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Blackpool Council

13 September 2016

To: Councillors Benson, Cox, Galley, Hobson, Hunter, Matthews, O'Hara, Owen and Roberts

The above members are requested to attend the:

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 22 September 2016 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Blackpool

A G E N D A

5 EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE (ISA 260) AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2015-2016 (Pages 29 - 224)

To consider KPMG's Governance Report and the audited Statement of Accounts for 2015/ 2016.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date and time of the next meeting of the Committee as 20 October 2016, commencing at 6pm.

Venue information:

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building.

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Chris Kelly, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser, Tel: 01253 477164, e-mail chris.kelly@blackpool.gov.uk

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website at www.blackpool.gov.uk.

MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 30 JUNE 2016

Present:

Councillor Galley

Councillors

Benson	Hunter	O'Hara	Roberts
Hobson	Matthews	Owen	

In Attendance:

Mr Neil Jack, Chief Executive
Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Mr Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Mr Alan Cavill, Director of Place
Ms Tracy Greenhalgh, Chief Internal Auditor
Mr Iain Leviston, Manager, KPMG
Mr Chris Kelly, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser (Scrutiny)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 26 MAY 2016

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the last meeting held on 26 May 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

3 LIGHTPOOL PROJECT - INTERNAL AUDIT

The Committee noted that at its last meeting, Members had considered the Risk Services Quarter Four report, which made reference to the inadequate assurance statement issued in regards to the audit of the Lightpool Project. The Committee had requested that an explanation be provided for controls being inadequate and a progress report, detailing how the concerns of Internal Audit had been mitigated.

Mr Cavill, Director of Place, advised the Committee that there had been two Priority One recommendations arising from the internal audit report. One of the recommendations had been that 'the income strategy should be reviewed and financial forecasts revised to take account of this'. He explained to the Committee that the purpose of the Lightpool project had been to establish a greater income stream from the illuminations. As part of the project, it had been expected that the first year would be an experimental year in terms of investigating where income could be achieved.

The Committee was provided with an update on the actions relating to the income strategy taken since the internal audit report had been produced. Mr Cavill informed Members that there were a number of sponsorship rights currently being negotiated and provided details of the commercial deals being made and the plans for the Lightpool village, which would assist in developing income streams. He also noted that there were plans in 2016/ 2017 to overhaul the system for collections on the promenade during the illuminations period and that an illuminations brochure had been produced.

Members considered that the plans for the income strategy were positive but that the management of the strategy required improvement, as highlighted in the audit report. The Committee also challenged the reasons for the income strategy not being developed and in place for the first twelve month of the project. In response, Mr Cavill advised that the Coastal Communities Funding had been secured in April 2015 and the funding model would allow for the Lightpool project to be delayed until summer 2016, so the first year had been intended to be used as a trial period.

Members raised further questions relating to the sustainability of the Lightpool Project and Mr Cavill advised that work was being undertaken to ensure its sustainability. He advised that a monitoring report had been produced at the end of the financial year that had been positively received by Coastal Communities Fund and demonstrated that all of the aims for the first year had been met, including a high number of people visiting the resort for Lightpool.

Mr Cavill reported that the other Priority One recommendation included within the internal audit report had been that 'an appropriate project management methodology should be followed and key documents, such as a project plan, should be monitored by the Project Board to ensure that they are delivered.' He explained that a Project Manager was now in post and that actions were effectively monitored to ensure they were delivered. The Committee was provided with details of the Project Management Action Plan and Mr Cavill advised that the Project Board met regularly to oversee its implementation.

Responding to further questioning from the Committee, Mr Cavill advised that the internal audit had been a helpful process and had highlighted areas where improvements had been required. Ms Greenhalgh, Chief Internal Auditor, considered that the improvements were now being implemented and that internal audit would undertake a follow up review on the recommendations in due course later in the year.

Background papers: None.

4 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER - INABILITY TO RESPOND TO A MAJOR INCIDENT

The Committee considered a progress report in relation to the individual risks identified on the Strategic Risk Register, specifically in relation to risks regarding 'Inability to Respond to a Major Incident'. The Committee discussed plans to control and mitigate the risks with the strategic risk owners, Mr Jack, Chief Executive and Mr Thompson, Director of Resources.

Ms Greenhalgh provided the Committee with an explanation of the role of the Lancashire Resilience Forum and details of the Major Emergency Plan that was in place and outlined the roles and responsibilities in the event of an emergency. The Committee was advised by Ms Greenhalgh that new members of staff had been identified to co-ordinate responses to a major incident in order to mitigate against the risk of experienced personnel leaving the authority. Members were also advised that work was being undertaken to move the control centre for dealing with a major incident from the Municipal Building to Bickerstaffe House.

Members were provided with details of an exercise undertaken in January 2016 on dealing with a major incident in Blackpool, which was built around a counter-terrorism scenario. Ms Greenhalgh reported that the exercise had been a success and that it had helped to identify additional controls that were required to be put in place, particularly with regards to Property Services.

Ms Greenhalgh also reported to the Committee that a further control for the risk was that a training programme would be rolled out in conjunction with the Lancashire Resilience Forum, for staff involved with providing a tactical response to a major incident.

The Committee was informed that risk owners had identified that there was a requirement to increase the number of volunteers on the Emergency Response Group and that work would be undertaken to consider how incentives could be used to encourage potential volunteers.

Mr Jack advised the Committee that the effectiveness of the Lancashire Resilience Forum would be important in responding to a major incident and explained that as local authorities and public services became smaller in terms of employees and resources, the need for greater cooperation increased. He advised that the Council already had effective working relationships with various authorities across the Fylde Coast and that work would be undertaken to align emergency responses across the organisations further. The Committee was provided with details of the work undertaken with the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in response to the Cryptosporidium incident as an example of a joined up response to a major incident.

Mr Thompson advised that a key way to mitigate against the risks was to prevent the initial incident. He provided the Committee with examples of work that had been undertaken to prevent major incidents, which included the construction of the sea defences in Anchorsholme.

The Committee questioned whether the risk was considered to be at similar levels in other local authorities and whether the risk score was appropriate. Ms Greenhalgh advised that all local authorities faced similar types of issues in terms of the risk of 'Inability to Respond to a Major Incident', as demonstrated by the need to develop mutual aid arrangements between authorities, so the level of risk was considered broadly similar. In terms of the risk score, Ms Greenhalgh advised that she considered the score to be appropriate and that it should always be considered a high risk.

Background papers: None.

5 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2015/2016

Ms Greenhalgh, Chief Internal Auditor, presented the Committee with the Annual Governance Statement for 2015/2016.

The Committee was provided with a summary of the key elements of the structures and processes that comprised the governance arrangements of the authority.

The Committee was advised that an Annual Governance Statement Review Group had been established in February 2016 and had led on the review of effectiveness and the production of the Annual Governance Statement. Ms Greenhalgh reported that Members had contributed to the process with representation having being sought from the Audit Committee, Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, Standards Committee and Cabinet.

Ms Greenhalgh reported to the Committee that the Annual Governance Statement Review Group's conclusion had been that the Governance Framework was fit for purpose. However, the Review Group did identify some issues that required further work, which were included in the Action Plan.

The Committee was presented with a proposal for it to consider undertaking a mid-year review of progress against actions outlined in the Annual Governance Statement and it was considered by the Committee that the additional member involvement would provide additional value to the process.

Members raised questions relating to an action included within the Action Plan that 'new ways to consult with residents who did not engage in consultation exercises should be considered and there was a need to ensure that consultation exercises were appropriately timed'. Ms Greenhalgh advised that the most appropriate methods for the consultation would be considered over the next twelve months.

The Committee agreed:

1) To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2015/2016.
2) To undertake a mid-year review of progress against the actions outlined in the Annual Governance Statement.

Background papers: None.

6 KPMG TECHNICAL UPDATE

Mr Leviston, Manager, KPMG, presented KPMG's report that provided an overview on progress in delivering its responsibilities as the external auditors. He noted that the report also highlighted the main technical issues that were currently having an impact in local government.

Mr Leviston summarised the key elements of the report, which highlighted a number of issues that the Committee may wish to seek assurances over or gain further understanding. The potential issues included the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the Draft Code of Practice on the Highways Network Asset and devolutions deals.

The Committee raised queries relating to the new Local Audit Framework and in response, Mr Leviston considered that there were a range of options available for local authorities, which could be considered at a future meeting.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

Background papers: None.

7 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

Ms Greenhalgh presented the Council's revised Strategic Risk Register. She explained that the Strategic Risk Register was last approved by the Audit Committee on 24 September 2015 and the revised version had been subject to a full review and amended accordingly, with additional sub risks being added.

The Committee agreed:

1) To approve the Strategic Risk Register.
2) To continue to call risk owners to future meetings to discuss progress against addressing each risk.

Background papers: None

8 AUDIT COMMITTEE SELF-EVALUATION

Tracy Greenhalgh, Chief Internal Auditor presented the feedback from the self-evaluation exercise undertaken by the Audit Committee and senior officers who engaged with the Committee on a regular basis.

Ms Greenhalgh reported that a benchmarking exercise had been undertaken with the results received from 12 months ago and the Committee considered that overall improvements had been made. However, it was noted that the self-evaluation exercise had highlighted some areas that required further improvements.

The Committee discussed whether the role and purpose of the Audit Committee were understood and accepted across the authority. Ms Greenhalgh advised that awareness of the role of Audit Committee was being raised and that the production of the Annual Audit report to Full Council would assist with raising awareness.

The Committee agreed:
1) To note the outcome of the self-evaluation exercise.

2) To engage in the development and delivery of an improvement plan to ensure that it could effectively manage risk.

Background papers: None

9 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT (2000) POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Mr Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships, presented the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (2000) (RIPA) policy and procedure.

It was explained that the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 regulated covert investigations by various bodies, including local authorities and that it was introduced to ensure that individuals' rights were protected whilst ensuring that law enforcement and security agencies had the powers they needed to do their job effectively.

Members raised questions relating to the consequences of not having a proper policy in place and Ms Greenhalgh advised of examples from other local authorities of failed prosecution cases in regards to fly tipping and fraud, due to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act policy not being followed correctly.

The Committee agreed to approve the policy and procedures relating to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (2000).

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted the time and date of the next meeting as 6pm on Thursday 22 September 2016 in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Blackpool.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.25 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Chris Kelly, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser
Tel: 01253 477164
E-mail: chris.kelly@blackpool.gov.uk

Report to:	**AUDIT COMMITTEE**
Relevant Officers:	Neil Jack, Chief Executive and Delyth Curtis, Director of People
Date of Meeting	22 September 2016

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER – LACK OF RESILIENCE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider a progress report on individual risks identified in the Council's Strategic Risk Register.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 Members will have the opportunity to question the Chief Executive and Director of People on identified risks on the Strategic Risk Register in relation to lack of resilience.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To enable the Committee to consider an update and progress report in relation to an individual risk identified on the Strategic Risk Register.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

To not receive an update report, however this would prevent the Committee from monitoring and asking relevant questions of the Strategic Risk Owners in relation to significant risks identified on the Strategic Risk Register.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 At its meeting in June 2016, the Audit Committee agreed to continue to invite Strategic Risk Owners to attend future meetings to provide updates and progress reports in relation to the individual risks identified on the Strategic Risk Register.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 3(a) - Excerpt from Strategic Risk Register

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

11.1 None

12.0 Background papers:

12.1 None

Appendix 3a

Risk	Sub No	Sub Risk	Impact / Consequences	Opportunity	Gross Risk Score			Controls and Mitigation	Net Risk Score			New Developing Controls	Risk Manager	CLT Risk Owner	Target Date	Corporate Priority
					I	**L**	**GS**		**I**	**L**	**NS**					
Lack of Resilience	1a	Lack of individual resilience to work in a changing environment	Workplace stress		**4**	**4**	**16**	Health and safety arrangement for managing work related pressure, supported by an online stress work tool.	**4**	**3**	**12**	Robust workforce planning.	Head of Organisation and Workforce Development	Chief Executive	Ongoing	Organisational Resilience
			Decreased staff morale					A range of training courses in place to help build individual resilience skills.								
								Absence management procedures in place.								
								Workforce planning iPool module in place.								
								People Strategy in place.								
								Access to an employee assistance programme.								
	1b	Lack of capacity to deliver Council services	Inability to deliver an effective service	Employee commitment	**4**	**5**	**20**	Development programmes implemented such as coaching, mentoring and aspiring managers programme	**4**	**4**	**16**	Effective people planning with a view to more generic roles to reduce the burden on key officers.	Head of Organisation and Workforce Development	Chief Executive	Ongoing	Organisational Resilience
			Unable to recruit into difficult to recruit roles	Change organisation form / increase joint working arrangements				Development programmes for specific areas of recruitment problems such as social care and				Transformation process to ensure that the Council becomes an agile	Head of Corporate Development. Engagement and Communication	Chief Executive		

			to deliver services with reduced resource				teaching				organisation				
		Loss of corporate memory					Manage relationships with the Trade Unions in order to embrace employee change.				Deliver a programme of commissioning / service reviews to explore alternative delivery models	Head of Commissioning	Director of People		
1c	Over reliance on public sector services	Unable to deliver core services / statutory duties to residents	Build a more resilient community to reduce reliance on the public sector	**4**	**5**	**20**	Five Year Council Plan in place.	**4**	**4**	**16**	Delivery and implementation of the Council Plan	Head of Corporate Development. Engagement and Communication	Chief Executive	Ongoing	Communities
											Implementation of a robust performance management framework to ensure adequacy of internal service provision				

Report to:	**AUDIT COMMITTEE**
Relevant Officer:	Tracy Greenhalgh, Chief Internal Auditor
Date of Meeting	22 September 2016

RISK SERVICES QUARTER ONE REPORT - 2016/2017

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide the Audit Committee with a summary of the work completed by Risk Services in quarter one of the 2016/2017 financial year.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the findings from the Risk Services Quarterly report.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The report covers areas relevant to the work of the Committee in terms of internal audit, corporate fraud, risk and resilience and health and safety.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:
None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Each quarter the Chief Internal Auditor produces a report summarising the work of Risk Services and this includes the overall assurance statements for all audit reviews completed in the quarter.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:
Appendix 4(a) - Risk Services Quarter One Report

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 All work undertaken by Risk Services is in line with relevant legislation.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 All work has been delivered within the agreed budget for Risk Services.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The primary role of Risk Services is to provide assurance that the Council is effectively managing its risks and provide support to all services in relation to risk and control. Risks that have been identified in the quarter are reported in the summary report.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 The Risk Services Quarterly Report was presented to the Corporate Leadership Team on the 16 August 2016.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

Risk Services Quarter One Report
1st April to 30th June 2016

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Risk Services Quarter One Report – 2016/2017

1. First Quarter Summary

Service Developments

1.1 *Internal Audit*

Internal audits that have been scoped in the quarter and/or fieldwork underway include:

- Blackpool Housing Company
- Ward Budgets
- Playground Maintenance
- Beach Patrol
- Adult Social Care Safeguarding Compliance
- Staff Time Recording
- Cyber Security
- Blue Badges
- Adult Establishment Visits
- Driving at Work
- Budgetary and Financial Management
- Blackpool Museum Project

Details of the scope and final outcome for each of the above audits will be reported to Audit Committee in the Risk Services quarterly report once the fieldwork has been completed and draft report agreed.

The internal audit team were externally assessed against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. The verbal feedback received was positive with some recommendations to be considered by the Council. We are currently awaiting the final inspection report and once received this will be presented to Audit Committee.

1.2 *Corporate Fraud*

Proactive counter fraud work is underway in a number of areas with the focus for quarter one being on purchase cards, insurance fraud and blue badges. Plans are in place to increase the remit of proactive work over the coming months with a focus on council tax fraud, procurement and expenses. Links are being established with other local authorities and public sector bodies to share best practice and intelligence when appropriate to do so.

Plans are being developed to increase the level of fraud awareness across the Council. The i-pool fraud awareness course continues to be promoted on the Hub and via the Senior Leadership Team and a fraud awareness survey is also being developed.

There continues to be a number of fraud referrals being made to the service with a particular increase is whistleblowing cases. The team continue to react to these as appropriate however the number of cases received does impact on the resource available for the proactive work.

1.3 *Risk and Resilience*

The team arranged a training session for sixteen volunteer loggists who are now trained to record decisions for strategic and tactical coordinators dealing with a major incident. Other training courses currently being planned by the team include business continuity management, an introduction to civil protection, events management and dealing with sensitive / abuse claims. I-pool training courses are also being developed for risk management and business continuity planning as a resource which all employees will be able to refer too.

Risk Services Quarter One Report – 2016/2017

The team are supporting the planned demolition at Queens Park to offer advice on insurance, risk management and emergency planning arrangements.

The business continuity plan template has been updated to closer align the service level documents with the Major Emergency Plan and services are now starting to return their updated plans after the quality review undertaken by the team.

The team are in the process of quality reviewing service level risk registers and reports will be sent to the relevant Risk Champions to progress in their directorates. The aim of this review is to ensure consistency across all services and to ensure that key risks are not overlooked.

The team have contributed to the review of the Lancashire Resilience Forum and the development of a work programme for the LRF based on the level of risk identified in the Community Risk Register.

1.4 *Health and Safety*

The Health and Safety Team moved from the Deputy Chief Executives Directorate to Risk Services on the 1st April 2016 as part of the Council restructure.

Throughout the quarter the team have delivered all planned training and have also developed and delivered additional training sessions which generate an income for the team.

As well as providing all elements of the health and safety system to Blackpool Council, the team also provide contractual health and safety services to Fylde Borough Council, many of the Blackpool schools and academies and two out of borough academies.

Work has been underway to prepare the Annual Health and Safety Report for 2015/16 and also to review the Consultation and Communication arrangements in place for liaising with staff and Trade Unions with regard to health and safety.

2. Performance

Risk Services Performance indicators

Performance Indicator (Description of measure)	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual
Professional and technical qualification as a percentage of the total.	85%	79%

Internal Audit Team performance indicators

Performance Indicator (Description of measure)	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual
Percentage audit plan completed (annual target).	90%	14%
Percentage draft reports issued within deadline.	96%	82%
Percentage audit work within resource budget.	92%	89%
Percentage of positive satisfaction surveys.	85%	87%

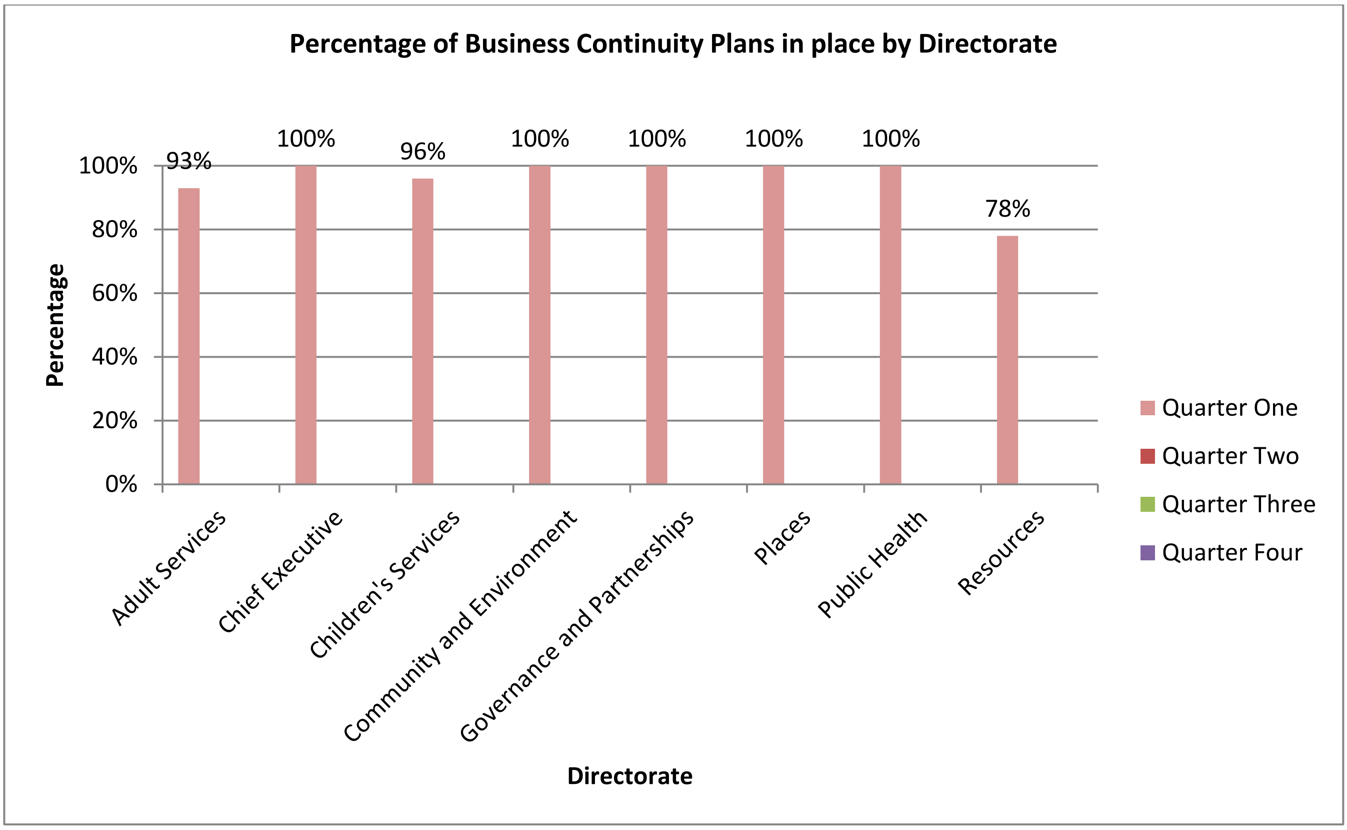
Risk Services Quarter One Report – 2016/2017

Performance Indicator (Description of measure)	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual
Percentage compliance with quality standards for audit reviews.	85%	87%

Risk and Resilience Team performance indicators

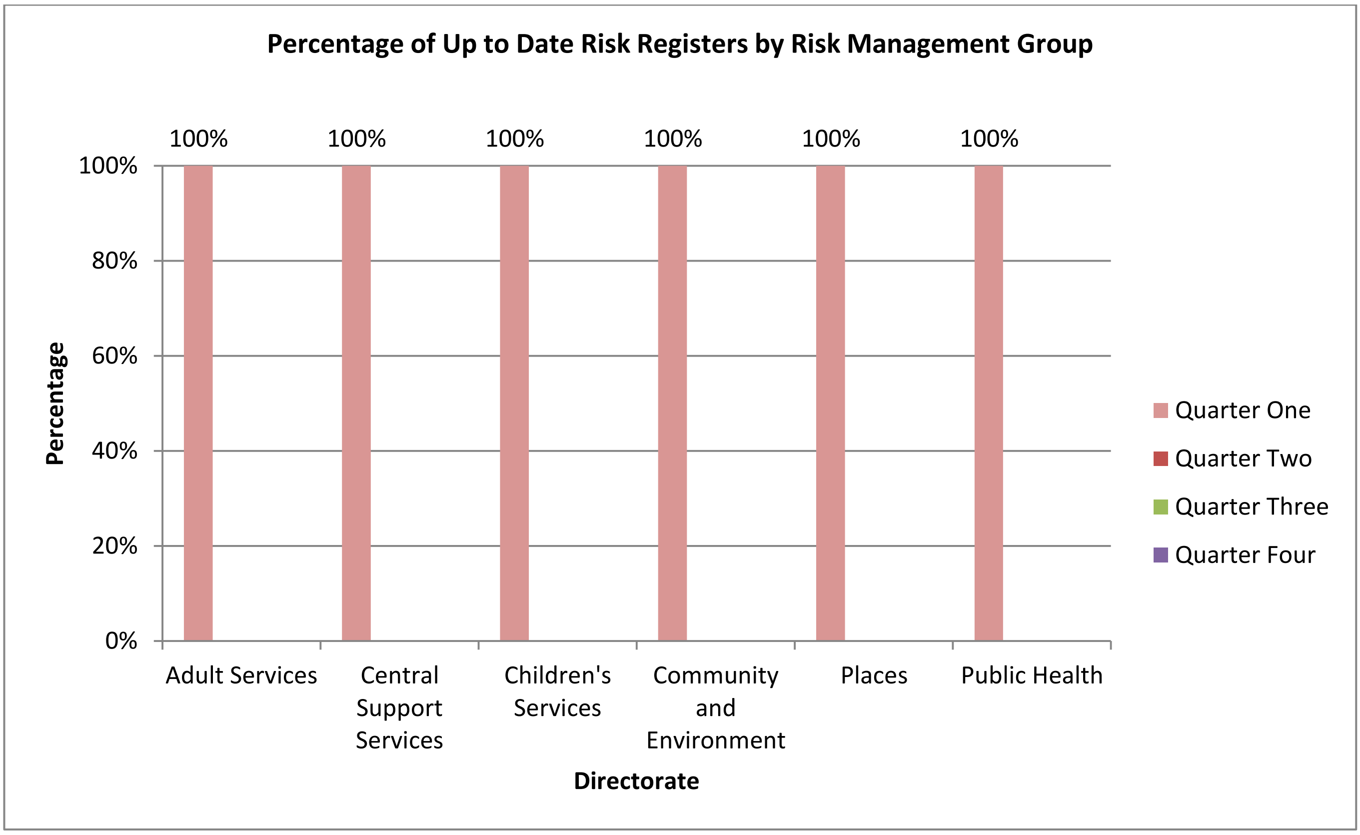
Performance Indicator (Description of measure)	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual
Percentage of Council service business continuity plans up to date.	90%	96%
Percentage of risk registers revised and up to date at the end of the quarter.	90%	100%
Number of risk and resilience training and exercise sessions held (annual target).	6	1
Number of trained Emergency Response Group Volunteers (for monitoring purposes only – responsibility lies with Adult Social Care)	60	50
Percentage of property risk audit programme completed (annual target).	90%	40%

In support of the 92% of business continuity plans up to date by the end of the quarter the following graph shows a breakdown by directorate:



Risk Services Quarter One Report – 2016/2017

In support of the 100% of risk registers revised and up to date by the end of the quarter the following graph shows a breakdown by department:



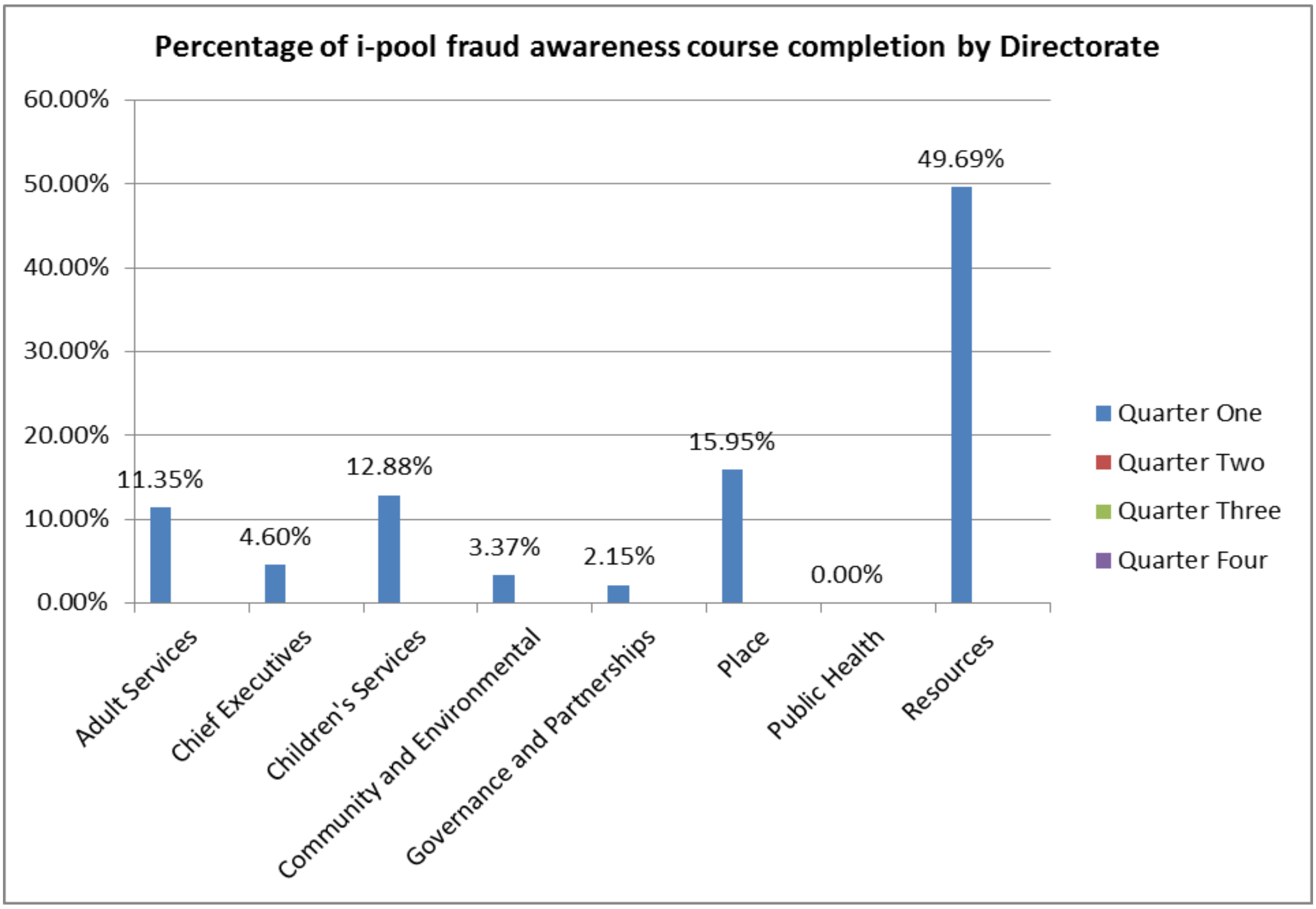
Corporate Fraud Team performance indicators

Performance Indicator (Description of measure)	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual
% of overall Council employees completed i-pool fraud awareness course.	50%	8.43%

Please note that the completion of the fraud awareness course is not yet mandatory and it is being promoted through staff newsletters, the Hub and the Senior Leadership Team.

The completion rate for the i-pool fraud awareness course by directorate is shown in the following graph:

Risk Services Quarter One Report – 2016/2017



Health and Safety

Performance Indicator (Description of measure)	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual
RIDDOR Reportable Accidents for Employees	0	0
Training Delivered to quarterly plan	100%	100%

Risk Services Quarter One Report – 2016/2017

Corporate Fraud Team Statistics

CORPORATE FRAUD STATISTICS - 2016/2017	Number of Cases Brought Forward	Total Number of Referrals Received	Case Closures		Total Value of Fraud Proven / Error Identified	Action Taken on Closed Cases					Number of Cases Currently Under Investigation
			Fraud/Error Proven	No Fraud/Error Identified		No Further Action	Recommendation	Disciplinary	Administrative Penalty	Prosecution	
Type of Fraud											
Council Tax - Single Person Discount	2	1	1	2	£352.55	2	1	0	0	0	0
Council Tax Reduction (CTR)	2	2	0	0	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	4
Business Rates	0	0	0	0	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Procurement	1	1	0	2	£0.00	2	0	0	0	0	0
Fraudulent Insurance Claims	22	11	0	12	£0.00	12	0	0	0	0	21
Social Care	1	0	0	0	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	1
Economic & Third Sector Support	0	0	0	0	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debt	0	0	0	0	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pension	0	0	0	0	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Investment	0	0	0	0	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Payroll & Employee Contract Fulfilment	0	0	0	0	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenses	0	0	0	0	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abuse of Position - Financial Gain	2	0	0	1	£0.00	1	0	0	0	0	1
Abuse of Position - Manipulation of Financial or Non-Financial Data	1	1	0	2	£0.00	1	1	0	0	0	0
Fraudulent Cashing of Housing Benefit Cheque	0	0	0	0	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disabled parking concessions	0	0	0	0	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	**31**	**16**	**1**	**19**	**£352.55**	**18**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**27**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Referred to a Third Party (DWP/Planning/other LA)	14	-	-	-	14

Risk Services Quarter One Report – 2016/2017

3. Appendix A: Performance & Summary Tables for Quarter One

Internal Audit reports issued in period

Directorate	Review Title	Assurance Statement
Adult Services	Framework-I	**<u>Scope:</u>** The scope of our audit was to review invoice payment controls relating to non-residential care. **<u>Assurance Statement:</u>** We consider that the controls in place are adequate, with some risks identified and assessed and several changes necessary. There is a significant amount of manual intervention in terms of checking and clearing variations and potential errors that contributes to the effectiveness of the overall system of control. Our testing revealed only minor lapses in compliance with the controls.
Adult Services / Resources	Social Care Debt	**<u>Scope:</u>** The scope of our audit was to: • Ascertain the reasons for social care benefit debt write offs, through a review of actual write-offs during the last twelve months; and • Assess whether any potential changes to policy, procedure or practice could help to reduce the ongoing level of write-offs. **<u>Assurance Statement:</u>** We consider that overall the controls in place are now adequate, with some risks identified and assessed and several changes necessary. However, historic factors, as identified in this report may mean that it will be some time before the overall level of debt write-off begins to reduce significantly.

Risk Services Quarter One Report – 2016/2017

Directorate	Review Title	Assurance Statement
Community and Environmental	Selective Licencing	**Scope:** The scope of the audit was to review: • Expenditure attributed to the Selective Licensing Scheme to ensure each transaction is appropriate and relates to the scheme and thereby ascertain whether fee levels charged to landlords are appropriate; and • The apportionment of time spent on the scheme by staff who also perform other duties and whether this has been appropriately accounted for. **Assurance Statement:** Our review of selective licencing scheme expenditure has identified that the invoice and internal journal transfer expenditure incurred by the scheme are reasonable and in line with the delivery of the schemes. As in line with many schemes run by the Council, the system adopted by the service means that it has not been possible to independently verify staff time associated with the scheme as time recording records were not maintained. As part of the audit we interviewed all staff involved in the scheme to gain some verification of the time spent on selective licencing which has provided us with some assurance that the costs are reasonable. Some immaterial miscoding has been identified as part of the audit however this was due to error rather than misappropriation of funds. Overall, there should have been more robust budget management by the service which has resulted in a number of changes being made in 2015/16 to ensure that the budgets for the schemes reflect actual expenditure when a working group was established to verify the accuracy of expenditure. The focus of the service has been delivering outcomes rather than monitoring resources and lessons have now been learned. Now that appropriate corrections have been made both schemes are forecasting an overspend which demonstrates that landlords have not been overcharged for licences but does create a budget pressure for the Council which needs to be managed through the core funding of the Public Protection Service. We have made a number of recommendations to further enhance controls in relation to the operation of the schemes and further increase transparency of how licence fee income is spent.

Risk Services Quarter One Report – 2016/2017

Directorate	Review Title	Assurance Statement
Corporate	Financial Control Assurance Testing (2015/16)	**Scope:** Annual internal audit work is undertaken to test the controls over the key financial systems across the Council. The systems covered are: • Business Rates • Capital Accounting / Asset Management • Council Tax • Creditor Payments • Sundry Debtors • Housing Benefits • Housing Rents • Payroll • Trading Services • Purchase Cards **Assurance Statement:** Overall, for 2015/2016 we have assessed the key financial controls in place for business rates, capital accounting, council tax, creditor payments, housing benefits, housing rents, traded services and payroll/HR to be satisfactory. We continue to identify recurring issues with the sundry debtors system and these relate to duplicate accounts being created, incomplete information being recorded on the customer file, the timeliness of issue of invoices and the completeness/quality of information contained on the invoices. As the sundry debtors system is used by practitioners across the Council the results of this testing will continue to be reported to the Income Management Group to drive further improvements. Key financial controls in place for purchase cards have been tested for the first time during 2015/2016. Issues have been noted relating to authorisation of expenditure and uploading of valid VAT receipts to the system. The purchase cards system is used by practitioners across the Council. The results of this testing will continue to be reported to the Income Management Group to drive further improvements.

Risk Services Quarter One Report – 2016/2017

Directorate	Review Title	Assurance Statement
Corporate	Catalogue Prices	**Scope:** The scope of this audit was to review: • The use of the FPM system to pay invoices circumventing the requirement to raise a purchase order. • Discrepancies between purchases orders that are raised based on catalogue prices and invoice amount charged. • How Lodge Cards are used in practice and identify associated risks and exposure. **Assurance Statement:** We consider that the current controls are inadequate with a number of risks identified and changes necessary. This was supported by our testing which revealed inconsistencies of practice with the controls by various services across the Council. We identified that the Finance Process Manager (FPM) system is used in circumstances where the e-procurement system should have been used to ensure that appropriate authorisations are in place prior to ordering goods or services. In addition, we identified that authorisation limits in both payment systems are not in line with the Scheme of Delegation and there is insufficient evidence that these non-standard limits have been appropriately authorised.
Place	Positive Steps into Work	**Scope:** The scope of our audit was to review the responses on the Information Security Form, which forms part of the Security Plan required by People Plus, and ensure that all procedures are in place as confirmed on the form. **Assurance Statement:** We consider that procedures are in place as stated on the Information Security Form and that overall assurance regarding the Information Security is assessed as adequate. Clarification should be sought from People Plus in relation to requirements regarding data stored on back-up media, recording user activity and the required frequency of penetration testing.

Risk Services Quarter One Report – 2016/2017

Directorate	Review Title	Assurance Statement
Resources	Banking Contract Post-Implementation Review	**<u>Scope:</u>** The scope of this review was to: • Conduct a post implementation review of the project to assess the effectiveness of the transition to the new banking contract and identify any outstanding issues which need to be resolved; and • Ensure that key banking operation controls, such as the bank reconciliations, have continued to work effectively since the change to the new supplier has taken place. **<u>Assurance Statement:</u>** We consider that the controls in place for the new banking contract are good with most risks identified and assessed and we consider that only minor control improvements are required. Our testing revealed a satisfactory level of compliance with the controls.

Progress with Priority 1 audit recommendations

A review of priority one recommendations was undertaken to confirm the current position. This focused on all priority one recommendations implemented, those where new target dates have been agreed, those where no response has yet been received by the service and those not yet due.

Some priority one recommendations have not been implemented by the agreed target date however steps have been taken with the service to agree revised target dates and these will be followed-up once the new target dates are reached.

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

In line with best practice it has been agreed that the Council will report to the Audit Committee the number of RIPA authorisations undertaken each quarter, which enables the Council to undertake directed and covert surveillance. Between April and June 2016 the Council authorised one RIPA which was reported to the Governance and Regulatory Service. This related to the offence of fly-tipping and was requested by the Community Safety Team.

Insurance claims data

Statistics in relation to insurance claims are collated on a quarterly basis and details of the latest information can be seen in **Appendix B** to this report.

Risk Services Quarter One Report – 2016/2017

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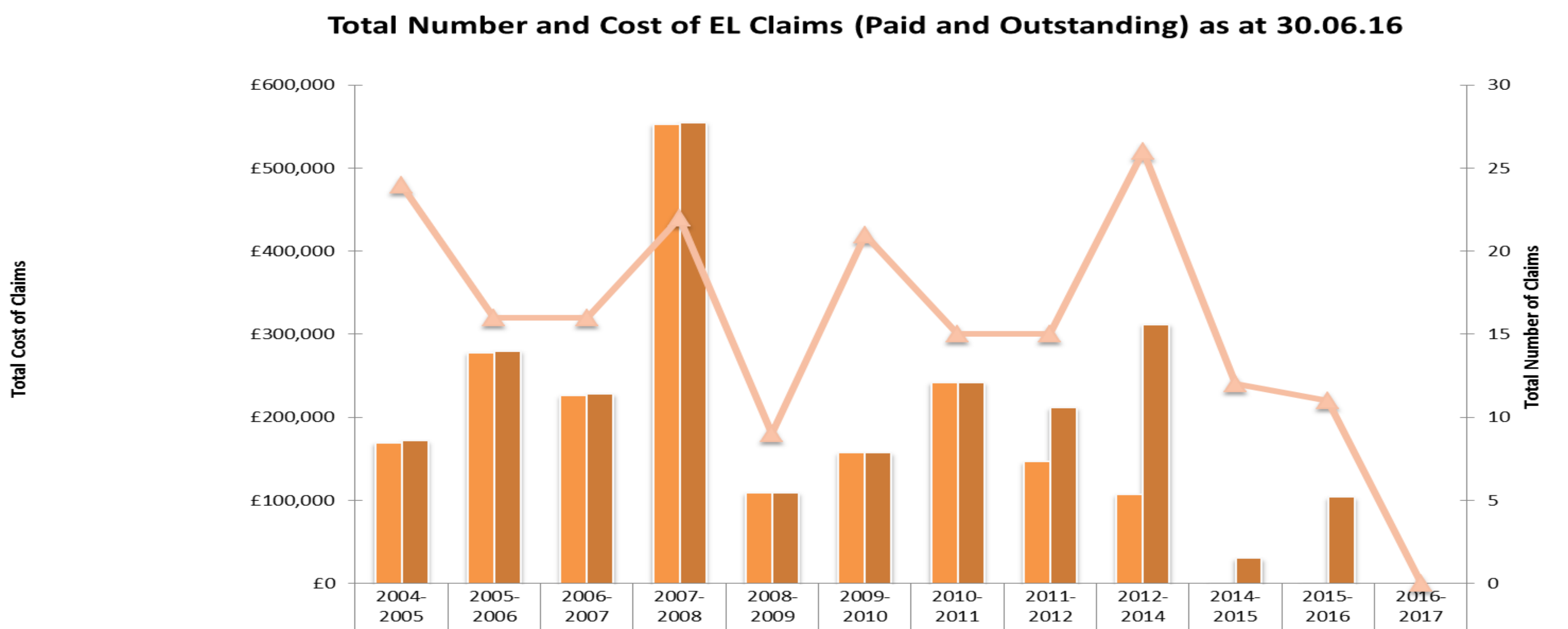
4. Appendix B – Insurance Claims Data

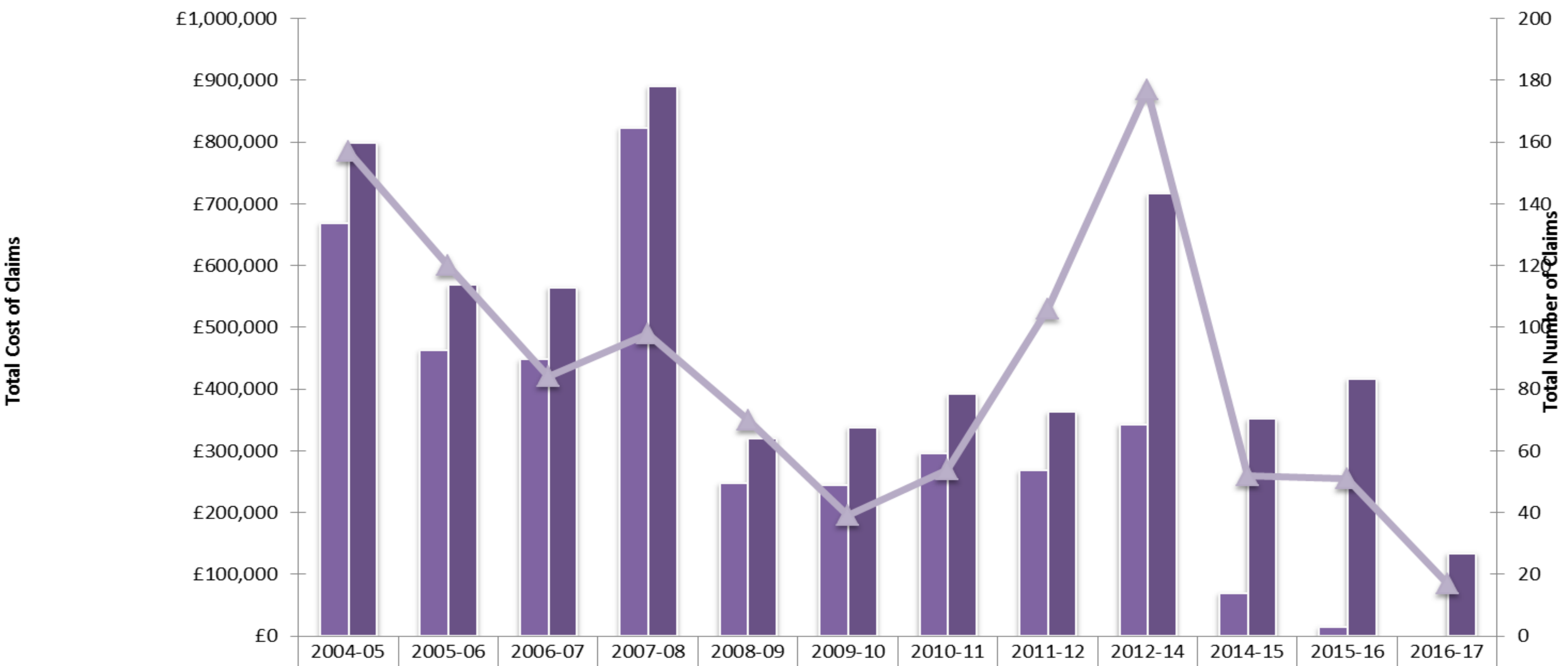


	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Claims Settled	£169,316	£277,659	£225,897	£552,573	£108,792	£156,870	£241,694	£146,254	£106,852	£174	£44	£0
Total Cost of Claims	£171,316	£279,659	£227,897	£554,573	£108,792	£156,870	£241,694	£211,242	£311,686	£29,898	£103,515	£0
Total Number of Claims	24	16	16	22	9	21	15	15	26	12	11	0

Please note that for the period 2012 to 2014 the policy ran for an 18 month period whilst arrangements were made to align all policy dates to a 1st April start in preparation for the procurement exercise.

Risk Services Quarter One Report – 2016/2017

Total Number and Cost of PL Claims (Paid and Outstanding) as at 30.06.16



	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Claims Settled	£669,378	£463,713	£448,266	£823,637	£247,900	£245,264	£297,014	£268,338	£343,012	£69,970	£14,738	£0
Total Cost of Claims	£799,579	£569,176	£565,318	£891,161	£320,976	£338,772	£391,926	£363,251	£716,966	£352,067	£416,878	£134,680
Total Number of Claims	157	120	84	98	70	39	54	106	177	52	51	17

Please note that for the period 2012 to 2014 the policy ran for an 18 month period whilst arrangements were made to align all policy dates to a 1st April start in preparation for the procurement exercise.

Risk Services Quarter One Report – 2016/2017

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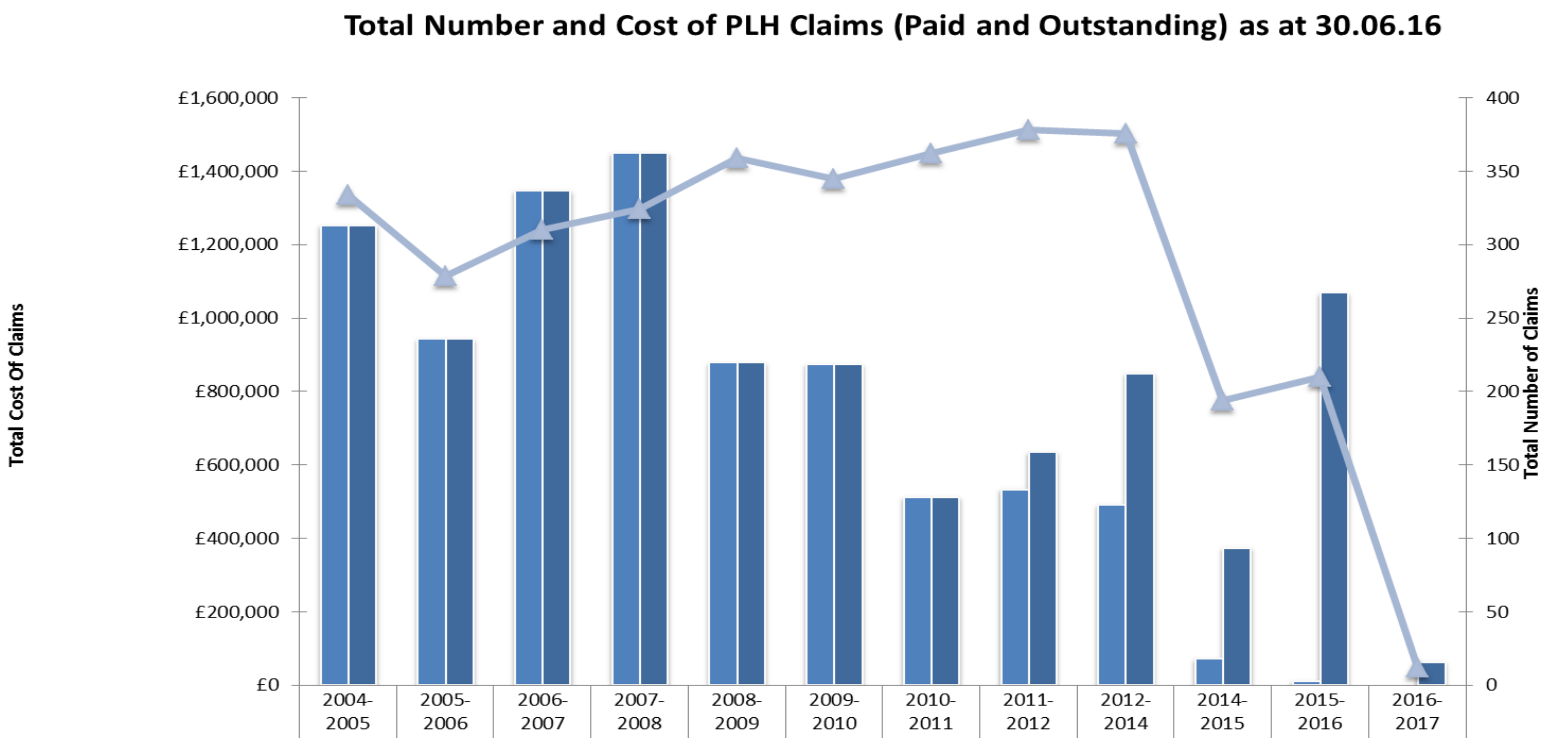

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Claims Settled	£1,253,8	£943,994	£1,348,4	£1,451,7	£879,217	£875,553	£513,137	£533,943	£491,686	£72,039	£11,478	£0
Total Cost of Claims	£1,253,8	£943,994	£1,348,4	£1,451,7	£879,217	£875,553	£513,137	£635,798	£850,654	£374,480	£1,069,5	£63,720
Total Number of Claims	334	279	310	324	359	345	362	378	376	194	210	12

Please note that for the period 2012 to 2014 the policy ran for an 18 month period whilst arrangements were made to align all policy dates to a 1st April start in preparation for the procurement exercise.

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Report to:	AUDIT COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Date of Meeting	22 September 2016

EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE (ISA 260) AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2015-2016

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider KPMG's Governance Report and the audited Statement of Accounts for 2015-2016.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the External Auditor's Report to those charged with Governance (ISA 260) for 2015–2016.

2.2 To approve the audited Statement of Accounts for 2015-2016.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To enable the Committee to approve the Statement of Accounts by 30 September 2016 to ensure compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) Regulations 2015.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None, as the Committee is required to approve the Statement of Accounts.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The *Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015* require that "the responsible financial officer of a larger relevant body must, no later than 30 June immediately following the end of a year, sign and date the statement of accounts" with the final audited version approved by Members by 30 September.

5.2 The draft Statement of Accounts 2015-2016 were signed off by the Council's Statutory Finance Officer, the Director of Resources, on 20 June 2016.

5.3 The audit is now complete and the final Statement of Accounts 2015-2016 is attached at Appendix 5(a). It is anticipated that an unqualified opinion on the 2015-2016 accounts will be issued.

5.4 Once the governance report has been considered and the letter of representation signed by the Director of Resources, it is expected that the Auditor will finalise its statements in order that the final audited accounts can be published.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 5(a) - Statement of Accounts 2015-16
Appendix 5 (b) – Draft External Auditor's Report ISA 260 2015-16

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None

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Blackpool Council

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION BY DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES – STEVE THOMPSON

Blackpool Council's accounts show the financial results of the Council for the financial year 2015/16 and the financial position as at 31st March 2016.

It is intended that these accounts will provide a useful and important source of financial information for the community, stakeholders, Council Members and other interested parties. The style and format of the accounts complies with CIPFA standards and is similar to those of previous years.

The 2015/16 Budget was undoubtedly the most challenging to date with a budget savings target of £25.2m on the back of successfully delivering £68.6m over the previous 4 years. This Budget underwent detailed consideration and scrutiny over a lengthy formulation period. From the very outset this involved the Council's Cabinet Members, who ensured that resources were aligned more than ever before to the Council's specific priorities, followed by extensive engagement and consultation with key stakeholders such as the trade unions, business representatives, equality and diversity forums and of course our residents.

Despite the financial constraints, the Council made sufficient provision within the Budget to accommodate:

- pay levels rising on average by 2.2% for the period from 1st January 2015 until 31st March 2016
- the payment of annual increments
- voluntary 5 days' average unpaid leave continuing
- general non-pay inflation rising by 1.5% in 2015/16 (2.0% for business rates)
- a freezing of the level of council tax at £1,306.00 for a band D property
- specific service pressures, in particular Children's Social Care activity.

2015/16 also brought significant new responsibilities to the Council with:

- the rollout of the Better Start initiative with partners from the NSPCC, Clinical Commissioning Group, local Hospital Trust and Police
- joint working with the NHS to meet the requirements of the Better Care Fund.

These were all big challenges, but by working more collaboratively across Council directorates and indeed with other public sector partners where appropriate we have achieved common goals and efficiencies together.

The Narrative Report (a change in requirement for 2015/16 replacing the Explanatory Foreword) provides information about Blackpool, including key issues affecting the Council and its accounts. It also provides a summary of the financial position as at 31st March 2016.

Steve Thompson
Director of Resources

NARRATIVE REPORT

An Introduction to Blackpool

Blackpool is a seaside town situated in the north-west coast of England. It is the world's first mass market seaside resort, with a proud heritage stretching back over 150 years. It covers an area of approximately 13.46 square miles and has a population of around 142,500.

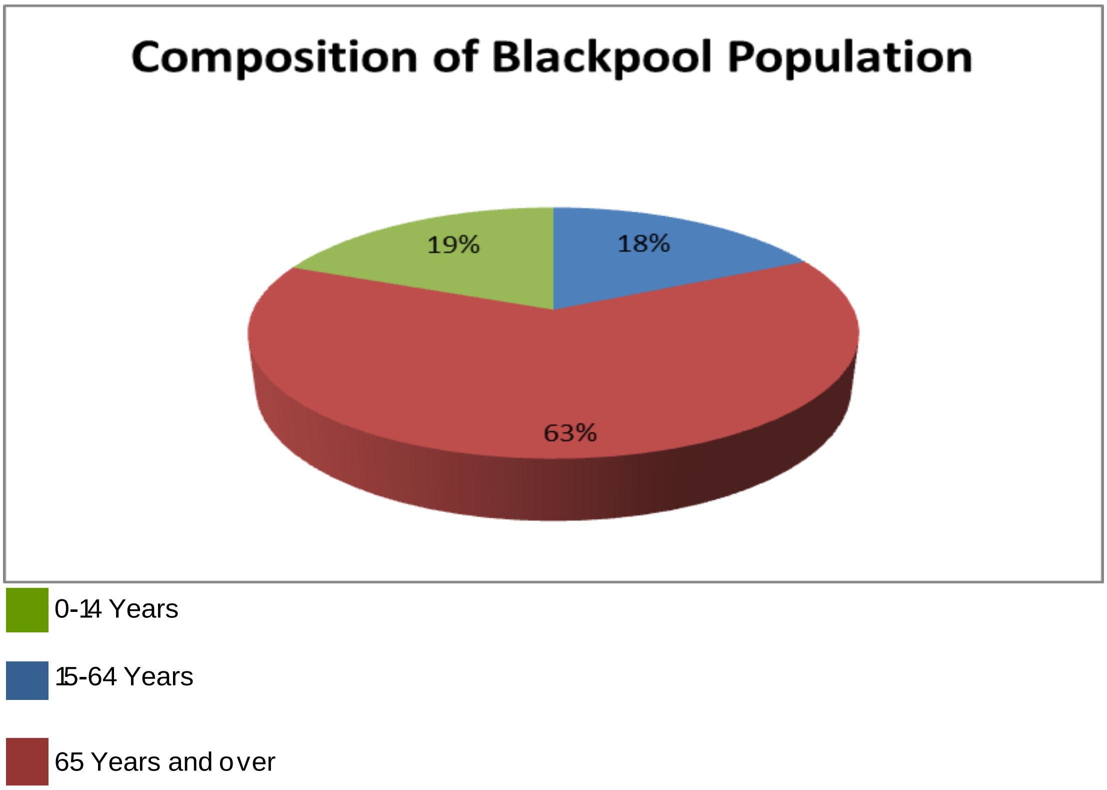
In addition to its sandy beaches, Blackpool's major attractions and landmarks include Blackpool Tower, Blackpool Illuminations, the Pleasure Beach, Blackpool Zoo, Sandcastle Water Park, the Winter Gardens, and the UK's only surviving first-generation tramway. More than two thirds of Britons have visited Blackpool, and with 17 million visits a year from all corners of the country, it is still amongst the most popular destinations. Despite people having more leisure and holiday options than ever, around 24,000 Blackpool jobs still rely directly on tourism – the most of any seaside destination – and the town enjoys the greatest concentration of leisure attractions outside London.

Key Facts about Blackpool

The profile of the local population dictates the direction and substance of the services provided by the Council for example there is a increasing demand for children's and adult social care in Blackpool.

Population

The Office for National Statistics Mid-Year Estimates for 2015 reported that Blackpool's estimated population was 142,500. The chart below shows the age profile.



Economy

- The annual survey of hours and earnings 2015 revealed that the median gross weekly earnings for residents in Blackpool was £319.00. This was £72.50 lower than the Lancashire figure and £106.80 lower than the UK figure of £425.80. It was the third lowest nationally.

- In August 2015 22.2% of the working age population in Blackpool claimed working age benefits. This compares to 12.0% for UK and 13.9% for Lancashire. For Blackpool the rate was the highest in the country.

- Approximately 18,675 households in Blackpool claim housing benefit.

Political Structure

Blackpool Council is split into 21 wards each represented by 2 Councillors elected every four years. The Council's next full elections are in May 2019. The political make-up of the Council is as follows:

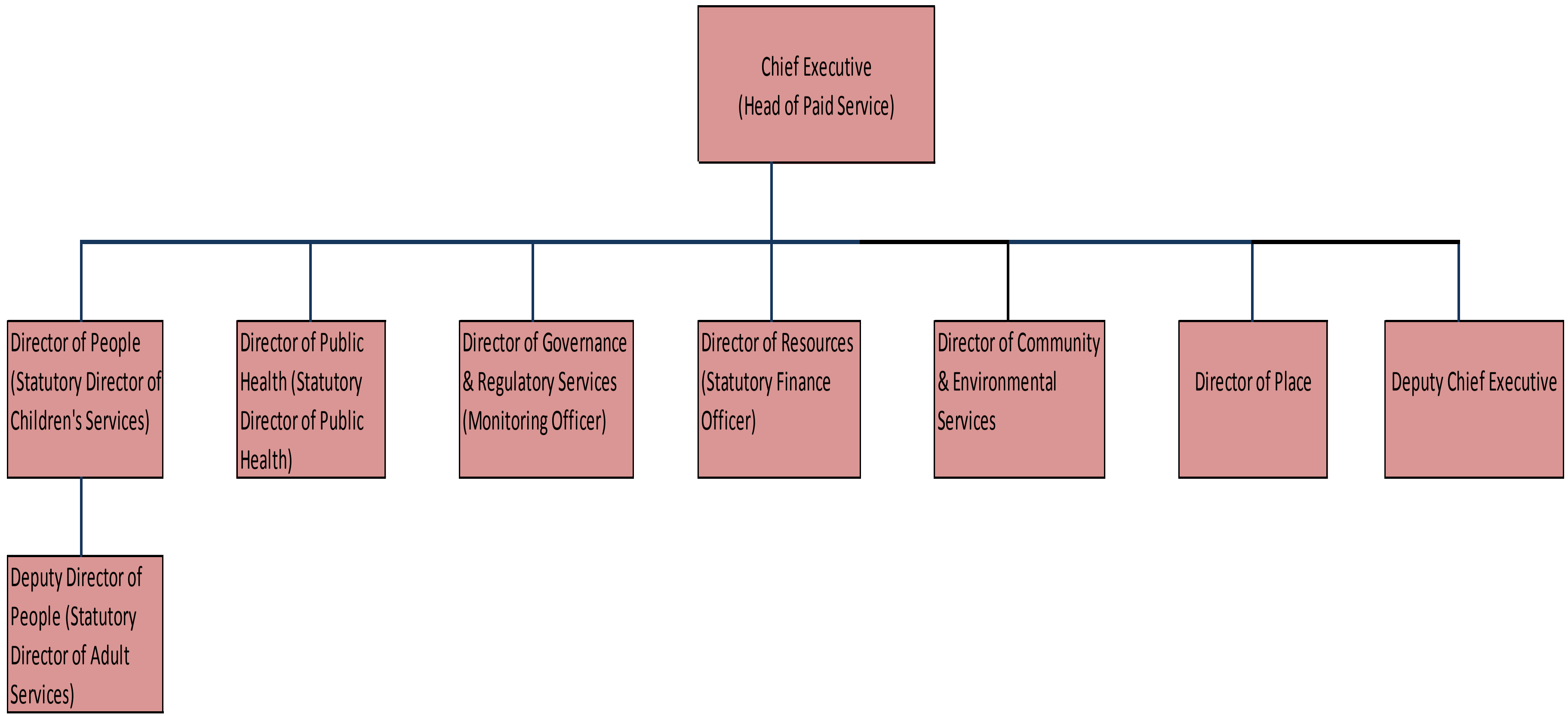
Labour Party	29 Councillors
Conservative Party	13 Councillors

The Executive is the part of the Council which is responsible for most day-to-day decisions. The Executive is made up of a Leader and a Cabinet of nine other councillors whom the Leader has appointed. The Leader of the Council has also appointed one of these Cabinet Members as his deputy along with a Cabinet Secretary.

When major decisions are to be discussed or made, these are published in the Executive's Forward Plan in so far as they can be anticipated. If these major decisions are to be discussed at a meeting of the Executive, this will generally be open for the public to attend except where personal or confidential matters are being discussed. The Executive has to make decisions which are in line with the Council's overall policies and budget. If it wishes to make a decision which is outside the budget or policy framework, this must be referred to the Council as a whole to decide.

Corporate Leadership Team

Supporting the work of the Councillors is the Corporate Leadership Team which is led by the Chief Executive Neil Jack. The make-up of the Corporate Leadership Team is as follows:

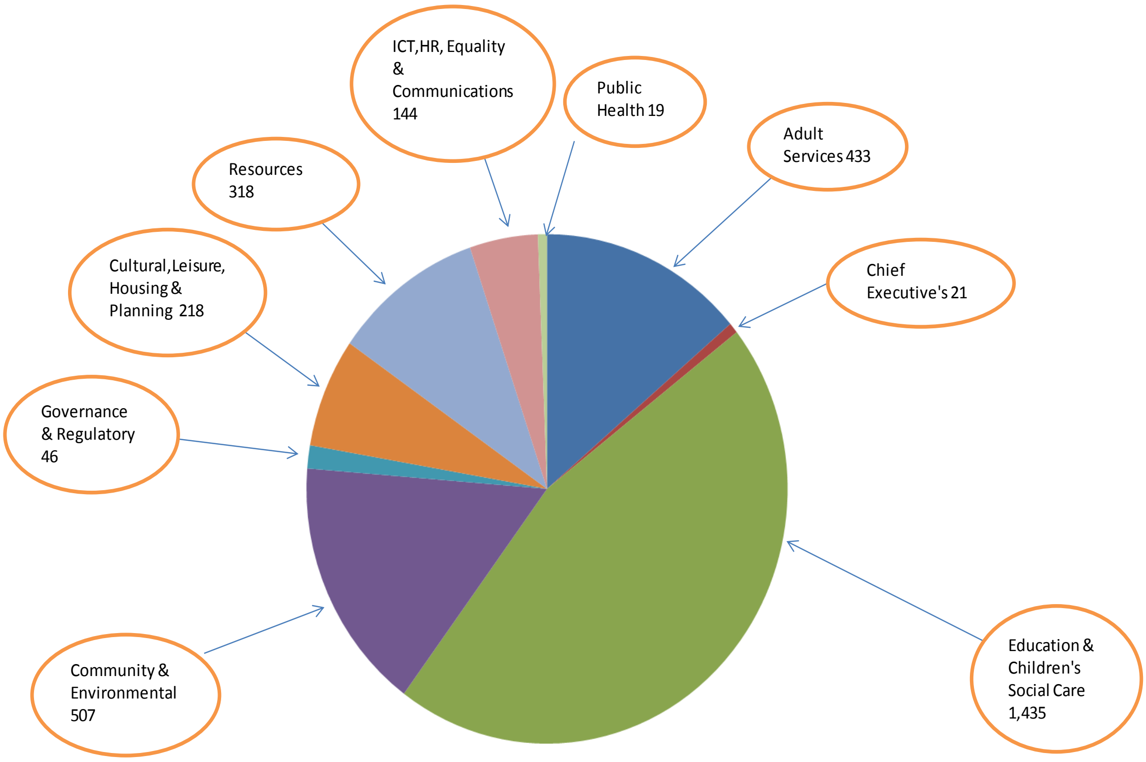


The Corporate Leadership Team provides managerial leadership and supports Councillors in:

- developing strategies
- identifying and planning resources; and
- delivering plans

Staffing

At 31st March 2016 the Council employed 3,838 people and also employed 1,511 school based people. This represents 2,246 Full Time Equivalents and 895 Full Time Equivalents based in schools. The chart below shows how these support the Council's services.



Blackpool Council Plan 2015 - 2020

The Council Plan is a key element of the Council's corporate business planning framework and forms part of the Council's Strategic Policy Framework. The purpose of the Council Plan is to provide a clear and concise summary of the Council's vision for Blackpool and the key actions that the Council will take to work towards achieving that vision.

The plan focuses on two key priorities:

Priority One - The economy – Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool

Key economic challenges
- High levels of child poverty and deprivation
- Low employment rate
- High levels of ill health and disability
- High numbers of benefits claimants
- Low levels of skills and qualifications
- Few skilled job opportunities and public sector job cuts

Key infrastructure projects
- Deliver the tramway extension to Blackpool North
- Improved access to town through three "green corridors", improving our environment
- New Business District - more professional working in the town centre
- Deliver the new Energy College
- Sea defence works

Key employment projects
- Expand apprenticeship schemes
- Enterprise education at schools
- Specialist jobs schemes for the most vunerable and disadvantaged people in the town
- Promotion and delivery of the living wage

Key enterprise projects
- Enterprise Zone at Blackpool Airport
- Business start-up support
- Increase across the Public Sector in use of local contractors
- Business Champions - mentoring

Key housing projects
- Reduce transience and stabilise communities by supporting quality public and private homes
- Establish a big new private sector landlord
- Deliver a home energy efficiency scheme
- Lobby for benefits changes to reduce numbers of Houses in Multiple Occupation

Key community safety projects
- Strong management of the night time economy
- Adoption of Public Space Protection Orders
- Extension of Selective Licensing and Transience projects across the town
- Behaviour management in the town centre

Priority Two – Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience

Key stronger community challenges
- High rates of Looked After Children
- Low GCSE achievement
- Poor life expectancy
- High levels of alcohol and substance misuse
- High levels of teenage pregnancy
- Domestic violence
- Mental health

Key community projects
- Asset-based Community Development bringing people together through the arts café, food growing & farm scheme
- Improving access to community activities
- Reducing isolation through creation of neighbourhood navigators to help the isolated access activities

Key health projects
- New active health referral programme
- Improved wellness service
- More people accessing NHS Health Checks
- Healthier Catering Award scheme

SUMMARY OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR

REVENUE SUMMARY

The budget for 2015/2016 was set by the Council on 27th February 2015 in the sum of £128.073m. There was no change in Council Tax at Band D £1,306.00 (£1,306.00 in 2014/2015) for services which are the responsibility of the Council to deliver. There was a small increase in Council Tax Band D £1,529.92 (£1,525.61 in 2014/2015) when precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Lancashire Fire Authority are included. The budget was financed as follows:

	£m
Revenue Support Grant	38.668
Non-Domestic Rate Baseline	23.997
Non-Domestic Rate Top-Up	19.163
Section 31 grants	2.647
Council Tax Freeze Grant	0.617
Collection Fund Deficit	(2.554)
Council Tax	45.535
	128.073

The provisional revenue outturn for 2015/2016 (before allowing for changes to working balances) is £129,239,000 compared with the approved adjusted cash limited budget of £128,687,000 – a net overspend of £552,000.

The year-end variance position for each directorate is set out below and is summarised as follows:-

Directorate	**2015/2016 Variance £000**
Chief Executive	0
Deputy Chief Executive	(31)
Governance & Regulatory Services	(19)
Ward Budgets	(246)
Resources	111
Places	127
Strategic Leisure Assets	-
Community & Environmental Services	(14)
Adult Services	78
Children's Services	2,892
Public Health	-
Total	**2,898**

The main reasons for this net service overspend are:-

Service	Reasons	£000
Children's Services	There are two main reasons for the Children's Services overspend. Children's Social Care overspent by £2.189m because of the high cost of Looked After Children (LAC) resulting from both increased numbers and placement mix. Within the grants budget there was a pressure on the Education Services Grant of £1.081m due to academy conversions. These pressures were partially offset by staff savings and additional income from the Learning & Schools and Early Help For Children & Families divisions.	2,892
Places	Print Services overspent by £103k due to an income target which needs to be reviewed as part of a wider service review. Whilst Housing had Prudential borrowing costs of £30k. These overspends were partly mitigated by savings elsewhere.	127
Resources	Property Services overspent as a result of delays in implementing savings plans and a pressure from rental income within the Central Business District. These overspends were partially offset by staffing savings across the remainder of the Resources Directorate.	111
Adult Services	Within the service two divisions overspent: Care & Support as a result of delays in implementing savings plans and Adult Safeguarding from unfunded demand increases for Deprivation of Liberty/Best Interest Assessments. These over spends were partially offset by staffing savings in Adult Social Care.	78
Community & Environmental Services	Leisure was £94k overspent due to income pressures. Transport was overspent by £154k due to pressures on the shelter income and maintenance budgets. Building Cleaning was £43k overspent due to a combination of income and staffing costs pressures. These were offset by various savings across the Directorate.	(14)
Governance & Regulatory Services	An overspend of £84k in Registration and Bereavement Services due to the levels of demand in the Coroners and Mortuary Service was more than offset by underspends on staffing and reduced expenditure across the rest of the Directorate.	(19)
Deputy Chief Executive	Underspend partly due to savings in premises related expenditure.	(31)
Area Ward Budgets	Scheme commitments of £246k are being carried forward to 2016/2017 which reduces the true surplus on budget to zero.	(246)
Total		**2,898**

The financial outturn for budgets 'outside the cash limit' is detailed below and shows an aggregate underspending of £2,288,000. The main reasons for this are:-

Service	**Reasons**	**£000**
Concessionary Fares	This overspend of £583k is due to increased bus patronage.	583
Parking Services	The service is overspent due to not meetings its stretched income target. However, it has significantly improved its income collection performance. This was helped in part by 2 Easter holiday periods falling within the same financial year.	176
Previous Years' Pension Liability	Increase in costs due to number of retirements and pension fund performance on financial markets.	33
Land Charges/Housing Benefits/Council Tax and NNDR Cost of Collection	Mainly reduction in costs recovered	12
Subsidiary Companies	This underspend is due to the reducing balance payback of Prudentially borrowed schemes.	(123)
New Homes Bonus	This underspend is due to the Council's pro-rata share of the unused national funding from the 2014/15 New Homes Bonus. This is based on the Start-Up Funding Allocation.	(141)
Treasury Management	The Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17 contained details of a change in MRP policy affecting the Treasury Management Outturn 2015/2016 and subsequent years. The revised policy adopts a more prudent approach, replacing the 4% reducing balance method of calculating MRP on debt which arose prior to 1st April 2008 with the 2% straight line method. As a result the MRP charge for 2015/16 reduces by £1.4m. In addition the use of temporary borrowing and internal financing has enabled long-term borrowing to be delayed, therefore achieving savings against interest payable.	(2,828)
Total		**(2,288)**

Treatment of Revenue Budget Variances

As part of the year-end process an analysis of budget variances is undertaken in order to determine the treatment of under/overspendings on service budgets. The conventional Cash Limited Budgeting approach requires that:-

- Under-spendings are carried forward in full and are then available to supplement the following year's service budget;
- overspendings are similarly carried forward but must as far as possible be recovered in the following financial year (where an extended period is required, this must be on the basis of a recovery plan with a timetable not exceeding 3 years and approved by the Executive); and
- any windfall gains, as determined by the Director of Resources and arising from events outside the control of the service, are added to the Council's general working balances.

However, having considered the Provisional Revenue Outturn 2015/2016 in detail and the financial outlook it is recommended that:-

- the underspending of £246,000 on Ward Budgets is carried forward to 2016/2017 in full;

- the following under and overspendings are to be written off:

Directorate	**£000**
Children's Services	2,892
Places	127
Resources	111
Adult Services	78
Deputy Chief Executive	(31)
Total	**3,177**

This will allow services to enter the new financial year in a balanced position and give directorates a realistic chance of meeting their budget savings for that year.

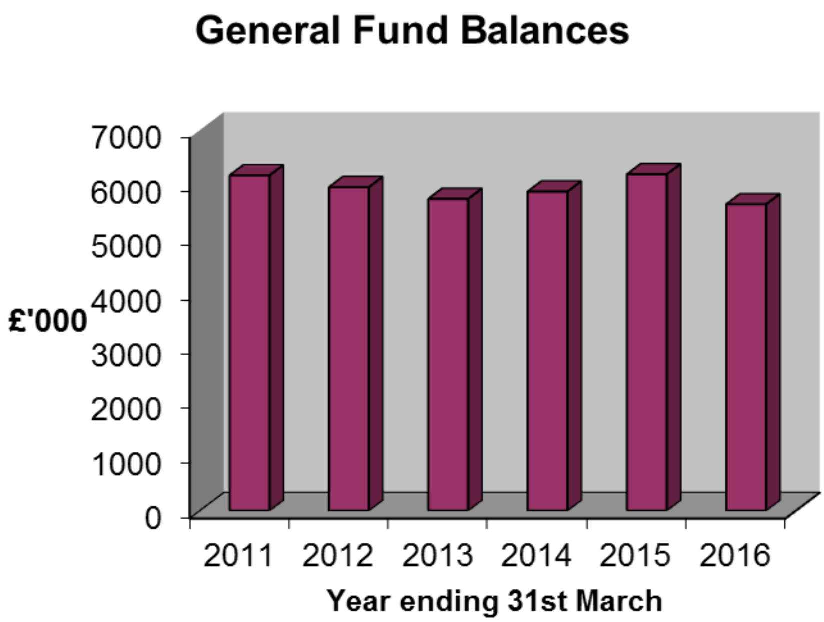
- the following under-spendings are carried forward at 100% and covered by earmarked reserve in order not to adversely impact upon working balances if and when spent.

Directorate	**£000**
Community & Environmental Services	(14)
Governance & Regulatory Services	(19)
Total	**(33)**

GENERAL FUND WORKING BALANCES

In setting the Council's original budget for 2015/2016 the target General Fund working balances as at 31st March 2016 were approximately £6m. However the outturn position means that the actual General Fund working balances as at 31st March 2016 were £5,636,000

The graph below shows the change in the General Fund Working Balances over the last 6 years.



CAPITAL SUMMARY

The total of the Council's capital spending in 2015/2016 was £35.9m, which is a 17.2% decrease from the previous year. The main reason for the decrease in capital spending is that many of the larger schemes have completed e.g. Project 30. The net book value of the Council's non-current assets as at 31st March 2016 was £788.1m.

The main areas of capital spending during the year were:

	2014/2015 £m	2015/2016 £m
Children's Services	2.2	2.2
Adult Services	1.8	1.9
Human Resources and IT	1.4	0.4
Community and Environment	12.0	13.7
Transport	7.2	7.2
Housing - Private Sector Housing	3.0	1.3
Housing - HRA	11.8	7.0
Regeneration, Tourism and Culture	1.2	1.5
Treasurer Services	2.8	0.7
Total	**43.4**	**35.9**

The funding of capital expenditure came from a number of sources as summarised below:

	2014/2015 £m	2015/2016 £m
Capital receipts	2.4	1.6
Grants	23.0	23.0
Borrowing	5.0	1.8
Other	13.0	9.5
Total	**43.4**	**35.9**

As at 31st March 2016 the Council held a balance of usable capital receipts amounting to £2.7m. Most of these capital receipts are earmarked to already approved schemes.

The Council plans future capital developments within the financial constraints placed upon it. Key policy objectives for the future include regeneration and renewal of the town on a significant scale.

- A Tramway upgrade linking the Tramway on the Promenade with Blackpool North Train station, creating a transport hub. This includes the acquisition of the Wilko's building in Talbot Road. The majority of funding will come from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.
- The continued demolition and development of the former Queens Park estate in Layton, creating a vibrant, family friendly living area.

- The repair and improvement of a number of key bridges in the town ensuring that the significant number of vehicles using the Blackpool Council highway network, can be managed in an efficient and effective manner, and journeys are less likely to be disrupted.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

Under the *Local Government and Housing Act 1989* expenditure on council housing is “ring-fenced” meaning no contribution can be made to or from the General Fund. Furthermore, the *Housing Revenue Account (Accounting Practices) Directions 2000* applies whereby “Resource Accounting” is implemented, making more transparent the costs of capital tied up in the assets and providing resources to maintain them

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT RESERVES

The balance on the HRA reserve stands at £7.2m at 31 March 2016.

MAIN CHANGES TO THE CORE STATEMENTS AND SIGINIFICANT TRANSACTIONS IN 2015/16

The actuarial valuation of the Council’s pension scheme liabilities and pension reserve shown on the balance sheet have reduced by £33.090m during the year. This is mainly as a result of changes to financial assumptions used by the Actuary (Mercers). The assumptions are determined by the Actuary and represent market conditions at the reporting date. The Council relies on the professional judgement of the Actuary and the assumptions used to calculate this actuarial valuation. Further information can be found in Note 50.

EXPLANATION OF THE STATEMENTS

The statements presented in the following pages comprise:-

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

This sets out the respective responsibilities of the Council and the Director of Resources for the accounts.

The accounts are supported by notes to the financial statements. These notes include a summary of significant accounting policies, further detail relating to items in the main financial statements and assumptions made about the future.

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into “usable” reserves (i.e those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account

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

Balance Sheet

This sets out the overall financial position of the Council as at 31st March 2016. It shows the reserves and balances of the Council, its long–term indebtedness and the value of non-current assets and net current assets.

Cash Flow Statement

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

Housing Revenue Account

This reflects a statutory obligation to account separately for local authority housing provision. It shows the major elements of housing revenue expenditure and income.

Collection Fund

This account reflects the statutory requirement for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund which shows the transactions on non-domestic rates and council tax and illustrates the way in which these are distributed to Central Government, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, Lancashire Fire Authority and the Council’s General Fund.

Group Accounts

This summarises group financial statements prepared in order to show the overall financial position and results of the local authority group.

ACCOUNTING PRACTICE COMPLIANCE

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the current *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom,* based on International Financial Reporting Standards.

In accordance with the latest *CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom,* which is applicable to financial reporting from 1st April 2015, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account is presented using a Service Expenditure Analysis (SEA) reflecting the Service Reporting Accounting Code of Practice approach to consistent financial reporting. The accounting policies adopted by the Council are explained fully in Note 1 in Section 5.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Statement of Accounts forms one element of the Council's financial reporting to local taxpayers, employees and other interested parties. Further information can be found on the Council's website www.blackpool.gov.uk

Transparency

The Government's Transparency Agenda encourages local authorities to make public data openly available. Details of the Council's spend over £250 and senior managers' salaries can be found on the above website.

Further information about this Statement of Accounts is available from:

Director of Resources
Blackpool Council
P O Box 4
Town Hall
Blackpool
FY1 1NA

SECTION 2

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1. THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council is required to:
- make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the proper responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority that officer is the Director of Resources;
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets; and
- approve the Statement of Accounts.

2. THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Director of Resources has:
- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent; and
- complied with the Code of Practice.

The Director of Resources 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.

3. CERTIFICATION OF THE ACCOUNTS

I certify that the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Blackpool Council and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2016.

Steve Thompson
Director of Resources
22nd September 2016

4. APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, I certify that the Statement of Accounts have been approved by the Audit Committee on 22nd September 2016.

Councillor Paul Galley
Chair of Audit Committee
22nd September 2016

SECTION 3

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Auditors report will be inserted here following the audit

SECTION 4

CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the authority, analysed into `usable reserves' (i.e those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and unusable 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. This is different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account for council tax setting and dwellings rent setting purposes. The Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Authority.

2015/2016

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	HRA	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Reserves	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 31st March 2015	**(11,242)**	**(46,024)**	**(5,617)**	**(3,431)**	**-**	**(4,388)**	**(70,702)**	**(212,453)**	**(283,155)**
Movements in Reserves in 2015/2016									
(Surplus) or Deficit on the provision of services	26,312	-	(1,107)	-	-	-	**25,205**	-	**25,205**
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(80,738)	**(80,738)**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**26,312**	**-**	**(1,107)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**25,205**	**(80,738)**	**(55,533)**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	(29,739)		(2,072)		3,983		**(27,828)**	27,828	**-**
Net (Increase) or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	**(3,427)**	**-**	**(3,179)**	**-**	**3,983**	**-**	**(2,623)**	**(52,910)**	**(55,533)**
Transfer to/(from) Earmarked Reserves (Note 8)	4,164	3,793	1,562	(394)	(3,983)	(114)	**5,028**	(5,028)	**-**
(Increase)/Decrease in 2015/2016	**737**	**3,793**	**(1,617)**	**(394)**	**-**	**(114)**	**2,405**	**(57,938)**	**(55,533)**
Balance as at 31st March 2016	**(10,505)**	**(42,231)**	**(7,234)**	**(3,825)**	**-**	**(4,502)**	**(68,297)**	**(270,391)**	**(338,688)**

2014/2015

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	HRA £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Reserves £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
Balance as at 31st March 2014	**(10,078)**	**(49,971)**	**(4,187)**	**(3,408)**	**-**	**(6,993)**	**(74,637)**	**(322,106)**	**(396,743)**
Movements in Reserves in 2014/2015									
(Surplus) or Deficit on the provision of services	48,211	-	(125)	-	-	-	**48,086**	-	**48,086**
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	65,502	**65,502**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**48,211**	**-**	**(125)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	48,086	**65,502**	**113,588**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	(52,624)	-	(3,135)		4,104	-	**(51,655)**	51,655	**-**
Net (Increase) or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	**(4,413)**	**-**	**(3,260)**	**-**	**4,104**	**-**	**(3,569)**	**117,157**	**113,588**
Transfer to/(from) Earmarked Reserves (Note 8)	3,249	3,947	1,830	(23)	(4,104)	2,605	**7,504**	(7,504)	**-**
(Increase)/Decrease in 2014/2015	**(1,164)**	**3,947**	**(1,430)**	**(23)**	**-**	**2,605**	**3,935**	**109,653**	**113,588**
Balance as at 31st March 2015	**(11,242)**	**(46,024)**	**(5,617)**	**(3,431)**	**-**	**(4,388)**	**(70,702)**	**(212,453)**	**(283,155)**

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

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

2014/2015				2015/2016		
Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000		Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
13,127	(3,316)	9,811	Central Services to the Public	19,831	(9,113)	10,718
17,781	(10,078)	7,703	Cultural and Related Services	24,359	(10,189)	14,170
17,622	5,297	22,919	Environment and Regulatory Services	32,636	(9,586)	23,050
2,276	(1,304)	972	Planning Services	2,669	(1,466)	1,203
118,898	(78,397)	40,501	Childrens and Education Services	127,482	(83,232)	44,250
36,557	(15,827)	20,730	Highways and Transport Services	39,025	(18,241)	20,784
17,629	(18,525)	(896)	Local Authority Housing (HRA)	16,628	(18,784)	(2,156)
90,414	(85,667)	4,747	Other Housing Services	87,628	(88,692)	(1,064)
70,857	(24,608)	46,249	Adult Social Care	69,863	(26,535)	43,328
15,646	(17,337)	(1,691)	Public Health	18,927	(18,909)	18
2,504	(2,451)	53	Corporate and Democratic Core	2,854	(5,903)	(3,049)
(5,596)	3,560	(2,036)	Non-Distributed Cost	3,383	(404)	2,979
397,715	**(248,653)**	**149,062**	**Cost of Services**	**445,285**	**(291,054)**	**154,231**
		53,841	Other Operating Expenditure (Note 9)			5,143
		1,904	Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure - Other (Note 10)			5,950
		1,550	Income & Expenditure in relation to Investment Properties and changes in their fair value (Notes 14)			(126)
		(158,271)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income - Other (Note 11)			(139,993)
		48,086	**(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services**			**25,205**
		3,983	Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment assets			(26,836)
		(2,148)	Impairment (gains)/losses on non-current assets charged to Revalution Reserve			(14,586)
		(300)	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets			(1,500)
		953	Movement on financial instruments adjustment account			(44)
		62,229	Actuarial gains / losses on pension assets / liabilities			(33,090)
		785	Other Movements			(4,682)
		65,502	**Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**			**(80,738)**
		113,588	**Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**			**(55,533)**

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

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

31st March 2015 £000		Notes	31st March 2016 £000
759,842	Property, Plant and Equipment	12	764,054
7,764	Heritage Assets	13	7,764
13,398	Investment Property	14	14,667
97	Intangible Assets	15	65
763	Assets Held for Sale	16	1,551
10,204	Long Term Investments	18	13,310
10,258	Long Term Debtors	19	9,304
802,326	**Long Term Assets**		**810,715**
550	Short Term Assets Held for Sale		-
449	Inventories	20	538
36,450	Short Term Debtors	21	43,600
564	Payments in Advance	22	1,979
350	Short Term Investments		-
3,224	Cash and Cash Equivalents	23	12,594
41,587	**Current Assets**		**58,711**
(52,815)	Short Term Borrowing		(72,126)
(41,713)	Short Term Creditors	25	(44,606)
(13,100)	Receipts in Advance	24	(15,285)
(17,834)	Short Term Provisions	26	(16,143)
(125,462)	**Current Liabilities**		**(148,160)**
(81,899)	Long Term Creditors	25	(78,181)
(88,023)	Long Term Borrowing		(80,144)
(254,027)	Other Long Term Liabilities		(216,368)
(11,347)	Capital Grants in Advance		(7,885)
(435,296)	**Long Term Liabilities**		**(382,578)**
283,155	**Net Assets**		**338,688**
(70,702)	Usable Reserves	27	(68,297)
(212,453)	Unusable Reserves	28	(270,391)
(283,155)	**Total Reserves**		**(338,688)**

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

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

2014/2015 £000		**Notes**	**2015/2016 £000**
48,086	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services		25,205
(8,592)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	29	(18,767)
(62,161)	Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	29	(19,518)
(22,667)	**Net cash flows from Operating Activities**		**(13,080)**
18,641	Investing Activities	30	10,313
134	Financing Activities	31	(688)
(3,892)	**Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents**		**(3,455)**
(127,512)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		(131,404)
(131,404)	**Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period**	32	**(134,859)**

SECTION 5

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

CONTENTS FOR NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

i. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2015/2016 financial year and its position at the year-end 31st March 2016. 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 2015/2016* (the 'Code') and the *Service Reporting Code of Practice 2015/2016* (SERCOP) supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the 2003 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.

ii. ACCRUALS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

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

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Council transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Authority.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Council can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- 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. Works are charged as expenditure when they are completed, before which they are carried as works in progress 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 payable on borrowing and receivable on investments is accounted for respectively as expenditure and income on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

iii. ACQUIRED AND DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

All operations acquired and discontinued in year are treated in line with the Council's accounting policies.

iv. 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 highly liquid investments that mature within three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management.

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

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

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

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

vi. CHARGES TO REVENUE FOR NON-CURRENT ASSETS

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

- 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 fixed assets attributable to the service.

The Authority is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the authority in accordance with statutory guidance. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance (Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

vii. 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 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 and flexi time 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 on Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

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

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

Post - Employment Benefits

Employees of the Authority are members of two separate pension schemes:

- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE).
- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Lancashire County Council.

Both schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees work for the Authority.

However, the arrangements for the teachers' scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Authority. The scheme is therefore accounted for as if it were a defined benefit contribution scheme and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet. The Education and Children's Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to the Teachers pensions in the year.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the Lancashire County Council 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 the 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 of 4.99% (12.8% in 2014/2015) (based on the weighted average of "spot yields" on AA rated corporate bonds).

- The assets of the Lancashire County Council pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

    - Quoted securities – current bid price
    - Unquoted securities – professional estimate
    - Unitised securities – current bid price
    - Property – market value

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

- Service cost comprising:

    - Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the revenue accounts for 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 Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs
    - Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), ie net interest expense for the Council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

- Remeasurements comprising:
    - The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pension Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure
    - Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pension liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – debited to the Pensions Reserve
    - Contributions paid to the Lancashire County Council pension fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

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

viii. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

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.

ix. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial Liabilities

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

For most of the borrowings that the Authority has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest); and interest charged to the

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain/loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. However if funds allow, the premium or discount will be charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in full in the year it is incurred. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement of Reserves Statement.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified into two types:

- Loans and receivables – assets that have fixed or determinable payments but are not quoted in an active market

- Available-for-sale assets – assets that have a quoted market price and/or do not have fixed or determinable payments.

Loans and Receivables

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

However, the Council has made loans to Marketing Lancashire and Lancashire County Developments at less than market rates (soft loans) – see Note 19. When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (debited to the appropriate service) for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal. Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at a marginally higher effective rate than the rate receivable from the organisations, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the relevant service (for receivables specific to the service) or the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate.

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

Available-for–Sale Assets

Available-for-sale assets are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Where the asset has fixed or determinable payments, annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the amortised cost of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. Where there are no fixed or determinable payments, income (e.g. dividends) is credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when it becomes receivable by the Council.

Assets are maintained in the Balance Sheet at fair value. Values are based on the following principles:

- Instruments with quoted market prices – the market price
- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis
- Equity shares with no quoted market prices – independent appraisal of company valuations

The inputs to the measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with the following 3 levels:

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

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

Level 3 inputs – unobservable inputs for the asset.

Changes in fair value are balanced by an entry in the Available-for-Sale Reserve and the gain/loss is recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Revaluation of Available for Sale Financial Assets. The exception is where impairment losses have been incurred – these are debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with net gain/loss for the asset accumulated in the Available for Sale Reserve.

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made (fixed or determinable payments) or fair value falls below cost, the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. If the assets Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement has fixed or determinable payments, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. Otherwise, the impairment loss is measured as any shortfall of fair value against acquisition cost of the instrument (net of any principal repayment and amortisation).

Any gains and losses that arise on the de-recognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement along with any accumulated gains/losses previously recognised in the Available for Sale Reserve.

Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, the instrument is carried at cost (less any impairment losses).

x. FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

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

xi. GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried on the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions have been 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 not yet been used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve. Where it has been applied it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

Business Improvement District

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

xii. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

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

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

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

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

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

xiii. HERITAGE ASSETS

Tangible and Intangible Heritage Assets

Heritage assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the Authority's accounting policies on property, plant and equipment. However some of the measurement rules have been relaxed in relation to heritage assets as detailed below. The Authority's collections of heritage assets are accounted for as below:

Illuminations Historic Collection

This is a collection of illuminations that have been on display in the past but no longer form part of the annual display (i.e. non-operational). They are kept for their historical significance. These items are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuations that are based on market values. These insurance valuations are reviewed on a 4 yearly basis.

The collection was due to be revalued in 2015/16 but due to funds being unavailable for professional valuations, and the likelihood that any movement in valuation would not be material, the assets have not be valued.

Due to the unique nature of the collection it is deemed to have an indeterminate life and a high residual value hence, the Authority does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

The collection is fairly static. Any transfers of operational illuminations to this collection would be recognised at a value ascertained by the Illuminations Manager in accordance with the Authority's policy.

Art Collection

The art collection consists of paintings (both oil and watercolour), oriental works of art, European works of art and furniture, and is reported in the Balance Sheet at market value. Due to funds being unavailable for professional valuations the collection has not been revalued for many years. However, the valuation is adequate for insurance purposes and has been reported in the Balance Sheet.

The collection is deemed to have an indeterminate life and a high residual value hence the Authority does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

The collection is fairly static; any acquisitions and donations are rare. Where they do occur acquisitions are initially recognised at cost and donations are recognised at a valuation ascertained by the Head of Arts in accordance with the Authority's policy on art collection.

Tower Company Collection and Local and Family History Collections

These collections are not as large as the art collection but contain some rare items. They include paintings, tourism memorabilia (e.g. model of Blackpool Tower) and other items of significant local interest. The collections have been valued by the Head of Heritage using estimated market valuations (although some items are rare and unique to the area so it is difficult to assess their true value) and have been reported in the Balance Sheet on this basis.

The collections are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value hence the Authority does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

The collections are fairly static any acquisitions and donations are rare. Where they do occur acquisitions are initially recognised at cost and donations are recognised at a valuation ascertained by the Head of Heritage in accordance with the Authority's policy on the collections.

Civic Regalia

This collection includes the Mayoral chain, Deputy Mayor's chain, Mace and many other civic items. They are reported in the Balance Sheet at market value. The collection is revalued every four years by external valuers.

The collection was due to be revalued in 2015/16 but due to funds being unavailable for professional valuations, and the likelihood that any movement in valuation would not be material, the assets have not be valued.

The collection is deemed to have an indeterminate life and a high residual value hence the Authority does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

The collection is static and any acquisitions and donations are highly unlikely. Where they do occur acquisitions are initially recognised at cost and donations are recognised at a valuation ascertained by the Head of Democratic Services in accordance with the Authority's policy on the collections.

Cenotaph

This had previously been included within community assets in the balance sheet. It is included in Balance Sheet at historic cost less depreciation and is valued by external valuers every four years.

The Cenotaph was due to be revalued in 2015/16 but due to funds being unavailable for professional valuations, and the likelihood that any movement in valuation would not be material, the assets have not be valued.

The cenotaph has an estimated useful life of 50 years and therefore the Authority considers it appropriate to charge depreciation.

Stanley Park Statues

These are being held for purposes of knowledge and culture and are therefore considered to be heritage assets. Due to the cost of obtaining external valuations, they have been reported in the Balance Sheet based on insurance valuations. They are to be revalued every four years by external valuers.

The statues were due to be revalued in 2015/16 but due to funds being unavailable for professional valuations, and the likelihood that any movement in valuation would not be material, the assets have not be valued.

They are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value hence the Authority does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

The collection is fairly static; any acquisitions and donations are rare. Where they do occur acquisitions are initially recognised at cost and donations are recognised at a valuation ascertained by valuers in accordance with the Authority's policy on the collections.

xiv. INTERESTS IN COMPANIES AND OTHER ENTITIES

The Council has material interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures and require it to prepare group accounts. In the Council's own single entity accounts, the interests in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost less any provision for losses.

xv. INVENTORIES AND LONG TERM CONTRACTS

Items of stock held by the Central Print Unit are valued at current price. All other operational stores of the Council, including spares for plant and vehicle fleets, are included in the accounts at the lower of average cost or net realisable value.

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

Work in progress arises in the Community and Environmental Services Directorate, the Illuminations Division (production of new features) and the Central Print Unit. It is valued at cost including an allocation of overheads.

xvi. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

Investment properties are those that are solely used 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 the service 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. Investment 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.

xvii. JOINTLY CONTROLLED OPERATIONS AND JOINTLY CONTROLLED ASSETS

Jointly controlled operations are activities undertaken by the Council in conjunction with other venturers that involve the use of assets and resources of the venturers rather than the establishment of a separate entity. The Council recognises on its Balance Sheet the assets that it controls and the liabilities that it incurs and debits and credits the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement with the expenditure it incurs and the share of income it earns from the activity of the operation.

Jointly controlled assets are items of property, plant or equipment that are jointly controlled by the Authority and other venturers, with the assets being used to obtain benefits for the venturers. The joint venture does not involve the establishment of a separate entity. The Council accounts for only its share of the jointly controlled assets, the liabilities and expenses that it incurs on its own behalf or jointly with others in respect of its interest in the joint venture and income that it earns from the venture.

xviii. 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 the right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

The Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

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

Lease payments are apportioned between:

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

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

The 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. 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 benefiting from use of the leased property, plant and equipment. Charges are made on a straight line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a rent free period at the commencement of the lease).

Leases that do not meet the definition of finance leases are accounted for as operating leases. Rentals payable are charged to the relevant service revenue account on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease generally meaning that rentals are charged when they become payable. Rental of a building will always contain an element of land (on which the building stands), the land will generally be treated as an operating lease.

The Authority as Lessor

Finance Leases

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

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

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

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

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

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.

xix. OVERHEADS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to those that benefit from the supply or service in accordance with the costing principles of the *CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice 2015/2016 (SERCOP)*. The total absorption costing principle is used – full cost of overheads and support services are shared between users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

- Corporate and Democratic Core – costs relating to the Council's status as a multi-functional, democratic organisation.
- Non Distributed Costs – the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and impairment losses chargeable on Assets Held for Sale.

These two cost categories are defined in SERCOP and accounted for as separate headings in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, as part of Net Expenditure on Continuing Services.

The main basis for charging of overhead costs is: -

Percentage Time –	Management
	Financial Services
	Payroll (also number of employees/payslips)
	Debtors & Creditors (also number of transactions)
	Human Resources
	Information Technology (also Direct Allocation/No of PCs)
	Corporate Leadership Team
Floor Area -	Administrative Buildings
Actual Time Allocation –	Asset Management Services, Legal Services, Highways, Transportation, Cleansing and Capital Projects Division

xx. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

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

Recognition

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

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising

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

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

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

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

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost

- Dwellings – fair value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH)

- All other assets – fair 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 have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for fair value.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair 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 four 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 in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

Impairment

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

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

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

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

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable 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 – a percentage of the value of each class of assets in the Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer.
- Infrastructure – straight line allocation over 25 years

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is at least 20% of the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. Only items with a value in excess of £1m were determined material for component accounting.

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

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through the sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is classified 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 previous losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale, they are reclassified back to non-current assets and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as held for sale; adjusted 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 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 are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains that have accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

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

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

xxi. PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI) AND SIMILAR CONTRACTS

PFI and similar contracts are agreements to receive services where the responsibility for making available the Property, Plant and Equipment needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. As the Council is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI schemes and as ownership of the Property, Plant and Equipment will pass to the Council at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the Council carries the assets used under the contracts on the Balance Sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment.

The original recognition of these assets at fair value (based on the cost to purchase the Property, Plant and Equipment) was balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment.

Non-current assets recognised on the Balance Sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as Property, Plant and Equipment owned by the Council.

The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year are analysed into four elements:

- **Fair value of services received during the year** - debited to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- **Finance cost** – an interest charge of a percentage of the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- **Payment towards liability** – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease)
- **Lifecycle replacement costs** - proportion of the amounts payable is posted to the Balance Sheet as a prepayment and then recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out.
- **Contingent rent** – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Former Waste Disposal PFI

In the 2014/15 Statement of Accounts reference was made to the former Waste Disposal PFI. This ceased with effect from 31st July 2014.

The former Operating Company transferred into the ownership of LCC with the Council being entitled to a 12.5% share. The Operating Company continue to operate the facility under a Service Level Agreement with LCC. At the end of the concession period LCC may retender the service. If the Council decided that it no longer wished to continue with the contract then LCC would have to pay Blackpool the relevant rental value for its share in the assets. If LCC decides to dispose of the asset then the Council would receive a relevant percentage of the proceeds of the sale.

Street Lighting & Signals PFI

The project commenced on 4th January 2010 and is for 25 years. The total value of the project is £124.635m and includes the replacement of approximate 16,000 streetlights and signals. The service provider is Community Lighting Partnership.

The project was refinanced in 2015/16 which has resulted in annual revenue savings of £0.298m. The financing of the scheme was remodelled and the street lighting and signals are now depreciated across the remaining period of the contract to 2035.

Highfield Humanities College PFI

The Highfield Humanities College PFI scheme is the only PFI school resulting from the Government's Building Schools for the Future Programme. This project consists of the new build of a secondary school for up to 1,216 pupils and the provision of a fully managed facility for a period of 25 years by the selected operator.

The operator is Eric Wright Facilities Management via the Highfield PFI SPV Limited (a company wholly owned by Blackpool Local Education Partnership, a joint venture between Eric Wright Group, Blackpool Council and Northgate Management Services). The total projected cost over the life of the project is £98m which is funded by PFI credits of £40m from the Department of Education with the remainder funded by the School and Local Authority contributions.

The assets relating to the PFI are recognised on the Authority's Balance Sheet. Movements in their value over the year are detailed in the analysis of the movement on Property, Plant and Equipment balance.

xxii. PROVISIONS, CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

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 authority becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the Balance Sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from another party, this is only recognised as income in the relevant revenue account if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the obligation is settled.

Contingent Liabilities

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

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

Contingent Assets

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

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

xxiii. ACCOUNTING FOR THE COSTS OF THE CARBON REDUCTION COMMITMENT SCHEME

The Council is required to participate in the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. The scheme is currently in the initial year of its second phase, which ends on 31st March 2019. The Council is required to purchase and surrender allowances, either prospectively or retrospectively, and surrender them on the basis of emissions, ie carbon dioxide produced as energy is used. As carbon dioxide is emitted (ie as energy is used), a liability and an expense are recognised. The liability will be discharged by surrendering allowances. The liability is measured at the best estimate of the expenditure required to meet the obligation, normally at the current market price of the number of allowances required to meet the liability at the reporting date. The cost to the Council is recognised and reported in the costs of the Council's services and apportioned to services on the basis of energy consumption.

xxiv. 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, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council.

xxv. REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but 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.

xxvi. SCHOOLS

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK confirms that the balance of control for local authority maintained schools (i.e. those categories of school identified in the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended lies with the local authority. The Code also stipulates that those school assets , liabilities, reserves and cash flows are recognised in the local authority financial statements (and not the Group Accounts). Therefore schools transactions, cash flows and balances are recognised in each of the financial statements of the authority as if they were the transactions cash flows and balances of the authority.

xxvii. FAIR VALUE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

xxviii. VAT

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

2. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT NOT YET ADOPTED

Under the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2015/16* (the Code), the Council is required to disclose information setting out the impact of an accounting change required by a new accounting standard that has been issued but not yet adopted by the Code.

The following standards have been issued and will be adopted by the Code in 2016/17. These will be applicable to the Council from 1st April 2016.

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Transport Infrastructure Assets - The Infrastructure Code takes effect from 1st April 2016 and confirms that the changes arising do not require retrospective adjustment to the accounts. Under the Infrastructure Code Transport Infrastructure assets will be recognised as a separate class of Property, Plant and Equipment measured at depreciated replacement cost.

The disclosure will require the transfer of assets between infrastructure and the new highways network asset categories. This is likely to result in a revaluation gain due to the change from depreciated historic cost to depreciated replacement cost basis. Thus the new valuation will reflect the current cost of replacement rather than the original cost of works, which would have been built up over a significant time period. It is estimated that the value of infrastructure assets will increase from £342m to around £1,200m.

In addition there are a number of minor amendments to International Financial Reporting Standards, but these are not expected to have any material impact on the accounts.

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 judgments made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of the need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.

- The Council is deemed to control the services provided under the agreement for the replacement and upgrade of street lighting and also to control the residual value of the lighting at the end of the agreement. The accounting policies for PFI schemes and similar contracts have been applied to the arrangements and the assets are recognised as Property, Plant and Equipment on the Council's Balance Sheet.

- The following claims have potentially significant settlement values:

    - There are a number of claims against the Authority regarding accidents and injuries sustained on Council land.
    - There are a number of claims against the Authority regarding injuries sustained on roads and footpaths.

- Schools which have converted to Academies are not included in the Council's Balance Sheet. When a school which is held on the Council's Balance Sheet transfers to Academy status the Council accounts for this as a disposal for nil consideration, on the date the school converts to Academy status. All other schools except one voluntary aided school are included on the Council's balance sheet in line with accounting standards following an assessment of the ownership of these schools.

4. ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

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

The items in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31st March 2016 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are shown below:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property Plant and Equipment	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Authority will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.	If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the asset falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by approximately £165,000 for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The effects on the net pensions liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured although the assumptions interact in complex ways. During 2015/2016 the Council's actuaries advised that the net pension liability has increased by £22.090m.
Arrears	At 31/3/16 the Authority had a balance of sundry debtors of £10.5m. £8.3m of this balance was expected to be paid in full. A review of the remaining £2.2m suggested that an impairment of doubtful debts of 40% was appropriate. However, in the current economic climate it is not certain that such an allowance would be sufficient.	If collection rates were to deteriorate a doubling of the impairment of doubtful debts would require an additional £0.9m to be set aside as an allowance.
Business Rates	Since the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme on 1st April 2013, local authorities are liable for a share of successful appeals against the business rates charged to businesses. Therefore a provision has been recognised for the best estimate of the amount that businesses have been overcharged up to 31st March 2016. The estimate has been calculated using the Valuation Office (VO) ratings list of appeals and the analysis of successful appeals to date when providing the estimate of the total provision up to and including 31st March 2016.	If the level of appeals were to increase by 1% it would require the Council to set aside an additional £33,140.
Fair Value Measurements	When the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (ie Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using valuation techniques (eg quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or discounted cash flow (DCF) model.	The authority uses the discounted cash flow (DCF) model to measure the fair value of some of its investment properties and financial assets.

	Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data but where this is not possible judgement is required in establishing fair values. These judgements typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. However, changes in the assumptions used could affect the fair value of the authority's assets and liabilities. Where Level 1 inputs are not available, the authority employs relevant experts to identify the most appropriate valuation techniques to determine (for example investment properties, the authority's chief valuation officer and external valuer). Information regarding the valuation techniques and inputs used in determining the fair value of the authority's assets and liabilities is disclosed in Notes 14,16 and 17.	The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement include management assumptions regarding rent growth, vacancy levels (for investment properties) and discount rates – adjusted for regional factors (for both investment properties and some financial assets). Significant change in any of the unobservable inputs would result in a significantly lower or higher fair value measurement for the investment properties and financial assets.

5. MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

This note identifies material items of income and expense. For the purposes of this note the Council considers material items to be those greater than £3m. In 2015/16 there were no material items of income and expense.

6. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Resources on 20th June 2016. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements and notes. Where events taking place before this date provide information about conditions existing at 31st March 2016, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

On 1st April 2016 Highfield Humanities College converted to an Academy. This conversion will result in a reduction of £20.8m on the Council's balance sheet under Property Plant and Equipment in 2016/17.

7. ADJUSTMENT BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

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

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

General Fund Balance

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of an Authority are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the Authority are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund Balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The General Fund Balance therefore summarises the resources that the Council is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the Council is required to recover) at the end of the financial year. However the balance is not available to be applied in funding Housing Revenue Account services.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

The HRA balance reflects the statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for local authority council housing provision in accordance with Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It contains the balance of income and expenditure as defined by the 1989 Act, that is available to fund future expenditure in connection with the Council's landlord function or (where in deficit) that is required to be recovered from tenants in future years.

Major Repairs Reserve

The authority is required to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve which controls the application of the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA). The MRA is restricted to being applied to new capital investment in HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the MRA that has yet to be applied at year end.

Capital Receipts Reserve

The Capital Receipts Reserve holds the proceeds from the disposal of land and other assets, which are restricted by statute from being used other than to fund new capital expenditure or to be set aside to finance historical capital expenditure. The balance on the reserve shows the resources that have yet to be applied for these purposes at the year end.

Capital Grants Unapplied

The Capital Grant Unapplied Account (Reserve) holds the grants and contributions received towards capital projects for which the Council has met the conditions that would otherwise require replacement of monies but which have yet to be applied to meet expenditure. The balance is restricted by grant terms as to capital expenditure against which it can be applied and/or the financial year in which this can take place.

	Usable Reserves					
2015/2016	**General Fund Balance £000**	**Housing Revenue Account £000**	**Capital Receipts Reserve £000**	**Major Repairs Reserve £000**	**Capital Reserves £000**	**Movement in Unusable Reserves £000**
Adjustments involving the Capital Adjustment Account:						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(35,965)	(2,072)				38,037
Capital grants and contributions applied	19,917					(19,917)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(2,023)					2,023
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(4,158)					4,158
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Statutory provision for the financing of investment	9,426					(9,426)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(4,438)					4,438
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Contribution from Capital Reserves						-
Adjustment involving the Major Repairs Reserve						
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA						-
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure				3,983		(3,983)
Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:						
Amounts by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	44					(44)
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(3,692)					3,692
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year						-
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which council tax and non domestic rating income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and non domestic rating income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(10,649)					10,649
Adjustment involving the Available for Sale Reserve						
Gain/loss on revaluation of investments	1,500					(1,500)
Adjustment involving the Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	299					(299)
Total Adjustments	**(29,739)**	**(2,072)**	**-**	**3,983**	**-**	**27,828**

	Usable Reserves					
2014/2015	**General Fund Balance £000**	**Housing Revenue Account £000**	**Capital Receipts Reserve £000**	**Major Repairs Reserve £000**	**Capital Reserves £000**	**Movement in Unusable Reserves £000**
Adjustments involving the Capital Adjustment Account:						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(29,942)	(3,135)				33,077
Capital grants and contributions applied	16,136					(16,136)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(2,121)					2,121
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(53,202)					53,202
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Statutory provision for the financing of investment	9,361					(9,361)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances						-
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Contribution from Capital Reserves						-
Adjustment involving the Major Repairs Reserve						
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA						-
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure				4,104		(4,104)
Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:						
Amounts by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	(953)					953
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	6,980					(6,980)
Employer’s pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year						-
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which council tax and non domestic rating income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and non domestic rating income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	243					(243)
Adjustment involving the Available for Sale Reserve						
Gain/loss on revaluation of investments	300					(300)
Adjustment involving the Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	574					(574)
Total Adjustments	**(52,624)**	**(3,135)**	**-**	**4,104**	**-**	**51,655**

8. TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund and HRA balances in Earmarked Reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from Earmarked Reserves to meet General Fund and HRA expenditure in 2015/2016.

	Balance at 1st April 2014 £000	Transfers Out 2014/2015 £000	Transfers In 2014/2015 £000	Balance at 31st March 2015 £000	Transfers Out 2015/2016 £000	Transfers In 2015/2016 £000	Balance at 31st March 2016 £000
General Fund:							
Balances held by schools under scheme of delegation (1)	(4,209)	3,156	(1,923)	(2,976)	486	(619)	(3,109)
School DSG Underspend (1)	-	-	(2,078)	(2,078)	991	(673)	(1,760)
Unallocated Reserves	(5,869)	-	(319)	(6,188)	552	-	(5,636)
Total General Fund	**(10,078)**	**3,156**	**(4,320)**	**(11,242)**	**2,029**	**(1,292)**	**(10,505)**
Earmarked Reserves							
Potential Pay Liabilities	(6,901)	3,681	(11)	(3,231)	3,652	(1,735)	(1,314)
Public/Private Partnership Reserve	(15,428)	7,078	(5,692)	(14,042)	9,517	(4,531)	(9,056)
Council Tax & Non-Domestic Rates Deficits	(9,722)	4,604	(7,157)	(12,275)	2,010	(3,800)	(14,065)
Service Underspends	(3,739)	1,340	(2,800)	(5,199)	4,492	(1,090)	(1,797)
Museum Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	(2,006)	(2,006)
Transformation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	(1,315)	(1,315)
Specific Settlements in Dispute	(1,607)	1,060	-	(547)	2	(12)	(557)
Strategic Investments	(620)	300	-	(320)	-	-	(320)
Financial systems upgrade, renewals & replacements	(357)	106	-	(251)	30	-	(221)
Financial Instruments	(547)	533		(14)	-	-	(14)
Treasury Management - Prudential borrowing	(1,872)	240	(885)	(2,517)	645	(457)	(2,329)
Insurances	-			-	-	(600)	(600)
Other	(9,178)	7,279	(5,729)	(7,628)	4,505	(5,514)	(8,637)
Total Earmarked Reserves	**(49,971)**	**26,221**	**(22,274)**	**(46,024)**	**24,853**	**(21,060)**	**(42,231)**
HRA							
Housing Revenue Account	**(4,187)**	**-**	**(1,430)**	**(5,617)**	**-**	**(1,617)**	**(7,234)**

1. Such balances are committed to be spent on the Education Service.

9. OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
65	Flood Defence Levy	65
272	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	289
53,504	Gains/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	4,789
53,841	**Total**	**5,143**

10. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
7,454	Interest payable and similar charges	5,793
(6,009)	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	1,272
(533)	Interest receivable and similar income	(452)
(600)	Dividend - Blackpool Transport Services	(663)
1,592	Waste PFI Financing Charges	0
1,904	**Total**	**5,950**

11. TAXATION AND NON SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
(45,351)	Council Tax Income	(45,535)
1,154	Collection Fund (surplus)/deficit	10,649
(23,638)	Retained Business Rates	(23,997)
(18,804)	Business Rates Top Up	(19,163)
(55,497)	Non-ringfenced government grants	(42,030)
(16,135)	Capital Grants & contributions	(19,917)
(158,271)	**Total Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income**	**(139,993)**

12. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The movements on property, plant and equipment during the year were as follows:-

2015/2016

	Council Dwellings & Other HRA £000	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	PP&E Under Construction £000	Total PP&E £000	*PFI Assets Included in PPE £000*
Cost or Valuation								
Balance as at 1 April 2015	**103,126**	**313,353**	**38,438**	**453,723**	**66**	**11,942**	**920,648**	*55,869*
Additions	6,954	2,742	1,469	20,609		1,314	**33,088**	*738*
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	-	14,856		(1,217)			**13,639**	*(1,217)*
Revaluation increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(5,314)	(14,358)					**(19,672)**	
Derecognition - Disposals	(1,028)	(8,769)					**(9,797)**	
Transfer		1,374				(1,374)	-	
Balance as at 31 March 2016	**103,738**	**309,198**	**39,907**	**473,115**	**66**	**11,882**	**937,906**	*55,390*
Depreciation and Impairment								
Balance as at 1 April 2015	**(2,274)**	**(14,313)**	**(28,379)**	**(115,840)**	**-**	**-**	**(160,806)**	*(4,430)*
Depreciation Charge	(2,421)	(9,146)	(2,169)	(15,376)			**(29,112)**	*(2,113)*
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve		10,120					**10,120**	
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,274	2,185					4,459	
Derecognition - Disposals		1,337		150			**1,487**	
Derecognition - Other							-	*703*
Balance as at 31 March 2016	**(2,421)**	**(9,817)**	**(30,548)**	**(131,066)**	**-**	**-**	**(173,852)**	*(5,840)*
Net Book Value								
Balance as at 31 March 2016	**101,317**	**299,381**	**9,359**	**342,049**	**66**	**11,882**	**764,054**	*49,550*
Balance as at 31 March 2015	**100,852**	**299,040**	**10,059**	**337,883**	**66**	**11,942**	**759,842**	*51,439*

COMPARATIVE MOVEMENTS 2014/2015

	Council Dwellings & Other HRA £000	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	PP&E Under Construction £000	Total PP&E £000	*PFI Assets Included in PPE £000*
Cost or Valuation								
Balance as at 1 April 2014	**98,545**	**372,544**	**35,841**	**434,492**	**66**	**10,631**	**952,119**	*89,641*
Additions	11,817	6,186	2,597	18,554	-	2,755	**41,909**	*677*
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	-	1,343	-	677	-	-	**2,020**	*677*
Revaluation increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(6,566)	(3,323)	-	-	-	-	**(9,889)**	
Derecognition - Disposals	(670)	(64,553)	-	-	-	(1,444)	**(66,667)**	
Transfer	-	1,156	-	-	-	-	**1,156**	*(35,126)*
Balance as at 31 March 2015	**103,126**	**313,353**	**38,438**	**453,723**	**66**	**11,942**	**920,648**	*55,869*
Depreciation and Impairment								
Balance as at 1 April 2014	**(2,133)**	**(12,943)**	**(25,640)**	**(100,955)**	**-**	**-**	**(141,671)**	*(3,020)*
Depreciation Charge	(2,274)	(9,840)	(2,739)	(14,885)			**(29,738)**	*(2,113)*
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	4,340					**4,340**	
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,133	955					3,088	
Derecognition - Disposals	-	3,175					**3,175**	
Derecognition - Other	-	-					**-**	*703*
Balance as at 31 March 2015	**(2,274)**	**(14,313)**	**(28,379)**	**(115,840)**	**-**	**-**	**(160,806)**	*(4,430)*
Net Book Value								
Balance as at 31 March 2015	**100,852**	**299,040**	**10,059**	**337,883**	**66**	**11,942**	**759,842**	*51,439*
Balance as at 31 March 2014	**96,412**	**359,601**	**10,201**	**333,537**	**66**	**10,631**	**810,448**	*86,621*

Depreciation

The following assets have been depreciated at varying rates in relation to their useful economic lives:

- Council Dwellings and Other Buildings – straight line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer.
- Plant, Furniture and Equipment – a percentage of the value of each class of asset in the Balance Sheet as advised by a suitably qualified officer
- Infrastructure - straight line allocation over 25 years

The useful economic lives are reviewed at least every four years as is the likely residual value.

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is at least 20% of the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. Only items with a value in excess of £1m were deemed material for component accounting.

Capital Commitments

At 31st March 2016 the Council has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2016/2017 and future years budgeted to cost £11.8m. Similar commitments at 31st March 2015 were £3m. The major commitment is in relation to the Queens Park re-development.

Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every four years. Valuations were carried out both internally and externally during 2015/2016. These 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 current prices where there is an active second-hand market or latest list prices adjusted for the condition of the asset.

The significant assumptions in estimating fair values are:-

	Council Dwellings £000	**Other Land & Buildings £000**	**Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £000**	**Surplus Assets £000**	**Total £000**
Carried at Historic Cost			39,908		39,908
Valued at fair value as at:					
31/03/2016	98,173	144,626		1,551	244,350
31/03/2015		79,246			79,246
31/03/2014		149,803			149,803
Total Cost or Valuation	**98,173**	**373,675**	**39,908**	**1,551**	**513,307**

Component Accounting

Council Dwellings

Within the Net Book Value of Assets – Council Dwellings (Note 12) are the following assets which have been accounted for on a component basis. This means they are written off according to their own unique economic life.

Asset Type £000	Land £000	Kitchens and Bathrooms £000	Structure £000	**Total £000**
Houses & Bungalows	17,248	3,201	26,208	**46,657**
Flats	21,460	6,726	23,330	**51,516**
Total	**38,708**	**9,927**	**49,538**	**98,173**

Other Land and Buildings

Items valued at £1m and above have been subject to component accounting. A component must be worth at least 20% of the value of the asset. The valuations are on a 4 year rolling programme and the items which were valued in 2015/2016 are now included on a component basis as shown below. The total value of assets within land and buildings that have been valued on a component basis is £78.9m and this represents 26% of the total land and buildings.

Asset	**Land £000**	**Building £000**	**Machinery / Equipment £000**	**Roofs / Fenestration £000**	**Total £000**
Mereside Primary School	476	3,490	1,163	1,163	**6,292**
Kincraig Primary School	219	1,538	923	615	**3,295**
Bispham Endowed Primary School	337	1,745	969	1,163	**4,214**
St Bernadettes Primary School	173	1,702	467	467	**2,809**
St Teresa's Primary School	322	1,079	648	432	**2,481**
Queen St Library	168	2,497	908	1,135	**4,708**
Grundy Art Gallery	70	806	112	306	**1,294**
Moor Park Sports Centre	875	2,520	2,521	1,260	**7,176**
Municipal Buildings	560	2,302	1,279	1,535	**5,676**
Town Hall	200	1,722	861	861	**3,644**
Westbury Lodge	150	539	324	216	**1,229**
Carleton Crematorium	150	524	525	262	**1,461**
Little Marton Windmill	5	161	-	40	**206**
Stanley Park Arena	182	1,229	137	-	**1,548**
Stanley Park All Weather Pitches	142	1,030	144	-	**1,316**
Total	**4,029**	**22,884**	**10,981**	**9,455**	**47,349**
Depreciation rates	Nil	2%	8%	4%	

13. HERITAGE ASSETS

Reconciliation of the carrying value of heritage assets held by the Authority is as follows;

	Art Collection	Civic Regalia	Other	Tower & Local History Collection	Illuminations	Stanley Park Statues	**Total**
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	**£000**
Cost or Valuation 1st April 2015	5,000	591	120	900	500	653	**7,764**
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance 31st March 2016	**5,000**	**591**	**120**	**900**	**500**	**653**	**7,764**

	Art Collection	Civic Regalia	Other	Tower & Local History Collection	Illuminations	Stanley Park Statues	**Total**
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	**£000**
Cost or Valuation 1st April 2014	5,000	591	120	900	500	653	**7,764**
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance 31st March 2015	**5,000**	**591**	**120**	**900**	**500**	**653**	**7,764**

Art Collection

The Authority's Art Collection has not been formally valued for a number of years but insurance valuations have been used for the Balance Sheet.

Civic Regalia

The Authority's civic regalia was valued as at 31st March 2012 by an external valuer. The valuations were based on commercial markets.

Cenotaph

This was previously classed as a community asset and is valued by external valuers every 4 years.

Tower & Local History Collection

This has been valued by the Head of Heritage as at 31st March 2012.

Illuminations

These assets have been valued by the Illuminations Manager as at 31st March 2012

Statues

Insurance valuations have been used for the purposes of valuing these assets. The valuations are as at 31st March 2012.

14. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

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.

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
(973)	Rental income from investment property	2,415
2,427	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	(1,273)
96	Net (gains)/losses from fair value adjustments	(1,268)
1,550	**Net (gain)/loss**	**(126)**

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

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

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
13,450	Balance at start of the year	13,398
	Additions:	
44	- Purchases	1
(96)	Net gains/(losses) from fair value adjustments	1,268
13,398	**Balance at end of the year**	**14,667**

Fair Value Hierarchy

All the Council's investment properties have been value assessed as Level 2 on the fair value hierarchy for valuation purposes (see Note 1 Accounting Policies xxvii for an explanation of the fair value levels).

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

The fair value of investment property has been measured using a market approach, which takes into account quoted prices for similar assets in active markets, existing lease terms and rentals, research into market evidence including market rentals and yields, the covenant strength for existing tenants, and data and market knowledge gained in managing the Council's Investment Asset portfolio. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold and the level of observable inputs are significant, leading to the properties being categorised as level 2 on the fair value hierarchy.

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

Highest and Best Use

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

Valuation Process for Investment Properties

The Council's investment property has been valued as at 31 March 2016 by the authority's Chief Valuation Officer in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

15. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The Authority accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of Property, Plant and Equipment. The intangible assets include purchased software licenses.

All software is given a finite useful life based on the assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the Authority. The useful lives assigned to major software suites used by the Authority are 5 years.

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight line basis. The amortisation of £32,341 charged to revenue in 2015/2016 was charged to the ICT Administration cost centre and then absorbed as an overhead across all the service headings in the Cost of Services. It is not possible to quantify exactly how much of the amortisation is attributable to each service heading.

The movement in intangible asset balances during the year is as follows:

2014/2015 £000		**2015/2016 £000**
129	**Balance at start of year**	**97**
(32)	Amortisation for period	(32)
97	**Net carrying amount at end of year**	**65**
	Comprisng:	
129	Gross carrying amounts	97
(32)	Accumulated amortisation	(32)

16. ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
482	**Balance outstanding at start of year**	**763**
129	Revaluation gains/(losses)	954
(134)	Impairment losses	(166)
	Assets declassified as held for sale:	
286	Property, plant and equipment	0
763	**Balance outstanding at end of year**	**1,551**

Fair Value Hierarchy

All the Council's investment properties have been value assessed as Level 2 on the fair value hierarchy for valuation purposes (see Note 1 Accounting Policies xxvii for an explanation of the fair value levels).

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

The fair value of investment property has been measured using a market approach, which takes into account quoted prices for similar assets in active markets, existing lease terms and rentals, research into market evidence including market rentals and yields, the covenant strength for existing tenants, and data and market knowledge gained in managing the Council's Investment Asset portfolio. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold and the level of observable inputs are significant, leading to the properties being categorised as level 2 on the fair value hierarchy.

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

Highest and Best Use

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

Valuation Process for Investment Properties

The Council's investment property has been valued as at 31 March 2016 by the authority's Chief Valuation Officer in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

	Long Term		Current	
	31st March 2016 £000	31st March 2015 £000	31st March 2016 £000	31st March 2015 £000
Investments				
Loans and receivables	2,500	2,500	13,350	3,055
Unquoted equity investment at cost*	13,310	10,204	-	-
Total Investments	**15,810**	**12,704**	**13,350**	**3,055**
Debtors				
Financial assets carried at contract amounts	-	-	43,600	36,450
Total included in Debtors	**-**	**-**	**43,600**	**36,450**
Borrowings				
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(80,144)	(88,023)	(72,126)	(52,815)
Total included in borrowings	**(80,144)**	**(88,023)**	**(72,126)**	**(52,815)**
Creditors				
Financial liabilities carried at contract amount	(78,181)	(81,899)	(44,606)	(41,713)
Total creditors	**(78,181)**	**(81,899)**	**(44,606)**	**(41,713)**

*= shares in Blackpool Transport Services, Blackpool Housing Company, Blackpool Airport and Municipal Bonds Agency.

Fair Value of Financial Assets

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

Recurring Fair Value Measurement	**Input Level in Fair Value Hierarchy**	**Valuation Technique used to Measure Fair Value**	**As at 31st March 2016 £000**	**As at 31st March 2015 £000**
Available for Sale - Blackpool Trasnport Services Ltd	Level 3	Earnings based	11,000	9,500
Available for Sale - Blackpool Housing Company	Level 3	Earnings based (see below*)	1,600	0
			12,600	**9,500**

*** -** Blackpool Housing Company Limited was set up on 26th January 2015. The shares are carried at cost of £1,600,000 and have not been valued as a fair value cannot be measured reliably as the company has no established trading history. There are also no established companies with similar aims in the Authority's area whose shares are traded and which might provide comparable market data.

Equity Shareholding in Blackpool Transport Services Ltd

The Council's shareholding in Blackpool Transport Services Ltd – the shares in this company are not traded in an active market and fair value of £11m has been based on valuation techniques that are not based on observable current market data or available market data.
The valuation method used is the revenue method, which uses multiples of turnover. The Multiples of Turnover method of valuation has been selected, on the basis that that if the business were to be offered for sale in the future, a purchaser is more than likely to be another bus operator, who would drive out efficiencies in operation. Based on the company's existing structure, its' branding, reputation and longevity, a multiple of 0.5 times the average turnover, has been used.

If future returns are greater or lesser by 1%, the fair value will be £111,070 higher or lower respectively.

Transfers between Levels of Fair Value Hierarchy

There are no transfers between input levels during the year.

Changes in Valuation Technique

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

Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurement for Financial Assets carried at Fair Value Categorised within Level 3 of the Fair Value Hierarchy for Financial Assets

	2015/2016 Unquoted Shares £000	2014/2015 Unquoted Shares £000
Opening Balance	**10,204**	**9,900**
Transfers In/Out of Level 3	0	0
Total Gains and Losses of the Period:		
- Included in Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0
- Included in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	1,500	300
Additions	1,606	4
Disposals	0	0
Closing Balance	**13,310**	**10,204**

Gains and losses included in the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure for the current and previous year relate to unquoted shares in Blackpool Transport Services Ltd and are taken to the Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve. These are reported in the surplus or deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Material Soft Loan made by the Authority to Lancashire County Developments

Upon Local Government Reorganisation in 1998 the Authority took over a 10% share in a loan made to Lancashire County Developments by Lancashire County Council. The loan is now due to be repaid in 2031. Under requirements of IAS 32 this loan has been revalued to fair value. The original amount of the loan was £721,000. The fair value of the loan in 2015/2016 was £372,857 (£356,279 in 2014/2015).

The interest rate at which the fair value of this soft loan has been made is arrived at by taking the authority's prevailing cost of borrowing and adding an allowance for the risk that the loan might not be repaid, in this case a zero rate.

Employee Car Loans

The authority has made loans for car purchase to 5 employees in the authority who are in posts that require them to drive regularly on the authority's business. Interest is charged on the loans at 4.9%.

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
Balance at start of year	**37**	**48**
New loans granted in year	-	31
Loans repaid	(17)	(42)
Balance at end of year	**20**	**37**

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

(1) Available for Sale Assets – The Authority holds all of the shares in Blackpool Transport Services Ltd which operates buses and trams within the Blackpool area. The shares cost £2,789,000. The fair value of the shares, based on the accounts to 31st March 2016 is £11m.

	2015/2016				2014/2015			
	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £'000	Financial Assets - loans & receivables £'000	Financial Assets - Available for Sale £'000	Total £'000	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £'000	Financial Assets - loans & receivables £'000	Financial Assets - Available for Sale £'000	Total £'000
Interest expense	5,793	-	-	**5,793**	7,454	-	-	**7,454**
Total expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**5,793**	**-**	**-**	**5,793**	**7,454**	**-**	**-**	**7,454**
Interest income	-	(452)	-	**(452)**	-	(533)	-	**(533)**
Total income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**-**	**(452)**	**-**	**(452)**	**-**	**(533)**	**-**	**(533)**
Gains on revaluation	-	-	1,500	1,500	-	-	300	300
Surplus/deficit arising on revaluation of financial assets in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**-**	**-**	**1,500**	**1,500**	**-**	**-**	**300**	**300**
Net gain/(loss) for the year	**5,793**	**(452)**	**1,500**	**6,841**	**7,454**	**(533)**	**300**	**7,221**

Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

Financial liabilities, financial assets represented by loans and receivables and long-term debtors and creditors are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- Estimated ranges of interest rates at 31st March 2016 of 1.67% to 7.375% for loans from the PWLB and 4.2% to 9.75% for other loans receivable and payable, based on new lending rates for equivalent loans at that date
- no early repayment or impairment is recognised
- where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, carrying amount is assumed to be approximate to fair value
- the fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated as follows:

	31st March 2016		31st March 2015	
	Carrying Amount £000	**Fair Value £000**	**Carrying Amount £000**	**Fair Value £000**
Financial Liabilities	152,270	152,674	140,838	141,389
Long term creditors	102,673	102,673	110,954	110,954

The fair value of the liabilities is higher than the carrying amount because the Authority's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the prevailing rates at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future loss (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2016) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates.

	31st March 2016		31st March 2015	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Loans and receivables	13,132	13,132	4,573	4,573
Long term debtors	9,652	9,304	10,623	10,258
Short term debtors	45,585	45,585	37,014	37,014

The fair value of the assets is lower than the carrying amount because the Authority's portfolio of investments includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate receivable is lower than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future loss (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2016) attributable to the commitment to receive interest below current market rates.

Available for sale assets and assets and liabilities at fair value through profit and loss are carried in the Balance Sheet at their fair value. These fair values are based on public price quotations where there is an active market for the instrument.

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

18. LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS

31st March 2015 £000		31st March 2016 £000
	Ordinary Shares (£1 per share) in:-	
9,500	Blackpool Transport Services Ltd	11,000
700	5% Share in Blackpool Airport	700
4	Municipal Bonds Agency	10
0	Blackpool Housing Company	1,600
10,204	**Total**	**13,310**

BLACKPOOL TRANSPORT SERVICES LIMITED

Investments in Blackpool Transport Services Limited consist of share capital (£2,789,000 at historic cost) in the company which was set up in accordance with the provisions of the Transport Act 1985 to operate the Council's municipal bus operation. The company provides a comprehensive passenger transport service in the Fylde coast area through its bus and tram operations. The Council leases the tramway and associated premises to Blackpool Transport Services Limited. The company is wholly owned by the Council.

The quoted market share prices, similar comparative companies and the audited accounts of Blackpool Transport Services have been used as the basis upon which to arrive at a formal valuation for the Council's shareholding of the company. The investment value included within the Council's Balance Sheet represents the value of Total Equity Shareholder Funds. In 2015/2016 there was an increase in value of £1.5m. All profit and losses on revaluation are credited or charged to the Available for Sale Reserve via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

BLACKPOOL AIRPORT

Upon the sale of Blackpool Airport to City Hopper Airports the Council retained a 5% share in the Airport.

MUNICIPAL BONDS AGENCY

A Local Government Association backed firm called Local Capital Finance Company (Municipal Bonds Agency) has been formed to issue bonds. The money raised from investors will then be lent onwards to Councils to either invest in capital projects or to refinance existing loans. At 31st March 2016 the Council had purchased £10,000 worth of shares in the Company.

BLACKPOOL OPERATING COMPANY LTD (SANDCASTLE WATERPARK)

The Council purchased the operation of the centre from a private company on 20th June 2003 and now wholly owns both the building and the commercial operator - Blackpool Operating Company Limited (BOC). The Council's shares in Blackpool Operating Company are valued at £2.

BLACKPOOL ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

The Council purchased the operation of the Winter Gardens from a private company on 16th May 2014 and now wholly owns both the building and the commercial operator - Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited (BECL). The Council's shares in BECL are valued at £1.

BLACKPOOL HOUSING COMPANY

Blackpool Housing Company Limited was set up on 26th January 2015. The company is a housing regeneration company and is wholly owned by the Council. The shares are carried at cost of £1,600,000 and have not been valued as a fair value cannot be measured reliably as the company has no established trading history. There are also no established companies with similar aims in the Authority's area whose shares are traded and which might provide comparable market data.

As 100% shareholders Blackpool Council agrees to meet all accumulated deficits or losses of Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Operating Company Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited and Blackpool Housing Company Limited.

GLOBAL RENEWABLES LANCASHIRE OPERATIONS LIMITED (GRLOL)

On the 31st July 2014 Lancashire County Council and Global Renewables Lancashire Limited agreed to the consensual termination of the Waste Disposal PFI contract. The former operating company, GRLOL, transferred into the ownership of Lancashire County Council with Blackpool Council owning 12.5% of the share capital in that company. The consideration paid for the shareholding of GRLOL by LCC was £1.

19. LONG-TERM DEBTORS

Long-term debtors relate to amounts that are due to be repaid in over twelve months time. These include a share in land held for use under what was formerly the Lancashire Waste Disposal contract, care and repair loans and staff car loans.

31st March 2015 £000		**31st March 2016 £000**
552	Waste Disposal Site (prev PFI)	423
221	Care & Repair Loans	221
33	Car Loans	20
40	Marketing Lancashire	40
356	Lancashire County Developments	373
360	Business Loans	617
5,000	Blackpool Pleasure Beach	4,250
19	Council Mortgages - (Right to Buy)	12
2,500	Local Authority Mortgage Scheme	2,500
300	VIA	300
877	Adult Social Care Deferred Payments	548
10,258	**Total**	**9,304**

Waste Disposal Site

The total value of land held under the Waste Disposal contract at current market value is estimated at £3.385m. In 2014/15 this value was £4.415m. The reduction of £1.030m is due to a revaluation in 2015/16 carried out by Lancashire County Council Estates Department. Under the terms of the Joint Working Agreement, Blackpool Council will be due a 12.5% share of this at the end of the contract.

Care and Repair Loans

These are loans to council tenants for home improvements and repairs to be paid back over a number of years.

Car Loans

The number of outstanding long-term car loans at 31st March 2016 was 5 (7 as at 31 March 2015). See note 17 for breakdown.

Marketing Lancashire

The loan to Marketing Lancashire was issued in January 2008. The loan is interest free and due to be repaid in January 2018.

Lancashire County Developments

The loan to Lancashire County Developments is due to be repaid in 2031. Under the requirements of IAS 32 this loan has been revalued to fair value. The original amount of the loan was £721,000. The fair value of the loan in 2015/2016 was £372,857 (£356,279 in 2014/2015). The movement in fair value of £16,578 has been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account and then transferred to the Financial

Instruments Adjustment Account via Movement in Reserves. This does not affect the loan repayment due to the authority in 2031.

The car loans and loan to Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board have not been recalculated to fair value due to the immaterial amounts.

Business Loans

The Council set up a £3m fund for businesses to safeguard and create jobs and help Blackpool get through the recession. The aim of the fund is to provide a lifeline for local, normally sound businesses that are currently experiencing difficulty in getting finance from the banks because of the global slow down. These loans have been divided into four categories:

- Retail – loans of £5,000 to assist businesses and premises in a defined Town Centre Area
- Promenade – loans of £5,000 to help businesses situated between Central and North Pier
- Investment Fund – up to £150,000 loans for businesses that are growing or planning to invest in Blackpool thereby bringing new jobs to the town.
- Credit Crunch – this loan fund applies to good and sound businesses experiencing cash flow problems but not within other categories.

Two new loans totalling £341,662 were issued in 2015/2016.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach

In 2010/2011 the authority granted a loan of £5m to Blackpool Pleasure Beach towards the development of Nickelodeon Land. The loan is due to be repaid by September 2018 and interest is charged at the market rate.

Local Authority Mortgage Scheme

In 2011/2012 the authority advanced £1m with Lloyds Banking Group as part of the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme. This scheme is aimed at first time buyers within Blackpool and the advance reflects the authority's share of financial assistance through the provision of an indemnity. This indemnity will be in place for a fixed five-year period, at which point the advance will be returned to the authority.

In 2012/2013 the scheme was extended with a further £1m being advanced to Lloyds Banking Group and £500,000 advanced to Leeds Building Society.

VIA Loan

The loan to VIA was issued on 30th March 2014. The loan is to support the Company's cash flow commitments and provide a platform towards business development.

This is an interest only loan with a term of no more than 8 years with an interest rate of 4% for years 1 to 3, rising to 4.5% for years 4-8 to encourage early repayment.

However, following an inadequate Ofsted inspection rating, the company went into administration in December 2015. Due to the inadequate rating the company lost a number of contracts and was unable to operate. It is anticipated that the loan will be written off in 2016/2017 and be funded from the Council's Bad Debt Provision.

Adult Social Care Deferred Payments Scheme

The Health & Social Care Act 2001 introduced the concept of a Deferred Payment Scheme. This legislation provides for the possibility of eligible service users putting off the sale of their home when they move into residential care and delaying the payment of the fees. Instead of paying the care home fees in full the resident will be financially assessed ignoring the value of the property and asked to contribute the lesser amount towards the cost of their care. The Council effectively provides an interest free loan and pays the difference between the amount contributed by the service user and the usual fee paid to the care home by the local authority.

The Council take out a legal charge on the service user's property. When the property is sold, the debt will usually be recovered in full. Interest is not charged on the amount due until 56 days after the person has died.

20. INVENTORIES

2015/2016	**Consumables £000**	**Materials £000**	**Work in Progress £000**	**Total £000**
Balance outstanding at start of the year	**188**	**259**	**2**	**449**
Purchases	39	1,774	-	**1,813**
Recognised as an expense in the year	(65)	(1,658)	(1)	**(1,724)**
Balance outstanding at year end	**162**	**375**	**1**	**538**

2014/2015	**Consumables £000**	**Materials £000**	**Work in Progress £000**	**Total £000**
Balance outstanding at start of the year	**214**	**299**	**94**	**607**
Purchases	61	1,909	-	**1,970**
Recognised as an expense in the year	(87)	(1,949)	(92)	**(2,128)**
Balance outstanding at year end	**188**	**259**	**2**	**449**

21. DEBTORS

31st March 2015 £000		31st March 2016 £000
1,965	Central government bodies	3,735
825	Other local authorities	1,426
297	NHS bodies	873
50,177	Other entities and individuals	56,166
(16,814)	Total impairment	(18,600)
36,450	**Net Value of Debtors**	**43,600**

22. PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE

31st March 2015 £000		31st March 2016 £000
101	Adult Services	1,167
5	Community & Environmental Services	37
334	Children's Services	689
-	Democratic Services	3
86	Deputy Chief Executive	-
27	Places	60
11	Resources	23
564	**Total Payments in Advance**	**1,979**

23. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The balance of cash and cash equivalents is made up of the following elements:

31st March 2015 £000		31st March 2016 £000
434	Cash held by the Authority	824
(265)	Bank current accounts	(1,580)
3,055	Short term deposits with institutions	13,350
3,224	**Total**	**12,594**

24. RECEIPTS IN ADVANCE

31st March 2015 £000		31st March 2016 £000
(1,574)	Adult Services	(1,496)
(1,858)	Community & Environmental Services	(2,539)
(3,207)	Children's Services	(2,951)
(57)	Governance & Regulatory Services	(109)
(1,002)	Deputy Chief Executive	(196)
(1,636)	Places	(4,470)
(282)	Resources	(329)
(564)	Housing Revenue Account	(451)
(1,900)	Capital	(1,888)
(630)	Collection Fund	(856)
(390)	Public Health	-
(13,100)	**Total Receipts in Advance**	**(15,285)**

25. CREDITORS

	Long term creditors		Short term creditors	
	31st March 2016 £000	31st March 2015 £000	31st March 2016 £000	31st March 2015 £000
Central Government Bodies	-	-	(4,273)	(3,452)
Other Local Authorities	-	-	(5,751)	(5,452)
NHS Bodies	-	-	(82)	(143)
Other Entities and Individuals	(78,181)	(81,899)	(34,500)	(32,666)
Total	**(78,181)**	**(81,899)**	**(44,606)**	**(41,713)**

26. PROVISIONS

	Injury and Damage Compensation Claims £000	Other Provisions £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 April 2015	**(3,123)**	**(14,711)**	**(17,834)**
Additional Provisions Made in 2015/2016	(4,915)	(5,218)	**(10,133)**
Amounts Used in 2015/2016	4,750	7,074	**11,824**
Balance at 31 March 2016	**(3,288)**	**(12,855)**	**(16,143)**

	Injury and Damage Compensation Claims £000	Other Provisions £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 April 2014	**(2,748)**	**(11,294)**	**(14,042)**
Additional Provisions Made in 2014/2015	(11,584)	(12,592)	**(24,176)**
Amounts Used in 2014/2015	11,209	11,226	**22,435**
Unused Amounts Reversed in 2014/2015	-	(2,051)	**(2,051)**
Balance at 31 March 2015	**(3,123)**	**(14,711)**	**(17,834)**

Outstanding legal cases

Injury Compensation Claims

Most of the injury compensation claims are individually insignificant. Significant claims are detailed in Note 3. They relate to personal injuries sustained where the Authority is alleged to be at fault (e.g. through failure to repair a road or pavement properly). Provision is made for those claims where it is deemed probable that the Authority will have to make settlement, based on past experience of court decisions about liability and the amount of damages payable. All outstanding claims are expected to be settled by 2016/2017. The Authority may be reimbursed by its insurers, but until claims are actually settled no income is recognised.

Other provisions

These represent amounts set aside to meet potential future liabilities. This includes a provision for Business Rate Appeals.

27. USABLE RESERVES

31st March 2015 £000		31st March 2016 £000
(5,054)	Schools Reserves	(4,869)
(6,188)	Unallocated General Fund Reserves	(5,636)
(5,617)	Housing Revenue Account	(7,234)
(46,024)	Earmarked Revenue Reserves	(42,231)
(3,431)	Capital Receipts Reserve	(3,825)
-	Major Repairs Reserve	-
(4,388)	Capital Reserves	(4,502)
(70,702)	**Total Usable Reserves**	**(68,297)**

28. UNUSABLE RESERVES

31st March 2015 £000		31st March 2016 £000
(69,429)	Revaluation Reserve	(88,240)
(7,411)	Available for Sale Financial Instrument Reserve	(8,911)
(366,000)	Capital Adjustment Account	(365,511)
1,844	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	1,799
224,959	Pensions Reserve	191,869
2,073	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(2,609)
1,511	Accumulated Absences Account	1,212
(212,453)	**Total Unusable Reserves**	**(270,391)**

Revaluation Reserve

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

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost
- Used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or
- Disposed of and the gains are realised.

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 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.

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
(71,640)	**Balance at 1st April**	**(69,429)**
(2,148)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(14,586)
(4,341)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(10,128)
7,925	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	4,384
775	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	1,519
(69,429)	**Balance at 31st March**	**(88,240)**

Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve

The Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve contains the gains made by the Authority arising from increases in the value of its investments that have quoted market prices or otherwise do not have fixed or determinable payments. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost
- Disposed of and the gains are realised

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
(7,111)	**Balance at 1st April**	**(7,411)**
(300)	Upward revaluation of investments	(1,500)
(7,411)	**Balance at 31st March**	**(8,911)**

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 subsequent costs as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the

Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Authority.

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

Note 7 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
(410,350)	**Balance at 1st April**	**(366,000)**
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
27,494	- Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	43,256
(775)	- Revaluation losses on PPE	(1,669)
158	- Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	197
54,124	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	4,627
81,001	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in year	46,411
	Capital financing applied in year:	
(2,422)	- Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(1,453)
(4,104)	- Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(3,983)
	- Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement that have been applied to HRA Self Financing	
(22,250)	- Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(19,946)
(7,875)	- Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(20,540)
(366,000)	**Balance at 31st March**	**(365,511)**

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions.

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
891	**Balance at 1st April**	**1,844**
953	Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(45)
1,844	**Balance at 31st March**	**1,799**

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

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
162,730	**Balance at 1st April**	**224,959**
62,348	Remeasurement of net defined liability	(43,981)
119	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	(10,891)
(238)	Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	21,782
224,959	**Balance at 31st March**	**191,869**

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
1,288	**Balance at 1st April**	**2,073**
785	Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and non-domestic rate income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(4,682)
2,073	**Balance at 31st March**	**(2,609)**

Accumulated Absences Account

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

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
2,086	**Balance at 1st April**	**1,511**
(2,086)	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(1,511)
1,511	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	1,212
1,511	**Balance at 31st March**	**1,212**

29. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
(533)	Interest Received	(452)
7,456	Interest Paid	5,793
(600)	Dividend Received	(663)

The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following non-cash movements:

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
(33,076)	Depreciation/Impairment charges to CIES	(38,037)
6,980	Pension Liability	(3,692)
9,361	Minimum Revenue Provision	9,426
6,133	Contributions to/from reserves	(612)
(147)	Increase/(decrease) in Payments in Advance	1,421
5,495	Increase/(decrease) in Debtors	7,150
(158)	Increase/(decrease) in Inventories	89
(8,911)	(Increase)/decrease in Provisions	1,691
7,784	(Increase)/decrease in Creditors	(2,893)
(838)	(Increase)/decrease in Creditors over 1 year	3,719
(207)	(Increase)/decrease in Receipts in Advance	1,277
(1,008)	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	1,694
(8,592)	**Total**	**(18,767)**

The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following items that are investing or financing activities:

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
16,136	Capital grants credited to the surplus or deficit on the provisions of services	19,917
(53,504)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment investment property and intangible assets	(4,789)
(24,793)	Biiling Authorities - Collection Fund adjustments	(34,646)
(62,161)	**Total**	**(19,518)**

30. CASH FLOW STATEMENT - INVESTING ACTIVITIES

31st March 2015 £000		31st March 2016 £000
39,197	Purchase of property, plant & equipment, investment property and intangible assets	33,090
4,876	Other payments for investing activities	2,023
(2,431)	Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(1,567)
(23,001)	Capital Grants received	(23,233)
18,641	**Net cash flows from investing activities**	**10,313**

31. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – FINANCING ACTIVITIES

31st March 2015 £000		31st March 2016 £000
(103,051)	Cash receipts of short and long term borrowing	(143,895)
-	Other receipts from financing activities	9,945
102,147	Repayments of short and long term borrowing	132,462
1,038	Other payments for financing activities	800
134	**Net cash flows from financing activities**	**(688)**

32. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS

	31st March 2016 £000	31st March 2015 £000	Movement £000
Cash in Hand & at Bank	824	469	355
Bank overdrawn	(1,580)	(309)	(1,271)
Short term borrowing	(64,100)	(46,500)	(17,600)
Short term investments	13,350	3,405	9,945
Long term borrowing	(88,171)	(94,338)	6,167
Loan to BID	-	9	(9)
Business loans	4,818	5,860	(1,042)
Balance at 31 March	**(134,859)**	**(131,404)**	**(3,455)**

33. AMOUNTS REPORTED FOR RESOURCES ALLOCATION DECISIONS

The analysis of income and expenditure by service on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is that specified by the Service Reporting Code of Practice. However, decisions about resource allocation are taken by the Council's Executive Committee on the basis of budget reports analysed across the departments. These reports are prepared on a different basis from the accounting policies used in the financial statements. In particular:

- No charges are made in relation to capital expenditure (whereas depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses in excess of the balance on the Revaluation Reserve and amortisations are charged to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)
- The cost of retirement benefits is based on cash flows (payment of employer's pensions contributions) rather than current service cost of benefits accrued in the year
- Expenditure on some support services is budgeted for centrally and not charged to directorates.

The income and expenditure of the Authority's departments recorded in the budget reports for the year is as follows:

Income & Expenditure 2015/2016	Chief Executive £000	Deputy Chief Executive £000	Governance & Regulatory £000	Resources £000	Places £000	Community & Environmental £000	Public Health £000	Adult Services £000	Children's Services £000	Budgets Outside Cash Limit £000	Total £000
Fees, charges & other income	41	5,856	3,352	5,854	11,822	22,936	229	24,736	15,320	9,799	**99,945**
Government grants	0	3,096	(62)	531	1,342	2,863	18,680	1,443	60,029	85,894	**173,816**
Recharges to services	16	6,748	24	17,988	2,944	8,226	0	37	27	3,161	**39,171**
Total Income	**57**	**15,700**	**3,314**	**24,373**	**16,108**	**34,025**	**18,909**	**26,216**	**75,376**	**98,854**	**312,932**
Employee expenses	442	6,250	2,690	10,692	7,608	15,673	1,213	17,055	56,481	4,186	**122,290**
Other expenses	106	10,105	1,761	14,059	15,782	57,812	17,331	50,327	51,535	105,780	**324,598**
Support services recharges	74	839	930	3,109	1,404	4,464	383	2,671	7,504	4,172	**25,550**
Total Expenditure	**622**	**17,194**	**5,381**	**27,860**	**24,794**	**77,949**	**18,927**	**70,053**	**115,520**	**114,138**	**472,438**
Net Expenditure	**565**	**1,494**	**2,067**	**3,487**	**8,686**	**43,924**	**18**	**43,837**	**40,144**	**15,284**	**159,506**

Income & Expenditure 2014/2015	Chief Executive £000	Deputy Chief Executive £000	Governance & Regulatory £000	Resources £000	Places £000	Community & Environmental Services £000	Public Health £0	Adult Services £000	Children's Services £000	Budgets Outside Cash Limit £000	Total £000
Fees, charges & other income	13	3,158	2,965	4,982	8,666	16,381	211	21,257	16,145	9,691	**83,469**
Government grants	0	31	90	1,801	377	2,816	17,978	3,237	69,169	86,130	**181,629**
Recharges to services	0	7,029	0	15,900	1,193	9,157	0	124	17	3,280	**36,700**
Total Income	**13**	**10,218**	**3,055**	**22,683**	**10,236**	**28,354**	**18,189**	**24,618**	**85,331**	**99,101**	**301,798**
Employee expenses	385	4,713	2,157	11,072	7,416	16,374	1,196	17,151	62,212	3,182	**125,858**
Other expenses	75	4,825	2,083	12,138	10,128	54,754	16,646	50,830	53,864	111,029	**316,372**
Support services recharges	51	764	697	3,369	1,476	3,226	343	2,876	7,644	4,215	**24,661**
Total Expenditure	**511**	**10,302**	**4,937**	**26,579**	**19,020**	**74,354**	**18,185**	**70,857**	**123,720**	**118,426**	**466,891**
Net Expenditure	**498**	**84**	**1,882**	**3,896**	**8,784**	**46,000**	**(4)**	**46,239**	**38,389**	**19,325**	**165,093**

Reconciliation of the Departments Income and Expenditure to Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This reconciliation shows how the figures in the analysis of department income and expenditure relate to the amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

31st March 2015 £000		31st March 2016 £000
165,093	Net expenditure in the department analysis	159,506
1,834	Net expenditure of services and support services not included in the analysis	(3,346)
(17,865)	Amounts included in the Analysis not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,929)
149,062	**Cost of Service in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**	**154,231**

Reconciliation to the Subjective Analysis

This reconciliation shows how the figures in the analysis of department income and expenditure relate to a subjective analysis of Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2015/2016	Department Analysis	Services and Support services not in Analysis	Amounts not included in I&E	Cost of Services	Corporate Amounts	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income						
Fees, charges & Other Income	98,405	21,578	(21,683)	98,300		**98,300**
Government Grants	173,817		(100)	173,717	61,332	**235,049**
Interest and investment income			(351)	(351)	1,114	**763**
Internal Recharges	39,170			39,170		**39,170**
Income from Council Tax		13		13	78,661	**78,674**
Total Income	**311,392**	**21,591**	**(22,134)**	**310,849**	**141,107**	**451,956**
Expenditure						
Employee expenses	122,289	(34)		122,255		**122,255**
Other Service Expenditure	297,448	18,279	(27,966)	287,761	(127)	**287,634**
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	25,611		9,244	34,855		**34,855**
Interest Payable			(5,276)	(5,276)	5,793	**517**
Internal Recharges				-		**-**
Precepts & Levies	25,550	-	(65)	25,485	65	**25,550**
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool				-	289	**289**
Gain / Loss on disposal of Non-Current Assets				-	4,789	**4,789**
Pension Interest Cost and return on assets				-	1,272	**1,272**
Total Expenditure	**470,898**	**18,245**	**(24,063)**	**465,080**	**12,081**	**477,161**
Net	**159,506**	**(3,346)**	**(1,929)**	**154,231**	**(129,026)**	**25,205**

2014/2015	Department Analysis	Services and Support services not in Analysis	Amounts not included in I&E	Cost of Services	Corporate Amounts	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income						
Fees, charges & Other Income	83,469	22,044	(48,634)	56,879	973	**57,852**
Government Grants	181,629	29	-	181,658	114,075	**295,733**
Interest and investment income	-	-	(382)	(382)	(458)	**(840)**
Internal Recharges	36,700	-	-	36,700		**36,700**
Income from Council Tax	-	-	-	-	44,197	**44,197**
Total Income	**301,798**	**22,073**	**(49,016)**	**274,855**	**158,787**	**433,642**
Expenditure						
Employee expenses	125,858	(11)	-	125,847	-	**125,847**
Other Service Expenditure	341,033	23,918	(62,742)	302,209	2,427	**304,636**
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	-	2,696	2,696	96	**2,792**
Interest Payable	-	-	(6,835)	(6,835)	7,456	**621**
Internal Recharges	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Precepts & Levies	-	-	-	-	65	**65**
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-	-	-	-	272	**272**
Gain / Loss on disposal of Non-Current Assets	-	-	-	-	53,504	**53,504**
Pension Interest Cost and return on assets	-	-	-	-	(6,009)	**(6,009)**
Total Expenditure	**466,891**	**23,907**	**(66,881)**	**423,917**	**57,811**	**481,728**
Net	**165,093**	**1,834**	**(17,865)**	**149,062**	**(100,976)**	**48,086**

34. TRADING OPERATIONS

The Authority has 3 trading units where the service manager is required to operate in a commercial environment and balance their budget by generating income from other parts of the authority or other organisations. Trading operations are incorporated into the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The expenditure of these operations is allocated or recharged to headings in the Cost of Services.

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
Building Maintenance		
Expenditure	1,001	1,465
Income	(735)	(1,163)
Net Expenditure	**266**	**302**
Vehicle Maintenance		
Expenditure	1,391	1,311
Income	(1,414)	(1,316)
Net Expenditure	**(23)**	**(5)**
Building Cleaning		
Expenditure	787	658
Income	(864)	(857)
Net Expenditure	**(77)**	**(199)**

Building Maintenance

Building Maintenance is the preferred contractor for the Council and Blackpool schools for the day to day maintenance of Council buildings and project work. The service maintains the Council's building stock through planned maintenance work and reactive repairs. The section also competes with the private sector for work.

Vehicle Maintenance

The Central Vehicle Maintenance Unit, as well as completing the routine servicing and maintaining of the Council's fleet of vehicles and plant, also conducts the routine and ad hoc testing of Blackpool's taxi fleet.

The service operates in a limited internal market where users are free to decide the quantity and type of work to be done based on prices quoted.

Building Cleaning

Building Cleaning are the sole cleaning provider for the Council's buildings and also compete for work in Blackpool schools.

The service is split into two areas: building cleaning and office porterage. The service provides cleaning for the town's bus and tram shelters and window cleaning for council properties and private customers.

35. ROAD CHARGING SCHEMES UNDER THE TRANSPORT ACT 2000

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
(1,527)	On-street parking operation surplus	**(1,529)**
	Utilised to Fund:	
5,280	Public Transport	5,318
627	Traffic Management & Road Safety	247
5,907	**Total Qualifying Expenditure**	**5,565**

Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) of on-street parking was introduced in November 2003 as part of the Local Transport Plan with the aim of reducing congestion and improving traffic management. The surplus arising from on street parking is used to defray qualifying expenditure. The use of DPE is governed by section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended from October 2004 by section 95 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. This specifies the use that DPE surpluses may be put to.

36. AGENCY SERVICES

The Authority provides payroll services for Chorley Borough Council, Fylde Borough Council, Blackpool Coastal Housing, Baines School, Claremont First Step Centre, Blackpool Grand Theatre, Blackpool Operating Company and a number of Academies. These organisations pay a management fee to the Council for the service. The total management fee received by the Council in 2015/2016 was £180,844 (2014/2015 £195,921). The management fee is based on the number of employees paid.

37. POOLED BUDGETS

On 1st April 2015 the Council entered into a Pooled Budget arrangement with NHS Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group in relation to the Better Care Fund.

The Government created the Better Care Fund to incentivise the NHS and local government to work more closely together around people, placing their wellbeing as the focus of health and care services, and shifting resources into social care and community services for the benefit of the people, communities and health and care systems.

		2015/16 £0000	
Funding provided to the pooled budget:			
Local Authority	Blackpool Council	1,649	
Trust	Blackpool CCG	12,581	
			14,230
Expenditure met from the pooled budget:			
Local Authority	Blackpool Council	8,628	
Trust	Blackpool CCG	5,602	
			14,230
Net surplus arising on the pooled budget during the year			-

38. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

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

2014/2015 £000		**2015/2016 £000**
470	Allowances	680
47	Expenses	58
517	**Total**	**738**

39. OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

The number of employees whose remuneration, excluding pension contributions was £50,000 or more in bands of £5,000 is set out below.

	Number in 2015/2016	Number in 2014/2015
£50,000 - £54,999	36	34
£55,000 - £59,999	22	22
£60,000 - £64,999	20	20
£65,000 - £69,999	11	14
£70,000 - £74,999	4	2
£75,000 - £79,999	2	3
£80,000 - £84,999	2	2
£85,000 - £89,999	4	3
£90,000 - £94,999	3	1
£95,000 - £99,999	2	2
£100,000 - £104,999	1	-
£105,000 - £109,999	-	2
£110,000 - £114,999	1	-
£115,000 - £119,999	1	-
£135,000 - £139,999	1	-
£185,000 - £189,999	1	-
TOTAL	**111**	**105**
Officers	76	72
Teachers	35	33

The remuneration paid to the Authority's senior officers is as follows:

Employees in Post 2015/2016

Post Holder Information	Salary £	Expense Allowance £	Compensation for loss of Office £	Benefits in Kind £	Total Excluding Pensions £	Employer Pension Contributions £	Total Including Pensions £
Chief Executive	110,793	963	-	9	111,765	13,628	125,393
Director of Resources	96,989	-	-	1,344	98,333	11,930	110,263
Deputy Chief Executive *(Note N)*	86,884	963	47,541	1,240	136,628	178,589	315,217
Director of Place	88,585	963	-	759	90,307	10,986	101,293
Director of Governance & Regulatory Services	79,766	-	-	-	79,766	9,811	89,577
Director of Community & Environmental Services	85,386	963	-	440	86,789	10,502	97,291
Director of Public Health	100,555	4,841	-	480	105,876	14,420	120,296
Director of People	117,295	963	-	105	118,363	16,776	135,139
Deputy Director of People	88,466	963	-	126	89,555	10,881	100,436
TOTAL	**854,719**	**10,619**	**47,541**	**4,503**	**917,382**	**277,523**	**1,194,905**

Employees in Post 2014/2015

Post Holder Information	Salary £	Expense Allowance £	Compensation for loss of Office £	Benefits in Kind £	Total Excluding Pensions £	Employer Pension Contributions £	Total Including Pensions £
Chief Executive	98,593	963	-	56	99,612	12,127	111,739
Director of Resources *(Note E)*	84,412	-	-	922	85,334	10,383	95,717
Deputy Chief Executive *(Note F)*	76,547	963	-	230	77,740	9,415	87,155
Director of Place *(Note G)*	78,045	963	-	1,041	80,049	9,599	89,648
Director of Governance & Regulatory Services *(Note H)*	72,056	-	-	52	72,108	8,863	80,971
Director of Community & Environmental Services *(Note I)*	76,547	963	-	245	77,755	9,415	87,170
Director of Public Health	101,047	4,841	-	639	106,527	14,360	120,887
Assistant Chief Executive - Built Environment *(Note J)*	14,475	-	-	-	14,475	1,824	16,299
Assistant Chief Executive - Children's Services *(Note K)*	45,721	401	-	355	46,477	5,733	52,210
Assistant Chief Executive - Adult Services *(Note L)*	44,459	401	-	101	44,961	6,294	51,255
Director of People *(Note L)*	62,244	562	-	141	62,947	8,812	71,759
Deputy Director of People (Adult Services) *(Note M)*	82,909	963	-	-	83,872	10,198	94,070
TOTAL	**837,055**	**11,020**	**-**	**3,782**	**851,857**	**107,023**	**958,880**

NOTES

A – Compensation for loss of office includes statutory redundancy pay. Statutory pension strain is included within employer pension contributions. Pension strain is the cost to the Council of the redundancy/retirement. It is not the amount received by the postholder.

B – Benefits in kind include travel & subsistence expenses, professional fees.

C – Expense Allowances include essential car user payments.

D – Salary includes a voluntary reduction for unpaid leave which commenced in April 2011

2014/2015

E – Following a restructure in June 2014 the post of Assistant Chief Executive – Treasurer Services was renamed Director of Resources.

F - Following a restructure in June 2014 the post of Assistant Chief Executive – HR, Communication and Engagement was renamed Deputy Chief Executive.

G- Following a restructure in June 2014 the post of Assistant Chief Executive – Regeneration, Tourism and Culture was renamed Director of Place.

H - Following a restructure in June 2014 the post of Monitoring Officer was renamed Director of Governance and Regulatory Services.

I- Following a restructure in June 2014 the post of Assistant Chief Executive – Leisure and Operational Services was renamed Director of Community and Environmental Services.

J – In May 2014 the post-holder of Assistant Chief Executive – Built Environment was seconded to Blackpool Coastal Housing. Their contracted salary was £88,957.

K – Following the resignation of the Assistant Chief Executive – Children's Services in September 2014 the post was disestablished. Their contracted salary was £97,903.

L –In September 2014 the post of Assistant Chief Executive – Adult Services was disestablished and the post-holder became the Director of People.

M – In September 2014 the post of Deputy Director of People (Adult Services) was established. Their contracted salary was £82,909.

2015/16

N – In March 2016 the post holder of Deputy Chief Executive was made redundant and the post was disestablished.

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 by Band (incl Special Payments)	Number of Exit Packages by Cost Band		Total Cost of Exit Packages in each Band	
	2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
£0 - £20,000	134	131	950	1,104
£20,001 - £40,000	14	17	386	458
£40,001 - £60,000	2	3	93	142
£60,001 - £80,000	4	-	278	-
£80,001 - £100,000	9	-	824	-
£100,001 - £150,000	5	-	635	-
£150,001 - £200,000	1	-	215	
Total	**169**	**151**	**3,381**	**1,704**

40. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

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

	2015/16 £000	2014/15 £000
Fees payable to auditors with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	154	114
Fees payable to auditors in respect of statutory inspections	5	5
Fees payable to auditors for the certification of grant claims and returns	49	2
Total	**208**	**121**

41. DISCLOSURE OF DEPLOYMENT OF DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

The Council's expenditure on schools is funded by grant monies provided by the Department for Education, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). An element of DSG is recouped by the Department to fund academy schools in the Council's area. DSG is ring-fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the schools budget as defined in the School Finance (England) Regulations 2011. The schools budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget, which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2015/2016 are as follows:

		CENTRAL EXPENDITURE £000	ISB £000	TOTAL £000
A	Final DSG for 2015/16 before academy recoupment			104,775
B	Academy figure recouped for 2015/16			54,594
C	Total DSG after Academy recoupment for 2015/16			50,181
D	B/F from 2014/15			5,599
E	C/F to 2016/17 agreed in advance			2,039
F	Agreed initial budget distribution in 2015/16	27,382	26,359	53,741
G	In year adjustments	161	0	161
H	Final budgeted distribution for 2015/16	27,543	26,359	53,902
I	Less Actual Central Expenditure	27,482		
J	Less Actual ISB deployed to Schools		26,440	
K	Plus Local authority contribution for 2015/16	0	0	0
L	C/F to 2016/17	61	-81	-20

42. GRANT INCOME

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2015/2016.

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
Revenue Support Grant	38,668	52,539
Council Tax Freeze Grant	615	613
Non-Domestic Rates Retained	23,997	23,638
Non-Domestic Rates Top Up	19,163	18,804
Capital Grants - Coastal Communities Fund Grant	700	-
Capital Grants - Other	19,217	16,136
Total	**102,360**	**111,730**
Credited to Services		
Dedicated Schools Grant	50,181	57,682
Pupil Premium Grant	4,230	5,084
Housing & Council Tax Benefit Administration Subsidy	1,232	1,368
Rent Allowance Subsidy	71,339	74,465
Rent Rebates	13,239	13,252
Public Health Grant	18,290	17,946
Coastal Communities Fund Grant	740	-
Other Grants and Contributions	18,624	11,786
Total	**177,875**	**181,583**

The Coastal Communities Fund Grant is a ring-fenced grant which is to be used to create sustainable economic growth and jobs in coastal areas. The grant relates to both capital and revenue schemes. At 31st March 2016 £100,298 of capital grant and £182,544 of revenue grant remained unspent and has been carried forward to 2016/17.

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

Capital Grants Received in Advance	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
HCA	485	799
Tramway	61	61
Environment Agency grants	1,943	7,673
NHS Grants	36	36
Local Transport Plan	1,517	1,655
Empty Homes	801	1,064
Education Funding Agency	1,975	-
Other Grants & Contributions	1,067	59
Total	**7,885**	**11,347**

43. RELATED PARTIES

In accordance with IAS 24 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 significant 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. housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are set out in the subjective analysis Note 33 on reporting for resource allocation decisions. Grant receipts outstanding at 31st March 2016 are shown on Note 42.

Members

The Council maintains a register of all members' disclosable pecuniary interests. Within 28 days of election, Councillors are legally required to inform the council's Monitoring Officer of any pecuniary interests they have. If a Councillor is present at a meeting of the authority, or any committee, subcommittee, joint committee or joint subcommittee of the authority, and has a disclosable pecuniary interest then, if that interest is not already registered, they must disclose that interest to the meeting and notify the Council's Monitoring Officer to have that interest added to the register of interests.

The register of members' interests is open to public inspection as required by Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011. A copy of the register of members' interests is also available to view on the council's website. Where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest they are precluded from taking any part in meetings or decisions related to their previously disclosed interest, unless an appropriate dispensation has been granted.

In respect of the 2015/16 financial year a number of council members had a controlling interest in a company, partnership, trust or entity. The controlling interest was by way of ownership, or as a director, member, trustee, governor or partner of an organisation. The existence of the procedures described above ensure that the Council is able to both identify where a member has an interest, and take action to ensure that there is no participation in any decisions relevant to their interest. All major decisions are available for public scrutiny and challenge as part of the Council's constitutional arrangements.

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of Members' allowances paid in 2015/2016 is shown in Note 38.

During the year one Member of the Council had a private interest in a local taxi firm. The Council made payments to this organisation amounting to £207,948 in 2015/2016 to meet the Council's transport requirements.

During the year a Member of the Council had a private interest in a housing association. The Council made payments to this charity amounting to £496,163 in 2015/2016 to meet the Council's homelessness requirements.

These transactions were conducted at arms-length and in accordance with the Authority's financial regulations.

Details of all these transactions are recorded in the Register of Members Interest, open to the public inspection at the Town Hall during office hours.

Chief Officers

It is considered that transactions identified involving Chief Officers with related parties are not material.

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

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
<u>**Capital Financing Requirement**</u>		
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	**287,174**	**290,851**
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant & Equipment	31,775	39,153
Investment Properties	1	44
Assets under Construction	1,314	2,755
Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute	2,023	2,121
Sources of Finance		
Capital Receipts	(1,567)	(2,431)
Government Grants & Other Contributions	(23,233)	(23,001)
Sums set aside from Revenue	(19,769)	(22,318)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	**277,718**	**287,174**
Explanations of Movements in Year		
Increase in underlying need to borrow(supported by Government Financial Assistance)	(11,989)	(9,361)
Increase in underlying need to borrow(unsupported by Government Financial Assistance)	1,867	5,020
Assets acquired under PFI contracts	666	664
Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	**(9,456)**	**(3,677)**

45. LEASES

Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

The Authority 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 Authority and finance costs that will be payable by the Authority in future years while the liability remains outstanding.

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

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
Finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments)		
- current	67	91
- non-current	61	109
Finance lease costs payable in future years	17	50
Minimum lease payments	**145**	**250**

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

	Minimum Lease Payments	
	31st March 2016 £000	31st March 2015 £000
Not later than one year	77	119
Later than one year and not later than five years	68	131
Total	**145**	**250**

Operating Leases

The Authority has acquired assets by entering into operating leases. The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

	Operating Lease Payments	
	31st March 2016 £000	31st March 2015 £000
Not later than one year	1	26
Total	**1**	**26**

The Authority as Lessor

The Council has granted various property leases including the lease of the Sandcastle Waterpark. The rentals received in 2015/2016 amounted to £701,000 (2014/2015 £662,000). The gross value of the assets held for use in leases was £8.7m at 31st March 2016 (2014/2015 £7.08m). The assets have been subject to £398,000 depreciation at 31st March 2016.

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

	Minimum Lease Payments	
	31st March 2016 £000	31st March 2015 £000
Not later than one year	1,496	1,497
Later than one year and not later than five years	4,922	5,175
Later than five years	9,596	10,088
Total	**16,014**	**16,760**

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

46. PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI)

Former Waste Disposal PFI

Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council (LCC) entered into the Lancashire Municipal Waste PFI Contract ('the Contract') in 2007 under the terms of a Joint Working Arrangement (JWA), with LCC acting as Agent for the Council in relation to the Contract and its role as Waste Disposal Authority.

LCC signed a PFI (Private Finance Initiative) contract with Global Renewables Lancashire (GRL) Limited in March 2007, and this contract was due to run until March 2037. The contract covered the delivery of contract waste, treatment and diversion from landfill at the Farington and Thornton sites as well as subsequent disposal of waste from those sites.

The parties agreed by negotiation to complete the consensual termination of the Contract on the 31 July 2014 and the former operating company Global Renewables Lancashire Operations Limited (GRLOL) transferred into the ownership of LCC, with the Council entitled to a 12.5% share. GRLOL continue to operate the facilities under a Service Level Agreement with LCC. LCC funds the operating costs of the GRLOL and is governed by a Board of Directors upon which the Council has representation.

LCC has authority to 'administer all matters under the Operating Contract' and 'carry out anything necessary to provide or procure the provision of the Relevant Functions' on behalf of the Council under the terms of a Deed of Variation dated 2nd September 2015 to the original JWA. LCC hold the £1 share in the Operating Company on behalf of the two authorities.

The PFI contract was in place for the first four months of the 2014/2015 financial year. During that period a unitary payment was made to GRL which consisted of a fixed and variable element, both of which were subject to inflation. No further unitary payments have been made in 2015/16.

At the end of the concession period LCC may retender the provision of the services. At this point the Council would either continue to have a 12.5% share in any retendered contract, or continue under a new arrangement. If the Council decided that it no longer wished to continue with the contract then LCC would have to pay Blackpool the relevant rental value for its share in the assets. If LCC decides to dispose of the asset then the Council would receive a relevant percentage of the proceeds of the sale.

Highfield Humanities College PFI

The Highfield Humanities College PFI scheme is the only PFI school resulting from the Government's Building Schools for the Future Programme. This project consists of the new build of a secondary school for up to 1,216 pupils and the provision of a fully managed facility for a period of 25 years by the selected operator.

The operator is Eric Wright Facilities Management via the Highfield PSI SPV Limited (a company wholly owned by Blackpool Local Education Partnership, a joint venture between Eric Wright Group, Blackpool Council and Northgate Management Services). The total projected cost over the life of the project is £98m which is funded by PFI credits of £40m from the Department of Education with the remainder funded by the School and Local Authority contributions.

The assets relating to the PFI are recognised on the Authority's Balance Sheet. Movements in their value over the year are detailed in the analysis of the movement on Property, Plant and Equipment balance.

The Authority makes an agreed payment each year which is increased by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year but which is otherwise fixed. Payments remaining to be made under the PFI contract at 31st March 2016 (excluding any estimation of inflation and availability/performance deductions) are as follows:

	Payment for Service £000	Repayment Liability £000	Interest £000	Total Payment Due £000
Payable 2016/17	983	698	2,081	3,762
Payable in two to five years	4,930	2,281	7,742	14,953
Payable in six to ten years	7,365	3,292	8,345	19,002
Payable in eleven to fifteen years	9,168	4,300	6,548	20,016
Payable in sixteen to twenty years	10,278	7,214	3,944	21,436
Payable in twenty one to twenty five years	2,803	3,150	417	6,370
Total	**35,527**	**20,935**	**29,077**	**85,539**

Although the payments made to the contractor are described as unitary payments, they have been calculated to compensate the contractor for the fair value of the services they provide, the capital expenditure incurred and interest payable whilst the capital expenditure remains to be reimbursed. The liability outstanding to pay the liability to the contractor for capital expenditure incurred is as follows:

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
(22,121)	Balance outstanding at start of year	(21,574)
547	Payments during the year	638
(21,574)	**Total**	**(20,936)**

Street Lighting and Signals PFI

The scheme, supported by the Department for Transport, was signed in December 2009, and provides for the design, maintenance and replacement of Street Lighting and Signals across the town. The contract was awarded to Community Lighting Partnership. The project commenced on 4th January 2010 and is for 25 years. The service provider is responsible for the management and maintenance of street lights and signals within Blackpool. The total sum payable to the contractor over the term of the contract is £124.635m, being met from Government Grant and Authority contributions.

The Authority makes an agreed payment each year which is increased by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year but which is otherwise fixed. Payments remaining to be made under the PFI contract at 31st March 2016 (excluding any estimation of inflation and availability/performance deductions) are as follows:

	Payment for Service £000	Repayment Liability £000	Interest £000	Total Payment Due £000
Payable 2016/17	2,446	852	1,290	4,588
Payable in two to five years	9,226	3,921	4,741	17,888
Payable in six to ten years	7,564	7,479	5,547	20,590
Payable in eleven to fifteen years	11,285	13,318	4,973	29,576
Payable in sixteen to twenty years	13,296	14,954	1,678	29,928
Total	**43,817**	**40,524**	**18,229**	**102,570**

Although the payments made to the contractor are described as unitary payments, they have been calculated to compensate the contractor for the fair value of the services they provide, the capital expenditure incurred and interest payable whilst the capital expenditure remains to be reimbursed. The liability outstanding to pay the liability to the contractor for capital expenditure incurred is as follows:

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
(28,204)	Balance outstanding at start of year	(28,188)
680	Payments during the year	849
(664)	Capital expenditure incurred in year	(666)
(28,188)	**Total**	**(28,005)**

47. IMPAIRMENT LOSSES

During 2015/2016, the Authority has recognised an impairment loss of £14,358,252 (2014/2015 £3,323,436) in relation to land and buildings. The impairment loss has been charged to the Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

48. TERMINATION BENEFITS

The Authority terminated the contracts of a number of employees in 2015/2016 incurring liabilities of £3.8m (2014/2015 £1.8m).

49. PENSION SCHEMES ACCOUNTED FOR AS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Teachers employed by the Authority are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by the Department for Education. The Scheme provides teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement, and the Authority contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of the members' pensionable salaries.

The scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. The scheme is unfunded and the Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. Valuations of the notional fund are undertaken every four years. The scheme has in excess of 3,700 participating employers and consequently the Authority is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purpose of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2015/2016 the Council paid £2,292,083 (2014/15 £2,599,480) to the Department for Education in respect of teachers retirement benefits, representing 14.10% between 1st April 2015 and 31st August 2015 and then 16.48% from 1st September 2015 to 31st March 2016 (2014/2015 14.10%) of teachers' pensionable pay. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year end. The contributions due to be paid in the next financial year are estimated to be £2.05m.

The Authority is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' pension scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis and detailed in Note 50.

The Authority is not liable to the scheme for any other entities obligations under the plan.

NHS Staff Pension Scheme

From 1st April 2013 NHS staff working within Public Health transferred to the Council. The transferred staff have maintained their membership in the NHS Pension Scheme. The Scheme provides these staff with specified benefits upon their retirement and the Council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The scheme is an unfunded defined benefit scheme. However the Council is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined benefit contribution.

In 2015/2016, the Council paid £117,040 (2014/15 £121,349) to the NHS Pension Scheme in respect of Public Health employee's retirement benefits, representing 14.3% (2014/15 14.3%) of pensionable pay. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year end.

50. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

Participation in Pension Schemes

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

The Authority participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme which is administered by Lancashire County Council. This is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, which means that the Council and employees pay contributions into the fund, calculated at a level intended to balance pension liabilities with the investment assets.

Arrangements for the award of discretionary post-retirement benefits upon early retirement – this is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. However, there are no investment assets built up to meet these pension liabilities and cash has to be generated to meet actual pension payments as they eventually fall due.

The Lancashire pension scheme is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the pensions committee at Lancashire County Council. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pension Fund Regulations. The Treasurer of Lancashire County Council is also the Treasurer of Lancashire Pension Fund. The investment managers of the fund are appointed by the committee. There are currently nine external investment managers.

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

Discretionary Post-retirement Benefits

Discretionary post-retirement benefits on early retirement are an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. There are no plan assets built up to meet these pension liabilities.

Transactions Relating to Post-Employment Benefits

The Authority 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 Authority 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. 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:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2015/16 £000	**2014/15 £000**	**2015/16 £000**	**2014/15 £000**
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Cost of Services:				
Service Cost comprising				
- current service cost	15,574	12,377	0	0
- past service costs	1,352	648	0	0
- (gain)/loss from settlements	(80)	(6,657)	0	0
Financing & Investment Income and Expenditure				
Net interest expense	21,187	23,955	101	127
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	**38,033**	**30,323**	**101**	**127**
Other Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:				
- Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	(14,089)	(17,221)	0	0
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	0	0	0	0
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(37,386)	93,095	(127)	333
- Other	(6,468)	(31,080)	0	0
Total Post-Employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	**(57,943)**	**44,794**	**(127)**	**333**
Movement in Reserves Statement				
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	32,905	(61,916)	185	(313)
Actual amount charged against the general fund balance for pensions in the year:				
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	12,995	12,278		
Retirement benefits payable to pensioners			159	151

Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2015/16 £000	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	2014/15 £000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	634,957	650,205	3,143	3,328
Fair value of plan assets	(446,231)	(428,574)	0	0
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	**188,726**	**221,631**	**3,143**	**3,328**

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2015/16 £000	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	2014/15 £000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	428,574	384,946	0	0
Interest Income	14,089	17,221	0	0
Remeasurement gain/(loss):				
- The return on plan assets , excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	6,468	31,080	0	0
- Other	(248)	(254)	0	0
The effect of changes in foreign exchange rates	0	0	0	0
Contributions from employer	12,995	13,201	159	147
Contributions from employees into the scheme	3,973	3,994	0	0
Benefits paid	(18,441)	(18,590)	(159)	(147)
Other	(1,179)	(3,024)	0	0
Closing fair value of scheme assets	**446,231**	**428,574**	**0**	**0**

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

	Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme		Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2015/16 £000	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	2014/15 £000
Opening balance at 1 April	650,205	544,661	3,328	3,015
Current service cost	15,326	12,123	0	0
Interest cost	21,187	23,955	101	127
Contributions from scheme participants	3,973	3,994	0	0
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:				
- Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	0	0	0	0
- Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(37,386)	93,095	(127)	333
- Other	0	0	0	0
Past service cost	43	23	0	0
Losses/(gains) on curtailment (where relevant)	1,309	625	0	0
Benefits paid	(18,441)	(18,590)	(159)	(147)
Liabilities extinguished on settlements (where relevant)	(1,259)	(9,681)	0	0
Closing balance at 31 March	**634,957**	**650,205**	**3,143**	**3,328**

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

	Fair Value of Scheme Assets	
	2015/16	**2014/15**
	£000	**£000**
Cash & cash equivalents	15,345	20,763
Equity Instruments:		
- Consumer	48,475	47,380
- Manufacturing, materials & miscellaneous	24,859	26,371
- Energy & Utilities	5,613	6,600
- Financial Institutions	27,066	25,392
- Health & care	16,192	14,564
- Information technology & telecoms	31,165	27,209
Sub total equity	153,370	147,516
Bonds:		
- Corporate	9,089	5,947
- Government	8,966	13,451
Sub total bonds	18,055	19,398
Property:		
-Retail	15,286	17,428
- Commercial	27,608	22,930
Sub total property	42,894	40,358
Private Equity:		
UK	7,278	10,753
Overseas	55,183	52,381
Sub total private equity	62,461	63,134
Other investment funds:		
- Credit Funds	112,289	110,414
- Emerging Markets		0
- Infrastructure	35,656	23,852
- Property	6,161	3,139
Sub total other investment funds	154,106	137,405
Total assets	**446,231**	**428,574**

All scheme assets have quoted prices in active markets.

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc.

Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and discretionary benefits liabilities have been estimated by Mercers, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Lancashire County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 1 April 2013.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits	
	2015/16 **£000**	**2014/15** **£000**	**2015/16** **£000**	**2014/15** **£000**
Mortality assumptions:				
Men/Women	100%/98%	100%/98%	100%/98%	100%/98%
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:				
- Men	23.0yrs	22.9yrs	23.0yrs	22.9yrs
- Women	25.2yrs	25.4yrs	25.6yrs	25.4yrs
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:				
- Men	25.2 yrs	25.1yrs	-	-
- Women	27.9yrs	27.8yrs	-	-
Rate of inflation	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.5%	3.5%	-	3.5%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	3.6%	3.3%	3.1%	3.1%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in 2014/2015.

	Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme	
	Approximate % change in employee liability	Approximate monetary value £000
1 year increase in member life expectancy	1.94%	12,328
Rate of Inflation - increase by 1%	1.93%	12,226
Rate of increase in salaries - increase by 1%	0.46%	2,908
1% increase in real discount rate	(1.89%)	(11,995)

Impact on Authority's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employer's contributions at as constant a rate as possible. Lancashire County Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 19 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed on 31 March 2016.

The scheme will need to take account of **t**he national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Service**s** Act 2013. Under the Act, the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and the other main existing public service schemes may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014 (or service after 31 March 2015 for other main existing public service pension schemes in England and Wales). The Act provides for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework, to establish new career average revalued earnings scheme to pay pensions and other benefits to certain public servants.

The Authority anticipated to pay £12.5m expected contributions to the scheme in 2015/2016.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 19 years, 2015/2016 (19 years 2014/2015).

51. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

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

The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets, and seek to minimise potential adverse effects on resources available to fund services. Risk management is carried out by the Treasury Management Panel, under policies approved by the Executive in the Council's Annual Treasury Management Strategy. The Council provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash.

Credit risk

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

This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria. The criteria are based on information from Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poors, the three principal credit ratings agencies.

Banks – the authority will use banks which have at least the following ratings:

- Short term – F1 or equivalent
- Long term – Single A or equivalent.

Building Societies – the authority will use any UK society with assets in excess of £1.5 billion.

Local authorities – the authority will use upper tier authorities only.

Investments in UK Government – permitted due to overall security

Investments in supranational institutions – not permitted along with investments in money market funds.

The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum sum to be invested with a financial institution located within each category.

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

The Authority's potential maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies of £13.350m cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make the interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Authority's deposits but there was no evidence at 31st March 2016 that this was likely to crystallize.

The following analysis summarises the Authority's potential maximum exposure to credit risk on other financial assets, based on experience of default and uncollectability over the last five financial years, adjusted to reflect current market conditions.

	Amount at 31st March 2016 £000	Historical experience of default %	Historical experience adjusted for market conditions at 31st March 2016 %	Estimated maximum exposure to default and uncollectability At 31st March 2016 £000	Estimated maximum exposure at 31st March 2015 £000
Deposits with banks and financial institutions	13,350	0	0	0	0
Customers	45,456	35%	0	15,910	12,955

No credit limits were exceeded during the reporting period and the authority does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits.

The Authority does not generally allow credit for its customers, such that £1.7m of the £45m balance is past its due date for payment. The past due but not impaired amount can be analysed by age as follows:

	31st March 2016 £000	31st March 2015 £000
Up to 3 months	341	297
Three to six months	333	440
Six months to one year	254	249
1-2 years	317	217
2-3 years	135	214
Over 3 years	347	300
Total	**1,727**	**1,717**

Liquidity risk

The Authority has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the authority has ready access to borrowings from the money markets. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, the risk is that the Authority will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The Authority sets limits on the proportion of its fixed rate borrowing during specified periods. Except for short term temporary borrowing the strategy is to ensure that not more than 30% of loans are due to mature within any rolling five year period through a combination of careful planning of new loans taken out and (where it is economic to do so) making early repayments. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

	31st March 2016 £000	31st March 2015 £000
Less than one year	72,521	52,815
Between one and two years	1,697	8,421
Between two and five years	7,654	8,167
Between five and ten years	11,017	12,201
Between ten and fifteen years	7,696	7,696
Between fifteen and twenty years	11,736	11,736
More than twenty years	40,353	40,353
Total	**152,674**	**141,389**

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

Market risk

Interest rate risk

The Authority 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 charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise
- borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities borrowings will fall
- investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Service will rise
- investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Borrowings are not carried at fair value, so nominal gains and losses on the fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in the interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

The Authority has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. Policy is to aim to keep a maximum of 35% of its long-term borrowings in variable rate loans. During periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate loans will be repaid early to limit exposure to losses. The risk of loss is ameliorated by the fact that a proportion of government grant payable on financing costs will normally move with prevailing interest rates or the Authority’s cost of borrowing and provide compensation for a proportion of any higher costs.

The treasury management panel has an active strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the annual budget setting. Any adverse changes are updated in the budget during the year. The analysis will also advise whether new borrowing taken out is fixed or variable.

If interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would have a nil effect on the financial statements as would a 1% fall in interest rates. This assumption is based on the methodology used in the Note – Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities.

Price Risk

The Authority does not invest in equity shares but does have shareholdings to the value of £12.6m in a number of subsidiaries.

As the shareholdings have arisen in the acquisition of specific interests, the Authority is not in a position to limit its exposure to price movements by diversifying its portfolio. Instead it only acquires shareholdings in return for 'open book' arrangements with the company concerned so that the authority can monitor factors that might cause a fall in the value of specific shareholdings.

The £12.6m shares are classified as 'available for sale', meaning that all movements in price will impact on gains and losses recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. A general shift of 5% in the general price of shares (positive or negative) would thus have resulted in a £630,000 gain or loss being recognised in the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure for 2015/2016.

Foreign Exchange Risk

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

52. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES / ASSETS

Local Land Charges

A number of property research companies are seeking to claim refunds of fees paid to local authorities to access land charges data. The parties have reached agreement on the claims. The Council has agreed to pay the property search companies legal costs to be subject to detailed assessment by the way of costs only proceedings if not agreed. The Council is in discussion with the claimants about the costs aspect of the claim. At present it is not possible to put a final value on these potential liabilities and so the Council has instead recognised a contingent liability.

Municipal Mutual Insurance

The Scheme of Arrangement was enacted in 2012/2013. Although Blackpool Council is not a scheme creditor the Council will have a liability in relation to Lancashire County Council (for transferred services). It is not yet clear how much this liability will be.

NNDR Appeals

The Council has made provision for NNDR appeals based upon its best estimate of the actual liability as at the year end in known appeals. It is not possible to quantify appeals that have not yet been lodged with the Valuation Office so there is a risk to the Council that national and local appeals may have a future impact on the accounts.

As at 31st March 2016 the Council had no material contingent assets to disclose.

These assets and liabilities are not included on the Balance Sheet.

53. HERITAGE ASSETS: FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF TRANSACTIONS

Information on Illuminations and Civic Regalia is not available before 1st April 2010. The Tower Company Collection only transferred to the Authority in March 2009 and there have been no movements in the valuation. There have been no movements in the valuation of the art collection, local and family history collection and Stanley Park statues.

	2011/2012 £000	2012/2013 £000	2013/2014 £000	2014/2015 £000	2015/2016 £000
Balance B/fwd					
Cenotaph	120	120	120	120	120
Civic Regalia	381	591	591	591	591
Illuminations	250	500	500	500	500
Art Collection	500	500	500	500	500
Tower Collection	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Local Familty History Collection	400	400	400	400	400
Stanley Park Statues	653	653	653	653	653
Total Balance B/fwd	**7,304**	**7,764**	**7,764**	**7,764**	**7,764**
Additions					
Cenotaph	-	-	-	-	-
Total Additions	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Impairment/Revaluation					
Cenotaph	-	-	-	-	-
Civic Regalia	210	-	-	-	-
Illuminations	250	-	-	-	-
Total Impairment/Revaluation	**460**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Balance C/fwd					
Cenotaph	120	120	120	120	120
Civic Regalia	591	591	591	591	591
Illuminations	500	500	500	500	500
Art Collection	500	500	500	500	500
Tower Collection	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Local Familty History Collection	400	400	400	400	400
Stanley Park Statues	653	653	653	653	653
Total Balance C/fwd	**7,764**	**7,764**	**7,764**	**7,764**	**7,764**

54. HERITAGE ASSETS: FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE COLLECTION

Art Collection

The Art Collection is stored at the Grundy Art Gallery and consists of Victorian oils and watercolours, modern British paintings, contemporary prints, jewellery and video, oriental ivories, ceramics and photographs and souvenirs of Blackpool. The Council commissioned the building of the Grundy Art Gallery in 1908 following a bequest of 33 artworks from brothers John and Cuthbert Grundy, both of whom were artists. The Gallery displays artwork loaned from major UK institutions as well as its own permanent collection.

Family and Local History Collection

Mainly based at Blackpool Central Library this collection includes an extensive collection of maps, newspapers, and genealogical indices. It also includes the Cyril Critchlow Collection which is a collection of records, memorabilia and artefacts relating to Blackpool's entertainment heritage.

Tower Company Collection

This collection transferred to the Authority when it purchased Blackpool Tower in March 2009. This collection is currently stored in Coastal House. The only item in this collection which is on display in Blackpool Tower is a silver model of Blackpool Tower. The collection has many items which represent Blackpool's tourism heritage and includes many rare items.

Illuminations

This is a collection of illuminations previously used in the annual illuminations display. They are kept due to their historical and unique nature but will not form part of any future Illuminations displays. Many of the items have a "Disney studio" stamp on them which makes them unique and adds value.

Cenotaph

The Cenotaph was previously included in the balance sheet as a community asset but as it represents an historical event and is being held for the purposes of knowledge and culture the asset has been reclassified as a heritage asset.

The Cenotaph is situated on the Promenade close to North Pier.

Civic Regalia

Civic Regalia includes the following items:

Mayor's Chain –Made in 1875.

Mayoress' Chain – Made in 1897.

Deputy Mayoress' Chain – Made in 1897.

Deputy Mayor's Chain – Made 1937.

Mayoral Mace – Made in 1897.

Stanley Park Statues

These are mainly statues of lions and other sculptures in Stanley Park.

SECTION 6

SUPPLEMENTARY SINGLE ENTITY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

2014/2015		2015/2016	
£000		£000	£000
	Expenditure		
4,373	Repairs and maintenance	4,917	
5,725	Supervision and management	5,759	
396	Rent, rates , taxes and other charges	209	
6,707	Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	5,461	
64	Debt management costs	62	
364	Movement in the allowance for bad debts	220	
17,629	**Total Expenditure**		**16,628**
	Income		
(16,639)	Dwelling rents	(17,048)	
(172)	Non-dwelling rents	(159)	
(1,442)	Charges for services and facilities	(1,386)	
(272)	Contributions towards expenditure	(191)	
(18,525)	**Total Income**		**(18,784)**
(896)	**Net Cost of HRA Services as included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account**		**(2,156)**
	HRA Share of the operating income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
302	Gain/or Loss on sale of HRA non-currents assets	632	
620	Interest payable and similar charges	517	
(151)	Interest and investment income	(100)	1,049
(125)	**(Surplus) or deficit for the year on HRA services**		**(1,107)**

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT
MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2016

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
Balance on HRA Reserve at 31st March	**(5,617)**	**(4,187)**
Surplus/Deficit for the year on HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,107)	(125)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	(2,072)	(3,135)
Net increase or decrease before transfers to/from reserves	(3,179)	(3,260)
Transfers to/from reserves	1,562	1,830
Balance on HRA Reserve at 31st March	**(7,234)**	**(5,617)**

NOTES TO THE HRA STATEMENT

1. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT STOCK

The Council owned 4761 dwellings at 31st March 2016 which are analysed below:-

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
Low rise flats	2,177	2,176
Medium rise flats	768	772
High rise flats	-	257
Houses and bungalows	1,772	1,775
Multi occupied dwellings	44	43
Total	**4,761**	**5,023**

The change in the stock during the year is summarised below:-

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
Stock at 1st April	**5,023**	**5,059**
Less: Sales to tenants	12	11
Disposal to Housing Associations	319	44
Propert Conversion	-	28
Add: Right to Buy Backs	2	7
Property Conversion	1	14
Transferred from General Fund	66	26
Stock at 31st March	**4,761**	**5,023**

The Balance Sheet value of assets held in the Housing Revenue Account was as follows:-

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
Operational assets:		
Council dwellings	99,003	98,578
Other HRA	2,314	2,274
Stock at 31st March	**101,317**	**100,852**

2. DWELLING RENTS

This is the total rent due for the year after allowance is made for voids etc. During the year 5.5% of lettable properties, including hostels, were vacant (2014/15: 8.67%). This includes properties intentially held vacant pending the ongoing re-development of the Queens Park estate and other sites. During the year the average void rate for hostels was 23% (2014/15 27%).

The average rent (excluding Affordable Rent properties) was £68.81 a week in 2015/16, an increase of 1.2% over the previous year.

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
Vacant possession value of properties	281,324	280,155

The vacant possession value of dwellings held on 31st March 2016 was £281,324,000. The difference between this and the Existing Use Value (Social Housing) valuation of £99,003,000 represents the economic cost to the Government of providing council housing at less than the open market rents.

3. MAJOR REPAIRS RESERVE

The movements in the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR) are summarised below:

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
Balance at 1st April	-	-
Transferred to MRR during the year	2,421	2,274
Transfer between MRR and HRA during the year	1,562	1,830
Debits to MRR during the financial year in respect of capital expenditure:		
Houses held within HRA	(3,983)	(4,104)
Balance at 31st March	-	-

4. HOUSING REPAIRS ACCOUNT

The movement on the Housing Repairs Account during the year is summarised below:

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
Balance at 1st April	-	-
Add: Revenue contribution	4,917	4,373
Less: Expenditure in year		
Responsive repairs	(2,612)	(2,055)
Planned maintenance	(2,305)	(2,318)
Balance at 31st March	-	-

5. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE WITHIN HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
Total capital expenditure within the Housing Revenue Account on land, housing & other property	**6,955**	**11,817**
Sources of funding for the above Capital Expenditure:		
- Decent Homes Funding	-	3,500
- Usable Capital Receipts	114	101
- Revenue contrbutions (as defined in Local Government & Housing Act 1989)	2,830	1,497
- Major Repairs Reserve	3,983	4,104
- Grants and other funding	28	2,615
Total capital expenditure within the HRA	**6,955**	**11,817**

Usable capital receipts totalling £114,000 were received during the year.

6. DEPRECIATION CHARGE WITHIN THE HRA

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
Depreciation charges for:		
- Operational assets, comprising dwellings and other land and buildings	2,345	2,220
- Non-Operational assets	76	54
Total	**2,421**	**2,274**

7. IMPAIRMENT

	2015/2016 £000	2014/2015 £000
Impairment charges in respect of land, houses and other property within the HRA	3,040	4,433

The basis of valuation of the housing stock within the HRA is Existing Use Value – Social Housing. This is calculated by applying a prescribed discount factor to the Existing Use Value – Vacant Possession. The impairment charge can be mainly accounted for as a result of the adjustment for properties earmarked for future demolition and redevelopment.

8. GOVERNMENT RULES

The Localism Act 2011 resulted in the cessation of the Housing Subsidy System on 31st March 2012 and the introduction of the HRA self-financing system on 1st April 2012. One of the purposes for the introduction of the Act is to enable all local authorities to be in a position whereby they can manage their homes from their own income.

a) The Ringfence

The present rules do not allow authorities to transfer funds from the Housing Revenue Account to the General Fund or vice versa except under specified conditions. The items to be included within the Housing Revenue Account are also specified.

b) Control

A deficit balance on the Account is not allowed and the format of the Account must comply with Schedule 4 of the Act.

c) Annual Report

An annual report to tenants must be published detailing activities and performance during the year.

9. RENT ARREARS

Rent Arrears for 2015/2016 amounted to £556,000 compared to £650,000 in the previous year. During the year 2015/2016 rent arrears as a proportion of gross collectable rent (including service charges) were 2.92% (2014/2015 3.49%).

Amounts written off during the year amounted to £405,000 (2014/2015 £209,000). The total provision for bad and doubtful rental debts in the Housing Revenue Account at 31st March 2016 is £478,000 (£568,000 at 31st March 2015). This provision has been calculated in accordance with the Housing Revenue Account (Arrears of Rents and Charges) Directions 1990.

COLLECTION FUND 2015/2016

COLLECTION FUND STATEMENT 2015/2016

The Collection Fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and distribution to local authorities and the Government of council tax and non-domestic rates.

2014/2015 £000 Council Tax	2014/2015 £000 NNDR	2014/2015 £000 Total		2015/2016 £000 Council Tax	2015/2016 £000 NNDR	2015/2016 £000 Total
			INCOME			
56,618		56,618	Council Tax Receivable	56,120		56,120
	47,775	47,775	Business Rates Receivable		45,580	45,580
56,618	**47,775**	**104,393**	**TOTAL INCOME**	**56,120**	**45,580**	**101,700**
			EXPENDITURE			
			Apportionment of previous year's surplus/deficit			
	(964)	(964)	Central Government		(3,766)	(3,766)
452	(945)	(493)	Blackpool Council	1,753	(3,690)	(1,937)
22	(19)	3	Lancashire Fire Authority	85	(75)	10
53		53	Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	209		209
			Precepts, Demands and Shares			
	24,121	24,121	Central Government		24,487	24,487
45,351	23,638	68,989	Blackpool Council	45,535	23,997	69,532
2,210	482	2,692	Lancashire Fire Authority	2,261	490	2,751
5,416		5,416	Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	5,546		5,546
			Charges to Collection Fund			
(1,827)	(1,769)	(3,596)	less: Write offs of uncollectable amounts	(2,222)	(1,676)	(3,898)
2,380	2,024	4,404	less: Increase/Decrease in BDP	2,797	1,700	4,497
	5,933	5,933	less:Increase/Decrease in Provision for Appeals		(3,274)	(3,274)
	277	277	less:Cost of Collection		275	275
	1,066	1,066	less: Transitional Protection Payments		340	340
54,057	**53,844**	**107,901**	**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**	**55,964**	**38,808**	**94,772**
(2,561)	**6,069**	**3,508**	**(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR**	**(156)**	**(6,772)**	**(6,928)**
			COLLECTION FUND BALANCE			
(1,522)	5,283	3,761	Fund balance at 1st April (Surplus)/Deficit	(4,083)	11,352	7,269
(4,083)	**11,352**	**7,269**	**DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AS AT 31ST MARCH**	**(4,239)**	**4,580**	**341**
			Allocated to:			
(3,490)	5,562	2,072	- Blackpool Council	(3,625)	2,244	(1,381)
(172)	114	(58)	- Lancashire Fire Authority	(177)	46	(131)
(421)		(421)	-Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	(437)		(437)
	5,676	5,676	- Central Government		2,290	2,290
(4,083)	**11,352**	**7,269**	**TOTAL**	**(4,239)**	**4,580**	**341**

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

1. GENERAL

The Collection Fund statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection of council tax from taxpayers and non-domestic rates from business rate payers. The Council has a statutory requirement to operate a Collection Fund separate account to the General Fund. The Collection Fund is distributed between the Council, Central Government, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Lancashire Fire Authority.

From 1st April 2013, the local government finance regime was revised with the introduction of a retained business rates scheme. The main aim of the scheme is to give Councils a greater incentive to grow businesses in the area. It does, however, also increase the financial risk due to non-collection and the volatility of the NNDR tax base.

The scheme allows Councils to retain 49% of the total NNDR received. The remaining 51% is paid to Central Government (50%) and Lancashire Fire Authority (1%).

NNDR surpluses and deficits are apportioned/charged to the relevant preceptors in the following financial year.

2. COUNCIL TAX

The Council as a billing authority is required to set a tax base for each billing year by 31st January of the previous year. The council tax base represents the number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band (adjusted for discounts etc) multiplied by a set proportion to give the number of Band D equivalents.

The tax base is not constant. The number of properties eligible for discounts varies during the year. The number of properties on the valuation list also varies during the year owing to new properties being occupied and others being demolished. As a result the amount receivable from council tax payers in the year varies from the estimated amount. This will result in a surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund in respect of council tax. Surplus and deficits on the Collection Fund are shared between the Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Lancashire Fire Authority in proportion to their budgets. The Council’s share of any surplus/deficit is used to reduce/increase the council tax bills in the subsequent financial year.

The Council tax base for 2015/2016 was 34,866 (34,725 in 2014/2015). This increase is as a result of the Government’s Council Tax Localisation changes which revised the way Central Government pay Council Tax benefit compensation to the Council. From 1st April 2013 Council Tax Benefit Subsidy is no longer paid to the Council by Central Government and has been replaced by the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which is administered by each authority.

The tax base for 2015/2016 was calculated as follows:

Band	Chargeable Dwellings	Proportion of Band D Tax	Equivalent Band D Dwellings
A Reduced	54	5/9	30
A	15,499	6/9	10,333
B	14,069	7/9	10,943
C	8,476	8/9	7,534
D	3,756	1	3,756
E	1,549	11/9	1,893
F	470	13/9	679
G	223	15/9	372
H	19	18/9	38
Less allowances for non collection			712
Tax Base for the Calculation of Council Tax			**34,866**

3. NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES

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

In 2013/2014 the administration of NNDR changed following the introduction of a business rate retention scheme which aims to give councils greater incentive to grow businesses but also increases the financial risk due to volatility and non-collection of rates. Instead of paying NNDR to the central pool, local authorities retain a proportion of collectable rates due. Blackpool Council’s local share is 49%. The remainder is distributed to the preceptors which are Central Government (50%) and Lancashire Fire Authority (1%).

The business rates shares payable for 2015/2016 were estimated before the start of the financial year as £24.487m (£24.121m in 2014/15) to Central Government, £0.490m (£0.482m in 2014/15) to Lancashire Fire Authority and £23.997m (£23.638m in 2014/15) to Blackpool Council. These sums have been paid in 2015/2016 and charged to the Collection Fund in year.

When the scheme was introduced, Central Government set a baseline level for each authority identifying the expected level of retained business rates and a top up or tariff amount to ensure that all local authorities receive their baseline amount. Tariffs due from authorities payable to Central Government are used to finance the top ups to those authorities who do not achieve their targeted baseline funding. In this respect Blackpool received top up grant to the General Fund in 2015/2016 to the value of £19.163m (£18.804m in 2014/2015).

In addition to the local management of business rates, authorities are expected to finance appeals made in respect of rateable values as defined by VO. Authorities are required to make a provision for these amounts. Appeals are charged and provided for in proportion to precepting shares. The total provision charged to the Collection Fund for 2015/2016 has been calculated at £6.764m (£10.038m in 2014/2015).

For 2015/2016, the total non-domestic rateable value at the year- end is £130m. The national multiplier for 2015/2016 was 49.3p (47.1p in 2014/2015) for qualifying small businesses and the standard multiplier being 48.0p (48.2p in 2014/2015) for all other businesses.

4. ALLOCATION OF CLOSING BALANCES

The allocation of the closing balances for 2015/2016 between the preceptors is as follows:

	CENTRAL GOVERNMENT £000	BLACKPOOL COUNCIL £000	LANCASHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY £000	POLICE AUTHORITY £000	TOTAL £000
COUNCIL TAX					
Arrears at 31st March 2016		11,508	555	1,375	**13,438**
Receipts in Advance		(577)	(27)	(69)	**(673)**
Bad Debt Provision		(4,488)	(216)	(536)	**(5,240)**
Surplus/Deficit		(3,625)	(177)	(437)	**(4,239)**
BUSINESS RATES					
Arrears at 31st March 2016	2,307	2,261	46		**4,614**
Receipts in Advance	(87)	(85)	(2)		**(174)**
Bad Debt Provision	(937)	(918)	(19)		**(1,874)**
Appeals	(3,382)	(3,314)	(68)		**(6,764)**
Surplus/Deficit	2,290	2,244	46		**4,580**

SECTION 7

GROUP ACCOUNTS 2015/2016

7.0 INTRODUCTION

The Group Accounts show the combined overall financial position of the Council, its subsidiary companies and its associates.

Subsidiaries are where the Council exercises control. Blackpool Transport Services, Blackpool Operating Company and Blackpool Coastal Housing are 100% owned by the Council and are therefore classified as subsidiaries. They are incorporated into the accounts on a line-by-line basis.

Associates are where the Council exercises significant influence. Marketing Lancashire and The Via Partnership are classified as such and are incorporated into the accounts on an equity basis.

Subsidiaries

Blackpool Transport Services

Blackpool Transport Services Limited was set up in accordance with the provisions of the Transport Act 1985 to operate the Council's municipal bus operation. The company provides a comprehensive passenger transport service in the Fylde coast area through its bus and tram operations.

Blackpool Operating Company

The Council purchased the operation of the Sandcastle Waterpark from a private company on 20th June 2003 and now wholly owns both the building and the commercial operator - Blackpool Operating Company Limited (BOC). The Council's shares in Blackpool Operating Company are valued at £2.

Blackpool Coastal Housing

Blackpool Coastal Housing is an ALMO (arms-length management organisation) of the Council and was formed on 15th January 2007. The company's principal activities are to manage and maintain the housing stock of the Council.

Blackpool Entertainment Company

The Council purchased the operation of the Winter Gardens from a private company on 16th May 2014 and now wholly owns both the building and the commercial operator - Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited (BECL). The Council's shares in BECL are valued at £1. BECL's accounts from 16th May 2014 to 31st March 2015 are included in the group accounts as prior year comparators.

Blackpool Housing Company

Blackpool Housing Company Limited was set up on 26th January 2015. The company is a housing regeneration company and is wholly owned by the Council. At 31st March 2015 the company had not started trading and is therefore not included in the group accounts. The Council's shares in the company are valued at £1,600,000.

Marketing Blackpool Limited

On 1st April 2013 the Council's tourism section became a limited company called Marketing Blackpool. The company was 100% wholly owned by the Council. However at 10th January 2014 Marketing Blackpool ceased to trade and became a Council service again. All costs and income relating to Marketing Blackpool are included in the Council's single entity accounts.

Associates

Marketing Lancashire

Marketing Lancashire (previously known as Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board) is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. The Council has 43% of the voting rights. It supports businesses in the Lancashire and Blackpool area by representing their interests regionally and nationally, by co-ordinating marketing activity, managing and developing the tourism product and working in partnership with industry. Activities in commercial membership, business support, "Welcome to Excellence" training, visitors services and marketing activity are all designed to improve quality and achieve common goals.

The Via Partnership

The Via Partnership (previously known as CX Limited) is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. The Council has 30% of the voting rights. CXL supplies outsourced careers and personal development services to young people and adults and provides workforce training and development.

In December 2015 Via Partnership went into administration and therefore ceased to operate. No accounts have been produced for the 2015/16 financial year.

CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – GROUP

GROUP MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

2015/2016

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	HRA £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Reserves £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Group Reserves £000	Total Reserves £000
Balance as at 31st March 2015	**(11,242)**	**(46,024)**	**(5,617)**	**(3,431)**	**-**	**(4,388)**	**(70,702)**	**-212,453**	**(283,155)**	**(533)**	**(283,688)**
Movements in Reserves in 2015/2016											
Surplus or Deficit on the provision of services	26,312	-	(1,107)	-	-	-	**25,205**	-	**25,205**	1,188	**26,393**
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(80,738)	**(80,738)**	(1,540)	**(82,278)**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**26,312**	**-**	**(1,107)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**25,205**	**(80,738)**	**(55,533)**	**(352)**	**(55,885)**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(29,739)	-	(2,072)	-	3,983	-	**(27,828)**	27,828	-	-	-
Net increase or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	**(3,427)**	**-**	**(3,179)**	**-**	**3,983**	**-**	**(2,623)**	**(52,910)**	**(55,533)**	**(352)**	**(55,885)**
Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	4,164	3,793	1,562	(394)	(3,983)	(114)	**5,028**	(5,028)	-	-	-
Increase/Decrease in 2015/2016	**737**	**3,793**	**(1,617)**	**(394)**	**-**	**(114)**	**2,405**	**(57,938)**	**(55,533)**	**(352)**	**(55,885)**
Balance as at 31st March 2016	**(10,505)**	**(42,231)**	**(7,234)**	**(3,825)**	**-**	**(4,502)**	**(68,297)**	**(270,391)**	**(338,688)**	**(885)**	**(339,573)**

2014/2015

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	HRA £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Reserves £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Group Reserves £000	Total Reserves £000
Balance as at 31st March 2014	**(10,078)**	**(49,971)**	**(4,187)**	**(3,408)**	**-**	**(6,993)**	**(74,637)**	**(322,106)**	**(396,743)**	**(2,081)**	**(398,824)**
Movements in Reserves in 2014/2015											
Surplus or Deficit on the provision of services	48,211		(125)				**48,086**		**48,086**	**2,805**	**50,891**
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure							-	65,502	**65,502**	**(1,257)**	**64,245**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**48,211**	**-**	**(125)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**48,086**	**65,502**	**113,588**	**1,548**	**115,136**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(52,624)		(3,135)		4,104		**(51,655)**	51,655	-		-
Net increase or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	**(4,413)**	**-**	**(3,260)**	**-**	**4,104**	**-**	**(3,569)**	**117,157**	**113,588**	**1,548**	**115,136**
Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	3,249	3,947	1,830	(23)	(4,104)	2,605	**7,504**	(7,504)	-		-
Increase/Decrease in 2014/2015	**(1,164)**	**3,947**	**(1,430)**	**(23)**	**-**	**2,605**	**3,935**	**109,653**	**113,588**	**1,548**	**115,136**
Balance as at 31st March 2015	**(11,242)**	**(46,024)**	**(5,617)**	**(3,431)**	**-**	**(4,388)**	**(70,702)**	**(212,453)**	**(283,155)**	**(533)**	**(283,688)**

GROUP COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2014/2015				2015/2016		
Gross Expenditure £000	**Gross Income £000**	**Net Expenditure**		**Gross Expenditure £000**	**Gross Income £000**	**Net Expenditure £000**
13,127	(3,316)	9,811	Central Services to the Public	19,831	(9,113)	10,718
25,968	(17,105)	8,863	Cultural and Related Services	33,087	(18,893)	14,194
17,622	5,297	22,919	Environment and Regulatory Services	32,636	(9,586)	23,050
2,276	(1,304)	972	Planning Services	2,669	(1,466)	1,203
118,898	(78,397)	40,501	Childrens and Education Services	127,482	(83,232)	44,250
57,302	(38,078)	19,224	Highways and Transport Services	61,081	(40,204)	20,877
17,629	(18,525)	(896)	Local Authority Housing (HRA)	16,628	(18,784)	(2,156)
91,632	(86,675)	4,957	Other Housing Services	88,485	(89,105)	(620)
70,857	(24,608)	46,249	Adult Social Care	69,863	(26,535)	43,328
2,504	(2,451)	53	Corporate and Democratic Core	18,927	(18,909)	18
15,647	(17,337)	(1,690)	Public Health	2,854	(5,903)	(3,049)
(5,596)	3,560	(2,036)	Non-Distributed Cost	3,383	(404)	2,979
427,866	**(278,939)**	**148,927**	**Cost of Services**	**476,926**	**(322,134)**	**154,792**
		53,841	Other Operating Expenditure			5,518
		4,876	Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure - Other			6,200
		1,550	Income & Expenditure in relation to Investment Properties and changes in their fair value			(126)
		(158,271)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income - Other			(139,993)
		50,923	**(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services**			**26,391**
		(40)	Share of (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services by Associates			2
		8	Tax of Subsidiaries			-
		50,891	**Group (Surplus)/Deficit**			**26,393**
		2,725	Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets			(26,836)
		(2,148)	Impairment losses on non-current assets charged to Revalution Reserve			(14,585)
		(300)	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets			(1,500)
		953	Movement on financial instruments adjustment account			(45)
		62,229	Actuarial gains / losses on pension assets / liabilities			(36,702)
		786	Other Movements			(2,610)
		64,245	**Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**			**(82,278)**
		115,136	**Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**			**(55,885)**

GROUP BALANCE SHEET

31st March 2015 £000		Notes	31st March 2016 £000
769,880	Property, Plant and Equipment	G3	775,303
7,764	Heritage Assets		7,764
13,398	Investment Property		14,667
97	Intangible Assets		65
247	Net share of Associates		124
763	Assets Held for Sale		1,551
7,415	Long Term Investments		8,921
10,258	Long Term Debtors		9,304
809,822	**Long Term Assets**		**817,699**
550	Short Term Assets Held for Sale		-
1,021	Inventories		1,225
37,580	Short Term Debtors	G5	42,866
564	Payments in Advance		1,995
350	Short Term Investments		-
10,884	Cash and Cash Equivalents	G4	19,950
50,949	**Current Assets**		**66,036**
(52,815)	Short Term Borrowing		(72,126)
(49,593)	Short Term Creditors	G6	(49,128)
(13,100)	Receipts in Advance		(15,285)
(17,834)	Provisions		(16,143)
(133,342)	**Current Liabilities**		**(152,682)**
(83,864)	Long Term Creditors		(79,739)
(88,023)	Long term Borrowing		(80,144)
(260,507)	Other Long Term Liabilities		(223,712)
(11,347)	Capital Grants in Advance		(7,885)
(443,741)	**Long Term Liabilities**		**(391,480)**
283,688	**Net Assets**		**339,573**
(71,235)	Usable Reserves		(69,182)
(212,453)	Unusable Reserves		(270,391)
(283,688)	**Total Reserves**		**(339,573)**

GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT

2014/2015 £000		2015/2016 £000
50,891	**Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services**	**26,393**
(15,436)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	(20,634)
(62,161)	Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	(19,518)
(26,706)	**Net cash flows from Operating Activities**	**(13,759)**
18,641	Investing Activities	10,313
134	Financing Activities	(688)
(7,931)	**Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents**	**(4,134)**
(120,255)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	(128,186)
(128,186)	**Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period**	**(132,320)**

NOTES TO THE GROUP ACCOUNTS

G1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The group accounts include the Council's share of the operating results, assets and liabilities of each group entity's accounts. Subsidiaries are accounted for on an acquisition basis and incorporated line-by-line, writing out inter-group transactions. Associates are incorporated by accounting for the Council's share of their operating results in the group income and expenditure accounts and of their assets in the balance sheet.

G2. INTER GROUP TRANSACTIONS

Certain figures from the balance sheets of Group members have been taken out of the consolidated position as they represent amounts outstanding within the Group and therefore cancel each other out in the balance sheet. The adjustments are as follows:

i) The Council owns shares to the value of £2,789,000 in Blackpool Transport. This has been taken out of long term investments and capital and reserves.

ii) The Council owns shares to the value of £1,600,000 in Blackpool Housing Company. This has been taken out of long term investments and capital and reserves.

iii) An amount of £728,304 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Blackpool Operating Company has been taken out of debtors and creditors.

iv) An amount of £1,109,067 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Blackpool Coastal Housing has been taken out of debtors and creditors.

v) An amount of £2,077,174 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Blackpool Entertainment Company has been taken out of debtors and creditors.

vi) An amount of £773,280 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Blackpool Housing Company has been taken out of debtors and creditors.

G3. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	NBV 31st March 2016 £000	NBV 31st March 2015 £000
Property,Plant & Equipment held by the Council	764,054	759,842
Property,Plant & Equipment held by		
- Blackpool Transport Services	7,526	8,558
- Blackpool Operating Company	1,171	1,235
- Blackpool Coastal Housing	113	12
- Blackpool Entertainment Company	308	233
- Blackpool Housing Company	2,131	0
Total	**775,303**	**769,880**

G4. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The balance of cash and cash equivalents is made up of the following elements:

	2015/16 £000	2014/15 £000
Cash and cash equivalents held by the Council	12,594	3,224
Cash and cash equivalents held by;-		
- Blackpool Transport Services	3,274	3,375
- Blackpool Operating Company	134	116
- Blackpool Coastal Housing	2,271	1,739
- Blackpool Entertainment Company	1555	2430
- Blackpool Housing Company	122	0
Total	**19,950**	**10,884**

G5. SHORT-TERM DEBTORS

The group short-term debtors are made up of the following amounts:

	2015/16 £000	2014/15 £000
Debtors - single entity accounts	43,600	36,450
Debtors held by;-		
- Blackpool Transport Services	2,155	1,758
- Blackpool Operating Company	298	318
- Blackpool Coastal Housing	637	1,145
- Blackpool Entertainment Company	862	606
- Blackpool Housing Company	2	0
Removal of intra group debtors	(4,688)	(2,697)
Total	**42,866**	**37,580**

G6. SHORT-TERM CREDITORS

The group short-term creditors are made up of the following amounts:

	2015/16 £000	2014/15 £000
Creditors - single entity accounts	(44,606)	(41,713)
Creditors held by;-		
- Blackpool Transport Services	(2,534)	(2,029)
- Blackpool Operating Company	(1,226)	(1,617)
- Blackpool Coastal Housing	(2,134)	(2,214)
- Blackpool Entertainment Company	(2,447)	(4,717)
- Blackpool Housing Company	(869)	0
Removal of intra group creditors	4,688	2,697
Total	**(49,128)**	**(49,593)**

SECTION 8

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Acknowledgement of Responsibility

Blackpool Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards. It needs to ensure that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015) require the Council to conduct a review, at least once a year, on the effectiveness of its system of internal control and include an Annual Governance Statement reporting on the review with the Statement of Accounts.

The Principles of Good Governance

The CIPFA Delivering Good Governance publication (2016) defines the various principles of good governance in the public sector and how they relate to each other and are defined as:

- Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law.
- Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
- Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.
- Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
- Developing the Council's capacity, including its leadership and the individuals within it.
- Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
- Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit, to deliver effective accountability.

The governance framework at Blackpool Council comprises the systems and processes, culture and values which the Council has adopted in order to deliver on the above principles. 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 and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The governance framework incorporated into this report has been in place at Blackpool Council for the year ended 31st March 2016 and up to the date of the approval for the statement of accounts for that year.

The Governance Framework

The key elements of the structures and processes that comprise Blackpool Council's governance arrangements are summarised below.

Code of Conduct and Behaviours

Codes of Conduct are in place which define standards of behaviours for elected members and officers. Adherence to these is a key part of good governance. These are further supported by the Council's Whistleblowing Policy, Registers of Interests and Gifts and Hospitality Policies. Processes are in place to deal with non-compliance through the Council's Disciplinary Policy for Officers and the Monitoring Officer and/or Standards Committee for Elected Members.

The Council has developed a set of values which all elected members and officers should adhere to when carrying out their duties and these include being accountable, compassionate, delivering quality services, being trustworthy and fair. Work commenced in the year to develop a Leadership Charter which will set out the principles of behaviours for managers and this is being produced in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team.

In the year a set of Ethical Principles was developed which has further enhanced the arrangements in place to ensure that the Council behaves in an ethical manner.

The Council strives to deliver equal opportunities to all and equality impact assessments form a part of the decision making process. A dedicated Equalities and Diversity Team is in place at the Council to support managers in discharging their duties.

Commitment to Openness, Communication and Consultation

The Council complies with the Transparency Agenda and provides a wide range of information in the public domain through its website. Key messages are also communicated to residents in the Your Blackpool publication which is delivered to all Blackpool households on a quarterly basis. Social media is used on a regular basis and is proving an effective way to provide the community with important information from the Council. The public are able to attend and speak at Committee meetings and Full Council is broadcast on the Council's website.

The Council consults and engages with a diverse cross-section of the community to help to ensure that their views are considered. Examples of consultation exercises include household surveys and the Council Couch where Council Officers go out into the community to listen to what residents have to say.

Developing, Communicating and Translating the Vision

The Council Plan 2015-2020 sets out the vision for Blackpool to be *'The UK's number one family resort with a thriving economy that supports a happy and healthy community who are proud of this unique town'*. This is supported by the two priorities for the Council which are:

- The Economy: Maximising Growth and Opportunity across Blackpool.
- Communities: Creating Stronger Communities and Increasing Resilience.

The length of the Council Plan has been reduced and the style in which the plan is written reviewed to ensure that the document is accessible and understandable to employees and residents and the plan contents were agreed following a consultation exercise.

A staff conference was held in the year, hosted by the Chief Executive, which formally launched the plan and the Council's priorities to employees.

Beneath each priority the plan details the key challenges faced by Blackpool and the key projects and schemes which will be implemented to address these issues.

The Council Plan seeks to address the big issues and policy drivers facing local government. The Council priorities feed into directorate business plans and are a key tool for managers to use when developing business plans.

Performance Management

A Policy Framework is in place which sets out the corporate strategies and plans which are in place and the Corporate Development Team have a role in the production, monitoring and management of these key documents.

The Council has reviewed and refined its performance management system and strategic performance is reported to the Corporate Leadership Team and the relevant Scrutiny Committees with local performance indicators being managed through the Business Planning Process.

In order to improve performance the Council participates in peer reviews and benchmarking exercises to learn from others and to ensure that services delivered are value for money.

Staff performance is managed through team meetings, one to ones and the Individual Performance Appraisal process. A Capability Policy is in place to manage the performance of employees who are not delivering to the appropriate standard.

Roles and Responsibilities

Responsibilities and functions are in place for each Council Committee including Licensing, Planning, Standards, Scrutiny and Audit Committee. These are reviewed annually with any changes made at the Council's Annual Meeting to ensure that they continue to be fit for purpose. The Executive has agreed a set of criteria relating to the levels of decision making which provide clarity relating to levels of decision making which provide clarity and consistency for decision makers. This has also been reviewed and refined in the last twelve months.

All Council Officers, including the Corporate Leadership Team, have a job description which sets out their roles and responsibilities. Individual objectives for each officer are then part of the Individual Performance Appraisal process and managers have an additional mandatory set of manager objectives which they must conform with.

The Council's Constitution, including the Scheme of Delegation, sets out the arrangements and protocols which are in place to enable effective communication within the authority and they also identify arrangements for working with partners.

The Council has in place effective arrangements to discharge the Head of Paid Service function and this role is undertaken by the Chief Executive.

The Council has designated a Monitoring Officer and Deputy with appropriate qualifications and experience. The Monitoring Officer has the specific duty to ensure that the Council, its officers and its Elected Members maintain the highest standards in all they do and is responsible to Blackpool Council for ensuring that governance procedures are followed and all applicable statutes and regulations are complied with.

Decision Making

The Constitution sets out the functions and responsibilities of the Council, the Executive and Committees. Included in this are the delegation arrangements adopted by the Council and the Executive and this is reviewed on a regular basis.

All Executive Decisions contain all relevant policy implications including financial, risk management, human resources, equality analysis, ethical considerations, legal considerations and links to Council priorities. All Executive Decisions are subject to finance and legal approval before they are taken forward for a decision to be made. The Monitoring Officer or a designated representative, receive all decisions before they are processed and therefore are able to check the robustness of data quality prior to a decision being submitted for formal approval.

Cabinet Member and relevant Officer Decisions are published to meet transparency requirements and inform the public.

A framework for undertaking compliance checks to ensure that decision making processes are appropriate has been developed and these reviews are jointly carried out by Internal Audit and Democratic Governance and the findings reported to Audit Committee.

Compliance with relevant Laws, Regulations, Internal Policies and Procedures

A wide range of corporate policies and procedures are in place to ensure compliance with laws and regulations. These cover all key areas including financial management, human resources, procurement, contract management, risk management, business continuity, data protection, health and safety management arrangements and safeguarding arrangements.

Managers are responsible for ensuring that their service adheres to the relevant policies and procedures and Disciplinary and Capability Procedures are in place to deal with non-compliance.

Internal and external audit arrangements are in place to provide a reasonable level of assurance with compliance of the Council's system of internal control and the Health and Safety Team also undertake a programme of audits to ensure that managers maintain their manuals.

Mandatory training is delivered through the I-pool online system to advise staff of legislative requirements covering Induction, Child Sexual Exploitation, Customer Care, Data Protection Awareness, Equality and Diversity Awareness, Fire Safety Awareness, ICT Security, Infection Control, Safeguarding and Protection of Adults, Safeguarding Children and You and Your Workstation. Completion rates are reported to the Corporate Leadership Team so that action can be taken in services where non-completion is evident.

The Council's Monitoring Officer has a role in ensuring that the Council acts within the remit of relevant law and regulations and that a robust democratic process is maintained.

A number of arrangements are in place to deal with potential breaches to compliance and these include a Data Breach Panel, Corporate Complaints Panel, Serious Case Reviews and a Disclosure and Barring Service Panel. These are chaired independently of the service which has breached requirements to ensure that objective decisions can be taken.

Financial Management

The Council has an appropriately qualified and experienced designated Chief Financial Officer who holds Section 151 responsibilities and a deputy has also been appointed. The Chief Financial Officer has arrangements in place for financial management, financial reporting and value for money which is assessed annually by the Council's external auditors.

Financial Regulations are in place which are supported by a Scheme of Delegation to ensure that managers are aware of the level of expenditure they are able to authorise.

Monthly financial monitoring reports, starting from month 0, are reported to the Corporate Leadership Team, the Executive and Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

The Council's financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2016).

The Council facilitates a Public Inspection of the Accounts and publishes details of all payment transactions in line with the requirements of the Transparency Code.

Audit Arrangements

An Audit Committee is in place which is independent of the scrutiny function. As a full committee of the Council it is able to discharge all the core functions of an Audit Committee outlined in the CIPFA Audit Committee: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities (2013), from which the Committee has adopted the model terms of reference. Over the past twelve months that Chair of the Audit Committee has taken steps to raise the profile of the Audit Committee and has presented a report to Full Council on the work of the Committee and has proactively requested Chief Officers to attend Committee to be challenged and held to account where controls issues have been identified.

Modular training is delivered prior to each Audit Committee meeting to ensure that members have the appropriate skills and knowledge to effectively discharge their duties. The Audit Committee undertake periodic self-assessments of their performance to identify strengths and areas for development.

The Council has an internal audit team who prepare an Annual Internal Audit Plan which is approved by the Corporate Leadership Team and Audit Committee. This includes a balance of risk and compliance work. The assurance statement for each audit is reported quarterly to the Audit Committee.

In 2015/16 the Chief Internal Auditor's Annual Audit Opinion was that sufficient assurance work was undertaken to provide a reasonable conclusion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the control environment and that the overall control environment at the Council is adequate.

The Council's internal audit arrangements broadly conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (2010) and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

An external review of the Council's compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards is planned for 2016/17.

External audit arrangements are in place and they are invited to attend Audit Committee on a regular basis to present the findings of their work and raise any concerns which they may have. Effective working relationships are in place with external audit which help ensure that the Council provides timely support, information and responses to the external auditors and considers audit findings and recommendations.

Risk Management

A Corporate Risk Management Group is in place to coordinate and promote risk management activity in line with the Council's Risk Management Framework 2014-2017. It is supported by directorate and thematic risk management groups. An example of the work completed by these groups would be the review and relaunch of the Driving at Work Arrangements by the Driving at Work Risk Management Group due to the risks associated with driving at work and the number of insurance claims which the Council receives in this area.

All directorates have nominated risk champions to promote best practice in their areas and ensure that service level risk registers are in place and that risk registers are developed for major projects and partnerships where appropriate.

The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed by the Corporate Leadership Team every six-months and considered by the Audit Committee annually. Chief Officers identified in the Strategic Risk Register are required to attend Audit Committee to explain how the risks are being managed and what further mitigating controls may be required.

Risk management should be considered for all decisions made by the Council and these are evidenced in the dedicated section on the decision making template.

A Corporate Business Continuity Plan and Critical Activities List are in place and this is supported by service level business continuity plans. Significant work has been undertaken in 2015/16 to improve the quality of the business continuity plans in place.

Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Arrangements

The Council has developed counter fraud and anti-corruption arrangements in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption (2014). An Anti-Fraud and Corruption Statement is in place and this is approved by the Corporate Leadership Team and Audit Committee on an annual basis. Any suspected instance of fraud or corruption is reported to the Chief Internal Auditor so that an appropriate investigation into the matter can be undertaken.

A dedicated Counter Fraud Team is in place which will deal with a range of corporate fraud issues and work has commenced on areas of perceived high risk such as insurance fraud. A fraud risk register is in place and this will be further enhanced to continue to inform the Proactive Anti-Fraud Plan.

The Council has appropriate procedures in place to deal with the risk of money laundering and also to raise awareness of the Bribery Act and ensure that appropriate controls are in place to reduce the risk.

The Council participates in the National Fraud Initiative and progress against this, and outcomes, are reported to Audit Committee on quarterly basis.

A corporate group is in place to review the Council's use of covert surveillance and to ensure compliance with the Regulatory of Powers Act (2000). Where covert surveillance is used by the Council this is reported to Audit Committee each quarter to aid with transparency.

Scrutiny Arrangements

Two Scrutiny Committees are in place which aligns to the Council's priorities including a Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee and a Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee. These committees help empower elected members and provide them with the opportunity to challenge and hold decision makers to account. Both Committees meet on a regular basis and the minutes of the meetings and supporting documentation are published.

Learning and Development

The Council has obtained Silver Investors in People status demonstrating its commitment to the provision of training to help develop the workforce. A wide range of training is available corporately which is informed from development needs identified in the Individual Performance Appraisal. The Council is an accredited centre for the Institute of Leadership and Management and there has been a commitment to leadership development throughout the year for senior officer and elected members. The attainment of professional qualifications in relevant disciplines is encouraged and the Council is committed to funding studies where appropriate.

A People Strategy is in place and steps are being taken to better align workforce planning with the business plan process however it is recognised that this is in its infancy. An aspiring leadership programme has been delivered to aid with succession planning and provide a development opportunity for managers wishing to progress in the organisation.

The Council runs an apprentice programme to encourage young people and those who may have struggled to access work previously to engage in employment with the Council. Project Search, the job scheme for young people with learning disabilities also ran for a second year where each of the students learn personal and job skills for a two month period before embarking on work placements to find a suitable job for them.

An induction programme is in place for all elected members. A three year development plan is in place for elected members which helps deliver training to elected members to help them fulfil their role. All elected members have a personal development plan which helps to identify training needs.

Partnerships and Joint Working

The Council is involved in a number of key projects with partner organisations in order to transform the way in which services are delivered. Examples include the Better Start Project and Head Start Project which focus on early intervention in order to build resilience in the community. Boards with representation from partner organisations are also in place for key risks faced by the Council to introduce an element of independence and challenge. Examples including the "Getting to Good Board" which aims to address the way in which children's social care is delivered and the Challenge Board to improve educational attainment.

Arrangements are in place for the provision of Shared Services with Fylde Borough Council in a number of areas, the most significant being the Revenues and Benefits Service. The Council is also working jointly with other Fylde Coast authorities on the development of an enterprise zone to improve the local economy.

The Council has a number of wholly-owned companies and a Good Governance Framework has been developed has been rolled-out across each company in order to strengthen the governance arrangements in place and ensure that the Council's vision for the town, as the shareholder, is able to form part of the direction of travel of each company. The Framework also gives assurance that each company is operating in an effective and accountable way.

Annual Review of Effectiveness

Blackpool Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework, including the system of internal control. The stages included in the review process and the key findings from each are summarised below.

Annual Governance Statement Review Group

An Annual Governance Statement Review Group was established in February 2016 and has led on the review of effectiveness and the production of the Annual Governance Statement, including reviewing the 2014/15 statement to ensure that governance issues identified have subsequently been addressed. This group comprised of the Chief Internal Auditor, Director of Governance and Partnerships, Head of Democratic Governance and Head of Corporate Development, Engagement and Communications.

Elected Member Workshop

A workshop was held on the 15th March 2016 with representation from the Audit Committee, Scrutiny Committee, Standards Committee and Cabinet and facilitated by the Chief Internal Auditor, Head of Democratic Governance and Head of Corporate Development, Engagement and Communications.

The workshop was based around the principles of good governance and elected members were asked to establish what arrangements are already in place and these have been reflected in the overview of the governance framework included in this report. Elected members were also asked to identify areas for further development and these have been incorporated into the significant governance issues action plan.

Key Officer Workshop

A workshop was held on the 25th April 2016 with key officers involved in governance. This included the Chief Internal Auditor, Director of Governance and Partnerships, Head of Democratic Governance, Head of Organisation and Workforce Development, Head of ICT, Chief Accountant and Corporate Development Manager.

The workshop was based around the principles of good governance and an assessment was made as to what controls already form part of the Council's governance framework and also areas which needed further development. This process identified a number of areas of good practice and these have been summarised in the governance framework outlined earlier in this report and areas for improvement have been captured in the significant governance issues action plan.

Control Self-Assessment Questionnaire

The Corporate Leadership Team was required to complete a control self-assessment questionnaire providing assurance that their directorates were compliant with a number of key controls. Each Director was asked to highlight the three most significant control issues faced over the next twelve months and the risks have been incorporated into the significant governance issues action plan.

Assurance Statement

The results of the effectiveness of the governance framework have been considered by the Corporate Leadership Team and Audit Committee who have determined that the arrangements are fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework.

Significant Governance Issues

Actions have been identified as part of the 2015/16 review of the effectiveness of the governance framework and these are captured in the following table. It should be noted that some of the issues identified are not deemed as significant but have been included to aid openness and transparency.

Issue	Actions	Responsible Officer
Further embed arrangements in place relating to conduct and behaviours to raise awareness and ensure compliance.	Raise awareness of the whistleblowing policy to employees, elected members and the public.	Chief Executive
	Further promote the Council's values and embed the Leadership Charter.	
	Review the Ethical Principles to ensure that they remain fit for purpose.	
The Council needs to review the way in which it consults with residents and ensures that data collected through the consultation process is adequately considered.	When implementing different approaches to engage with the community, such as the Council Couch, there is a need to ensure that elected members are appropriately consulted with and that senior managers engage in the process.	Chief Executive
	The data which the Council collates in relation to the thoughts of the community should be more effectively used to inform decisions relating to service delivery.	
	New ways to consult with residents who do not ordinarily engage in consultation exercises should be considered and there is a need to ensure that consultation exercises are appropriately timed.	
	Improved coordination with partner organisations in relation to data collection could better inform service delivery decisions and avoid potential duplication in consultation processes.	
	Assess the data which the Council makes available to the community to ensure that it contains an appropriate level of detail and is presented in an accessible way.	
Performance management should be more robust and the data more accessible.	There is a need to review the performance data available to the community to ensure that it is relevant, understandable and empowers residents.	Chief Executive
	The process for setting performance targets should be improved and there is a need to strengthen	

Issue	Actions	Responsible Officer
	appropriate intervention in cases of low performance where outcomes may not be achieved.	
	The Delivery Unit should be implemented to ensure services deliver appropriate outcomes and improve the quality of performance management data.	
	The Policy Framework should be reviewed to ensure that all appropriate policies and strategies are in place and any gaps are addressed.	
Corporate Policies and Procedures need to be consistently applied.	There is a need to raise awareness of the Corporate Policies and Procedures in place and ensure that all members of the Senior Leadership Team are compliant.	Chief Executive
	As the Council continue to transform there is a need to ensure that adequate internal controls are maintained, particularly as there is an increasing move to self-service and reduced resources results in less capacity to maintain controls.	
	Workforce planning needs to more closely aligned to the business planning process to ensure that workforce pressures are effectively managed and the Council can continue to deliver its statutory duties.	
It is increasingly challenging to set a legal budget due to the austerity measures faced by the Council.	The Corporate Leadership Team need to ensure effective monitoring of the achievement of saving and income targets and balance this with demand pressure for services.	Director of Resources
	Effective financial administration needs to be consistently applied across all services including the accurate and timely raising of sundry debt and the prompt payment of creditor invoices.	
Continue to develop and strengthen the challenge to governance arrangements by the Audit Committee.	Consider the benefits of introducing the role of an independent member, with relevant skills and experience, to be represented on the Audit Committee.	Director of Governance and Partnerships
Effectively manage risk with reduced resources and ensure that risk management is built into all decisions as the climate for taking riskier decisions grows.	The Senior Leadership Team need to consider risk management in the context of opportunity in order to transform the way in which the Council delivers it services.	Chief Executive
	The Senior Leadership Team need to ensure that risk management is embedded into in all decisions taken.	
Ensure that all elected members feel empowered	Enhance the development programme for elected members to ensure that they have the appropriate skills and knowledge to empower them to carry out	Director of Governance and

Issue	Actions	Responsible Officer
when carrying out these duties.	their duties.	Partnerships
	Raise Elected Members awareness of the policies and procedures in place which enable all members the opportunity to scrutinise, challenge and contribute to the Council’s activities.	

Conclusion

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

Signed: (Leader of the Council)

Signed: (Chief Executive)

SECTION 9

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACCOUNTING POLICIES
Those principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by an entity that specify how the effects of transactions and other events are to be reflected in its financial statements through:
i) recognising,
ii) selecting measurement bases for; and
iii) presenting assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes to reserves.
Accounting policies do not include estimation techniques.

Accounting policies define the process whereby transactions and other events are reflected in financial statements. For example, an accounting policy for a particular type of expenditure may specify whether an asset or a loss is to be recognised; the basis on which it is to be measured; and where in the revenue account or balance sheet it is to be presented.

ACCRUALS
The concept that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

ACQUIRED OPERATIONS
Operations comprise services and divisions of service as defined in Service Reporting Code of Practice. Acquired operations are those operations of the local authority that are acquired in the period.

ACTUARIAL GAINS AND LOSSES
For a defined benefit scheme the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because:

(a) events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experienced gains and losses); or
(b) the actuarial assumptions have changed.

ASSOCIATE COMPANY

This is an entity other than a subsidiary or joint venture in which the Council has a participating interest and over whose operating and financial policies the Council is able to exercise significant influence.

CAPITAL CHARGE
A charge to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of non current assets used in the provision of services.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
Expenditure above £15,000 on the acquisition of a non current asset or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing fixed asset.

CAPITAL RECEIPTS
Proceeds above £10,000 from the sale of capital assets. Such income may only be used for capital purposes, ie to repay existing loan debt or to finance new capital expenditure. Any receipts which have not yet been utilised as described are referred to as “capital receipts unapplied”.

CIPFA
The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy - the Institute provides financial and statistical information for local government and other public sector bodies and advises central government and other bodies on local government and public finance matters.

CLASS OF NON CURRENT ASSETS

The classes of non-current assets required to be included in the accounting statements are:

Operational assets

- council dwellings
- other land and buildings
- vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment
- infrastructure assets
- community assets

Non-operational assets

- Investment properties
- Assets under construction
- Surplus assets, held for disposal

COLLECTION FUND
A statutory account which billing authorities have to maintain for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of 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.

CONSISTENCY
The principle that the accounting treatment of like items within an accounting period and from one period to the next is the same.

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

CONTINGENT LIABILITY
A contingent liability is either:

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

CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC CORE

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

COUNCIL TAX

A banded property tax which is levied on domestic properties throughout the country. The banding is based on estimated property values as at 1st April 1991. The level of tax is set annually by each local authority for the properties in its area.

CREDITORS

Amounts owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered to it during the accounting period, but for which payment has not been made by the balance sheet date.

CURRENT ASSETS

Assets which will be consumed or cease to have value within the next accounting period, e.g. inventories and debtors.

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Amounts which will become payable or could be called in within the next accounting period, e.g. creditors and cash overdrawn.

CURRENT SERVICE COST (PENSIONS)

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

CURTAILMENT

For a defined benefit scheme, an event that reduces the expected years of future services of present employees or reduces for a number of employees the accrual of defined benefits for some or all of their future service. Curtailments include:

- termination of employees' services earlier than expected, for example as a result of closing a factory or discontinuing a segment of a business, and
- termination of, or amendment to the terms of, a defined benefit scheme so that some or all future service by current employees will no longer qualify for benefits or will qualify only for reduced benefits.

DEBTORS

Amounts due to the Council which relate to the accounting period and have not been received by the balance sheet date.

DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contribution scheme. Usually, the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded (including notionally funded).

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme into which an employer pays regular contributions fixed as an amount or as a percentage of pay and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the scheme does not have sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

DEPRECIATION

The measure of the cost or revalued amount of the benefits of the non-current asset that have been consumed during the period.

Consumption includes the wearing out, using up or other reduction in the useful life of a fixed asset, whether arising from use, effluxion of time or obsolescence through either changes in technology or demand for the goods and services produced by the asset.

DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

Operations comprise services and divisions of service as defined in CIPFA's Standard Classification of Income and Expenditure. An operation should be classified as discontinued if all the following conditions are met:

- the termination of the operation is completed either in the period or before the earlier of three months after the commencement of the subsequent period and the date on which the financial statements are approved.
- The activities relating to the operations have ceased permanently.
- The termination of the operation has a material effect on the nature and focus of the local authority's operations and represents a material reduction in its provision of services resulting either from its withdrawal from a particular activity (whether a service or division of service or its provision in a specific geographical area) or from a material reduction in net expenditure in the local authority's continuing operations.
- The assets, liabilities, income and expenditure of operations and activities are clearly distinguishable physically, operationally and for financial reporting purposes..

Operations not satisfying all these conditions are classified as continuing.

DISCRETIONARY BENEFITS

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

EMOLUMENTS

All sums paid to or receivable by an employee and sums due by way of expenses allowances (as far as those sums are chargeable to UK income tax) and the money value of any other benefits received other than in cash. Pension contributions payable by either employer or employee are excluded.

ESTIMATION TECHNIQUES

The methods adopted by an entity to arrive at estimated monetary amounts, corresponding to the measurement bases selected, for assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes to reserves.

Estimation techniques implement the measurement aspects of accounting policies. An accounting policy will specify the basis on which an item is to be measured; where there is uncertainty over the monetary amount corresponding to that basis, the amount will be arrived at by using an estimation technique. Estimation techniques include, for example:

- Methods of depreciation, such as straight line and reducing balance, applied in the context of a particular measurement basis, used to estimate the proportion of the economic benefits of a non- current asset consumed in period.
- Different methods used to estimate the proportion of debts that will not be recovered, particularly where such methods consider a population as a whole rather than individual balances.

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

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

EXPECTED RATE OF RETURN ON PENSIONS ASSETS

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

EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS

Material items possessing a high degree of abnormality, which derive from events or transactions that fall outside the ordinary activities of the authority and which are not expected to recur.

FAIR VALUE

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.

FINANCE LEASE

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

FINANCIAL YEAR

The Council's financial year runs from the 1st April through to the following 31st March.

FORMULA GRANT

Grant distributed by formula through the local government finance settlement. It comprises Revenue Support Grant and redistributed business rates (NNDR). It is a general subsidy towards council spending and is not ring-fenced for specific services.

GENERAL FUND

The main revenue account of the Council which brings together all income and expenditure other than that recorded in the Housing Revenue Account and the Collection Fund.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

A statutory account which local authorities have to maintain if they provide public housing and which includes all income and expenditure relating to the administration and maintenance of council dwellings and related properties.

IMPAIRMENT

A reduction in the value of a fixed asset below its value brought forward in the Balance Sheet. Examples of factors which may cause such a reduction in value include general price decreases, a significant decline in a fixed asset's market value and evidence of obsolescence or physical damage to the asset.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Fixed assets that are inalienable, expenditure on which is recoverable only by continued use of the asset created. Examples are highways and footpaths.

INTEREST COST (PENSIONS)

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

INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS (IAS)

Accounting standards developed by the International Accounting Standards Board that are primarily applicable to general purpose company accounts. These standards are adopted by the CIPFA Code of Practice except where the standards conflict with specific statutory requirements.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (IFRS)

Financial reporting standards developed by the International Accounting Standards Board.

INVENTORIES

The amount of unused or unconsumed stocks held in expectation of future use. When use will not arise until a later period, it is appropriate to carry forward the amount to be matched to the use or consumption when it arises. Stocks comprise the following categories: goods or other assets purchased for resale, consumable stores, raw materials and components purchased for incorporation into products for sale, products and services in intermediate stages of completion, long-term contract balances and finished goods.

INVESTMENTS (NON-PENSIONS FUND)

A long-term investment is an investment that is intended to be held for use on a continuing basis in the activities of the authority. Investments should be so classified only where an intention to hold the investment for the long term can clearly be demonstrated or where there are restrictions as to the investor's ability to dispose of the investment.

Investments, other than those in relation to the pensions fund, that do not meet the above criteria should be classified as current assets.

LEA

Local Education Authority – a local authority with the statutory responsibility for securing the provision of education in its area.

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION

Minimum revenue provision is the minimum amount which must be charged to an Authority's revenue account each year and set aside as provision for credit liabilities, as required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES (NNDR)

A tax levied on business properties and sometimes known as Business Rates. An NNDR poundage is set annually by the Government. Sums based on rateable values are collected by billing authorities and paid into a national pool. The proceeds are then redistributed by central government as a grant to local authorities in proportion to adult population.

NET BOOK VALUE

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

NET CURRENT REPLACEMENT COST

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

NET REALISABLE VALUE

The open market value of an asset in its existing use less the expenses to be incurred in realising the asset.

NON CURRENT ASSETS (previously fixed assets)

Assets that yield benefits to the local authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

OPERATING LEASES

Leases which do not meet the definition of a finance lease, ie where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to the ownership of the property, plant and equipment from the lessor to the lessee, are accounted for as operating leases.

PAST SERVICE COST

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

PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI)

A central Government initiative which aims to increase the level of funding available for public services by attracting private sources of finance. The PFI is supported by a number of incentives to encourage Authority's participation.

PROVISION

An amount set aside by the Council for any liability of uncertain timing or amount that has been incurred.

PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE

The Code was introduced from 1st April 2004. The basic principle of the Code is that local authorities will be free to invest so long as their capital spending plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Code sets out indicators that the authority must use and factors that they must take account to demonstrate that they have fulfilled this objective.

RESERVES

Amounts set aside in the accounts to meet expenditure which the Council may be committed to in future periods, but not allocated to specific liabilities which are certain or very likely to occur.

Earmarked reserves are allocated to a specific purpose or area of spending. Unallocated reserves are often described as balances.

REVENUE ACCOUNT

An account which records all annual running costs and the associated income.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE

Expenditure incurred on the day-to-day running of the Council.

REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT

A central government grant paid to each local authority to help to finance its general expenditure. The distribution of the grant between authorities is intended to allow the provision of similar standards of service throughout the country for a similar council tax levy.

SERVICE REPORTING CODE OF PRACTICE

A code of practice prepared to provide accounting guidance on financial reporting to stakeholders which is designed to enhance the comparability of local authority financial information. The code represents proper accounting practice for the purpose of best value reporting.

SUPPORTED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (REVENUE) (SCE(R))

Replaces Basic Credit Approvals from 2004/2005 under the Local Government Act 2003. A specific amount of capital expenditure for which the Government will support the borrowing via RSG grant.

WORK IN PROGRESS

The cost of work undertaken up to a specified date on an uncompleted revenue project.

Appendix 5(b)

KPMG

External Audit Report 2015/16

Blackpool Council

September 2016

DRAFT

Contents

The contacts at KPMG in connection with this report are:

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This report is addressed to the Authority and has been prepared for the sole use of the Authority. We take no responsibility to any member of staff acting in their individual capacities, or to third parties. Public Sector Audit Appointments issued a document entitled Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies summarising where the responsibilities of auditors begin and end and what is expected from audited bodies. We draw your attention to this document which is available on Public Sector Audit Appointment's website (www.psaa.co.uk).

External auditors do not act as a substitute for the audited body's own responsibility for putting in place proper arrangements to ensure that public business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

We are committed to providing you with a high quality service. If you have any concerns or are dissatisfied with any part of KPMG's work, in the first instance you should contact Trevor Rees, the engagement lead to the Authority, who will try to resolve your complaint. If you are dissatisfied with your response please contact the national lead partner for all of KPMG's work under our contract with Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, Andrew Sayers (on 0207 694 8981, or by email to andrew.sayers@kpmg.co.uk). After this, if you are still dissatisfied with how your complaint has been handled you can access PSAA's complaints procedure by emailing generalenquiries@psaa.co.uk, by telephoning 020 7072 7445 or by writing to Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, 3rd Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3H.

Section one: Introduction

Introduction

This document summarises:

- **The key issues identified during our audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 for the Authority; and**
- **Our assessment of the Authority's arrangements to secure value for money.**

Scope of this report

This report summarises the key findings arising from:

- Our audit work at Blackpool Council (the Authority') in relation to the Authority's 2015/16 financial statements; and
- The work to support our 2015/16 conclusion on the Authority's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources ('VFM conclusion').

Financial statements

Our *External Audit Plan 2015/16*, presented to you in January 2016, set out the four stages of our financial statements audit process.

Planning → Control Evaluation → Substantive Procedures → Completion

This report focuses on the third stage of the process: substantive procedures. Our on site work for this took place during August 2016.

We are now in the final phase of the audit, the completion stage. Some aspects of this stage are also discharged through this report.

VFM Conclusion

Our External Audit Plan 2015/16 explained our risk-based approach to VFM work. We have now completed the work to support our 2015/16 VFM conclusion. This included:

- assessing the potential VFM risks and identifying the residual audit risks for our VFM conclusion; and
- Considering the results of any relevant work by the Authority and other inspectorates and review agencies in relation to these risk areas.

Structure of this report

This report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 summarises the headline messages.
- Section 3 sets out our key findings from our audit work in relation to the 2015/16 financial statements of the Authority and the fund.
- Section 4 outlines our key findings from our work on the VFM conclusion.

Our recommendations are included in Appendix 1. We have also reviewed your progress in implementing prior recommendations.

Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity to thank officers and Members for their continuing help and co-operation throughout our audit work.

Section two: Headlines

Headlines

This table summarises the headline messages for the Authority. Sections three and four of this report provide further details on each area.

Page 202

This table summarises the headline messages. Sections three and four of this report provide further details on each area.

Proposed audit opinion	We anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion on the Authority's financial statements by 30 September 2016. We will also report that your Annual Governance Statement complies with guidance issued by CIPFA/SOLACE in June 2007.
Audit adjustments	Our audit has not identified any audit adjustments during 2015/16. We have also not identified any recommendations to make for 2015/16.
Key financial statements audit risks	We review risks to the financial statements on an ongoing basis. We identified one significant risk specific to the Authority during 2015/16 with respect to the financial statements. We have worked with officers throughout the year to discuss this key risk and our still completing our work in this area. We will provide an update at the Audit Committee meeting.
Accounts production and audit process	We received complete draft accounts by 20 June 2016, ahead of the 30 June deadline set by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures are in line with the requirements of the Code. The Authority has implemented all of the recommendations in our *ISA 260 Report 2014/15* relating to the financial statements. The Authority has good processes in place for the production of the accounts and good quality supporting working papers. Officers dealt efficiently with audit queries and the audit process has been completed within the planned timescales. As in previous years, we will debrief with the Closedown team to share views on the final accounts audit. Hopefully this will lead to further efficiencies in the 2016/17 audit process. In particularly we would like to thank the officers who were available throughout the audit visit to answer our queries.

Headlines (cont.)

This table summarises the headline messages for the Authority. Sections three and four of this report provide further details on each area.

Page 203

This table summarises the headline messages. The remainder of this report provides further details on each area.

VFM conclusion and risk areas	When issuing our *External Audit Plan 2015/16* we had not completed our work to identify any VFM risks. Since that report, one VFM risk has been identified; the risk of financial resilience. We have worked with officers throughout the year to discuss this VFM work and our detailed findings are reported in section 4 of this report. At the time of drafting this report we are awaiting a copy of the draft 2016/17-2021/22 medium term financial plan, which will provide the remaining evidence required to complete our review. As yet we have not seen any evidence that the arrangements the Authority has in place are inappropriate, and we anticipate issuing an unqualified VFM conclusion by 30 September 2016.
Completion	At the date of this report our audit of the financial statements is substantially complete subject to completion of the following areas: — Completion of audit work relating to significant account areas — Completion of whole of government accounts review. — Review of final subsidiary accounts. — Review of post balance sheet events up to the date of signing the audit report. You are required to provide us with representations on specific matters such as your going concern assertion and whether the transactions in the accounts are legal and unaffected by fraud. We provided a draft of this representation letter to the Section 151 Officer. We draw your attention to the requirement in our representation letter for you to confirm to us that you have disclosed all relevant related parties to us. We confirm that we have complied with requirements on objectivity and independence in relation to this year's audit of the Authority's financial statements.

Section three: Financial Statements

Proposed opinion and audit differences

We have not identified any issues in the course of the audit that are considered to be material.

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Proposed audit opinion

Subject to all outstanding queries being resolved to our satisfaction, we anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion on the Authority's financial statements following approval of the Statement of Accounts by the Audit Committee on 22 September 2016.

Audit differences

In accordance with ISA 260 we are required to report uncorrected audit differences to you. We also report any material misstatements which have been corrected and which we believe should be communicated to you to help you meet your governance responsibilities.

The final materiality (see Appendix two for more information on materiality) level for this year's audit was set at £3.5 million. Audit differences below £175,000 are not considered significant.

We did not identify any material misstatements. We identified a number of issues that have been adjusted by management as they do not have a material effect on the financial statements.

In addition, we identified a small number of presentational adjustments required to ensure that the accounts are compliant with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16 ('the Code'). We understand that the Authority will be addressing these where significant.

The table on the right illustrates the total assets and reserves of the Authority as at 31 March 2016.

Annual governance statement

We have reviewed the Annual Governance Statement and confirmed that:

— It complies with *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: A Framework* published by CIPFA/SOLACE; and

— It is not misleading or inconsistent with other information we are aware of from our audit of the financial statements.

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2016	
£m	
Property, plant and equipment	764,054
Other long term assets	46,661
Current assets	58,711
Current liabilities	(148,160)
Long term liabilities	(382,578)
Net worth	**338,688**
Useable reserves	68,297
Unusable reserves	270,391
Total reserves	**(338,688)**

Significant audit risks

We have worked with the Authority throughout the year to discuss significant risks and key areas of audit focus.

This section sets out our detailed findings on those risks.

Page 206

In our External Audit Plan 2015/16, presented to you in January 2016, we identified a significant risk affecting the Authority's 2015/16 financial statements. We have now completed our testing in these area and set out our evaluation following our substantive work.

The table below sets out our detailed findings for this risk that are specific to the Authority.

Significant Risk 1: Minimum Revenue Provision

— **Risk**

The Authority includes a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) within its accounts to allow the cost of capital assets financed by borrowing to be recognised in the revenue account.

Government Regulations require a MRP to be included in the accounts, but only provide guidance on how authorities may calculate the provision. Changing the basis for calculating the MRP is becoming increasingly common, but any change must ensure that the provision remains 'prudent'.

The significant nature of the change means that there is a risk that a material misstatement could occur.

— **Findings**

The Authority's new MRP approach is still being reviewed in line with experiences elsewhere within the sector. While the move to a 2 per cent straight-line approach can be considered to be more prudent that the previous reducing balance method, we are seeking advice from technical colleagues regarding the retrospective nature of the change, as well as auditing the effects of the adjustment.

We will give members an update at the Audit Committee meeting.

Significant audit risks

We have worked with the Authority throughout the year to discuss significant risks and key areas of audit focus.

This section sets out our detailed findings on those risks.

Page 207

In our *External Audit Plan 2015/16* we reported that we would consider two risk areas that are specifically required by professional standards and report our findings to you. These risk areas were Management override of controls and the Fraud risk of revenue recognition.

The table below sets out the outcome of our audit procedures and assessment on these risk areas.

Fraud risk of revenue recognition

Professional standards require us to make a rebuttable presumption that the fraud risk from revenue recognition is a significant risk.

In our External Audit Plan 2015/16 we reported that we do not consider this to be a significant risk for Local Authorities as there is unlikely to be an incentive to fraudulently recognise revenue.

This is still the case. Since we have rebutted this presumed risk, there has been no impact on our audit work.

Management override of controls

Professional standards require us to communicate the fraud risk from management override of controls as significant because management is typically in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of its ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively.

Our audit methodology incorporates the risk of management override as a default significant risk. We have not identified any specific additional risks of management override relating to this audit.

In line with our methodology, we carried out appropriate controls testing and substantive procedures, including over journal entries, accounting estimates and significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business, or are otherwise unusual.

There are no matters arising from this work that we need to bring to your attention.

Other areas of focus

In our External Audit Plan 2015/16, presented to you in January 2016, we identified nine areas of audit focus. These are not considered as significant risks but areas of importance where we would carry out some substantive audit procedures to ensure there is no risk of material misstatement.

We have now completed our testing. The table sets out our detailed findings for each.

Page 208

Area of focus 1 : Cash

Risk

— Due to its nature, this will always remain an area of special audit focus.

Findings

— We have verified bank and loan balances held by the Authority to third party confirmations

— We have tested the bank reconciliation controls to ensure variances are being followed up and amounts are verified back

We are satisfied that there was no material misstatement identified and have not identified any issues to being to your attention.

Area of focus 2: Payroll

Risk

— The size of the Authority's payroll costs require this to be considered, despite the routine nature of many of the transactions.

Findings

— The Payroll expectations were in line with the figures presented in the accounts

— Disclosures over Director's emoluments were agreed back to payroll

We are satisfied that there was no material misstatement identified and have not identified any issues to being to your attention.

Other areas of focus

In our External Audit Plan 2015/16, presented to you in January 2016, we identified nine areas of audit focus. These are not considered as significant risks but areas of importance where we would carry out some substantive audit procedures to ensure there is no risk of material misstatement.

We have now completed our testing. The table sets out our detailed findings for each.

Page 209

Area of focus 3 : Accounts Payable

Risk

— There are significant and high costs within this balance. There is a risk that a failure of the system to record expenditure accurately or in a timely manner could lead to a material misstatement.

Findings

— We have performed data analytics routines to identify transactions which are high risk

— We have held discussions with management to identify the reasoning for these transactions and agreed to supporting documentation to ensure expenditure is both reliable and accurate.

We are satisfied that there was no material misstatement identified and have not identified any issues to bring to your attention.

Area of focus 4: Net Pension Liability

Risk

— This is a material balance in the accounts and calculated using significant judgement, made by the scheme actuary, hence there is a risk of material misstatement.

Findings

— We have reviewed the pensions liability disclosures provided by the scheme actuaries and ensured they reconcile to the accounts

— We have reviewed the assumptions used by the scheme actuaries and compared this to the KPMG benchmarks

— We have verified the payroll information send to the actuary has been processed appropriately and is correct.

We are satisfied that there was no material misstatement identified and have not identified any issues to being to your attention.

Other areas of focus

In our External Audit Plan 2015/16, presented to you in January 2016, we identified nine areas of audit focus. These are not considered as significant risks but areas of importance where we would carry out some substantive audit procedures to ensure there is no risk of material misstatement.

We have now completed our testing. The table sets out our detailed findings for each.

Page 210

Area of focus 5 : Council Tax Income

Risk

— Council tax income is a material source of income for the Authority . Despite the routine nature of these transactions, system errors could cause a material misstatement to the accounts.

Findings

— We have reviewed the key controls in the Council tax system to ensure the system is robust.

— We have reviewed our expectation of Council tax income against actuals to ensure it is in line

— Precepts have been agreed to supporting documentation

— We have tested a sample of debtors, creditors and income back to supporting documentation.

We are satisfied that there was no material misstatement identified and have not identified any issues to being to your attention.

Area of focus 6: Business Rates Income

Risk

— Business rates income is a material source of income for the Authority. In particular, we no longer certify the NDR return, therefore, additional procedure need to be undertaken over this balance.

Findings

— We have reviewed our expectation of business rates income against actuals to ensure it is in line. This includes reviewing Valuation Office data and understanding any variances

— We have reconciled balances to central government notifications and the business rates system.

We are satisfied that there was no material misstatement identified and have not identified any issues to being to your attention.

Other areas of focus

In our External Audit Plan 2015/16, presented to you in January 2016, we identified nine areas of audit focus. These are not considered as significant risks but areas of importance where we would carry out some substantive audit procedures to ensure there is no risk of material misstatement.

We have now completed our testing. The table sets out our detailed findings for each.

Area of focus 7 : HRA Rental Income

Area

- The Authority receive a material amount of housing rental income from the HRA, hence there is a risk of material misstatement.

Findings

- We have reviewed our expectation of rental income to ensure it is in line with the accounts
- We have agreed a sample of arrears from the rent system to balance sheet and ensure they have been recorded accurately
- We have reviewed the impairment of arrears for reasonableness.

We are satisfied that there was no material misstatement identified and have not identified any issues to being to your attention.

Area of focus 8: Housing Benefits Expenditure

Risk

- The size of Housing Benefit Expenditure within the Authority make this balance at risk of material misstatement.

Findings

- We have reconciled the underlying benefit data to the draft subsidy form
- Expectations of expenditure has been reviewed back to actuals
- Year end cut off testing has been performed to ensure expenditure has been recorded within the correct year.

We are satisfied that there was no material misstatement identified and have not identified any issues to being to your attention.

Other areas of focus

In our External Audit Plan 2015/16, presented to you in January 2016, we identified nine areas of audit focus. These are not considered as significant risks but areas of importance where we would carry out some substantive audit procedures to ensure there is no risk of material misstatement.

We have now completed our testing. The table sets out our detailed findings for each.

Area of focus 9 : HRA Repairs and Maintenance expenditure

Area

— The repairs balance is another material balance in the HRA. Despite the routine nature of many of the transactions, this scale means that system errors could cause a material misstatement to the accounts.

Findings

— We have reviewed the expenditure to ensure that it is in line with our expectations

— We have agreed a sample of capitalised expenditure to ensure that the capitalisation is appropriate and that the balances capitalised are appropriate.

We are satisfied that there was no material misstatement identified and have not identified any issues to being to your attention.

Accounts production and audit process

We have noted an improvement in the quality of the accounts and the supporting working papers.

Officers dealt efficiently with audit queries and the audit process could be completed within the planned timescales.

The Authority has implemented all of the recommendations in our ISA 260 Report 2014/15.

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Accounts production and audit process

ISA 260 requires us to communicate to you our views about the significant qualitative aspects of the Authority's accounting practices and financial reporting. We also assessed the Authority's process for preparing the accounts and its support for an efficient audit.

We considered the following criteria:

Element	Commentary
Accounting practices and financial reporting	The Authority has maintained the strong financial reporting processes identified in previous years. We consider that accounting practices are appropriate.
Completeness of draft accounts	We received a complete set of draft accounts on 20 June 2016.
Quality of supporting working papers	Our *Accounts Audit Protocol*, which we issued in March and discussed with the Senior Accountant, set out our working paper requirements for the audit. The quality of working papers provided was generally good and met the standards specified in our Accounts Audit Protocol.
Response to audit queries	Officers resolved the majority of audit queries in a reasonable time.

Element	Commentary
Group audit	To gain assurance over the Authority's group accounts, we placed reliance on work completed by component auditors on the financial statements of the subsidiaries. We have sent letters to the auditors of the key components of the Group (Blackpool Transport Services, Blackpool Operating Company and Blackpool Entertainment Company) to obtain assurance on these elements of the Group accounts. There are no specific matters to report pertaining to the group audit.

report.

The Authority has implemented all of the recommendations in our *ISA 260 Report 2014/15*.

Completion

We confirm that we have complied with requirements on objectivity and independence in relation to this year's audit of the Authority's financial statements.

Before we can issue our opinion we require a signed management representation letter.

Once we have finalised our opinions and conclusions we will prepare our Annual Audit Letter and close our audit.

Declaration of independence and objectivity

As part of the finalisation process we are required to provide you with representations concerning our independence.

In relation to the audit of the financial statements of Blackpool Council for the year ending 31 March 2016, we confirm that there were no relationships between KPMG LLP and Blackpool Council, its directors and senior management and its affiliates that we consider may reasonably be thought to bear on the objectivity and independence of the audit engagement lead and audit staff. We also confirm that we have complied with Ethical Standards and the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd requirements in relation to independence and objectivity.

We have provided a detailed declaration in Appendix four in accordance with ISA 260.

Management representations

You are required to provide us with representations on specific matters such as your financial standing and whether the transactions within the accounts are legal and unaffected by fraud. We have provided a template to the Responsible Finance Officer for presentation to the Audit Committee. We require a signed copy of your management representations before we issue our audit opinion.

Other matters

ISA 260 requires us to communicate to you by exception 'audit matters of governance interest that arise from the audit of the financial statements' which include:

- Significant difficulties encountered during the audit;
- Significant matters arising from the audit that were discussed, or subject to correspondence with management;
- Other matters, if arising from the audit that, in the auditor's professional judgment, are significant to the oversight of the financial reporting process; and
- Matters specifically required by other auditing standards to be communicated to those charged with governance (for example significant deficiencies in internal control; issues relating to fraud, compliance with laws and regulations, subsequent events, non disclosure, related party, public interest reporting, questions/objections, opening balances etc.).

There are no others matters which we wish to draw to your attention in addition to those highlighted in this report.

Section four: Value for Money

VFM Conclusion

Our VFM conclusion considers whether the Authority had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.

We follow a risk based approach to target audit effort on the areas of greatest audit risk.

We are awaiting an important piece of audit evidence before we conclude that the Authority has made proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.

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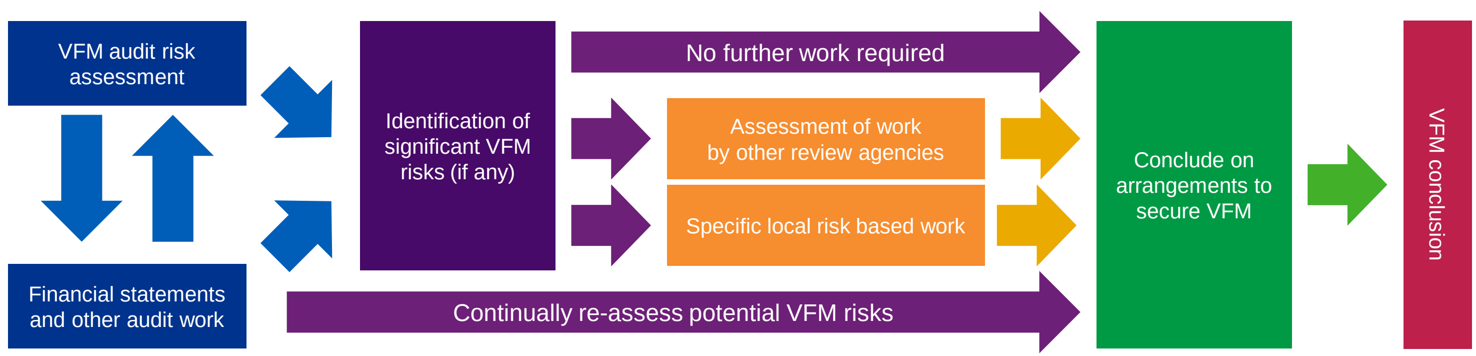
Background

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 requires auditors of local government bodies to be satisfied that the authority 'has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources'.

This is supported by the Code of Audit Practice, published by the NAO in April 2015, which requires auditors to 'take into account their knowledge of the relevant local sector as a whole, and the audited body specifically, to identify any risks that, in the auditor's judgement, have the potential to cause the auditor to reach an inappropriate conclusion on the audited body's arrangements.'

The VFM approach is fundamentally unchanged from that adopted in 2014/2015 and the process is shown in the diagram below. However, the previous two specified reporting criteria (financial resilience and economy, efficiency and effectiveness) have been replaced with a single criteria supported by three sub-criteria.

These sub-criteria provide a focus to our VFM work at the Authority.



Conclusion

At present we cannot conclude on the Authority's VFM arrangements, but we will be able to provide a verbal update to members at the Audit Committee on 22 September.

Specific VFM Risks

We have identified one specific VFM risk.

We are satisfied that external or internal scrutiny provides sufficient assurance that the Authority's current arrangements in relation to these risk areas are adequate.

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Work completed

In line with the risk-based approach set out on the previous page, and in our *External Audit Plan* we have:

— Assessed the Authority's key business risks which are relevant to our VFM conclusion;

— Identified the residual audit risks for our VFM conclusion, taking account of work undertaken in previous years or as part of our financial statements audit; and

— Considered the results of relevant work by the Authority, inspectorates and review agencies in relation to these risk areas

Key findings

Below we set out the findings in respect of those areas where we have identified a residual audit risk for our VFM conclusion.

As yet we cannot conclude our work on this area as the key element of audit evidence, the medium-term financial plan, is still being drafted. Meetings with management indicate that the plan will be completed and will be robust and realistic. As such, we anticipate issuing a clean Value for Money Conclusion for the Authority for 2015/16.

Significant VFM Risk 1: Financial resilience

— **Risk**

The Authority continues to have to make significant savings to reflect the continuing reduction in the central government grant and cost pressures, especially those relating to children's services. Savings of £25.1 million have been included in the 2016/17 revenue budget for the Council, which will be mostly met through staff redundancies and the elimination of vacant posts.

Further savings will be required in future years, and a six year medium term financial plan is being developed by the Director of Finance. Early work on this plan indicated a further £15.9 million of savings would be required for 2017/18.

Savings of this magnitude are a significant challenge for the Authority, especially in the context of those already made since 2010. However, the Authority has always managed to achieve its savings targets, predominately through the recurring rather than one-off savings, which has reduced the burden of making further savings over this period.

— **Findings**

At present our work in this area is incomplete as we have just received a draft version of the new medium-term financial plan. Savings plans in 2016/17 have been put under pressure by overspends in Children's Services, which reflect a significant increase in demand for services as opposed to increases in unit cost. Underspends elsewhere in the Authority, and further savings plans to be introduced in year are intended to mitigate this increase and keep expenditure in 2016/17 within the overall level set in the budget.

An update on our VFM work will be provided at the Audit Committee.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Audit differences

Appendix 2: Materiality and reporting to the Audit Committee

Appendix 3: Declaration of independence and objectivity

Appendix 4: Non-audit fees

Audit differences

This appendix sets out the significant audit differences identified during the audit for the year ended 31 March 2016.

We are pleased to report that there are no uncorrected audit differences.

There is no net impact on the General Fund and HRA as a result of the amendments.

We are required by ISA 260 to report all uncorrected misstatements, other than those that we believe are clearly trivial, to those charged with governance (which in your case is the Audit Committee). We are also required to report all material misstatements that have been corrected but that we believe should be communicated to you to assist you in fulfilling your governance responsibilities.

Uncorrected audit differences

We are pleased to report that there are no uncorrected audit differences.

Non-significant audit differences

Our audit identified a small number of non-significant errors in the financial statements. These have been discussed with management and the financial statements have been amended for all of them.

Presentation amendments

A number of minor amendments focused on presentational improvements have also been made to the draft financial statements. These include:

— The split between long and short-term borrowings within the financial instruments note;

— An updating of the disclosure note for the Municipal Bond Agency; and

— Updating the provisions note to properly reflect the provisions utilised in the year.

None of these adjustments has affected the primary statements.

The Finance Department are committed to continuous improvement in the quality of the financial statements submitted for audit in future years.

Materiality and reporting to the Audit Committee

For 2015/16 our materiality is £3.5 million for the Authority's accounts.

We have not identified any differences to report over £0.175 million for the Authority's accounts.

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Materiality

The assessment of what is material is a matter of professional judgment and includes consideration of three aspects: materiality by value, nature and context.

— Material errors by value are those which are simply of significant numerical size to distort the reader's perception of the financial statements. Our assessment of the threshold for this depends upon the size of key figures in the financial statements, as well as other factors such as the level of public interest in the financial statements.

— Errors which are material by nature may not be large in value, but may concern accounting disclosures of key importance and sensitivity, for example the salaries of senior staff.

— Errors that are material by context are those that would alter key figures in the financial statements from one result to another – for example, errors that change successful performance against a target to failure.

We used the same planning materiality reported in our External Audit Plan 2015/16, presented to you in January 2016.

Materiality for the Authority's accounts was set at £3.5million which equates to around one percent of gross expenditure. We design our procedures to detect errors in specific accounts at a lower level of precision.

Reporting to the Audit Committee

Whilst our audit procedures are designed to identify misstatements which are material to our opinion on the financial statements as a whole, we nevertheless report to the Audit Committee any misstatements of lesser amounts to the extent that these are identified by our audit work.

Under ISA 260, we are obliged to report omissions or misstatements other than those which are 'clearly trivial' to those charged with governance. ISA 260 defines 'clearly trivial' as matters that are clearly inconsequential, whether taken individually or in aggregate and whether judged by any quantitative or qualitative criteria.

ISA 450 requires us to request that uncorrected misstatements are corrected.

In the context of the Authority, we propose that an individual difference could normally be considered to be clearly trivial if it is less than £0.175 million for the Authority.

Where management have corrected material misstatements identified during the course of the audit, we will consider whether those corrections should be communicated to the Audit Committee to assist it in fulfilling its governance responsibilities.

Declaration of independence and objectivity

Auditors appointed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd must comply with the Code of Audit Practice.

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Requirements

Auditors appointed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd must comply with the Code of Audit Practice (the 'Code') which states that:

"The auditor should carry out their work with integrity, objectivity and independence, and in accordance with the ethical framework applicable to auditors, including the ethical standards for auditors set by the Financial Reporting Council, and any additional requirements set out by the auditor's recognised supervisory body, or any other body charged with oversight of the auditor's independence. The auditor should be, and should be seen to be, impartial and independent. Accordingly, the auditor should not carry out any other work for an audited body if that work would impair their independence in carrying out any of their statutory duties, or might reasonably be perceived as doing so."

In considering issues of independence and objectivity we consider relevant professional, regulatory and legal requirements and guidance, including the provisions of the Code, the detailed provisions of the Statement of Independence included within the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd *Terms of Appointment* ('Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd Guidance') and the requirements of APB Ethical Standard 1 *Integrity, Objectivity and Independence* ('Ethical Standards').

The Code states that, in carrying out their audit of the financial statements, auditors should comply with auditing standards currently in force, and as may be amended from time to time. Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd guidance requires appointed auditors to follow the provisions of ISA (UK&I) 260 Communication of *Audit Matters with Those Charged with Governance'* that are applicable to the audit of listed companies. This means that the appointed auditor must disclose in writing:

— Details of all relationships between the auditor and the client, its directors and senior management and its affiliates, including all services provided by the audit firm and its network to the client, its directors and senior management and its affiliates, that the auditor considers may reasonably be thought to bear on the auditor's objectivity and independence.

— The related safeguards that are in place.

— The total amount of fees that the auditor and the auditor's network firms have charged to the client and its affiliates for the provision of services during the reporting period, analysed into appropriate categories, for example, statutory audit services, further audit services, tax advisory services and other non-audit services. For each category, the amounts of any future services which have been contracted or where a written proposal has been submitted are separately disclosed. We do this in our *Annual Audit Letter*.

Appointed auditors are also required to confirm in writing that they have complied with Ethical Standards and that, in the auditor's professional judgement, the auditor is independent and the auditor's objectivity is not compromised, or otherwise declare that the auditor has concerns that the auditor's objectivity and independence may be compromised and explaining the actions which necessarily follow from his. These matters should be discussed with the Audit Committee.

Ethical Standards require us to communicate to those charged with governance in writing at least annually all significant facts and matters, including those related to the provision of non-audit services and the safeguards put in place that, in our professional judgement, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence and the objectivity of the Engagement Lead and the audit team.

Declaration of independence and objectivity (cont.)

We confirm that we have complied with requirements on objectivity and independence in relation to this year's audit of the Authority's financial statements.

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General procedures to safeguard independence and objectivity

KPMG's reputation is built, in great part, upon the conduct of our professionals and their ability to deliver objective and independent advice and opinions. That integrity and objectivity underpins the work that KPMG performs and is important to the regulatory environments in which we operate. All partners and staff have an obligation to maintain the relevant level of required independence and to identify and evaluate circumstances and relationships that may impair that independence.

Acting as an auditor places specific obligations on the firm, partners and staff in order to demonstrate the firm's required independence. KPMG's policies and procedures regarding independence matters are detailed in the *Ethics and Independence Manual* ('the Manual'). The Manual sets out the overriding principles and summarises the policies and regulations which all partners and staff must adhere to in the area of professional conduct and in dealings with clients and others.

KPMG is committed to ensuring that all partners and staff are aware of these principles. To facilitate this, a hard copy of the Manual is provided to everyone annually. The Manual is divided into two parts. Part 1 sets out KPMG's ethics and independence policies which partners and staff must observe both in relation to their personal dealings and in relation to the professional services they provide. Part 2 of the Manual summarises the key risk management policies which partners and staff are required to follow when providing such services.

All partners and staff must understand the personal responsibilities they have towards complying with the policies outlined in the Manual and follow them at all times. To acknowledge understanding of and adherence to the policies set out in the Manual, all partners and staff are required to submit an annual ethics and independence confirmation. Failure to follow these policies can result in disciplinary action.

Auditor declaration

In relation to the audit of the financial statements of Blackpool Council for the financial year ending 31 March 2016, we confirm that there were no relationships between KPMG LLP and Blackpool Council, its directors and senior management and its affiliates that we consider may reasonably be thought to bear on the objectivity and independence of the audit engagement lead and audit staff. We also confirm that we have complied with Ethical Standards and the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd requirements in relation to independence and objectivity.

Non-audit fees

Audit Fees

Our scale fee for the audit was £110,153 plus VAT in 2015/16. This fee was in line with that highlighted within our audit plan agreed by the Audit Committee in March 2016. Our scale fee for certification of grant claims and returns was £10,112 plus VAT, in 2015/16. We are undertaking a number of other assurance services for the Authority.

Description of assurance service	Estimated fee	Potential threat to auditor independence and associated safeguards in place
Certification of grants and returns – non PSAA This is the certification of non-PSAA grants and returns. These include the Teachers' Pensions Agency return, the Pooling of Capital Receipts return, the Skills Funding Agency sub-contracting review and the Homes and Communities Agency compliance audit.	£12,250	These works are subject to separate engagement procedures between KPMG and the Authority as they fall outside of the scope of the PSAA appointment. The work is separate from the external audit requirement, and involves KPMG performing specific procedures to meet the requirements of the relevant reporting bodies, and on which we provide a factual report.
Total estimated fees (as a percentage of the external audit fee)	**£12,250 (11.1%)**	

Non-audit services

We have summarised below the non-audit services that we have been engaged to provide, the estimated fee, the potential threats to auditor independence and the associated safeguards we have put in place to manage these.

Description of assurance service	Estimated fee	Potential threat to auditor independence and associated safeguards in place
Tax advice and compliance – Blackpool Transport Services Tax colleagues have undertaken various engagements with BTS. This work has included: — ad-hoc corporation tax and VAT advice; — corporation tax compliance work, including converting the financial statements into a format to be submitted to HMRC; and — advice on transfer pricing issues with the leasing by BTS of the Blackpool Tramway.	£20,150	This engagement is entirely separate from the audit through a separate contract, engagement team and lead partner. The nature of the work is to provide advice and guidance to management at BTS; all decisions are made by BTS. We will not act as advocates for BTS in any aspect of this work. We will draw on our experience in such roles to provide BTS with a range of approaches but the scope of this work falls well short of any advocacy role. The existence of a separate team for this work is a further safeguard. Consequently, we consider we have appropriately managed this threat.
Total estimated fees (as a percentage of the external audit fee)	**£20,150 (18.3%)**	

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