring members receive is based on their pay history and length of service.

Funded: a pension fund of investments is built up from employee and employer contributions to generate income streams out of which retirement benefits are paid. The Council pays contributions to the pension fund sufficient to ensure that it can meet future payment obligations. These contributions are set on rates that are determined by Hymans Robertson LLP, the pension fund's professionally qualified and independent actuaries, and are based on triennial valuations of the fund. The Fund was last revalued as at 31 March 2022 and this set the required employer contribution rates for the three years commencing 1 April 2023. As the Fund is effectively underwritten by the employers, any deterioration in performance can have serious long term financial consequences for the Council. Steps have been taken nationally to mitigate this risk to the local taxpayer, by reforming the LGPS and introducing a greater element of future cost sharing between the scheme employers and the scheme beneficiaries. A legal challenge to these reforms is on-going (see section 4g below).

4b. Transactions relating to retirement benefits

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge the Council is required to make against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/ retirement benefits is reversed out of the general fund via the MIRS. The following transactions have been made in the CIES and the General Fund Balance via the MIRS during the year:

Published	Restated		
2022/23	2022/23	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	2023/24
£000	£000		£000
(2,120)	(2,120)	Current service cost	(1,282)
		<i>Net Interest</i>	
(2,849)	(2,849)	Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	(3,702)
2,067	2,067	Interest income on plan assets	3,418
		'Interest on the effect of the asset ceiling	(129)
(2,902)	(2,902)	Total post employment benefit charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the provision of services	(1,695)
		<i>Remeasurements</i>	
1,799	1,799	Changes in demographic assumptions	458
35,812	35,812	Changes in financial assumptions	3,547
(11,161)	(11,161)	Other experience	(2,368)
(3,476)	(3,476)	Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	5,631
0	(2,712)	Changes in asset ceiling	(12,576)
22,974	20,262	Total Remeasurement	(5,308)
20,072	17,360	Total post employment benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	(7,003)
		<i>Movement in Reserve Statement</i>	
2,902	2,902	Reversal of net charges made to the surplus or deficit for the provision of services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	1,695
		<i>Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:</i>	
981	981	Employers contributions payable to the scheme	3,946

The CIES shows the net cost of the defined pension benefit liability as being £5,239,000. This figure takes into account the actual payments made to the fund during the year. This differs from the pension disclosures in note 4, which include the estimated employer pension contributions used by the Actuary in preparing the IAS19 report. The table below reconciles this difference and provides further detail:

Difference on Remeasurement of net defined benefit liability compared	2023/24	
	£000	£000
CIES Remeasurement of net defined benefit liability		5,239

Pensions - Total post employment benefit charged to services (above)	(1,695)	
Pensions - Total post employment benefit charged to CI&E (above)	7,003	5,308
Difference on CIES compared with Note 4		69
<u>Employer Contributions to Fund:</u>		
Actuarial estimate for IAS19 purposes		3,946
Actual contributions accounted for in 2023/24	2,277	
less 'prepaid' lump sum deficit payment	1,729	
		4,006
Difference on Estimation		(60)

4c. Assets and liabilities in relation to retirement benefits

The pension liability reported on the balance sheet shows the Council's projected liability on its share of the Staffordshire Pension Fund. This represents the underlying commitment to pay retirement benefits in the long run. It is a net figure comprising the following overall assets and liabilities for the Council's share of the scheme.

Published	Restated		£000
31 March 2023	31 March 2023	Staffordshire Moorlands DC share of Pension Fund assets and liabilities	31 March 2024
£000	£000		£000
71,303	71,303	Estimated assets in the scheme	81,672
(78,660)	(81,372)	Estimated liabilities in the scheme	(94,669)
(7,357)	(10,069)	Net defined benefit obligation asset/ (liability)	(12,997)
		Comparison with pension reserve:	
(7,357)	(10,069)	Pension Reserve (Note 13c)	(14,726)
0	0	Difference	(1,729)

The £2.928million increase in the net liability reflects the position after adjustment is made for the effects of an asset ceiling. It recognizes that, where a surplus position arises out of an actuarial valuation; there is no unconditional right to a refund from the Fund and therefore -an economic benefit to the Council should not be reflected in the Accounts. The impacts of the McCloud judgement and GMP equalisations (explained and referred to in 4g below) are reflected in the valuation. The relative movement in individual asset and liability valuations are set out in the following two tables.

Reconciliation of liabilities (obligations):

Published 31 March 2023	Restated 31 March 2023	Year Ended	31 March 2024
£000	£000		£000
105,938	105,938	Opening defined benefit obligation	81,372
2,120	2,120	Current service cost	1,282
2,849	2,849	Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	3,831
333	333	Contributions by scheme participants	385
(1,799)	(1,799)	Changes in demographic assumptions	(458)
(35,812)	(35,812)	Changes in financial assumptions	(3,547)
8,175	8,175	Other experience	2,368
0	2,712	Asset Ceiling	12,576
(3,023)	(3,023)	Benefits paid	(3,014)
(121)	(121)	Unfunded benefits paid	(126)
78,660	81,372	Closing Balance at 31 March	94,669

The unfunded obligations comprise of £1,290,000 in respect of LGPS unfunded pensions

Reconciliation of fair value of employer assets:

Published 31 March 2023	Restated 31 March 2023	Year Ended	31 March 2024
£000	£000		£000
77,528	77,528	Opening fair value of employer assets	71,303
2,067	2,067	Interest on plan assets	3,418
(6,462)	(6,462)	Remeasurements	5,631
860	860	Contributions by the employer	3,949
333	333	Contributions by plan participants	385
(3,023)	(3,023)	Benefits paid	(3,014)
(121)	(121)	Unfunded benefits paid	(126)
121	121	Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits	126
71,303	71,303	Closing fair value of employer assets	81,672

The profile of the scheme's liabilities is summarised in the table below:

Profile of liabilities	Liability split
Active members	33.78%
Deferred members	20.65%
Pensioner members	45.57%
Total	100.0%

4d. Scheme History

			Published	Restated		
31-Mar-20	31-Mar-21	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	Year ended	31-Mar-24
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		£000
54,281	70,557	77,528	71,303	71,303	Estimated assets in the scheme	81,672
(88,408)	(111,322)	(105,938)	(78,660)	(81,372)	Estimated liabilities in the scheme	(94,669)
(34,127)	(40,765)	(28,410)	(7,357)	(10,069)	Surplus/ (deficit)	(12,997)

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Council has over the long term to pay retirement benefits. The total liability of £12.997million has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Council, as recorded in the balance sheet, which now stands, after accounting for these pension costs, at £38.724million. However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Council remains healthy. The deficit on the scheme will be made good by increasing contributions over the remaining working life of employees, as assessed by the scheme actuary. Employer's contributions of approximately £1.195million will be made to the Fund in 2024/25.

4e. Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about salary levels, mortality rates, etc. The scheme liabilities have been assessed by Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, with estimates of the Staffordshire Pension Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2023.

The principal assumptions used by the Actuary have been:

31 March 2023 (% per annum)	Financial assumptions	31 March 2024 (% per annum)
3.00%	Pension Increase Rate	2.80%
3.50%	Salary Increase Rate	3.30%
4.75%	Discount Rate	4.80%

31st March 2023		Mortality assumptions	31st March 2024	
Males	Females	Longevity beyond age 65	Males	Females
21.2 years	24.0 years	Current Pensioners	21.2 years	23.7 years
21.8 years	25.8 years	Future Pensioners	21.8 years	25.5 years

Commutation: An allowance is included for 65% (50% in 2022/23) of future retirements to elect to take additional tax free cash up to HMRC limits.

Asset category: The Pension Scheme's assets consist of the following categories, by proportion of the total assets held:

31 March 2023		Asset Category	31 March 2024	
Fund Value £000	Asset Distribution %		Fund Value £000	Asset Distribution %
		Equity Securities		
2,400	3	Consumer	2,212	3
1,959	3	Manufacturing	1,102	1
538	1	Energy & Utilities	503	1
2,555	4	Financial Institutions	3,001	4
2,698	4	Health & Care	2,261	3
3,103	4	Information Technology	3,612	4
		Debt Securities		
4,189	6	Corporate Bonds (investment grade)	6,080	7
		Private Equity	0	
3,533	5	All *	4,298	5
		Real Estate	0	
5,710	8	UK Property	6,029	7
		Investment Funds and Unit Trusts	0	
33,872	47	Equities	37,009	46
4,463	6	Bonds	6,409	8
26	0	Hedge Funds *	0	0
190	0	Infrastructure	3,549	4
3,272	5	Other *	4,279	5
		Cash and Cash Equivalents	0	
2,795	4	All	1,328	2
71,303	100	Totals	81,672	100

4f. Sensitivity to changes in actuarial assumptions

The assumptions made by the Actuary are subject to change between valuation dates as a result of variations in such factors as longevity, investment return, and inflation. The table below illustrates the sensitivity to such changes and the consequent impact on the employer liability:

Sensitivity Analysis - change in assumptions at 31 March 2024	Approximate % increase to Employer Liability	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2.0%	1,379
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4.0%	3,170
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0.0%	75
0.1% Increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2.0%	1,327

4g. Impact of legal and regulatory uncertainty

The McCloud Judgement relates to a legal challenge by members of the New Judicial Pension Scheme against the age-based transitional provisions put into place when new pension arrangements were introduced in 2015. The members argued that these transitional provisions were directly discriminatory on grounds of age and indirectly discriminatory on grounds of sex and race, based on the correlation between these two factors reflected in the judicial membership. The impacts of McCloud were taken into account during the last Fund valuation and have been included in the figures disclosed in this note.

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) was accrued by members of the LGPS between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997. The introduction of the new Single State Pension in April 2016 brought uncertainty over the ongoing indexation of GMPs, which could lead to inequalities between men and women's benefits. The responsibility for ensuring GMPs kept pace with inflation passed in full to pension schemes with the effect of increasing costs for LGPS employers. The impacts of GMP were taken into account during the last Fund valuation and have been included in the figures disclosed in this note.

An issue emerged in June 2023 regarding Virgin Media vs NTL pension scheme judgment. Investigations into whether this applies to the LGPS and other pension schemes are currently being considered across the public sector.

5. Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations

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

2023/24	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:					
Depreciation	(1,792)	0	0	0	1,792
Impairment / Revaluation losses charged to CIES	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment Written Back - Revaluation Gain	(345)	0	0	0	345
Movements in the fair value of Investment Properties	147	0	0	0	(147)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(42)	0	0	0	42
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(2,990)	0	0	0	2,990
Derecognition of non-current assets as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	(144)	0	0	0	144
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits	(1,696)	0	0	0	1,696
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:					
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	223	0	0	0	(223)
Capital Grants and contributions applied credited to the CIES	5,178	0	0	0	(5,178)
Capital Grants and contributions unapplied credited to the CIES	74	0	0	(74)	0
Employers contribution to pension schemes	2,277	0	0	0	(2,277)
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account (Capital Grants Unapplied Account)	0	0	0	480	(480)
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	82	0	(82)	0	0
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Use of Earmarked Capital Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	870	0	0	(870)
Amount by which council tax and business rates income credited to the CIES is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(278)	0	0	0	278
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirement	(46)	0	0	0	46
Total Adjustments	648	870	(82)	406	(1,842)

2022/23 Comparative Figures	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:					
Depreciation	(1,609)	0	0	0	1,609
Impairment Written Back - Revaluation Gain	(33)	0	0	0	33
Movements in the fair value of Investment Properties	147	0	0	0	(147)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(39)	0	0	0	39
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(1,017)	0	0	0	1,017
Derecognition of non-current assets as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	(34)	0	0	0	34
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits	(2,902)	0	0	0	2,902
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:					
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	211	0	0	0	(211)
Capital Grants and contributions applied credited to the CIES	924	0	0	0	(924)
Capital Grants and contributions unapplied credited to the CIES	1,002	0	0	(1,002)	0
Employers contribution to pension schemes	2,036	0	0	0	(2,036)
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account (Capital Grants Unapplied Account)	0	0	0	1	(1)
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	21	0	(21)	0	0
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	25	0	(25)
Use of Earmarked Capital Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	65	0	0	(65)
Amount by which council tax and business rates income credited to the CIES is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	206	0	0	0	(206)
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirement	46	0	0	0	(46)
Total Adjustments	(1,041)	65	4	(1,001)	1,973

6. Capital

6a. Property, Plant & Equipment

The table below analyses capital expenditure, disposals, revaluations, and depreciation charged on the non-current assets of the Council.

Movements in 2023/24	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets under construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation							
At April 2023	29,437	7,262	351	1,130	285	71	38,536
Prior Year Restatement	183	0	0	0	0	0	183
At April 2023	29,620	7,262	351	1,130	285	71	38,719
Additions	144	358	0	14	0	3,412	3,928
Revaluation Increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(603)	0	0	0	10	0	(593)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(975)	0	0	0	0	0	(975)
Derecognition - Disposals	0	(62)	0	0	0	0	(62)
Derecognition - Other	(144)	(51)	0	0	0	0	(195)
Other movements in Cost or Valuation	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
At 31 March 2024	28,049	7,507	351	1,144	295	3,483	40,829
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment							
At April 2023	(196)	(3,819)	0	0	(2)	0	(4,017)
Depreciation Charge	(1,158)	(634)	0	0	0	0	(1,792)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	607	0	0	0	0	0	607
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	630	0	0	0	0	0	630
Derecognition - Disposals	0	62	0	0	0	0	62
Derecognition - Other	0	51	0	0	0	0	51
At 31 March 2024	(117)	(4,340)	0	0	(2)	0	(4,459)
Net Book Value							
at 31st March 2024	27,932	3,167	351	1,144	293	3,483	36,370
at 31st March 2023 (Restatement)	29,424	3,443	351	1,130	283	71	34,702

The Property, Plant & Equipment 2022/23 comparative figures are illustrated below:

Movements in 2022/23	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets under construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation							
At April 2022	25,935	8,244	42	994	285	385	35,885
Additions	29	402	0	136	0	0	567
Revaluation Increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	3,658	0	0	0	12	0	3,670
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(189)	0	0	0	(12)	0	(201)
Derecognition - Disposals	0	(271)	0	0	0	0	(271)
Derecognition - Other	(34)	(1,113)	0	0	0	0	(1,147)
Other movements in Cost or Valuation	38	0	309	0	0	(314)	33
At 31 March 2023	29,437	7,262	351	1,130	285	71	38,536
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment							
At April 2022	(236)	(4,557)	0	0	(3)	0	(4,796)
Depreciation Charge	(963)	(647)	0	0	0	0	(1,610)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	833	0	0	0	0	0	833
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	168	0	0	0	0	0	168
Derecognition - Disposals	0	271	0	0	0	0	271
Derecognition - Other	0	1,113	0	0	0	0	1,113
At 31 March 2023	(198)	(3,820)	0	0	(3)	0	(4,021)
Net Book Value							
at 31 March 2023	29,239	3,442	351	1,130	282	71	34,515
at 31 March 2022	25,699	3,687	42	994	282	385	31,089

Depreciation

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

- Other Land & Buildings - Up to 60 years
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment - 3 to 25 years

6b. Investment properties

The following items of income and expenditure have been accounted for in the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the CIES:

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
(306)	Rental income from investment property	(315)
25	Direct operating expenses arising from investment	35
(281)	Net (gain)/loss	(280)

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

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
4,081	Balance at start of the year	4,228
147	Net gain /(loss) from fair value adjustments	147
4,228	Balance at end of year	4,375

Fair value hierarchy: All of the Council's investment property portfolio has been assessed as Level 3 (unobservable inputs) for valuation purposes. Fair values are described under the Accounting Policies section. There were no transfers between levels 1, 2 and 3 during the year. In 2023/24 the valuer carried out a desk top review of all investment properties. The level 3 fair values of investment property has been determined using the Investment Method of Valuation. The valuers have used a desktop valuation relying on data sourced from the Council's property records. Valuations have taken account of the following factors: existing lease terms and rentals taken from the tenancy schedule, independent research into market evidence including market rentals and yields, and then adjusted to reflect the nature of each business tenancy or void and the covenant strength for existing tenants. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for investment properties. The table below sets out the basis for the level 3 unobservable inputs applied in the valuation process:

Investment Properties	At 31 March 2024	Valuation Technique Used to Measure Fair Value	Unobservable Inputs	Range (weighted average used)	Sensitivity
	£'000				
Land	1,328	Market & Income Approach	Adjusted market evidence of rental lettings and sales of similar properties and investment yields	Rental range c. £2.50 to £9.50 per sqft. Investment Yields c.5.25% - 13% for buildings and land	Significant changes to the individual inputs in rental growth; vacancy levels and investment yields could affect the reported value
Building	3,047				

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.

6c. Assets held for sale

The Council does not have any non-current assets classified as assets held for sale.

6d. Valuation information

Under statute the Council carries out a rolling programme which ensures that all property measured at current value or fair value as appropriate is revalued at least every five years. In addition to this requirement, the Council now revalues all of its high value assets annually; the total value of these assets in 2024 was £22.6million. The Council's de minimis policy excludes the requirement to formally revalue assets with a current carry value of below £10,000; however, these assets are still subject to an internal desk top valuation.

All external valuations were carried out by Capita PLC, the Council's valuing agents. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The effective date of each revaluation was 31 March 2024.

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the valuations are:

- that good title can be shown, and all valid planning permissions and statutory approvals are in place,
- that the property is connected and has a right to use mains services and that sewers, main services and roads giving access to it have been adopted,
- that an inspection of those parts not inspected would not reveal defects that would affect the valuation,
- that the testing of electrical or other services would not reveal defects that would cause the valuation to alter,
- that there are no deleterious or hazardous materials or existing or potential environmental factors that would affect the valuation.

The valuation report, individual valuations and annual assessment for indications of impairment have been undertaken by Chris Wilkinson, Senior Property Surveyor, Jill Angus, Steve Jackson, Josh Mackie and Mathew Tait (Members of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and RICS Registered Valuers, all with RICS accredited BSc/MSc degree). There was no evidence of individual assets having been impaired due to fire or other event, consequently, there was no requirement for an impairment review.

Following the adoption of IFRS 13, surplus assets assessment is now made at fair value, highest and best use at level 3 under fair value hierarchy. There were no transfers between levels 1, 2 and 3 during the year. In addition to the formal 5 year valuation, these assets are reviewed by the valuer each year individually.

The table below sets out the basis for the level 3 unobservable inputs applied in the valuation process:

Surplus Assets	At 31 March 2024	Valuation Technique Used to Measure Fair Value	Unobservable Inputs	Range (weighted average used)	Sensitivity
	£'000s	Market & Income Approach	Adjusted market evidence of rental lettings and sales of similar properties and investment yields	Rental rate range c. £28,950-£160,000 per hectare	Significant changes to the individual inputs in rental growth; vacancy levels and investment yields could affect the reported value
Land	227				
Building	68				

Vehicles, plant, furniture, and equipment are carried at depreciated historic cost as a proxy for current value.

The Table below shows the profile of valuations supporting the gross book value reported as at 31 March 2024.

	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Equipment	Surplus Assets	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Carried at Historic cost		7,507		351	1,144	3,483	12,485
Valued at Current Value at:							
31 March 2024	21,857		295				22,152
31 March 2023	600						600
31 March 2022	3,586						3,586
31 March 2021							0
31 March 2020	2,006						2,006
Total	28,049	7,507	295	351	1,144	3,483	40,829

6e. Capital expenditure and financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year was £6.588million as shown in the table below together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the Council, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) – this is a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Council that has yet to be financed.

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
10,272	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	10,680
	Capital Investment	
568	Property, Plant and Equipment	3,929
49	Intangible Assets	0
1,017	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	2,990
0	Capital Service Loan - Housing (Long Term Debtor)	60
1,634		6,979
	Sources of Finance	
(25)	Capital Receipts	0
(925)	Government grant and other contributions	(6,048)
	Sums set aside from Revenue:	
(65)	Capital Reserves	(870)
(211)	Minimum Revenue Provision/ Loans Fund principal	(223)
(1,226)		(7,142)
10,680	Closing Capital Financing requirements	10,517
	Explanation of movements in year	
619	Increase in underlying need to borrow	60
(211)	Minimum Revenue Provision	(223)
408	Increase /(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	(163)
1,634	Net capital investment in year excluding finance leases added to balance sheet	6,588

Minimum Revenue Provision

The Council is obliged to make an annual charge to revenue for unfinanced capital expenditure. The charge is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The requirement is based on a simple duty for an authority to make an amount of MRP, which it considers to be prudent. In 2023/24, the Council made Minimum Revenue Provision of £223,000.

6f. Information on assets held

The main assets held by the Council are:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
No.		No.
3	Town Halls and Council Offices	3
3	Markets	3
2	Industrial Estates	2
13	Public Conveniences	13
1	Depots	1
3	Leisure Centres	3
2	Cemeteries	2
1	Museums	1
28	Total	28

6g. Construction contracts and capital commitments

At 31 March 2024, the Council had entered into contracts for the construction or enhancement of property, plant and equipment in 2023/24 and future years budgeted to cost £5.6 million. Similar commitments at 31 March 2023 were £0.3million. The significant increase is due to the government's Levelling Up Fund. Further contracts relating to this award will be made in 2024/25. The major commitments are:

Scheme	Estimated Values	Period Investment will Take Place
	£000	
Leek Markets (Levelling up project)	2,848	2024/25
Brough Park Leisure Centre (Levelling up project)	972	2024/25
Nicholson Institute (Levelling up project)	1,348	2024/25
Biddulph Leisure Centre (Public Sector Decarbonisation Project)	496	2024/25
Total	5,664	

6h. Assets held under leases - authority as the lessor:

Operating Leases

The Council leases out a number assets under operating leases. The Council acts as a lessor of commercial property, shops, and market stalls. Income from these sources in 2023/24 totalled £0.434million (£0.444million in 2022/23).

The future minimum lease payments receivable at current rental levels under operating leases in future years are:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
96	Not later than one year	109
231	Later than one year and not later than five years	333
345	Later than five years	516
672	Total	958

7. Cash and cash equivalents

Published 31 March 2023	Restated 31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000	£000		£000
3,973	3,885	Bank Current Accounts	2,334
4,662	4,662	Money Market Funds	5,472
1,023	1,023	Short-Term Deposits	1,035
9,658	9,570	Cash and cash equivalents current assets	8,841
0	0	Bank Overdraft	0
9,658	9,570	Total cash and cash equivalents	8,841

8. Debtors

An analysis of the bodies and individuals owing money to the Council is as below:

Published 31 March 2023	Restated 31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000	£000		£000
207	207	Central Government bodies	920
536	536	Other Local Authorities	634
3,693	4,593	Other entities and individuals	4,119
(1,053)	(1,053)	LESS Impairment Allowances	(906)
3,383	4,283	Total Short Term Debtors	4,767

An analysis of the impairment allowances by class of debtor being:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
(175)	Non Domestic Rates Payers	(101)
(49)	Community Charge Payers	(49)
(263)	Council Tax Payers	(272)
(542)	Housing Benefits	(450)
(24)	General Fund Services	(34)
(1,053)	Total Impairment Allowances	(906)

Long term debtors

Debtors due over a period of longer than twelve months are classified as long-term debtors on the balance sheet. At 31 March 2024, these consist of the £10million Capital Loan – Service Investment (Housing) to Your Housing Limited; and small balances on car loans, and local loans.

The purpose of the £10million loan to Your Housing Limited is to support the maintenance of and provision of affordable housing within the Staffordshire Moorlands District. The loan has a maturity period of 10 years, repayable in February 2032; and is charged interest at a fixed rate of 3.07% (made up of the Public Works Loan Board Fixed Maturity Standard Rate on the day of drawdown 2.27% plus a premium of 0.80%), and is payable semi-annually. Under the Financial Covenants of the agreement, the value of the loan is secured fully against the borrower's charged properties and the Council is assured that the ratio of EBITDA (Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciated and amortisation) to Net Interest Payable in the borrower's accounts in respect of each financial year is not less than 1.1:1. Balances at the end of the year were as follows:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
10,047	Capital Loan (Service Investment Housing) to Your Housing Ltd	10,047
0	Car Loans	10
5	Local Loans	65
10,052	Long Term Debtors	10,122

9. Creditors

An analysis of the bodies and individuals to whom the Council owes money is as below:

Published	Restated		
31 March 2023	31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000	£000		£000
(2,315)	(2,315)	Central Government bodies	(3,290)
(2,075)	(2,075)	Other Local Authorities	(726)
(2,251)	(3,078)	Other entities and individuals	(4,723)
(6,641)	(7,468)	Short Term Creditors	(8,739)

10. Provisions

A provision is made based on the best estimate of the potential liability arising from future backdated changes to the NNDR rating list, including appeals against rateable values

lodged with the Valuation Office Agency. The liability is shared with all preceptors in the same proportions as retained Business Rates (50% central government, 40% billing Authority (the Council), 9% Staffordshire County Council, 1% Staffordshire Fire Authority).

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£'000	NDR appeals provision (Billing Authority Share)	£'000
(496)	Provision Brought Forward	(758)
134	Charges to provision during the year	35
(396)	(Increase)/ decrease in provision	27
(758)	Provision Carried Forward	(696)

11. Capital grants received in advance

The Council has received several grants, contributions and donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies or property to be returned to the grantor:

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
(444)	Balance at 1 April	(999)
	Grants Received in year:	
(259)	S106 Planning obligations	(422)
(416)	Other Grants	(935)
0	Grants Transferred	341
120	Applied to CIES	84
(999)	Balance at 31 March	(1,931)

12. Usable reserves

This note sets out the amounts included in Usable Reserves. The Council's revenue reserves are held as a contingency, ring-fenced, or earmarked for specific purposes.

Balance at 1 April 2022	Transfer s out 2022/23	Transfer s In 2022/23	Balance at 31 March 2023		Transfer s out 2023/24	Transfer s in 2023/24	Balance at 31 March 2024
£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
3,689	(1,505)	724	2,908	General Fund Contingency Reserve	(1,071)	853	2,690
907	(907)	116	116	Business Rates (S31) Earmarked	(116)		0
264	(250)		14	Covid-19 support	(68)	54	0
				General Fund Earmarked Reserves:			
			0	ANL		130	130
			0	AES		295	295
		1,000	1,000	Capital schemes	(870)		130
600			600	Levelling Up			600
600			600	Covid 19	(600)		0
31	(8)		23	S106 commuted sums	(8)		15
218			218	Business rates pool contingency			218
339			339	Insurance			339
100			100	Local Development Framework			100
545			545	Economic regeneration			545
300		100	400	Future leisure provision	(154)		246
492			492	Efficiency & rationalisation			492
75		25	100	Voluntary sector emergency	(18)		82
50		3	53	Community match funding			53
50	(50)		0	Vehicle & fuel			0
80			80	Localising council tax benefit	(57)		23
53			53	Planning appeals			53
450	(8)	308	750	IT strategy & infrastructure	(85)	85	750
50	(50)	50	50	Organisational development	(45)		5
250			250	Inflationary pressures	(250)		0
143	(16)	25	152	Elections	(123)		29
250	(60)	110	300	Climate change			300
52			52	AES vehicle maintenance			52
		60	60	Tree safety			60
		14	14	Corporate plan	(14)		0
		33	33	Community match funding			33
872	(210)	99	761	Unused third party funds	(110)	560	1,211
5,600	(402)	1,827	7,025	Total Earmarked Reserves	(2,334)	1,070	5,761

				Capital Reserves:			
4	(24)	20	0	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve		82	82
4,673	(1)	1,002	5,674	Capital Grants Unapplied	(872)	74	4,876
4,677	(25)	1,022	5,674	Total Capital Reserves	(872)	156	4,958
15,137	(3,089)	3,689	15,737	Total Usable Reserves	(4,461)	2,133	13,409

General fund contingency reserve: temporarily holds balances to be fed back into the short term budgetary process.

Business rates (s31) ring-fenced: central government compensates local authorities for the cost of business rates reliefs, including retail relief and supporting small businesses. The grant to local authorities is recorded in year in the general fund, whereas the relief awarded impacts on the collection fund deficit to be distributed in future year where reliefs were not anticipating at the point of budget setting. In this situation grant funds are put aside from the general fund at the end of the year to be drawn down in future years to offset the impact of the collection fund deficit distribution.

Covid-19 support ringfenced: balance of unallocated discretionary funding for covid grant schemes.

General Fund earmarked reserves are established on a short term basis and provide funds for Council initiatives:

- ANL and AES: the Council's share of the balance sheet reserves held by the joint operation companies (Note 2: Interests in other companies)
- Capital schemes: earmarked to provide funding for the Council's Capital Strategy
- Levelling Up: support for the Council's bids to central government
- Covid 19: support for the impact on the Council and the cost of recovery
- S106: the balance of commuted sums received under section 106 agreements
- Business rates pool contingency fund: to support the business rates retention levels in the event of safety net requirements
- Insurance fund: to support any residual MMI liabilities (note 15), to meet the costs of claims which fall below a minimum claim level or for a peril that is uninsured, or to fund risk management activity per the Council's risk management strategy
- Local Development Framework: to support the implementation of the local plan
- Economic regeneration: to support future regeneration in the district
- Future leisure: to support the ongoing leisure transformation projects
- Efficiency and rationalisation: to enable delivery of the efficiency programme
- Voluntary sector emergency: to support significant need in the sector
- Community: to support community needs in the district
- Vehicle & fuel: to support fluctuations in related costs
- Localising council tax benefit: to support the cost of introducing the current scheme

- Planning appeals: to support significant planning appeal costs
- IT strategy & infrastructure: to support the costs of implementing the strategy
- Organisational development: to support the costs of implementing the strategy
- Inflationary pressures: to smooth the effect of volatile or significant inflation
- Elections: to spread the costs of elections over a full term
- Climate change: to support delivery of climate change projects
- AES vehicle maintenance: to smooth fluctuations in costs impacted by the age profile of the fleet
- Tree safety: to support significant costs associated with tree safety
- Corporate plan: to cover costs of development
- Community match funding: to support partner organisations in financial difficulty
- Unused third party funds: the balance of grants and contributions from third parties at the year end to be used for the specific purposes for which they were awarded

13. Unusable Reserves

The total unusable reserves included on the balance sheet are shown in the table below:

Published	Restated			
31 March 2023	31 March 2023		Note	31 March 2024
£000	£000			£000
17,558	17,558	Revaluation Reserve	13a	16,752
21,298	21,298	Capital Adjustment Account	13b	24,093
(7,357)	(10,069)	Pensions Reserve	13c	(14,726)
(368)	(368)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	13d	(646)
(113)	(113)	Accumulated Absences Account		(158)
31,018	28,306	Total Unusable Reserves		25,315

13a. Revaluation Reserve

The revaluation reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment and intangible assets. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost, used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or disposed of and the gains are realised.

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

31 March 2023	Revaluation Reserve		31 March 2024
£000			£000
13,656	Balance at 1 April		17,558
4,690	Upward revaluations of assets	1,638	
(186)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(1,624)	
4,504	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services		14
(602)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(820)	
(602)	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account		(820)
17,558	Balance at 31 March		16,752

13b. 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 CIES (with reconciling postings from the revaluation reserve to convert current value figures to an historic cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

2022/23	Capital Adjustment Account	2023/24	
£000		£000	
22,055	Balance at 1 April		21,298
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the CIES:		
(1,609)	Charges for depreciation of non current assets	(1,792)	
(33)	Impairment Revaluation Losses	(345)	
(39)	Amortisation of intangible assets	(42)	
(1,017)	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(2,990)	
(34)	Derecognition of non current assets part of the gain/loss	(144)	
(2,732)			(5,313)
602	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve		819
(2,130)	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year		(4,494)
	Capital financing applied in the year:		
25	Use of capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	
924	Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	5,178	
1	Applications of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grant Unapplied Account	871	
211	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	223	
65	Use of Earmarked Capital Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	870	
1,226			7,142
147	Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the CIES		147
21,298	Balance at 31 March		24,093

13c. Pensions reserve

The pensions reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the CIES as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating

the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require any benefits earned to be financed as the employer makes contributions to the pension fund (or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible). The balance on the pensions reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

Published	Restated		
2022/23	2022/23	Pension Reserve	2023/24
£000	£000		£000
(29,465)	(29,465)	Balance at 1 April	(10,069)
22,974	20,262	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability	(5,308)
(2,902)	(2,902)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES	(1,626)
2,036	2,036	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	2,277
(7,357)	(10,069)	Balance at 31 March	(14,726)

13d. Collection fund adjustment account

The collection fund adjustment account manages the differences arising from the recognition of council tax and business rates income in the CIES as it falls due from council tax payers and business rates payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the general fund from the collection fund.

2022/23	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	2023/24
£000		£000
(574)	Balance at 1 April	(368)
206	Amount by which council tax and business rates income credited to the CIES is different from council tax and business rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(278)
(368)	Balance at 31 March	(646)

14. Financial instruments

14a. Categories of financial instruments

Under accounting requirements, the carrying value of the financial instruments value is shown in the balance sheet which includes the principal amounts borrowed or lent and accrued interest. The Council's assets and liabilities are classified under fair value through

profit and loss and amortised cost and are separated between current and non-current assets and liabilities where the payments or receipts are due within or beyond one year.

Published			Restated						
31 March 2023			31 March 2023			31 March 2024			
Non-current	Current	Total	Non-current	Current	Total		Non-current	Current	Total
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
						Financial assets carried at fair value through profit and loss			
	4,662	4,662		4,662	4,662	Money Market Funds		5,472	5,472
						Financial assets carried at amortised cost			
	4,996	4,996		4,908	4,908	Cash deposits		3,370	3,370
	7,465	7,465		7,465	7,465	Fixed term deposits		5,641	5,641
	2,657	2,657		3,556	3,556	Trade debtors *		2,530	2,530
10,052		10,052	10,052		10,052	Long term debtors	10,122		10,122
10,052	19,780	29,832	10,052	20,591	30,643	Total financial assets	10,122	17,013	27,135
						Financial liabilities carried at amortised cost			
(4,604)	(3,038)	(7,642)	(4,604)	(3,038)	(7,642)	Fixed term borrowing	(4,604)	(3,084)	(7,688)
	(2,147)	(2,147)		(2,954)	(2,954)	Trade creditors*		(5,104)	(5,104)
(48)	(4)	(52)	(215)	(24)	(239)	Other liabilities	(203)		(203)
(4,652)	(5,189)	(9,841)	(4,819)	(6,016)	(10,835)	Total financial liabilities	(4,807)	(8,188)	(12,995)

* Trade Debtors / Creditors vary from the Balance Sheet values as statutory debtors of £3.144m (£1.780m 22/23), the bad debt provision of £0.906m (£1.053m 22/23), and statutory creditors of £3.636m (£4.490m 22/23) are excluded.

Reclassification: There has been no reclassification of financial assets or liabilities during the year.

Fair Value: Basis for recurring fair value measurements:

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

Fair Value of Financial Assets: Some of the Council'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:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024			
Carrying amount	Fair value	Financial assets carried at fair value through profit and loss	Fair value hierarchy	Carrying amount	Fair value

£000				£000	
4,662	4,662	Money Market Funds	Level 2	5,472	5,472

There were no transfers between input levels 1 and 2 during the year and there has been no change in the valuation technique used during the year. Because of the instant access and low volatility net asset value nature of the money market funds, fair value equals carrying value.

Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities that are not measured at Fair Value (but for which Fair Value disclosures are required): Except for the financial assets carried at fair value (described in the table above), all other financial assets and liabilities represented by amortised cost and long-term debtors and creditors are carried in the balance sheet at amortised cost. Their fair values can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that take place over the remaining life of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- Where an instrument has a maturity of less than 12 months or is a trade or other debtor or creditor the fair value is taken to be the carrying amount or the billed amount.
- For loans from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), new borrowing rates from the PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB redemption procedures.
- For other market debt and investments, prevailing market rates have been used to provide the fair value, i.e. the rate available for an instrument with the same terms from a comparable lender.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised.
- For the valuation and disclosure of fair values of financial assets and liabilities the rates quoted were obtained from Link Asset Services (the Council's Advisors) using Level 2 Valuations.
- There has been no change in the valuation technique used during the year for financial instruments.
- There were no transfers between input levels 1 and 2 during the year.

Published		Restated				31 March 2024	
31 March 2023		31 March 2023					
Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value	Financial assets carried at amortised cost	Fair value hierarchy	Carrying amount	Fair value
£000		£000				£000	
4,996	4,996	4,908	4,908	Cash deposits		3,370	3,370
7,465	7,465	7,465	7,465	Fixed term deposits	Level 2	5,641	5,641
2,657	2,657	3,556	3,556	Trade debtors		2,530	2,530
10,052	10,052	10,052	10,052	Long-term debtors		10,122	10,122
25,170	25,170	25,981	25,981	Total		21,663	21,663
				Financial liabilities carried at amortised cost			
(7,642)	(6,899)	(7,642)	(6,899)	Fixed term borrowing	Level 2	(7,688)	(6,917)
(2,147)	(2,147)	(2,954)	(2,954)	Trade creditors		(5,104)	(5,104)
(52)	(52)	(239)	(239)	Other liabilities		(203)	(203)
(9,841)	(9,098)	(10,835)	(10,092)	Total		(12,995)	(12,224)

The fair value of the liabilities is £0.771million less than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes two fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is less than the rates available for similar loans at the balance sheet date. This shows a notional future gain (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2024) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders below current market rates.

The Council has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) rather than from markets. The fair value of the PWLB loans in comparison to the carrying value on the balance sheet measures the estimated economic effect of the terms that would be offered for market transactions undertaken at the balance sheet date compared with the existing terms agreed with the PWLB. The difference between the fair value and the carrying amount represents the notional additional interest that the Council will pay over the remaining terms of the loans against what would be paid if the loans were at prevailing rates. The fair value is measured using the new borrowing rates available from the PWLB. On this basis, the fair value of the PWLB loans with a carrying amount of £4.6million would be £3.8million. However, if the Council were to seek to avoid the notional 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 would not be paid. The exit price for the PWLB loans including the penalty charge would be £4.1million.

14b. Income, expense, gains and losses

The total gains and losses recognised in the CIES in relation to financial instruments are illustrated below. The figures include the interest receivable and payable on investments and borrowings. Because of the instant access and low volatility net asset value nature of

the money market funds measured at fair value through profit and loss, there is zero gain or loss to be recognised in the CIES aside from the interest receivable.

2022/23			2023/24	
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	Other comprehensive income and expenditure		Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	Other comprehensive income and expenditure
£000			£000	
157		Financial assets measured at fair value through profit and loss: Interest receivable and similar income	242	
607		Financial assets measured at amortised cost: Interest receivable and similar income	959	
(147)		Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost: Interest payable and similar charges	(179)	
617	0	Total net gains/ (losses)	1,022	0

14c. Risk analysis and expected credit loss

The Council's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. Risk management within the Council is overseen by the Audit & Accounts Committee in accordance with the Risk Management Strategy approved by Cabinet.

The Council's treasury team implements the approved Treasury Management Strategy and maintains written Treasury Management Practices (TMP's) covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash. The Council also has a Treasury Management Policy in place, which defines the policies and objectives of its treasury activities. The policy statement refers to the identification, monitoring and control of risk as the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of the Council's treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on the risk implications for the Council. Exposure to financial risks is discussed in more detail below:

- **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.
- **Refinancing risk** – the possibility that the Council might be requiring to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms.
- **Market risk** – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates.

Credit Risk: Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. The risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy. The Council's credit risk management practices are set out throughout the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) including the Annual Investment Strategy. With particular regard to determining whether the credit risk of the financial instruments has increased significantly since recognition. The TMSS requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, in accordance with the Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's Credit Ratings Services. The TMSS also considers maximum amounts and time limits with a financial institution located in each category.

The Council uses the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services. This service uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies, Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's, forming the core element. However, it does not solely rely on the current credit ratings of counterparties but also uses the following as overlays: credit watches and outlooks from credit rating agencies, CDS spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings, and sovereign ratings to select counterparties from countries with appropriate creditworthiness. The full TMSS was approved by Full Council in February 2023. Customers for goods and services are assessed, taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors, with individual credit limits being set in accordance with internal ratings in accordance with parameters set by the Council.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to investments in financial institutions of £17.1million cannot be assessed generally, as the risk of any institution failing to make repayments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all the Council's deposits, but there was no evidence at 31st March 2024 that this was likely to crystallise.

Amounts Arising from Expected Credit Losses (ECL)

Investments at Amortised Cost	ECL Test	ECL Category	ECL Value at 31 Mar 2023	ECL Value at 31 Mar 2024	Increase/ (decrease) in ECL
			£000	£000	
Investments at Fair Value through profit and loss					
Money Market Funds	Historic Risk of Default	12 month Expected Credit losses	0	0	0
Investments at amortised cost					
Trade receivables/ contract assets no financing: Trade Debtors non-statutory Bad Debt provision	Simplified Model	Lifetime Expected Credit Losses - simplified approach	566	484	(82)
Deposits with banks/ financial institutions	Historic Risk of Default	12mth Expected Credit Losses	0.001136	0.000748	(0.000388)
Loans					
Capital Service Loan - Housing	Assessment of credit risk	12m Expected Credit losses	0	0	0
Car Loans	Collective Assessment	12m Expected Credit losses	0	0	0
Parish Council Loan	Assessment of credit risk	12m Expected Credit losses	0	0	0
Total			566	484	(82)

Liquidity risk

Investments: The Council manages its liquidity position through the risk management procedures including the setting and approval of prudential indicators and the approval of the TMSS as well as through a comprehensive cash flow management system, as required by the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when needed. The Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets to cover any day to day cash flow need, and the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) and money markets for longer-term funds. The Council is also required to provide a balanced budget through the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is therefore no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

Refinancing & maturity risk: The Council maintains a debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered against the refinancing risk procedures, longer-term risk to the Council relates to managing the exposure of replacing financial instruments as they mature. The risk relates to both the maturing of longer term financial liabilities and longer term financial assets. The maturity structure of fixed term

financial assets at the start date and at the balance sheet date of these instruments is shown in the table below:

31st March 2023 Carrying amount	Average Interest Rate	Type	31st March 2024 Carrying amount	Average Interest Rate
£000			£000	
7,400	4.16%	Fixed Term Investments & Notice Accounts	5,500	5.55%
Original maturity profile				
7,400	4.16%	Less than 365 days	5,500	5.55%
		Greater than 365 days		
Remaining maturity profile				
7,400	4.16%	Less than 365 days	5,500	5.55%

The Council has limits in place to ensure that a significant proportion of its borrowing does not mature for repayment at any one time in the future to reduce the financial impact of re-borrowing at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The maturity structure of financial liabilities at the start date and at the balance sheet date of these instruments is shown in the table below.

31st March 2023 Carrying amount	Average Interest Rate	Type	31st March 2024 Carrying amount	Average Interest Rate
£000			£000	
7,604	1.75%	Local Authority Fixed Term Borrowing	7,604	3.50%
Original maturity profile				
		Less than 1 Year	3,000	5.70%
3,000	1.25%	Between 1 and 5 Years		
4,604	2.07%	Between 5 and 10 Years	4,604	2.07%
Remaining maturity profile				
3,000	1.25%	Less than 1 Year	3,000	5.70%
		Between 1 and 5 Years		
4,604	2.07%	Between 5 and 10 Years	4,604	2.07%

Market risk: The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowing and investments. Movements in interest rates can have a complex impact on the Council. For example, a rise in interest rates would have the following effect:

- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the CIES would increase.

- Investment at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall (no impact on revenue balances or the balance sheet as all investments carried at carrying value).
- Borrowing at fixed rates – the fair value of the borrowing will fall (no impact on revenue balances or the balance sheet as held at amortised cost).

The Council carries out its borrowing and investment function within the parameters set in its TMSS, which establishes interest rate exposure. The Council uses the services of a Treasury Advisor, who issue regular interest rate forecasts to aid decision making when placing investments and setting the annual investment income budget for the following year. Forecasts are updated and reported to the Audit & Accounts Committee, which allows any significant changes in interest rates to be reflected in current budget projections. At 31 March 2024, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be:

	£000
Impact on Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure: Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(123)
Increase in Fair Value of Fixed Rate Borrowing	247

The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above but with the movements being reversed.

Price risk: The Council does not invest in equity shares and is therefore not exposed to losses arising from movements in the prices of shares.

Foreign exchange risk: The Council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies and thus no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

15. Contingent liabilities and assets

The disclosures made here are based on the IAS37 definitions of contingent assets and liabilities quoted in the Code:

- a possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the organisation's control; or
- a present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognised because:
 - it is not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, or
 - the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Contingent liabilities

Municipal Mutual Insurance – scheme of arrangement

Prior to 1992 the Council was insured by Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI). When MMI ceased accepting new business in 1992/93 the Council was entered into a Scheme of Arrangement (SOA) under Section 425 of the Companies Act 1985. The SOA was triggered on 13 November 2012 following the conclusion of long running legal proceedings. From that date Ernst & Young LLP became responsible for the management of the company's business, affairs and assets. An initial levy of 15% (£9,292) was paid in 2013/14. The levy was reviewed in 2015 with the result that a further payment equivalent to 10% (£8,059) was paid in 2016/17. An annual review of the levy rate is required under the terms of the Scheme and this could lead to the rate being further amended in future, either up or down.

Under the terms of the SOA, the Council now must meet 25% of any new insurance settlements, relating to its claims, made by MMI. A further £5,335 has been paid in this way since these arrangements were put in place. An earmarked Insurance reserve, with a balance of £338,580, is available to mitigate the financial pressure created by the MMI levy and any other uninsured losses, which might occur in the future. At 31 March 2023, the Council's amount subject to levy under the SOA stood at £90,747, unchanged from 2022/23.

Contingent assets

There are no contingent assets.

16. Events after the balance sheet date

The unaudited Statement of Accounts were authorised for issue on 30th May 2024, by Martin Owen, Executive Director (Chief Finance Officer).

Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2024, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information. Events after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Enquiries with the Council's Senior Management Team have confirmed that there are no other outstanding legal issues, insurance claims or ombudsman complaints, which are likely to have a significant impact on these financial statements.

Inflationary pressures: The impact of the current economic climate of high inflation and volatile and increasing interest rates on the Council's financial situation continues to be assessed and is incorporated into the Medium Term Financial Plan accordingly. The

ongoing impact is emerging and cannot be fully quantified at this point. The Council has concluded that this does not require any adjustment of the 2023/24 Statements.

Alliance Leisure Ltd: On the 1st October, the Council and High Peak Borough Council have set up a new company to manage the leisure & wellbeing centres.

17. Cash flow statement

This note provides further analysis of certain figures used in the Cash Flow Statement:

17a. Net cash flows from operating activities

Published	Restated		
2022/23	2022/23		2023/24
£'000	£'000		£'000
(1,373)	(1,373)	Net Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	(94)
		Adjust net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements	
1,609	1,609	Depreciation	1,792
67	67	Impairment and downward valuations	489
39	39	Amortisation	42
(27)	(27)	Increase/ (Decrease) in Interest Creditors	46
(9,183)	(8,356)	Increase/ (Decrease) in Creditors	12,635
(90)	(90)	(Increase) /Decrease in Interest and Dividend Debtors	(76)
155	(745)	(Increase) /Decrease in Debtors	485
0	0	(Increase) /Decrease in Inventories	(7)
1,921	1,921	Pension Liability	(2,311)
262	262	Contributions to/ (from) Provisions	(62)
(147)	(147)	Movement in Investment Property Values	(147)
(5,394)	(5,467)		12,886
		Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	
(1,926)	(1,926)	Capital Grants credited to surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(5,252)
12,100	12,100	Proceeds from the sale of short and long term investments	3,000
(21)	(21)	Proceeds from the sale of property plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(82)
10,153	10,153		(2,334)
3,386	3,313	Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	10,458

17b. Operating activities (relating to interest)

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£'000
675	Interest received	1,059
(174)	Interest paid	(87)

17c. Investing activities

Published	Restated		
2022/23	2022/23		2023/24
£'000	£'000		£'000
(794)	(809)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(3,934)
(5,000)	(5,000)	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	(1,100)
0	0	Other payments for investing activities	(112)
21	21	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	82
2,746	2,746	Other receipts from investing activities	6,482
(3,027)	(3,042)	Net cash flows from investing activities	1,418

17d. Financing activities

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
0	Cash receipts or short and long-term borrowing	3,000
276	Billing Authorities - Council Tax & NNDR Adjustment	(12,596)
(5,000)	Repayments of short and long-term borrowing	(3,009)
(4,724)	Net cash flows from financing activities	(12,605)

Supplementary statements

Collection fund account

The collection fund account is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate collection fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and distribution to local authorities and the government of council tax and non-domestic rates (also known as business rates).

2022/23				2023/24		
Council Tax	Business Rates	Total		Council Tax	Business Rates	Total
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
			Income			
(66,230)	(18,792)		Income due from council tax and business rates payers	(68,745)	(17,292)	
	5		Transitional Protection Payments		(1,666)	
			Hardship Fund Grant	(123)		
(66,230)	(18,787)	(85,017)	Total Income	(68,868)	(18,958)	(87,826)
			Expenditure			
			Preceptors			
	9,724		Central Government		9,616	
46,958	1,750		Staffordshire County Council	49,101	1,731	
8,330			Staffordshire Police Authority	8,696		
2,693	194		Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Authority	2,812	192	
7,359	7,780		Staffordshire Moorlands DC	7,414	7,692	
		84,788				87,254
			Distribution of Previous Year Surplus/ (Deficit)			
	(1,133)		Central Government		213	
392	(204)		Staffordshire County Council	658	38	
69			Staffordshire Police Authority	117		
22	(23)		Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Authority	37	4	
62	(906)		Staffordshire Moorlands DC	103	171	
		(1,721)				1,341
			Charges to the Collection Fund			
120	75		Write Offs of Uncollectable Amounts	202	138	
646	135		Increase/ (Decrease) in Impairment Allowance	(9)	(185)	
	(336)		Refunds Charged to Provision for Appeals		(88)	
	990		Increase/ (Decrease) in Provision for Appeals		(67)	
	113		Cost of Collection Allowance		113	
	0		Interest paid on refunds		4	
		1,743				108
66,651	18,159	84,810	Total Expenditure	69,131	19,572	88,703

421	(628)	(207)	Movement on Fund Balance in year	263	614	877
(633)	1,614	981	(Surplus)/ Deficit on Fund Brought Forward	(212)	986	774
(212)	986	774	(Surplus)/Deficit on Fund Carried Forward	51	1,600	1,651

Notes to the collection fund account

1. Non-domestic rates (NDR)

Central government sets the non-domestic rate multiplier and, subject to the effects of transitional arrangements, local businesses pay rates calculated by multiplying their rateable value by that amount, adjusted by any applicable reliefs or exemptions.

2022/23		2023/24
56,531,870	Total Non-Domestic Rateable Value at Year End	59,782,121
51.2p	National Non-Domestic Rate Multiplier	51.2p

2. Council tax base

Council tax income derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties that have been classified into 8 bands, based on valuations as at 1 April 1991. Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required from the collection fund by County Council, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, Fire & Rescue Authority, and this Council, and dividing this total figure by the council tax base. The council tax base for the year was calculated as follows:

Valuation band	Proportion of Band D Charge	Number of Dwellings in Valuation List		Number of Band D Equivalent Dwellings	
		2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24
Band A	6/9	9,625	9,631	4,300	4,362
Band B	7/9	10,643	10,719	6,748	6,817
Band C	8/9	10,758	10,774	8,328	8,353
Band D	9/9	6,248	6,270	5,680	5,689
Band E	11/9	4,412	4,471	4,983	5,034
Band F	13/9	2,004	2,011	2,678	2,693
Band G	15/9	775	790	1,195	1,223
Band H	18/9	33	34	39	45
Total		44,498	44,700	33,951	34,216
Deduction for non-collection				(441)	(842)
Additional properties and adjustments during the year				0	0
Council Tax Base (Band D equivalent)				33,510	33,374

3. The fund balance

Prior to the end of each year, the year-end surplus or deficit on the collection fund for both council tax and business rates is estimated in order that it can be distributed amongst the billing and precepting authorities along with the precepts for the coming year. The declaration must be made on 15 January each year for council tax and 31 January for business rates. The estimated surplus/ deficit declared for the 2022/23 year was a £915,000 surplus for council tax and a £426,000 surplus for business rates, both of which have been distributed in 2023/24.

For council tax, the estimated surplus was apportioned amongst the preceptors in proportion to the value of their respective demands and precepts made on the collection fund for 2022/23. For business rates, the estimated deficit was apportioned using the prescribed proportions of 50% (central government), 40% (billing authority, this Council), 9% (county council), and 1% (fire authority).

2022/23			2023/24		2023/24		31 March 2024	
Council Tax	Business Rates	Precepting Authorities	Council Tax Precept	Business Rates Precept	Distribution of Council Tax Estimated Surplus / (Deficit)	Distribution of Business Rates Estimated Surplus / (Deficit)	Council Tax	Business Rates
£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	8,591	Central Government		9,616		213		9,829
47,350	1,546	Staffordshire County Council	49,101	1,731	658	38	49,759	1,769
8,399		Staffordshire Police Authority	8,696		117		8,813	
2,715	171	Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Authority	2,812	192	37	4	2,849	196
58,464	10,308		60,609	11,539	812	255	61,421	11,794
5,944	6,874	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	5,855	7,692	103	171	5,958	7,863
310		Cheadle Town Council	324				324	
380		Biddulph Town Council	397				397	
173		Leek Town Council	179				179	
614		Parish Councils	659				659	
7,421	6,874		7,414	7,692	103	171	7,517	7,863
65,885	17,182	Total	68,023	19,231	915	426	68,938	19,657

During 2023/24 the collection fund account recorded an in-year deficit of £263,000 for council tax and a deficit of £614,000 for business rates. The balance at 31 March 2024 has been disaggregated for the purpose of these accounts to attribute relevant amounts

to the precepting authorities' debtor and creditor accounts and those of the billing authority (the Council) as follows:

2022/23			2023/24		31 March 2024	
Council Tax Cumulative Surplus/ (Deficit)	Business Rates Cumulative Surplus/ (Deficit)		Council Tax In Year Surplus/ (Deficit)	Business Rates In Year Surplus/ (Deficit)	Council Tax Cumulative Surplus/ (Deficit)	Business Rates Cumulative Surplus/ (Deficit)
£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000
	(492)	Central Government		(308)		(800)
27	(396)	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	(32)	(244)	(5)	(640)
150	(88)	Staffordshire County Council	(187)	(56)	(37)	(144)
27		Staffordshire Police Authority	(34)		(7)	
8	(10)	Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Authority	(10)	(6)	(2)	(16)
212	(986)	Balance at 31 March	(263)	(614)	(51)	(1,600)

The council tax cumulative surplus amounts attributable to the county council, office of the police & crime commissioner and fire & rescue authority above are shown as debtors in the 2023/24 balance sheet; the business rates cumulative deficit amounts attributable to central government, the county council and fire & rescue authority above are shown as debtors in the 2023/24 balance sheet.

4. Council tax & non-domestic rates income reported on the CIES

The CIES includes income from council tax & non-domestic rates in "Taxation and non-specific grant income & expenditure"; this is further detailed in note 3c in the Notes to the Financial Statements. A reconciliation between the income reported in the collection fund statement and notes and that shown in Note 3c follows:

2022/23 Council Tax	2022/23 Business Rates		2023/24 Council Tax	2023/24 Business Rates
£000	£000		£000	£000
		Note 3c Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income		
(7,376)		Council Tax Income	(7,485)	
	(1,655)	Non-Domestic Rates Retention		(1,850)
		Collection Fund		
(7,359)	(7,780)	SMDC Precept	(7,414)	(7,692)
(62)	906	SMDC share of (Surplus)/ Deficit Distributed in the Year	(103)	(171)
45	(251)	SMDC share of actual (Surplus)/ Deficit recorded at 31st March	32	244
	64	Contribution to Business Rates Pool*		248
	5,406	NDR Tariff**		5,521
(7,376)	(1,655)	Total	(7,485)	(1,850)

* Under the Business Rates Retention system, the NDR levy is a charge on a proportion of growth above the Business Rates Funding Baseline in the year. This is a charge to the General Fund and as such does not feature in the Collection Fund Statement. As a member of a Business Rates Pool the Council does not have to pay this levy to Central Government, but instead pays a contribution to the Staffordshire Business Rates Pool. This figure includes a refund for overpayments of contributions to the pool for previous years.

** The NDR Tariff is the difference between the NDR Baseline and the Funding Baseline, which are set by Central Government as part of the Budget. It is paid to Central Government during the year out of the General Fund and as such does not feature in the Collection Fund Statement.

5. Community charge

Outstanding arrears in respect of community charge are still being collected and these amounts are credited to the Council's general fund directly.

Accounting Policies

1. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarise the Council's transactions for a financial year and the position at the financial year-end. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Those Regulations require the Statement of Accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices.

These practices primarily comprise CIPFA's Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, applicable to the financial year, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

2. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption; they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- 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.
- The resources available are concentrated on identifying and accruing individual transactions of £10,000 and above.
- An Accumulated Absences creditor balance is maintained to reflect the value of time owed to employees for accrued holidays, TOIL (time off in lieu) and flexitime. This balance is based on an historic value subject to annual review and amendment where there have been significant changes in staff numbers or working patterns.

3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial instruments repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours.

Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than 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 a prior period adjustment.

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

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

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

5. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services, support services and trading accounts are charged an accounting estimate of the cost of holding assets during the year. This comprises:

- depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service;

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

The Authority 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 Authority in accordance with statutory guidance.

Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance [Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)], by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

6. Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable during Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled wholly within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as 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 Authority. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement to the accumulated absences account so that holiday entitlements 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 Authority to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service segment or, where applicable, to a corporate service segment at the earlier of when the Authority can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Authority recognises costs for 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 Authority to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post-Employment Benefits

Employees of the Authority are members of The Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by Staffordshire County Council.

The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Authority.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

The Staffordshire Pension Fund is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme, and is accounted for as a defined benefit scheme.

- The liabilities of the Staffordshire Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc. and projections of future earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate determined by the actuary (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds).
- The assets of the Staffordshire Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at fair value:
 - quoted securities – current bid price
 - unquoted securities – professional estimate
 - unitised securities – current bid price
 - property – market value.

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

- Service cost comprising:

- Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked.
- Past service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs.
- Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – i.e. the net interest expense for the Authority – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Remeasurements comprising:
 - The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
 - Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
 - Contributions paid to the Staffordshire 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 Authority to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards.

In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits based on cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

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

7. Events after the Reporting Period

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the Balance Sheet date 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.

8. Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

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

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

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 Authority has a policy of

spreading the gain or loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Financial Assets

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

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss (FVPL)

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 cashflows do not take the form of a basic debt instrument).

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

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

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

Expected Credit Loss Model

The Authority recognises expected credit losses on all its financial assets held at amortised cost, on either of 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 based on 12-month expected losses.

Finance Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss (FVPL)

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

Fair value measurement of financial assets

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

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

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

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

9. Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

Amounts recognised as due to the Council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset in the form of the grant or contribution are required

to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

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

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

Where the Council is acting as the Agent of a third party, by distributing grants on their behalf, those transactions are not reflected in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any debtor or creditor balance, in respect of cash received or expenditure incurred, is reported in the Balance Sheet and included in financing activities in the Cash Flow Statement.

10. Intangible Assets

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

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

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

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

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

11. Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Authority has a material interest in Alliance Environmental Services Ltd (AES) with High Peak Borough Council and Ansa; and in Alliance Norse Ltd (ANL) with High Peak Borough Council and Norse Commercial Services Ltd. These arrangements are assessed as Joint Operations therefore there is no requirement to prepare group accounts. The Council does not have interest in any other any company or entity that has the nature of a subsidiary, associate or joint venture, so has no requirement to prepare group accounts.

12. 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 Authority 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 Authority 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.

13. Inventories

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories is assigned using the First In First Out [FIFO] costing formula.

14. Investment Property

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

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

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and result in a gain for the General Fund Balance. However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

15. 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 Authority 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 Authority are added to the carrying amount of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease payments are apportioned between:

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

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

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

Operating Leases

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

The Authority as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the Authority grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the balance sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the balance sheet (whether property, plant and equipment or assets held for sale) is written off to the other operating expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the Council's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line in the comprehensive income and

expenditure statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal), matched by a lease (long-term debtor) asset in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

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

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

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

Operating Leases

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

16. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

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

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

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

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

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

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historic cost.
- surplus assets – the 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.

Where non-property assets that have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historic cost basis is used as a proxy for current value. Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years.

Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service

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

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains)
- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income 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 assessed at each year-end as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where indications exist and any possible differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and, where this is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall.

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

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

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

Depreciation

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

Depreciation is 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 – a percentage of the value of each class of assets in the Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer.
- It is not charged in the year of acquisition but a full year's depreciation is charged in the year of disposal.

Where a Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately (see Componentisation below).

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

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

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

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

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale.

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

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

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. The balance of receipts remains within the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

Componentisation

A formal Componentisation policy has been adopted in accordance with the requirements of International Reporting Standards effective from 2010/11. The policy applies to all categories of Property, Plant and Equipment which meet the following criteria:

- individual assets and groups of similar assets, whether held at historic cost or current cost, with a gross carrying value of £800,000 and above will be considered for the purposes of componentisation,
- items below this level will be disregarded as the impact upon the total cost of service is not considered material,
- assets that are above the £800,000 threshold will be 'componentised' where the cost of the component is significant in relation to the overall cost of the asset. A component will be deemed significant where it represents 20% of the total cost of the overall asset at the time of acquisition or construction and where the component element has a significantly different useful life and/or method of depreciation to the main asset.
- where assets comprise two or more components any change in overall valuation will not simply be applied to the overall asset but assigned to its component parts in accordance with any split provided by the valuer.

Derecognition

When a component is replaced or restored the old component should be "derecognised" (written off) to avoid double counting. Under the Code, derecognition is required to ensure the asset carrying values are not materially overstated. To this end the following principles will be applied when calculating derecognition values:

- General Fund Assets
 - the component does not need to have been separately identified under the above policy.
 - all spending on assets valued at over £800,000 will be considered for derecognition.
 - on assets valued at under £800,000, only capital spending greater than £160,000 (20%) will be considered for derecognition.
 - on all assets, capital spending lower than £160,000 will be treated as an enhancement without any derecognition unless it is determined that there would be no material increase in carrying value.
- Determining Derecognition Values
 - derecognition will be based on valuations of the replaced component provided by Property Services; or
 - where no valuations are readily available, replacement cost will be used, adjusted for appropriate levels of depreciation and impairment.

Note: all assets will be considered separately for an Impairment Review in accordance with the Code.

De Minimis

Where the gross value of a Property asset is £10,000 or less it is included on the Balance Sheet at its carrying value without further revaluation, depreciation or impairment. These assets are subjected to an annual internal review. Where this identifies the potential for a significant increase that would take carrying values above £10,000, a formal valuation will be triggered.

Where a Non-Property asset continues to be of economic value to the Authority but has been fully depreciated it will be recorded in the Balance Sheet at a carrying value of £0 irrespective of how many more useful years it is assessed to have.

17. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place on or before the Balance Sheet date:

- that gives the Authority a present obligation

- that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and
- where a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

If it is not clear whether an event has taken place on or before the Balance Sheet date, it is deemed to give rise to a present obligation if, taking account of all available evidence, it is more likely than not that a present obligation exists at the Balance Sheet date. The present obligation can be legal or constructive.

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

Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year. Where it becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

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

When payments are eventually made, they are charged against the provision carried in the Balance Sheet.

Contingent Liabilities

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

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

18. Reserves

Reserves equate to the residual value of the Council's assets after deducting all its liabilities. They are reported on the Balance Sheet under two categories:

Usable Reserves

The Authority sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating 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.

Unusable Reserves

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, local taxation, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Authority. They are of two kinds:

- a) those that hold unrealised gains and losses. Arising from changes in Asset or Liability valuation, where gains/ losses will only be released once the Asset/ Liability is disposed of
- b) adjustment accounts that carry a balance reflecting the timing difference between income and expenditure as recognised under accounting standards and that required under statute.

These reserves, explained in the relevant policies and Statement notes, are Revaluation Reserve [(a) capital], Capital Adjustment Account [(b) capital], Pensions Reserve [(b) employees], Accumulated Absences Account (b), Collection Fund Adjustment Account (b).

19. 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 Authority has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of Council Tax.

20. VAT

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

21. Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities held and maintained for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

The Council holds a range of Heritage Assets:

- Civic Regalia – comprises the various chains of office associated with the ceremonial functions of the Council and the office of Mayor (including deputies and consorts).
- Nicholson Collection – held on trust by the Council this collection is primarily on public display in the Nicholson Museum & Art Gallery within the Nicholson Institute in Leek.
- Civic Memorabilia – items, commemorative in nature, that have been donated to the Council.
- Legal Documents – a number of historical legal documents.
- Monuments, Memorials, Statues and Other Assets – the Council either owns or is custodian for a range of items (e.g. fountains, wells etc.) considered significant to the heritage of the district.

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.

Both the Civic Regalia and Nicholson collections are held on the Balance Sheet at Insurance Value which is based on market value. It is considered that they have an indefinite life and therefore Depreciation is not charged. The Nicholson Collection is specifically maintained and preserved in its original condition.

In addition, both collections are annually reviewed in order to establish if carrying values remain current and if impairment is required.

For security reasons, the Council does not publicly reveal precise details of either its Civic Regalia or the Nicholson Collection.

Information on cost or value is not usually held on the remaining Heritage Assets and the Council considers that the cost of obtaining valuations tends not to be commensurate with the potential benefits to the users of the Statement of Accounts. Therefore these assets are rarely included on the face of the Balance Sheet. However, an annual review of such assets is undertaken to ensure that this assumption remains valid.

22. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

Billing authorities act as agents, collecting Council Tax and Non-Domestic rates (NDR) on behalf of the major preceptors (including government for NDR) and, as principals, collecting Council Tax and NDR for themselves. Billing authorities are required by statute to maintain a separate fund (i.e. the Collection Fund) for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of Council Tax and NDR. Under the legislative framework for the Collection Fund, billing authorities, major preceptors and central government share proportionately the risks and rewards that the amount of Council Tax and NDR collected could be less or more than predicted.

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

The Council Tax and NDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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 (CIES) and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Balance Sheet included 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 payments due under the statutory arrangements will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure line in the CIES. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows.

23. Fair Value Measurement

The Authority measures some of its assets and liabilities at fair value at the end of the reporting period. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

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

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

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

The Authority uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the Council's financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

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

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

Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

24. Presentation of Items in Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure

The Authority does not have any transactions in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure which are reclassified to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and has therefore not split Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure into those items that will, or will not, be reclassified subsequently to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services when specific conditions are met.

25. Long-Term Contracts

Long-term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services with the consideration to the performance obligations satisfied based on the goods or services transferred to the service recipient during the financial year.

26. Overheads and Support Services

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

Glossary of Financial Terms

Accounting Period

This is the length of time covered by the accounts. It is normally a period of 12 months commencing 1st April. The end of the accounting period is the reporting date.

Accounting Policies

Accounting policies and estimation techniques are the principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by the Council that specify how the effects of transactions and other events are to be reflected in its financial statements.

Accruals

The accruals basis of accounting requires the non-cash effects of transactions to be reflected in the financial statements for the accounting period in which they were earned or incurred, and not in the period in which any cash is received or paid.

Actuarial Gains and Losses

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because: Events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation; or The actuarial assumptions have changed.

Amortised Cost

The amortised cost of a financial asset or financial liability is the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition minus the principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative amortisation using the effective interest method of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount and, for financial assets, adjusted for any loss allowance.

Asset

An asset is something that the Council owns that has a monetary value. Assets are either 'current' or 'non-current'. A current asset will be used by the end of the next financial year, whereas a non-current asset provides benefits for a period of more than one year.

Balance Sheet

A snapshot of the overall financial position of the Council at the reporting date.

Balances

Reserves held in Council funds at the reporting date.

Capital Adjustment Account

Provides a balancing mechanism between the cost of non-current assets consumed and the capital financing set aside to pay for them.

Capital Charges

The depreciation charge covering non-current assets used in the provision of services.

Capital Expenditure

Spend on the acquisition of non-current assets or expenditure which adds to and does not merely maintain existing assets.

Capital Receipts

Income received from the sale of capital assets, a specified proportion of which may be used to finance new capital expenditure and the remainder is set aside and may only be used for paying off debt.

Carrying Value

The value at which an asset or liability is held on the Balance Sheet.

Cash Flow Statement

This statement summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

The professional accountancy body concerned with local authorities and the public sector.

Collection Fund

Fund indicating the level of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates received by the Council and the payments which are made from these funds including precepts to central government, other authorities and the Council's own demand.

Community Assets

Assets which 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 historic buildings.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

Summarises the resources that have been generated and consumed in providing services and managing the Council during the year.

Consistency

Accounting concept applied in the preparation of the accounts, ensuring that the accounting treatment of like items within a period and from one period to the next is the same.

Contingent Assets & Liabilities

Possible asset or obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Authority.

Creditors (Payables)

Amounts owed by the Council for goods and services, where payments have not been made at the reporting date.

Current Assets

Items that can be readily converted into cash within a year.

Current Liabilities

Items due immediately or in the short-term.

Debtors (Receivables)

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

Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC)

A method of valuation which provides the current cost of replacing an asset with its modern equivalent asset less deductions for all physical deterioration and all the relevant forms of obsolescence and optimisation.

Depreciation

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

Earmarked Reserves

Reserves set aside for a specific purpose, a particular service, or type of expenditure.

Events after the Reporting Period

Events, both favourable and unfavourable, which occur between the reporting date and the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the responsible financial officer.

Extraordinary Items

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

Fair Value

The fair value of an asset is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Fees and Charges

Income arising from the provision of services.

Finance Lease

A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a non-current asset to the lessee from the lessor. Such a transfer of risks and rewards may be presumed to occur if at the inception of the lease the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any initial payment, amounts to substantially all of the fair value of the leased asset.

Financial Instrument

These are contracts that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability of another. Examples include trade payables and receivables, borrowings, investments, loans and bank deposits.

Financial Year

A period of time to which a Statement of Accounts relates. The financial year of the Council runs from 1st April to 31st March.

General Fund (GF)

The main revenue fund of a billing Authority. Day-to-day spending on services is met from the fund.

Going Concern

The accounting concept that assumes the Council will remain in operational existence for the foreseeable future. This means in particular that the income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet assume no intention to curtail significantly the scale of operations.

Government Grants

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

Heritage Asset

An asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

Impairment

The writing down in the value of an asset, owing to a change in value or use of resource.

Infrastructure Assets

Inalienable assets, expenditure on which is only recoverable by continued use of the asset created, i.e. there is no prospect of sale or alternative use. Examples of such assets are highways and footpaths.

Intangible Assets

Non-financial non-current assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled by the Authority through custom or legal rights. Examples of such assets are software licences.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs)

A suite of accounting standards used across the world and prepared by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). IFRS is the international equivalent of the Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs) formerly used in the UK. IFRSs apply to local Authorities and any departure from these must be disclosed in the published accounts.

Investment Properties

Property (land or a building, or part of a building, or both) held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both rather than for use in the production or supply of goods or services or for administrative purposes; or sale in the ordinary course of operations.

Joint Operation

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 Authority in conjunction with other joint operators involve the use of the assets and resources of those joint operators.

Joint Venture

Arrangement under which two or more parties have contractually agreed to share control, such that decisions about activities that significantly affect returns require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control, and joint venturers have the rights to the net assets of the arrangement.

Leasing

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

Liability

A present obligation of the Authority, settlement of which is expected to require the outflow of resources such as cash or the provision of a service.

Long-Term Debtors

Monies due to the Council which are unlikely to be recovered within a 12-month period, for example loans to third parties.

Long-Term Investments

An investment intended to be held for the medium- or long-term and will not be capable of realisation within a year of the reporting date.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

Minimum amount which must be charged to an Council's revenue account each year for the repayment of principal and set aside as a provision for credit liabilities.

Net Book Value

Amount at which non-current assets are included in the balance sheet, i.e. their historic cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

Net Current Replacement Cost

Cost of replacing or recreating the particular asset in its existing condition and in its existing use, i.e. the cost of its replacement or of the nearest equivalent asset, adjusted to reflect the current condition of the existing asset.

Net Realisable Value

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

New Homes Bonus

A reward grant paid to Authorities based on the number of new homes built or brought back into occupation. A premium is paid for affordable homes included in these numbers.

Non-Current Assets

Asset that yields benefits to the Authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

Amounts payable to local Authorities from Non-Domestic Rates properties distributed to Central Government; the County Council; Fire Authority; and the Council.

Non-Operational Assets

Non-current assets held by the Authority but not directly occupied, used, or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples are investment properties and assets that are surplus to requirements, pending sale or redevelopment.

Operating Leases

A lease other than a finance lease.

Operational Assets

Non-current assets held and occupied, used or consumed by the Authority in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility.

Precept

Demands made upon the collection fund by Central Government and other authorities (Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Authority, Staffordshire Police and Town & Parish Councils) for the services they provide.

Provisions

Amounts set aside where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential. The best estimate at the reporting date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

Prudence

An accounting concept that revenue is not anticipated, but is recognised only when it is realised in the form of cash or other assets; the ultimate cash realisation of which can be assessed with reasonable certainty.

Prudential Framework

The Prudential Framework replaced the credit approval mechanism previously used by central government to control borrowing for capital expenditure. Local authorities are now allowed to determine their own capital programmes according to prudent assessments of affordability. Authorities must set their spending plans in accordance with the CIPFA Prudential Code.

Reserves

Sums set aside to meet future expenditure on specific purposes.

Revaluation Reserve

A capital reserve that records net gains (if any) from revaluations of assets made after 1st April 2007.

Revenue Expenditure

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

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)

Expenditure classified as capital for funding purposes which does not result in a non-current asset being carried on the Balance Sheet. This would include capital grants or renovation grants to private persons.

Revenue Support Grant (RSG)

Grant paid to local authorities by Central Government to help finance its general expenditure.

Section 106 (S106)

This section of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 enables legal agreements between planning authorities and a developer where, on being granted a planning application, the latter may be obliged to provide additional funding for specified services.

Short-Term Investments

An investment that is capable of realisation within a year of the reporting date.

Usable Capital Receipts Reserve

Distinguishes the amounts in the reserve from any capital receipts that have been posted to the Capital Adjustment Account to reduce the Council's underlying requirement to borrow.

Useful Life

Period over which the Authority will derive benefits from the use of a non-current asset.

Independent Auditor's Report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (the 'Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the 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 2023/24.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2024 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

In our evaluation of the Executive Director and Chief Finance Officer's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 that the Authority's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuation of services provided by the Authority. In doing so we had regard to the guidance provided in Practice Note 10 Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2022) on the application of ISA (UK) 570 Going Concern to public sector entities. We assessed the reasonableness of the basis of preparation used by the Authority and the Authority's disclosures over the going concern period.

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

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Executive Director and 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 Annual Governance Statement and the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Executive Director and 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.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters required by the Code of Audit Practice

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of the Authority and the Executive Director and Chief Finance Officer

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Executive Director and Chief Finance Officer. The Executive Director and 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 2023/24, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Executive Director and Chief Finance Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Authority and determined that the most significant which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those related to the reporting frameworks (the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Government Act 2003 and the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Government Finance Act 2012)).

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

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

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

We assessed the susceptibility of the Authority's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by evaluating management's incentives and opportunities for manipulation of the financial statements. This included the evaluation of the risk of management override of controls. We determined that the principal risks were in relation to non-routine journal entries and key accounting estimates around the valuation of other land and buildings and the valuation of the net pension liability. Our audit procedures involved:

- evaluation of the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud,
- journal entry testing, with a focus on non-routine transactions within identified risk criteria including, journals posted by senior officers, large year-end and post year-end journals and journals transferring amounts to and from other councils,

- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates in respect of valuation of other land and buildings and the net pension liability; and
- assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement item.

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

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including those related to significant accounting estimates relating the valuation of land and buildings and the net pension liability. We remained alert to any indications of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, throughout the audit.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we have not been able to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024.

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

Responsibilities of the Authority

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for Staffordshire Moorlands District Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed the work necessary to issue our Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) Component Assurance statement for the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2024.

We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements.

Use of our report

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

Richard J J Anderson

Richard Anderson Key Audit Partner

for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor

Birmingham

14 January 2025

