



Lichfield
District Council

Statement of Accounts 2022/23

Contents

Statement of Accounts	Page
Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts	3
Narrative Report	4
Annual Governance Statement	22
Expenditure and Funding Analysis – Note to the Accounts	36
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	37
Movement in Reserves	38
Balance Sheet	39
Cash Flow Statement	40
Index of Notes to the Accounts	41
Notes to the Accounts	42
Collection Fund	101
Glossary of Terms	104
Independent Auditor’s Report	108

If you have any comments on this **Statement of Accounts 2022/23** or would like any further information please contact:

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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 Authority, the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) is the Assistant Director - Finance and Commissioning (Section 151) with the responsibility:

- To manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets; and
- To approve the Statement of Accounts.

The CFO Responsibilities

The CFO is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Financial Statements. These, in terms of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in 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 ended 31 March 2023.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the CFO has:

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

The CFO has also:

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

Certificate of the CFO

I certify that this Statement of Accounts gives a 'true and fair' view of the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2023 and its income and expenditure for the year.



Anthony Thomas, CPFA, MAAT
Assistant Director – Finance and Commissioning (Section 151)

The Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 has been approved by Audit and Member Standards Committee on 28 November 2023. The Audit Findings Report was reported to Audit and Member Standards Committee on 28 November 2023.



Chair of Audit Committee Date: 23 April 2024

NARRATIVE REPORT

Introduction

The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The format reflects the requirements of the Code of Practice in Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23. This is supported by the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The Statement of Accounts, therefore, aims to provide information so that for the 2022/23 financial year members of the public, including electors and residents of Lichfield District, Council Members, partners, stakeholders and other interested parties can:

- See the performance of the Council including progress against its strategic objectives
- Understand the overarching financial position of the Council
- Have confidence that the public money with which the Council has been entrusted has been used and accounted for in an appropriate manner
- Have sight of the progress made in monitoring the key risks faced by the Council

This **Narrative Report** is structured as follows:

- An Introduction to Lichfield District
- An Introduction to Lichfield District Council
- A Summary of the non-financial Performance of Lichfield District Council in 2022/23
- A Summary of the Financial Performance of Lichfield District Council in 2022/23
- A Summary of the Principal Risks and Uncertainties Facing Lichfield District Council
- Explanation of the Financial Statements

NARRATIVE REPORT

An Introduction to Lichfield District

Lichfield District is located in south-east Staffordshire and borders the West Midlands Conurbation. The District comprises the two principal settlements of Lichfield City and Burntwood Town. The District also comprises many villages set within a varied and attractive rural area.

Lichfield City is a compact city surrounded by Green Belt and open countryside, which is nationally significant particularly due to its unique three-spired Cathedral, and as the birthplace of Doctor Samuel Johnson. It has a wealth of listed buildings, designated Conservation Areas, and other key heritage assets including Beacon Park and the Heritage Centre. Lichfield City centre is particularly important because of its quality-built environment in which much of the trade and tourism of the district takes place.

The settlement of Burntwood has evolved from its historic origins as a series of smaller mining communities which have combined over time. Burntwood is set within the Green Belt and is in close proximity to areas of high environmental significance both ecologically and physically – Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to the north and Chasewater Country Park to the east.

The rural parts of the district vary in their character and function. The south, south-western and south-eastern part is Green Belt, which separates the District from the West Midlands Conurbation, although one community, Little Aston, adjoins the boundary with Birmingham to the south, and another, Fazeley, is closely linked to Tamworth to the east. The southern rural areas are bisected by major road networks (A38, A5 and the M6 Toll), the West Coast Mainline and the Lichfield to Birmingham rail line, and hence villages served by these routes – in particular Shenstone – tend to have very strong commuter links to surrounding conurbations. The Green Belt character is varied, comprising farmland, historic estates, wood and heath land, canals and rivers.

Tourism is a significant part of the local economy based on the heritage, character and environment of the area, with Lichfield City being a particular focal point. There are a number of important visitor attractions within the district. These include Drayton Manor Park, which lies in the Green Belt on the edge of Fazeley, the developing attraction of the National Memorial Arboretum, the sub-regional attraction of Chasewater Country Park and the Cannock Chase AONB.

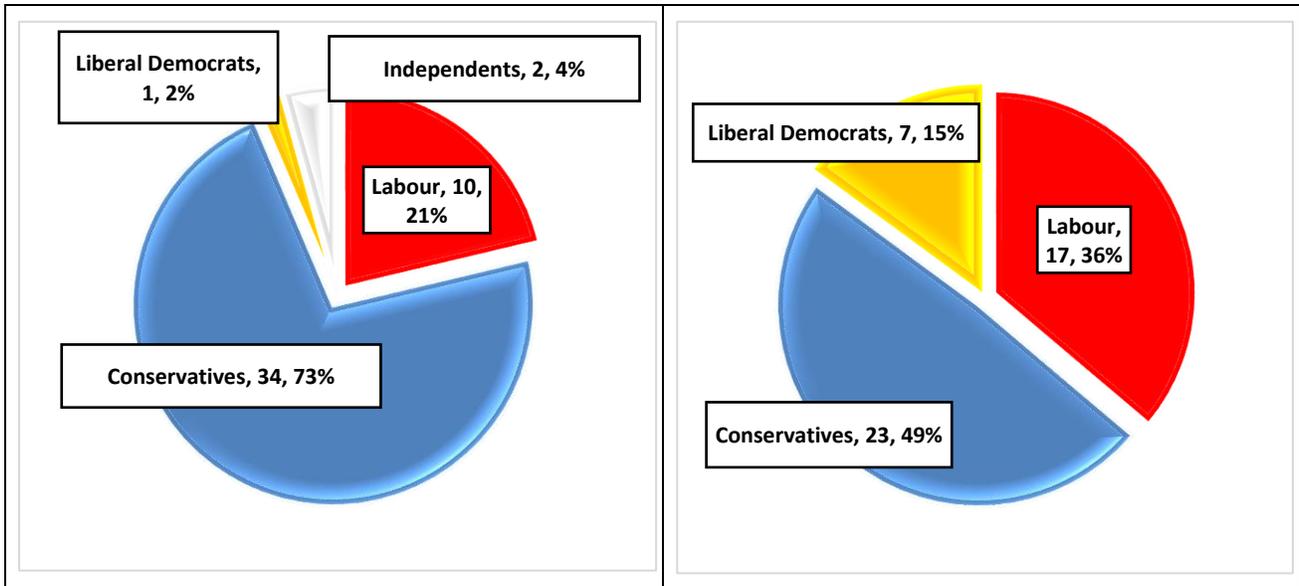
On average the district is prosperous and ranks well within the indices of deprivation (although there are areas where deprivation exists). The district performs well at all levels of education with pupils achieving above the national average. Lichfield has lower than the national average levels of unemployment. It has a growing population with a higher proportion of older people than the national average.

It is an attractive location for people to live and as such has been a significant destination for migrants from the West Midlands conurbation and other nearby towns. The availability of jobs, the history of inward migration to the district, and good road connections have increased accessibility and raised the profile of the district as an area for business investment.

NARRATIVE REPORT

An Introduction to Lichfield District Council

Lichfield District Council was formed in 1974, from Lichfield City Council and Lichfield Rural District Council. The Council has **22** wards with **47** elected Members. The political composition of seats at 31 March 2023 and following the local elections on 4 May 2023 where the Council moved to being No Overall Control is:



The policies of the Council are directed by Cabinet and Council and implemented by the Leadership Team supported by officers. The Council currently employs approximately **307** people of which **93%** are permanent and the remainder temporary employees.

The Council operates in what is referred to as a 'two-tier' local government structure where services such as education, social care, children's services, highways, libraries and trading standards are delivered by a county council, in this instance, Staffordshire County Council. There are also **25** parish (this will become 26 in 2023/24 with Fradley and Streethay becoming two separate Parish areas), city and town councils across the district which also deliver services to the community.

Lichfield District Council provides services to a population of **106,400** people (2021 census released 28 June 2022). These services include:

- *Collecting waste and recycling and keeping streets free of litter, including removal of abandoned vehicles and fly tipped waste*
- *Maintaining parks and open spaces*
- *Collecting council tax and business rates*
- *Administering housing benefit and council tax support*
- *Managing car parks and monitoring CCTV*
- *Providing and managing public toilets*
- *Dealing with planning applications and providing building control*
- *Compiling and maintaining the electoral register and administering elections*
- *Providing advice on environmental health*
- *Inspecting food and drink premises to make sure they are safe and hygienic*
- *Providing support for the homeless, and home adaptations to help people live independently*
- *Support to arts and culture, events and festivals, and promoting tourism*
- *Working in partnership to promote community safety*
- *Carrying out conservation and wildlife management at protected sites*
- *Economic regeneration, creating the Local Plan and providing support and guidance to businesses*

NARRATIVE REPORT

The Council also delivers a range of internal services that support these operational functions. These internal services include customer services; human resources; IT services, communications; data protection; financial services; debt recovery; governance and electoral services; insurance services; equalities; complaints and MP enquiries; mapping services.

During 2022/23 the operational delivery of the Council's leisure centres in Burntwood and Lichfield continued to be undertaken by Freedom Leisure in partnership with the Council. On 1 April 2023 both leisure centres were brought back in house when they became part of the wholly owned limited company, LWM Traded Services Ltd.

NARRATIVE REPORT

The Council's non-Financial Performance

The Council has a clear vision in the form of the **Strategic Plan 2020-24** which was produced following extensive consultation and review by Member, staff, stakeholder, and resident focus groups.

The Strategic Plan is a formal statement of the Authority's purpose and intended outcomes, and it provides the basis for the Council's overall strategy, planning and other decisions. It has become increasingly important that we are clear on where we need to allocate our resources, and that we are focussing on the things that will make the biggest impact and difference. The Strategic Plan also focuses on those outcomes that are known to reduce demand and dependency on the Council's services (and the wider public purse).

The key priority outcomes that the Plan aims to achieve are:

- **Enabling people** - to help themselves and others; to collaborate and engage with us; to live healthy and active lives
- **Shaping place** - to keep it clean, green and safe; to protect our most valuable assets; to make sure sustainability and infrastructure needs are balanced
- **Developing prosperity** - to encourage growth; to enhance the district for visitors; to invest in the future
- **A good Council** - that is financially sound, transparent and accountable; is innovative and customer focussed; has respect for everyone

This Strategic Plan was approved by Full Council on 18 February 2020 and came into operation on 1 April 2020. Leadership Team and Cabinet have identified the top priority issues that needed to be addressed to ensure these are achieved during the four years after 1 April 2020. These priorities have formed the basis of the **Delivery Plan** for 2022/23 and **Service Plans** for the remainder of the plan period. The Delivery Plan captures the performance the Council has delivered so far against the aspirations set out in the Strategic Plan, then maps out the activity that will take place over the period 2020-24.

Actions are mapped directly back to commitments and aspirations in each of the Council's priorities in the Strategic Plan. They are also linked to each Head of Service and team service plans in addition to individual staff members' Performance targets. It is the actions that are therefore monitored.

Officers responsible for the Delivery Plan and Service Plan actions update the Pentana system to ensure that the latest performance on each individual action is registered in a central location, ensuring that the Council's officers and Members can access real-time performance monitoring.

The Delivery Plan is reviewed on an ongoing basis by Leadership Team and progress reported on a six-monthly basis to Cabinet. It is also shared with the Chair of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The full year outcomes for the **Delivery Plan** are highlighted below:

Highlights from 2022/23

£5m invested

in a new cinema for the district, repurposing the old Debenhams store into a **new leisure destination** and building work has already started



£10m invested

in a new leisure centre at Stychbrook Park and we are bringing the management of the leisure centres back in-house



Provided support

during the cost-of-living crisis through energy rebates and discretionary housing payments. We created a network of **Warm Spaces** across the district with partners and prevented more than **80 individuals and families** from becoming homeless

£1.5m invested

in new leisure and sport activities across the district, such as a **climbing wall**, **4G pitch** and **Padel Tennis**

Over 10,000

people have engaged with us on the future of the district, leisure facilities and our budget. Established a new **'Lichfield District Youth Council'** to engage differently with young people

£35,000

has been raised for **60 local good causes** through our Community Lottery

Over 250,000

people have now enjoyed the annual, free, Lichfield Proms in Beacon Park since it started in 1999 with **15,000 attending** in 2022



We've investigated

over 1,000 reports of different issues including, housing conditions, nuisance noise, smells and smoke. We've undertaken **over 445 food safety inspections** and cleared up **265 reports of fly-tipping**



Two new play areas



have been installed further enhancing our 16 parks and 80 public open spaces

We emptied over 2.5m

bins and bags, working with our residents to reduce the amount of waste we produce and increasing how much we reuse and recycle

Provided over 600

residents with community safety information and support to help them stay safe



Created a new

Business Hub in Lichfield for 11 local businesses, with a further 10 moving in during 2023/24

Saved £1.5m

by Being a Better Council, which has helped us to freeze Lichfield District Council Tax for residents in 2023/24



Awarded £3.2m

of UK Shared Prosperity Funding to deliver a range of projects across the whole district, including Burntwood and our rural communities

£3.61 per week

is what the average household pays towards our services, **only 9%** of your total Council Tax bill

NARRATIVE REPORT

Financial Performance

The Medium Term Financial Strategy and Monitoring Financial Performance

The ability to deliver the outcomes set out in the Strategic Plan 2020-24 is dependent on the revenue and capital resources available over the life of the plan. Therefore, the Council prepares a **Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)** that covers the current and next four financial years. The MTFS is monitored during each financial year through Money Matters Reports to Cabinet.

Revenue Financial Performance in 2022/23

Revenue spending represents the day-to-day cost of the services provided by the Council. The revenue spend together with details of how this spend was funded for 2022/23 is shown below:

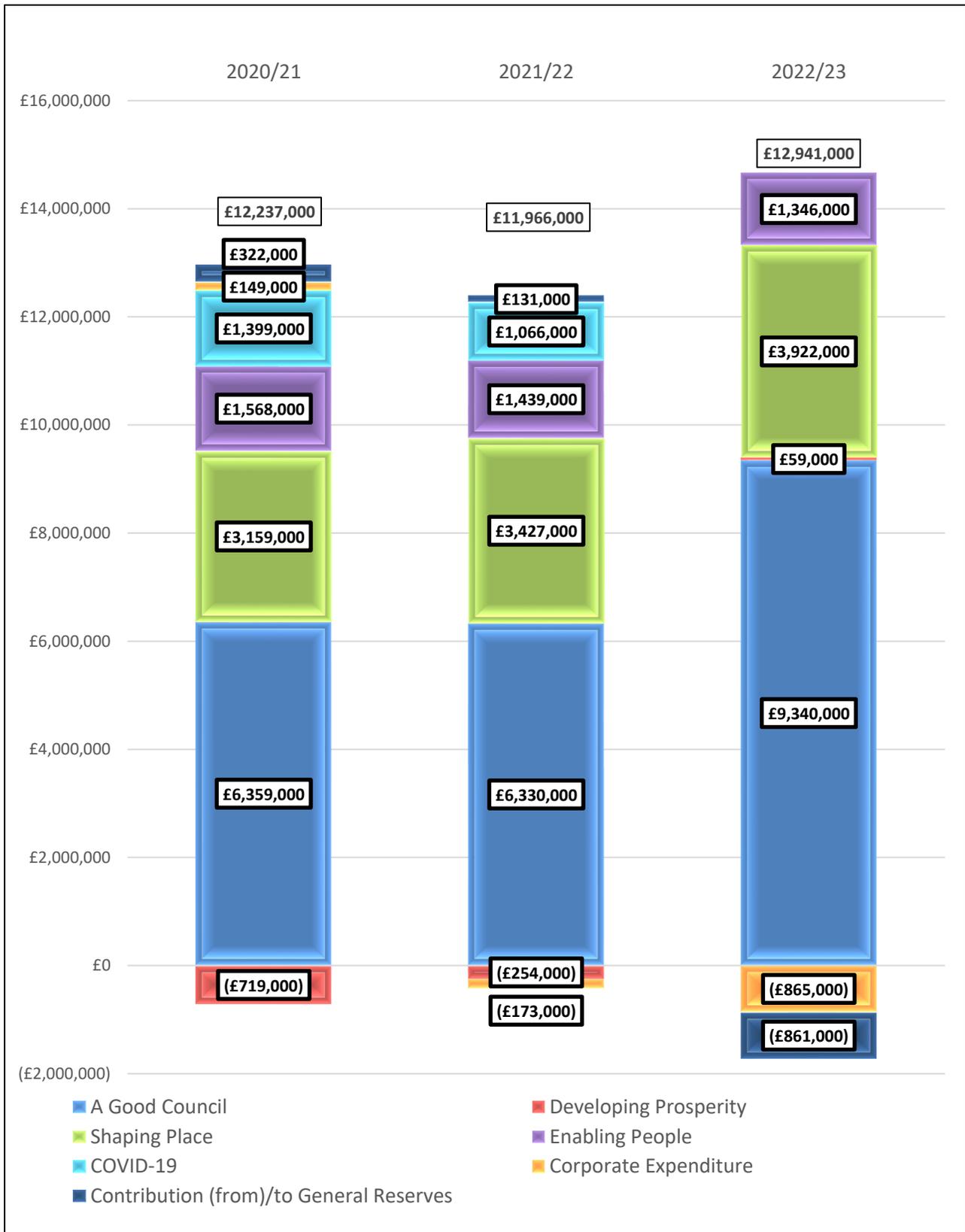
2021/22		2022/23				
Actual Outturn £000		Original Budget £000	Approved Budget £000	Actual Outturn £000	Amount per Person £	Amount per Band D Property £
6,330	A Good Council	6,918	9,275	9,340	£88.41	£235.29
(254)	Developing Prosperity	(436)	(34)	59	£0.56	£1.48
3,427	Shaping Place	4,083	4,009	3,922	£37.13	£98.81
1,439	Enabling People	1,527	1,304	1,346	£12.74	£33.91
(75)	COVID-19 - General Recovery	377	0	0	£0.00	£0.00
1,141	COVID-19 - Specific Risks	0	0	0	£0.00	£0.00
12,008	Net Cost of Services	12,469	14,554	14,667	£138.84	£369.48
0	Capital & earmarked reserves	100	0	0	£0.00	£0.00
(173)	Interest receipts/payments	(298)	(864)	(865)	(£8.18)	(£21.78)
131	Transfer (from) or to General Reserves	280	(770)	(861)	(£8.15)	(£21.69)
11,966	Net Expenditure	12,551	12,920	12,941	£122.51	£326.01
(3,205)	Retained Business Rates	(3,311)	(3,447)	(3,625)	(£34.31)	(£91.31)
(1,282)	New Homes Bonus	(1,401)	(1,401)	(1,401)	(£13.26)	(£35.30)
(308)	Other Grants	(415)	(648)	(489)	(£4.63)	(£12.33)
27	(Surplus) or Deficit on the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates from the previous year	32	32	31	£0.29	£0.78
(7,198)	Amount to be raised from Council Tax	(7,456)	(7,456)	(7,457)	£70.59	£187.85

How Councils are funded has changed significantly since 2010 with Council Tax budgeted to fund **59%** of net expenditure compared to **47%** in 2010. We are among the lowest charging district councils in the country and an average home paid **£188** for the services provided. The information in Money Matters Reports and the table above is based on the statutory funding basis and shows expenditure exceeding income by **£861,000** and therefore a transfer from General Reserves. The Statement of Accounts also provides a Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) that shows financial performance based on generally accepted accounting practices with a deficit of expenditure over income of **£2,437,000**. The **Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA)** also within the Statement of Accounts, reconciles financial performance under the statutory funding basis to the accounting basis:

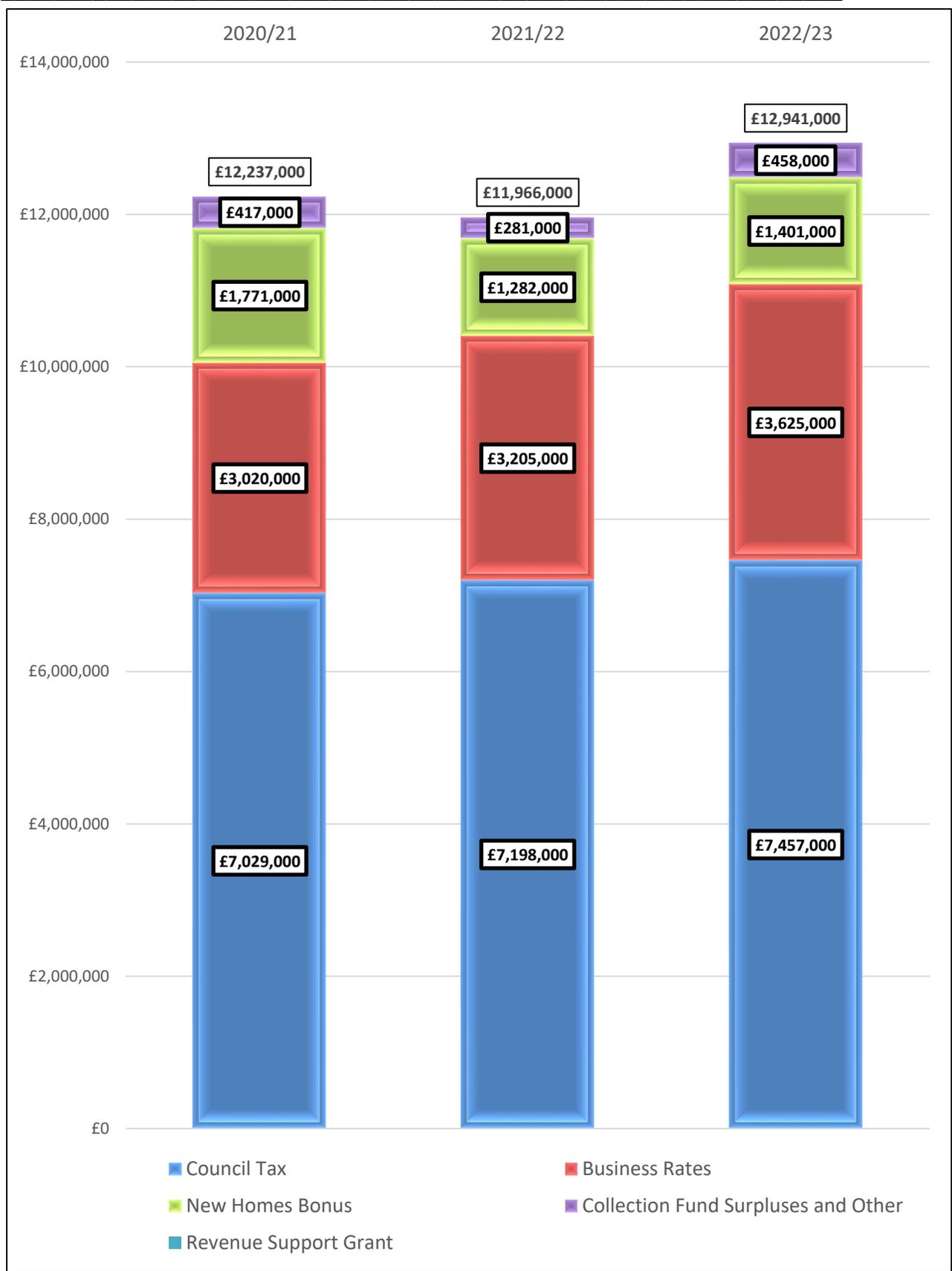
		2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Money Matters Financial Performance (surplus) or deficit	Page 61	(132)	861
Earmarked Reserves (including those in the Net Cost of Services)	Page 61	1,652	2,056
Financial Performance on a Funding Basis shown in the EFA	Page 61	1,520	2,917
Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	Page 36	(3,081)	(480)
Financial Performance on an Accounting Basis shown in the CIES (surplus) or deficit	Page 37	(1,561)	2,437

NARRATIVE REPORT

A comparison of revenue spend and then funding for the last three financial years is also shown below:



NARRATIVE REPORT



NARRATIVE REPORT

Capital Financial Performance in 2022/23

Capital spending represents spend on assets or is defined as capital under law, that will provide benefit to the District over a number of years.

The capital spend together with details of how this spend was funded for 2022/23 is shown below:

Original Budget £000		Approved Budget £000	Actual Outturn £000	Variance £000	Amount per Person £	Amount per Band D Property £
1,064	A Good Council	896	793	(103)	£7.51	£19.97
1,676	Developing Prosperity	1,405	812	(593)	£7.69	£20.46
421	Shaping Place	864	752	(112)	£7.11	£18.93
4,792	Enabling People	1,585	1,216	(369)	£11.51	£30.64
7,953	Total Expenditure	4,750	3,573	(1,177)	£33.82	£90.01
(1,331)	Capital Receipts	(1,134)	(951)	183	(£9.00)	(£23.95)
(2,349)	Borrowing and Finance Leases	(50)	216	266	£2.04	£5.43
(3,030)	Capital Grants and Contributions	(1,702)	(1,416)	286	(£13.40)	(£35.66)
(1,243)	Reserves, Existing Revenue Budgets and Sinking Funds	(1,864)	(1,422)	442	(£13.46)	(£35.82)
(7,953)	Total Funding	(4,750)	(3,573)	1,177	(£33.82)	(£90.01)

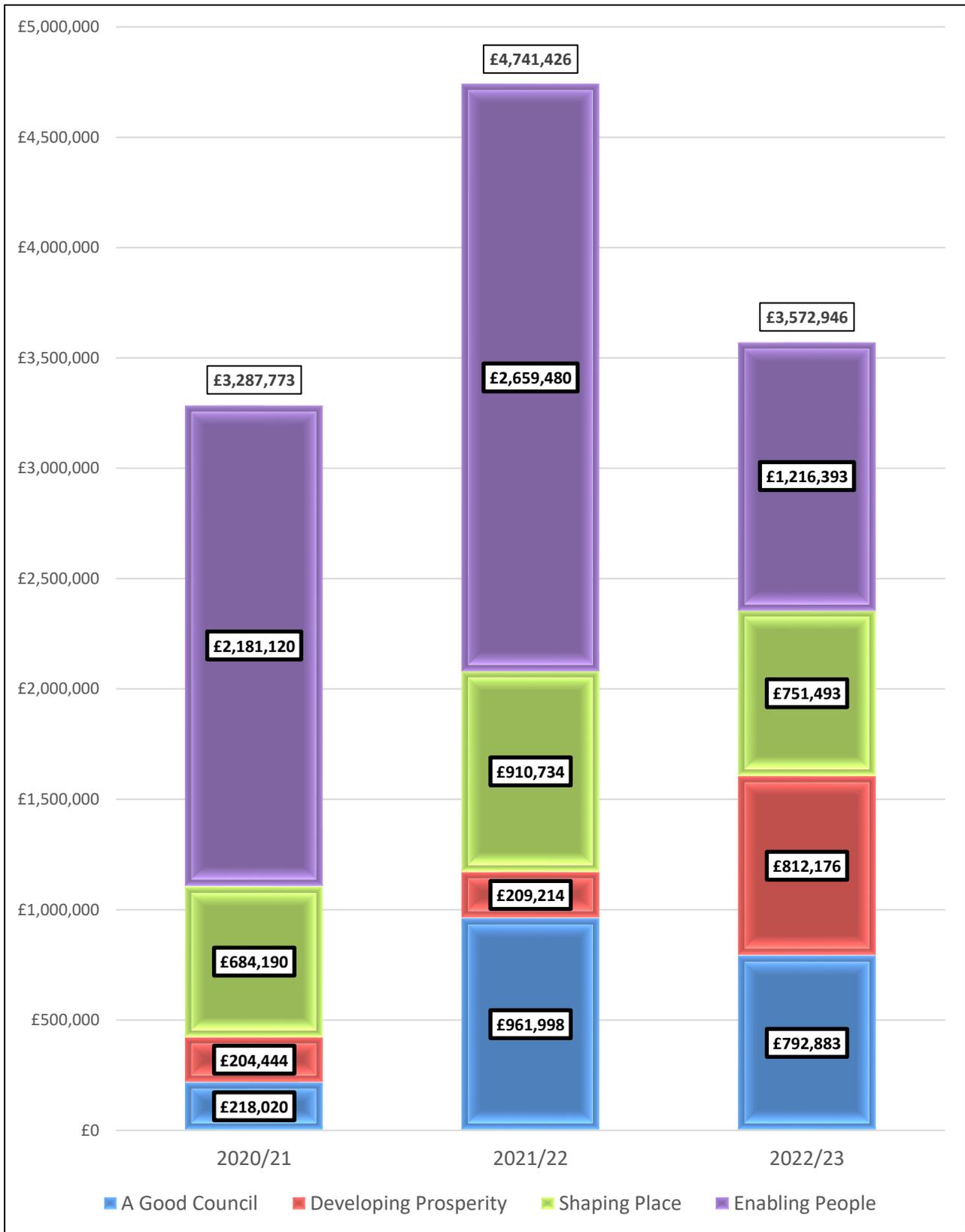
The below budget performance compared to the Approved Budget of **(£1,177,000)** is principally the result of underspending on the following projects:

- **Enabling People** – Disabled Facilities Grants **(£181,237)**
- **Developing Prosperity** - Birmingham Road Site Enabling Works **(£385,000)**, Cinema Development **(£175,613)**

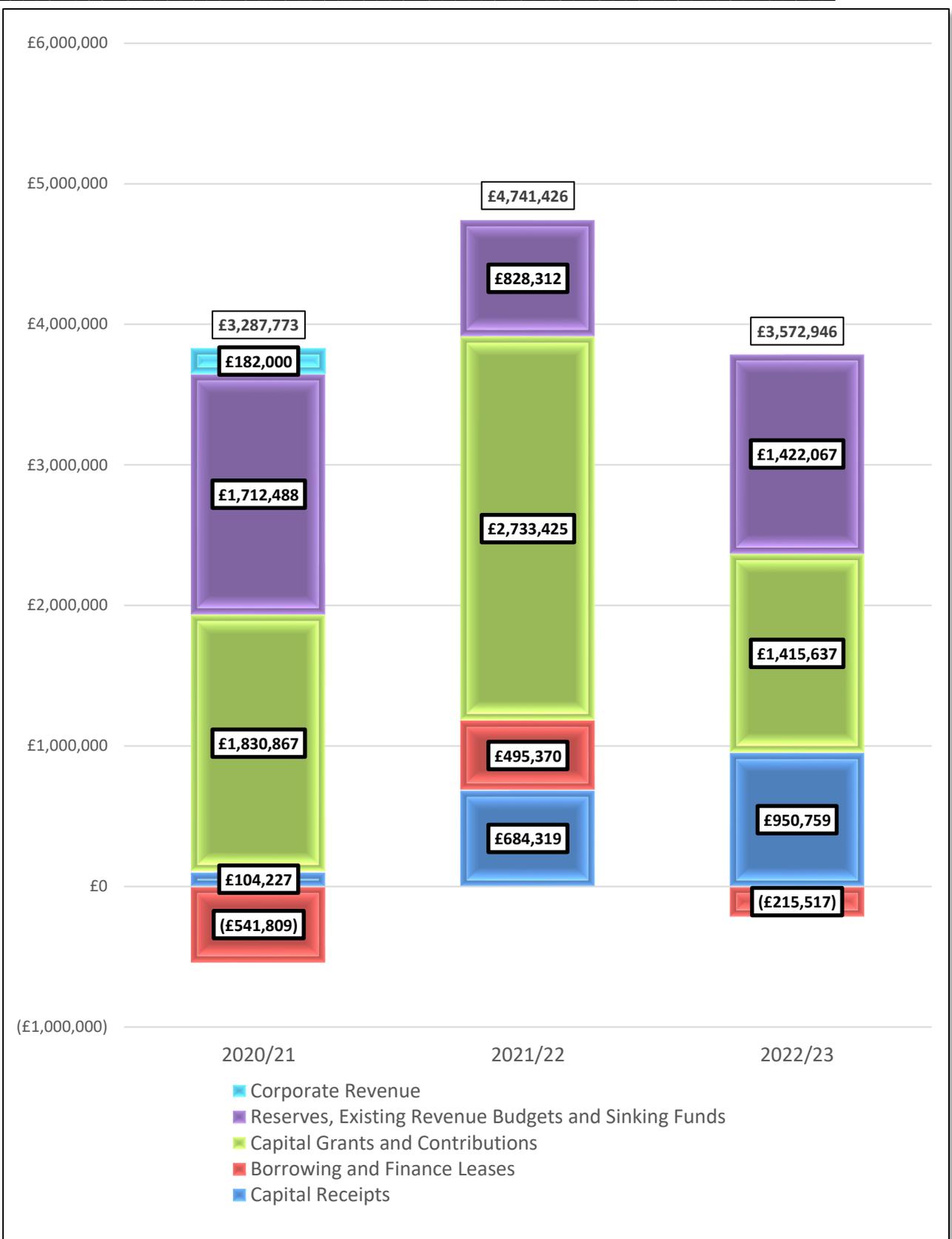
The underspending (or slippage) will be carried forward to future years when it is planned to be spent.

NARRATIVE REPORT

A comparison of capital spend and then funding for the last three financial years is also shown below:



NARRATIVE REPORT



NARRATIVE REPORT

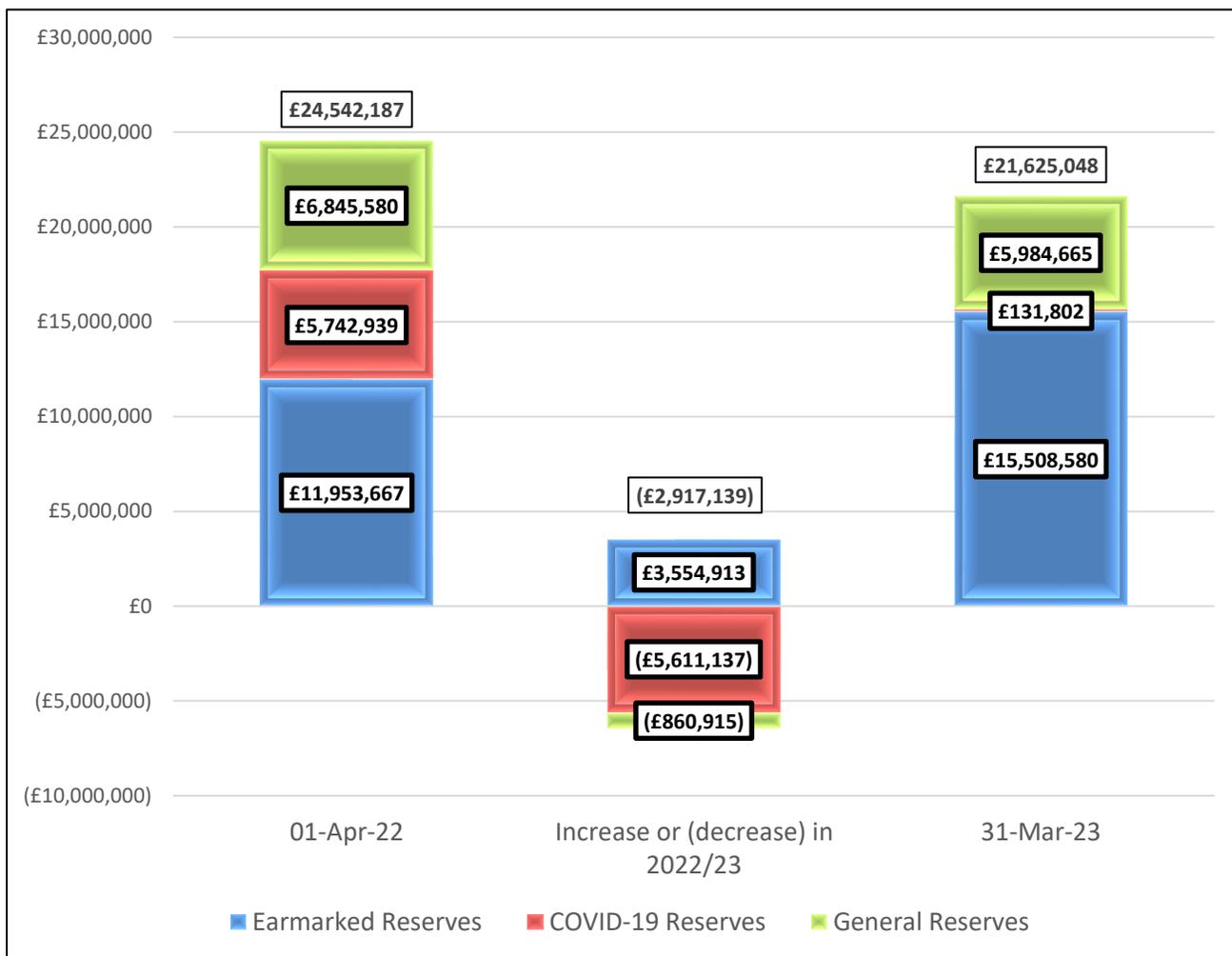
Revenue Reserves

A General Reserve is primarily held as a contingency to provide the Council with operational funds and as a safeguard against financial risks. In 2022/23 (£860,915) was transferred from General Reserves compared to an Approved Budget of (£770,250), this is an increase of (£90,665).

The total level of General Reserves at 31 March 2023 was £5,984,665 and has set a risk assessed Minimum Level at £1,600,000. This means that there are available reserves of £4,384,665 over and above the Minimum Level available to support the revenue budget or fund Council priorities.

In addition to General Reserves, Earmarked Reserves have been built up over time to provide funding for specific activities in line with the Council’s medium term aims and objectives.

The total level of Revenue General and Earmarked Reserves is shown below:



The COVID-19 Earmarked Reserve was established in 2020/21 in relation to:

- Section 31 grants received in compensation for additional reliefs for retail, hospitality, leisure and nurseries that will be used to offset the deficit in business rate income over the three years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24
- Other grants received related to Hardship Funding, Council Tax Compensation, Test and Trace and Additional Restrictions grant that were spent primarily in 2021/22

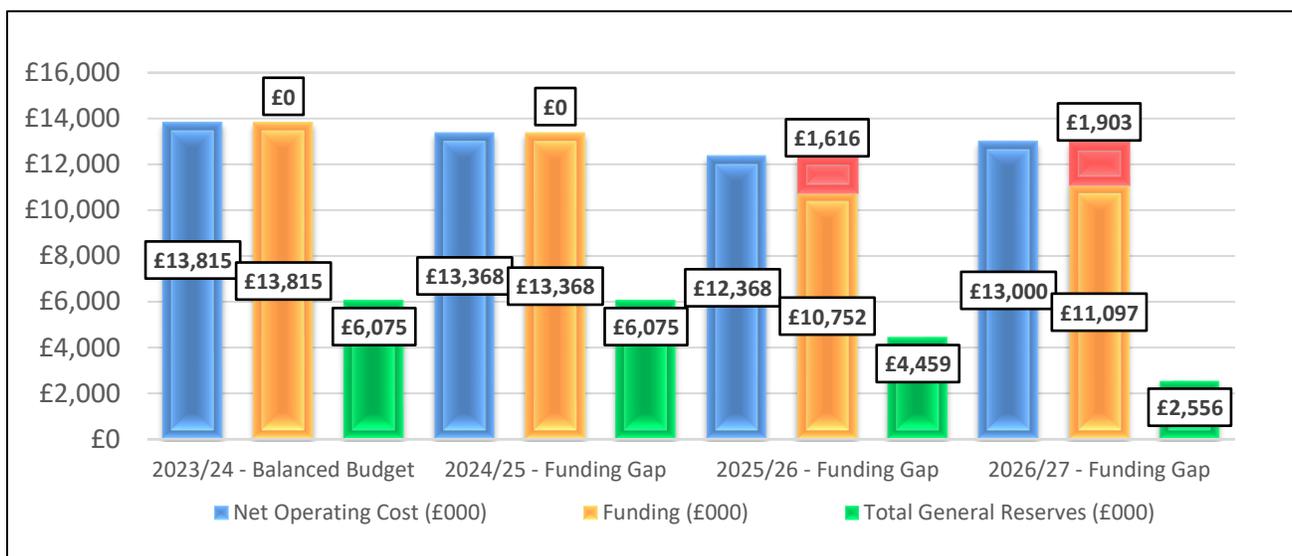
NARRATIVE REPORT

Looking Forward to the Next Four Years and Beyond

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) provides budgets for the four financial years 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. It was approved by Full Council on 28 February 2023.

The Revenue Budget

The Revenue Budget (in £000) with balanced budgets in 2023/24 and 2024/25 and Funding Gaps (shown in red in the graph below) in later years is shown in summary below:



The Capital Programme

The **Capital Programme** and its **funding** by Strategic Priority is summarised below:

Strategic Priority	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	Total £000	Corporate £000
Enabling People	£9,222	£6,762	£939	£959	£17,882	£760
Shaping Place	£819	£397	£6,367	£150	£7,733	£295
Developing Prosperity	£4,931	£2,329	£0	£10	£7,270	£1,138
Good Council	£448	£240	£365	£405	£1,458	£2,254
Capital Expenditure	£15,420	£9,728	£7,671	£1,524	£34,343	£4,447

Funding Source	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	Total £000
Capital Receipts	£1,300	£345	£0	£222	£1,867
Capital Receipts - Housing	£360	£0	£0	£0	£360
Revenue - Corporate	£238	£100	£565	£183	£1,086
Corporate Council Funding	£1,898	£445	£565	£405	£3,313
Grant	£2,572	£2,261	£939	£939	£6,711
Section 106	£305	£133	£0	£0	£438
CIL	£1,645	£800	£0	£0	£2,445
Reserves	£6,448	£3,514	£17	£30	£10,009
Revenue - Existing Budgets	£150	£150	£150	£150	£600
Sinking Fund	£69	£0	£0	£0	£69
Leases	£0	£0	£6,000	£0	£6,000
Internal Borrowing	£2,333	£2,425	£0	£0	£4,758
Total	£15,420	£9,728	£7,671	£1,524	£34,343
External Borrowing	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Grand Total	£15,420	£9,728	£7,671	£1,524	£34,343

NARRATIVE REPORT

General Reserves

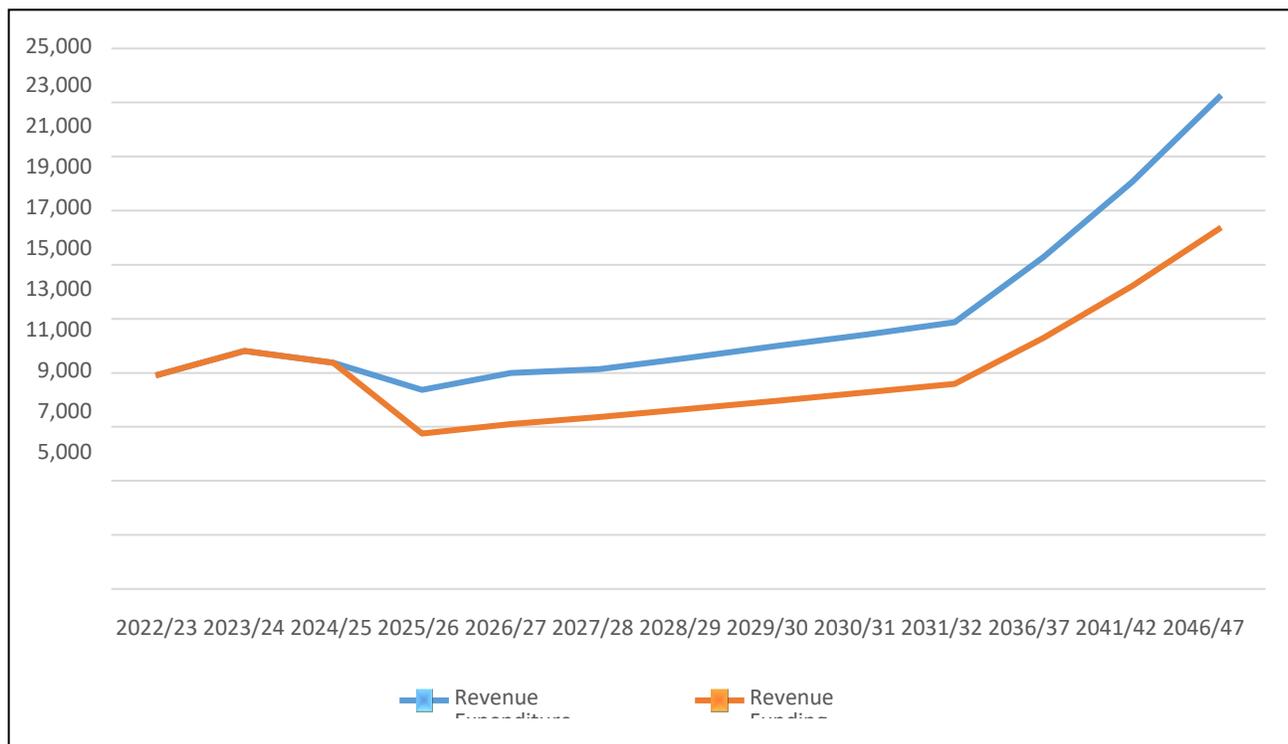
The total projected level of general reserves is shown below using the central scenario together with projections using the more optimistic and pessimistic budget scenarios:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	£000	£000	£000	£000
LEVEL OF UNCERTAINTY / RISK	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
Available General Reserves Year Start	4,475	4,175	4,175	2,559
Change in Minimum Level	(300)	0	0	0
(Funding Gap) / transfer to General Reserves	0	0	(1,616)	(1,903)
Available General Reserves Year End	4,175	4,175	2,559	656
Minimum Level	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900
Central Scenario General Reserves	6,075	6,075	4,459	2,556

More Optimistic scenario	6,075	6,075	6,114	5,975
More Pessimistic scenario	6,075	6,075	3,123	(363)

Longer Term Financial Planning

The updated longer term financial plan is shown in summary in the chart below:



A funding gap is projected from 2025/26 onwards based on funding reform identified in Government policy papers being implemented. This will mean that subject to the outcome of the local government finance reforms, the identification of options to deliver further sustainable savings/additional income will remain necessary.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

A **Risk Management Policy** is in place to identify and evaluate risks. This Policy was reviewed and refreshed during 2019/20 and approved by Audit and Member Standards Committee in November 2019.

A **Strategic Risk Register** is produced by assessing the risk factors that could potentially impact on the Council's ability to deliver its Strategic Plan. Risks are judged on their likelihood of occurrence and their potential impact. The Strategic Risks are monitored by Members and Senior Officers and reported on three times a year to Audit and Member Standards Committee.

At 31 March 2023, **six risks** were identified as having a potential impact on the ability to deliver the Strategic Plan:

- **SR1:** Pressures on the **availability of finance** may mean the Council is not able to deliver the key priorities of the strategic plan
- **SR2:** The **resilience of teams** to effectively respond to further serious disruption to services
- **SR3: Capacity and capability** to deliver/adapt the new Strategic Plan to the emerging landscape
- **SR4:** Failure to meet **governance and/or statutory obligations** e.g. breach of the law
- **SR5:** Failure to adequately respond to the wider **socio-economic environment** over which the Council may have little control, but which may impact on the growth and prosperity of the local area
- **SR7: Threat to the Council's ICT systems** of a cyber-attack

The Council's current six strategic risks (SR6 is no longer considered a strategic risk) in terms of their current score for likelihood and impact are summarised below with no risks sitting in the 'red' area:

likelihood				
		SR3		SR7
			SR1, SR2, SR4, SR5	
Impact				

The full Strategic Risk Register will be reviewed by Audit and Member Standards Committee in April 2023.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Explanation of the Accounting Statements

The Statement of Accounts sets out the Council's income and expenditure for the year, and its financial position at 31 March 2023. It comprises core and supplementary statements, together with disclosure notes. The format and content of the financial statements is prescribed by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, which in turn is underpinned by International Financial Reporting Standards.

A glossary of key terms can be found at the end of this publication.

The **Core Statements** are:

The **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement** – this records all of the Council's income and expenditure for the year with an analysis by the Council's strategic priority based on Generally Accepted Accounting Practices.

The **Movement in Reserves Statement** – this is a summary of the changes to the Council's reserves over the course of the year. Reserves are divided into 'usable' which can be invested in capital projects or service improvements, and 'unusable' which must be set aside for specific purposes.

The **Balance Sheet** – this is a 'snapshot' of the Council's assets, liabilities, cash balances and reserves at the year-end date.

The **Cash Flow Statement** – this shows the reason for changes in the Council's cash balances during the year, and whether that change is due to operating activities, new investment, or financing activities (such as repayment of borrowing and other long term liabilities).

The **Supplementary Financial Statements** are:

The **Annual Governance Statement** – this sets out the governance structures of the Council and its key internal controls.

The **Notes** to the Core Statements provide more detail about the Council's accounting policies and individual transactions.

The **Collection Fund** – this summarises the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates, and the redistribution of some of the money to the precepting authorities and to Central Government.



Anthony Thomas

Assistant Director – Finance & Commissioning (Section 151)

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Contents

Introduction and Scope of Responsibility
Purpose of the Governance Statement
The Governance Framework
The Principles of Good Governance
Principle A - Behaving with Integrity
Principle B - Ensuring Openness and Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement
Principle C - Defining Outcomes in terms of Sustainable Economic, Social and Environmental Benefits
Principle D - Determining the Interventions necessary to Optimise the Achievement of the Intended Outcomes
Principle E - Developing Capacity, including the Capability of Leadership and the Individuals within it
Principle F - Managing Risks and Performance through Robust Internal Control and Strong Public Financial Management
Principle G - Implementing Good Practices in Transparency, Reporting, and Audit to deliver Effective Accountability
Annual Review of the Effectiveness of the Governance Framework
Looking Ahead
Conclusion of the Review

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Introduction and Scope of responsibility

Lichfield District Council is responsible for ensuring that:

- business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards
- public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively
- risk is properly managed as part of the governance arrangements

To ensure effective governance the Council has adopted a Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy)/SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' (2016).

Purpose of the Governance Statement

This Governance Statement explains how the Council has complied with the Code. It also meets the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, which requires all relevant bodies to prepare an Annual Governance Statement.

In this document the Council:

- acknowledges its responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of governance;
- summarises the key elements of the governance framework and the roles of those responsible for the development and maintenance of the governance environment;
- describes how the Council has monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of its governance arrangements in the year, and on any planned changes in the coming period;
- provides details of how the Council has responded to any issue(s) identified in last year's governance statement; and
- reports on any key governance matters identified from this review and provides a commitment to addressing them.

The Annual Governance Statement reports on the governance framework that has been in place at for the year ended 31 March 2023 and up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts.

The Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the culture, values, systems and processes by which an organisation is directed and controlled. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money.

The system of internal control is a significant part of the framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The system of Internal Control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The Principles of Good Governance

The Council aims to achieve good standards of governance by adhering to the seven core principles in the diagram below, which form the basis of the Council's Code of Corporate Governance:



ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The following pages provide a summary of actions and behaviours taken by the Council in relation to each of these seven core principles (A – G) and associated sub principles.

A Behaving with Integrity, Demonstrating Strong Commitment to Ethical Values and Respecting the Rule of Law

Supporting Principles:		
Behaving with Integrity	Demonstrating Strong Commitment to Ethical Values	Respecting the Rule of Law
How we do this:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Audit and Member Standards Committee is responsible for promoting high standards of member conduct. ➤ All elected Members follow a code of conduct, supported by training and development. ➤ The Monitoring Officer provides advice and reports complaints and their outcomes to the Audit and Member Standards Committee. ➤ Officer behaviour is governed by the Employee’s Code of Conduct that sets out the standards of conduct expected of employees at work. The Code is supported and reinforced by organisational values to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Put Customers First, ○ Improve and Innovate, ○ Have Respect for Everyone. ➤ The Codes are regularly reviewed to ensure they are operating effectively. ➤ Expected behaviours are embedded into performance appraisals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arrangements are in place to ensure that decisions are not influenced by prejudice, bias or conflicts of interest. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A register of disclosable conflicts of interest ○ Provision on Cabinet/Council/Committee agenda’s for the declaration of interests ○ A register of gifts and hospitality. ➤ A corporate complaints procedure exists to receive and respond to any complaints received. ➤ A Whistleblowing Policy enables employees and others to raise concerns about any aspect of the Council’s work. ➤ The Council is committed to equality of opportunity for all citizens, in line with the Public Sector Duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The constitution sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the responsibilities of the Council, the Cabinet, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and other Committees ○ The roles, duties and delegated powers of key officers. ➤ The Council has a duty to appoint staff to three specific roles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) who has overall accountability for the governance arrangements operating within the Council. ○ The Chief Financial Officer who is responsible for the proper administration of the Council’s financial affairs and internal controls. ○ The Monitoring Officer who has a role in ensuring decisions are taken lawfully and that the council complies with the Constitution.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

B Ensuring Openness and Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement

Supporting Principles:		
Openness	Engaging Comprehensively with Institutional Stakeholders	Engaging with Stakeholders Effectively, including Individual Citizens and Service Users
How we do this:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To ensure open and transparent decision making the following are published on the Council’s website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council/Cabinet/Committee agendas and reports ○ the Cabinet Forward Plan detailing upcoming key decisions ○ Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions ➤ To ensure maximum transparency, reports containing confidential information are split into confidential and non-confidential sections whenever possible. ➤ When reports have to be considered in private an explanation is provided on the agenda. ➤ Progress against the Financial Strategy is monitored and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. ➤ We comply with the code of recommended practice for local authorities on data transparency which acts as a starting point for the information we make available. ➤ The publication scheme lists the information we make available as part of our obligations under 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We are committed to working collaboratively with a range of partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors. ➤ The Council is part of a number of external partnerships which provide support to its strategic agenda. These include the Stoke and Staffordshire and the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP), county and regional waste partnerships, and housing and community safety partnerships. ➤ The Council’s planning and decision making processes are designed to include consultation with stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Community Power Strategy works to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ engage communities in local decisions ○ work with communities to improve outcomes. <p>Community power incorporates a wide range of practices, approaches and initiatives centred on the principle that communities have knowledge, skills and assets and are well placed to identify and respond to challenges.</p> ➤ Elected Members are democratically accountable to their local area and provide a clear leadership role in building sustainable communities. ➤ The establishment of a Lichfield Youth Council has allowed for increased engagement with young people living in the district and will allow for the identification of key issues that matter to them. ➤ The long-term vision for the Council is set out in the Strategic Plan. The outcomes have been developed through extensive consultation with staff, members, residents and stakeholders. ➤ Additional consultation work has been done to develop the Lichfield 2050 Strategy, centred around the key

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

<p>the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Feedback and requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 are used to identify datasets for publication. 		<p>themes of Environment; Place; Prosperity and Health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ These consultations have been carried out under the unified “Together We” branding rolled out by the council. ➤ Budget and strategic plan consultations undertaken in line with the Community Power Strategy are used to develop the Strategic Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy. ➤ The Council has reviewed and improved its Overview and Scrutiny arrangements ➤ The Council manages a number of social media streams, produces a resident newsletter and maintains websites that help underpin the Council’s strategic ambitions. ➤ The Council’s Contact Centre is the first contact point for customers/citizens. The Centre is a significant component in the distribution of information to residents and visitors, and for capturing information from customers to inform service development.
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ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

C Defining Outcomes in terms of Sustainable Economic, Social and Environmental Benefits

Supporting Principles:	
Defining Outcomes	Sustainable Economic, Social and Environmental Benefits
How we do this:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Council’s long term vision and priorities are set out in the Strategic Plan. The document provides the basis for the Council’s overall strategy, planning and decisions. ➤ The key priority outcomes that the Plan aims to achieve are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enabling people - to help themselves and others; to collaborate and engage with us; to live healthy and active lives. ○ Shaping place - to keep it clean, green and safe; to protect our most valuable assets; to make sure sustainability and infrastructure needs are balanced. ○ Developing prosperity – to encourage growth; to enhance the District for visitors; to invest in the future. ○ A good Council – that is financially sound, transparent and accountable; is innovative and customer focussed; has respect for everyone. ➤ Cabinet and Leadership Team have identified the top priority issues that needed to be addressed to ensure these are achieved over the next 12 - 18 months. These priorities form the basis of the Medium Term Priorities Plan and Service Plans. ➤ Officers responsible for the Delivery Plan and Service Plan actions update the Pentana system to ensure performance on each individual action is registered in a central location, enabling officers and Members to access real-time performance information. ➤ Performance reporting takes place in line with reporting on the Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy facilitating informed consideration of performance and budgetary pressures. ➤ The Council works with partner organisations where there are shared objectives and clear economic benefits from joint working. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Local Plan encourages sustainable development within the Lichfield District area, and includes policies on a number of key themes, including sustainable communities, infrastructure, homes for the future, economic development and enterprise, and healthy and safe communities. ➤ The Council publishes an Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). The statement explains how the spending of forecasted income from CIL and Section 106 planning obligations will be prioritised. ➤ The Council is promoting Neighbourhood Plans which will guide future development, enable parish areas to receive a share of the financial benefits of development (Community Infrastructure Levy), and also allow them to set their own priorities for its investment. ➤ The procurement strategy seeks to embed social value principles (social, economic and environmental) in procurement and contract management. ➤ Consideration is given to the environmental impact, financial implications and social impact (equality, diversity, human rights, crime & safety) of all Cabinet decisions.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Overview & Scrutiny Committee has an important role in helping to define and monitor outcomes. ➤ Local Government Association Peer Review has been used to provide a 'health check' on core components including priority setting, financial planning and viability. 	
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D Determining the Interventions necessary to Optimise the Achievement of the Intended Outcomes

Supporting Principles:	
Determining and Planning Interventions	Optimising the Achievements of the Intended Outcomes
How we do this:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Strategic Plan sets out the Council's aspirations, focus and priorities. This in turn helps identify and determine any interventions that are necessary. ➤ ➤ The Council's decision making process ensures decision makers receive a rigorous, objective and robust analysis of options together with the risks associated with any proposed decision. ➤ ➤ Consultation is undertaken as part of the decision making process. Reports are required to set out the consultation that has taken place. ➤ ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is driven by the Strategic Plan. The MTFS covers investments, the use of reserves, the approach to Council Tax, and the use of capital. It also considers medium term cost pressures and how these could be financed. ➤ The Council's Capital Strategy provides a high level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services together with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability. It provides a framework for managing the Council's capital programme and forms part of the Council's integrated revenue, capital and balance sheet planning. ➤ The Strategic Plan is supported by Performance Indicators that are monitored by the Cabinet and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. ➤ Money Matters Reports are presented at quarterly intervals to Cabinet and Briefing Notes are provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Financial projections are updated in these reports. ➤ The Council engages with internal and external stakeholders and has approved a Community Power Strategy that builds on the existing Community Engagement Strategy. ➤ The achievement of 'social value' forms part of the procurement strategy.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

E Developing Capacity, including the Capability of Leadership and the Individuals within it

How we do this:

- The Constitution sets out how the Council legally operates, how formal decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. The document identifies the roles and responsibilities of Member and officer functions, with clear delegation arrangements and protocols for decision making and communication. The Constitution is kept under continual review and changes are recommended to full council as appropriate.
- The Council has approved an organisational change programme – Be a Better Council 2021-2024. It will enable the Council to be:
 - Better equipped – realigning service structures and rethinking how our services are delivered, and by whom. We will bring all residents’ facing services together and support them with better use of digital technologies that are second nature to our invisible competition. Where sensible, we will merge the functional elements of services (e.g. assessment and processing) and underpin their management and delivery with stronger performance management and greater clarity over what is expected of them.
 - Better led – creating a strong ‘can do’ culture across the organisation and equipping all our managers with the right skills to do their jobs.
 - Better performing – investing in the core capacity and capabilities of our workforce, to create an officer cohort capable of increased growth and performance.
- The Council has a training plan for Members which is developed and monitored by the Employment Committee. The areas covered included safeguarding, planning enforcement, Code of Conduct and governance, the local plan, press and social media, and equality and diversity.
- The Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer and Assistant Directors have annual performance targets. These are based on delivery of the Strategic Plan and the business risks anticipated for the year. Senior politicians appraise the Chief Executive’s performance against these targets and the Chief Executive appraises the Chief Operating Officer/Assistant Directors.
- OKRs are carried out for employees and training needs are identified as part of this process. An updated version of OKRs is planned for rollout during the 2023/24 year.
- A structured e-learning programme is available which greatly enhances the learning and development opportunities for a large cross-section of employees. Areas covered include fraud awareness and equalities.
- Employees are kept up to date with issues affecting the Council through regular emails from the Chief Executive, monthly ‘all-hands calls’ a dedicated LDC Teams Channel and a staff magazine.
- The Council has a Belonging and Wellbeing Strategy that aims:
 - to ensure all employees are supported
 - provide a positive environment that is compatible with promoting staff engagement, being an employer of choice, improving attendance, high organisational performance, resident focus and organisational performance.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- Local Government Association Peer Review was used to provide an external ‘health check’ in early 2022, on core components including political & managerial leadership, governance & decision making and organisational capacity

F. Managing Risks and Performance through Robust Internal Control and Strong Public Financial Management

Supporting Principles:

Managing Risk

How we do this:

- The Council has a Risk Management Policy that defines the roles and responsibilities for managing risk.
- A Corporate Strategic Risk Register is produced by assessing the risk factors that could potentially impact on the Council’s ability to deliver its Strategic Plan. Risks are judged on their likelihood of occurrence and their potential impact. These are monitored by Members and Senior Officers and reported quarterly to Audit and Member Standards Committee.
- An ‘Acceptable Use Policy’ for IT seeks to ensure that all computer systems and networks owned or managed by the Council are updated in an effective, safe, ethical and lawful manner.
- Financial Procedure Rules form part of the Constitution and set out the financial management framework for ensuring the best use of resources. It outlines the financial roles and responsibilities for staff and Members and provides a framework for financial decision-making. The Rules ensure statutory powers and duties are complied with, and reflect best professional practice.
- The Council has reviewed and revised its Contract Procedure Rules.
- The Chief Financial Officer provides effective financial management in accordance with the financial procedures and rules set out in the Constitution.
- There is Clarity over the role of Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer.
- Maintenance of an effective system of both internal and more detailed financial control is the agreed responsibility of Heads of Service and Service Managers, who are responsible for managing their services within available resources, in accordance with agreed policies and procedures, and to support the sustainable delivery of strategic priorities in the Strategic Plan and maintain statutory functions. Elements include:
 - Monthly review of budgetary control information by budget holders and Heads of Service to compare expected to actual performance and to forecast going forward.
 - Formal budgetary monitoring reports reviewed with budget holders and Heads of Service at quarterly intervals. These look at actual performance and provide forecasts going forward
 - Money Matters reports are produced quarterly, reviewed by Leadership Team and reported to Overview and Scrutiny, Cabinet and Full Council.
- The Financial Management Code was applied from 1 April 2020.
- The Audit and Member Standards Committee provides independent assurance over governance, risk and internal control arrangements with a focus on financial management, financial reporting audit and assurance. The Committee is independent of the Executive and accountable to the governing body.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

➤ The Audit and Member Standards Committee has approved a Counter Fraud Framework.
Supporting Principles:
Managing Performance
How we do this: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Strategic Plan outlines priorities.➤ The Strategic Plan is supported by Performance Indicators that are monitored by Leadership Team, the Cabinet and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.➤ Service Plans set out key priorities, objectives and risks for individual services➤ Performance is monitored by Leadership Team, Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.➤ The Overview & Scrutiny function has been reviewed and improved to ensure effective oversight, constructive challenge and review.➤ Reports provide clear objective analysis and advice including risk and assess financial, social and environmental implications.➤ Performance on individual actions is registered on the Pentana system providing real-time performance information.➤ Personal Development Reviews are used to assess performance and set goals and objectives at the individual level.
Supporting Principles:
Robust Internal Control
How we do this: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Internal Audit Service provides an objective evaluation of internal controls to effectively manage risk and monitors any weaknesses identified to ensure these are addressed.➤ Audit and Member Standards Committee is independent from the Executive and provides further assurance on the governance of risk management and internal control arrangements.➤ Fraud is taken very seriously and the Council has an anti-fraud and corruption policy and a whistleblowing policy which is reviewed annually and approved by the Audit and Member Standards Committee.
Supporting Principles:
Managing Data
How we do this: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Council is committed to complying with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. It is recognised that the correct and lawful treatment of personal data maintains public confidence and trust.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- Compliance with the Council's Data Protection Policy is mandatory. The policy facilitates a unified GDPR compliant framework for all Members and officers when managing and processing customer data.
- In line with GDPR requirement the Council has appointed a Data Protection Officer (DPO) to oversee compliance with GDPR and provide advice in relation to the law. The Council's DPO, works closely with the Chief Operating Officer, who is the Council's Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO).
- Monitoring also includes an annual reports of the Data Protection Officer to Audit and Member Standards Committee, internal/external audits and Information Commissioner reviews as appropriate.
- An action plan has been adopted to ensure recommendations in the 2021/22 internal audit of GDPR are delivered and reported as appropriate.
- We are registered as a Controller under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which governs how we manage and process the information we collect and retain. We have a nominated Data Protection Officer and procedures in place that explain how we use and share information, as well as arrangements for members of the public to access information.

Supporting Principles:

Strong Public Financial Management

How we do this:

- Budget holders and Leadership Team review budgets on a monthly basis to monitor actual performance and review/update forecasts.
- Formal budgetary monitoring reports are reviewed with budget holders and Heads of Service at quarterly intervals.
- Money Matters reports considering financial performance against the financial strategy are produced quarterly. The reports are reviewed by Leadership Team and reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.
- The Council has implemented the Financial Management Code developed by CIPFA in consultation with senior practitioners from local authorities and associated stakeholders.
- External Audit reviews the Council's financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement) providing an opinion on the accounts and the arrangements in place for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources (the value for money conclusion).
- The Audit and Member Standards Committee is independent of the Executive and accountable to the governing body. It considers the external audit opinion on value for money has part of its responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of the control environment and value for money.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

G. Implementing Good Practices in Transparency, Reporting, and Audit to deliver Effective Accountability

Supporting Principles:		
Implementing Good Practices in Transparency	Implementing Good Practice in Reporting	Audit and Delivering Effective Accountability
How we do this:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Agendas and Minutes of Cabinet and Committee meetings are published on the Council's website. ➤ Upcoming Key Decisions are Published on the Cabinet's Forward Plan. ➤ The Council has a Freedom of Information publication scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The published Annual Statement of Accounts is a statutory summary of the Council's financial affairs for the financial year. It provides clear information on the income and expenditure of the Council and sets out the Council's stewardship of public money. ➤ The Annual Governance Statement and Local Code of Corporate Governance set out governance arrangements and consider their effectiveness against the seven key principles. ➤ The Audit and Member Standards Committee reviews and approves the Annual Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Accountability and decision making arrangements are clearly defined within the Council's constitution. ➤ The Audit and Member Standards Committee provides independent assurance to the Council on the adequacy and effectiveness of governance arrangements and internal control. ➤ Risk based internal audit, compliant with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, provides ongoing assurance that key risks material to achieving the Council's objectives are being managed. ➤ External Auditors carry out reviews of our internal control arrangements throughout the year. No weaknesses have been reported in their updates to Audit and Member Standards Committee during 2022/23.

Annual Review of the Effectiveness of the Governance Framework

How has the Council Addressed the Governance Improvement Actions from 2021/22?

In 2021/22 no significant weaknesses in Governance/Internal Control were highlighted in the feedback received from members and senior officers.

Governance Review 2022/23

We have a legal responsibility to conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of our Governance Framework, including the system of internal control. The outcomes of the review are considered by Audit (and Member Standards) Committee (which is charged with final approval of this statement).

The review is informed by:

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- The views of Internal Audit, reported to Audit and Member Standards Committee through regular progress reports, and the Annual Internal Audit Opinion.
- An annual review, carried out by the Audit Manager, of the effectiveness of Internal Audit (as required by Regulation 6(3) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015).
- The views of our External Auditors, regularly reported to Audit and Member Standards Committee through regular progress reports, the Auditors Annual Report, the Informing the Audit Risk Assessment document, the Audit Findings Report and the Audit Plan.
- The views of the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive), Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer.
- The activities and operations of Council Service Areas whose Heads provide written assurance statements using an Internal Control Checklist.
- The views of Members (Chairmen and Vice Chairmen and Leader of the Minority Group) using a Members' Questionnaire.
- The Risk Management Process, particularly the Corporate Strategic Risk Register.
- Performance information reported to Cabinet, Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Looking Ahead

The requirement to appoint an Independent Member to the Audit Committee should be reviewed following the local elections and subsequent skills assessment of the committee composition. This remains an ongoing Governance consideration.

The LWM Traded Services Ltd - the Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo) will need to be monitored as the company expands to include Disabled Facilities Grants and Leisure Centre Management. Internal Audit have confirmed that this will be included in the 2023/24 audit planning process.

Conclusion of the Review

We consider the Governance Framework and Internal Control environment operating during 2021/22 to provide reasonable and objective assurance that any significant risks impacting on the achievement of our principal objectives will be identified and actions taken to avoid or mitigate their impact.

The system of Governance (including the system of Internal Control) can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, that transactions are authorised and properly recorded, that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period, that value for money is being secured and that significant risks impacting on the achievement of our objectives have been mitigated.



Simon Fletcher
Chief Executive



Councillor Douglas Pullen
Leader of the Council

EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS – NOTE TO THE ACCOUNTS

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants and business rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's strategic priorities. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES). The Expenditure and Funding Analysis is **not** a Core Statement but has been included here as it brings together local authority performance reported on the basis of expenditure measured under proper accounting practices with statutorily defined charges to the General Fund.

2021/22						2022/23				
Narrative Report	Presentation and Earmarked Reserves	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments Between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the CIES		Narrative Report	Presentation and Earmarked Reserves	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments Between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the CIES
6,330	114	6,444	99	6,543	A Good Council	9,340	(1,871)	7,469	765	8,234
(254)	157	(97)	1,257	1,160	Developing Prosperity	59	811	870	1,569	2,439
3,427	(521)	2,906	(34)	2,872	Shaping Place	3,922	606	4,528	111	4,639
1,439	(18)	1,421	181	1,602	Enabling People	1,346	441	1,787	498	2,285
(75)	236	161	643	804	COVID-19 - General Recovery	0	0	0	0	0
1,141	(723)	418	0	418	COVID-19 - Specific Risks	0	0	0	0	0
12,008	(755)	11,253	2,146	13,399	Cost of Services	14,667	(13)	14,654	2,943	17,597
(12,008)	2,275	(9,733)	(5,227)	(14,960)	Other Income and Expenditure	(14,667)	2,930	(11,737)	(3,423)	(15,160)
0	1,520	1,520	(3,081)	(1,561)	(Surplus) or deficit on Provision of Services (cash flow)	0	2,917	2,917	(480)	2,437
		(26,062)			Opening General Fund			(24,542)		
		1,520			Less/Plus (Surplus) or Deficit on General Fund Balance in Year			2,917		
		(24,542)			Closing General Fund			(21,625)		

31 March 2022		31 March 2023
£000		£000
6,846	General Fund Balance	5,985
17,696	Earmarked Reserves Balance	15,639
24,542	Total	21,625

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

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

2021/22				2022/23		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
7,315	(772)	6,543	A Good Council	9,125	(891)	8,234
6,482	(5,322)	1,160	Developing Prosperity	7,553	(5,114)	2,439
23,352	(20,480)	2,872	Shaping Place	24,107	(19,468)	4,639
3,231	(1,629)	1,602	Enabling People	3,507	(1,222)	2,285
804	0	804	COVID-19 - General Recovery	0	0	0
418	0	418	COVID-19 - Specific Risks	0	0	0
41,602	(28,203)	13,399	Cost of Services	44,292	(26,695)	17,597
2,084	(563)	1,521	Other Operating Expenditure (Note 9)	2,158	(374)	1,784
557	(801)	(244)	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (Note 10)	1,778	(1,793)	(15)
12,426	(27,962)	(15,536)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (Note 11)	13,053	(29,982)	(16,929)
0	(701)	(701)	COVID-19 Non-Specific Government Funding (Note 43)	0	0	0
56,669	(58,230)	(1,561)	(Surplus) or deficit on Provision of Services (cash flow)	61,281	(58,844)	2,437
		(2,040)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets			(3,371)
		(14,956)	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability			(22,454)
		(16,996)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(25,825)
		(18,557)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(23,388)

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

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

	General Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
Balance at 31 March 2021	26,063	3,106	3,618	32,787	(8,528)	24,259
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	1,561	0	0	1,561	16,996	18,557
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis	(3,082)	(178)	439	(2,821)	2,820	(1)
Increase/(Decrease) in Year	(1,521)	(178)	439	(1,260)	19,816	18,556
Balance at 31 March 2022	24,542	2,928	4,057	31,527	11,288	42,815

	General Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
Balance at 31 March 2022	24,542	2,928	4,057	31,527	11,288	42,815
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(2,437)	0	0	(2,437)	25,825	23,388
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis	(480)	(647)	131	(995)	995	(1)
Increase/(Decrease) in Year	(2,917)	(647)	131	(3,432)	26,820	23,387
Balance at 31 March 2023	21,625	2,281	4,188	28,094	38,108	66,202

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
6,846	General Fund Balance	5,985
17,696	Earmarked Reserves Balance	15,640
24,542	Total	21,625

BALANCE SHEET

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

2021/22 £000		Notes	2022/23 £000
43,396	Property, Plant & Equipment	12	46,752
425	Heritage Assets	13	425
4,153	Investment Property	14	4,838
59	Intangible Assets		56
225	Investment in Associates and Joint Ventures	42	225
10,228	Long Term Investments	15	12,770
143	Long Term Debtors	15	121
58,629	Long Term Assets		65,187
45	Inventories		49
4,951	Short Term Debtors	16	5,408
21,059	Short Term Investments	15	22,260
18,496	Cash and Cash Equivalents	17	11,080
44,551	Current Assets		38,797
(61)	Short Term Borrowing	15	(61)
(23,527)	Short Term Creditors	18	(19,482)
(801)	Short Term Provisions	19	(450)
(383)	Short Term Liabilities: Finance Leases	36	0
(1,196)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	33	(1,657)
(25,968)	Current Liabilities		(21,650)
(1,065)	Long Term Borrowing	15	(1,005)
(64)	Long Term Creditors	15	(64)
(2,172)	Long Term Provisions	19	(2,098)
(30,268)	Long Term Liabilities: Defined Benefit Pension	38	(11,630)
(828)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance (LT)	33	(1,333)
(34,397)	Long Term Liabilities		(16,130)
42,815	Net Assets		66,204
31,527	Usable Reserves	20	28,095
11,288	Unusable Reserves	21	38,109
42,815	Total Reserves		66,204

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

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

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
1,561	Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	(2,437)
13,821	Adjustments to Net Surplus or Deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements (Note 22)	1,116
(2,390)	Adjustments for items included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities (Note 23)	(4,959)
12,992	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	(6,280)
(6,150)	Investing Activities (Note 24)	(3,072)
(2,417)	Financing Activities (Note 25)	1,936
4,425	Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(7,416)
14,071	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	18,496
18,496	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (Note 17)	11,080

INDEX OF NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Note No.	Note	Page
1	Accounting Policies	42
2	Accounting Standards that have Been Issued but have Not Yet Been Adopted	57
6	Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations	59
23	Adjustments for Items Included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities	81
22	Adjustments to Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements	81
4	Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty	59
35	Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing	88
17	Cash and Cash Equivalents	76
25	Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities	82
24	Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities	81
26	Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities	82
40	Contingent Assets	96
39	Contingent Liabilities	95
3	Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies	58
38	Defined Benefit Pension Schemes	90
5	Events After the Balance Sheet Date	59
7	Expenditure and Funding Analysis Notes	61
32	External Audit Costs	85
15	Financial Instruments	71
41	Financial Instruments – Risks	96
10	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	64
33	Grant Income	86
13	Heritage Assets	69
37	Impairment Losses	90
14	Investment Properties	70
29	Jointly Controlled Operations	83
36	Leases	89
42	Local Authority Company	99
43	Material Items of Income and Expenditure	100
30	Members' Allowances	84
31	Officers' Remuneration	84
9	Other Operating Expenditure	64
28	Principal and Agency Services	82
12	Property, Plant and Equipment	66
19	Provisions	77
27	Reconciliation of Liabilities Arising from Financial Activities	82
34	Related Parties	87
18	Short Term Creditors	76
16	Short Term Debtors	76
11	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	65
8	Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	63
21	Unusable Reserves	78
20	Usable Reserves	78

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting Policies

General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2022/23 financial year and its position at the year end of 31 March 2023. The Council is required to prepare an Annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, which those Regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under Section 12 of the 2003 Local Government Act.

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.

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:

- 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.
- Revenue from contracts with service recipients is recognised when it satisfies a performance obligation by transferring promised goods or services to a recipient, measured as the amount of the overall transaction price allocated to that obligation
- 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.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. Therefore, our policy is to treat all instant access bank accounts and money market funds as cash equivalents and all other investments for less than one year (including any investments with notice periods) are treated as short term investments.

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.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services, support services and trading accounts such as Building Control are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding property, plant and equipment assets during the year:

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

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from Revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). Our MRP policy is:

- For finance leases, the MRP will match the annual principal repayment for the lease, and;
- For all other assets, the MRP is based on the initial estimated life of the asset.

Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by MRP in the General Fund by way of an adjusting transaction between the General Fund and the Capital Adjustment Account. This transfer is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

Accounting for Council Tax

While the Council Tax income for the year credited to the Collection Fund is the accrued income for the year, regulations determine when it should be released from the Collection Fund and paid out to major preceptors. The amount credited to the General Fund under statute is a Council's precept or demand for the year, plus or minus the Council's share of the surplus/deficit on the Collection Fund for the previous year.

The Council Tax income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the Council's share of the Collection Fund's accrued income for the year. The difference between this value and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The cash collected by the Council from Council Tax payers belongs proportionately to all the major preceptors. The difference between the amounts collected on behalf of the other major preceptors and payments made to them is reflected as a debtor or creditor balance as appropriate.

Accounting for Non-Domestic (Business) Rates (NDR)

The NDR income for the year credited to the Collection Fund is the accrued income for the year, regulations determine when it should be released from the Collection Fund and paid out to major preceptors and the Government. The amount credited to the General Fund under statute is the Council's estimated share of NDR for the year from the National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) 1 return.

The NDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the Council's share of the Collection Fund's accrued income for the year from the NNDR 3 return. The difference between this value and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The cash collected by the Council from NDR payers belongs proportionately to all the major preceptors and Government. The difference between the amounts collected on behalf of the other major preceptors, Government and the payments made to them is reflected as a debtor or creditor balance as appropriate.

Since the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme effective from 1 April 2013, local authorities are liable for successful appeals against business rates charged to businesses in 2022/23 and earlier financial years in their proportionate share. Therefore, a provision has been recognised for the best estimate of the amount that businesses have been overcharged up to 31 March 2023. The estimate for the 2010 valuation lists have been calculated using the Valuation Office (VO) ratings list of appeals and the analysis of successful appeals to date. The appeals for the 2017 valuation list under the new Check, Challenge and Appeal process are based on the Government's allowance for appeals and a local assessment.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable during Employment

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

An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

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

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to 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 Council are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administered by Staffordshire County Council.

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

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

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

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

- 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 arising from current year decisions 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.
- Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), ie the net interest cost – 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.

Re-measurements 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 or 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; are accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

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

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Events after the Balance Sheet Date

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

Two types of events can be identified:

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

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

Fair Value Measurement

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

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

The Authority measures the 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 Authority'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

When a quoted price for the transfer of an identical or a similar liability is not available and the identical item is held by another party as an asset, for example, the Authority's loans borrowed, the Authority measures the fair value of the liability from that party's perspective.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised when the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument or, in the case of trade payables, when the goods or services have been received. Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability has been extinguished – that is, the obligation has been discharged or cancelled or has expired.

Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method. The effective interest rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the life of the asset, to the amortised cost of the financial liability. 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. This means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest); and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are recognised when the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument or, in the case of trade receivables, when the goods or services have been delivered. Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights have expired or when the asset has been transferred and the Council has transferred substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership or has not retained control of the asset.

The Code allows for three classes of financial assets:

- Amortised cost
- Fair value through profit or loss (FVPL)
- Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI).

The classification is determined by the cash flow and business model characteristics of the financial assets, as set out in the Code, and is determined at the time of initial recognition. In addition, the Council has elected to classify as FVOCI certain equity investments held for strategic purposes.

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are those held within a business model whose objective is to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows and where cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest. This includes most trade receivables, loans receivable, and other simple debt instruments (bank deposits and Certificates of Deposit).

After initial recognition, these financial assets are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an impairment loss allowance. Annual credits to the Financing Income and Expenditure line in the CIES for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the life of the financial asset to the gross carrying amount of the financial asset.

The Council has made loans, as part of its policy of homelessness prevention, at less than market rates (soft loans). When such loans are made, a loss is recorded in the CIES for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal. Interest is credited at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the CIES to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the MIRS.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Financial Assets at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income

Financial assets measured at FVOCI are those held within a business model whose objective is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling financial assets and where the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest. Annual credits to the Financing Income and Expenditure line in the CIES for interest receivable are the same as if the asset was classified at amortised cost, but the asset is held on the balance sheet at fair value; the resulting difference is taken to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

On de-recognition, the associated balance in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve FIRR representing the accumulated fair values gain or loss is recycled to Finance Income and Expenditure.

Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit and Loss

All other financial assets are measured at FVPL. They are held on the balance sheet and their fair value and all gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised are taken to the Financing Income and Expenditure line in the CIES. On derecognition, the financial asset is derecognised with any surplus or deficit recognised financing and investment income in the CIES. A statutory mitigation is in place until 31 March 2025 so that unrealised gains and losses on pooled investment funds are taken to the Pooled Investment Fund Adjustment Account instead of the General Fund and so have no impact on revenue resources available to fund service expenditure.

Impairment

For all financial assets measured at amortised cost or at FVOCI, other than those elected as FVOCI, the Council recognises a loss allowance representing expected credit losses on the financial instrument. The Code requires that local authorities shall not recognise a loss allowance for expected credit losses on a financial asset where the other party is central government or a local authority for which relevant statutory provisions prevent default.

The Council adopts the simplified approach to impairment, in accordance with the Code, and measures the loss allowance for trade receivables, contract assets and lease receivables at an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses. For other financial assets, the loss allowance is measured at an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses if the credit risk on the financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition, and otherwise at an amount equal to 12 month expected credit losses.

For financial assets that have become credit impaired since initial recognition, expected credit losses at the reporting date are measured as the difference between the net present value of all the contractual cash flows that are due to the Council in accordance with the contract for the instrument and the net present value of all the cash flows that the Council expects to receive, discounted at the original effective interest rate. Any adjustment is recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Service as an impairment gain or loss.

Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

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

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

Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Heritage Assets

The Council's Heritage Assets are located at various Council properties. 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. The Council's Heritage Assets are accounted for as follows:

Statues:

- These statues are located in various parks and open spaces and a library within the District. These items are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation and estimated market value. Insurance valuations are updated on an annual basis.
- The collection is relatively static and acquisitions and donations are rare. Where they do occur acquisitions are initially recognised at cost.

Art Collection:

- The art collection includes paintings and is reported in the Balance Sheet at estimated market value. The art collection is deemed to have indeterminate lives and hence the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.
- Acquisitions are made by purchase or donation. Acquisitions initially are recognised at cost and any donations are recognised at valuation with valuations provided by external Valuers and with reference to the appropriate commercial markets for the paintings using the most relevant and recent information from sales at auctions.

Other Items:

- The Council has a number of items of civic regalia and trophies and these are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation. Insurance valuations are updated on an annual basis. The collection is relatively static and acquisitions and donations are rare. Where they do occur acquisitions are initially recognised at cost.

Heritage Assets - General

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment for heritage assets e.g. where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise over its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's general policies on impairment - see page 90 (Impairment) and pages 66 to 69 (Property, Plant and Equipment) in this Summary of Accounting Policies. Any disposals are accounted for in accordance with the general provisions relating to the disposal of property, plant and equipment. Disposal proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements and are accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts (again see pages 66 to 69 (Property, Plant and Equipment) in this Summary of Accounting Policies).

Interests in companies and other entities

The Council has a wholly-owned subsidiary, LWM Traded Services Ltd. The financial transactions are not currently considered to be material to require the Council to prepare group accounts. In the Council's own single-entity accounts, the interest is recorded as a financial asset at fair value.

Inventories

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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, based on the amount at which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable parties at arm's-length. 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.

Joint Operations

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

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

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.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

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

Lease payments are apportioned between:

- A charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant or equipment – applied to write down the lease liability, and
- A finance charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).
- Any charge for services (charged to the relevant service line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement). Where this charge cannot be separately identified, it is assumed to be the difference between the lease payment and the total of the charges for acquisition of the interest in the property, plant and equipment and the finance charge.

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

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to cover depreciation or revaluation and impairment losses arising on leased assets. Instead, a prudent annual contribution is made from revenue funds towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory requirements (known as Minimum Revenue Provision or MRP). 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).

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the Council grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (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 and also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (ie netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal), 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 Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, 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.

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. This means effectively that the cost of the overheads is shown in total within 'A Good Council' in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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 Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (ie. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

De Minimis Level

Expenditure below **£10,000** is not capitalised and therefore is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- The purchase price and
- 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 Council does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction.

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

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction - depreciated historical cost.
- 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 fair value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of fair value.

Where non-property assets that have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for fair value.

Component Accounting Policy for Property, Plant and Equipment

International Accounting Standard 16 (IAS 16) – Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) contains the accounting requirements for the separate recognition, depreciation and de-recognition of parts of assets (referred to as componentisation).

All historical cost based assets with short lives, land and investment properties will be excluded from our Component Accounting Policy.

Components that are required to be depreciated separately are those that have a cost that is significant in relation to the total cost of the asset, a different useful life and method of depreciation.

Policy for Componentisation

- Components of an asset will be separated where their value is significant in relation to the total value of the asset and where those components have different useful lives to the remainder of the asset for depreciation purposes.
- Where there is more than one significant component part of the same asset with the same useful life, such component parts will be grouped together for depreciation purposes.
- A component may be an individual item or similar items with similar useful lives grouped.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

- Where a component is replaced or restored, the carrying amount of the old component will be de-recognised and the new component added. Where the carrying value of the de-recognised/replaced component is not known a best estimate will be determined by reference to the current cost.
- Only assets with a carrying value of **£500,000** and over will be considered for componentisation.
- Of those assets, for the purpose of determining a 'significant' component of an asset, components with a value of 15% in relation to the overall value of the asset or over **£500,000** will be considered and then only if the component has a different useful life for depreciation purposes so as to result in depreciation charges that differ materially from the depreciation charges had the asset not been componentised.
- On componentisation any Revaluation Reserve balances will remain with the structure of the building. Any future revaluation gains and losses will be applied across components as appropriate.

To enable a structured approach to component accounting the following principles are applied:

To be considered for componentisation an individual asset (or a group of similar assets) must:

- (i) Have a carrying value of at least **£500,000**, or
- (ii) Have been acquired, or
- (iii) Have undergone revaluation, or
- (iv) Undergo a change in category classification

A component must:

- (v) Have a cost of at least **£100,000**, or
- (vi) Cost at least **15%** of the overall asset (whichever is higher), and
- (vii) Have a useful life which is at least **plus or minus five years** from other components of the overall asset.

Where components are identified, they will be set up separately in the asset register and have individual values, useful lives and depreciation methods recorded.

Valuation

The five year valuation cycle remains and therefore componentisation needs to be considered for each asset in the portfolio in excess of the **£500,000** threshold.

In addition, in each financial year, a list of assets that have had capital expenditure incurred will be considered in terms of this component accounting policy and enhancement spend (at cost) will be added to the relevant assets. These assets will then be subject to revaluation as part of our normal revaluation cycle.

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 fair 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. 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.

Where a revaluation takes place all accumulated depreciation and impairment is eliminated because these are accounting estimates of changes in value whose value is confirmed by a formal valuation reflecting the actual condition of the property at the valuation date.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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. With our valuer we will continue to complete a desktop Impairment review on an annual basis.

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 (ie. freehold land and certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (ie. assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer.
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – straight-line allocation over the useful life as estimated by Managers.
- Infrastructure – straight-line allocation over the useful life as estimated by Managers.
- A full year's charge is made in the year of acquisition and no charge is made in the year of disposal or decommissioning.

Where an item of 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. 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.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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 (ie netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts received for a disposal in excess of **£10,000** are categorised as capital receipts.

Receipts are credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are 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 fixed 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.

Surplus Assets

Surplus Assets are those assets within property, plant and equipment that are not used to supply goods and services and that do not meet the criteria of assets held for sale. These assets are measured at fair value as a current value base and not existing use value.

Provisions and Contingent Liabilities

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

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

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

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Contingent Liabilities

Contingent liabilities arise when 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 is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

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

Reserves

The Council 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.

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

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCuS)

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

VAT

VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from His Majesty's Revenue and Customs. Lichfield District Council is in a VAT receivable position at year end; the balance outstanding is included in **Note 16** Short Term Debtors.

2. Accounting Standards that have been Issued but have not yet been Adopted

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted. There are no changes in accounting requirements for 2023/24 that are anticipated to have a material impact on the Council's financial performance or financial position.

3. Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in **Note 1**, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events.

The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts:

1. The Council hosts the Joint Waste Service with Tamworth Borough Council and is responsible for management of the arrangement including the refuse fleet. Each Council is responsible for showing its share of income and expenditure and assets and liabilities within its Financial Statements. In February 2016 the Council procured a new waste fleet using a contract hire arrangement that has been evaluated under IAS 17 as a finance lease. The value of assets procured and the finance lease obligation was **£2,240,000**. A further **£680,000** of assets was added to this during 2016/17. At 31 March 2022 the Net Book Value of the assets was **£0** and the value of the finance lease obligation was **£0**. The assets of the operation in respect of vehicles, equipment, land and buildings have been assessed as being under the control of Lichfield District Council and are therefore shown on this Authority's Balance Sheet. The Joint Waste Service shares joint income and expenditure based on the ratio of properties in each area and the current ratio is **58.09%** Lichfield and **41.91%** Tamworth.
2. The Council outsourced the management of its leisure centres to Freedom Leisure on 1 February 2018. As part of the contractual arrangements, all leisure centre staff were transferred to Freedom Leisure via TUPE arrangements. Freedom Leisure has been admitted to the Staffordshire County Council pension fund and pension arrangements between Lichfield District Council, Staffordshire County Council and Freedom Leisure are managed using a pass through agreement. This agreement assigns most of the pension risk to Lichfield District Council. The IAS19 report provided by the actuary excludes the assets and liabilities relating to the transferred staff. As the Council acts as guarantor for the pension commitments of these former employees, an annual assessment is carried out by management of the risk and potential financial consequences should the Council be called to settle these liabilities. For 2022/23, the risk continues to be difficult to quantify after Covid-19 and with the cost-of-living challenges, but has been assessed at low, between **1%** or **£19,232** and **5%** or **£96,161**. This is based on the operating environment nationally, the overall financial position of Freedom Leisure and the contract between Freedom and the Council. In addition, the management of leisure centres will be insourced to LWM Traded Services Ltd from 1 April 2023.
3. The assumptions around the outcome of appeals against NNDR valuations (either received to date or expected to be received in future years) represent a material and critical judgement applied to the accounts. The appeals provision is empirically derived from past experience of the 2010 List as well as appeals determinations so far as made against the 2017 List. A **1%** variance in the determined appeals provision would alter the net locally retained income (40%) to the Council by **£6,000** for the 2010 list and **£595,000** for the 2017 list. Due to the technical adjustment relating to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account, this would not result in any change to the level of General Reserves.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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

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



5. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Section 151 Officer on 24 April 2024.

The financial statements and notes have not been adjusted for the following events which took place after 31 March 2023 as they provide information that is relevant to an understanding of the Authority's financial position but do not relate to conditions at that date:

- Insourcing to LWMTS leisure centre management and LDC receiving income from leisure centres
- Insourcing to LWMTS disabled facilities grants
- Transfer of communications function to LWMTS
- Land exchange Three Spires Freehold for six units leasehold
- Triennial Valuation of the Pension Fund on 31 March 2023.

6. Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under Regulations

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

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2021/22			2022/23			
	Usable Reserves		Movement in Unusable Reserves £000	Usable Reserves		Movement in Unusable Reserves £000	
	General Fund Balance £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000		General Fund Balance £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000		
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES):							
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	2,027		(2,027)	1,641		(1,641)	
Revaluation (gains) / losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(383)		383	545		(545)	
Movements in the market value of investment properties	(205)		205	(665)		665	
Amortisation of intangible assets	27		(27)	3		(3)	
Capital grants and contributions applied	(2,109)		2,109	(1,187)		1,187	
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	1,817		(1,817)	1,286		(1,286)	
Amounts on non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	40		(40)	33		(33)	
Insertion of Items not debited or credited to the CIES							
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(616)		616	(429)		429	
Capital Expenditure charged to the General Fund	(1,125)		1,125	(1,353)		1,353	
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account							
Capital Grants and Contributions unapplied credited to the CIES	(1,063)	1,063		(361)	361		
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account		(624)	624		(230)	230	
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve							
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	(59)	59		0	0	0	
Unattached Capital Receipts not related to current year asset disposal to the CIES	(504)	504		(373)	373		
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure		(742)	742		(1,020)	1,020	
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve							
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES	5,155		(5,155)	5,351		(5,351)	
Employers pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(2,589)		2,589	(2,698)		2,698	
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund adjustment account							
Amount by which Council Tax and Business Rate income credited to the CIES is different to that calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(3,174)		3,174	(3,730)		3,730	
Adjustments related to the pooled fund adjustment account							
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements	(269)		269	1,458		(1,458)	
Adjustments primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account							
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(51)		51	0		0	
Total Adjustments	(3,081)	(179)	439	2,821	(479)	131	995

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

7. Expenditure and Funding Analysis Notes

2021/22

Presentation and Earmarked Reserves

This table shows the detail of presentational changes related to earmarked reserves, and the transfer to General Reserves (other).

	Actual Outturn £000	Earmarked Reserves £000	Other £000	Total Adjustments £000	Expenditure & Funding Analysis £000
A Good Council	6,330	114	0	114	6,444
Developing Prosperity	(254)	157	0	157	(97)
Shaping Place	3,427	(521)	0	(521)	2,906
Enabling People	1,439	(18)	0	(18)	1,421
COVID-19 - General Recovery	(75)	236	0	236	161
COVID-19 - Specific Risks	1,141	(723)	0	(723)	418
Net Cost of Services	12,008	(755)	0	(755)	11,253
Other Income and Expenditure	(12,008)	2,407	(132)	2,275	(9,733)
(Surplus) or deficit on Provision of Services (cash flow)	0	1,652	(132)	1,520	1,520

Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis

This table summarises the adjustments between the Funding and Accounting basis shown in detail on page 60 under the column General Fund Balance.

	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £000	Net Change for the Pension Adjustments £000	Other Differences £000	Total Adjustments £000
A Good Council	423	800	(1,124)	99
Developing Prosperity	767	502	(12)	1,257
Shaping Place	(360)	1,217	(891)	(34)
Enabling People	330	293	(442)	181
COVID-19 - General Recovery	0	0	643	643
Cost of Services	1,160	2,812	(1,826)	2,146
Other Income and Expenditure	(1,572)	858	(4,513)	(5,227)
(Surplus) or deficit on Provision of Services (cash flow)	(412)	3,670	(6,339)	(3,081)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

2022/23

Presentation and Earmarked Reserves

This table shows the detail of presentational changes related to earmarked reserves, and the transfer to General Reserves (other).

	Actual Outturn £000	Earmarked Reserves £000	Other £000	Total Adjustments £000	Expenditure & Funding Analysis £000
A Good Council	9,340	(1,871)	0	(1,871)	7,469
Developing Prosperity	59	811	0	811	870
Shaping Place	3,922	606	0	606	4,528
Enabling People	1,346	441	0	441	1,787
Net Cost of Services	14,667	(13)	0	(13)	14,654
Other Income and Expenditure	(14,667)	2,069	861	2,930	(11,737)
(Surplus) or deficit on Provision of Services (cash flow)	0	2,056	861	2,917	2,917

Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis

This table summarises the adjustments between the Funding and Accounting basis shown in detail on page 60 under the column General Fund Balance.

	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £000	Net Change for the Pension Adjustments £000	Other Differences £000	Total Adjustments £000
A Good Council	435	1,289	(959)	765
Developing Prosperity	1,315	303	(49)	1,569
Shaping Place	93	1,122	(1,104)	111
Enabling People	569	247	(318)	498
Cost of Services	2,412	2,961	(2,430)	2,943
Other Income and Expenditure	(1,491)	855	(2,787)	(3,423)
(Surplus) or deficit on Provision of Services (cash flow)	921	3,816	(5,217)	(480)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The table below shows the information in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement showing the different types of income and expenditure.

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
(14,166)	Fees, charges and other service income	(13,591)
(423)	Interest and investment income	(1,435)
(9,337)	Income from council tax	(9,675)
(20,702)	Government Grants	(21,318)
(44,628)	Total Income	(46,019)
15,869	Employee Expenses	17,541
22,313	Other Service Expenses	23,339
1,878	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	1,990
103	Interest Payments	66
858	Pension interest and expected return on Assets	856
2,838	Precepts and Levies	3,547
(19)	Gain or Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	33
(269)	Gain or Loss on Fair Value of Pooled Funds	1,458
(504)	Capital Grants & Contributions	(374)
43,067	Total Expenditure	48,456
(1,561)	(Surplus)/Deficit on the provision of services	2,437

8. Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure in 2022/23. Reserves identified as restricted are required under legal agreements and can only be used for defined purposes.

	Balance at 31 March 2021 £000	Transfers out 2021/22 £000	Transfers in 2021/22 £000	Balance at 31 March 2022 £000	Transfers out 2022/23 £000	Transfers in 2022/23 £000	Balance at 31 March 2023 £000
Earmarked General Reserve	(6,692)	977	(974)	(6,689)	1,567	(6,225)	(11,347)
Earmarked Reserve-Restricted	(873)	10	(554)	(1,417)	194	(141)	(1,364)
Election Reserve	(143)	0	(62)	(205)	0	(15)	(220)
COVID-19	(8,304)	3,552	(991)	(5,743)	5,611	0	(132)
Public Open Space Reserve-Restricted	(427)	12	0	(415)	0	0	(415)
Joint Waste Shared Service Reserve-Restricted	(605)	0	(402)	(1,007)	455	(11)	(563)
Building Regulations Reserve-Restricted	(320)	7	0	(313)	22	0	(291)
Development Grant Aid Reserve	(5)	0	(10)	(15)	65	(50)	0
Birmingham Road Car Park Capital Reserve-Restricted	(1,977)	88	0	(1,889)	583	(2)	(1,308)
TOTAL	(19,346)	4,646	(2,993)	(17,693)	8,497	(6,444)	(15,640)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The **General Earmarked Reserve** has been provided to fund expenditure items in 2022/23 and beyond including income from Government Grants received which have no conditions attached but which have been set aside for use in providing specific services.

The **Earmarked Reserve (Restricted)** represents sums set aside from grants received for use in providing specific services.

The **Election Reserve** has been set up to fund the cost of District Council Elections. We build up this reserve over a four year period, the next election being in 2023.

The **COVID-19 Reserve** has been set up to meet future burdens related to the pandemic.

The **Public Open Spaces Reserve (Restricted)** has been established to meet the Council's obligations under section 106 agreements.

The **Joint Waste Shared Service Reserve (Restricted)** has been set up to meet our obligations under the Joint Waste Shared Service agreement.

The **Building Regulations Reserve (Restricted)** has been set up to meet our obligations under Central Building Control Partnership.

The **Development Grant Aid Reserve** is to provide assistance to Historic Building and Nature Conservation Projects.

The **Birmingham Road Car Park Capital Reserve (Restricted)** represents sums set aside for future works in line with the legal agreement.

9. Other Operating Expenditure

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
2,044	Parish Council Precepts	2,125
(19)	(Gains)/Losses on the disposal of non-current assets	33
(504)	Unattached Capital Receipts	(374)
1,521	TOTAL	1,784

10. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
103	Interest payable and similar charges	66
858	Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	856
(423)	Interest receivable and similar income	(1,435)
(513)	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	(960)
(269)	Other Investment Income	1,458
(244)	TOTAL	(15)

*Other investment income relates to (profit)/loss on pooled investment funds.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

11. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
(9,337)	Council Tax Income	(9,675)
	<u>Business Rates</u>	
(11,824)	Council Share of Retained Business Rates	(13,866)
11,632	Less: Business Rates Tariff	11,632
794	Less: Business Rates Levy	1,421
(643)	Add: Business Rates Levy Repayable	(835)
(5,314)	Non-ring fenced government grants	(5,121)
(844)	Capital grants and contributions	(485)
(15,536)	TOTAL	(16,929)

Non-Ring Fenced Government Grants

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
(1,282)	New Homes Bonus	(1,401)
0	Homes for Ukraine	(212)
(29)	New Burdens Grants	(20)
(1,297)	Small Business Rates Relief	(1,296)
0	Retail Relief Grant	(813)
(1)	Rural Rate Relief	(1)
(14)	Supporting Small Business Relief	(10)
0	Pub Relief	(67)
(10)	Business Rate Inflation Cap	(227)
0	COVID Additional Relief Fund	(828)
(87)	Nursery Relief	0
(2,295)	Expanded Retail Relief	0
0	Services Grant	(146)
(151)	Lower Tier Services Grant	(97)
(127)	Local Council Tax Support Grant	0
(14)	Telecomms Relief	0
(7)	Public Toilets Relief	(3)
(5,314)	TOTAL	(5,121)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

12. Property, Plant and Equipment

Movements in 2022/23:

	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets under Construction £000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000
Cost or Valuation							
At 1 April 2022	34,889	10,080	346	4,126	1,250	293	50,984
Additions	772	1,312				120	2,204
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the revaluation reserve	2,565						2,565
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	(699)						(699)
De-recognition – disposals	(15)	(129)					(144)
At 31 March 2023	37,512	11,263	346	4,126	1,250	413	54,910
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment							
At 1 April 2022	(67)	(7,454)	(60)	(7)	0	0	(7,588)
Depreciation charge (Land is not depreciated)	(958)	(679)	(3)				(1,640)
Depreciation written out to the revaluation reserve	806						806
Depreciation written out to the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	153						153
De-recognition – disposals		111					111
At 31 March 2023	(66)	(8,022)	(63)	(7)	0	0	(8,158)
Net Book Value							
At 31 March 2023	37,446	3,241	283	4,119	1,250	413	46,752
At 31 March 2022	34,822	2,626	286	4,119	1,250	293	43,396

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Comparative Movements in 2021/22:

	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets under Construction £000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000
Cost or Valuation							
At 1 April 2021	32,600	11,316	346	4,078	1,100	132	49,572
Additions	1,702	995		48		162	2,907
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the revaluation reserve	1,099				150		1,249
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	(513)						(513)
De-recognition – disposals		(2,231)					(2,231)
At 31 March 2022	34,888	10,080	346	4,126	1,250	294	50,984
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment							
At 1 April 2021	(45)	(9,321)	(57)	(7)	0	0	(9,430)
Depreciation charge	(967)	(1,057)	(3)				(2,027)
Depreciation written out to the revaluation reserve	790						790
Depreciation written out to the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	155	732					887
De-recognition – disposals		2,192					2,192
At 31 March 2022	(67)	(7,454)	(60)	(7)	0	0	(7,588)
Net Book Value							
At 31 March 2022	34,821	2,626	286	4,119	1,250	294	43,396
At 31 March 2021	32,555	1,995	289	4,071	1,100	132	40,142

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Other Land & Buildings Breakdown

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
8,650	Arts Facility	10,090
375	Bus Station	360
1,930	Depot	2,070
673	Dwelling	695
12,130	Leisure Centre	13,040
1,815	Multi Storey Car Park	1,900
1,930	Offices	1,930
519	Other land & Buildings	504
560	Parks and Sports Grounds	549
1,085	Pavilions	1,176
238	Public Conveniences	255
1,445	Retail	1,434
3,472	Surface Car Park	3,443
34,822	Total	37,446

Depreciation

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

- Buildings – 2 to 87 years
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment – 1 to 20 years
- Infrastructure – 50 years

Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2023, the Council had no material capital commitments (31 March 2022: **£0**).

Effects of Changes in Estimates

In 2022/23, the Council made no material changes to its accounting estimates for Property, Plant and Equipment.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at current value is re-valued at least every five years. All valuations are carried out by Gerald Eve LLP. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Valuations of vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are based on the historic cost of the asset. Carrying values below are shown net of accumulated depreciation.

	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Total £000
Carried at historical cost	0	3,241	3,241
Valued at fair value as at:			
- 31 March 2023	36,269		36,269
- 31 March 2022	691		691
- 31 March 2021	285		285
- 31 March 2020	201		201
Total Cost or Valuation	37,446	3,241	40,687

13. Heritage Assets

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14 introduced a change to the treatment in accounting for heritage assets held by the Council. As set out in our summary of significant accounting policies, the authority now requires heritage assets to be carried in the Balance Sheet at valuation.

	Statues £000	Art Collection £000	Other Items £000	Total Assets £000
<u>Cost or Valuation</u>				
At 1 April 2022	285	70	70	425
At 31 March 2023	285	70	70	425

<u>Cost or Valuation</u>				
At 1 April 2021	285	70	70	425
At 31 March 2022	285	70	70	425

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Statues

The Authority's collection of statues is reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. These insurance values are updated annually.

The Council agreed to accept ownership and responsibility for the Darwin Statue which is located in Beacon Park in Lichfield.

Art Collection

The last valuations were carried out by our museum's collection officer who had a background in fine art in around 2000. The valuations were based on commercial markets including recent transaction information.

Other Items

This includes civic regalia, trophies and other cultural items. These items are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. These insurance values are updated annually.

Preservation and Management

The statues located in parks are managed by the Historic Parks Manager, the civic regalia and trophies are managed by the Executive and Civic Officer, and all other items are managed by the Tourism Manager.

The Tourism Manager maintains a Museum Artefacts Inventory that consists of a description of the asset, its location, an assessment of its current condition and an indicative value.

In addition, there are four assets – the Lych Gate, a War Memorial, the Museum Gardens Balustrade and the Martyr's Plaque that have been identified. However, no valuation information is currently available and it is the Council's view that the costs of obtaining valuations outweighs the benefits to the users of these financial statements.

14. Investment Properties

Valuation Process for Investment Properties - the fair value of the Authority's investment property is measured annually at each reporting date. All valuations are carried out externally in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Valuation Techniques - there has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for investment properties.

Highest and Best Use of Investment Properties - in estimating the fair value of the Authority's investment properties, the highest and best use of the properties reflects their current use.

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

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
377	Rental income from investment property	358
(286)	Direct operating expenses	(209)
91	Net income from Investment Property	149
205	Revaluation gains / (losses)	665
296	Net gain / (loss)	814

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

There are no restrictions on the Council's ability to realise the value inherent in its investment property or on the Council's right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The Council has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or repairs, maintenance or enhancement. The following tables summarise the movement in the fair value of investment properties over the year and identifies their fair values split by their level in the fair value hierarchy:

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
3,948	Balance at Start of Year	4,153
0	Additions	20
205	Net Gains/(losses) from fair value adjustments	665
4,153	Balance at end of year	4,838

	2021/22			2022/23		
	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Fair Value as at 31 March 2022	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Fair Value as at 31 March 2023
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Residential Properties	0	148	148	0	918	918
Office Units	0	805	805	0	755	755
Commercial Units	0	3,200	3,200	0	3,165	3,165
Total	0	4,153	4,153	0	4,838	4,838

15. Financial Instruments

Financial Instruments – Classifications

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument in another entity. Non-exchange transactions, such as those relating to taxes and government grants, do not give rise to financial instruments.

Financial Liabilities

A financial liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the Council and can be represented by a financial obligation to deliver cash or financial assets or an obligation to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that is potentially unfavourable to the Council.

The Council's financial liabilities held during the year are measured at amortised cost and comprised:

- One long term loan with the Public Works Loans Board
- Finance leases detailed at note 36
- Trade payables for goods and services received

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Financial Assets

A financial asset is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the Council that is represented by cash or other instruments or a contractual right to receive cash or another financial asset. The financial assets held by the Council during the year are held under the following classifications.

Amortised cost (where cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest and the Council's business model is to collect those cash flows) comprising:

- cash in hand,
- bank current and deposit accounts with NatWest bank,
- fixed term deposits with banks and building societies,
- loans to other local authorities,
- treasury bills issued by the UK Government,
- trade receivables for goods and services provided.

Fair value through profit and loss (all other financial assets) comprising:

- money market funds
- property funds managed by CCLA held as strategic investments
- diversified income funds managed by CCLA, Ninety One and Aegon held as strategic investments

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

Financial Assets	Long Term		Short Term	
	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2023 £000
<u>At amortised cost:</u>				
- Principal			21,000	22,000
- Accrued interest			10	169
<u>At fair value through profit & loss:</u>				
- Equity Investments (Diversified income and property funds)	10,228	12,770		
- Equity Investments (Associates and joint ventures)	225	225		
- Accrued interest			49	91
Total Investments	10,453	12,995	21,059	22,260
<u>At amortised cost:</u>				
- Cash (including bank accounts)			351	257
<u>At fair value through profit & loss:</u>				
- Cash equivalents at fair value			18,140	10,780
- Accrued interest			5	43
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	0	0	18,496	11,080
<u>Debtors</u>				
Trade receivables	143	57	3,770	4,429
Joint Venture	0	64		
Total included in Debtors	143	121	3,770	4,429
Total Financial Assets	10,596	13,116	43,325	37,769

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Financial Liabilities	Long Term		Short Term	
	31 March 2022	31 March 2023	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<u>Loans at amortised cost:</u>				
Principal sum borrowed	(1,065)	(1,005)	(61)	(61)
Total Borrowing	(1,065)	(1,005)	(61)	(61)
<u>Liabilities at amortised cost:</u>				
Finance leases				
Total other Long Term Liabilities	0	0	0	0
<u>Liabilities at amortised cost:</u>				
Trade payables	(64)	(64)	(6,398)	(8,237)
Finance leases			(383)	0
Total included in Creditors	(64)	(64)	(6,781)	(8,237)
Total Financial Liabilities	(1,129)	(1,069)	(6,842)	(8,298)

Offsetting Financial Assets and Liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are offset against each other where the Council has a legally enforceable right to offset and it either intends to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. The table below shows those instruments that have been offset on the balance sheet.

	31 March 2022			31 March 2023		
	Gross assets (liabilities)	(Liabilities) assets offset	Net position on balance sheet	Gross assets (liabilities)	(Liabilities) assets offset	Net position on balance sheet
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Bank accounts in credit	82	0	82	99	(66)	33
Total offset financial assets	82	0	82	99	(66)	33
Bank overdrafts	0	0	0	(66)	66	0
Total offset financial liabilities	0	0	0	(66)	66	0

Reconciliation to Cash and Cash Equivalents

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
82	Main Bank Accounts Total	33
264	Total Reconciling Differences (Unpresented Cheques and Cash in Transit)	223
346	Cash & Cash Equivalents - Bank Accounts	256

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Financial Instruments – Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments consist of the following items:

2021/22		Financial Liabilities	Financial Assets			2022/23
Total		Amortised Cost	Amortised Cost	Elected to Fair Value through OCI	Fair Value through Profit & Loss	Total
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
103	Interest Expense	66				66
103	Interest payable and similar charges	66	0	0	0	66
(22)	Interest Income		(451)			(451)
(401)	Dividend Income			0	(984)	(984)
(423)	Interest and Investment Income	0	(451)	0	(984)	(1,435)
(320)	Net Gain / (Loss) for the Year	66	(451)	0	(984)	(1,369)

Financial Instruments - Fair Values

Financial instruments, except those classified at amortised cost are carried in the Balance Sheet at fair value. For most assets, including bonds, treasury bills and shares in money market funds and other pooled funds, the fair value is taken from the market price.

Financial instruments classified at amortised cost are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair values have been estimated by calculating the net present value of the remaining contractual cash flows at 31st March 2023, using the following methods and assumptions:

- Loans borrowed by the Council have been valued by discounting the contractual cash flows over the whole life of the instrument at the appropriate market rate for local authority loans.
- The fair values of other long-term loans and investments have been discounted at the market rates for similar instruments with similar remaining terms to maturity on 31 March.
- The fair values of finance lease assets and liabilities have been calculated by discounting the contractual cash flows (excluding service charge elements) at the appropriate AA-rated corporate bond yield.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised for any financial instrument.
- The fair value of short-term instruments, including trade payables and receivables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount.

Fair values are shown in the table below, split by their level in the fair value hierarchy:

- **Level 1** – fair value is only derived from quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities, e.g. bond prices
- **Level 2** – fair value is calculated from inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, e.g. interest rates or yields for similar instruments
- **Level 3** – fair value is determined using unobservable inputs, e.g. non-market data such as cash flow forecasts or estimated creditworthiness

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Fair Value Level	31 March 2022		31 March 2023	
		Balance	Fair	Balance	Fair
		Sheet	Value	Sheet	Value
		£000	£000	£000	£000
<i>Financial assets held at fair value:</i>					
Money market funds	1	18,145		10,823	
Diversified Funds	1	8,059		10,958	
Property Funds	2	2,170		1,812	
Shares in unlisted companies	3	225		225	
Financial assets for which fair value is not disclosed:		25,323		27,068	
Total Financial Assets		53,921		50,885	
<i>Recorded on the Balance Sheet as:</i>					
Short Term Investments		21,059		22,260	
Long Term Investments		10,228		12,770	
Investment in Associates and Joint Ventures		225		225	
Cash & Cash Equivalents		18,496		11,080	
Short Term Debtors		3,770		4,429	
Long Term Debtors		143		121	
Total Financial Assets		53,921		50,885	

The fair value of short-term financial assets held at amortised cost, including trade receivables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying value.

The Council has invested £225,000 in its wholly owned subsidiary LWM Traded Services Ltd (LWMTS) related to 225,000 shares at a nominal value of £1 each. The investment value is based on the cost of the investment as a proxy for fair value with shareholder funds in the LWMTS draft Accounts being £225,002. As a guide, a change in the investment value by +/- 1% would equate to an increase/decrease of £2,250.

	Fair Value Level	31 March 2022		31 March 2023	
		Balance	Fair	Balance	Fair
		Sheet	Value	Sheet	Value
		£000	£000	£000	£000
<i>Financial liabilities held at amortised cost:</i>					
Long Term loans from PWLB	2	(1,126)	(1,133)	(1,065)	(917)
Finance Lease liabilities	2	(383)	(375)	0	0
Total		(1,509)	(1,508)	(1,065)	(917)
Liabilities for which fair value is not disclosed		(6,462)		(8,301)	
Total Financial Liabilities		(7,971)		(9,366)	
<i>Recorded on the Balance Sheet as:</i>					
Short Term Creditors		(6,398)		(8,237)	
Long Term Creditors		(64)		(64)	
Finance Lease Liabilities		(383)		0	
Short Term Borrowing		(61)		(61)	
Long Term Borrowing		(1,065)		(1,005)	
Total Financial Liabilities		(7,971)		(9,367)	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The fair value of short-term financial liabilities held at amortised cost, including trade payables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying value.

16. Short Term Debtors

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
3,770	Trade receivables	4,429
617	Prepayments	781
2,072	Other receivable amounts	1,788
(1,509)	Bad Debt Provision	(1,590)
4,950	Total Debtors	5,408

17. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
5	Cash held by the authority	1
346	Bank Accounts	256
18,145	Money Market Funds	10,823
18,496	Total	11,080

18. Short Term Creditors

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
(6,398)	Trade payables	(8,237)
(17,129)	Other payables	(11,245)
(23,527)	Total Creditors	(19,482)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

19. Provisions

The Council has three provisions:

	Outstanding Legal Cases £000	Business Rates Appeals £000	Netherstowe & Leyfields £000	Three Spires £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 April 2022	(227)	(2,629)	(117)	0	(2,973)
Additional provisions made this year	126	181	0	0	307
Amounts used this year	1	0	117	0	118
Balance at 31 March 2023	(100)	(2,448)	0	0	(2,548)
Element categorised as current	(100)	(350)	0	0	(450)

Outstanding Legal Cases

The Authority has one legal case in progress that has been provided for:

- **Municipal Mutual Insurance**

In 1992, Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) ceased to trade and now exists solely to discharge its responsibilities under policies that it had previously issued. These responsibilities relate mainly to legal claims which will take many years to materialise and finalise. In the event of MMI's insolvency during this period, local authority policy holders have agreed to enter into a 'scheme of arrangement' under which there are claw-back provisions on claims payments made by MMI after the implementation of the scheme. The potential liability if the scheme is triggered is **£100,431**. On 13 November 2012, at the Board Meeting of Municipal Mutual, the decision was made to trigger the Scheme of Arrangement. Control of the Company has been passed to the Scheme Administrators Ernst & Young LLP. Provision has been made for the amount of liability. This provision is based on those claims that the Authority is currently aware of.

Provisions

The Authority had one provision at 31 March 2023:

- **Business Rates Appeals**

The amount of **£2,448,000** relates to an estimate of Business Rate refunds from successful appeals up to 31 March 2022.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

20. Usable Reserves

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
6,846	General Fund	5,985
4,057	Capital Grants Unapplied	4,189
2,928	Capital Receipts Reserve	2,281
17,696	Earmarked Reserves	15,640
31,527	Total	28,095

Further details on the movements within Usable reserves are shown in **Note 6** and **Note 7**.

21. Unusable Reserves

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
11,897	Revaluation Reserve	14,970
33,819	Capital Adjustment Account	35,494
47	Deferred Capital Receipts	47
(31,431)	Pensions Reserve	(11,630)
(2,863)	Collection Fund Adjustments	867
228	Pooled Fund Adjustment Account	(1,230)
(409)	Accumulated Absence Account	(409)
11,288	Total	38,109

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 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.

2021/22 £000			2022/23 £000
10,131	Balance at 1 April		11,897
2,257	Upward revaluation of assets	3,420	
(217)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(48)	
2,040	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services		3,372
(274)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(295)	
0	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	(4)	
(274)	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account		(299)
11,897	Balance at 31 March		14,970

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Capital Adjustment Account

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

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

Note 6 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

2021/22 £000			2022/23 £000
31,653	Balance at 1 April		33,819
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
(2,027)	· Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(1,641)	
383	· Revaluation gains/losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(545)	
(27)	· Amortisation of intangible assets	(3)	
(1,817)	· Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(1,286)	
(41)	· Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account	(32)	
(3,529)			(3,507)
274	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve		299
28,398	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year		30,611
	Capital financing applied in the year:		
742	· Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	1,020	
2,251	· Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	1,267	
482	· Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	149	
616	· Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	429	
1,125	· Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	1,353	
5,216			4,218
205	Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		665
33,819	Balance at 31 March		35,494

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

2021/22 £000			2022/23 £000	
(43,821)		Balance at 1 April		(31,431)
4,853		Actuarial gains or losses on pensions assets and liabilities		43,929
10,103		Return on Plan Assets		(4,799)
(5,155)		Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		(5,351)
2,589		Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year		2,698
0		Asset Ceiling		(16,676)
(31,431)		Balance at 31 March		(11,630)

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of Council Tax and Business Rates income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it falls due from Council Tax and Business Rate payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

2021/22				2022/23		
Council Tax £000	Business Rates £000	Total £000		Council Tax £000	Business Rates £000	Total £000
(103)	(5,934)	(6,037)	Balance at 1 April	30	(2,893)	(2,863)
133	3,041	3,174	Amount by which Council Tax and Business Rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from Council Tax and Business Rate income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	135	3,595	3,730
30	(2,893)	(2,863)	Balance at 31 March	165	702	867

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

22. Adjustments to Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
2,055	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	1,644
785	Downward revaluations	763
(1,373)	Upward revaluations charged to services	(883)
40	Carrying Amount of non-current assets disposed in the year	33
243	Increase / (Decrease) in Provisions	(424)
(7)	(Increase) / Decrease in Stock	(5)
4,421	(Increase) / Decrease in Debtors	(860)
4,209	Increase / (Decrease) in Creditors	(4,426)
3,670	Movement in pension liability	3,816
(222)	Other non-cash adjustments	1,458
13,821	Adjust net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	1,116

23. Adjustments for Items Included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
(563)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets disposed in the year	(374)
(2,548)	Capital Grants & Contributions	(2,205)
722	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing activities	(2,380)
(2,389)	Adjust net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for investing and financing activities	(4,959)

These items are included in the (Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services and are adjusted as they relate to Investing and Financing activities. The cash flows relating to these items are presented in **Note 25** and **Note 26** after adjusting for cash flows in respect of outstanding balances at the end of the current and prior financial year.

24. Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
(2,242)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(1,917)
(72,500)	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	(50,064)
520	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	416
65,500	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	45,000
2,572	Other (receipts)/payments from investing activities (including capital grants and contributions)	3,493
(6,150)	Net cash flows from Investing activities	(3,072)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

25. Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
(566)	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities - finance leases	(382)
(1,129)	Repayments of short and long term borrowing	(61)
(722)	Council Tax and Business Rates Net Cash Inflows	2,379
(2,417)	Net cash flows from Financing activities	1,936

26. Cash Flow Statement - Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items (Interest only):

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
411	Interest received	1,196
(110)	Interest paid	(65)
301	Net cash flows from operating activities	1,131

27. Reconciliation of Liabilities Arising from Financing Activities

	Borrowings		Lease	TOTAL
	Long Term	Short Term	Liabilities	
1 April 2022	1,065	61	383	1,509
Cash-flows:				
- Repayment	0	(61)	(383)	(444)
Non-cash:				
- Reclassification	(61)	61	0	0
- Other	1	0	0	1
31 March 2023	1,005	61	0	1,066

	Borrowings		Lease	TOTAL
	Long Term	Short Term	Liabilities	
1 April 2021	2,060	196	606	2,862
Cash-flows:				
- Repayment	0	(1,129)	(176)	(1,305)
Non-cash:				
- Termination	0	0	(47)	(47)
- Reclassification	(994)	994	0	0
- Other	(1)	0	0	(1)
31 March 2022	1,065	61	383	1,509

28. Principal and Agency Services

The Southern Staffordshire Building Control Service expanded in April 2019. North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council and South Derbyshire District Council joined the existing shared service of Lichfield District Council, Tamworth Borough Council and South Staffordshire District. The new service is known as 'Central Building Control'.

Lichfield District Council is the principal (host) authority and is responsible for discharging and accounting for all functions relating to the shared service of Building Control.

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
1,169	Expenditure Incurred	1,194
(952)	Income received	(960)
(35)	Fee payable by South Staffordshire District Council	(35)
(35)	Fee payable by Tamworth Borough Council	(35)
(35)	Fee payable by South Derbyshire District Council	(35)
(35)	Fee payable by North Warwickshire Borough Council	(35)
(35)	Fee payable by Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council	(35)
(35)	Contribution from Lichfield District Council	(35)
7	(Surplus)/Deficit Transferred (To)/From Earmarked Reserves	23

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

29. Jointly Controlled Operations

The Authority is engaged in a jointly controlled operation with Tamworth Borough Council for waste collection for both the Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough areas, known as the Joint Waste Service. The Authority provides the financial administration service for this joint operation. The Service is administered through the Lichfield and Tamworth Joint Waste Board. The assets of the operation in respect of vehicles (the waste fleet – see critical judgement 1), equipment and land and buildings are held by Lichfield District Council and are shown on this Authority's balance sheet.

The parties have an agreement in place for funding this operation with contributions to the agreed budget of **58.09%** from Lichfield District Council and **41.91%** from Tamworth Borough Council. The same proportions are used to meet any deficit or share any surplus arising on the operation's budget at the end of each financial year.

The revenue account for the operation covers all operating costs and income for both authorities. It includes the (surplus)/deficit for Lichfield only. The operation went live in July 2010 and details for this financial year are as follows:

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
	Funding provided to the operation	
(1,773)	Contribution from Lichfield	(2,550)
(1,268)	Contribution from Tamworth	(1,839)
(3,041)	Total funding provided to the operation	(4,389)
	Expenditure met by the operation	
3,004	Pay and allowances	4,169
0	Premises costs	6
1,308	Transport costs	1,904
1,942	Supplies and Services	1,485
9	Third Party Payments	11
607	Support Costs	607
(3,829)	Revenue income	(3,793)
3,041	Total expenditure	4,389
0	Net (surplus)/deficit arising on the pooled budget during the year	0
0	Lichfield District Council's share of 58.3% of the net (surplus)/deficit arising on the operation	0

Reconciliation of Joint Waste Surplus to Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

This reconciliation shows how the figures above relate to the amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
0	Net (surplus) arising on the pooled budget during the year	0
1,773	Add: Lichfield's Contribution shown as expenditure in the CIES	2,550
85	Amounts not reported in the Joint Waste Service	526
1,858	Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	3,076

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

30. Members' Allowances

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

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
286	Allowances	286
4	Expenses	2
290	Total	288

31. Officers' Remuneration

The remuneration paid to the Council's senior employees is as follows:

Post (Dates included for part year appointments)		Salary, Fees and Allowances £	Expenses Allowances £	Compensation for Loss of Office £	Pension Contribution £	Total £
Chief Executive (Starting date of 10/08/2021)	2022/23	139,911	5,689	-	19,808	165,409
	2021/22	77,613	3,630	-	12,473	93,716
Chief Executive (Leaving date of 31/05/2021)	2022/23	-	-	-	-	-
	2021/22	59,448	-	-	5,498	64,946
Interim Chief Executive (Starting date 1/10/21 leaving date of 10/08/2021)	2022/23	-	-	-	-	-
	2021/22	30,467	-	-	3,710	34,177
Chief Operating Officer (Start date of 03/01/2023)	2022/23	25,948	-	-	3,738	29,686
	2021/22	-	-	-	-	-
Chief Operating Officer (Transferred from Head of Governance & Performance on 01/12/2021 and Transferred to Assistant Director Operations, Regulation and Enforcement on 03/01/2023)	2022/23	76,395	412	-	10,712	87,518
	2021/22	29,122	163	-	4,718	34,003
Assistant Director Customer, Resident and Business Services (Start date of 24/08/2023)	2022/23	52,634	85	-	7,591	60,310
	2021/22	-	-	-	-	-
Assistant Director Finance and Commissioning (Transferred from Head of Finance & Procurement on 24/05/2023)	2022/23	73,369	-	-	10,544	83,912
	2021/22	-	-	-	-	-
Assistant Director Operations, Regulation and Enforcement (Transferred from Chief Operating Officer on 03/01/2023)	2022/23	21,797	10	-	3,147	24,954
	2021/22	-	-	-	-	-
Head of Corporate Services (Leaving date of 05/05/2022)	2022/23	9,534	-	40,391	1,033	50,959
	2021/22	66,879	-	-	10,678	77,557
Head of Economic Growth & Development Services (Leaving date of 30/11/2021)	2022/23	-	-	-	-	-
	2021/22	50,497	30	64,215	8,076	122,818
Head of Finance & Procurement	2022/23	12,411	-	-	1,780	14,191
	2021/22	65,916	-	-	10,678	76,594
Head of Governance & Performance (Transfer date of 30/11/2021)	2022/23	-	-	-	-	-
	2021/22	45,936	-	-	6,986	52,921
Head of Operational Services (Leaving date of 30/09/2022)	2022/23	45,738	-	29,709	5,495	80,942
	2021/22	66,879	-	-	10,678	77,557
Head of Regulatory Services, Housing & Wellbeing (Leaving date of 07/08/2022)	2022/23	42,221	-	59,161	3,870	105,253
	2021/22	66,879	132	-	10,678	77,689
Head of Revenues, Benefits & Customer Services (Leaving date of 09/04/2021)	2022/23	-	-	-	-	-
	2021/22	1,991	-	-	262	2,253

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

- The Council's other employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions) were paid the following amounts:

2021/22 Number of employees	Remuneration band	2022/23 Number of employees
2	£50,000-£54,999	-
1	£60,000-£64,999	3
-	£65,000-£69,999	2
-	£70,000-£74,999	2
-	£85,000-£89,999	1
-	£130,000-£134,999	1

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

Exit Package Cost Band	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23
£0 - £20,000	5	0	0	8	5	8	£34,329	£63,724
£20,001 - £40,000	0	0	0	6	0	6	£0	£168,774
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	0	4	0	4	£0	£211,593
£60,001 - £80,000	0	0	1	0	1	0	£64,215	£0
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	0	1	0	1	£0	£90,826
Total	5	0	1	19	6	19	£98,544	£534,917

A breakdown of the total cost of exit packages is shown below:

Exit Package Cost Band	2021/22			2022/23		
	Redundancy Package	Employers Pension Strain	Total	Redundancy Package	Employers Pension Strain	Total
£0 - £20,000	£34,329	£0	£34,329	£55,662	£8,062	£63,724
£20,001 - £40,000	£0	£0	£0	£129,695	£39,079	£168,774
£40,001 - £60,000	£0	£0	£0	£173,686	£37,907	£211,593
£60,001 - £80,000	£64,215	£0	£64,215	£0	£0	£0
£80,001 - £100,000	£0	£0	£0	£10,370	£80,456	£90,826
Total	£98,544	£0	£98,544	£369,413	£165,504	£534,917

32. External Audit Costs

The Council has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims, and to non-audit services provided by the Council's external auditors:

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
70	Fees payable to Grant Thornton UK LLP with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	66
20	Fees payable to the Grant Thornton UK LLP for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	20
90	TOTAL	86

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

33. Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the CIES in 2022/23:

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
	Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	
844	Other Contributions	485
844	Sub Total (Capital)	485
9,337	Council Tax Income	9,675
42	Non-Domestic rates	1,648
5,314	Non Ring Fenced Government Grants	5,121
14,693	Sub Total (Revenue)	16,444
15,537	Total	16,929

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
	Credited to Cost of Services	
1,231	Disabled Facilities Grant	819
820	CIL - Various Sites	161
277	Other Contributions	82
2,328	Sub Total (Capital)	1,062
11,889	Housing and Council Tax Benefits	11,547
733	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	901
138	Other Government Departments and Agencies	24
263	Government Covid Grants	0
146	Other Local Authority Covid Grants	0
4	Positive Futures	33
55	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	61
323	Contributions from other Local Authorities	333
1,563	Contributions from other Local Authorities - Shared Services	2,128
15,114	Sub Total (Revenue)	15,027
17,442	Total	16,089

The Council has received a number of grants and contributions that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies to be returned to the giver if the conditions are not met. The balances at the year-end are as follows:

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	
1,196	Other Contributions	1,657
1,196	Current Liabilities	1,657
828	Other Contributions	1,333
828	Long Term Liabilities	1,333
2,024	Total	2,990

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
	Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance	
593	Ecological Mitigation	576
593	Total (shown within Current Liabilities)	576

34. 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

Central Government has effective control over the general operations of the Council - it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. Council Tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are set out in the subjective analysis in **Note 7**. Grants received during the year are shown in **Note 33**.

Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of Members' Allowances paid is shown in **Note 30**. During 2022/2023 works and services to the value of **£628,000** were commissioned from companies in which twelve members had an interest (**£195,000** in 2021/22). Contracts were entered into in full compliance with the Council's standing orders.

In addition, the Council paid grants totalling **£73,000** to voluntary organisations (**£55,000** in 2021/22) in which one member held a position of Member with the governing body. Details of these declarations are recorded in the Register of Members' Interest, open to public inspection by appointment.

Other Public Bodies

The Council received the sum of **£352,145** from Bromford Housing Group in 2022/23 (**£395,000** in 2021/22) in respect of the right to buy claw back on the sale of dwellings.

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Council

The net amount owed from the Council to entities controlled or significantly influenced by the Council at the end of 2022/23 was **£10.724 million** (**£15.689 million** owed from the Council in 2021/22). These include Staffordshire County Council, the Police, Fire and Rescue and Crime Commissioner (PFCC), Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service and Parish Councils, all of which issue precepts on the Council shown in the Collection Fund.

Staffordshire County Council is the administering authority for the Pension Fund and details of the employer's contributions paid by this Council are shown as a note to the accounts. Lichfield District Council works together with the County Council in a number of areas such as the civil contingencies unit. In addition, the County Council provides services in relation to environmental Health sampling, land search and archaeological fees.

Payment of subsidy of **£210,000** was made to the Lichfield Garrick Theatre Trust in 2022/23 (**£250,000** in 2021/22). Support services provided by the Council to the Garrick totalled **£0** (**£6,300** in 2021/22).

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The Council outsourced its Leisure Centres in February 2018 to Freedom Leisure; the management fee income for 2022/23 totalled **£71,000** (**£93,000** in 2021/22). The Leisure Implementation Panel monitors performance, the panel consists of both Freedom Leisure and District Council officers.

The Council has a wholly owned subsidiary, LWM Traded Services Ltd (LWMTS). During 2022/23, the Council paid **£385,000** to the subsidiary.

The Council entered into a Joint Venture Limited Liability Partnership with Evolve Estates during 2022/23 and paid **£244,000** to the partnership (**Note 43**).

35. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below (including the value of assets acquired under finance leases), together with the resources that have been used to finance it.

Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the Council, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Council that has yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
3,016	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	2,542
	<i>Capital Investment</i>	
2,907	Property, Plant & Equipment	2,203
0	Investment Properties	20
18	Intangible Assets	0
0	Joint Venture	64
1,817	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	1,286
	<i>Sources of Finance</i>	
(742)	Capital receipts	(1,020)
(2,733)	Government grants and other contributions	(1,416)
	<i>Sums set aside from revenue:</i>	
(1,125)	Direct revenue contributions	(1,353)
(616)	Minimum revenue provision	(429)
2,542	Closing Capital Financing Requirement	1,897

	Explanation of movements in year	
(251)	Increase/(decrease) in underlying need to borrowing (Unsupported by government financial assistance)	(262)
(223)	Net movement on Finance Leases	(383)
(474)	Increase / (decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	(645)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

36. Leases

Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

The Council has acquired vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment for waste collection, grounds maintenance, vending machines and printing devices under finance leases. The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
0	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	0
0	TOTAL	0

The Council is committed to making minimum payments under these leases comprising settlement of the long-term liability for the interest in the property acquired by the Council and finance costs that will be payable by the Council in future years while the liability remains outstanding.

The minimum lease payments are made up of the following amounts:

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
	Finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments)	
383	- current	0
0	- non-current	0
36	Finance costs payable in future years	0
419	Minimum Lease Payments	0

The minimum lease payments will be payable over the following periods:

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Liabilities	
	31 March 2022	31 March 2023	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
Not later than one year	419	0	383	0
Later than one year and not later than five years	0	0	0	0
Total	419	0	383	0

Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

The Council only has one lease categorised as a finance lease:

- Former Arts Centre Site, Lichfield with Pergola Properties for 125 years from 25 February 2005. The Council received a single lease premium and this was treated as a usable capital receipt. Therefore, no asset or long-term debtor is shown within the Council's Financial Statements

Operating Leases

The Council leases out shops, offices, leisure facilities and other property under operating leases to third party organisations for the following purposes:

- To provide services to the area in line with the Council's strategic priorities
- To generate income for the Council

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
168	Not later than one year	230
486	Later than one year and not later than five years	612
2,765	Later than five years	2,662
3,419	TOTAL	3,504

37. Impairment Losses

The Council undertook an impairment review of its non-current assets at 31 March 2023 and no impairment was chargeable.

38. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Participation in Pension Schemes

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

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by Staffordshire County Council - this is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with investment assets.

Transactions Relating to Post-employment 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 Movement in Reserves Statement.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

2021/22 £000	Local Government Pension Scheme Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2022/23 £000
4,297	Cost of Services:	4,043
	- Current service cost	452
0	- past service costs	
	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	
858	- net interest expense	856
5,155	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	5,351
	<i>Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the CIES</i>	
	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit comprising:	
(10,103)	- Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	4,799
(2,106)	- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(821)
5,824	- Actuarial gains and losses arising on other experience	7,704
(8,571)	- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(50,812)
(14,956)	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the CIES	(39,130)
	<i>Movement in Reserves Statement</i>	
12,390	- Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	19,801
	Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year	
2,589	- employers' contributions payable to scheme	2,698

Pension Liabilities recognised in the Balance Sheet

The Council's obligation in respect of its defined benefit plans is as follows:

2021/22 £000	Local Government Pension Scheme	2022/23 £000
(136,581)	Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(98,250)
105,150	Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	86,620
1,163	Prepayment of future years pension contributions	0
(30,268)	Net liability arising from defined obligation	(11,630)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Reconciliation of the Movements in the Fair Value of Scheme (Plan Assets):

2021/22 £000	Local Government Pension Scheme	2022/23 £000
97,812	Opening fair value of scheme assets	105,150
1,990	Interest income	2,854
	Remeasurement gain / (loss):	
10,103	- The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	(4,799)
(4,813)	- Other experience	0
2,482	Contributions from employer	2,590
548	Contributions from employees into the scheme	583
107	Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits	108
0	Asset Ceiling Adjustment	(16,676)
(2,972)	Benefits paid	(3,082)
(107)	Unfunded benefits paid	(108)
105,150	Closing position as at 31 March	86,620

Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities (Defined Benefit Obligations):

2021/22 £000	Local Government Pension Scheme	2022/23 £000
	Opening balance at 1 April	
140,047	- Present value of funded liabilities	135,095
1,586	- Present value of unfunded liabilities	1,486
4,297	Current service cost	4,043
0	Past Service cost (including curtailments)	452
2,848	Interest costs	3,710
548	Contribution from scheme participants	583
	Remeasurement (gain) / loss:	
(2,106)	- Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(821)
(8,571)	- Actuarial gains/losses from changes in financial assumptions	(50,812)
1,011	- Other experiences	7,704
(2,972)	Benefits paid	(3,082)
(107)	Unfunded benefits paid	(108)
136,581	Closing position as at 31 March	98,250

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

Asset Category	Period ended 31 March 2022				Period ended 31 March 2023			
	Quoted prices in active markets	Quoted prices not in active markets	Total	% of Total Assets	Quoted prices in active markets	Quoted prices not in active markets	Total	% of Total Assets
	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,167.0		4,167.0	4%	4,048.8		4,048.8	4%
Equity Securities:								
- Consumer	3,579.1		3,579.1	3%	3,477.6		3,477.6	3%
- Manufacturing	2,920.9		2,920.9	3%	2,838.0		2,838.0	3%
- Energy and Utilities	802.2		802.2	1%	779.5		779.5	1%
- Financial Institutions	3,809.8		3,809.8	4%	3,701.6		3,701.6	4%
- Health and Care	4,022.9		4,022.9	4%	3,908.8		3,908.8	4%
- Information technology	4,626.7		4,626.7	4%	4,495.4		4,495.4	4%
Debt Securities								
- Corporate Bonds (investment grade)	6,245.4		6,245.4	6%	6,068.1		6,068.1	6%
Private equity:								
- All		5,267.6	5,267.6	5%		5,118.1	5,118.1	5%
Real Estate:								
- UK Property		8,513.7	8,513.7	8%		8,272.1	8,272.1	8%
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts:								
- Equities	50,502.9		50,502.9	49%	49,069.7		49,069.7	48%
- Bonds	6,653.6		6,653.6	6%	6,464.8		6,464.8	6%
- Hedge Funds		39.1	39.1	0%		38.0	38.0	0%
- Infrastructure		283.2	283.2	0%		275.1	275.1	0%
- Other		4,878.9	4,878.9	5%		4,740.4	4,740.4	5%
Total Assets	87,330	18,983	106,313	100%	84,852	18,444	103,296	100%
Adjust for Prepayment			(1,163)					
Total Assets Adjusted			105,150				103,296	

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

A Triennial Revaluation took place during 209/20 and the financial implications of this Revaluation are included in these 2022/23 accounts. This is undertaken every three years and liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The Local Government Pension Scheme has been assessed by Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Staffordshire County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2023.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

Period Ending	31 March 2022 % Per Annum	31 March 2023 % Per Annum
Financial Assumptions		
Pension Increase Rate	3.20%	2.95%
Salary Increase Rate	3.70%	3.45%
Discount Rate	2.70%	4.75%
	Males	Females
Mortality Rate		
Current Pensioners	21.2 years	24.7 years
Future Pensioners	21.8 years	25.9 years

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analysis below has been determined based on reasonable possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assumes that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method.

The methods and type of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in previous period.

Change in assumption at 31 March 2023	Approximate % increase to Defined Benefit Obligation	Approximate monetary amount £'000
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	1,690
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	3,930
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	192
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2%	1,523

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Scheme History

Local Government Pension Scheme	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(124,754)	(108,874)	(141,633)	(136,581)	(98,250)
Present value of the defined benefit asset	81,133	76,156	97,812	105,150	86,620
Adjustment for prepayment of future years pension contributions	874		2,267	1,163	0
Net (Liability)/Asset arising from defined obligation	(42,747)	(32,718)	(41,554)	(30,268)	(11,630)

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Council has in the long run to pay post-employment (retirement) benefits. The total liability of **£11.630 million** has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Council as recorded in the Balance Sheet, resulting in an overall balance of **£66.204 million** (see page 39). However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Council remains healthy:

- The deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees (i.e. before payments fall due), as assessed by the scheme actuary
- Finance is only required to be raised to cover discretionary benefits when the pensions are actually paid.

The total Employers contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the Council in the year to 31 March 2024 is **£2.675 million**.

39. Contingent Liabilities

- The **Authority acting as guarantor of pension commitments** (as required by the Staffordshire County Council Pension Fund Policy) following the TUPE of employees to Freedom Leisure On 1 February 2018, **Freedom Leisure** took over the management of the **Council's Leisure Centres**. 96 staff were transferred by TUPE via a pass through agreement. An assessment has been carried out by management of the risk and potential financial consequences should the Council be called to settle these liabilities. For 2022/23, the risk has been assessed at low between **1% or £19,232** and **5% or £96,191**. This is based on the operating environment nationally, the overall financial position of Freedom Leisure and the contract between Freedom and the Council.
- Under the Deed of Transfer of the Council's Housing Stock to **Bromford Housing Association** (HomeZone) on 24 March 1997, the Council entered into certain limited warranties and covenants, which will terminate on the fortieth anniversary. The amount of any potential liability cannot be estimated.
- The Council manages risk associated with insurance cover by a combination of **external insurance and self-funding**; the latter being limited to the policy excess. The estimated potential liability of the Council for existing claims as at 31 March 2023 is **£187,106**. No provision has been made for this amount as the outcomes of the claims are currently unknown.

40. Contingent Assets

- Under the Deed of Transfer of the Council's Housing Stock to **Bromford Housing Association** (HomeZone) on 24 March 1997, the Council is entitled to a share of any housing receipts the Association receives in relation to transferred properties.
- The critical judgement in relation to **the finance lease for the Joint Waste Service vehicles** means the finance lease liability is shown in this Council's Financial Statements. In the event that the Joint Waste Service ceases to operate, the Council would seek to recover an element of the outstanding lease obligations from Tamworth Borough Council.

41. Financial Instruments - Risks

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

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

The Council's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. Risk management is carried out by a central treasury team, under policies approved by the Cabinet and Full Council in the annual Treasury Management Strategy Report. The Council provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers.

Credit Risk: Treasury Investments

This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, as laid down by the three major ratings agencies – Fitch, Standard and Poor and Moodys. In addition, we will continue to monitor the credit standard of financial institutions on a regular basis through reference to:

- Credit Default Swaps (where quoted);
- Share prices (where quoted);
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Net Debt as a percentage of GDP;
- Sovereign Support Mechanisms/potential support from well-resourced parent institutions
- Macroeconomic indicators;
- Corporate developments and information in the general and financial media.

Loss allowances on treasury investments have been calculated by reference to historic default data published by credit rating agencies, multiplied by 112% (2022: [67%]) to adjust for current and forecast economic conditions. Investments are determined to have suffered a significant increase in credit risk where they have been downgraded by three or more credit rating notches or equivalent since initial recognition, unless they retain an investment grade credit rating. They are determined to be credit-impaired when awarded a "D" credit rating or equivalent. Although at 31st March 2023 the level is not material and therefore no loss allowance has been set aside for treasury investments.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The table below summarises the credit risk exposures of the Council's Investment Portfolio (Investments and Money Market Funds) by Credit Rating:

Credit Rating	Long Term		Short Term	
	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2023 £000
AAA	0	0	18,140	10,780
A+	0	0	2,000	1,000
A	0	0	1,000	1,000
UK Government	0	0	0	12,000
Unrated Local Authorities	0	0	18,000	8,000
Total Credit Risk Investments	0	0	39,140	32,780
Credit risk not applicable*	10,228	12,770	0	0
Total Investments	10,228	12,770	39,140	32,780
Accrued Interest	0	0	65	303
Cash in Hand and Bank Accounts	0	0	351	257
Balance Sheet Total for Short Term Investments, Long Term Investments and Cash and Cash Equivalents	10,228	12,770	39,556	33,340

*Credit risk is not applicable to pooled funds where the Council has no contractual right to receive any sum of money.

Credit Risk: Receivables

Customers for goods and services are assessed for credit, taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors. The Council does not generally allow credit for customers. Receivables can be analysed by age as follows:

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
1,167	Neither past due nor impaired	1,734
1,476	Less than three months	1,336
227	Three to six months	715
264	Six months to one year	132
636	More than one year	512
3,770	Total	4,429

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Receivables are collectively assessed for credit risk in the following groupings:

	Average range of allowances set aside	31 March 2023			31 March 2022		
		Gross receivable	Loss allowance	Total	Gross receivable	Loss allowance	Total
Public sector	0%	697	0	697	824	0	824
Trade Receivables - not yet due	0%	1,734	0	1,734	1,167	0	1,167
Council Tax Payers	85% - 100%	744	(506)	238	704	(419)	285
Business Rates Payers	71% - 100%	348	(348)	0	545	(411)	134
Trade Receivables	0% - 100%	2,180	(236)	1,944	2,113	(239)	1,874
Prepayments	0%	781	0	781	617	0	617
Housing Related	0% - 100%	515	(501)	14	489	(441)	48
		6,999	(1,591)	5,408	6,459	(1,510)	4,949

Liquidity Risk

The Council has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets and the Public Works Loans Board. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities including the Public Works Loans Board long term loans received in April 2015 and May 2018 (this loan was repaid early in 2021/22) is as follows:

31 March 2022 £000		31 March 2023 £000
(61)	Less than one year	(61)
(61)	Between one year and two years	(61)
(183)	Between two years and five years	(183)
(304)	Between five years and ten years	(304)
(517)	Between ten years and twenty years	(457)
(1,126)	Total	(1,066)

All trade and other payables are due to be paid in less than one year.

Market Risks: Interest Rate Risk

The Council is exposed to risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the authority. For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- Borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense will rise
- Borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities will fall
- Investments at variable rates – the interest income will rise
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Investments measured at amortised cost and loans borrowed are not carried at fair value, so changes in their fair value will have no impact on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments measured at fair value will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income or the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services as appropriate.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
(281)	Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(239)
150	Decrease in fair value of investments held at FVPL	211
(131)	Impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(28)
69	Decrease in fair value of loans and investments at amortised cost*	66
(98)	Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowing*	(58)

*No impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

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

Market Risks: Price Risk

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

The Council's investment in a pooled property fund is subject to the risk of falling commercial property prices. This risk is limited by the Council's maximum exposure to property investments of £2m. A 5% fall in commercial property prices would result in a £109k (2022 £131k) charge to Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure – this would have no impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services until the investment was sold.

The Council's investment in pooled equity funds is subject to the risk of falling share prices. This risk is limited by the Council's maximum exposure to equity investments of £12m. A 5% fall in share prices at 31st March 2023 would result in a £127k (2022 £137k) charge to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

42. Local Authority Company

Lichfield Housing Limited was incorporated on 2 September 2019 to undertake small to medium sized development opportunities to provide a diverse range of homes to meet the local housing needs of Lichfield District. It is a private limited company with share capital and wholly owned by Lichfield District Council. Turnover was **£509,000** during 2022/23 with most of the income (£506,302) derived from the provision of services to the Council and services provided by the Council being **£100,517**. With turnover at this level, no new accounting policies are required for the preparation of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts. It was therefore agreed that Group Accounts for the Council would not be required. In April 2022, the company changed its name to LWM Traded Services Ltd.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

43. Material Items of Income and Expenditure

During 2021/22 and 2022/23, the Council processed the following material items of income and expenditure:

2021/22

Covid-19/Cost of Living Grant Description	Grant Income £	Grant Paid Out £
April Restart	(4,908,141)	4,712,047
Additional Restrictions Grant	*(1,037,485)	*1,037,485
Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant	(966,042)	784,036
Council Tax Rebate Grant	(5,289,300) ¹	0
COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund Allocation	*(1,929,747)	*0
Total	(14,130,715)	6,533,568

The Council also incurred additional net expenditure of **£803k** shown separately on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES). This was offset by **(£701k)** of additional grant income.

2022/23

Cost of Living Grant/Covid-19 Grant/Joint Venture Description	Grant Income £	Grant Paid Out £
Council Tax Rebate Grant	0	4,994,120
COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund Allocation	0	827,724
Joint Venture Costs (Rent/Business Rates/Service Charge)	0	243,696
Total	0	6,065,540

- *Grants where the Council acts as Principal (i.e. the Council could determine how the money was spent within defined guidance).
- The Council also acted as an agent for the other grants (i.e. the Government prescribed how the money was spent).

¹ The Council acts as an agent for the majority of the Council Tax Rebate Grant; however for a discretionary element of approximately £141,000 the Council acts as Principal.

COLLECTION FUND

Collection Fund

The Collection Fund (England) 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 Government of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates.

Council Tax £000	Business Rates £000	Total 2021/22 £000		Council Tax £000	Business Rates £000	Total 2022/23 £000
(75,880)		(75,880)	Income			
(7)		(7)	Council Tax	(80,043)		(80,043)
(145)		(145)	Transfer from / (to) general fund - Council Tax Benefit	8		8
	(31,024)	(31,024)	Transfer (from) / to general fund – Hardship Payments	0		0
(300)	(12,317)	(12,617)	Non-Domestic Rates		(34,222)	(34,222)
			Contribution towards previous year's Collection Fund deficit	(345)	(7,211)	(7,556)
(76,332)	(43,341)	(119,673)	Total income	(80,380)	(41,433)	(121,813)
			Expenditure			
74,501		74,501	Precepts and demands from major preceptors and the authority	78,264		78,264
	17,138	17,138	Share of non-domestic rating income to major preceptors and the authority		16,424	16,424
	17,138	17,138	Payment with respect to central share (including allowable deductions) to central government		16,424	16,424
			Impairment of Debts / Appeals			
55	37	92	· Write-offs on uncollectable amounts	112	(3)	109
732	495	1,227	· Allowance for impairment	881	(156)	725
	615	615	· Allowance for appeals		(452)	(452)
	120	120	Allowance for collection costs		119	119
	196	196	Transitional protection payments		91	91
75,288	35,739	111,027	Total expenditure	79,257	32,447	111,704
(1,044)	(7,602)	(8,646)	Movement on Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	(1,123)	(8,986)	(10,109)
784	14,835	15,619	Balance at the beginning of year	(260)	7,233	6,973
(260)	7,233	6,973	Balance at the end of year	(1,382)	(1,751)	(3,133)

Council Tax £000	Business Rates £000	Total 2021/22 £000		Council Tax £000	Business Rates £000	Total 2022/23 £000
(32)	2,893	2,861	Lichfield District Council	(169)	(700)	(870)
(185)	651	466	Staffordshire County Council	(983)	(158)	(1,140)
(33)		(33)	Staffordshire OPCC	(174)		(174)
(11)	72	62	Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service	(57)	(18)	(74)
	3,617	3,617	Central Government		(876)	(876)
(260)	7,233	6,973		(1,382)	(1,751)	(3,133)

COLLECTION FUND

Council Tax

Council Tax derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties, which have been classified into eight valuation bands estimating 1 April 1991 values for this specific purpose. Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required to be taken from the collection fund by the District Council, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Commissioner - Fire and Rescue Service and Staffordshire Commissioner – Police and Crime for the forthcoming year and dividing this by the Council Tax base (the total number of properties in each band adjusted by a proportion to convert the number to a Band D equivalent and adjusted by **1.0%** to cover appeals, changes in discounts and bad debts that arise) of **39,695** for 2022/23. This basic amount of Council Tax for a Band D property (**£1,971.63** for 2022/23) is multiplied by the proportion specified for the particular band to give an individual amount due.

The schedule of Authorities which made a Council Tax precept on the Collection Fund in 2022/23 is shown below:

2021/22 £000	Council Tax	2022/23 £000
52,916	Staffordshire County Council	55,625
9,278	Staffordshire Commissioner – Police and Crime	9,867
3,064	Staffordshire Commissioner – Fire and Rescue	3,189
7,198	Lichfield District Council	7,457
	Parish Precepts :	
41	Alrewas	41
113	Armitage with Handsacre	116
345	Burntwood Town Council	358
19	Clifton Campville with Thorpe Constantine	19
12	Colton	12
7	Curborough & Elmhurst, Farewell & Chorley	10
24	Drayton Bassett	26
14	Edingale	15
16	Elford	17
74	Fazeley Town Council	78
162	Fradley and Streethay	180
26	Hammerwich	26
6	Hamstall Ridware	7
11	Harlaston	11
8	Hints and Canwell	9
16	Kings Bromley	17
816	Lichfield City Council	835
29	Longdon	29
23	Mavesyn Ridware	26
182	Shenstone	182
6	Swinfen and Packington	6
12	Wall	11
2	Weeford	2
57	Whittington and Fisherwick	65
24	Wigginton and Hopwas	28
2,045	Total Parish Precepts	2,126
74,501		78,264

COLLECTION FUND

Council Tax bills were based on the following proportions expressed as a percentage (%) for Bands A to H:

Band	Band Width	2021/22 Band D Equivalent (Tax Base)			2022/23 Band D Equivalent (Tax Base)		
		Number of Dwellings	%	99.0%	Number of Dwellings	%	99.0%
	£						
A	0 to 40,000	2,504	7	2,479	2,467	6	2,443
B	40,001 to 52,000	6,376	16	6,312	6,403	16	6,339
C	52,001 to 68,000	8,464	22	8,379	8,684	22	8,597
D	68,001 to 88,000	6,306	16	6,243	6,483	16	6,418
E	88,001 to 120,000	5,566	14	5,511	5,647	14	5,591
F	120,001 to 160,000	5,093	13	5,042	5,289	13	5,236
G	160,001 to 320,000	4,058	10	4,017	4,185	11	4,143
H	320,001 upwards	771	2	763	790	2	782
Class O		145		145	146		146
TOTAL		39,283	100	38,891	40,094	100	39,695

Council Tax Allowance for Impairment

An increase in the allowance for impairment was made during 2022/23 amounting to **£881,417**. The total allowance for impairment of debt as at 31 March 2023 is **£4,303,649** and represents **100%** of the **£4,303,649** outstanding debt.

Non-Domestic Rates

NDR is organised on a national basis. The Government specifies an amount, the non-domestic rating multiplier **51.2p** (2021/22 **51.2p**) and the small business non-domestic rating multiplier **49.9p** (2021/22 **49.9p**) and subject to the effects of transitional arrangements, local businesses pay rates calculated by multiplying their rateable value by that amount. The Council is responsible for collecting rates due from the business ratepayers in its area.

2021/22 £000		2022/23 £000
91,266	Non-Domestic rateable value at year end	91,846
31,024	Net rates payable by Ratepayers	34,222

In 2022/23 the Council was not part of a Business Rates Pilot Scheme and as a consequence Staffordshire retained its usual 50% of Business Rates income.

2021/22 £000	Share %	Preceptors	Share %	2022/23 £000
17,138	50	Central Share Central Government	50	16,424
3,085	9	Major Precepting Bodies Staffordshire County Council	9	2,956
343	1	Staffordshire Commissioner - Fire & Rescue	1	328
13,711	40	Lichfield District Council	40	13,139
17,139	50	Total Precepting Bodies	50	16,424

NDR Allowance for Impairment

A decrease in the allowance for impairment was made during 2022/23 amounting to **£155,771**. The total allowance for impairment of debt as at 31 March 2023 is **£871,210** and represents **100%** of the **£871,210** outstanding debt.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accounting Policies

Accounting policies define the process whereby transactions and other events are treated in the financial statements.

Accrual

This is one of the fundamental accounting concepts and ensures that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

Accumulated Absences Account

This represents an accrual required by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). It recognises the net value of time either owed by an employee to the Council or owed by the Council to an employee. This is generally a timing difference between an employee's holiday year and the Council's financial year.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet sets out the Authority's total assets and liabilities at the end of the accounting period and shows how they were financed.

Capital Adjustment Account

An account which reflects the difference between the cost of fixed assets consumed and the capital financing set aside to pay for them.

Capital Grants Receipts in Advance

These relate to capital grant receipts that we have received ahead of executing the Capital Expenditure. Therefore it represents Grant monies that will be used after the Balance Sheet date to fund future projects.

Capital Receipts

Money received from the disposal of land or property and from the repayment of grants and loans made by the Council. Capital receipts cannot be used to fund revenue services.

Cash Equivalents

These are short term investments (usually deposits) with a low risk of change in value. They are considered liquid enough to be presented alongside cash.

Collection Fund

A separate fund administered by the Council recording the expenditure and income relating to council tax and non-domestic rates.

Community Assets

Assets that the Local Authority 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.

Community Infrastructure Levy

As part of sustainable development, local authorities have to introduce a planning charge known as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The CIL is designed to act as a tool for local authorities to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area. The CIL Charging Schedule sets out the rate of levy the Council will charge those types of development that are eligible to contribute towards infrastructure provision. The District Council's CIL was adopted on 13 June 2016.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement summarises the Council's Income and Expenditure during the financial year as well as gains and losses on assets & liabilities. Some gains and losses may not be "realised" which means the real cash impact of the gain or loss will happen at some time in the future.

Consistency

This is one of the fundamental accounting concepts requiring like items to be treated in the same way, both within an accounting period and from one period to the next.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Creditors

An amount owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered, for which payment has not been made at the end of the accounting period.

Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (REFCUS)

Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute relates to capital expenditure, which does not result in the acquisition of assets controlled by the Authority. An example of a revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute would be an improvement grant made by the Council to another organisation.

Defined Benefit Scheme

A defined benefit scheme is a pension scheme in which the rules specify the benefits to be paid to members and the scheme is financed accordingly.

Depreciation

This is a charge made to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account each year to reflect the reduction in value of Long Term Assets used to deliver services.

Debtors

Sums of money owed to the Council but not received at the end of the year.

Earmarked Reserve

A sum set aside from either external funding (e.g. Grants with no conditions & Partner contributions) or Lichfield District Council Internal Revenue. Within any specified funding restrictions these sums are set aside for projects to be completed in future years.

Expenditure and Funding Analysis Statement

This brings together local authority performance reported on the basis of expenditure measured under proper accounting practices with statutorily defined charges to the General Fund.

Finance Lease

Leased Property, Plant and Equipment are treated as a Finance Lease if a substantial amount of risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to the lessee. This means that whilst legal title of ownership does not apply to the Council they are treated as "owned" on the Council's Balance Sheet. The payments usually cover the full cost of the asset together with a return for the cost of finance.

Financial Instruments

These are contracts that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability of another entity, including the borrowing and lending of money and the making of investments.

General Fund

The total services of the Council except for the Collection Fund, the net cost of which is met by Council Tax.

Government Grants

Grants made by the Government towards either revenue or capital expenditure, some of which have restrictions on how they may be used.

Gross Expenditure (Total Cost)

Gross expenditure includes employee costs, expenditure relating to premises, transport, supplies and services, third party payments, transfer payments, support services and capital charges.

Heritage Assets

These are assets that are held by the authority principally for their contribution to knowledge or culture.

Impairment

A reduction in the value of a fixed asset resulting from either: obsolescence, physical damage or an accepted method of asset valuation (most commonly market valuation). The present economic climate has resulted in more volatile asset values and authorities are required to consider whether circumstances

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

are such that an Impairment is indicated and some or all asset values have revised. Asset values are revised where values have changed materially.

Infrastructure Assets

These are specialised assets that can be part of a network, do not have alternative uses, are immovable or can have constraints on their disposal. Expenditure on these assets is recoverable only by continued use of the asset created. Examples of these assets are highways and footpaths.

Intangible Assets

These assets are similar to Property, Plant & Equipment in that they provide benefits to the Council and the services it provides for a period of more than one year, these however do not have physical substance. The main example is IT Software.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

IFRS advises the accounting treatment and disclosure requirements of transactions so that the Authority's accounts present a 'true & fair view' of the financial position of the Authority.

Inventories

These are stores held for resale. They have been purchased by the Authority for use in a particular service and will be sold after the balance sheet date.

Investment Properties

Interests in land and/or buildings are described as Investment Properties where:

- (a) Construction work and development have been completed; and
- (b) They are held for investment potential, any rental income being negotiated at arm's length

Liabilities

Amounts due to individuals or organisations which will have to be paid at some point in the future. Current liabilities are usually payable within one year of the balance sheet date.

Materiality

An item is material if its omission, non-disclosure or misstatement in financial statements could be expected to lead to a distortion of the view given by the financial statements.

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

Prior to 1 April 2013, the Council collected and paid rates collected into a national pool, which was then re-distributed on the basis of population.

Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

From 1 April 2013 until 31 March 2019, the Council collected Business Rates and distributed them on the basis of 50% Central Government, 40% Lichfield District Council, 9% Staffordshire County Council and 1% Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service.

Net Book Value

The amount at which Long Term Assets are included in the balance sheet i.e. their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation and impairment.

Net Expenditure

Net expenditure is gross expenditure less fees, charges, recharges and specific grants.

Operating Leases

A lease whereby ownership of the asset remains with the lessor.

Events after the Balance Sheet Date (Post Balance Sheet Events)

Material events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the balance sheet date and the date on which the statement of accounts is signed by the responsible financial officer.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Property, Plant & Equipment

Assets that provide benefits to the Council and the services it provides for a period of more than one year. Examples include land, buildings and vehicles.

Provision

These are amounts set aside in the accounts for liabilities or losses that are due but where the amount due or the timing of the payment is not known with certainty.

Revaluation Reserve

An account which reflects the net gain from revaluations made since 1 April 2007.

Revenue Expenditure

Expenditure on the day-to-day running costs of services eg employees, premises, supplies and services.

Non-Ring-fenced Government Grant

Central Government grant towards the cost of providing services. Being non-ring-fenced, the grant can be spent on activities at the council's discretion. The main grant falling into this category is the Formula Grant, formerly known as Revenue Support Grant. The amount received is dictated by central government.

Unusable and Usable Reserves

This is the name given to a group of accounts on the face of the Balance Sheet. The individual accounts are linked by a Note and are described earlier in this glossary. Usable reserves generally represent transactions that have happened at the Balance Sheet date. Unusable reserves usually recognise the value of transactions that will actually happen in the future.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Independent auditor's report to the members of Lichfield District Council

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Lichfield District Council (the 'Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2023, 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 2022/23.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

We are responsible for concluding on the appropriateness of the CFO/Assistant Director – Finance & Commissioning (Section 151)'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 CFO/Assistant Director – Finance & Commissioning (Section 151)'s conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 that the Authority's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuation of

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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 CFO/Assistant Director – Finance & Commissioning (Section 151)'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 CFO/Assistant Director – Finance & Commissioning (Section 151) with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The CFO/Assistant Director – Finance & Commissioning (Section 151) 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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 CFO/Assistant Director – Finance & Commissioning (Section 151)

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities on page 3, 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 CFO/Assistant Director – Finance & Commissioning (Section 151). The CFO/Assistant Director – Finance & Commissioning (Section 151) is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Director of Finance determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the CFO/Assistant Director – Finance & Commissioning (Section 151) 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

We enquired of management and the Audit and Standards 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 Standards 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

- the use of journal entries
- estimates and the use of unsupported or favourable assumptions which demonstrate indications of potential management bias

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 unusual journals with specific risk characteristics and large value journals
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates in respect of property and net pension liability valuations and calculation of material provisions
- assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

part of our procedures on the related financial statement item.

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

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

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

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

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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

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

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

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 – Audit certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of Lichfield District Council for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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.

Avtar Sohal

Avtar Sohal, Key Audit Partner

for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor 23

April 2024

If you would like this document in another language or format, or if you require the services of an interpreter, please contact us.

Urdu

یہ دستاویز اگر آپ کو کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہو، یا اگر آپ کو ترجمان کی خدمات چاہئیں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کیجئے۔

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂ ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਸਮਝਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰੈਟਰ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Arabic

إذا أردت هذه الوثيقة بلغة أخرى أو بطريقة أخرى، أو إذا كنت بحاجة إلى خدمات مترجم، فنرجو أن تقوم بالاتصال بنا.

Cantonese

本文件可以翻譯為另一語文版本，或製作成另一格式，如有此需要，或需要傳譯員的協助，請與我們聯絡。

Bengali

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান অথবা যদি আপনার একজন ইন্টারপ্রেটারের প্রয়োজন হয়, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

French

Si vous souhaitez obtenir ce document dans une autre langue ou sous un autre format ou si vous avez besoin des services d'un interprète, veuillez nous contacter.

Farsi

اگر این مدرک را به زبانی دیگر یا در فرمتی دیگر می‌خواهید و یا اگر احتیاج به سرویس مترجم دارید، لطفاً با ما تماس بگیرید

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać ten dokument w innym języku lub w innym formacie albo jeżeli potrzebna jest pomoc tłumacza, to prosimy o kontakt z nami.

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