Blackpool Council

3 November 2021

To: Councillors Burdess, Critchley, Galley, Hunter, M Mitchell, Roberts and R Scott

Ms Gill Brown and Dr Stuart Green, Independent Members

The above Members are requested to attend the:

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 11 November 2021 at 6.00pm
in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Blackpool

A G E N D A

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests in the items under consideration and in doing so state:

(1) the type of interest concerned, either a

(a) personal interest
(b) prejudicial interest
(c) disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI)
and

(2) the nature of the interest concerned

If any Member requires advice on declarations of interests, they are advised to contact the Head of Democratic Governance in advance of the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2021 (Pages 1 - 12)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting of the Audit Committee held on 30 September 2021 as a true and correct record.

3 AUDIT FOLLOW UP - STRATEGIC LEISURE ASSETS (Pages 13 - 22)

To consider a progress report on the recommendations made in the internal audit report of Strategic Leisure Assets issued on 16 February 2021.

4 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER - SERVICE FAILURE (Pages 23 - 38)

To consider the controls being implemented to manage the strategic risk relating to service failure.

5 EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE (ISA 260) AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/2021 (Pages 39 - 234)

To consider Deloitte's Governance Report and the revised Statement of Accounts for 2020/2021.

6 RISK SERVICES QUARTER TWO REPORT (Pages 235 - 260)

To provide the Audit Committee with a summary of the work completed by Risk Services in quarter two of the 2021/2022 financial year.

7 AUDIT COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER (Pages 261 - 264)

To consider the Committee's updated Action Tracker.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Committee as January 2022, with the exact date to be confirmed.

Venue information:

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building. Face masks must be worn when moving throughout the building. Please also maintain social distancing.

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Elaine Ireland, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser, Tel: 01253 477255, e-mail elaine.ireland@blackpool.gov.uk

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MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

Present:

Councillor Galley (in the Chair)

Councillors

Critchley	Hunter	R Scott
Hugo	Roberts	

The following Committee members whilst not present in the room and not able to vote, joined and participated in the meeting virtually:

Ms Brown and Dr Green, Independent Co-opted Members

The following were in attendance virtually:

Mr Neil Jack, Chief Executive
Mr John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services (Items 1-5 only)
Mr Tim Coglan, Head of Public Protection (Items 1-3 only)
Mrs Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk
Mr Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive (Items 3-13 only)
Mr Jonathan Pickup, Head of Information Governance (Items 1-4 only)
Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Mr Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships

Ms Nicola Wright, Deloitte
Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
Councillor Mrs Callow JP, Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board

Mrs Elaine Ireland, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser (present in the room)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Galley declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 5 'Strategic Risk Register – Unsustainable Local Economy and Increased Deprivation' due to his position as Council appointed Non-Executive Director on the Blackpool Transport Services Limited Board.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2021

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2021 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

3 AUDIT FOLLOW UP - CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

[Mr Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy and Performance and Assistant Chief Executive joined the meeting during consideration of this item.]

Mr Tim Coglan, Head of Public Protection presented a progress report on the recommendations made following the internal audit review of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) which had been completed in July 2020. The Committee considered the action plan of agreed recommendations and Mr Coglan provided a summary of progress in relation to each of the resulting eight recommendations.

The Committee questioned whether all wards had CCTV cameras in place and if ward budgets had covered the cost of such cameras. Mr Coglan advised that each ward had been considered individually via a risk-based approach to determine whether cameras should be installed.

The Committee sought further information on how the project would be managed and whether sufficient funding was in place, as well as seeking assurance over the rationale of where the cameras would be positioned. Mr John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services explained that the upgrade to the CCTV system had included only those cameras situated within the core system. Ward cameras placed outside the core area would be included in the next phase of the review which was scheduled to commence over the next twelve months. He reported that the allocated budget had been agreed as £100,000, which was to include management of the whole CCTV system as well as the addition of extra cameras as needed. In addition, a mobile CCTV unit would be available to attend ‘hot spot’ areas or major incidents as required. Mr Blackledge highlighted that the new state of the art CCTV system would be a great asset and would also be utilised to assist the emergency services, being supported by the police and the regional anti-terrorism adviser. In response to a Committee question on whether the police would be contributing to the cost of the system, Mr Blackledge advised that whilst the police were unable to contribute financially due to budget restraints, the Council was working with the Police and Crime Commissioner to support funding opportunities. Furthermore, the Council would also be linking into the police’s digital management system to speed up the sharing of CCTV evidence, with immediate access to footage to be available to the police.

The Chair questioned whether a maintenance plan had been established and if it included operative training. Mr Coglan confirmed that all operatives, including a large number of Public Protection staff, would be receiving security training to ensure correct use of the CCTV equipment, thereby upscaling the level of training currently in place. He advised that any minor maintenance issues would be dealt with in-house.

The Chair thanked Mr Coglan and Mr Blackledge for their beneficial use of the internal audit process to proactively improve a service.

[Mr Coglan left the meeting on conclusion of this item.]

4 INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE DATA PROTECTION AUDIT

Mr Jonathan Pickup, Head of Information Governance presented the Committee with the final executive summary report from the consensual audit which had been undertaken by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) in April 2021. Mr Pickup reported that the audit had taken place via a three day interview process, with additional review of documentation having occurred in advance of the visit. He noted that the review had resulted in 30 recommendations, 22 of which had already been completed.

The Committee commended Mr Pickup and his team for such a positive audit but noted that despite adequate controls having been identified as being in place, access to the resulting action plan would have been beneficial for the Audit Committee in order to allow for the Committee to monitor progress against the recommendations. The Committee requested that resulting action plans be included in the information provided for all future audits, which Mr Pickup agreed.

Mr Pickup confirmed that the review had not resulted in any unexpected findings but highlighted that a number of the recommendations related to processes which had already been in place but which required additional documentation in order to be compliant with the ICO's requirements.

The Chair thanked Mr Pickup and his team for their hard work and noted the successful outcome of the audit.

[Mr Pickup left the meeting on conclusion of this item.]

5 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER - UNSUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMY AND INCREASED DEPRIVATION

The Committee considered a progress report outlining the individual risks identified within the Strategic Risk – Unsustainable Local Economy and Increased Deprivation. The Committee queried the lack of considerations identified within the covering report in relation to sustainability, climate change and environmental issues. Mrs Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk assured the Committee that appropriate narrative would be included in future covering reports.

Consideration was given to the sub-risk 'Increased deprivation and unemployment,' with Mr Neil Jack, Chief Executive providing an update. He outlined a number of employment support programmes being delivered by the Positive Steps into Work service which had been proving effective but acknowledged there was still further work to do. The Committee expressed concern that the end of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme payments, in conjunction with the £20 reduction in Universal Credit and increases in National Insurance contributions from April 2022 would have a negative impact on the lives of Blackpool residents and questioned whether it was anticipated that these would impact on the Council Tax and rent collection rates. The Committee also asked if the Council would be protecting Blackpool residents from the resulting risk of homelessness. Mr Jack advised that the government had just announced that discretionary grants of £500 would be made available to individuals, with further details awaited. With regard to rent and Council Tax collection, he reported that the Council took a sensitive and realistic approach which took account of individual circumstances, whilst noting that approximately 75 per cent of rent charges were paid directly via Housing Benefits which should therefore remain unaffected by the changes.

Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources advised that debt collection rates would be closely monitored over the coming weeks as an adverse impact arising from the changes was potentially anticipated. He reported that the Council would be reviewing its Fair Debt Policy as well as its Financial Inclusion Strategy in conjunction with updating the Income Debt Recovery Strategy and recognised that challenging times were ahead for many Blackpool residents

The Committee asked whether the Joseph Rowntree Living Wage which was in place for Council and wholly owned company employees was applicable to all staff or if there were any exceptions and if contractors used by the Council were also encouraged to pay the rate. Mr Thompson confirmed that the Living Wage rate was paid to all employees, at both the Council and its companies and that in addition, the tendering process entered into by contractors heavily weighted applications which demonstrated payment of the rate to its employees. Mr Jack clarified that there were some external residential care and care at home staff who were paid the national living wage rate, but that an uplift was applied in such cases where possible.

In response to a question from the Committee asking if any measures were planned to help move Blackpool away from being a predominately seasonal employer to a place of year round employment, Mr Jack stressed that the Enterprise Zone was a 365 days a year place of employment which was helping people into permanent not seasonal work. In addition, he advised that Blackpool's season was being extended as far as possible and that investment in areas other than hospitality was in place.

The Committee sought clarification over how economic growth in Blackpool was measured, asking whether the Gross Value Added (GVA) method should be utilised. Mr Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive suggested that GVA could be a crude measure of economic delivery as it provided no information regarding the distribution of wealth or any link to overall wellbeing. He advised that the Council monitored a host of measures around wellbeing, average rates of pay and detailed surveys of sectoral employment levels, noting that a stronger economy was the key to people living happier, healthier lives.

The Committee questioned whether the new employment opportunities in the town centre would include encouragement for employees to relocate to the area. Mr Jack reported that good quality housing would be available not necessarily directly in the town centre but certainly within a walkable distance and offered to provide a more thorough update at a future meeting once the details of the new town centre office space had been released within the public domain.

Mr Lockley provided an update in relation to the sub-risk 'Poor quality housing in inner Blackpool continues to drive transience and deprivation,' reporting that 850 individuals had been successfully rehomed since March 2020 during the start of the pandemic and that the Council continues to develop quality, affordable housing, citing the commitment to 131 new homes within Grange Park. Mr Lockley informed Committee Members that My Blackpool Home had successfully completed work on 500 homes to improve the quality of accommodation available within the town and that work on the Foxhall Village development was to be recommenced.

In response to a question from the Committee as to whether the sub-risk acknowledged the impact of the pandemic and increased pressure on the local housing market, Mr Lockley advised that Covid-19 had not been explicitly included within the risk but that efforts made via the Council's housing companies had responded to the homelessness issues around the pandemic. He acknowledged that the price of acquiring properties suitable for remodelling had recently increased but advised that at present this had not impacted on the ability to continue to meet the development programme targets.

The Committee discussed the potential impact of the government's White Paper on Social Housing and Mr Lockley advised that the Council had already been preparing for any changes which may arise and had been involved in consultation meetings on the anticipated changing measures. The Committee questioned whether increased safety measures might result in the necessity to install sprinkler systems within new properties and refurbishments, with Mr Lockley reporting that the government had been giving consideration to the introduction of such measures but that any resulting changes would be implemented via planning controls as opposed to the White Paper.

The Committee considered the sub-risk 'Lack of appropriate transport infrastructure' and received an update from Mr John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services. He reported that the tram extension at Blackpool North station had been progressing well and that Project Amber had commenced with close collaboration established with the Department for Transport on the generation of beneficial Key Performance Indicators to capture output.

The Committee questioned whether the town's transport network was adequately connected to residents' places of work, citing a lack of buses running to the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) site at Peel Park. Mr Blackledge assured the Committee that transport routes were closely monitored in order to best meet demand and Mr Jack elaborated to inform Members that the original buses which had been subsidised by the DWP had been discontinued due to a lack of passenger take up. The Committee suggested that demand be reviewed in light of the introduction of the Kickstart scheme which had increased the number of young employees based at Peel Park.

Further to a question from the Committee regarding the new junction at Common Edge Road, Mr Blackledge advised that an externally commissioned impact assessment was scheduled to be undertaken, the findings from which would inform the design. The process of appointing consultants and designers was underway and he offered to provide a further progress update to the Audit Committee early in 2022.

Mr Jack provided an update in relation to the sub-risk 'Lack of educational attainment/appropriate training to meet the needs of the economy,' reporting that whilst GCSE performance had improved, the agreement not to publicise performance figures until 2022 had resulted in a lack of reliable comparator data and informed the Committee that the decision to reinstate formal examinations had just been announced. The Committee was informed that the renewed Inclusion Strategy had been integrated into the Education Improvement Strategy 2020/2030 and that the number of pupils being referred to the Pupil Referral Unit or being excluded had reached their lowest levels since 2003.

The Committee sought clarification on the Council's ability to intervene when necessary in light of the majority of Blackpool's secondary schools falling under academy administration. Mr Jack advised that whilst the Council had a level of influence, academies were out of its direct control. He noted that the Education Improvement Board was designed to encourage a culture of collaboration and as a result cooperation had greatly improved.

In answer to a query as to why Blackpool and the Fylde College had not been included within the Strategic Risk Register, Mr Jack advised that as a highly successful college, it was not considered to be a risk and that successful collaborative working between the college and the Council was in place. An update on the Energy College was also requested, with Mr Jack reporting that the college provided a wealth of hands-on experience and top of the range manufacturing facilities to help create employment opportunities around maintenance roles. The Chair suggested that the opportunity section of the Strategic Risk Register could be utilised to include updates on Blackpool and the Fylde College and the Energy College.

[Mr Blackledge left the meeting during consideration of this item.]

6 RISK SERVICES QUARTER ONE REPORT

Mrs Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk presented a report summarising the work of Risk Services, including the overall assurance statements for all audit reviews completed in quarter one. Mrs Greenhalgh highlighted that progress on delivering the 2021/2022 audit plan had been less than expected due to the team currently carrying two vacancies, she reported that recruitment campaigns were underway. The Committee was informed that the impact on the internal audit plan would remain under continual review and contingency arrangements would be explored to ensure that an adequate level of assurance work was undertaken to enable an Annual Audit Opinion to be provided at the close of 2021/2022.

Mrs Greenhalgh updated the Committee in relation to the Council's Corporate Fraud work, reporting that the Senior Counter Fraud Adviser continued to support the Head of Revenues and Exchequer Services and the Head of Economic and Cultural Services in the administration of various grants available to local businesses who had been impacted by the pandemic and which qualified for the various schemes in place. During the quarter, the requirement to undertake pre-assurance checks on all applicants for a Restart Grant had made a significant impact on team resources and therefore progress in relation to the delivery of the proactive fraud plan and the National Fraud Initiative exercise had been impacted. Mrs Greenhalgh advised that with the relaxation of lockdown restrictions and the reduction of associated grants it was hoped that the Corporate Fraud Team would be able to move towards business as usual and address the current backlog of active cases and proactive fraud prevention work. She noted that one of the Corporate Fraud Officers would be leaving the team and therefore a recruitment exercise would need to be undertaken to fill this role, potentially impacting on available resources until a suitable replacement had been secured.

The Committee was informed that with regard to Assurance Statements, the vast majority of areas reviewed had received adequate or good assurance, with the exception of 'Purchase Card Financial Control Assurance Testing,' which had received a split assurance. Mrs Greenhalgh advised that although the controls in place for issuing and distributing new purchase cards, amending card restrictions, reporting management information and managing the cards of leavers had been identified as adequate, compliance testing had identified that whilst guidance and procedures were in place, a significant number of purchase cardholders and authorisers had not been consistently adhering to the purchase card terms and conditions. The level of controls in place for this process had therefore been assessed as inadequate, resulting in 11 recommendations, one of which being Priority One. The Committee sought a progress update on the Priority One recommendation, which was that the Section 151 Officer would contact all purchase cardholders and authorisers reaffirming that they should follow procedures and that non-compliance would result in purchase cards being removed. Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources and Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the letter had been drafted and would be circulated to all card holders imminently, further advising the Committee that a follow-up exercise would be undertaken during the following quarter to individually contact any non-compliant officers.

On reviewing the reported number of trained emergency response volunteers, the Committee questioned whether greater efforts should be made to recruit volunteers. Mrs Greenhalgh reported that the Council had an agreement in place with Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwin whereby volunteers could be utilised if necessary and advised that the figure included within the report referred specifically to Blackpool volunteers.

Resolved: To note the Risk Services quarter one report.

7 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/2021

Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council and Mr Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships presented the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2020/2021 for consideration by the Audit Committee.

Mr Towers reported that the AGS provided a reflective review of the Council's previous financial year in conjunction with the annual Statement of Accounts, in line with the reporting deadline of 30 September 2021. A review had been undertaken on the effectiveness of the Council's systems of internal control within the parameters of the Governance Framework, with assurance being provided to the Audit Committee that risk had been adequately managed to a reasonable level. As such, Mr Towers made the recommendation that the Committee should approve the AGS as presented.

The Committee was informed of the process by which the AGS had been developed, with Mr Towers explaining that a Good Governance Group had been established in 2016 and had led on the review of effectiveness and the production of the Annual Governance Statement, including reviewing the 2020/2021 statement, to ensure that any governance issues previously identified had subsequently been addressed. He outlined that the group was chaired by himself and attended by the Head of Audit and Risk, the Head of Democratic Governance, the Transformation Manager, the Head of Legal Services, the Head of ICT, the Chief Accountant, the Head of Information Governance and the Head of Organisation and Workforce Development. Furthermore, he reported that a workshop had been held in September 2021 with Councillor representation from Scrutiny, Audit and Standards and that the Corporate Leadership Team had been required to complete a self-assessment questionnaire providing assurance that their directorates were compliant with a number of key controls.

Mr Towers advised that the AGS Action Plan had been included for consideration by the Audit Committee and that progress against the identified actions would be reported back to the Committee at its meeting on 3 March 2022.

The Committee questioned how the AGS would be used to support some of the new ways of working which had resulted from the pandemic. Councillor Williams noted that the pandemic had successfully tested the Governance Framework and helped to inform future business continuity planning to ensure the Council's continued resilience.

In response to the Committee's observation that the Council's wholly owned companies did not feature significantly within the AGS, Mr Towers identified that the Council's companies had been referenced within the strand on partnership working and advised that the AGS was a review specifically of the Council's internal procedures. As such, the governance arrangements around the Council's role as Shareholder had been included within the relevant section of the AGS and looked to provide an overview of the controls in place. Mr Towers highlighted that a consistent approach had been taken across the companies and as such an overarching framework supported them all without the need to individually reference each company separately. He did however advise that next year's AGS covering the 2021/2022 period would demonstrate more of a focus on the wholly owned companies which would be informed by a scheduled audit of the Council's company governance, to be undertaken by the Mersey Internal Audit Agency. Mr Towers also referenced recent national guidance which had been issued by Local Partnerships and which was currently under review in conjunction with the Council's companies to inform their governance frameworks.

The Committee sought assurance that Council officers were supportive of the AGS, with Mr Towers confirming that the Good Governance Group was made up of a number of key officers from across the Council and that their input had been incorporated into the AGS. In addition, the action plan had been agreed and supported by the Corporate Leadership Team.

In relation to the action plan, the Committee noted that it contained a large number of actions with the target dates being non-specific and a question was asked as to whether specific dates would have been preferable. Mr Towers reported that exact dates had originally been included in previous years' versions but that the action plan had been tailored following feedback to provide relevant updates to the Audit Committee in line with the Committee's scheduled meeting dates throughout the year.

Due to the potential impact on partners of the Council's new ways of working, the Committee questioned whether an impact assessment on its partners was planned. Mr Neil Jack, Chief Executive reported that despite the introduction of hybrid working across many areas of the Council, several services had continued to work in their usual work places and to undertake in person meetings where restrictions had allowed, specifically in relation to Adult Social Care, where full service provision had continued throughout the pandemic.

Mr Towers highlighted that evidence which demonstrated compliance with the Governance Framework had been included within the AGS and that this would continue to be reviewed going forward for inclusion in next year's Statement.

Resolved: To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/2021.

8 DELOITTE VALUE FOR MONEY ARRANGEMENTS REQUEST LIST

Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources explained that as part of the 2020/2021 audit, Deloitte had been required to report on the Council's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources. Their request list had been split into three areas:

1. Arrangements covering financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness;
2. Adapting arrangements to the Covid-19 pandemic;
3. Arrangements in specific arears.

The Committee was informed that the Council had now completed its response, which Mr Thompson asked the Committee to consider prior to its submission to Deloitte.

The Committee sought clarification on the process going forward and questioned how the Council and Deloitte monitored the information. Mr Thompson clarified that Value for Money was not only concerned with cost-saving mechanisms but rather in looking at the effectiveness of service delivery, which would be continuously monitored and reviewed. Ms Nicola Wright, Deloitte advised that her team would now consider the submission, examining any underpinning evidence with the aim of identifying any areas of significant weakness. Furthermore, Deloitte would also undertake a consistency exercise across Council clients in order to identify examples of best practice.

Resolved: To note the Council's management response to Deloitte's Value for Money arrangements request list.

9 PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Mr Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships informed the Committee that the Annual Governance Statement's action plan, as agreed by the Audit Committee in November 2020 had identified that in terms of good practice the adoption of a Partnership Governance Framework had been recommended. He explained that the framework would assist in bringing consistency in respect of good governance in partnerships and would help mitigate the Council's and other stakeholders' risk in being part of such partnerships. Mr Towers highlighted that the framework would apply to organisations already involved in partnerships with the Council or those who were looking to establish new partnerships, with the framework's purpose being to help officers and Members evaluate and influence partnership governance by defining what a 'significant partnership' was and setting out the principles of partnership governance. With regard to which current partnerships would be covered by the framework, Mr Towers clarified that this would include any partner receiving an annual contribution of £100,000, excluding staffing costs, from the Council and/or the partnership being critical to the delivery of key Council objectives or statutory obligations, or was a fundamental component of Council priorities and functions and the Council's reputation could be damaged by the partnership's failure to deliver.

The Committee questioned whether, as the framework would not be a statutory requirement, current partners would accept the framework and if the process and structure had been clearly communicated to them. Mr Towers advised that the ultimate aim of the framework was to encourage and ensure good governance and as such partners would be informed of any identified risks and the necessary measures to mitigate these.

Committee Members queried the role of the Audit Committee in monitoring the effectiveness of the framework, with Mr Towers reporting that the document had been linked to the internal audit plan in relation to partnerships and would therefore be routinely communicated back to the Committee via the reporting of audit findings. In addition, he noted that the Committee would be overseeing the Annual Governance Statement, which the framework had been incorporated into.

Resolved: To recommend Council to adopt the Partnership Governance Framework and form part of the Council's Constitution.

10 EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2020/2021

Ms Nicola Wright, Deloitte presented the external audit plan for 2020/2021, reporting that as the Council's external auditors, Deloitte were required to review and report on the Council's financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement), to provide an opinion on the Council's accounts and its use of resources and conclude on the arrangements in place for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources. She noted that the audit planning process and risk assessment was an ongoing process and that the assessment and fees in the plan would be kept under review and updated where required. With regard to the materiality threshold, Ms Wright informed Members that any unadjusted misstatements over £500,000 would be reported to the Audit Committee.

Ms Wright outlined Deloitte's risk assessment process, reporting that a number of factors had been taken into account when determining the significant audit risks and she reported that the work undertaken would focus specifically on the following areas:

- Completeness of accrued expenditure;

- Management override of controls;
- Property valuations;
- Risk of fraud in revenue recognition.

With regard to the Value for Money conclusion as previously included within the audit opinion, Ms Wright advised that revised guidance now stipulated the production of an Auditor's Annual Report which would set out the work undertaken in respect of the reporting criteria and Deloitte's findings, including any explanation needed in respect of judgements or local context for findings. If significant weaknesses had been identified, the weaknesses and recommendations would also be included in the report, together with follow-up of previous recommendations and details of whether they had been implemented.

The Committee asked Ms Wright if at this time she was able to identify any potential issues which may result in a delay in the publication of the Council's accounts for 2020/2021. Ms Wright advised that she had no current concerns about meeting the deadline as the current audit had been making good progress and had been running smoothly. She noted that any concerns which arose regarding the deadline would be promptly reported to Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources and the Chair of the Audit Committee.

Resolved: To note the External Audit plan for 2020/2021.

11 EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF INTERNAL AUDIT

Mrs Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk presented the Committee with the findings resulting from the external assessment aimed at determining whether the internal audit team conformed to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). Mrs Greenhalgh reported that the PSIAS required that an external assessment of an organisation's internal audit function be carried out once every five years by a qualified, independent assessor or assessment team. External assessments could be in the form of a full external assessment, or a self-assessment with independent external validation.

The Committee was advised that an independent external validation process had been used for this assessment as approved by the Audit Committee in June 2019. The Council's internal audit team had carried out a self-assessment of compliance with the PSIAS which had been reported to the Audit Committee in 2020 prior to the external validation taking place in June/July 2021. Mrs Greenhalgh reported that the review had identified that the Council's internal audit team continued to conform to the PSIAS with no significant recommendations for improvement having been made. She highlighted that a number of points for consideration to further develop the audit function had arisen from the review, which would be addressed going forward, in addition to the requirement to obtain formal feedback from the Chair of the Audit Committee.

The Chair praised the internal audit team and Mrs Greenhalgh for the results of the review and extended the Committee's thanks for their ongoing hard work.

Resolved: To note the outcome of the external assessment of internal audit to confirm adherence to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

12 AUDIT COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER

The Committee considered the updated Action Tracker, noting that no actions were due for further consideration at this time.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Committee was noted as 11 November 2021, commencing at 6pm.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.07pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Elaine Ireland, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser
Tel: 01253 477255
E-mail: elaine.ireland@blackpool.gov.uk

Report to:	**AUDIT COMMITTEE**
Relevant Officers:	Lee Frudd, Head of Strategic Leisure Assets Alan Cavill, Director of Communication and Regeneration
Date of Meeting:	11 November 2021

AUDIT FOLLOW UP – STRATEGIC LEISURE ASSETS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider a progress report on the recommendations made in the internal audit report of Strategic Leisure Assets issued on 16 February 2021.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the actions being implemented to address the audit recommendations relating to Strategic Leisure Assets.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To enable the Audit Committee to consider an update and progress report on the audit recommendations.

3.2	Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council?	No
3.3	Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget?	Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool.

6.0 Background information

6.1 At its meeting in April 2021, the Audit Committee agreed to invite Heads of Service to the meeting to provide an update in relation to internal audit recommendation implementation.

6.2 The report being considered at this meeting relates to the Strategic Leisure Assets audit with the scope and assurance statement as follows:

6.3 **Scope**

The scope of the audit was to review:

- That deficit plans are robust and deliverable;
- Benefit realisation in terms of jobs and economy;
- Monitoring arrangements for profit share and income forecasts; and
- Impacts of Covid-19 on current and future plans.

Assurance Statement

It was considered that the controls in place in relation to Strategic Leisure Assets are adequate overall, with some risks identified and assessed and several changes recommended. Whilst there is a significant deficit against the scheme, which has been increased further by the pandemic, plans are in place to recover this over the coming years.

6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 3(a) - Internal Audit Recommendations and Agreed Actions.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 The controls being implemented will be done so within current budget constraints.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 Risks need to be effectively managed in order to comply with relevant legislation.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 To enable the Audit Committee to gain assurance that risks are being effectively managed.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 Where equality analysis is appropriate these will have been undertaken whilst making decisions relating to the Strategic Leisure Assets.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 Any matters relating to sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations will be considered when making decisions relating to the Strategic Leisure Assets.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 The progress report has been prepared in conjunction with the relevant Head of Service and Chief Officer.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

Agreed Action Plan

Recommendation		Priority	Agreed Action	Responsible officer	Target Date	Progress
R1	MTFP projections should be reviewed and the MTFP regularly updated as evidence emerges of recovery trends.	2	Agreed. The MTFP is generally reviewed annually and forecasts are reviewed every two months to ensure they remain as accurate as possible, so this is already underway.	Head of Strategic Leisure Assets	Currently underway, with forecasts reviewed every two months.	The SLA MTFP was revised July 2021 to reflect the most up to date financial information available at that time. It has since been further updated to reflect cash-flows associated with Phase 1 of the GM development and incorporate sensitivity analysis functionality. Current year out-turn projections are monitored and updated on a monthly basis to include a review of both income and expenditure. Significant in year variances to the MTFP are incorporated in the MTFP when realised so as to help maintain accuracy of the MTFP.

Recommendation		Priority	Agreed Action	Responsible officer	Target Date	Progress
R2	The MTFP should be built upon to assist long term decision making by incorporating a sensitivity analysis of different outcome scenarios, particularly in relation to the period for the recovery of the impact from Covid.	2	Agreed. This will be completed in conjunction with Recommendation 1.	Head of Strategic Leisure Assets	To be incorporated from the next review of the MTFP at the end of period 4.	The SLA MTFP has been updated to incorporate sensitivity analysis functionality. This allows each cash-flow line to be independently adjusted on a percentage basis and the impact of such adjustments demonstrated in the MTFP model.

R3	To support the achievement of the MTFP, a medium term Strategic Leisure Assets business plan should be considered including consideration of specific key performance indicators.	2	Agreed. Advice and possibly support will be obtained from the Strategy, Policy and Research Manager regarding how this can be undertaken using meaningful and relevant performance indicators.	Head of Strategic Leisure Assets	30th April 2021	Discussion has taken place and advice received from the Strategy Policy and Research Manager. Further consideration is taking place with regard to the implementation of specific KPIs that could be used to assist in improved monitoring and management of the SLA portfolio. Existing key performance indicators and measures used in monitoring and managing financial performance of the portfolio include: • Cash-flow forecasting and return on investment (ROI) on new investments made within the portfolio; • Continual monitoring of revenue forecasts so as to help ensure revenue from the portfolio is maximised; • Close debtor management so as to limit

Recommendation		Priority	Agreed Action	Responsible officer	Target Date	Progress
						the risk of bad debts; • Continual monitoring of expenditure so as to minimise costs and help ensure value for money is maximised where possible.
R4	When the financial impacts of the potential Golden Mile development are known these should be reflected in the MTFP.	2	Agreed. This will be reflected in the MTFP when financial impacts are known.	Head of Strategic Leisure Assets	31st December 2021 (dependent on the timing of the agreements related to the Golden Mile development)	The MTFP has been updated to reflect cash-flows associated with Phase 1 of the Golden Mile development. This element of the scheme has now been approved by the Executive. Phase 2 of the Golden Mile development will be incorporated into the MTFP if/when authorisation to proceed with this element is issued.
R5	The SLA risk register should be updated and developed to include the risk of failure to deliver the MTFP.	2	Agreed. This will be incorporated on the Risk Register, and updated regularly.	Head of Strategic Leisure Assets	30th June 2021	The SLA risk register has been updated to incorporate the risk of failure to deliver the MTFP.

Recommendation		Priority	Agreed Action	Responsible officer	Target Date	Progress
R6	In liaison with the Strategy, Policy and Research Team the possibility of measuring the effects now of the SLA portfolio should be considered, including the impact on visitor performance.	3	Agreed. This will be discussed with the Strategy, Policy and Research Manager, alongside R3.	Head of Strategic Leisure Assets	30th April 2021	Discussion has taken place with the Strategy Research and Policy Manager in this regard. Further consideration is being given to the use of the *"Visitor Insights"* software application in measuring the effects of the SLA portfolio on visitor performance. This software provides the ability to utilise anonymised GPS and mobile phone tracking data which can be used to identify the location and movements of pedestrians across Blackpool town centre including the Promenade. This could allow, for example, an analysis of the total number of pedestrians within the town centre and Promenade who specifically visit attractions within the SLA.

Report to:	**AUDIT COMMITTEE**
Relevant Officers:	John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services Tony Doyle, Head of IT Vicky Gent, Director of Children's Services Neil Jack, Chief Executive Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Date of Meeting:	11 November 2021

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER – SERVICE FAILURE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

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

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the controls being implemented to manage the strategic risk relating to service failure.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

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

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

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

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The risk impacts on all the Council's priorities.

6.0 Background information

6.1 At its meeting in March 2021, 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 – attached at Appendix 4(a).

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 4(a) - Strategic Risk Register Progress Report – Service Failure.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 The controls being implemented will be done so within current budget constraints.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 Risks need to be effectively managed in order to comply with relevant legislation.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 To enable the Audit Committee to gain assurance that strategic risks are being effectively managed.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 Equality analysis should have been undertaken, where necessary, when decisions were made in relation to the identification of the actions identified in this document. As this report presents monitoring against pre-agreed actions, no further equality analysis has been undertaken as part of this report.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 Sustainability, climate change and environmental matters should have been considered, where necessary, when decisions were made in relation to the identification of the actions identified in this document. As this report presents monitoring against pre-agreed actions, no further analysis has been undertaken as part of this report.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 The progress report has been prepared in conjunction with risk managers and/or risk owners.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

APPENDIX 4(a)

Strategic Risk Register Progress Report

Strategic Risk: Service Failure

No	Risk	Sub No.	Sub-Risk	% Overall Weighting	Impact / Consequences	Opportunity	Gross Risk Score I	Gross Risk Score L	Gross Risk Score GS	Controls and Mitigation	Nett Risk Score I	Nett Risk Score L	Nett Risk Score NS	Further Actions	Risk Manager	CLT Risk Owner	Target Date	Council Priority
2	**Service Failure**	**2a**	Removal of Children's Services from the Council's control.	40%	Loss of direct managerial and financial control.	Implementation of robust working practices in a Council run Children's Services.	5	5	25	Recommendations made by OFSTED have been articulated in clear plans which have driven the work of the senior leadership team in Children's Social Care.	5	4	20	Plans continue to align with the OFSTED recommendations and will continue to reference them until the point of a re-inspection.	Assistant Director of Children's Social Care	Director of Children's Services	March 2022	Organisational Resilience
					Increased insurance premiums.					Plans are being monitored through the "Getting to Good" board and regularly reviewed by the Chief Executive, lead member for Children's Services and Leader of the Council.				Continue to work with the DfE Improvement Advisor to continue to embed changes in practice.	Assistant Director of Children's Social Care	Director of Children's Services	March 2022	
					Recruitment and retention issues.					Since the inspection the Council has been subject to scrutiny from the DfE appointed commissioner who confirmed that the authority was leading the required change effectively.				Appoint a new Director of Children's Services to continue to lead the improvement journey.	Head of Organisational and Workforce Development	Chief Executive	June 2021	
					Reputational damage.					In August 2019 and December 2019, OFSTED have undertaken monitoring visits to review progress and have noted areas of improvement against their recommendations, particularly with reference to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub; the "front door" to children's social care services.				Implement robust transition arrangements until the new Director of Children's Services is appointed.	Head of Organisational and Workforce Development	Chief Executive	April 2021	

Strategic Risk Register Progress Report

No	Risk	Sub No.	Sub-Risk	% Overall Weighting	Impact / Consequences	Opportunity	Gross Risk Score I	L	GS	Controls and Mitigation	Nett Risk Score I	L	NS	Further Actions	Risk Manager	CLT Risk Owner	Target Date	Council Priority
2	**Service Failure**	**2b**	Failure of a service provider in high risk contracted areas for statutory services.	15%	Increased costs.	Robust service provision.	5	5	25	Robust procurement procedures in place to help ensure appropriate due diligence of potential contractors.	5	3	15	Implement the new Lancashire and Blackpool Waste Strategy that the Lancashire Waste Partnership are currently producing which will be out to consultation early Spring. Key elements relate to a non-landfill solution for residual waste, disposal, markets sustainability, and food waste collection.	Head of Waste and Environmental Operations	Director of Community and Environmental Services	September 2021	Organisational Resilience
					Possible loss of capacity in the market place.	Added value delivered through contracted services.				Corporate procurement team in place to support the procurement process and tender evaluation.				Strengthen contract management across the Council through addressing the recommendations made in the internal audit report 2019/20.	Head of Procurement	Director of Resources	March 2022	
					Legal challenges resulting in contract award being delayed.					Contract management guide in place to advise responsible officers how to undertake contract management.								
					Contracts are not effectively managed resulting in inadequate service provision / unnecessary costs.					Intelligent clients who have oversight of the market, high level contingency planning, and staff experienced in dealing with service failure.								
					Reputational damage to the Council.					Commissioning Team in place to work with the marketplace to ensure access to appropriate services.								
										The domestic waste service has been brought back under the umbrella of the Council's wholly owned companies portfolio.								

Strategic Risk Register Progress Report

No	Risk	Sub No.	Sub-Risk	% Overall Weighting	Impact / Consequences	Opportunity	Gross Risk Score I	Gross Risk Score L	Gross Risk Score GS	Controls and Mitigation	Nett Risk Score I	Nett Risk Score L	Nett Risk Score NS	Further Actions	Risk Manager	CLT Risk Owner	Target Date	Council Priority
2	**Service Failure**	**2c**	Loss of key infrastructure and resource which results in Council services not being delivered.	15%	Inability to deliver critical services.	Build a resilient and agile organisation.	5	5	25	Business continuity programme in place which links to the Council's Major Emergency Plan.	5	3	15	Look for provisions for data centre refresh in the coming years to continue to provide resilience.	Head of ICT Services	Director of Resources	March 2022	Organisational Resilience
					Deterioration of Council assets beyond economic repair.					Corporate business continuity plan in place supported by a critical activity list.				Implement the new HR and Payroll system across the Council.	Head of Organisational and Workforce Development / Chief Accountant	Chief Executive / Director of Resources	April 2022	
										Corporate ICT and Property business continuity guidance in place.				Implement the new finance system across the Council.	Chief Accountant	Director of Resources	April 2023	
										Annual review of planned property maintenance undertaken and agreed with the Corporate Asset Management Group.				Complete the roll-out of the revised service level business continuity plan template.	Head of Audit and Risk	Director of Resource	September 2021	
										Vehicle maintenance and inspection programme in place.				ENVECO Phase 2 proposal to integrate fleets to result in increased vehicle efficiency and sustainability.	Head of Waste and Environmental Operations	Director of Community and Environmental Services	September 2021	
										Business continuity is included for discussion at the various risk management groups.				Consider lessons learned from the pandemic in terms of ways of working, and seek to maximise opportunities to increase better use of technology and rationalisation of the property portfolio.	Head of Property Services / Head of ICT	Director of Resources	June 2021	
										Links with the Lancashire Resilience Forum to consider business continuity in the local government sector.								
										Ongoing review of vehicle usage, and the vehicle replacement programme, to increase resilience and efficiency.								

Strategic Risk Register Progress Report

No	Risk	Sub No.	Sub-Risk	% Overall Weighting	Impact / Consequences	Opportunity	Gross Risk Score			Controls and Mitigation	Nett Risk Score			Further Actions	Risk Manager	CLT Risk Owner	Target Date	Council Priority
							I	L	GS		I	L	NS					
2	**Service Failure**	**2d**	Cyber Threats	30%	Cyber fraud.	Improved knowledge and awareness across departments on identifying phishing emails.	5	5	25	Investment in Sandbox technology.	5	4	20	Continue to develop and refine technologies to provide proactive altering and monitoring of the changing threats.	Head of ICT Services	Director of Resources	March 2022	Organisational Resilience
					Reputational damage.	Participate in training and knowledge gathering opportunities.				SEIM (Security Information Event Management) implemented to proactively monitor activity on the network.				Review use of white listing to mitigate risk of being hijacked.	Head of ICT Services	Director of Resources	March 2022	
					Loss of compliance with security regimes.	Robust cyber security controls in place.				The use of blacklists / reputation to authenticate emails received.								
					Loss of confidence in using Council on-line services.					Proactive engagement with regional and national cyber security agencies.								
					Monetary penalties / fines.					ICT Security Policy in place supported by mandatory Cyber Awareness Training.								
										Contracted specialist third party cyber breach advice in place.								
										Two internet connections maintained to provide resilience.								
										Artificial intelligence being used to further detect and reduce the amount of SPAM e-mails.								
										Cyber incident exercises undertaken with partner organisations.								
										Cyber policy in place with reputable insurer providing breach response and liability cover.								
										Full Sender Policy Framework (SPF) checking in place and adherence to the NCSC guidelines for Securing Government email.								
										Cyber risk awareness sessions held at the various risk management groups across the Council.								
										Overall Nett Risk Score	**18.5**							

Strategic Risk Register Progress Report

Sub-Risk: Removal of Children's Services from the Council's control. (weighting 40%)	Gross Risk Score	Nett Risk Score
	25	20
Risk Score in 2020/21	25	20

Risk Owner: Director of Children's Services, Chief Executive

Existing Controls in Place:

- Recommendations made by OFSTED have been articulated in clear plans which have driven the work of the senior leadership team in Children's Social Care.
- Plans are being monitored through the "Getting to Good" board and regularly reviewed by the Chief Executive, lead member for Children's Services, and Leader of the Council.
- Since the inspection the Council has been subject to scrutiny from the DfE appointed commissioner who confirmed that the authority was leading the required change effectively.
- In August 2019 and December 2019, OFSTED have undertaken monitoring visits to review progress and have noted areas of improvement against their recommendations, particularly with reference to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub; the "front door" to children's social care services.

Actions:

Actions	Risk Manager	Current Position	Outcomes / Results
Plans continue to align with the OFSTED recommendations and will continue to reference them until the point of a re-inspection. (Target Date: March 2022)	Assistant Director of Children's Social Care	• Following the inadequate opinion from Ofsted in 2018 the service continues to work hard as part of its improvement journey. • A Getting to Good Plan is in place which is monitored by the Getting to Good Board to ensure that adequate progress continues to be made. Every plan which is developed by Children's Social Care is mindful of the Ofsted recommendations and how these can be embedded into working practices. • Ofsted carried out a monitoring visit in September 2021 and is likely to undertake more monitoring visits before a full re-inspection of the service which is likely to take place in Autumn 2022.	• Positive outcome from future Ofsted inspections to demonstrate that the Council delivers an effective service to its children.
Continue to work with the DfE Improvement Advisor to continue to embed changes in practice.	Assistant Director of Children's Social Care	• The service continues to work closely with the DfE Improvement Advisor. • Monthly meetings are held between the Director of Children's Services, Assistant Director, Heads of Service, and the DfE Improvement Advisor.	• Improved outcomes for children.

(Target Date: March 2022)		• The DfE Improvement Advisor provides regular highlight reports and completed a six monthly stocktake in July 2021 which presented a positive outcome in terms of improvements.	
Implement robust transition arrangements until the new Director of Children's Services is appointed. (Target Date: April 2021)	Head of Organisational and Workforce Development	• Interim arrangements were implemented, however were only needed in the short term. During this period the Assistant Director of Children's Social Care acted up in the role and performed this well. • Following a successful recruitment campaign for a substantive Director of Children's Services, an agreement was reached with the candidate's previous employer to release them early to Blackpool.	• Effective handover.
Appoint a new Director of Children's Services to continue to lead the improvement journey. (Target Date: June 2021)	Head of Organisational and Workforce Development	• A new Director of Children's Services is in place. • A full induction was carried out for the new Director of Children's Services. They have also spent time meeting with services and partner agencies (including statutory, voluntary and community) in order to build a good understanding of Blackpool, its strengths, and the areas for development.	• Statutory position filled.

	Gross Risk Score	Nett Risk Score
Sub-Risk: Failure of a service provider in high risk contracted areas for statutory services. (weighting 15%)	**25**	**15**
Risk Score in 2020/21	**25**	**15**

Risk Owner: Director of Community & Environmental Services, Director of Resources

Existing Controls in Place:

- Robust procurement procedures in place to help ensure appropriate due diligence of potential contractors.
- Corporate procurement team in place to support the procurement process and tender evaluation.
- Contract management guide in place to advise responsible officers how to undertake contract management.
- Intelligent clients who have oversight of the market, high level contingency planning, and staff experienced in dealing with service failure.

- Commissioning Team in place to work with the marketplace to ensure access to appropriate services.
- The domestic waste service has been brought back under the umbrella of the Council's wholly owned companies portfolio.

Actions:

Actions	Risk Manager	Current Position	Outcomes / Results
Implement the new Lancashire and Blackpool Waste Strategy that the Lancashire Waste Partnership are currently producing, which will be out to consultation early Spring. Key elements relate to a non-landfill solution for residual waste, disposal, markets sustainability, and food waste collection. (Original Target Date: September 2021) (Revised Target Date: March 2022)	Head of Waste Policy & Partnerships	• A member-lead task-and-finish group has been assembled from within the Lancashire Waste Partnership with a view to developing a draft strategy for consultation, initially due early Spring 2021. • The development of the draft strategy has been delayed, mainly due to the following factors: - Covid-19 and associated impacts related to the pandemic. - Potential impacts as a result of the UK's exit from the EU have been given due consideration. The development of a new local strategy will seek to mitigate any potential risks by focusing on reducing the need to export waste through developing local capacity for Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) and recyclable materials. - Perhaps the most notable issue relates to the procurement of the post 2025 non-landfill solution and also the emergence of new technology in response to the increasingly pressing issue of the climate emergency. As a result of this there has been a conscious decision to deliberately further delay the procurement of this solution. - New and emerging technology is now a serious factor in whatever future options we choose, and will have a direct impact on the processes and methodology of waste processing. - Lack of clarity from central government, and low confidence from the private sector to invest without surety, represent significant obstacles and delays to the strategy.	• Implementation of cost effective and climate friendly waste disposal.
Strengthen contract management across the Council through addressing the recommendations made in the internal audit report 2019/20.	Head of Procurement	• A Contract Management iPool course is available to all staff and this is promoted via the Hub periodically. • Upon completion of a tender, a handover takes place whereby key documentation is issued from the Procurement Team to the Officer who will be responsible for managing the contract – this will include a copy of the contract and key schedules including any contract monitoring arrangements	• Robust contract management arrangements.

(Target Date: March 2022)		specific to the contract along with key performance indicators. The handover will also include the provision of a link to the contract management iPool training course. • A Contract Management Code of Practice is also available to all Officers. • Some members of the Procurement Team, who have responsibility for managing corporate contracts, have undertaken supplementary contract management training via the Local Government Association and this training will be used to refine existing guidance documents. • If necessary, bespoke face to face training will be reintroduced for officers in high risk areas.	

Sub-Risk: Loss of key infrastructure and resource which results in Council services not being delivered. (weighting 15%)	Gross Risk Score	Nett Risk Score
	25	15
Risk Score in 2020/21	25	15

Risk Owner: Director of Resources, Chief Executive, Director of Community & Environmental Services

Existing Controls in Place:

- Business continuity programme in place which links to the Council's Major Emergency Plan.
- Corporate business continuity plan in place supported by a critical activity list.
- Corporate ICT and Property business continuity guidance in place.
- Annual review of planned property maintenance undertaken and agreed with the Corporate Asset Management Group.
- Vehicle maintenance and inspection programme in place.
- Business continuity is included for discussion at the various risk management groups.
- Links with the Lancashire Resilience Forum to consider business continuity in the local government sector.
- Ongoing review of vehicle usage, and the vehicle replacement programme, to increase resilience and efficiency.

Actions:

Actions	Risk Manager	Current Position	Outcomes / Results

Strategic Risk Register Progress Report

Look for provisions for data centre refresh in the coming years to continue to provide resilience. (Target Date: March 2022)	Head of ICT Services	• A one off capital (£1.8million) was set aside to invest in the Council's data centre and network infrastructure as part of the move to Bickerstaffe in 2014. • The infrastructure reserve, whilst seemingly in a healthy position, is now starting to come under pressure, however funds are set aside on an annual basis for equipment refresh. • The Local Area Network that is end of life has been replaced recently in Bickerstaffe and this also needs doing at other Council office sites and with other customers such as schools and Council companies. • There is also elements of server infrastructure coming to the end of life, and the need to provide hybrid meeting room systems is also adding some pressure. • Some capital expenditure is being avoided by moving some services to the cloud and by delivering the network and telephony differently, such as via wireless and headsets, thereby avoiding capital costs for wired connections and handsets.	• There is no immediate issue because there is sufficient funds in the reserve to invest in updating the network and keeping the infrastructure/data centre performing in the short term.
Implement the new HR and Payroll system across the Council. (Target Date: April 2022)	Head of Organisational and Workforce Development / Head of Accountancy	• The contract for the new HR / Payroll system has been awarded after a robust procurement process. • A Project Board is in place overseeing the project and a number of project sub-groups are in place leading on delivery of the project. • The Head of Audit and Risk is a member of the Project Board to provide advice on risk and control matters throughout the project. • A dedicated Project Manager has been appointed to jointly deliver this system, and also the finance system. Whilst there are two separate systems, this joint approach to project management helps ensure that resources are not overwhelmed. • Additional capacity has been brought in to support the services with resource during the implementation phase. • A project plan is in place which is regularly updated, with a target of the new system being implemented by April 2022. • Key stages in the project plan include data migration, user acceptance testing, training, communications and dual running. • A project risk register is in place which is considered by exception at Project Board meetings.	• Implementation of an efficient HR and payroll system.

		• This project was reviewed as part of a piece of audit consultancy to identify lessons learned to date.	
Implement the new finance system across the Council. (Target Date: April 2023)	Head of Accountancy	• The contract for the new financial management system has been awarded after a robust procurement process. • A dedicated Project Manager has been appointed to jointly deliver this system, and also the finance system. Whilst there are two separate systems, this joint approach to project management helps ensure that resources are not overwhelmed. • Additional capacity has been brought in to support the services with resource during the implementation phase. • The Head of Audit and Risk is a member of the Project Board to provide advice on risk and control matters throughout the project. • Steps are being taken to work with the software provider to prepare a project plan to ensure successful implementation by April 2023. • Once a robust project plan is in place setting out the key stages of the project, a number of sub-groups will be established in order to deliver the work. • A project risk register will be developed to support delivery of the project plan. • This project was reviewed as part of a piece of audit consultancy to identify lessons learned to date.	• Implementation of an efficient Financial Management system.
Complete the roll-out of the revised service level business continuity plan template. (Target Date: September 2021) (Revised Target Date: March 2022)	Head of Audit and Risk	• Progress is being made in transferring all services however the deadline has slipped due to the priority of supporting all services with business continuity advice during the pandemic. • Plans are in place for the Risk and Resilience Team to liaise with all services by the end of this financial year in order to update their service level business continuity plans. • The current position is as follows:	• More robust and consistent business continuity plans in place for all services.

Directorate	Complete	In Progress	Yet to Start
Adult Services	83%	17%	0%
Chief Executives	67%	33%	0%

Strategic Risk Register Progress Report

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<tr><td>Children’s Services</td><td>0%</td><td>0%</td><td>100%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Communications and Regeneration</td><td>79%</td><td>0%</td><td>21%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Community & Environmental Services</td><td>73%</td><td>0%</td><td>27%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Governance & Partnerships</td><td>100%</td><td>0%</td><td>0%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Public Health</td><td>100%</td><td>0%</td><td>0%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Resources</td><td>17%</td><td>33%</td><td>50%</td></tr>
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<td>ENVECO Phase 2 proposal to integrate fleets to result in increased vehicle efficiency and sustainability.

(Target Date: September 2021)</td>
<td>Head of Waste Policy & Partnerships</td>
<td>Following an 18 month project to integrate the remaining traditional, depot delivered Street Scene services in to Blackpool Waste Services (ENVECO), the fleet, staff and services have been fully integrated in to a wholly owned waste and environmentally focused company.</td>
<td>Improved environmental outcomes for residents, businesses and visitors.</td>
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<td>Consider lessons learned from the pandemic in terms of ways of working, and seek to maximise opportunities to increase better use of technology and rationalisation of the property portfolio.

(Original Target Date: June 2021)

(Revised Target Date: March 2022)</td>
<td>Head of Property Services / Head of ICT</td>
<td>The Council is taking a cautious approach to the return to the office and most Covid Secure arrangements are still in place therefore reducing the number of desks available for use. The deadline for this piece of work has been revised to align with the intended release of the currently restricted desks.
Whilst working in a Covid Secure way the Health and Safety Team has been undertaking workplace inspections across a range of Council buildings to ensure that the controls are adhered to.
A staff survey was undertaken which has highlighted that the majority of staff are supportive of a move to hybrid working.
The Council is seeking to adopt an agile work style, embracing the positive changes that the Covid pandemic has had on the way Council Services are delivered, with some staff working from home part time and in the office part time.
Staff have adapted extremely well during the lock down restrictions, bringing forward transformational change in the way that services are delivered.</td>
<td>Enablement of hybrid working which potentially enables office rationalisation.
Work life balance benefits for employees.</td>
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		• The Council has considered what impact this shall have on its property and office requirements for the future, with the expectation that the core Council offices will reduce from a 7 to 10 desk ratio, to a 5 to 10 desk ratio on average. This will enable further rationalisation of the Council's operational portfolio and present opportunities to active further savings on property running costs and sites for disposal or development. • Council companies are also being encouraged to adopt similar principles where appropriate to do so. • New technology and software has enabled more remote working in the majority of service areas, providing customer support and access to be delivered in different ways. • The ICT Service has recently removed telephone handsets and moved colleagues on to headsets to support hybrid working. • The ICT service has also been piloting hybrid meeting room systems and is starting to introduce a shared meeting room system to enable meetings to be held in hybrid mode so colleagues have a choice of working and attending meetings either from home or the office.	

Sub-Risk: Cyber Threats (weighting 30%)	Gross Risk Score	Nett Risk Score
	25	20
Risk Score in 2020/21	25	20
Risk Owner: Director of Resources		

Existing Controls in Place:

- Investment in Sandbox technology.
- SEIM (Security Information Event Management) implemented to proactively monitor activity on the network.
- The use of blacklists / reputation to authenticate emails received.
- Proactive engagement with regional and national cyber security agencies.
- ICT Security Policy in place supported by mandatory Cyber Awareness Training.
- Contracted specialist third party cyber breach advice in place.
- Two internet connections maintained to provide resilience.

Strategic Risk Register Progress Report

• Artificial intelligence being used to further detect and reduce the amount of SPAM e-mails.
• Cyber incident exercises undertaken with partner organisations.
• Cyber policy in place with reputable insurer providing breach response and liability cover.
• Full Sender Policy Framework (SPF) checking in place and adherence to the NCSC guidelines for Securing Government email.
• Cyber risk awareness sessions held at the various risk management groups across the Council.

Actions:

Actions	Risk Manager	Current Position	Outcomes / Results
Continue to develop and refine technologies to provide proactive altering and monitoring of the changing threats. (Target Date: March 2022)	Head of ICT Services	• The ICT Service has several systems that are now proactively providing alerts to cyber threats in real time. These alerts are extremely valuable as they enable quick detection and thwart attacks, limiting risks quicker than ever before.	• Cyber-attacks being intercepted and thwarted.
Review use of white listing to mitigate risk of being hijacked. (Target Date: March 2022)	Head of ICT Services	• The ICT Service has significantly reduced whitelisting.	• Reduced the risk of successful phishing attacks.

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Report to:	**AUDIT COMMITTEE**
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Date of Meeting	11 November 2021

EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE (ISA 260) AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/2021

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider Deloitte's Governance Report and the revised Statement of Accounts for 2020/2021.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the External Auditor's Report to those charged with Governance (ISA 260) for 2020/2021.

2.2 To approve the revised Statement of Accounts for 2020/2021.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

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

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

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

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

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

5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

- The economy - maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool.

6.0 Background Information

6.1 The *Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015* require that "the responsible financial officer of a larger relevant body must, no later than 31 May immediately following the end of a year, sign and date the statement of accounts" with the final audited version approved by Members by 31 July. However due to the Covid-19 pandemic these dates were extended to the 1 August 2021 for the draft accounts and 30 September 2021 for the audited version.

6.2 The draft Statement of Accounts 2020/2021 was signed off by the Council's statutory finance officer, the Director of Resources on 21 July 2021.

6.3 The audit is now nearing completion and the revised Statement of Accounts 2020/2021 is included at Appendix 5(a).

6.4 Once the outstanding audit issues have been resolved, the governance report has been considered and the letter of representation signed by the Director of Resources, it is expected that the Auditors will finalise their statements in order that the final audited accounts can be published.

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 5(a) - Statement of Accounts 2020/2021.
Appendix 5(b) - External Auditor's Report ISA 260 2020/2021.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 As contained within the Statement of Accounts and ISA260 report.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 The Audit Committee is required to approve the Statement of Accounts to ensure compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) Regulations 2015.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

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Blackpool Council

Draft Statement of Accounts

For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

Contents

Introduction by Director of Resources – Steve Thompson

Blackpool Council's accounts show the financial results of the Council for the financial year 2020/21 and the financial position as at 31st March 2021.

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 2020/21 Budget was again challenging with a budget savings target of £19.65m on the back of successfully delivering £151.7m over the previous 9 years. The Budget underwent detailed consideration and scrutiny over a lengthy formulation period. From the very outset this has 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:

- internal pay levels rises by at least 2.0% for the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 and the payment of at least the National Living Wage to all contracted staff;
- the payment of annual increments;
- voluntary 5 days' unpaid leave on average to continue;
- pension auto-enrolment based on previous uptakes;
- a non-pay inflation contingency, to address contractual commitments and valid non-pay pressures @ 1.9%;
- Treasury Management budget predicated on a Base Rate of 1.00% (0.25% above current Base Rate);
- the latest estimates of Settlement Funding Assessment; and
- the Council fulfils its statutory obligation to balance its Budget.

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.

During the year the Council has been faced with unprecedented challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic which has meant significant changes to the way the Council has had to operate and deliver services to the local community. The financial impact of the pandemic on the Council has been significant with additional costs in response to the pandemic and loss of income due to national lockdowns and restrictions. Central Government has provided significant financial support to the Council in 2020/2021 and has also provided funding so the Council can administer support schemes to businesses and local residents on behalf of the Government.

In recognition of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic the legislation for 2020/2021 requires draft accounts to be published no later than 31st July 2021 rather than the pre-pandemic deadline of 31st May. It also requires the audited accounts to be published by 30th September 2021 (previously 31st July). The public inspection of accounts will take place between 1st August 2021 and 13th September 2021.

The Narrative Report 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 2021.

Steve Thompson
Director of Resources

Narrative Report

An Introduction to Blackpool

Blackpool is a seaside town situated on 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 35 square kilometres and has a population of around 139,446. The number of people per kilometre is 10 times the England and Wales average.

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.

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 an increasing demand for children's and adult social care in Blackpool.

The Mid 2020 population estimate shows older people (65 years and above) account for a greater proportion of Blackpool's population than observed at national level.

	Total Population	Aged 0 - 15 years		16 - 64 years		Age 65 and over	
	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
England	56,550,138	10,852,240	19.2	35,233,879	62.3	10,464,019	18.5
Blackpool	138,381	26,083	18.9	83,865	60.6	28,433	20.5

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS) – Mid-year population estimates

Political Structure

Blackpool Council is split into 21 wards each represented by 2 Councillors elected every four years. The political make-up of the Council during 2020/21 was as follows:

Labour Party	21 Councillors
Conservative Party	16 Councillors
Independent (Blackpool Independents)	2 Councillors
Independent (Non-aligned)	3 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 eight 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 Assistant.

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:

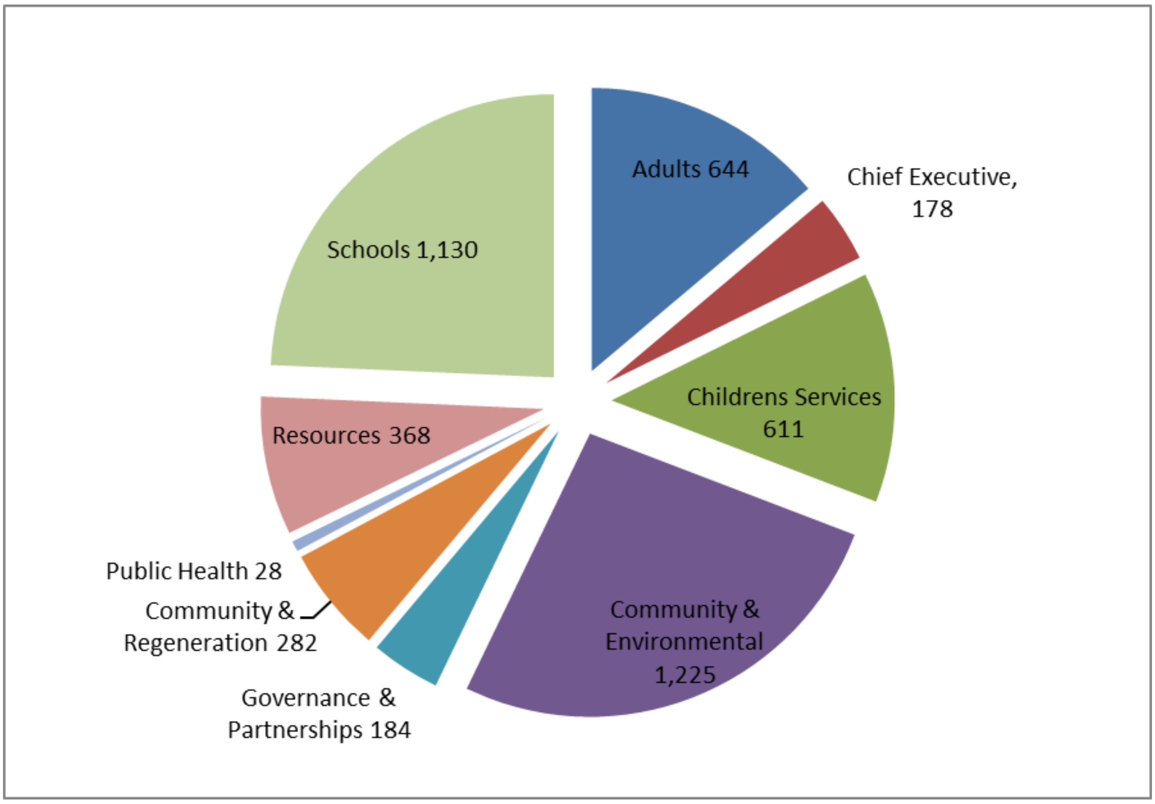
Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)
Director of Adult Services (Statutory)
Director of Children's Services (Statutory)
Director of Public Health (Statutory)
Director of Governance and Partnership Services (Monitoring Officer)
Director of Resources (Statutory Finance Officer)
Director of Community and Environmental Services
Director of Communications and Regeneration
Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive

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

- developing strategies
- delivering plans.

Staffing

At 31st March 2021 the Council employed 3,520 people (31st March 2020: 3,480) and also employed a further 1,130 (31st March 2020: 1,105) people in maintained schools. This represents 2,228 Full Time Equivalent Council staff (2019/20: 2,189) and 675 Full Time Equivalent schools staff (2019/20: 676). These support the Council's services as follows:



Blackpool Council Plan 2019 - 2024

The Council Plan 2019-2024 seeks to build on the successes of the previous plan which already delivered hundreds of millions of pounds worth of improvements and investment. It will do this through its two key priority areas: Maximising economic growth and opportunity across Blackpool; and creating increasingly stronger and more resilient communities by giving greater focus on prevention issues before they become a problem.

Priority One - The Economy

Visitor Experience - Tourism and Culture
- Complete development of a new 21st century conference facility at the Winter Gardens and increase the number of conferences.
- Finalise design and funding, then deliver the Blackpool Museum Project.
- Implement a new model of funding and delivery to sustain the Illuminations, events programme and cultural services.
- Deliver the first phase of a £300m investment into Blackpool Central, to include world class visitor attractions including the UKs first flying theatre.

Infrastructure and Regeneration
- Complete the tram extension, transport interchange and new 4* hotel at Blackpool North station.
- Implement the Blackpool Enterprise Zone Delivery Plan, facilitating the growth of energy, aviation and food sectors.
- Deliver extensions to the Central Business District at Talbot Gateway.
- Further investment in highways, including completing the Quality Corridor programme, Yeadon Way upgrade and bridge renewal programme.

Enterprise, Skills and Economic Inclusion
- Get hundreds of people back into work via job schemes for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, including Healthworks and More Positive Together.
- Support local businesses to grow and expend by maximising take-up of the Business Loans Fund.
- Work with partners to deliver the Opportunity Area programme, raising attainment and aspirations of our young people.

Improving Housing
- Deliver hundreds more affordable new homes, including the re-development of land at Grange Park and further properties at Foxhall Village.
- Enable further housing delivery through pro-active assistance to developers, including use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers where necessary.
- Enable My Blackpool Home to deliver at least an additional 455 new quality affordable homes for rent.

Priority Two – Communities

Young People
- Continue to implement the NSPCC led A Better Start initiative, improving life chances for 0-3 year olds.
- Improve the experiences and outcomes of young people in our services by improving relationships between organisations.
- Facilitate a school led system which improves attainment at Key Stage 4.
- Development of family hub model in local neighbourhoods for all age engagement and building community resilience.

Health and Social Care
- Implement a new approach to delivering smoking cessation support and initiatives in the town.
- Shape the work of the Council towards delivering the Green and Blue Infrastructure strategy, greening the town.
- Continue to increase numbers accessing drug and alcohol services at an earlier stage and sustaining a positive outcome.

Safeguarding
- Reduce the number of Looked After Children in a safe, sustainable way through incremental improvements of the social care system.
- Work in partnership across Blackpool to review our approach to delivering safeguarding and support for families.

Increasing Resilience
- Deliver whole system change by sustaining the HeadStart Resilience Revolution, increasing mental health resilience amongst 10-16 year olds across the town.
- Stabilise our communities through additional activity to regulate private sector housing, reducing supply and improving quality.
- Improving the co-ordination of volunteers across the town.
- Develop a placed-based approach to service delivery in community settings in partnership with public and voluntary sector orgainsations.

2020/2021 Financial Performance of the Council

2020/2021 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme

On 9th March 2020 the Council approved the 2020/2021 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme.

The Revenue Budget Net Requirement was set at £142.569m. The Council approved a 3.99% increase on Council Tax (including a 2% increase on the Adult Social Care Precept) for 2020/2021. The three year Capital Programme was approved, with £20.474m of resources being allocated to capital schemes in 2020/2021.

The Revenue Budget and Capital Programme are monitored throughout the year and monthly monitoring reports are presented to the Council's Executive and relevant Scrutiny Committee. In addition to these reports, the Council's Treasury Management performance of its investments and borrowing is reported to the Executive.

Revenue Outturn Position 2020/2021

The Council's 2020/2021 revenue outturn position compared to the budget is set out in the following table:

	2020/21 Adjusted Cash Limit Budget £ '000	2020/21 Actuals £ '000	2020/21 Variation £ '000
Directorate			
Chief Executive	370	337	(33)
Governance and Partnership Services	1,822	2,715	893
Ward Budgets	517	454	(63)
Resources	3,815	3,173	(642)
Communication and Regeneration	4,738	4,983	245
Strategic Leisure Assets	4,916	6,310	1,394
Strategic Leisure Assets - Transfer from Reserves	-	(1,394)	(1,394)
Growth and Prosperity	(11,549)	(1,464)	10,085
Growth and Prosperity - Transfer to Reserves	-	(8,832)	(8,832)
Community and Environmental Services	48,708	48,123	(585)
Adult Services	62,846	59,918	(2,928)
Children's Services	66,522	67,644	1,122
Public Health	26	26	-
Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	18,889	9,445	(9,444)
Contributions and Contingencies	(59,506)	(53,285)	6,221
Levies	455	415	(40)
Total Net Expenditure	**142,569**	**138,568**	**(4,001)**
Financed by:			
Council Tax	(60,135)	(60,135)	-
Revenue Support Grant	(15,030)	(15,030)	-
Business Rates Baseline	(19,510)	(19,510)	-
Business Rates - Top Up	(24,468)	(24,468)	-
Section 31 Grants	(21,039)	(21,039)	-
Enterprise Zone	(324)	(324)	-
Collection Fund Surpluses	(2,063)	(2,063)	-
Total	**(142,569)**	**(142,569)**	**-**
Amount transfer (to)/from Working Balances	**-**	**(4,001)**	**(4,001)**

The Council achieved a surplus of £4.001m for the financial year when compared to the budget. This surplus was transferred to the General Fund Working Balances and increased them from £2.292m to £6.293m at 31st March 2021.

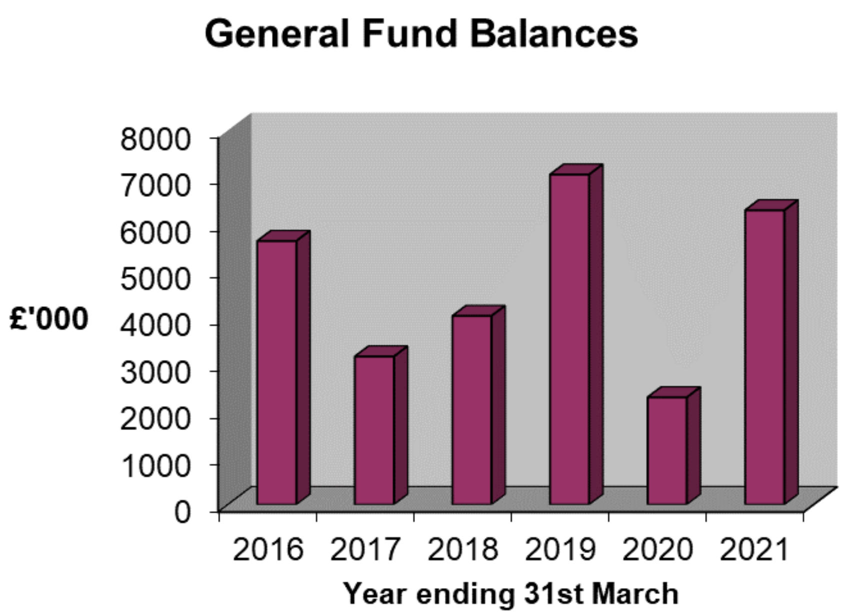
The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows a Deficit on the Provision of Services of £47.730m. The difference between this and the outturn surplus above relates to the adjustments which are made to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement through the Movement in Reserves to ensure the Council's General Fund Balance is prepared on a funding basis rather than an accounting basis. The following table shows the breakdown of the differences between the outturn surplus and the Deficit on the Provision of Services.

	£000
Revenue Outturn	(4,001)
Housing Revenue Account net requirement	1,798
Depreciation and Impairment	45,523
IAS 19 Pension and Annual Leave	(6,232)
Capital Grants	(19,280)
DSG Deficit to Adjustment Account	2,664
Collection Fund movement	19,278
Minimum Revenue Provision	(5,288)
Gains/Losses on sale of assets	250
Movements to/from Earmarked Reserves	(26,730)
Movements to/from Schools Reserves	(1,178)
Revenue contributions to capital	(11,957)
Other	201
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	**(4,952)**

General Fund Working Balances

In setting the Council's original budget for 2020/2021 the target Unallocated General Fund Working Balances as at 31st March 2021 were approximately £6,000,000. However the outturn position means that the actual General Fund Working Balances as at 31st March 2021 were slightly higher than the target at £6,293,000.

The next graph shows the change in the General Fund Working Balances over the last 6 years. Further information is shown in Note 10.



Earmarked Revenue Reserves

Earmarked Revenue Reserves are reserves which have been set aside to fund specific commitments and projects. The reserves are continuously reviewed for relevance, appropriateness and materiality.

The total earmarked revenue reserves increased by £26.73m to £76.548m during the year. The increase mainly relates to £14.599m of Business Rates Section 31 grants received by the Council in 2020/2021 to compensate for the loss of Business Rates income as a result of the extended retail reliefs given to eligible local businesses to support them through the Covid-19 pandemic.

These grants are being held in earmarked revenue reserves to offset the Business Rates Collection Fund deficit created by the reliefs given which will be realised in 2021/2022. These grants are being held in reserves due to the accounting timing differences in terms of the receipt of the grant and their application and are not available to fund the Council's General Fund expenditure.

Capital Outturn 2020/2021

The total of the Council's capital spending in 2020/2021 was £49.880m, which is a 47.9% decrease from the previous year. The main reason for the decrease was £50.6m acquisition of Houndshill Shopping Centre in 2019/20. The net book value of the Council's capital assets as at 31st March 2020 was £825.963m.

The main areas of capital spending during the year were:

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
64,595	Communication and Regeneration	26,743
10,048	Community and Environment	5,633
2,687	Adult Services	2,067
4,611	Children's Services	3,164
1,798	Governance and Partnership Services	755
3,807	Housing - Private Sector Housing	133
4,574	Housing - HRA	8,856
3,617	Resources	2,529
95,737	**Total**	**49,880**

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

2019/2020 £000		**2020/2021 £000**
-	Capital receipts	1,858
22,780	Grants	23,627
64,408	Borrowing	13,103
8,549	Other	11,292
95,737	**Total**	**49,880**

As at 31st March 2021 the Council held a balance of usable capital receipts amounting to £13.792m (2019/20 £11.411m). 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 and a new 4 star hotel. The majority of funding will come from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and prudential borrowing.
- Town Centre Car Parking strategy to provide the additional car parking spaces required to service the increased demand.
- A three year programme to refurnish all trams.
- The development of new council homes at Troutbeck Crescent, Mereside creating a vibrant family friendly living area.
- Blackpool Town Deal which is expected to commence in 2022/2023. The objective of the Towns Fund is to ‘drive the economic regeneration of towns to deliver long-term economic and productivity growth’.

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.

The balance on the HRA reserve stands at £3.032m at 31 March 2021 (31st March 2020 £4.830m).

Treasury Management

At its meeting on 9th March 2020 the Council approved the 2020/2021 Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy. This is an annual plan of how the Council will manage its investments and cash flows. It identifies the Council’s borrowing needs and shows how it will invest temporary surplus cash balances and how it will control its banking, money market and capital market transactions.

At 31st March 2021 the Council had total borrowings of £339.094m (31st March 2020 £332.644m), being £79.487m (2019/20 £87.460m) long term and £259.607m short term (2019/20 £245.184m).

At 31st March 2021 the Council has short term investments of £4.350m which is a decrease of £17m from 31st March 2020. The long term investments were £25.436m which is a decrease of £1.974m from 31st March 2020. This is due to a reduction in valuation of the Council's subsidiary companies due to the uncertainty over forecast income during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Business Rate Retention Pilot Scheme

From 1st April 2013 up to 31st March 2019, the local government finance regime was revised with the introduction of a retained business rates scheme. The main aim of the scheme was 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%).

On 13th December 2018 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) approved the establishment of a Lancashire-wide 75% Business Rate Pilot Pool (including Blackpool) in 2019/20 to share risk and reward. As part of this, the 50% rate retention scheme increased to 75% and authorities in the pool forego Revenue Support Grant. The value of the Revenue Support Grant was taken into account when revised business rate tariffs and top-ups for the pilot authorities were set. The Government also increased the Safety Net from 92.5% to 95% for the new pilot pools. Consequently, from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 the income relating to Blackpool was shared between central government (25%), the Council (73.5%) and the Fire Authority (1.5%).

From 1st April 2020 the pilot scheme ceased and the business rates shares reverted back to the previous shares of 50% Central Government, 49% Blackpool Council and 1% Lancashire Fire Authority.

Pension Fund Liability

The actuarial valuation of the Council's pension scheme liabilities shown in the balance sheet has increased by £91.378m during the year. The increase in the liability is due some fundamental changes in market implied Retail Price Index (RPI) due at least in part to the UK Statistics Authority and HM Treasury confirming a change to the RPI formula, and as a result changes were made to the setting of the CPI assumption for accounting purposes. Further details are given in note 46 to the accounts. The figures reported in the Balance Sheet are valued in line with IFRS accounting standard IAS 19.

Pension Fund Advanced Payment

The triennial valuation of the Council's pension fund was completed by Lancashire County Pension Fund (LCPF) in February 2017. Following the valuation, an option was made available to the Council allowing the payment of its employer pension contributions over the next 3 years in advance (rather than on a monthly basis) on 1st April 2020. In return a discount would be given to the Council resulting in an annual budget saving.

In setting the 2020/2021 budget the Council opted to make the 3 year advance payment of its employer pension contributions totalling £33.579m. This means the Council has paid its employer pension contributions to LCPF for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. This has resulted in a budget saving of £1.989m over the 3 years.

Covid-19 Pandemic

Covid-19 pandemic is perhaps the UK's single greatest domestic emergency since the Second World War and the worst public health crisis this country has faced in generations.

During the 2020/2021 financial year we have witnessed a huge upheaval in the way we work and live. The financial impact of Covid-19 on the Council in 2020/2021 has resulted in losses of income due to national lockdowns and restrictions, and additional costs in response to the pandemic. Central Government has provided funding to the Council towards these and has also provided funding so the Council can administer the payments of support grants to businesses and local residents. The following table shows a list of the grants received by the Council in 2020/2021 towards the Covid-19 pandemic.

Grant	**Credited to Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income £000**	**Credited to Services £000**	**Agent (not included in CIES £000**
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)			
Covid-19 Local Authority Support Grant	10,179		
Sales, Fees and Charges Compensation Scheme	8,461		
Covid-19 Business Rate Reliefs	14,768		14,177
Council Tax Hardship Fund	2,803		
Adult Social Care Workforce Capacity Fund		452	
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) Funding		214	
Community Champions		212	
Compliance and Enforcement Grant		114	
Rough Sleeping Emergency Funding/Accommodation Project		147	
Self Isolation Fund		269	
75% Local Tax Income Guarantee Scheme	395		
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy			
Business Support Grants Mandatory			44,995
Business Support Grants Discretionary		2,425	
Local Restrictions Support Grants Mandatory			41,744
Local Restrictions Support Grants Discretionary		2,517	
Additional Restrictions Grants		4,027	
Department for Health and Social Care			
Rapid Testing Grant		109	434
Contain Outbreak Management Fund		4,303	
Test and Trace Support Grant		1,694	
Infection Control Fund		990	3,412
Department for Transport			
Light Rail Revenue Grant (LRRG) including Restart			2,106
Additional Home to School Transport		466	
Covid-19 Bus Services Support Grant (CBSSG) including Restart		156	
Emergency Travel Fund		415	
Department for Work and Pensions			
Winter Support Grant Scheme		526	
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs			
Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies	261		
Total Covid-19 Grants Received in 2020/21	**36,867**	**19,036**	**106,868**

It is important to highlight how the Council has responded to the challenge of managing services during a pandemic.

As the health crisis gathered momentum, resulting in a UK wide lockdown, the Council's ability to deliver services in the usual manner altered virtually overnight as some non-essential services temporarily closed, many staff moved to home working and essential care services found themselves facing a rapidly escalating demand. Some of the crisis measures that are in place are likely to last for the foreseeable future and as a "new normal" emerges, the Council will find ways of delivering services. At the same time the Council have a duty to plan for the future and map out a road to recovery for the local economy.

Blackpool Council is a core partner in the Lancashire Local Resilience Forum (LRF). The LRF is responsible for the coordination of a range of critical activities in emergency situations between the county's public services. The LRF is coordinating activity on crucial issues such as hospital capacity, procurement of adequate supplies of personal protective equipment and emergency stocks of food to support the vulnerable.
The pandemic and emergency restrictions placed upon the population necessitated the urgent need for the Council to take a lead role in the shaping and delivering vital support services to help residents and protect the most vulnerable people in the community.

The immediate response was the launch of the Council's unique Corona Kindness Campaign, closely followed by the establishment of 12 community hubs across Blackpool. The principle of bringing together those who need help with those who can offer help has been the key to success of this initiative.

Corona Kindness is being delivered in partnership with a number of community based organisations, private companies and voluntary services. Services initially on offer ranged from the provision of food and pharmaceuticals to dog walking and talking to those who felt socially isolated. The services were expanded to also include advice on fuel supplies and household finances and provision of lists of local suppliers who could deliver food to the doorstep.

A critical part of the Council's response to this crisis has been enhanced level of support to our providers of adult social care. Social care is at the forefront of the crisis along with the NHS.

The Council recognised this situation early and built a new Provider Support and Resilience Hub to offer direct support to our providers through this very difficult and challenging period.

This hub provides hands on, practical support to any social care provider (residential care and care at home) requiring assistance. This includes supply and correct use of personal protective equipment; infection prevention and control; help with staffing; and supporting people who move where their needs deteriorate suddenly.

A critical part of the response to the pandemic has been the immediate establishment of an enhanced support service to help protect the local economy. With thousands of Blackpool's businesses and their employees facing huge upheaval after the Government lockdown announcement, it was vital that we were able to deliver a dedicated service that gave credible help and guidance to those who needed it.

As part of its emergency measures the Government announced £10,000 Small Business Grants to eligible small businesses and grants of up to £25,000 through the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund. On 1st April 2020 the Council received a total of £59m from the Government to start the process of paying business support grant payments to local businesses. Further grants were received during the year due to national lockdowns and tier restrictions and were paid to businesses and residents.

Despite the disruption caused by the pandemic the Council were determined to do everything possible to protect children and to continue the Council's Children's Service improvement journey. Children with the greatest concerns are in receipt of face-to-face visits by social workers. Other children open to the service now get virtual visits using technology with which the family is familiar, or by phone.

The vast majority of Blackpool schools have remained open providing care for vulnerable children and children of key workers. Support was given to head teachers as they decided on the appropriate measures to suit their individual schools layout, staffing levels and pupil numbers.

Central Government directed all local authorities to try to accommodate anyone rough sleeping, homeless, or at serious risk of becoming homeless. Accommodation being used allows people to self-isolate as necessary and follow Government guidelines. Our Homeless Partnership, Food Partnership and community hubs are supporting all individuals.

For all categories, wraparound support is in place ranging from housing, physical health, mental health, substance misuse services, the Food Partnership and many others, through the coordination of Public Health. In addition, the Council's Housing Options service continues to work with our partners to provide outreach services to identify any new rough sleepers, and provide advice to people who might be at risk of homelessness and supporting them to remain in their own homes as long as it is safe to do so.

The Council relaxed compliance measures in relation to Council Tax and Business Rates collection and allowed Council Tax payers and businesses to defer payments for the first two months of 2020/21 with revised payment plans over June 2020 to March 2021. The Council also applied the Government's hardship relief scheme to Council Tax payers of working age in receipt of Council Tax Reduction.

Other income streams, such as car parking, school catering and registrars services, property rental income, licencing, planning and building control have all been interrupted. The challenge for 2020/21 was for the Council to regain the lost or deferred income to avoid placing an additional burden on the people and businesses of Blackpool whilst at the same time attempting to manage its finances effectively. Central Government have provided the Council with support in the form of Sales, Fees and Charges grants to cover some of this lost income.

Central Government has provided several cash grants including four tranches of Covid-19 un-ringfenced grants totalling £16.264m (£6.1m of which was received on 27 March 2020, £0.4m of it used in 2019/20 and £5.7m was carried forward into 2020/21 via an earmarked reserve) to meet urgent and unforeseen costs and financial pressures impacting on the Council and the Blackpool economy.

Key Financial Risks

Achieving Further Savings

The Council has a savings programme to realise £20.3m savings in 2021/22. Further savings are expected to be required in the next 3 years. As the Council's budget reduces finding additional savings becomes more difficult.

Brexit

On 31st January 2020 the UK left the European Union and was in a transition period until 31st December 2020 while the government sought agreement of the terms of the departure.

At 11pm on 31st December 2020 the UK left the EU single market and customs union.

In preparation for the EU Exit, the Council has established a working group of officers from across the council overseeing the preparations and working in conjunction with the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF). The Council also engaged on EU Exit related matters through a number of regional and national forums including working with the Local Government Association (LGA) and various Whitehall departments.

Demand Led Budgets

The rising demand placed on the Council's social care services continues to be a major pressure on the Council's budget.

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 2021. 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 council, its interests in subsidiaries and associates. Further details can be found in Section 7.

Accounting Practice Compliance

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 and the CIPFA Bulletin 09 Closure of the Financial Statements issued in April 2021.

The Council prepares its accounts on a going concern basis under the assumption that it will continue in existence into the foreseeable future.

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, senior managers' salaries and trade union facility data 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 the 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 the Council 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;
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities;
- assessed the Council (and the Group's) ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
- used the going concern basis of accounting on the assumptions that the functions of the Council (and the Group) will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future; and
- maintained such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

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 2021.

Steve Thompson
Director of Resources

4. Approval of the Accounts

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015, I certify that the Statement of Accounts have been approved by the Audit Committee on 11th November 2021.

Councillor Paul Galley
Chair of the Audit Committee

Section 3

Independent Auditor’s Report

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Section 4

Core Financial Statements

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2021

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 or rents. Authorities raise taxation and rents to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory requirements; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

2019/2020				2020/21		
Gross Expenditure £000	**Gross Income £000**	**Net Expenditure £000**		**Gross Expenditure £000**	**Gross Income £000**	**Net Expenditure £000**
13,055	(6,366)	6,689	Chief Executive	6,750	(6,423)	327
11,992	(3,846)	8,146	Governance and Partnership Services	7,320	(3,954)	3,366
190	(2)	188	Ward Budgets	454	-	454
30,924	(9,867)	21,057	Resources	24,482	(10,189)	14,293
32,394	(9,840)	22,554	Communications & Regeneration	23,967	(11,732)	12,235
10,157	(4,818)	5,339	Strategic Leisure Assets	10,689	(4,379)	6,310
69,090	(21,323)	47,767	Community and Environmental Services	63,451	(18,548)	44,903
83,339	(22,447)	60,892	Adult Services	88,729	(36,314)	52,415
134,919	(75,311)	59,608	Children's Services	140,128	(80,745)	59,383
13,182	(21,120)	(7,938)	Public Health	15,467	(25,507)	(10,040)
58,051	(69,619)	(11,568)	Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	58,108	(64,780)	(6,672)
3,385	(24,244)	(20,859)	Contingencies, Levies etc	12,593	(17,847)	(5,254)
15,745	(18,817)	(3,072)	Housing Revenue Account	14,767	(19,515)	(4,748)
476,423	**(287,620)**	**188,803**	**Net Cost of Services**	**466,905**	**(299,933)**	**166,972**
		1,787	Other Operating Expenditure (Note 11)	464	-	464
		6,230	Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure - Other (Note 12)	12,274	(3,584)	8,690
		(7,478)	Income & Expenditure in relation to Investment Properties and changes in their fair value (Note 16)	6,750	(4,062)	2,688
		(163,519)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income - Other (Note 13)	17,260	(201,026)	(183,766)
		25,823	**(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services**			**(4,952)**
		(8,902)	(Surplus) or Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets (Note 28)			(9,928)
		4,465	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets (Note 19 and Note 28)			4,224
		(27,364)	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability (Note 28 and Note 46)			75,308
		(31,801)	**Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**			**69,604**
		(5,978)	**Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**			**64,652**

Movement in Reserves Statement

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'. The Statement shows how the movements in year of the Authority's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax or rents for the year. The Net Increase/Decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

2020/21

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Reserves £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
Balance as at 1st April 2020	**(1,576)**	**(49,818)**	**(4,830)**	**(11,411)**	**(3,112)**	**(70,747)**	**(174,126)**	**(244,873)**
Reporting of Schools Budget Deficit to new Adjustment Account at 1st April 2020	(3,098)					(3,098)	3,098	-
Restated Balance as at 1st April 2020	**(4,674)**	**(49,818)**	**(4,830)**	**(11,411)**	**(3,112)**	**(73,845)**	**(171,028)**	**(244,873)**
Movements in Reserves in 2020/21								
(Surplus) or Deficit on the provision of services	(568)		(4,384)	-	-	**(4,952)**	-	**(4,952)**
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	69,604	**69,604**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**(568)**	**-**	**(4,384)**	**-**	**-**	**(4,952)**	**69,604**	**64,652**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 9)	(31,342)	-	6,182	1,540	-	**(23,620)**	23,620	-
Net (Increase) or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	**(31,910)**	**-**	**1,798**	**1,540**	**-**	**(28,572)**	**93,224**	**64,652**
Transfer (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 10)	26,730	(26,730)	-	(3,921)	-	**(3,921)**	3,921	-
(Increase)/Decrease in 2020/21	**(5,180)**	**(26,730)**	**1,798**	**(2,381)**	**-**	**(32,493)**	**97,145**	**64,652**
Balance as at 31st March 2021	**(9,854)**	**(76,548)**	**(3,032)**	**(13,792)**	**(3,112)**	**(106,338)**	**(73,883)**	**(180,221)**

2019/20

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Reserves	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1st April 2019	**(8,988)**	**(41,662)**	**(5,705)**	**(7,527)**	**(3,112)**	**(66,994)**	**(171,901)**	**(238,895)**
Movements in Reserves in 2019/2020								
(Surplus) or Deficit on the provision of services	29,237	-	(3,414)	-	-	**25,823**	-	**25,823**
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	(31,801)	**(31,801)**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**29,237**	**-**	**(3,414)**	**-**	**-**	**25,823**	**(31,801)**	**(5,978)**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 9)	(29,981)	-	4,289	(576)	-	**(26,268)**	26,268	**-**
Net (Increase) or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	**(744)**	**-**	**875**	**(576)**	**-**	**(445)**	**(5,533)**	**(5,978)**
Transfer (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 10)	8,156	(8,156)	-	(3,308)	-	**(3,308)**	3,308	**-**
(Increase)/Decrease in 2019/2020	**7,412**	**(8,156)**	**875**	**(3,884)**	**-**	**(3,753)**	**(2,225)**	**(5,978)**
Balance as at 31st March 2020	**(1,576)**	**(49,818)**	**(4,830)**	**(11,411)**	**(3,112)**	**(70,747)**	**(174,126)**	**(244,873)**

Balance Sheet As At 31st March 2021

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 2020 £000		Notes	31st March 2021 £000
748,553	Property, Plant and Equipment	14	754,973
8,364	Heritage Assets	15	8,345
58,529	Investment Property	16	61,211
466	Intangible Assets	18	737
753	Surplus Assets	17	697
27,410	Long Term Investments	20	25,436
78,273	Long Term Debtors	21	86,586
922,348	**Long Term Assets**		**937,985**
642	Inventories	22	774
57,055	Short Term Debtors	23	63,921
774	Short Term Loans		1,235
19,504	Cash and Cash Equivalents	24	3,352
77,975	**Current Assets**		**69,282**
(245,184)	Short Term Borrowing	19	(259,607)
(69,712)	Short Term Creditors	25	(93,538)
(13,123)	Short Term Provisions	26	(9,363)
(328,019)	**Current Liabilities**		**(362,508)**
(96,511)	Long Term Creditors	25	(93,359)
(87,460)	Long Term Borrowing	19	(79,487)
(230,786)	Pension Liability	46	(275,906)
(63)	Other Long Term Liabilities		(62)
(12,611)	Capital Grants in Advance	40	(15,724)
(427,431)	**Long Term Liabilities**		**(464,538)**
244,873	**Net Assets**		**180,221**
(70,747)	Usable Reserves	27	(106,338)
(174,126)	Unusable Reserves	28	(73,883)
(244,873)	**Total Reserves**		**(180,221)**

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2021

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.

2019/2020 £000		Notes	2020/2021 £000
25,823	Net (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services		(4,952)
(47,026)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	32	(17,813)
24,041	Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	32	139
2,838	**Net cash flows from Operating Activities**		**(22,626)**
111,692	Investing Activities	33	9,870
(102,644)	Financing Activities	34	(3,396)
11,886	**Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents**		**(16,152)**
7,618	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		19,504
19,504	**Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period**	35	**3,352**

Section 5

Notes to the Accounts

CONTENTS FOR NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, council tax and business rates) by local authorities in comparison to those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The segments are shown by directorate and are in line with the monthly budget monitoring reported to Members. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2020/21 Service Area	Outturn as reported to Executive (including HRA) £000	Adjustments to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances £000	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis £000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £000
Chief Executive	337	991	1,328	(1,001)	327
Governance and Partnership Services	2,715	1,089	3,804	(438)	3,366
Ward Budgets	454	-	454	-	454
Resources	3,240	6,746	9,986	4,307	14,293
Communications & Regeneration	3,452	(5,489)	(2,037)	14,272	12,235
Strategic Leisure Assets	6,310	-	6,310	-	6,310
Community and Environmental Services	48,123	(17,053)	31,070	13,833	44,903
Adult Services	58,299	(3,768)	54,531	(2,116)	52,415
Children's Services	66,467	(9,079)	57,388	1,995	59,383
Public Health	26	(10,006)	(9,980)	(60)	(10,040)
Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	9,445	(11,990)	(2,545)	(4,832)	(7,377)
Contingencies, Levies etc	(60,301)	54,866	(5,435)	181	(5,254)
Housing Revenue Account	(4,710)	6,144	1,434	(6,182)	(4,748)
Net Cost of Services	**133,857**	**12,451**	**146,308**	**19,959**	**166,267**
Other Income and Expenditure	(137,239)	(37,641)	(174,880)	3,661	(171,219)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	**(3,382)**	**(25,190)**	**(28,572)**	**23,620**	**(4,952)**

Reconciliation of Movement in Balances	**General Fund**	**HRA**	**Total**
	£000	**£000**	**£000**
Opening General Fund and HRA Balances 1st April 2020	(4,674)	(4,830)	(9,504)
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	(5,180)	1,798	(3,382)
Closing General Fund and HRA Balances 31st March 2021	**(9,854)**	**(3,032)**	**(12,886)**

2019/20 Service Area	Outturn as reported to Executive (including HRA) £000	Adjustments to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances £000	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis £000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £000
Chief Executive	528	766	1,294	5,395	6,689
Governance and Partnership Services	3,974	(53)	3,921	4,225	8,146
Ward Budgets	188	-	188	-	188
Resources	1,004	13,487	14,491	6,566	21,057
Communications & Regeneration	2,022	8,818	10,840	12,601	23,441
Strategic Leisure Assets	5,339	-	5,339	-	5,339
Community and Environmental Services	42,637	2,694	45,331	2,436	47,767
Adult Services	54,015	1,104	55,119	5,773	60,892
Children's Services	55,032	(2,518)	52,514	7,094	59,608
Public Health	21	(7,955)	(7,934)	(4)	(7,938)
Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	13,416	(6,330)	7,086	(18,654)	(11,568)
Contingencies, Levies etc	(16,049)	(4,784)	(20,833)	(26)	(20,859)
Housing Revenue Account	3,128	(314)	2,814	(5,886)	(3,072)
Net Cost of Services	**165,255**	**4,915**	**170,170**	**19,520**	**189,690**
Other Income and Expenditure	(156,958)	(13,657)	(170,615)	6,748	(163,867)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	**8,297**	**(8,742)**	**(445)**	**26,268**	**25,823**

Reconciliation of Movement in Balances	General Fund	HRA	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Opening General Fund and HRA Balances 1st April 2019	(8,988)	(5,705)	(14,693)
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	7,412	875	8,287
Closing General Fund and HRA Balances 31st March 2020	**(1,576)**	**(4,830)**	**(6,406)**

2a. Notes to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

			Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2020/2021	
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	**Adjustments for capital purposes (Note i)**	**Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (Note ii)**	**Other Differences (Note iii)**	**Total Adjustments**
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief Executive	(195)	(872)	66	(1,001)
Governance and Partnership Services	73	(550)	39	(438)
Ward Budgets	-	-	-	-
Resources	5,988	(1,805)	124	4,307
Communications and Regeneration	15,326	(1,085)	31	14,272
Strategic Leisure Assets	-	-	-	-
Community and Environmental Services	15,706	(1,898)	25	13,833
Adult Services	286	(2,494)	92	(2,116)
Children's Services	4,694	(2,920)	221	1,995
Public Health	-	(66)	6	(60)
Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	(4,727)	(38)	(67)	(4,832)
Contingencies	-	181	-	181
Housing Revenue Account	(6,182)	-	-	(6,182)
Net Cost of Services	**30,969**	**(11,547)**	**537**	**19,959**
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(20,340)	4,723	19,278	3,661
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**10,629**	**(6,824)**	**19,815**	**23,620**

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2019/2020				
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	**Adjustments for capital purposes (Note i)**	**Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (Note ii)**	**Other Statutory Differences (Note iii)**	**Total Adjustments**
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief Executive	4,049	1,360	(14)	5,395
Governance and Partnership Services	3,118	1,071	36	4,225
Ward Budgets	-	-	-	-
Resources	2,722	3,853	(9)	6,566
Communications and Regeneration	10,361	2,240	-	12,601
Strategic Leisure Assets	-	-	-	-
Community and Environmental Services	(1,893)	4,371	(42)	2,436
Adult Services	(21)	5,845	(51)	5,773
Children's Services	(185)	7,299	(20)	7,094
Public Health	-	-	(4)	(4)
Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	(6,187)	(12,467)	-	(18,654)
Contingencies	-	-	(26)	(26)
Housing Revenue Account	(5,886)	-	-	(5,886)
Net Cost of Services	**6,078**	**13,572**	**(130)**	**19,520**
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	10,488	-	(3,740)	6,748
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**16,566**	**13,572**	**(3,870)**	**26,268**

i) Adjustments for Capital Purposes

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

- **Other operating expenditure** – adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off against those assets.
- **Financing and investment income and expenditure** – the statutory charges for capital financing i.e. Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.
- **Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure** – capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income and Expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

ii) Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

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

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

iii) Other Statutory Adjustments

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

- For **Financing and investment income and expenditure** the other statutory adjustments column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.
- The charge under **Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure** represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and NDR that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is the timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future Surplus or Deficits on the Collection Fund.

iv) Other Non-statutory Adjustments

Other non-statutory adjustments represent amounts debited/credited to service segments which need to be adjusted against the "Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis" line to comply with the presentational requirements in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

- For **financing and investment income and expenditure** the other non-statutory adjustments column recognises adjustments to service segments, e.g. for interest income and expenditure and changes in fair value of investment properties.
- For **taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure** the other non-statutory adjustments column recognises adjustments to service segments e.g. for non-ring-fenced government grants.

2b. Expenditure and Income Analysed By Nature

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

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
	Expenditure	
135,171	Employee expenses	86,805
287,862	Other Services expenses	331,792
52,817	Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	45,523
7,586	Interest payments	7,551
68	Precepts and Levies	70
487	Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	257
1,232	Loss on the disposal of assets	137
5,449	Pension Interest Cost and return on assets	4,723
490,672	**Total Expenditure**	**476,858**
	Income	
149,136	Fees, charges and other service income	135,879
6,805	Interest and investment income	3,584
89,042	Income from council tax, non-domestic rates	62,382
219,866	Government grants and contributions	279,965
464,849	**Total Income**	**481,810**
25,823	**(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services**	**(4,952)**

3. Accounting Policies

i. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2020/2021 financial year and its position at the year-end 31st March 2021. 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, under Section 21 of the 2003 Act, primarily comprise of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/2021 (the 'Code') supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis under the assumption that the Council will continue in existence for the foreseeable future and the Council's services will continue to be delivered.

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 contracts with service recipients whether for services or the provision of goods is recognised when (or as) the goods and services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.

- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest 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.
- The Council has adopted IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers from 1st April 2018. Under IFRS 15 an entity recognises revenue when (or as) a performance obligation is satisfied i.e. when control of goods and services underlying a particular performance obligation is transferred to the customer. Many of the major sources of revenue for local authorities, including council tax, national non domestic business rates and grants fall outside the scope of IFRS 15. The Council has some rental contracts where the level of rent is affected by the customer's profit/turnover. The total rental received in 2020/21 for these contracts is £828,888 (2019/20 £827,680).

iii. 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.

iv. 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.

v. 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 non-current 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; and
- 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.

vi. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

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

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

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

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

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired because of the likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the statutory arrangements will not be made the asset is written down and a charge made to the 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 revised future cash flows.

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 entitlements are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service segment or where applicable to a corporate service segment 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 three 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.
- The NHS Pension Scheme administered by NHS Business Services Authority.

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

However, the arrangements for the NHS and teachers' schemes mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Council. 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 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 Public Health line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to the NHS Pension Scheme in the year.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

The Local Government Pension 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 – i.e. 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 2.1% to 2.4% in 2020/2021 (2.3% to 2.5% in 2019/2020) based on gross of investment expenses.

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

    - 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 as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
    - Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the Council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the

passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

- Re-measurements comprising:

  - The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the 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 – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
  - 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.

Every three years, following the revaluation of the Fund, the Council has the option to prepay three years employer's contributions and deficit contribution which results in a saving to the Council. The prepayment when the prepayment is made the contributions and deficit payment are included in the year to which they relate. The future years are held in the pensions reserve.

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

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The 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 based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cash flow characteristics. There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

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

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

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument 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 for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective interest rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the financial assets held by the Council, this means that the amount presented in the balance sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (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 a 10% share in a loan made to Lancashire County Developments at less than market rates (soft loans) – see Note 21. 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 organisation, 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.

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.

Expected Credit Loss Model

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

Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses. Where risk has increased significantly since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed o on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month expected losses.

The Council has a portfolio of a significant number of loans made to local businesses under the Business Loans Fund. It does not have reasonable and supportable information that is available without undue cost or effort to support the measurement of lifetime expected losses on an individual instrument basis. It has therefore assessed losses for the portfolio on a collective basis.

The Council has grouped the loans into 3 categories for assessing loss allowances:

- Group 1 – these loans are made on the agreement that the loans are secured upon property up to the value of the loan. In the event of a default on the loan repayments the secured property will transfer to the Council.
- Group 2 – these loans were made with variations to the contract/interest rate during the life of the loan. The council reviews contract variations to assess the credit risk since initial recognition.
- Group 3 – for the remaining loans the council relies on past due information and calculates losses based on lifetime credit losses for all loans more than 30 days past due.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Level 3 inputs – unobservable inputs for the asset.

Any gains and losses that arise on the 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.

IFRS 9 Financial Instruments sets out that investments in equity should be classified as fair value through profit and loss unless there is an irrevocable election to recognise changes in fair value through other comprehensive income. The Council will assess each investment on an individual basis and assign an IFRS 9 category. The assessment will be based on the underlying purpose for holding the financial instrument.

Any changes in the fair value of instruments held at fair value through profit and loss will be recognised in the net cost of service in the CIES and will have a General Fund impact.

Financial Assets at Fair Value through other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI)

Financial assets that are measured at FVOCI are recognised on the balance sheet when the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arise in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. The Council has equity instruments designated at fair value through other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI).

The Council has made an irrevocable election to designate its equity instruments as FVOCI on the basis that it is held for non-contractual benefits, it is not held for trading but for strategic purposes. The asset was transferred to the new asset category on 1st April 2018. The asset is initially measured and carried at fair value.

The value is based on the principal that the equity shares have no quoted market prices and is based on an independent appraisal of the company valuations.

Dividend income is credited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when it becomes receivable by the Council.

When the asset is de-recognised, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure is transferred from the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve and recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

xi. 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.

xii. 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 in the form of 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.

xiii. 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.

xiv. 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 Council’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.

Due to the unique nature of the collection it is deemed to have an indeterminate life and a high residual value hence, the Council 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 Council’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 Heritage in accordance with the Council’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 Council 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 Council’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 is deemed to have an indeterminate life and a high residual value hence the Council 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 Council'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 valuation and is valued by external valuers every four years.

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 deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value hence the Council 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 Council's policy on the collections.

xv. 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.

xvi. Inventories and long Term Contracts

Items of stock held by the Council are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value where they are held for distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge; or consumption in the production process of goods to be distributed at no charge or for a nominal charge.

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.

xvii. 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, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use. 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.

xviii. Joint Operations

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

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

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

Lease payments are apportioned between:

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

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).

The Council 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.

xx. Overheads and Support Services

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

The main basis for charging of overhead costs is percentage time, floor area and actual time allocation.

xxi. 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; and
- The initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

The Council does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction. The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its 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 Council). In the latter case, where an asset is acquired via an exchange the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Council.

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

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost;
- Dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH);
- Surplus Assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective; and
- 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 current value.

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year end, but as a minimum every 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); and
- 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); and
- 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 (i.e. freehold land and certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the estimated useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer. Estimated useful lives range from 3 to 125 years.
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – straight line allocation over 2 to 40 years, 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 assets 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 reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any 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.

xxii. 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 five 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.

xxiii. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits 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.

xxiv. Reserves

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by transferring amounts out of the General Fund Balance. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year to score against the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then transferred back into the General Fund Balance 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 – these reserves are explained in the relevant accounting policies.

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, income, expenditure, reserves and cash flows are recognised in the local authority financial statements. Therefore schools transactions, cash flows and balances are recognised in each of the financial statements of the Council as if they were the transactions cash flows and balances of the Council.

xxvii. Fair Value Measurement

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.

4. Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued But Not Yet Adopted

Under the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2020/2021 (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 standards will be introduced into the 2021/22 accounts.

- Definition of a Business – Amendments to IFRS 3 Business Combinations.
- Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS39, and IFRS 7.
- Interest Rate Benchmark Reform Phase 2 – Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4, IFRS 16.

5. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 3 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 Council regarding accidents and injuries sustained on Council land.
    - There are a number of claims against the Council 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.

- The Council is liable to make contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. For the 3 year period 2020/21 to 2022/23 the Council has agreed with Lancashire Pension Fund that the employer contributions payable to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) can be paid as a single up-front payment. In 2020/21 the Council paid £33.579m to the Lancashire Pension Fund in order to make budget savings. The amounts relating to 2020/21 have been accounted for in the relevant year with the amounts for 2021/22 and 2022/23 being offset against the pension reserve in the balance sheet. The pension reserve will align with the pension liability in 2022/23 as the upfront payment arrangements are accounted for.

- The Council has shareholdings in Blackpool Transport Services, Blackpool Housing Company, Blackpool Airport and Blackpool Waste Services. The shareholdings are measured at fair value each year. Any change in fair value is included in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure and accumulated gains and losses are held in an Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve.

    With the adoption of *IFRS 9 Financial Instruments,* the "Available for Sale Financial Asset" is no longer available. The new standard sets out that investments in equity should be classified as fair value through profit and loss unless there is an irrevocable election to designate the asset as fair value through Other Comprehensive Income. The investments in companies, as an equity instrument, and as such gains and losses on changes in fair value would be recognised through profit and loss. Including the shareholdings as fair value through profit and loss would mean that changes in valuation are immediately recognised within the Council's Cost of Services. This would mean the Council's revenue budget would be subject to the increased risk of volatility in the share valuations. Any major fluctuations in the valuations of the shareholding would have a significant impact on the General Fund balance.

    The shareholdings are strategic investments and not held for trading therefore the Council has the option to designate it as fair value through Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. This would mean that there is no impact on the revenue budget. Having considered the impact that future share valuations could have on the Council's revenue budget the more prudent approach is to designate the shareholding as a strategic investment with changes in fair value treated as Other

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. This means any gains and losses on the revaluation of the shareholding are transferred to a Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

6. 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 Council's Balance Sheet at 31st March 2021 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 Council 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 £0.914m if there was a 10% reduction in the useful life of its' buildings.
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 pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured although the assumptions interact in complex ways. During 2020/2021 the Council's actuaries advised that the Council's net pension liability had increased by £91.378m.
Arrears	At 31/3/21 the Authority had a balance of sundry debtors of £59.897m. £56.8m of this balance was expected to be paid in full. A review of the remaining £3.1m suggested that an impairment of doubtful debts of approximately 50% was appropriate.	If collection rates were to deteriorate additional amounts would need 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 2021. 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 2021.	If the level of appeals were to increase by 1% it would require the Council to set aside an estimated additional £0.161m in the provision.
Fair Value Measurements	When the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (i.e. Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using valuation techniques (e.g. quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or discounted cash flow (DCF) model). 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 16, 19 and 20.	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.

7. Material Items of Income and Expense

On 7th May 2020 the Council took advantage of the option by the pension fund to make a one off payment in advance to cover its employers' future service contributions and deficit recovery payments for the three years 2020/21 to 2022/23. The value of the payment totalled £33.579m and resulted in a saving to the Council of £1.989m over the 3 year period.

In 2020/2021 the Council received both its local share and the central share of additional Business Rates Section 31 grants totalling £28.5m. This is to compensate for the loss of Business Rates income as a result of the extended retail relief given to retail hospitality and leisure businesses and nursery providers to support them through the Covid -19 pandemic. In Collection Fund accounting the deficit incurred as a result of the loss of Business Rates income in 2020/2021 will not be charged to the General Fund until 2021/2022. As a result the local share of £14.3m has been transferred to an earmarked revenue reserve to be drawn down in 2021/22 to offset the deficit. The remaining central share of £14.2m will be paid back to central government in 2021/22 and has been included as a creditor.

8. Events After The Reporting Period

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Resources on 21st July 2021. 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 2021 the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

9. 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 Council in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to arrive at the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the 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 an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure on HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the capital resources that have yet to be applied at the year end.

Capital Receipts Reserve

The Capital Receipts Reserve holds the proceeds from the disposal of land 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 repayment 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.

2020/2021	Usable Reserves General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources			
Amounts by which the income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:			
Pensions costs (transferred to/(from) the Pensions Reserve	6,824		
Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	55		
Council Tax and NDR (transfers to or from Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	(19,278)		
Holiday Pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	(592)		
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus and Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account).	(43,099)	(2,674)	1,283
Transfer of the deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant to the Dedicated Schools Gramt Adjustment Account	(2,664)		
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	**(58,754)**	**(2,674)**	**1,283**
Payments to the government housing receipts pool (funded by transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	(257)		257
Transfer of non current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve			
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	5,288		
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	3,230	8,727	
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	**8,261**	**8,727**	**257**
Adjustments to Capital Resources			
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	19,151	129	
Use of capital receipts reserve to finance capital expenditure			
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	**19,151**	**129**	**-**
Total Adjustments	**(31,342)**	**6,182**	**1,540**

	Usable Reserves		
2019/2020	**General Fund Balance £000**	**Housing Revenue Account £000**	**Capital Receipts Reserve £000**
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources			
Amounts by which the income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:			
Pensions costs (transferred to/(from) the Pensions Reserve)	(13,572)	-	-
Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account)	31	-	-
Council Tax and NDR (transfers to or (from) Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	3,710	-	-
Holiday Pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	129	-	-
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account).	(49,534)	(3,283)	(1,063)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	**(59,236)**	**(3,283)**	**(1,063)**
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources			
Payments to the government housing receipts pool (funded by transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	(487)	-	487
Posting of HRA resources from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve	-	-	-
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	9,533	-	-
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	2,538	6,144	-
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	**11,584**	**6,144**	**487**
Adjustments to Capital Resources			
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	17,671	1,428	-
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	**17,671**	**1,428**	**-**
Total Adjustments	**(29,981)**	**4,289**	**(576)**

10. 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 2020/2021.

	Balance at 1st April 2019 £000	Transfers Out 2019/2020 £000	Transfers In 2019/2020 £000	Balance at 31st March 2020 £000	Transfers Out 2020/2021 £000	Transfers In 2020/2021 £000	Balance at 31st March 2021 £000
General Fund:							
Balances held by schools under scheme of delegation	(2,353)	286	(317)	(2,384)	166	(1,344)	(3,561)
School DSG Balances	422	3,161	(483)	3,100	(3,100)	-	-
Unallocated Reserves	(7,057)	4,765	-	(2,292)	-	(4,001)	(6,293)
Total General Fund	**(8,988)**	**8,212**	**(800)**	**(1,576)**	**(2,934)**	**(5,345)**	**(9,854)**
Earmarked Reserves							
Potential Pay Liabilities	(2,919)	1,240	(2,811)	(4,490)	448	(151)	(4,193)
Public/Private Partnership Reserve	(4,833)	6,431	(633)	965	3,574	(1,346)	3,193
Council Tax & Non-Domestic Rates Deficits	(12,574)	11,669	(7,323)	(8,228)	21,779	(20,368)	(6,817)
Museum Reserve	(294)	11	(1,337)	(1,620)	9	(4,170)	(5,781)
Transformation Reserve	(518)	692	(1,298)	(1,124)	355	-	(769)
Specific Settlements in Dispute	(539)	-	-	(539)	-	-	(539)
Strategic Investments	(320)	-	-	(320)	-	-	(320)
Financial systems upgrade, renewals & replacements	(118)	45	(428)	(501)	398	(64)	(167)
Financial Instruments	(14)	14	-	-	-	-	-
Treasury Management - Prudential borrowing	(465)	-	(332)	(797)	-	-	(797)
Insurances	(1,100)	-	(5,943)	(7,043)	639	(2,411)	(8,815)
Enterprise Zone	(170)	429	(496)	(237)	414	(389)	(212)
Opportunity Area	(3,096)	3,096	(1,631)	(1,631)	1,631	(1,131)	(1,131)
Vehicles Replacement Reserve	(1,202)	2,056	(2,326)	(1,472)	3,063	(3,260)	(1,669)
Contributions to Future Regeneration projects	-	-	-	-	140	(1,625)	(1,485)
Covid-19 support grant	-	380	(6,085)	(5,705)	5,705	(2,061)	(2,061)
Covid-19 Non-Domestic Rates S31 Reliefs	-	-	-	-	-	(14,599)	(14,599)
Covid-19 75% Local Tax Income Guarantee	-	-	-	-	-	(395)	(395)
Other	(13,500)	7,145	(10,721)	(17,076)	5,875	(18,790)	(29,991)
Total Earmarked Reserves	**(41,662)**	**33,208**	**(41,364)**	**(49,818)**	**44,030**	**(70,760)**	**(76,548)**
HRA							
Housing Revenue Account	**(5,705)**	**875**	**-**	**(4,830)**	**1,798**	**-**	**(3,032)**

11. Other Operating Expenditure

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
68	Flood Defence Levy	70
487	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	257
1,232	Losses on the disposal of non-current assets	137
1,787	**Total**	**464**

12. Financing And Investments Income And Expenditure

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
7,586	Interest payable and similar charges	7,551
5,449	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	4,723
(2,872)	Pension Pooling - Business Combinations	-
(3,092)	Interest receivable and similar income	(3,584)
(841)	Dividend - Council Owned Subsidiaries	-
6,230	**Total**	**8,690**

13. Taxation And Non Specific Grant Income

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
(56,837)	Council Tax Income	(60,135)
(3,690)	Collection Fund (surplus)/deficit movement	17,260
(28,515)	Retained Business Rates	(19,507)
(27,137)	Business Rates Top Up	(24,468)
(22,156)	Non-ringfenced government grants	(40,065)
(19,099)	Capital Grants & contributions	(19,280)
(6,085)	Covid-19 Un-ringfenced Grants	(21,704)
-	S31 NNDR Extended Reliefs (Covid-19)	(14,767)
-	75% Tax Income Guarantee Scheme	(1,100)
(163,519)	**Total Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income**	**(183,766)**

14. Property, Plant And Equipment (PPE)

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

2020/2021

	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 2020	**123,365**	**274,628**	**50,199**	**526,632**	**66**	**24,212**	**999,102**	*32,705*
Additions	8,856	4,277	3,759	6,977	1	16,244	**40,114**	-
Revaluation increases to Revaluation Reserve	1,734	2,216	-	-	-	-	**3,950**	-
Revaluation increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(11,731)	-	-	-	218	**(11,513)**	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(567)	(90)	-	-	-	-	**(657)**	-
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	-
Transfer	187	(135)	-	-	-	-	**52**	-
Balance as at 31 March 2021	**133,575**	**269,165**	**53,958**	**533,609**	**67**	**40,674**	**1,031,048**	*32,705*
Depreciation and Impairment								
Balance as at 1 April 2020	**(2,253)**	**(10,028)**	**(41,101)**	**(197,167)**	**-**	**-**	**(250,549)**	*(9,419)*
Depreciation Charge	(2,523)	(8,204)	(3,225)	(17,645)	-	-	**(31,597)**	*(1,198)*
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve		3,785	-	-	-	-	**3,785**	-
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,253	31	-	-	-	-	**2,284**	-
Derecognition - Disposals		2	-	-	-	-	**2**	-
Derecognition - Other	(37)	37	-	-	-	-	**-**	-
Balance as at 31 March 2021	**(2,560)**	**(14,377)**	**(44,326)**	**(214,812)**	**-**	**-**	**(276,075)**	*(10,617)*
Net Book Value								
Balance as at 31 March 2021	**131,015**	**254,788**	**9,632**	**318,797**	**67**	**40,674**	**754,973**	**22,088**
Balance as at 31 March 2020	**121,112**	**264,600**	**9,098**	**329,465**	**66**	**24,212**	**748,553**	**23,286**

Comparative Movements 2019/2020

	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								
Restated Balance as at 1 April 2019	**117,887**	**245,301**	**46,313**	**515,506**	**66**	**22,199**	**947,272**	*32,705*
Additions	7,571	55,564	3,886	11,126	-	8,591	**86,738**	-
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	-	7,663	-	-	-	-	**7,663**	-
Revaluation increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(258)	(31,775)	-	-	-	(6,354)	**(38,387)**	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(1,835)	(221)	-	-	-	(224)	**(2,280)**	-
Transfer		(1,904)	-	-	-		**(1,904)**	-
Balance as at 31 March 2020	**123,365**	**274,628**	**50,199**	**526,632**	**66**	**24,212**	**999,102**	*32,705*
Depreciation and Impairment								
Balance as at 1 April 2019	**-**	**(14,558)**	**(38,651)**	**(179,885)**	**-**	**-**	**(233,094)**	*(8,220)*
Depreciation Charge	(2,253)	(8,417)	(2,450)	(17,282)	-	-	**(30,402)**	*(1,199)*
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	6,051	-	-	-	-	**6,051**	-
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	6,887	-	-	-	-	6,887	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	9	-	-	-	-	**9**	-
Balance as at 31 March 2020	**(2,253)**	**(10,028)**	**(41,101)**	**(197,167)**	**-**	**-**	**(250,549)**	*(9,419)*
Net Book Value								
Balance as at 31 March 2020	**121,112**	**264,600**	**9,098**	**329,465**	**66**	**24,212**	**748,553**	*23,286*
Balance as at 31 March 2019	**117,887**	**230,743**	**7,662**	**335,621**	**66**	**22,199**	**714,178**	*22,088*

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 2021 the Council has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in future years budgeted to cost £30.2m. Similar commitments at 31st March 2020 were £20.5m. The major commitments are in relation to Central Business District Phase 2 (£19.2m), the tramway extension (£0.5m), the Conference Centre (£3.6m), Enterprise Zone (£2m) and Troutbeck housing scheme (£4.9m).

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 2020/2021. 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 (RICS). 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 outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), declared by the World Health Organisation as a “Global Pandemic” on 11 March 2020, has impacted global financial markets. Travel restrictions have been implemented by many countries. Market activity is being impacted in many sectors. As at the 31st March valuation date, the valuers consider that they can attach less weight to previous market evidence for comparison purposes, to inform opinions of value. The current response to COVID-19 means that they are faced with an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement.

The valuation is therefore reported on the basis of ‘material valuation uncertainty’ as per VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Red Book Global. Consequently, less certainty – and a higher degree of caution – should be attached to the valuation than would normally be the case. The inclusion of this clause does not mean that the valuations cannot be relied upon, only that the declaration has been included to confirm the fact that in the current unprecedented circumstances less certainty can be attributed to the valuations than would ordinarily be the case.

The valuations were carried out by internal and external valuers who are RICS qualified.

The significant assumptions in estimating fair values are:-

	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land & Buildings £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total £000
Valued at fair value as at:				
31/03/2021	121,421	83,912	697	206,030
31/03/2020	-	88,976	-	88,976
31/03/2019	-	56,860	-	56,860
31/03/2018	-	25,040	-	25,040
Total Cost or Valuation	**121,421**	**254,788**	**697**	**376,906**

Component Accounting

Council Dwellings

Within the Net Book Value of Assets – Council Dwellings (Note 14) 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	Land £000	Kitchens and Bathrooms £000	Structure £000	**Total** £000
Houses & Bungalows	15,955	4,991	40,651	**61,597**
Flats	14,400	8,079	37,345	**59,824**
Total	**30,355**	**13,070**	**77,996**	**121,421**

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.

Asset	Land £000	Building £000	Machinery / Equipment £000	Roofs / Fenestration £000	Total £000
Boundary Primary School	400	2,970	1,620	810	**5,800**
Layton Primary School	200	4,114	2,240	1,126	**7,680**
Moor Park Primary School	620	1,392	630	509	**3,151**
Oracle, Myplace Southpoint	90	1,455	1,020	435	**3,000**
Palatine Leisure Centre	540	4,130	2,810	1,320	**8,800**
Palatine Library	80	880	620	260	**1,840**
Woodlands School	140	1,623	890	438	**3,091**
Moor Park Health & Leisure Centre	80	2,700	2,510	1,060	**6,350**
Kincraig Primary School	230	1,529	830	421	**3,010**
Highfurlong School	230	3,179	1,730	871	**6,010**
Queen Street, Central Library	170	1,880	810	550	**3,410**
Stanley Primary School	385	2,689	1,070	1,619	**5,763**
Stanley Park, Sports Centre	328	2,451	1,472	979	**5,230**
Pegasus Educational Diversity	284	668	405	263	**1,620**
Starr Gate, Tram Depot	600	7,129	2,319	5,411	**15,459**
	4,377	**38,789**	**20,976**	**16,072**	**80,213**
Depreciation rates	Nil	2%	8%	4%	

The total value of assets that have been valued on a component basis is £80.2m and represents 30% of the Other Land and Buildings.

15. Heritage Assets

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

	Art Collection £000	Civic Regalia £000	Other £000	Tower & Local History Collection £000	Illuminations £000	Stanley Park Statues £000	**Total £000**
Cost or Valuation 1st April 2020	5,655	689	20	1,450	550	-	**8,364**
Revaluations	-	(19)	-	-	-	-	**(19)**
Balance 31st March 2021	**5,655**	**670**	**20**	**1,450**	**550**	**-**	**8,345**

	Art Collection £000	Civic Regalia £000	Other £000	Tower & Local History Collection £000	Illuminations £000	Stanley Park Statues £000	**Total £000**
Cost or Valuation 1st April 2019	5,655	510	20	1,450	550	-	**8,185**
Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	179	-	-	-	-	**179**
Balance 31st March 2020	**5,655**	**689**	**20**	**1,450**	**550**	**-**	**8,364**

Art Collection

The Authority's Art Collection has not been formally valued for a number of years. The latest valuation has been provided by the Head of Heritage as at 31st March 2018.

Civic Regalia

The Authority's civic regalia was formally valued as at 31st March 2012 by an external valuer. The valuations were based on commercial markets. The valuation has been updated based on market prices as at 31st March 2021.

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 2018.

Illuminations

These assets have been valued by the Head of Heritage as at 31st March 2018.

Statues

The assets were previously valued using insurance valuations. The statues are on a 50 year loan to a school in Buckinghamshire.

16. Investment Properties

The following items of income and expense have been accounted for on a separate line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2019/2020 £000		**2020/2021 £000**
(6,905)	Rental income from investment property	(4,062)
5,121	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	4,434
(5,694)	Net (gains)/losses from fair value adjustments	2,316
(7,478)	**Net (gain)/loss**	**2,688**

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.

2019/2020 £000		**2020/2021 £000**
50,565	**Balance at start of the year**	**58,529**
	Additions -	
15	- Purchases	4,843
181	- Construction	175
-	Disposals	(20)
	Transfer -	
2,074	- (To)/from PPE	-
6,573	Upward Revaluation	224
(879)	Impairment	(2,540)
58,529	**Balance at end of the year**	**61,211**

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 3 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 2021 by the authority's Chief Valuation Officer, who is RICS qualified, in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

17. Surplus Assets

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
897	**Balance outstanding at start of year**	**753**
57	Revaluation gains/(losses)	8
(3)	Impairment losses	(12)
(25)	Disposals	-
	Assets declassified as surplus assets:	
(173)	- property, plant and equipment	(52)
753	**Balance outstanding at year end**	**697**

18. Intangibles

The Council 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 consist of purchased software licenses.

All software is given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the Council. The useful lives assigned to intangibles is 5 years.

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight line basis. The cost is charged to the IT 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 on intangible asset balances during the year is as follows:

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
-	**Net Carrying Amount at 1st April 2020**	**466**
	Additions:	
466	Purchases	364
-	Amortisation for the period	(93)
466	**Net Carrying Amount at 31st March 2021**	**737**
	Comprising:	
466	Gross Carrying Amount	830
-	Accumulated Amortisation	(93)
466		**737**

19. Financial Instruments

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

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

Financial Assets

	Non Current				Current			
	Investments		Debtors		Investments		Debtors	
	31/03/2020 £000	31/03/2021 £000	31/03/2020 £000	31/03/2021 £000	31/03/2020 £000	31/03/2021 £000	31/03/2020 £000	31/03/2021 £000
Amortised Cost								
Principal	-	-	78,273	86,586	21,350	4,350	-	-
Cash & Cash Equivalents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Amortised Cost	**-**	**-**	**78,273**	**86,586**	**21,350**	**4,350**	**-**	**-**
Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income - Equity Instruments	27,410	25,436	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trade Debtors	-	-	-	-	-	-	46,670	63,921
Total Financial Assets	**27,410**	**25,436**	**78,273**	**86,586**	**21,350**	**4,350**	**46,670**	**63,921**

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 2021 £000	As at 31st March 2020 £000
Share Valuations- Blackpool Transport Services Ltd	Level 3	Earnings based	5,168	9,800
Share Valuations- Blackpool Housing Company	Level 3	Earnings based	15,143	13,150
Share Valuations- Blackpool Airport Ltd	Level 3	Earnings based	1,915	3,650
Share Valuations- Blackpool Waste Services Ltd	Level 3	Earnings based	3,200	800
			25,426	**27,400**

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 £5.168m 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 and the Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA). 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 would more than likely to be another bus operator, with knowledge and experience in the sector who would be able to enhance the economies of scale within the organisation.

At the time of the valuation the country still finds itself in unprecedented times: at the centre of a global pandemic and in a period of 'lockdown'. Blackpool Transport Services Ltd have followed Government guidelines and, as such, are running a significantly reduced service which will impact turnover for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 heavily. There is an indication through a timeframe of lockdown easing that measures will be lifted (although this is subject to the ongoing review by the Government and is therefore not certain). How heavily the current situation will impact the organisation over the longer term remains to be seen.

Based on the company's existing structure, its' branding, reputation and longevity, a multiple of 0.4 times the average turnover has been used. This is the same as the multiplier applied in 2019/20.

Equity Shareholding in Blackpool Housing Company Ltd

The Council's shareholding in Blackpool Housing Company Ltd – the shares in this company are not traded in an active market and fair value of £15.143m 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 return on properties owned by the Company. In 2020 the Board outlined the targets for the yield on the different types of investment as follows:

- 5% “Good to Go” – (target 4.5% net return)
- 30% “Turnkey and Rolling Investment” – (target 4% net return)
- 30% “Rolling Investment” – (target 4% net return)
- 35% “Major Investment” – (target 3.5% net return)

Based on the size of the portfolio the above yields were used for the purposes of valuing the Company.

Equity Shareholding in Regional and City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Limited

The Council’s shareholding in Regional and City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Limited – the shares in this company are not traded in an active market and fair value of £1.915m has been based on valuation techniques that are not based on observable current market data or available market data.

In arriving at the valuation, a method has been used which uses multiples of profit or turnover and an EBITDA comparison between this and share-holder funds. During the Covid-19 pandemic the only flights being made are cargo/freight and essential travel with a good reason. This is impacting Blackpool Airport Ltd with its main business serving an off-shore servicing contract and pleasure flights.

Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic has had major implications for the aviation industry, the Council’s valuers believe it won’t materially affect Blackpool Airport Limited as the site from which it operates is of significant value. Should the worse-case scenario occur and the Airport ceases trading, the sale of the land alone would generate a significant amount of revenue.

Equity Shareholding in Blackpool Waste Services Limited

The Council’s shareholding in Blackpool Waste Services Limited – the shares in this company are not traded in an active market and fair value of £3.2m has been based on a revenue method which uses multiples of turnover, multiples of profit and share-holders funds. As the company is still in its infancy, this method has been selected because if the business were to be offered for sale at any time now or in the near future a purchaser would more than likely be another waste company with knowledge and experience in the sector, who would manage any inefficiencies in current operations.

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

2019/2020 Unquoted Shares £000		2020/2021 Unquoted Shares £000
28,750	**Opening Balance**	**27,400**
	Total Gains and (Losses) of the Period:	
(4,465)	- Included in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(4,224)
3,115	Additions	2,250
27,400	**Closing Balance**	**25,426**

Gains and losses included in the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure relate to unquoted shares in Blackpool Transport Services Ltd, Blackpool Airport Limited, Blackpool Housing Company Limited and Blackpool Waste Services Ltd and are taken to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve. Additions relate to the purchase of further shares in Blackpool Housing Company Limited.

Financial Liabilities

`	Non Current				Current			
	Borrowings		Creditors		Borrowings		Creditors	
	31/03/2020 £000	31/03/2021 £000	31/03/2020 £000	31/03/2021 £000	31/03/2020 £000	31/03/2021 £000	31/03/2020 £000	31/03/2021 £000
Amortised Cost								
Principal & accrued loan interest	87,460	79,487	-	-	245,184	259,607	793	588
PFI and Finance Lease	-	-	96,408	93,355	-	-	4,243	4,390
Total Financial Liabilities	**87,460**	**79,487**	**96,408**	**93,355**	**245,184**	**259,607**	**5,036**	**4,978**
Non Financial Liabilities	-	-	103	4	-	-	46,664	88,560
Total	**87,460**	**79,487**	**96,511**	**93,359**	**245,184**	**259,607**	**51,700**	**93,538**

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2020/2021				2019/2020			
	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £000	Financial Assets - loans & receivables £000	Financial Assets - Share Valuations £000	Total £000	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £000	Financial Assets - loans & receivables £000	Financial Assets - Share Valuations £000	Total £000
Interest expense	7,551	-	-	**7,551**	7,586	-	-	**7,586**
Total expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**7,551**	**-**	**-**	**7,551**	**7,586**	**-**	**-**	**7,586**
Interest income	-	(3,584)	-	**(3,584)**	-	(3,092)	-	**(3,092)**
Total income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**-**	**(3,584)**	**-**	**(3,584)**	**-**	**(3,092)**	**-**	**(3,092)**
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation	-	-	(4,224)	(4,224)	-	-	(4,465)	(4,465)
Surplus/deficit arising on revaluation of financial assets in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**-**	**-**	**(4,224)**	**(4,224)**	**-**	**-**	**(4,465)**	**(4,465)**
Net gain/(loss) for the year	**7,551**	**(3,584)**	**(4,224)**	**(257)**	**7,586**	**(3,092)**	**(4,465)**	**29**

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:

- The ranges of interest rates at 31st March 2021 were 1.48% to 6.75% for loans from the PWLB and 3.93% to 8.875% for other long term loans payable
- 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
- fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated as follows:

	31st March 2021		31st March 2020	
	Carrying Amount £000	**Fair Value £000**	**Carrying Amount £000**	**Fair Value £000**
Financial Liabilities	339,094	361,030	332,644	365,031
Long term creditors	93,359	93,359	96,511	96,511

The fair value of the liabilities reflects the cost to the Council if it chose to repay its Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) loans at 31st March 2021 as the aggregate net present value of future cash flows, discounted using the appropriate discount rate taken from the premature repayment set of rates in force at the close of business on the last working day of the financial year.

	31st March 2021		31st March 2020	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Loans and receivables	8,376	8,376	20,920	20,920
Long term debtors	86,586	86,839	78,547	76,135
Short term debtors	63,921	63,921	57,055	57,055

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 2021) attributable to the commitment to receive interest below current market rates.

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

20. Long Term Investments

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
	Ordinary Shares (£1 per share) in:-	
9,800	Blackpool Transport Services Ltd	5,168
13,150	Blackpool Housing Company	15,143
3,650	Blackpool Airport	1,915
800	Blackpool Waste Services	3,200
10	Municipal Bonds Agency	10
27,410	**Total**	**25,436**

Blackpool Transport Services Ltd

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.

Note 19 describes the basis used to arrive at a formal valuation for the Council's shareholding of the company. In 2020/2021 there was a decrease in value of £4,632,000. The loss on revaluation was debited to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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 have been purchased at a cost of £15,850,000.

Note 19 describes the basis used 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 2020/2021 there was a decrease in value of £257,000. This loss on revaluation was debited to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The movement in share value in 2020/2021 is as follows:

	£000
Shares as at 31st March 2021	13,150
Purchase of shares in 2020/21	2,250
Decrease in valuation in 2020/21	(257)
Shares as at 31st March 2021	**15,143**

Regional and City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Ltd

On 12th September 2017 the Council purchased 100% shares in Regional and City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Limited for £4,250,000.

Note 19 describes the basis used 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 2020/2021 there was a decrease in value of £1,735,000. This loss on revaluation was debited to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Blackpool Waste Services Limited

Blackpool Waste Services Limited was set up on 1st July 2019. The company was set up to deliver the domestic waste service in Blackpool. The Council owns 100% of the shares valued at £1.

Note 19 describes the basis used 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 2020/2021 there was an increase in value of £2,400,000. This gain on revaluation was credited to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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 2021 the Council had purchased £10,000 worth of shares in the Company which equates to 0.13%.

Lancashire Management Operations Limited

Lancashire Management Operations was set up on 15th November 2018. The company is wholly owned by the Council and was set up to manage and operate the Tramshed student accommodation in Preston.

In 2020/2021 the value of the company was nil.

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 (BOCL). The Council's shares in Blackpool Operating Company Limited are valued at £2.

Blackpool Entertainment Company Ltd

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.

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

21. Long Term Debtors

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

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
17,742	Blackpool Transport Services	15,520
6,461	Blackpool Teaching Hospital (NHS)	5,538
2,812	Blackpool Pleasure Beach	2,702
19,200	Blackpool Housing Company	22,800
4,488	Create Developments (Blackpool) Ltd	4,781
8,988	Coolsilk	9,333
11,845	Ocean Boulevard III	11,822
912	Laila's Fine Foods	866
814	Blackpool Airport Operations Ltd	1,052
1,215	Small Business Loans	1,247
552	Waste Disposal Site (prev PFI)	552
652	Adult Social Care Deferred Payments	737
447	Lancashire County Developments	468
2,138	Enveco Refuse Vehicles	1,731
7	Council Mortgages - (Right to Buy)	7
-	Red Rocket Group	113
	Covid Recovery Fund:	
-	Blackpool Operating Company	1,101
-	Blackpool Transport Services	3,716
-	Blackpool Entertainment Company	2,500
78,273	**Total**	**86,586**

Blackpool Transport Services Limited

On 23rd May 2016 the Executive agreed to offer Blackpool Transport Services a loan facility of £7,740,000 to fund the purchase of 10 double buses and 25 vehicles between June 2016 and June 2017. Each loan (including interest) is repayable over 10 years with 120 monthly repayments.

On 11th September 2017 the Executive agreed to offer Blackpool Transport Services Limited a further loan facility of £16.2m. The release of the funds is expected to be phased to purchase 20 double buses in October 2017 (£4,659,000), 4 buses in March 2018 (£934,000), 18 buses in October 2018 (£2,997,000), 15 buses in March 2020 (£3,635,000) with sundry depot assets (totalling £217,000). Each loan (including interest) would be repaid over 10 years with 120 monthly payments. The loan facility also includes a £200,000 contingency to allow for price change over the life of the renewal programme.

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

On 13th March 2017 the Executive agreed to the provision of a £9,230,000 loan to Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust from the Business Loan Fund. The loan (including interest) is repayable over 10 years with 20 half yearly repayments.
The loan is secured upon income generating, non-operational property assets of the Foundation Trust to at least the value of the loan and with such valuation costs together with any loan arrangement fee being met by the Foundation Trust.

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 was due to be repaid by November 2020 and interest is charged at the market rate. Prior to the expiry date Blackpool Pleasure Beach requested to re-finance the loan and this was agreed. The loan and applicable interest is due to be repaid in full by November 2029.

Blackpool Housing Company

On 20th July 2015 Executive agreed to draw down the funding offered in the Growth Deal of £26m from Public Works Loan Board to fund Blackpool Housing Company's housing regeneration programme. An additional £1.6m was met from earmarked revenue reserves.

Interest on the loans is charged at market rates and loan repayments will be made once revenue streams are established and are of sufficient scale.

Create Development (Blackpool) Ltd

On 18th July 2016 the Executive agreed to the provision of a £4.5m loan to Create Developments (Blackpool) Ltd. The loan is to facilitate the development of a 135 bedroom hotel at Bourne Crescent. The loan, including interest, is repayable over 5 years.

Coolsilk

At its meeting on 16th April 2018 the Executive agreed to the provision of a £10m loan to Coolsilk. The loan is to facilitate the redevelopment of Palatine Building into a 5 star Sands Venue Resort hotel. The loan, including interest, is repayable over 25 years and is secured against the completed development.

Ocean Boulevard III Ltd

At its meeting on 24th April 2017 the Executive agreed to the provision of a £12m loan to Ocean Boulevard III Ltd. The loan is to facilitate the building of a 120 bedroom hotel on the site of the former Star Public House. The loan, including interest, is repayable over 12 years and is secured as a first charge over the 125 year leasehold interest in the property and a fixed and floating charge over all other assets.

Laila's Fine Foods

On 10th September 2018 the Executive agreed to the provision of a £1m loan to Laila's Fine Foods. The loan is towards the working capital requirements for their food manufacturing business. The loan, including interest, is repayable over 10 years and is secured in the form of a second charge against named commercial and residential property.

Blackpool Airport Operations Limited

At its meeting on 23rd March 2020 the Executive agreed to the provision of a £1m business loan to Blackpool Airport Operations Ltd (BAOL) over a 25 year repayment term towards essential capital investment at Blackpool Airport.

Business Loans Fund

The Council set up a £3m fund for businesses to safeguard and create jobs and help Blackpool get through the recession. The fund was increased to £10m in 2015/16. Subsequently as part of the 2017/18 budget approval the fund was increased to £100m. A further increase to £200m was agreed as part of the 2019/20 budget process. 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.

All of the loans above have been taken from the Business Loans Fund along with a number of smaller loans totalling £1.2m.

Waste Disposal Site

The total value of land held under the Waste Disposal contract at current market value is estimated at £4.4m. In 2015/16 this value was £3.385m. The increase of £1.015m is due to a revaluation in 2016/17 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.

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.

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 2020/2021 was £468,056 (£447,247 in 2019/2020). The movement in fair value of £20,809 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.

Enveco Refuse Vehicles

At its meeting on 16th July 2018 the Executive agreed for form an arms-length company (Enveco) to manage the Council’s domestic waste service following the termination of the contract with an external supplier.

As part of the new arrangement the Executive agreed to the Council purchasing a number of new refuse vehicles and funding them through prudential borrowing. The vehicles were then leased by the Council to Enveco, who are repaying the lease to the Council over 84 monthly equal instalments including interest.

Covid-19 Recovery Fund

On 2nd November 2020 the Leader of the Council agreed to set up a £20m Covid-19 Recovery Fund, with a 20% contingency of £4m. This was to be ring-fenced for Council Wholly Owned Companies and was taken from the previously established business loans fund. The Covid-19 pandemic has led to a number of council wholly owned companies facing significant income losses as a result of lockdown and subsequent social distancing restrictions. This has impacted on both profitability and cash flow.

The terms of the support require the companies to demonstrate cumulative breakeven income and expenditure position by the end of year 5 of their recovery plan. The loans are tailored to the individual circumstances of the company and its recovery plan, the loan may be offered as either:

- an interest-only basis with a balloon principal repayment, or
- monthly repayments of principal and interest.

The loans are offered at fixed rates over 5 years.

22. Inventories

2020/2021	Consumables £000	Materials £000	Total £000
Balance outstanding at start of the year	**117**	**525**	**642**
Purchases	675	1,495	**2,170**
Recognised as an expense in the year	(338)	(1,700)	**(2,038)**
Balance outstanding at year end	**454**	**320**	**774**

2019/2020	Consumables £000	Materials £000	Total £000
Balance outstanding at start of the year	**66**	**379**	**445**
Purchases	77	2,189	**2,266**
Recognised as an expense in the year	(26)	(2,043)	**(2,069)**
Balance outstanding at year end	**117**	**525**	**642**

23. Debtors

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
3,256	Central government bodies	13,220
1,701	Other local authorities	3,638
1,861	NHS bodies	403
59,724	Other entities and individuals	64,016
(19,872)	Total impairment	(19,761)
10,385	Payments in Advance	2,405
57,055	**Net Value of Debtors**	**63,921**

24. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
26	Cash held by the Authority	27
21,350	Short term deposits with institutions	4,350
(1,872)	Bank current accounts	(1,025)
19,504	**Total Cash and Cash Equivalents**	**3,352**

25. Creditors

Short Term Creditors

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
(9,750)	Central Government Bodies	(28,876)
(5,872)	Other Local Authorities	(6,059)
(1,184)	NHS Bodies	(1,061)
(33,703)	Other Entities and Individuals	(34,315)
(1,191)	Accumulated Absence Provision	(1,783)
(18,012)	Receipts in Advance	(21,444)
(69,712)	**Total Short Term Creditors**	**(93,538)**

Long Term Creditors

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
(39,232)	PFI schemes liabilities	(37,364)
(29,203)	Ex Waste PFI scheme Liability	(28,089)
(27,973)	Finance lease liabilities	(27,902)
(103)	Other long term creditors	(4)
(96,511)	**Total Long Term Creditors**	**(93,359)**

26. Provisions

	Injury and Damage Compensation Claims £000	Other Provisions £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 April 2020	**(1,329)**	**(11,794)**	**(13,123)**
Additional Provisions Made in 2020/2021	(1,050)	(5,660)	**(6,710)**
Amounts Used in 2020/2021	668	8,468	**9,136**
Unused Amounts Reversed Back in 2020/2021	1,334	-	**1,334**
Balance at 31 March 2021	**(377)**	**(8,986)**	**(9,363)**

	Injury and Damage Compensation Claims £000	Other Provisions £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 April 2019	**(6,609)**	**(7,942)**	**(14,551)**
Additional Provisions Made in 2019/2020	(1,450)	(10,405)	**(11,855)**
Amounts Used in 2019/2020	537	5,979	**6,516**
Write Back Unused Amounts	6,193	574	**6,767**
Balance at 31 March 2020	**(1,329)**	**(11,794)**	**(13,123)**

Outstanding legal cases

Injury Compensation Claims

Most of the injury compensation claims are individually insignificant. Significant claims are detailed in Note 5. 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 within few years. 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 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
716	Schools Reserves	(3,561)
(2,292)	Unallocated General Fund Reserves	(6,293)
(4,830)	Housing Revenue Account	(3,032)
(49,818)	Earmarked Revenue Reserves	(76,548)
(11,411)	Capital Receipts Reserve	(13,792)
(3,112)	Capital Reserves	(3,112)
(70,747)	**Total Usable Reserves**	**(106,338)**

28. Unusable Reserves

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
(106,540)	Revaluation Reserve	(115,101)
(6,761)	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	(2,537)
(290,236)	Capital Adjustment Account	(279,717)
1,633	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	1,578
230,786	Pensions Reserve	299,271
(4,199)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	15,078
1,191	Accumulated Absences Account	1,783
-	Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account	5,762
(174,126)	**Total Unusable Reserves**	**(73,883)**

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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

2019/2020 £000		**2020/2021 £000**
(93,912)	**Balance at 1st April**	**(106,540)**
(7,989)	Upward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(3,889)
(6,044)	Depreciation written out to Revaluation Reserve	(6,039)
67	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	99
1,338	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	1,268
(106,540)	**Balance at 31st March**	**(115,101)**

Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve

The Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its investments that are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income. 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.

2019/2020 £000		**2020/2021 £000**
(11,226)	**Balance at 1st April**	**(6,761)**
(800)	Upward revaluation of investments	(2,400)
5,265	Downward revaluation of investments	6,624
(6,761)	**Balance at 31st March**	**(2,537)**

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

2019/2020		2020/2021	
£000		£000	£000
(313,836)	**Balance at 1st April**		**(290,236)**
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
56,808	- Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	45,521	
(91)	- Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	112	
2,226	- 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	510	
58,943			46,143
(1,338)	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(1,268)	
57,605	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in year		44,875
	Capital financing applied in year:		
-	- Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(1,754)	
(19,098)	- Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(19,280)	
(9,532)	- Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(5,288)	
(8,681)	- Capital expenditure charged against the general fund and HRA balances	(11,957)	
3,306	- Business loans repayment of principal	3,923	
			(34,356)
(290,236)	**Balance at 31st March**		**(279,717)**

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.

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
1,664	**Balance at 1st April**	**1,633**
(31)	Amount by which finance costs are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(55)
1,633	**Balance at 31st March**	**1,578**

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.

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
244,578	**Balance at 1st April**	**230,786**
(27,364)	Remeasurement of net defined benefit liability (Actuarial gains/(losses) on pension assets (liabilities)	75,308
31,570	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	(7,004)
(4,872)	Transfer of Blackpool Transport Services pension surplus into pooling arrangement	-
(844)	Employers pension contributions and deficit payments for future years	181
(12,282)	Transfer of upfront employers pension and deficit payments to General Fund	-
230,786	**Balance at 31st March**	**299,271**

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.

The significant year on year movement on non-domestic rates arises from the additional business rates reliefs given to support particular business sectors during the Covid-19 pandemic which was not reflected in the business rate income estimated in January 2020 and therefore not reflected and paid across to the General Fund in 2020/2021. These business rate reliefs will be paid to the General Fund in 2021/2022.

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
(489)	**Balance at 1st April**	**(4,199)**
83	Amount by which council tax credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different to council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	2,614
(3,793)	Amount by which non-domestic rates credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different to non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in in accordance with statutory requirements	16,663
(4,199)	**Balance at 31st March**	**15,078**

Accumulated Absences Account

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

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
1,320	**Balance at 1st April**	**1,191**
(1,320)	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(1,191)
1,191	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	1,783
1,191	**Balance at 31st March**	**1,783**

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Adjustment Account

The Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account was created following a statutory instrument to amend The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations (the 2003 Regulations). The instrument amends the 2003 Regulations by establishing new accounting practices in relation to the treatment of local authorities' school budget deficits such as where a local authority has a deficit on its school budget for the financial years beginning 1st April 2020, 1st April 2021 and 1st April 2022, it must not charge the amount of that deficit to the revenue account. The council must record the deficit in an unusable reserve created solely for the purpose of recording deficits relating to its school budgets.

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
-	**Balance at 1st April**	**-**
-	Reporting of Schools Budget Deficit to new Adjustment Account at 1st April	3,098
-	Deficit on Schools Budget for the year	2,664
-	**Balance at 31st March**	**5,762**

29. Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
(3,008)	Interest Received	(3,584)
7,187	Interest Paid	7,551
(841)	Dividend Received	-

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

2019/2020 £000		**2020/2021 £000**
(53,880)	Depreciation/Impairment charges to CIES	(45,523)
(13,572)	Movement in Pension Liability	6,824
-	Increase in Short Term Loans	461
3,920	(Increase)/decrease in Payments in Advance	(7,980)
3,636	(Increase)/decrease in Debtors	14,846
197	Increase/(decrease) in Inventories	132
1,428	(Increase)/decrease in Provisions	3,760
3,109	(Increase)/decrease in Creditors	(20,394)
2,650	(Increase)/decrease in Creditors over 1 year	3,152
(884)	(Increase)/decrease in Receipts in Advance	(6,545)
6,370	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	33,454
(47,026)	**Total**	**(17,813)**

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

2019/2020 £000		**2020/2021 £000**
19,099	Capital grants credited to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services	19,280
1,232	Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment investment property and intangible assets	137
3,710	Billing Authorities - Collection Fund adjustments	(19,278)
24,041	**Total**	**139**

30. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
101,939	Purchase of property, plant & equipment, investment property and intangible assets	45,495
33,596	Other payments for investing activities	(10,661)
(1,063)	Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(1,858)
(22,780)	Capital Grants received	(23,106)
111,692	**Net cash flows from investing activities**	**9,870**

31. Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
(557,077)	Cash receipts of short and long term borrowing	(510,436)
(21,120)	Other receipts from financing activities	-
473,780	Repayments of short and long term borrowing	503,987
1,773	Other payments for financing activities	3,053
(102,644)	**Net cash flows from financing activities**	**(3,396)**

32. Reconciliation of Liabilities Arising From Financing Activities

	1st April 2020 £000	Financing Cash Flows £000	31st March 2021 £000
Long term borrowings	87,460	(7,973)	79,487
Short term borrowings	245,184	14,423	259,607
Lease liabilities	57,280	(1,289)	55,991
PFI Liabilities	39,231	(1,868)	37,363
Total Liabilities from Financing Activities	**429,155**	**3,293**	**432,448**

	1st April 2019 £000	Financing Cash Flows £000	31st March 2020 £000
Long term borrowings	89,895	(2,435)	87,460
Short term borrowings	159,452	85,732	245,184
Lease liabilities	59,226	(1,946)	57,280
PFI Liabilities	39,935	(704)	39,231
Total Liabilities from Financing Activities	**348,508**	**80,647**	**429,155**

33. Road Charging Schemes under the Transport Act 2000

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
(1,571)	On-street parking operation surplus	**(1,055)**
	Utilised to Fund:	
5,341	Public Transport	4,273
391	Traffic Management & Road Safety	230
5,732	**Total Qualifying Expenditure**	**4,503**

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.

34. Agency Services

The Council provides payroll services for a number of other local authorities, schools including academies and its wholly-owned subsidiary companies. These organisations pay a management fee to the Council for the service. The total management fee received by the Council in 2020/2021 was £149,445 (2019/2020 £200,635) and is based on the number of employees paid.

In 2020/21 the Council received government grants totalling £106.868m in relation to support for local businesses and care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Council acted as agent and passed these grants onto the appropriate organisations in line with government requirements.

35. 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.

2019/2020 £000			2020/2021 £000	
		Funding provided to the pooled budget:		
15,061		Blackpool Council	15,183	
17,702		Blackpool CCG	18,456	
	32,763			33,639
		Expenditure met from the pooled budget:		
24,671		Blackpool Council	24,841	
7,813		Blackpool CCG	8,219	
	32,484			33,060
	279	Net surplus arising on the pooled budget during the year		579

36. Members' Allowances

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

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
835	Allowances	825
72	Expenses	79
907	**Total**	**904**

37. 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 2020/2021		Number in 2019/2020	
	Schools	Other Staff	Schools	Other Staff
£50,000 - £54,999	13	32	10	28
£55,000 - £59,999	6	21	7	23
£60,000 - £64,999	3	17	5	15
£65,000 - £69,999	4	9	4	6
£70,000 - £74,999	6	6	6	8
£75,000 - £79,999	1	3	-	2
£80,000 - £84,999	-	2	1	-
£85,000 - £89,999	1	-	2	2
£90,000 - £94,999	2	1	-	-
£95,000 - £99,999	-	1	-	1
£100,000 - £104,999	-	4	-	3
£105,000 - £109,999	-	2	-	2
£110,000 - £114,999	-	-	-	-
£115,000 - £119,999	-	1	-	1
£120,000 - £124,999	-	1	-	1
£140,000 - £144,999	-	-	-	1
£145,000-£149,999	-	1	-	-
TOTAL	**36**	**101**	**35**	**93**

The remuneration paid to the Authority's senior officers is in the above table and is broken down as follows:

Employees in Post 2020/2021

Post Holder Information	Salary £	Expense Allowance £	Total Excluding Pensions £	Employer Pension Contributions £	Total Including Pensions £
Chief Executive - Neil Jack	146,855	-	146,855	22,909	169,764
Director of Resources	105,842	54	105,896	16,511	122,407
Director of Communication & Regeneration	100,026	-	100,026	-	100,026
Director of Governance & Partnership Services	100,182	370	100,552	15,628	116,180
Director of Community & Environmental Services	100,182	-	100,182	15,628	115,810
Director of Public Health	119,364	12	119,376	16,468	135,844
Director of Children's Services	106,257	-	106,257	16,576	122,833
Director of Adult Services	100,182	710	100,892	15,628	116,520
Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive	95,672	-	95,672	14,925	110,597
TOTAL	**974,562**	**1,146**	**975,708**	**134,273**	**1,109,981**

Employees in Post 2019/2020					
Post Holder Information	**Salary**	**Expense Allowance**	**Total Excluding Pensions**	**Employer Pension Contributions**	**Total Including Pensions**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Chief Executive - Neil Jack	143,485	334	143,819	14,487	158,306
Director of Resources	103,413	1,832	105,245	15,653	120,898
Director of Communications and Regeneration	103,695	641	104,336	-	104,336
Director of Governance & Partnership Services	100,044	-	100,044	14,807	114,851
Director of Community & Environmental Services	100,044	-	100,044	1,153	101,197
Director of Public Health	120,096	196	120,292	16,574	136,866
Director of Children's Services	105,762	-	105,762	16,574	122,336
Director of Adult Services	97,884	334	98,218	14,487	112,705
Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief	88,327	246	88,573	13,072	101,645
TOTAL	**962,750**	**3,583**	**966,333**	**106,807**	**1,073,140**

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 on the next page:

Exit Package Cost by Band (incl Special Payments)	**Number of Compulsory Redundancies**		**Number of Other Agreed Departures**		**Number of Exit Packages by Cost Band**		**Total Cost of Exit Packages in each Band**	
	2020/2021	**2019/2020**	**2020/2021**	**2019/2020**	**2020/2021**	**2019/2020**	**2020/2021 £000**	**2019/2020 £000**
£0 - £20,000	1	10	31	25	32	35	298	188
£20,001 - £40,000	-	1	2	5	2	6	61	168
£40,001 - £60,000	-	-	2	1	2	1	102	50
£60,001 - £80,000	-	-	1	-	1	-	76	-
£80,001 - £100,000	1	-	-	-	1	-	83	-
Total	**2**	**11**	**36**	**31**	**38**	**42**	**620**	**406**

38. 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 Deloitte.

	2020/2021 £000	2019/2020 £000
Fees payable to auditors with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	85	85
Additional fees payable to auditors in relation to the previous year's audit	-	18
Fees payable to auditors for the certification of grant claims and returns	8	18
Total	**93**	**121**

39. Disclosure of Deployment of Dedicated Schools Grant

The Council's expenditure on schools is funded by grant monies provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, 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 and Early Years (England) (No2) Regulations 2018. 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 2020/2021 are as follows:

	Central Expenditure £000	Individual Schools Budget (ISB) £000	Total £000
Final DSG for 2020/21 before academy & high needs recoupment			120,967
Academy & high needs figure recouped for 2020/21			72,275
Total DSG after Academy & high needs recoupment for 2020/21			48,692
B/F from 2019/20			(3,105)
C/F to 2021/22 agreed in advance			0
Agreed initial budget distribution in 2020/21	26,576	19,010	45,586
In year adjustments	-	-	-
Final budgeted distribution for 2020/21	26,576	19,010	45,586
Less Actual Central Expenditure	32,338		
Less Actual ISB deployed to Schools		19,010	
Plus Local authority contribution for 2020/21	-	-	-
C/F to 2021/22	(5,762)	-	(5,762)

40. Grant Income

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2020/2021.

	2020/2021 £000	2019/2020 £000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
Business Rates Retained	19,507	28,515
Business Rates Top Up	24,468	27,137
Revenue Support Grant	15,030	-
Section 31 Grants (NNDR 1 return)	6,017	7,515
New Homes Bonus	266	454
Adult Social Care Grants	16,477	12,196
Opportunity Area	1,950	2,012
Covid-19 Grants:		
- Covid-19 support grant	10,179	6,085
- Sales, Fees and Charges	8,461	-
- Council Tax Hardship Fund	2,803	-
- DEFRA Emergency Assistance Grant	261	-
- 75% Local Tax Income Guarantees Scheme	1,100	-
- Additional S31 Business Rate Reliefs	14,767	-
Other Contributions	324	427
Capital Grants - Other	19,280	19,099
Total	**140,890**	**103,440**
Credited to Services		
Dedicated Schools Grant	48,692	45,701
Pupil Premium Grant	3,474	3,247
Housing Benefit Administration Subsidy	746	763
Rent Allowance Subsidy	42,336	51,012
Rent Rebates Subsidy	10,933	10,813
Public Health Grant	18,512	17,941
Street Lighting PFI	2,627	2,627
Building Schools for the Future PFI	3,024	3,024
Universal Infant Free School Meals	556	596
Sustainable Transport Access Fund	2,500	2,498
Museum Project	3,505	955
Project Adder Grant (Public Health)	825	-
Independent Living Fund	168	168
Department for Transport Condition Surveys/Resurfacing Funding	2,060	2,100
Covid-19 Grants:		
- Contain Outbreak Management Fund/Test and Trace	1,230	-
- Infection Control	990	-
- Rapid Testing	109	-
- Workforce Capacity Fund	452	-
- Emergency Active Travel	415	-
- Bus Services Grant	156	-
- Complaince and Enforcement	114	-
- Rough Sleeping/Accomodation Project	147	-
- Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Support	214	-
- Community Champions	212	-
- Schools Catch Up Grant	293	-
- Winter Grant	526	-
- Self Isolating Fund	269	-
- Discretionary Business Support Grants	6,442	-
- Other Covid grants including New Burdens	206	-
Other Grants and Contributions	6,849	3,305
Total	**158,582**	**144,750**

As part of the Council's Growth and Prosperity programme the Council, working in partnership with Blackpool and the Fylde College (B&FC), commissioned a consultant team to prepare a comprehensive 'Masterplan and Delivery Plan' for a multiversity campus on the edge of Blackpool Town Centre for which the costs would be equally shared.

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, if not met, will require the monies or property to be returned to the provider. The balances at year end are as follows:

	2020/2021 £000	2019/2020 £000
Current Liabilities		
Revenue Grants Received in Advance		
S31 Business Rate Retention 2020/21	-	6,017
Department for Transport - Project Amber	4,392	4,400
Rogue Landlord	0	63
Sport England	22	46
Green Homes	2,000	-
Active Travel	308	-
Covid-19 - Contain Outbreak/Test & Trace	4,767	-
Other	908	247
Total	**12,397**	**10,773**
Long Term Liabilities		
Capital Grants Received in Advance		
Department of Health	360	360
Environment Agency grants	2,807	2,183
Local Transport Plan	7,422	4,612
Empty Homes	2,013	2,142
Education & Skills Funding Agency	3,122	2,788
Other Grants & Contributions	-	526
Total	**15,724**	**12,611**

41. Related Parties

The Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the council might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit 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. council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are set out in Note 40. Capital grant receipts unspent at 31st March 2021 are shown on Note 40.

Members

The Council maintains a register of all members' disclosable pecuniary 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 2020/21 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 2020/21 is shown in Note 36.

During the year 5 Members of the Council had a private interest in Blackpool Teaching Hospital. The Council made payments to this organisation amounting to £5,367,961 in 2020/2021 (£1,559,715 in 2019/2020) to meet the Council's social care and public health responsibilities.

During the year a Member of the Council had a private interest in Calico Enterprise Limited who provide support to residents in times of need. The Council made payments to this organisation totalling £223,317 in 2020/2021 (2019/2020 - £266,704). These payments were to meet the Council's social responsibilities.

During the year a 2 Members of the Council had a private interest in Little George's Nursery School, a local nursery. The Council made payments to this organisation totalling £209,426 in 2020/21 (2019/2020 - £214,527). These payments were to meet the Council's early years' responsibilities.

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

Chief Officers

The Director of Resources is a board member of Lancashire Pension Board and acts as a representative for the Fund's employers.

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

Other Public Bodies

The authority has a pooled budget arrangement with NHS Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group in relation to the Better Care Fund. Transactions and balances outstanding are detailed in Note 35.

The Council received £18.512m Public Health grant in 2020/21 (£17.9m in 2019/20) for the delivery of Public Health services which aim to improve health outcomes for all ages and removing health inequalities across the borough. The Public Health grant is allocated to the Council as a ring-fenced grant.

The following table shows the precepts and levies during the year:

Precepting & Levying Bodies	Precepts/Levies 2020/21	Other Expenditure 2020/21	Precepts/Levies 2019/20	Other Expenditure 2019/20
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	7,857	228	7,357	174
Lancashire Fire Authority	3,031	-	3,119	4
Environment Agency	69	7	68	7

The precepts paid to Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Lancashire Fire Authority are to distribute Council Tax collected on behalf of the related party.

The payment to the Environment Agency is the Flood Defence Levy, where there was some other expenditure primarily for drainage works.

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Council

The Council controls Blackpool Transport Services Limited through its ownership of 100% shares in the Company. The authority provided loans to the Company. The balance outstanding on these loans at 31st March 2021 was £19,236,000.

The Council controls Blackpool Housing Company Limited through its ownership of 100% shares in the Company. The authority provided loans to the Company. The balance outstanding on these loans at 31st March 2021 was £22,800,000.

The Council controls Blackpool Airport Limited through its ownership of 100% shares in the Company. The authority provided loans to the Company. The balance outstanding on these loans at 31st March 2021 was £1,052,000.

The Council controls Blackpool Operating Company Limited through its ownership of 100% shares in the Company. The authority provided loans to the Company. The balance outstanding on these loans at 31st March 2021 was £1,101,000

The Council controls Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited through its ownership of 100% shares in the Company. The authority provided loans to the Company. The balance outstanding on these loans at 31st March 2021 was £2,500,000.

Full details on these loans are within Note 21.

The authority also controls Blackpool Coastal Housing Limited, Blackpool Waste Services Limited and Lancashire Management Operations Limited through its ownership of 100% shares in the companies. Full details are in Section 7 Group Accounts.

42. 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.

	2020/2021 £000	2019/2020 £000
Capital Financing Requirement		
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	**409,940**	**338,851**
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant & Equipment	23,239	78,492
Investment Properties	5,024	984
Assets under Construction	16,244	8,323
Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute	4,438	5,289
Long Term Debtor -Loan to Blackpool Transport Services	3,716	6,650
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Create	294	-
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Blackpool Housing Company	3,600	5,000
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Laila's Fine Foods	19	-
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Ocean Boulevard III	282	5,389
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Coolsilk	344	3,661
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Blackpool Airport	246	813
Long Term Debtor - Enveco Leased Vehicles	-	2,851
Long Term Debtor - Blackpool Entertainment Company	2,500	-
Long Term Debtor - Blackpool Operating Company	1,101	-
Long Term Debtor - Red Rocket Group	113	-
Blackpool Housing Company Shares	17,100	
Sources of Finance		
Capital Receipts	(1,858)	-
Government Grants & Other Contributions	(23,106)	(22,780)
Sums set aside from Revenue	(23,981)	(20,277)
Payments Received for :- Long Term Debtor -Loan to Blackpool Transport Services	(2,222)	(1,789)
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Blackpool Victoria Hospital	(923)	(923)
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Laila's Fine Foods	(65)	(94)
Long Term Debtor - Enveco Leased Vehicles	(407)	-
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Ocean Boulevard III	(305)	(500)
Lease/PFI Repayments	4,240	
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	**439,573**	**409,940**
Explanations of Movements in Year		
Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by Government Financial Assistance)	29,633	71,089
Increase in Capital Financing Requirement	**29,633**	**71,089**

43. Leases

Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

Waste Services

The Council has recognised a finance lease creditor in respect of the borrowing raised by Lancashire County Council to settle the PFI liability in respect of the former Lancashire Waste PFI. The assets underpinning the finance lease are the land and buildings comprising the waste plants and are included within Property, Plant and Equipment – Other Land and Buidings on the balance sheet. Blackpool Council's share of the liability is 12.5%.

The total future repayments payable at 31st March 2021 were as follows:

	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Payments due no later than one year	1,114	1,070
Payments due later than one year not later than five years	4,898	4,718
Payment due later than five years	23,191	24,486
Total	**29,203**	**30,274**

Ribble House

At its meeting on 19th February 2018 the Executive agreed to enter into a 30 year lease for Ribble House with an option to acquire the office premises at the end of the lease term. The lease payments escalate on an annual basis at the lower of 5% per annum and the all items retail price index. The escalation is applied to the preceding annual lease payments. The net book value of the property at 31st March 2021 was £19.3m which is included within Investment Properties on the balance sheet.

The total future repayments payable at 31st March 2021 were as follows:

	Minimum Lease Payments	
	31st March 2021 £000	**31st March 2020 £000**
Not later than one year	690	690
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,760	2,760
Later than five years	15,194	15,884
Total	**18,644**	**19,334**

Tramshed

In 2018/19 the Council entered into a 30 year lease for the Tramshed – a purpose-built student accommodation property. The property is managed by a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council and is included within Investment Properties on the balance sheet.

The future repayments payable at 31st March 2021 were as follows:

	Minimum Lease Payments	
	31st March 2021 £000	**31st March 2020 £000**
Not later than one year	709	707
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,856	2,847
Later than five years	16,110	16,828
Total	**19,675**	**20,382**

The Authority as Lessor

The Council has granted various property leases including the lease of the Sandcastle Waterpark, Ribble House and part of Number One Bickerstaffe Square. The future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable lease for all property leases in future years are:

	Minimum Lease Payments	
	31st March 2021 £000	**31st March 2020 £000**
Not later than one year	2,176	2,176
Later than one year and not later than five years	7,661	6,498
Later than five years	4,820	9,339
Total	**14,657**	**18,013**

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.

44. Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

Highfield Leadership Academy (previously Highfield Humanities College) PFI

The Highfield Leadership Academy 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.

On 1st April 2017 the school converted to an Academy and the assets relating to the PFI were transferred to Tauheedul Education Trust the school's Governing Body, and are no longer recognised on the Authority's Balance Sheet. However, the liability for the remaining payments relating to the scheme are still held on the Authority's Balance Sheet under Long Term Creditors. The school makes a contribution to the Authority for these payments.

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 2021 (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 2021/22	1,313	675	1,785	3,773
Payable in two to five years	6,139	2,618	6,560	15,317
Payable in six to ten years	9,272	4,300	6,548	20,120
Payable in eleven to fifteen years	10,394	7,213	3,944	21,551
Payable in sixteen to twenty years	2,835	3,149	417	6,401
Total	**29,953**	**17,955**	**19,254**	**67,162**

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:

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
(19,244)	Balance outstanding at start of year	(18,643)
601	Payments during the year	688
(18,643)	**Total**	**(17,955)**

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 £128.076m, 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 2021 (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 2021/2022	1,818	1,192	1,122	4,132
Payable in two to five years	5,812	6,333	4,443	16,588
Payable in six to ten years	10,891	13,424	5,008	29,323
Payable in eleven to fifteen years	12,500	15,015	1,685	29,200
Total	**31,021**	**35,964**	**12,258**	**79,243**

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 already incurred is as follows:

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
(23,463)	Balance outstanding at start of year	(22,790)
1,005	Payments during the year	1,084
(332)	Additions	(879)
(22,790)	**Total**	**(22,585)**

45. 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 2020/2021 the Council paid £2,820,418 (2019/20 £2,437,327) to the Department for Education in respect of teachers retirement benefits, representing 23.68% (2019/20 20.68%) 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 £2.8m.

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 49.

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 2020/2021, the Council paid £80,255 (2019/20 £81,970) to the NHS Pension Scheme in respect of Public Health employees' retirement benefits, representing 14.38% (2019/20 14.38%) of 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 £74,580.

46. 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.

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 (i.e. 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.

McCloud Judgement

Claims of unlawful discrimination have been made in relation to the changes to the Judiciary and Firefighters

Pension regulations and in December 2018 the Court of Appeal (McCloud/Sargeant) ruled that the 'transitional protection' offered to some members as part of the reform to public sector pensions amounts to unlawful discrimination. On 27 June 2019 the Supreme Court refused leave to appeal on the McCloud case. The government is of the opinion that the difference in treatment will need to be remedied across all public sector pension schemes. The figures include an allowance for the McCloud judgement.

Blackpool Transport Services Pooling Arrangement

As mentioned in the Narrative Report, Blackpool Transport Services' part of the Lancashire County Pension Fund has been in surplus since it was incorporated and Blackpool Transport Services Limited has never made an employer's contribution.

At the 31 March 2016, the date of the last actuarial valuation, Blackpool Transport Services Limited had a surplus of around £5.4m in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As a result of this surplus, Blackpool Transport Limited did not make any contributions to the pension fund during the period 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2020.

Actuarial advice estimated it could take up to 50 years for Blackpool Transport Limited to utilise this surplus based on current actuarial valuations (since a surplus cannot be paid to an employer unless it has no active members).
On 15th July 2019 the Executive agreed to enter into a pooling arrangement with Blackpool Transport Services (BTS) to use BTS's pension fund surplus to partly offset the Council's pension fund deficit. As part of the arrangement the Council made a payment of £2m to Blackpool Transport Services Limited, funded from its reserves and repayable via pension contribution savings over an estimated 10 years, in respect of pooling this surplus. Blackpool Transport Services Limited proposed to invest this £2m into the business and thereby guarantee future dividend payments to the Council.

It is estimated that the pooling arrangement will reduce the Council's contributions to the Pension Fund by up to £200,000 per year, net of any liabilities relating to active members. In 2019/20 the pooling of the pension fund reduced the Council's pension deficit by £4,872,000 and is shown under business combinations.

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	
	2020/21 £000	**2019/20 £000**	**2020/21 £000**	**2019/20 £000**
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Cost of Services:				
Service Cost comprising				
- current service cost	22,623	23,174	-	-
- past service costs	-	2,947	-	-
- curtailments	337	-	-	-
Financing & Investment Income and Expenditure				
Net interest expense	4,649	5,369	74	80
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	**27,609**	**31,490**	**74**	**80**
Other Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:				
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	151,876	(11,954)	338	(81)
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	-	(31,506)	-	(86)
- Experience gains and losses	(57,787)	13,349	-	(44)
Return on plan assets	(19,068)	2,958	(51)	-
Total Post-Employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	**75,021**	**(27,153)**	**287**	**(211)**
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	(27,609)	(31,490)	(74)	(80)
Actual amount charged against the general fund balance for pensions in the year:				
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	34,351	687		
Retirement benefits payable to pensioners			156	157

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	
	2020/21 £000	**2019/20 £000**	**2020/21 £000**	**2019/20 £000**
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	1,039,054	882,784	3,348	3,143
Fair value of plan assets	(743,132)	(655,141)	-	-
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	**295,922**	**227,643**	**3,348**	**3,143**

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	655,141	626,341	-	-
Interest Income	16,298	15,891	-	-
Remeasurement gain/(loss):				
- The return on plan assets , excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	57,787	(13,349)	-	-
- Other	(425)	(401)	-	-
Contributions from employer	34,351	687	156	157
Contributions from employees into the scheme	4,563	4,320	-	-
Benefits paid	(24,583)	(23,273)	(156)	(157)
Business combinations	-	44,925	-	-
Closing fair value of scheme assets	**743,132**	**655,141**	**-**	**-**

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

	Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme		Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Opening balance at 1 April	882,784	855,206	3,143	3,431
Current service cost	22,198	22,773	-	-
Interest cost	20,947	21,260	74	80
Contributions from scheme participants	4,563	4,320	-	-
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:				
- Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	-	(31,506)	-	(86)
- Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	151,876	(11,954)	338	(81)
- Experience (gains) and losses	(19,068)	2,958	(51)	(44)
Past service cost	-	2,788	-	-
Losses/(gains) on curtailment	337	159	-	-
Benefits paid	(24,583)	(23,273)	(156)	(157)
Business Combinations	-	40,053	-	-
Closing balance at 31 March	**1,039,054**	**882,784**	**3,348**	**3,143**

	Fair Value of Scheme Assets	
	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Cash & cash equivalents	16,412	7,207
Bonds:		
- Corporate	-	16,380
Sub total bonds	-	16,380
Property:		
-Retail	730	655
- Commercial	12,002	8,517
Sub total property	12,732	9,172
Private Equity: Overseas	400,057	347,224
Other investment funds:		
- Credit Funds	99,338	103,512
- Pooled Fixed Income	24,771	34,722
- Infrastructure	89,121	90,409
- Property	93,101	46,515
- UK Pooled Equity Funds	7,600	-
Sub total other investment funds	313,931	275,158
Total assets	**743,132**	**655,141**

Basis for Estimating Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about 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 2019.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits	
	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Post Retirement Mortality Assumptions:				
Non Retired:				
Men/Women	110%/94%	110%/94%	110%/94%	110%/94%
Retired				
Men/Women	103%/91%	103%/91%	103%/91%	103%/91%
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:				
- Men	22.4yrs	22.3yrs	22.4yrs	22.3yrs
- Women	25.1yr	25.0 yrs	25.1yr	25.0yrs
Longevity at 75 for current pensioners:				
- Men	-	-	13.7yrs	13.6yrs
- Women	-	-	15.9yrs	15.8yrs
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:				
- Men	23.9yrs	23.8 yrs	-	-
- Women	26.9yrs	26.8yrs	-	-
Rate of inflation	2.7%	2.1%	2.7%	2.1%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.2%	3.6%	-	-
Rate of increase in pensions	2.8%	2.2%	2.8%	2.2%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.1%	2.4%	2.1%	2.4%

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.

	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	3.03%	3,144
Rate of Inflation - increase by 0.1%	1.74%	18,049
Rate of increase in salaries - increase by 0.1%	0.18%	1,832
1% increase in real discount rate	(1.71%)	(17,741)

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 16 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed on 31 March 2022.

The scheme will need to take account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Services 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.

The Council opted to make the 3 year advance payment of its employer pension contributions and deficit payments totalling £33.579m in 2020/21. This covers the contributions for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23.

47. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising From Financial Instruments

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

- Credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council;
- Liquidity risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments; and
- 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

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 £4.35m 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 recoverability applies to all of the Authority's deposits but there was no evidence at 31st March 2021 that this was likely to crystallize therefore no separate provision for loss has been made in the accounts. The Council limits the amount of borrowing undertaken, thereby reducing the potential credit risk from placing deposits.

Expected Credit Losses

Expected credit losses are an allowance based on all reasonably possible future events that could result in default, weighted by likelihood of occurrence. They are calculated by comparing the net present value of all contractual cash flows that are due with the net present value of all cash flows that are expected to be received. There were no significant expected losses identified.

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

	Amount at 31st March 2021 £000	**Historical experience of default %**	**Historical experience adjusted for market conditions at 31st March 2021 %**	**Estimated maximum exposure to default and uncollectability At 31st March 2021 £000**	**Estimated maximum exposure at 31st March 2020 £000**
Deposits with banks and financial institutions	4,350	0	0	0	21,350
Customers	61,516	35%	0	21,531	46,461

Of the £61.5m current debtors £10.663m relates to invoices raised for customer accounts.

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 and invoices should be paid within 30 days, however £5.283m of the £10.663m balance is past its due date for payment. The past due but not impaired amount can be analysed by age as follows:

	31st March 2021 £000	**31st March 2020 £000**
Up to 3 months	550	1,256
Three to six months	1,764	672
Six months to one year	1,189	604
1-2 years	820	1,172
2-3 years	364	190
Over 3 years	596	583
Total	**5,283**	**4,477**

The year on year increase is due to the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Council introduced a moratorium on collecting debts in the early days of the pandemic and agreed terms and repayment plans with some rental customers in order to protect and support local businesses. In light of this, the Council carried out additional reviews when considering the impairment allowance.

The past due but not impaired amount for invoices raised for customer accounts is £6.997m at 31st March 2021 (£2.56m at 31st March 2021).

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 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Less than one year	259,607	245,184
Between one and two years	3,024	6,184
Between two and five years	10,500	9,833
Between five and ten years	16,619	22,157
Between ten and fifteen years	11,736	11,814
Between fifteen and twenty years	-	-
More than twenty years	37,353	38,472
Total	**338,839**	**333,644**

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 £2.5m effect on the financial statements. This assumption is based on the methodology used in the Note 19 Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities.

Price Risk

The Authority does not invest in equity shares but does have shareholdings with a fair value of £25.426m 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.

All movements in share 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 £1.27m gain or loss being recognised in the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure for 2020/21.

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.

48. Contingent Liabilities /Assets

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.

As at 31st March 2021 the Council had no material contingent assets to disclose.

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

49. 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.

	2016/2017 £000	2017/2018 £000	2018/2019 £000	2019/2020 £000	2020/2021 £000
Balance B/fwd					
Cenotaph	120	120	20	20	20
Civic Regalia	591	591	510	510	689
Illuminations	500	500	550	550	550
Tower Collection & Local Family History Collection	900	900	1,450	1,450	1,450
Art Collection	5,000	5,000	5,655	5,655	5,655
Stanley Park Statues	653	653	-	-	-
Total Balance B/fwd	**7,764**	**7,764**	**8,185**	**8,185**	**8,364**
Additions					
Art Collection	-	55	-	-	-
Total Additions	**-**	**55**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Impairment/Revaluation					
Cenotaph	-	(100)	-	-	-
Civic Regalia	-	(81)	-	179	(19)
Illuminations	-	50	-	-	-
Tower Collection & Local Family History Collection	-	550	-	-	-
Art Collection	-	600	-	-	-
Stanley Park Statues	-	(653)	-	-	-
Total Impairment/Revaluation	**-**	**366**	**-**	**179**	**(19)**
Balance C/fwd					
Cenotaph	120	20	20	20	20
Civic Regalia	591	510	510	689	670
Illuminations	500	550	550	550	550
Tower Collection & Local Family History Collection	900	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450
Art Collection	5,000	5,655	5,655	5,655	5,655
Stanley Park Statues	653	-			
Total Balance C/fwd	**7,764**	**8,185**	**8,185**	**8,364**	**8,345**

Section 6

Supplementary Single Entity Financial Statements

Housing Revenue Account

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

Housing Revenue Account

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2021

2019/2020		2020/2021	
£000		£000	£000
	Expenditure		
3,988	Repairs and maintenance	3,935	
8,725	Supervision and management	7,932	
186	Rent, rates , taxes and other charges	145	
2,511	Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	2,523	
52	Debt management costs	30	
283	Movement in the allowance for bad debts	240	
15,745	**Total Expenditure**		**14,805**
	Income		
(16,766)	Dwelling rents	(17,094)	
(120)	Non-dwelling rents	(119)	
(1,676)	Charges for services and facilities	(1,949)	
(255)	Contributions towards expenditure	(353)	
(18,817)	**Total Income**		**(19,515)**
(3,072)	**Net Cost of HRA Services as included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**		**(4,710)**
	HRA Share of the operating income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
772	Loss on sale of HRA non-currents assets	150	
(1,428)	Capital grants	(129)	
399	Interest payable and similar charges	341	
(85)	Interest and investment income	(36)	326
(3,414)	**Surplus for the year on HRA services**		**(4,384)**

Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement for the Year Ending 31st March 2021

	2020/2021 £000	2019/2020 £000
Balance on HRA Reserve at 1st April	**(4,830)**	**(5,705)**
Surplus for the year on HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	(4,384)	(3,414)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	6,182	4,289
Net increase or decrease in year	1,798	875
Balance on HRA Reserve at 31st March	**(3,032)**	**(4,830)**

Notes to the HRA Statement

1. Housing Revenue Account Stock

The Council owned 4,741 dwellings at 31st March 2021 which are analysed below:-

	2020/2021	2019/2020
Bedsits	51	56
Flats	2,885	2,853
Maisonettes	1	30
Bungalows	8	8
Houses	1,728	1,735
Multi occupied dwellings	68	54
Total	**4,741**	**4,736**

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

	2020/2021	2019/2020
Stock at 1st April	**4,736**	**4,801**
Less: Sales to tenants	(9)	(28)
Disposal of Troutbeck properties	-	(81)
Other Disposals	-	(3)
Add: Queens Park Phase II	-	8
William Lyons House	14	-
Hoyle House	-	12
Other Additions/Purchases	-	17
Recovery Houses/Hostels	-	10
Stock at 31st March	**4,741**	**4,736**

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

	2020/2021 £000	**2019/2020 £000**
Operational assets:		
Council dwellings	123,372	118,763
Other HRA	7,682	2,350
Stock at 31st March	**131,054**	**121,113**

2. Dwelling Rents

This is the total rent due for the year after allowance is made for voids etc. During the year 3.3% of lettable properties, excluding hostels, were vacant (2019/20: 3.1%). This includes properties intentionally held vacant pending the ongoing re-development of the Troutbeck estate and other sites. During the year the average void rate for hostels was 24.6% (2019/20 - 11%).

The average rent (excluding Affordable Rent properties) was £69.19 a week in 2020/21, an increase of 2.88% over the previous year.

	2020/2021 £000	**2019/2020 £000**
Vacant possession value of properties	293,881	283,494

The vacant possession value of dwellings held on 31st March 2021 was £293,880,905. The difference between this and the Existing Use Value (Social Housing) and Existing Use Value (Affordable Rent) valuation of £118,762,452 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:

	2020/2021 £000	2019/2020 £000
Balance at 1st April	-	-
Transferred to MRR during the year	-	-
Transfer between MRR and HRA during the year	2,523	2,253
Debits to MRR during the financial year in respect of capital expenditure:		
Houses held within HRA	(2,523)	(2,253)
Balance at 31st March	-	-

4. Housing Repairs Account

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

	2020/2021 £000	2019/2020 £000
Balance at 1st April	-	-
Add: Revenue contribution	3,935	3,988
Less: Expenditure in year		
Responsive repairs	(2,810)	(2,879)
Planned maintenance	(1,125)	(1,109)
Balance at 31st March	-	-

5. Capital Expenditure within Housing Revenue Account

	2020/2021 £000	2019/2020 £000
Total capital expenditure within the Housing Revenue Account on land, housing & other property	**8,856**	**7,571**
Sources of funding for the above Capital Expenditure:		
- Revenue contributions (as defined in Local Government & Housing Act 1989)	5,969	3,747
- Major Repairs Reserve	2,523	2,253
- Grants and other funding	364	1,571
Total capital expenditure within the HRA	**8,856**	**7,571**

Usable capital receipts totalling £76,963 were received and carried forward to be applied in future years.

6. Depreciation Charge within the HRA

	2020/2021 £000	2019/2020 £000
Depreciation charges for:		
- Operational assets, comprising dwellings and other land and buildings	2,467	2,203
- Non-Operational assets	56	50
Total	**2,523**	**2,253**

7. Impairment

	2020/2021 £000	2019/2020 £000
Impairment charges in respect of land, houses and other property within the HRA	-	451

The basis of valuation of the housing stock within the HRA is Existing Use Value – Social Housing (EUV-SH) and Existing Use Value – Affordable Housing (EUV-AH). This is calculated by applying a prescribed discount factor to the Existing Use Value – Vacant Possession (EUV-VP) as advised by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

There is no government guidance on how the EUV-AH should be calculated. Having taken advice from the Valuer it has been calculated using a discount factor of 52% on the basis that the average difference in chargeable rent between EUV-SH and EUV-AH within the estates is 52%.

The 2020/2021 HRA revaluation exercise was a desk top review which resulted in an increased value to both the social housing stock and the non-dwelling assets.

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 Ring-fence

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 2020/2021 amounted to £894,000 compared to £675,000 in the previous year. During the year 2020/2021 rent arrears as a proportion of gross collectable rent (including service charges) were 4.55% (2019/2020: 3.52%).

Amounts written off during the year amounted to £2,100 (2019/20: £426,000). The total provision for bad and doubtful rental debts in the Housing Revenue Account at 31st March 2021 is £814,000 (£578,000 at 31st March 2020). This provision has been calculated in accordance with the Housing Revenue Account (Arrears of Rents and Charges) Directions 1990.

In common with many other housing providers there was some impact on rent collection due to Covid-19 and this was particularly the case with former tenants arrears in the absence of legal means of redress during the pandemic. A 1% increase in arrears as a proportion of gross collectible rent is lower than many other comparable organisations including the use of algorithm software.

Collection Fund 2020/2021

Collection Fund Statement 2020/2021

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 (NNDR).

2019/2020 £000 Council Tax	2019/2020 £000 NNDR	2019/2020 £000 Total		2020/2021 £000 Council Tax	2020/2021 £000 NNDR	2020/2021 £000 Total
			Income			
68,180		68,180	Council Tax Receivable	69,773		69,773
	45,603	45,603	Business Rates Receivable		13,775	13,775
68,180	**45,603**	**113,783**	**Total Income**	**69,773**	**13,775**	**83,548**
			Expenditure			
			Apportionment of previous year's surplus/(deficit)			
	(1,503)	(1,503)	Central Government		755	755
1,146	(1,473)	(327)	Blackpool Council	477	1,539	2,016
51	(30)	21	Lancashire Fire Authority	21	31	52
134		134	Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	62		62
			Precepts, Demands and Shares			
	9,447	9,447	Central Government		19,581	19,581
56,837	28,515	85,352	Blackpool Council	60,135	19,507	79,642
2,537	582	3,119	Lancashire Fire Authority	2,633	398	3,031
7,357		7,357	Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	7,857		7,857
			Charges to Collection Fund			
(3,213)	(607)	(3,820)	Write offs of uncollectable amounts	(3,752)	(407)	(4,159)
3,881	1,287	5,168	Increase/Decrease in BDP	4,943	1,752	6,695
	2,550	2,550	Increase/Decrease in Provision for Appeals		1,554	1,554
	251	251	Cost of Collection		248	248
	655	655	Transitional Protection Payments		1,014	1,014
68,730	**39,674**	**108,404**	**Total Expenditure**	**72,376**	**45,972**	**118,348**
550	**(5,929)**	**(5,379)**	**(Surplus)/Deficit for the Year**	**2,603**	**32,197**	**34,800**
			Collection Fund Balance			
(1,890)	2,310	420	Fund balance at 1st April (Surplus)/Deficit	(1,340)	(3,619)	(4,959)
(1,340)	**(3,619)**	**(4,959)**	**(Surplus)/Deficit as at 31st March**	**1,263**	**28,578**	**29,841**
			Allocated to:			
(1,141)	(2,660)	(3,801)	- Blackpool Council	1,075	14,003	15,078
(50)	(54)	(104)	- Lancashire Fire Authority	46	286	332
(149)		(149)	-Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	142		142
	(905)	(905)	- Central Government		14,289	14,289
(1,340)	**(3,619)**	**(4,959)**	**Total**	**1,263**	**28,578**	**29,841**

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 up to 31st March 2019, the local government finance regime was revised with the introduction of a retained business rates scheme. The main aim of the scheme was 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%).

On 13th December 2018 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) approved the establishment of a Lancashire-wide 75% Business Rate Pilot Pool (including Blackpool) in 2019/20 to share risk and reward. As part of this, the 50% rate retention scheme increased to 75% and authorities in the pool forego Revenue Support Grant. The value of the Revenue Support Grant was taken into account when revised business rate tariffs and top-ups for the pilot authorities were set. The Government also increased the Safety Net from 92.5% to 95% for the new pilot pools. Consequently, from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 the income relating to Blackpool was shared between Central Government (25%), the Council (73.5%) and the Fire Authority (1.5%).

Following the ending of the pilot, the percentage shares reverted to previous rates and from 1st April 2020 the income is shared between Central Government (50%), the Council (49%) 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 2020/2021 was 37,157 (36,521 in 2019/2020). This increase is mainly 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.

The tax base for 2020/2021 was calculated as follows:

Band	Chargeable Dwellings	Proportion of Band D Tax	Equivalent Band D Dwellings
A Reduced	32	5/9	18
A	17,032	6/9	11,355
B	15,033	7/9	11,692
C	8,940	8/9	7,947
D	3,950	1	3,950
E	1,660	11/9	2,029
F	499	13/9	721
G	217	15/9	362
H	19	18/9	38
Less Family Annex Discount			1
Less allowances for non collection			953
Tax Base for the Calculation of Council Tax			**37,157**

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.

The business rates shares payable for 2020/2021 were estimated before the start of the financial year as £19.581m (50%) (£9.447m in 2019/20 at 25%) to Central Government, £0.398m (1%) (£0.582m in 2019/20 at 1.5%) to Lancashire Fire Authority and £19.507m (49%) (£28.515m in 2019/20 at 73.5%) to Blackpool Council. These sums have been paid in 2020/2021 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 Council received top up grant to the General Fund in 2020/2021 to the value of £24.468m (£27.137m in 2019/2020).

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 2020/2021 has been calculated at £16.147m (£13.623m in 2019/2020).

For 2020/2021, the total non-domestic rateable value at the year- end is £124.84m. The national multiplier for 2020/2021 was 49.9p (50.4p in 2019/2020) for qualifying small businesses and the standard multiplier being 51.2p (49.1p in 2019/2020) for all other businesses.

4. Allocation Of Closing Balances

The allocation of the closing balances for 2020/2021 between the preceptors is as follows:

	Central Government £000	Blackpool Council £000	Lancashire Fire Authority £000	Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner £000	Total £000
Council Tax					
Arrears at 31st March 2021		18,421	2,455	783	**21,659**
Receipts in Advance		(955)	(127)	(41)	**(1,123)**
Bad Debt Provision		(7,688)	(1,025)	(327)	**(9,040)**
Surplus/Deficit		1,075	142	46	**1,263**
Business Rates					
Arrears at 31st March 2021	4,901	4,803	98		**9,802**
Receipts in Advance	(186)	(182)	(4)		**(372)**
Bad Debt Provision	(2,318)	(2,272)	(46)		**(4,636)**
Appeals	(7,951)	(7,792)	(159)		**(15,902)**
Surplus/Deficit	14,289	14,003	286		**28,578**

Section 7

Group Accounts 2020/2021

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, Blackpool Coastal Housing, Blackpool Housing Company, Blackpool Entertainment Company, Regional & City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Ltd, Blackpool Waste Services Ltd and Lancashire Management Operations Limited 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 is classified as such and is incorporated into the accounts on an equity basis.

Subsidiaries

Blackpool Transport Services

Registered Address: Rigby Road, Blackpool FY1 5DD
Company Number: 02003020

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

Registered Address: Number One Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool FY1 3AH
Company Number: 09405354

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

Registered Address: Coastal House, 17-19 Abingdon Street, Blackpool FY1 1DG
Company Number: 05868852

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

Registered Address: Number One Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool FY1 3AH
Company Number: 09044792

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

Registered Address: Number One Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool FY1 3AH
Company Number: 09405354

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.

Blackpool Airport Ltd

Registered Address: Number One Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool FY1 3AH
Company Number: 6581425

In September 2017 the Council completed the purchase of Blackpool Airport. The Council, which was previously a 5% shareholder in the Airport, signed a £4.25m deal with previous owners Balfour Beatty to fully take over the holding company Regional & City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Ltd. The Council has acquired all shares in Regional & City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Ltd and has taken over 100% ownership of the airport site.

Blackpool Waste Services Limited

Registered Address: Number One Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool FY1 3AH
Company Number: 11645026

On 1st July 2019 Blackpool Waste Services Limited took over Blackpool's domestic waste services contract. The Company is wholly owned by the Council.

Lancashire Management Operations Limited

Registered Address: Number One Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool FY1 3AH
Company Number: 11680239

The company was incorporated in November 2018 and is responsible for the management of Tramshed student accommodation in Preston. The company is wholly owned by the Council.

Associates

Marketing Lancashire

Registered Address: Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Fishergate Hill, Preston, PR1 8XJ
Company Number: 05039554

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.

Core Financial Statements - Group

Group Movement in Reserves Statement

2020/21

	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 1st April 2020	**(1,576)**	**(49,818)**	**(4,830)**	**(11,411)**	**-**	**(3,112)**	**(70,747)**	**(174,126)**	**(244,873)**	**7,892**	**(236,981)**
Reporting of Schools Budget Deficit to new Adjustment Account at 1st April 2020	(3,098)						(3,098)	3,098	-		-
Restated Balance as at 1st April 2020	**(4,674)**	**(49,818)**	**(4,830)**	**(11,411)**	**-**	**(3,112)**	**(73,845)**	**(171,028)**	**(244,873)**	**7,892**	**(236,981)**
Movements in Reserves in 2020/21											
(Surplus) or Deficit on the provision of services	(568)		(4,384)	-	-	-	**(4,952)**	-	**(4,952)**	2,689	**(2,263)**
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69,604	**69,604**	4,898	**74,502**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**(568)**	**-**	**(4,384)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(4,952)**	**69,604**	**64,652**	**7,587**	**72,239**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 10)	(31,342)	-	6,182	1,540	-	-	**(23,620)**	23,620	-		-
Net (Increase) or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	**(31,910)**	**-**	**1,798**	**1,540**	**-**	**-**	**(28,572)**	**93,224**	**64,652**	**7,587**	**72,239**
Transfer (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 11)	26,730	(26,730)	-	(3,921)	-	-	**(3,921)**	3,921	-	-	-
(Increase)/Decrease in 2020/21	**(5,180)**	**(26,730)**	**1,798**	**(2,381)**	**-**	**-**	**(32,493)**	**97,145**	**64,652**	**7,587**	**72,239**
Balance as at 31st March 2021	**(9,854)**	**(76,548)**	**(3,032)**	**(13,792)**	**-**	**(3,112)**	**(106,338)**	**(73,883)**	**(180,221)**	**15,479**	**(164,742)**

2019/20

	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 1st April 2019	**(8,988)**	**(41,662)**	**(5,705)**	**(7,527)**	**-**	**(3,112)**	**(66,994)**	**(171,901)**	**(238,895)**	**803**	**(238,092)**
Movements in Reserves in 2019/2020											
Surplus or Deficit on the provision of services	29,237		(3,414)				**25,823**	-	**25,823**	6,276	**32,099**
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure							-	(31,801)	**(31,801)**	813	**(30,988)**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**29,237**	**-**	**(3,414)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**25,823**	**(31,801)**	**(5,978)**	**7,089**	**1,111**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(29,981)	-	4,289	(576)	-	-	**(26,268)**	26,268	**-**	-	-
Net increase or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	**(744)**	**-**	**875**	**(576)**	**-**	**-**	**(445)**	**(5,533)**	**(5,978)**	**7,089**	**1,111**
Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	8,156	(8,156)	-	(3,308)	-	-	**(3,308)**	3,308	**-**	-	-
Increase/Decrease in 2019/2020	**7,412**	**(8,156)**	**875**	**(3,884)**	**-**	**-**	**(3,753)**	**(2,225)**	**(5,978)**	**7,089**	**1,111**
Balance as at 31st March 2020	**(1,576)**	**(49,818)**	**(4,830)**	**(11,411)**	**-**	**(3,112)**	**(70,747)**	**(174,126)**	**(244,873)**	**7,892**	**(236,981)**

Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2019/2020				2020/2021		
Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000		Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
13,055	(6,366)	6,689	Chief Executive	6,750	(6,423)	327
11,992	(3,846)	8,146	Governance and Partnership Services	7,320	(3,954)	3,366
190	(2)	188	Ward Budgets	454	-	454
30,924	(9,867)	21,057	Resources	24,482	(10,189)	14,293
32,394	(9,840)	22,554	Communication and Regeneration	23,967	(11,732)	12,235
10,157	(4,818)	5,339	Strategic Leisure Assets	10,689	(4,379)	6,310
69,090	(21,323)	47,767	Community and Environmental Services	63,451	(18,548)	44,903
83,339	(22,447)	60,892	Adult Services	88,729	(36,314)	52,415
134,919	(75,311)	59,608	Children's Services	140,128	(80,745)	59,383
13,182	(21,120)	(7,938)	Public Health	15,467	(25,507)	(10,040)
103,085	(114,652)	(11,567)	Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	85,698	(91,203)	(5,505)
3,385	(24,244)	(20,859)	Contingencies	12,593	(17,847)	(5,254)
15,745	(18,817)	(3,072)	Housing Revenue Account	14,767	(19,515)	(4,748)
521,457	**(332,653)**	**188,804**	**Cost of Services**	**494,495**	**(326,356)**	**168,139**
		1,867	Other Operating Expenditure			(209)
		12,771	Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure - Other			10,937
		(7,478)	Income & Expenditure in relation to Investment Properties and changes in their fair value			2,688
		(163,518)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income - Other			(183,766)
		32,446	**Deficit on Provision of Services**			**(2,211)**
		(28)	Share of (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services by Associates			-
		(319)	Tax of Subsidiaries			(52)
		32,099	**Group Deficit**			**(2,263)**
		(8,456)	Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets			(9,928)
		1,340	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets			4,224
			Movement on financial instruments adjustment account			
		(32,545)	Remeasurement of the net defined pension liability			80,160
		8,673	Other Movements			46
		(30,988)	**Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**			**74,502**
		1,111	**Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**			**72,239**

Group Balance Sheet

31st March 2020		Notes	31st March 2021
£000			£000
779,731	Property, Plant and Equipment	G3	784,574
8,364	Heritage Assets		8,345
92,289	Investment Property	G4	101,382
466	Intangible Assets		737
144	Net share of Associates		132
753	Surplus Assets		697
7,057	Long Term Investments		2,547
38,379	Long Term Debtors		38,179
927,183	**Long Term Assets**		**936,593**
1,475	Inventories		1,545
47,975	Short Term Debtors	G5	65,814
10,385	Payments in Advance		2,829
26,957	Cash and Cash Equivalents	G6	9,667
86,792	**Current Assets**		**79,855**
(245,184)	Short Term Borrowing		(259,607)
(63,756)	Short Term Creditors	G7	(79,901)
(18,012)	Receipts in Advance		(21,827)
(15,037)	Provisions		(9,619)
(341,989)	**Current Liabilities**		**(370,954)**
(94,795)	Long Term Creditors		(93,563)
(87,460)	Long term Borrowing		(79,487)
(240,139)	Other Long Term Liabilities		(291,978)
(12,611)	Capital Grants in Advance		(15,724)
(435,005)	**Long Term Liabilities**		**(480,752)**
236,981	**Net Assets**		**164,742**
(70,333)	Usable Reserves		(98,464)
(166,648)	Unusable Reserves		(66,278)
(236,981)	**Total Reserves**		**(164,742)**

Group Cash Flow Statement

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
32,099	**Net (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services**	**(2,263)**
(46,238)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	(75,220)
21,714	Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	53,719
7,575	**Net cash flows from Operating Activities**	**(23,764)**
108,522	Investing Activities	9,870
(102,644)	Financing Activities	(3,396)
13,453	**Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents**	**(17,290)**
13,504	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	26,957
26,957	**Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period**	**9,667**

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 reserves.

ii) The Council owns shares to the value of £15,850,000 in Blackpool Housing Company. This has been taken out of long term investments and capital reserves.

iii) The Council owns shares to the value of £4,250,000 in Regional and City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Limited. This has been taken out of long term investments and capital reserves

iv) An amount of £1,353,000 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Blackpool Coastal Housing has been taken out of debtors and creditors.

v) An amount of £19,236,000 representing loans to Blackpool Transport from the Council has been taken out of long term debtors and long term creditors.

vi) An amount of £22,800,000 representing loans to Blackpool Housing Company from the Council has been taken out of long term debtors and long term creditors.

vii) An amount of £420,000 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Blackpool Waste Services has been taken out of debtors and creditors.

viii) An amount of £732,000 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Lancashire Management Operations Limited has been taken out of debtors and creditors.

ix) An amount of £1,052,000 representing a loan to Blackpool Airport from the Council has been taken out of long term debtors and long term creditors.

x) An amount of £1,718,000 representing a lease arrangement for waste vehicles between the Council and Blackpool Waste Services has been taken out of long term debtors and long term creditors.

xi) An amount of £262,000 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Blackpool Housing Company has been taken out of debtors and creditors.

xii) An amount of £611,000 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Blackpool Entertainment Company has been taken out of debtors and creditors.

xiii) An amount of £1,235,000 representing a short term cash flow loan to Blackpool Airport Ltd from the Council has been taken out of short term loans and creditors.

xiv) An amount of £2,500,000 representing a loan to Blackpool Entertainment Company from the Council has been taken out of long term debtors and long term creditors.

xv) An amount of £1,101,000 representing a loan to Blackpool Operating Company from the Council has been taken out of long term debtors and long term creditors.

G3. Property, Plant and Equipment

2020/2021

	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
Cost or Valuation							
Balance as at 1 April 2020	**123,365**	**287,434**	**96,481**	**526,632**	**66**	**24,212**	**1,058,190**
Additions	8,856	4,277	5,807	6,977	1	16,244	**42,162**
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	1,734	2,216	-	-	-	-	**3,950**
Revaluation increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(11,731)	-	-	-	218	**(11,513)**
Derecognition - Disposals	(567)	(90)	(2,690)	-	-	-	**(3,347)**
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Transfer	187	(135)	-	-	-	-	**52**
Balance as at 31 March 2021	**133,575**	**281,971**	**99,598**	**533,609**	**67**	**40,674**	**1,089,494**
Depreciation and Impairment							
Balance as at 1 April 2020	**(2,253)**	**(17,346)**	**(61,407)**	**(197,167)**	**-**	**-**	**(278,173)**
Depreciation Charge	(2,523)	(8,256)	(7,020)	(17,645)	-	-	**(35,444)**
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve		3,785	-	-	-	-	**3,785**
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,253	31	-	-	-	-	**2,284**
Derecognition - Disposals		2	2,626	-	-	-	**2,628**
Derecognition - Other	(37)	37	-	-	-	-	**-**
Balance as at 31 March 2021	**(2,560)**	**(21,747)**	**(65,801)**	**(214,812)**	**-**	**-**	**(304,920)**
Net Book Value							
Balance as at 31 March 2021	**131,015**	**260,224**	**33,797**	**318,797**	**67**	**40,674**	**784,574**
Balance as at 31 March 2020	**121,112**	**269,475**	**35,401**	**329,465**	**66**	**24,212**	**779,731**

Comparatives 2019/2020

	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
Cost or Valuation							
Restated Balance as at 1 April 2019	**117,887**	**257,380**	**85,880**	**515,506**	**66**	**22,199**	**998,918**
Additions	7,571	55,678	14,650	11,126	-	8,591	**97,616**
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	-	7,663	-	-	-	-	**7,663**
Revaluation increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(258)	(31,775)	-	-	-	(6,354)	**(38,387)**
Derecognition - Disposals	(1,835)	(221)	(3,722)	-	-	(224)	**(6,002)**
Transfer		(1,904)	-	-	-		**(1,904)**
Balance as at 31 March 2020	**123,365**	**286,821**	**96,808**	**526,632**	**66**	**24,212**	**1,057,904**
Depreciation and Impairment							
Balance as at 1 April 2019	**-**	**(21,639)**	**(58,879)**	**(179,885)**	**-**	**-**	**(260,403)**
Depreciation Charge	(2,253)	(8,654)	(5,868)	(17,282)	-	-	**(34,057)**
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	6,051	-	-	-	-	**6,051**
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	6,887	-	-	-	-	6,887
Derecognition - Disposals	-	9	3,340	-	-	-	**3,349**
Balance as at 31 March 2020	**(2,253)**	**(17,346)**	**(61,407)**	**(197,167)**	**-**	**-**	**(278,173)**
Net Book Value							
Balance as at 31 March 2020	**121,112**	**269,475**	**35,401**	**329,465**	**66**	**24,212**	**779,731**
Balance as at 31 March 2019	**117,887**	**235,741**	**27,001**	**335,621**	**66**	**22,199**	**738,515**

G4. Investment Properties

2019/2020 £000		2020/2021 £000
75,757	**Balance at start of the year**	**92,289**
	Additions -	
8,163	- Purchases	10,581
181	- Construction	174
-	Disposals	(20)
	Transfer -	
2,074	- (To)/from PPE	-
6,993	Upward Revaluation	898
(879)	Impairment	(2,540)
92,289	**Balance at end of the year**	**101,382**

G5. Short Term Debtors

The group short-term debtors are made up of the following amounts:

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
3,871	Central government bodies	13,227
1,701	Other local authorities	3,638
1,861	NHS bodies	403
60,414	Other entities and individuals	68,307
(19,872)	Total impairment	(19,761)
47,975	**Net Value of Debtors**	**65,814**

G6. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The group cash and cash equivalents are made up of the following amounts:

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
26	Cash held by the Authority	112
21,350	Short term deposits with institutions	4,350
-	Bank current accounts	5,205
21,376	**Total Cash and Cash Equivalents**	**9,667**

G7. Short Term Creditors

The group short-term creditors are made up of the following amounts:

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
(10,420)	Central Government Bodies	(35,279)
(5,868)	Other Local Authorities	(6,059)
(1,184)	NHS Bodies	(1,061)
(45,093)	Other Entities and Individuals	(35,719)
(1,191)	Accumulated Absence Provision	(1,783)
(63,756)	**Total Short Term Creditors**	**(79,901)**

Section 8

Glossary of Terms

Accounting Period

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

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.

Agency Services

These are services which are performed by or for another authority or public body, where the principal (the authority responsible for the service) reimburses the agent (the authority carrying out the work) for the costs of the work.

Asset

Items of worth that are measurable in terms of value. Current assets may change daily, but the Council is expected to yield the benefit within one financial year (e.g. short term debtors). Non-current assets yield benefit to the Council for a period of more than one year (e.g. land).

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.

Balance Sheet

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

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, i.e. 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”.

Carrying Amount

The balance sheet value recorded of either an asset or a liability.

Cash Limited Budget

A defined figure set by the Council that represents the maximum expenditure that a service can spend on its particular activities.

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.

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.

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 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.

Earmarked Reserves

The Council holds a number of reserves earmarked to be used to meet specific, known or predicted future expenditure.

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 Pension 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 Instruments

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another.

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.

Heritage Asset

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

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 pension fund, that do not meet the above criteria should be classified as current assets.

Investment Properties

Property, which can be land or buildings or both, that is held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both, rather than for operational purposes.

Liabilities

These are amounts due to individuals or organisations which will have to be paid at some time in the future. Current liabilities are usually payable within one year of the Balance Sheet date.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

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 (NBV)

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

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, i.e. 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.

Outside the Cash Limit

Services, which due to their volatility, are not part of the cash limited budgets regime. These services include Parking Services and Housing Benefits.

Outturn

Actual expenditure and income compared to the budget.

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.

Precept

The amount collected by the Council on behalf of other bodies.

Prior Period Adjustments

These are material adjustments which are applicable to an earlier period arising from changes in accounting policies or for the correction of fundamental errors.

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.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

PPE are tangible assets (i.e. assets that have physical substance) that are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and are expected to be used during more than one year.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

An arm of central government which is the major provider of loans to finance long term funding requirements for local authorities.

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 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.

Work in Progress

The cost of work undertaken up to a specified date on an uncompleted revenue project.

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Deloitte.

Blackpool Council

Blackpool Council

Audit Update Report to the Audit Committee on the 2020/21 audit

Issued on 3 November 2021 for the meeting on 11 November 2021

Deloitte Confidential: Government and Public Services

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Introduction

The key messages in this report

Audit quality is our number one priority. We plan our audit to focus on audit quality and have set the following audit quality objectives for this audit:

- A robust challenge of the key judgements taken in the preparation of the financial statements.
- A strong understanding of your internal control environment.
- A well planned and delivered audit that raises findings early with those charged with governance.

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I have pleasure in presenting an update to the Audit Committee on the progress of our 2020/21 audit.
I would like to draw your attention to the key messages within this paper:

Status of our Statement of Accounts audit	Our financial statements audit is progressing, however we do still have a number of procedures to complete before we are able to conclude our audit. We have set out on page 25 the principal outstanding areas that we are required to work through in order to complete our audit. We are working constructively with the Council to complete our work and we will provide the Committee with a verbal update on our progress at the meeting on 11 November 2021.
Status of our Value for Money audit	Our Value for Money work is ongoing, and will be reported in our Auditor's Annual Report, within three months of the signing of the audit opinion as specified under the National Audit Office Auditor Guidance Note 3. In our audit planning report, which was presented to the Committee on 30 September 2021, we highlighted three risks of significant weakness in the Council's arrangements. These risks covered financial sustainability, the 2018 Ofsted findings in relation to Children's services and the Council's commercial activities. Our work is still ongoing in relation to financial sustainability and the Council's commercial activities. However, based on the work performed we have concluded that there is a significant weakness in relation to the 2018/19 Ofsted findings. We have included more detail in relation to this weakness on page 15. It should be noted that our financial statement audit opinion will refer to this significant weakness in arrangements.

Introduction

The key messages in this report (continued)

Status of our testing	Our audit work is still ongoing however, as part of the procedures we have so far performed, we have identified a number of adjustments to the financial statements. These are set out in more detail on pages 22, 23 and 24.
Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement	• We are in the process of reviewing the Council's Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement, including the completion of our quality control procedures, to consider whether it is misleading or inconsistent with other information known to us from our audit work. • We have so far suggested a number of minor changes to management for consideration, although further changes may be requested as we complete our procedures. We will report back to the Audit Committee any further observations.
Duties as public auditor	• We did not receive any objections from local electors this year. • We have not identified to date any matters that would require us to issue a public interest report. • To date we have not had to exercise any other audit powers under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.
Whole of Government Accounts	• The Council is a sampled component for WGA reporting. • We are required to perform testing on the Council's WGA submission, checking its consistency to the audited financial statements and reporting our findings to the National Audit Office, together with our audit opinion and key issues from our audit. As at the time of writing this report, the National Audit Office have not yet issued the WGA reporting guidance for 2020/21 and as a result we are unable to report when these procedures will be completed.
Internal Audit interaction	The audit team has met with the Head of Internal Audit, and we have arranged regular catch up meetings throughout the year. We are in the process of reviewing their findings. It should however be noted that we have not placed any reliance on the work of Internal Audit during the year.

Nicola Wright
Audit Partner

Responsibilities of the Audit Committee

Helping you fulfil your responsibilities

Why do we interact with the Audit Committee?

As a result of regulatory change in recent years, the role of the Audit Committee has significantly expanded. We set out here a summary of the core areas of Audit Committee responsibility to provide a reference in respect of these broader responsibilities and highlight throughout the document where there is key information which helps the Audit Committee in fulfilling its remit.

To communicate audit scope

To provide timely and relevant observations

To provide additional information to help you fulfil your broader responsibilities

Oversight of external audit

- At the start of each annual audit cycle, ensure that the scope of the external audit is appropriate.
- Make recommendations as to the auditor appointment and implement a policy on the engagement of the external auditor to supply non-audit services.

Integrity of reporting

- Impact assessment of key judgements and level of management challenge.
- Review of external audit findings, key judgements, level of misstatements.
- Assess the quality of the internal team, their incentives and the need for supplementary skillsets.
- Assess the completeness of disclosures, including consistency with disclosures on strategy and, provide advice in respect of the fair, balanced and understandable statement.

Internal controls and risks

- Review the internal control and risk management systems.
- Explain what actions have been, or are being, taken to remedy any significant failings or weaknesses.

Oversight of internal audit

- Monitor and review the effectiveness of the internal audit activities.

Whistle-blowing and fraud

- Ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the proportionate and independent investigation of any concerns raised by staff in connection with improprieties.

We use this symbol to highlight areas of our audit where the Audit Committee needs to focus attention.

Our audit explained

We tailor our audit to your organisation and your strategy

Identify changes in your business and environment

In our planning report, we identified the key changes in your operations and articulated how these impacted our audit approach.

Scoping

Our planning report set out the scoping of our audit in line with the Code of Audit Practice. No changes have been made to the approach set out in our audit plan.

Other findings

As well as our conclusions on the significant risks and our Value for Money work, we are required to report to you our observations on the internal control environment as well as any other findings from the audit.

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Determine materiality

When planning our audit we set our materiality at £11.2m (Council only £10.5m) based on total gross expenditure per the draft financial statements for 2020/21. There has been no change to our materiality calculation since the presentation of our planning report to the Committee. We will also report any misstatements above £0.5m to the Committee.

Significant risk assessment

In our planning report, we explained our risk assessment process and detailed the significant risks we have identified on this engagement.

Conclude on significant risk areas

Our work in relation to the significant audit risks is still ongoing. However, we have highlighted the work we have performed so far in this report. When we have completed our procedures we will report back to the Audit Committee with our findings.

Our audit report

Our audit work is still ongoing and we will provide an update to the Audit Committee on 11 November 2021 in relation to our audit report.

Significant risks

Risk of fraud in revenue recognition

Risk identified

Under ISA 240 (UK), there is a presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to improper revenue recognition. Local authorities have a statutory duty to balance their annual budget and are operating in a financially challenged environment with reducing levels of government funding and increasing demand for services. Achievement of budget is critical to minimising the impact and usage of the Council's usable reserves and provides a basis for the following year's budget. Any deficit outturn against the budget is therefore not a desirable outcome for the Council and management, and therefore this desire to achieve budget increases the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated.

Our judgement is that the significant risk at the Council relates to the recognition of grants with terms and conditions attached, including the new grants received in year relating to Covid-19 where terms and conditions may be less clear and there is no historical basis for the accounting treatment. There is a risk that the Council will recognise the income before the terms and conditions have been met. There are also a number of grants relating to Covid-19, such as the business rates relief, where management need to determine if they are acting in the capacity of an "agent" or "principal".

Deloitte response and challenge

We are in the process of completing the following procedures:

- Assessing the design and implementation of the controls in relation to the accounting treatment of grant income, including Covid-19 grants;
- Reviewing management's assessment of the accounting treatment of each significant grant claim, with a particular emphasis on Covid-19 related grants, and challenging the appropriateness of the approach adopted; and
- Testing a sample of grants with terms and conditions attached, including the new Covid-19 related grants, to ensure that where management judgements have been made relating to the recognition of the income, all terms and conditions have been achieved.

Status

At the time of writing this report, we have no matters to report to the Audit Committee in relation to this risk.

However, we have not finalised the procedures set out above and will highlight any issues to the Audit Committee in our final ISA 260 report.

Significant risks

Completeness of accrued expenditure

Risk identified

Under ISA 240 (UK), there is a presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to improper revenue recognition. In the public sector, this requirement is modified by Practice Note 10 issued by the Financial Reporting Council, which states that auditors should also consider the risk that material misstatements may occur by the manipulation of expenditure recognition. In the current year, we have identified the risk as relating specifically to year end accruals.

There is an inherent fraud risk associated with the under-recording of expenditure in order for the Council to report a more favourable year-end position. For Blackpool Council, there is therefore an inherent risk that it may materially misstate its expenditure through the understatement of accruals in an attempt to report a more favourable year end position.

Deloitte response and challenge

We are in the process of completing the following procedures:

- Assessing the design and implementation of the key controls in place in relation to the recording of accruals;
- Testing a sample of accruals to supporting documentation to check whether they are valid liabilities, that the amount accrued is appropriately supported, and that the liability was incurred as at 31 March 2021; and
- Testing a sample of post year end payments made, per the Council's bank statements, in order to ensure that the associated expenditure has been included in the correct period.

Status

At the time of writing this report, we are in the process of finalising our work in this area and as a result we are unable to conclude on this risk.

From the testing so far performed, we have identified one error. This is an over-accrual of £5.7m in 2020/21 in relation to historic Housing Benefit overpayments. The accrual was made by the Council to reflect the impact of housing benefit overpayments on the subsidy the Council receives from the Department for Work and Pensions. However, the impact of the overpayments is already included elsewhere in the financial statements and as a result it is not necessary to include a separate accrual at the year end.

Further detail in relation to this error can be viewed on pages 22 and 23.

Significant risks

Valuation of property assets

Risk identified

The value of land and buildings and investment properties represent significant balances in the Council's Statement of Accounts and are subject to valuation changes, impairment reviews and depreciation charges. Management is required to make material judgements in respect of key assumptions and apply estimation techniques to calculate the year-end balances recorded in the Balance Sheet.

The Council has adopted a rolling revaluation model which sees all land and buildings revalued over a four year cycle. As a result of this, however, individual assets may not be revalued for three years and any changes to the factors used in the valuation process could materially affect the value of the Council's assets as at year end.

There is therefore a risk that the value of property assets materially differ from the year end fair value, particularly given that valuations are inherently judgemental and include a number of assumptions.

It should be noted that investment properties are also regularly revalued. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been significant market movements during the year which will impact on the valuations of the investment properties held by the Council. This increases the level of judgment required in valuing the assets.

Deloitte response and challenge

We are in the process of completing the following procedures:

- Reviewing the design and implementation of the controls in place in relation to the valuation of property assets;
- Considering the work performed by the Council's valuers, including the adequacy of the scope of the work performed, their professional capabilities and the results of their work;
- We have engaged our valuation specialists, Deloitte Real Estate, to review and challenge the appropriateness of the assumptions used in the valuation of the Council's property assets, including assessing the impact of Covid-19 on the valuation of the Council's property assets;
- Testing a sample of key asset information used by the Council's valuers in performing their valuation, such as gross internal areas, back to supporting documentation;
- Reviewing assets not subject to valuation in 2020/21 in order to confirm that the remaining asset base is not materially misstated; and
- Reviewing the presentation of revaluation movements, and the disclosures included in the Statement of Accounts.

Status

At the time of writing this report, we have no matters to report to the Audit Committee in relation to this risk.

However, our work in relation to this risk is still ongoing, and we are currently involved in discussions with the Council regarding specific valuations that could result in matters we need to report to the Audit Committee. We will highlight any further issues identified in our final ISA 260 report.

Significant risks

Management override of controls

Risk identified

In accordance with ISA 240 (UK), management override of controls is a significant risk due to fraud for all entities. This risk area includes the potential for management to use their judgement to influence the financial statements as well as the potential to override the Council's controls for specific transactions.

The key judgements in the financial statements include those which we have selected to be the significant audit risks (recognition of grant income with terms and conditions attached, completeness of accrued expenditure and the Council's property valuations) and any one-off and unusual transactions where management could show bias. These are inherently the areas in which management has the potential to use their judgment to influence the Statement of Accounts.

Deloitte response and challenge

We have considered the overall sensitivity of judgements made in the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, and note that:

- The Council delivered an underspend for 2020/21 per the Council's outturn report; and
- Senior management's remuneration is not tied to particular financial results.

We have considered these factors and other potential sensitivities in evaluating the judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements.

Our work in relation to management override of controls is ongoing, but the procedures we are performing are set out below:

Journals

- We are testing the design and implementation of controls in relation to the processing of journals and accounting estimates.
- We are making inquiries of individuals involved in the financial reporting process about inappropriate or unusual activity relating to the processing of journal entries and other adjustments.
- We are using Spotlight data analytics tools to test a sample of journals, based upon identification of items of potential audit interest. Our analysis has covered all journals posted in the year.

Significant unusual transactions

- At the time of writing the report, we have not identified any material unusual transactions outside the normal course of business of the Council.

Significant risks

Management override of controls (continued)

Deloitte response and challenge (continued)	**Accounting estimates** • We are reviewing accounting estimates for bias that could result in material misstatements due to fraud. • We are performing testing on key accounting estimates as discussed on pages 7, 8 and 11.
Status	At the time of writing this report, our work in relation to this risk is still ongoing. However, we have not identified any issues that require reporting to the Audit Committee. We will provide the Audit Committee with a verbal update on our progress at the 11 November 2021 Audit Committee meeting.

Other areas of audit focus

Net Pension liability valuation

Risk identified

The Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice and IAS19 require the Council to make extensive disclosures within its financial statements regarding its membership of the Lancashire County Pension Fund, which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The Council's pension fund deficit is a material estimated balance and the Code requires that this liability be disclosed on the Council's Balance Sheet. Per the draft financial statements as at 31 March 2021, this totalled £322 million. As a result of this being an estimated balance there is a risk that inappropriate inputs and assumptions are used, which could result in the net pension liability valuation being materially misstated.

Deloitte response and challenge

We are in the process of completing the following procedures:

- Agreeing the actuarial report for the Council produced by Mercers, the scheme actuary, to the Statement of Accounts pension disclosures;
- Reviewing the disclosures made in the Statement of Accounts against the requirements of the Code;
- We have liaised with the audit team of Lancashire County Pension Fund to obtain assurances over the information supplied to the actuary in relation to the Council;
- Assessing the independence and expertise of the actuary supporting the basis of reliance upon their work;
- Reviewing and challenging the assumptions made by Mercers;
- Assessing the reasonableness of the Council's share of the total assets of the scheme by reference to the Pension Fund financial statements; and
- Reviewing the accounting of the upfront pension contribution made by the Council to assess whether this is in line with the requirements of the CIPFA Code.

Conclusion

At the time of writing this report, we are in the process of finalising our work in this area and as a result we are unable to conclude on this risk.

However, from the testing so far performed, we have identified that the upfront pension contribution made by the Council was not accurately reflected in the actuary's report. The Council therefore requested a revised actuary's report, which has resulted in the Council's net pension liability reducing to £299m. In addition, we have also identified that the upfront pension contribution was incorrectly accounted for in the draft Statement of Accounts. This is due to the upfront payment for years 2021/22 and 2022/23 being included in the pensions reserve rather than the net pension liability. Further detail in relation to this misstatement can be found on pages 22 and 23.

Other areas of audit focus

Investment valuations

Risk identified	The subsidiary entities are valued by an external valuer, based on a range of assumptions including the future expected performance of the individual entities. Due to the impact of Covid-19 on the economy, there is an increased risk that some of these investments may require impairment if the business plans have been impacted significantly.
Deloitte response and challenge	We are in the process of completing the following procedures: • Engaging our valuation specialists to assess the assumptions and methodology underpinning the valuations prepared by Smith Craven. This includes holding discussions with Smith Craven to further develop our understanding of the valuation approach; and • For a sample of the investments held by the Council, developing an independent valuation range to assess the reasonableness of the Council's current investment values.
Status	At the time of writing this report, we have no matters to report to the Audit Committee in relation to this risk. However, we have not completed the procedures set out above and will provide the Audit Committee with a verbal update on our progress at the 11 November 2021 Audit Committee meeting.

Other areas of audit focus

Long term debtor recoverability

Risk identified	At 31 March 2021, the Council had provided loans totalling £86m to a number of its subsidiaries and also some private companies. During the year, the Council offered a six month repayment holiday from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020 to all businesses with a loan from the Council. Due to the impact of Covid-19 on a wide range of companies within the economy, we believe there is a risk that some of these entities may not be able to repay the loans provided by the Council, and as a result, the value of the loans at 31 March 2021 may need to be impaired.
Deloitte response and challenge	We are in the process of completing the following procedures: • Obtaining loan agreements from the Council for a sample of loans, in order to allow us to review the terms and conditions included in the agreements, with a particular focus on any collateral that is included in the agreements; • Reviewing and assessing the current operational status of each company in our sample, including reviewing the latest set of audited financial statements for the company, in order to identify any potential risks to the recoverability of the loan provided by the Council; and • Obtaining and reviewing management's assessment of the recoverability of the loans.
Status	At the time of writing this report, we have no matters to report to the Audit Committee in relation to this risk. However, we have not completed the procedures set out above and will provide the Audit Committee with a verbal update on our progress at the 11 November 2021 Audit Committee meeting.

Value for money

Our work is ongoing and will be reported in our Auditor’s Annual Report

Value for Money requirements

We are required to consider the Council’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources. Under the revised requirements of the Code of Audit Practice 2020 and related Auditor Guidance Note 03 (‘AGN03’), we are required to:

- Perform work to understand the Council’s arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources against each of the three reporting criteria (financial sustainability, governance, and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness);
- Undertake a risk assessment to identify whether there are any risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements. This was completed at the audit planning stage and we identified three risks of significant weakness in the Council’s arrangements. These risks covered financial sustainability, the 2018/19 Ofsted findings in relation to Children’s services and the Council’s commercial activities;
- If any risks of significant weaknesses are identified, perform procedures to determine whether there is in fact a significant weakness in arrangements, and if so to make recommendations for improvement;
- Issue a narrative commentary in the Auditor’s Annual Report, setting out the work undertaken in respect of the reporting criteria and our findings, including any explanation needed in respect of judgements or local context for findings. If significant weaknesses are identified, the weaknesses and recommendations will be included in the reporting, together with follow-up of previous recommendations and whether they have been implemented. Where relevant, we may include reporting on any other matters arising we consider relevant to Value for Money arrangements, which might include emerging risks or issues arising.

Status of our work and significant weaknesses

Our Value for Money work is ongoing, and will be reported in full in our Auditor’s Annual Report, within three months of the date of our audit opinion as specified under the National Audit Office Auditor Guidance Note 3.

It should be noted that there is a requirement to include any known significant weaknesses in our audit report, if they are known at the date the audit report is issued.

As part of our procedures, we are aware that in 2018/19, the Council received an “Inadequate” rating from Ofsted. The monitoring reports produced by Ofsted, since the initial rating, have highlighted that progress has been made. However, as at 31 March 2021 the “inadequate” rating remained in place, with Ofsted highlighting that there are still a number of areas for improvement.

Therefore we have concluded that a significant weakness in the Council’s arrangements in relation to 2018/19 Ofsted findings remains and as a result we are required to highlight this significant weakness is our audit opinion.

Our work in relation to the other significant risks of weakness is still ongoing and we will highlight any issues to the Audit Committee in our final ISA 260.

Other significant findings

Internal control and risk management

During the course of our audit, we have identified a number of internal control and risk management findings, which we have included below for information.

Area	Observation	Management response	Priority
Exit package agreements	**Finding** – As part of our audit procedures, we have tested a sample of exit packages that are disclosed in note 40 of the Statement of Accounts. During our testing we identified that the Council does not retain a copy of the signed exit package agreement between the Council and the former employee. **Recommendation** – We recommend that the Council ensures that signed exit package agreements are retained.	TBC	
Valuation of Heritage Assets	**Finding** – The Council's Heritage Asset portfolio was most recently revalued by the Head of Heritage in 2018. The Council deemed that the revaluation by the Head of Heritage was appropriate as they have extensive experience of working with heritage assets. However, we would expect heritage asset revaluations to be performed by an external body who have appropriate qualifications in place, in order to allow them to provide the valuation. **Recommendation –** We recommend that the Council engage an external body to provide updated Heritage Asset revaluations in future years.	TBC	

The purpose of the audit was for us to express an opinion on the financial statements. The audit included consideration of internal control relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. The matters being reported are limited to those deficiencies that we have identified during the audit and that we have concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported to you.

Low Priority

Medium Priority

High Priority

Other significant findings

Internal control and risk management (continued)

Area	Observation	Management response	Priority
IT findings – CEDAR: Mirroring access	**Finding** - Access for Starters are specified by mirroring an existing user's access privileges; this is an option provided in the new Starters form. This poses a risk that access which is not required may be mistakenly passed onto the new starter and therefore privilege creep could occur. In mitigation, the process is formalised with a specific form that needs to be filled in and sent to the IT team by the relevant line manager, therefore access is approved by an appropriate user. **Recommendation** – The Council should consider ending the process of mirroring access rights when adding a new starter to the system.	TBC	
IT findings – CEDAR, Capita and Orchard leavers access	**Finding** - For CEDAR, Capita and Orchard leavers, access is revoked on a monthly basis by the System Administration Teams once a leavers report is received from HR. The System Administration Teams then go through the list to check if that individual had access to the systems and that their access has been removed. The risk is therefore that an individual may have access to a system for up to a month before their access is withdrawn, as IT are not notified of the leaver until they receive the report from HR. **Recommendation –** The Council should consider introducing a process whereby line managers are required to inform the IT department of leavers in advance of their leaving date, so that access can be revoked on a more timely basis.	TBC	
IT findings – User access reviews	**Finding** - There are no periodic reviews of the appropriateness of user access rights for CEDAR, Orchard and Selima, thereby increasing the risk that management fail to detect where user access rights are in excess of expected access rights or where a user has access rights that override an effective segregation of duties. In turn, this increases the risk that users are able to create inappropriate transactions or inappropriately amend financial data within the application. **Recommendation –** The Council should implement a formal, proactive review of the appropriateness of user access rights for CEDAR, Orchard and Selima.	TBC	

Our audit report

The form and content of our report

Here we discuss how the results of the audit impact on our audit report. An overview of our financial statements audit work will be included in our Auditor's Annual Report.

Our opinion on the financial statements

Our audit is ongoing with a number of judgemental/ significant areas of the audit still to be completed. We will update the Audit Committee when we have completed our procedures on the form of the Audit Opinion.

Emphasis of matter and other matter paragraphs

Our audit is ongoing with a number of judgemental/ significant areas of the audit still to be completed. We will update the Audit Committee when we have completed our procedures on the form of the Audit Opinion.

Value for Money reporting by exception

Our opinion will note that our Value for Money work is on-going, it will also flag any significant weaknesses in the Council's arrangements at the date it is issued and will be reported in our Auditor's Annual Report.

Irregularities and fraud

We will explain the extent to which we considered the audit to be capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud.

In doing so, we will describe the procedures we performed in understanding the legal and regulatory framework and assessing compliance with relevant laws and regulations. We will discuss the areas identified where fraud may occur and any identified key audit matters relating to fraud.

Recent changes to ISAs (UK) mean this requirement will apply to **all** entities for periods commencing on or after 15 December 2019.

Your annual report

We are required to report by exception on any issues identified in respect of the Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement.

	Requirement	Deloitte response
Narrative Report	The Narrative Report is expected to address (as relevant to the Council): • Organisational overview and external environment; • Governance; • Operational Model; • Risks and opportunities; • Strategy and resource allocation; • Performance; • Outlook; and • Basis of preparation.	We are in the process of completing the following: • Assessing whether the Narrative Report has been prepared in accordance with CIPFA guidance; and • Reviewing the Narrative Report to assess whether it is consistent with the annual accounts and our knowledge acquired during the course of performing the audit, and is not otherwise misleading. Based on our initial review, we have suggested a number of minor changes to the Narrative Report, which management are considering. We will review the updated Narrative Report on receipt from management and report back to the Audit Committee any further observations.
Annual Governance Statement	The Annual Governance Statement reports that governance arrangements provide assurance, are adequate and are operating effectively.	We are in the process of completing the following: • Assessing whether the information given in the Annual Governance Statement meets the disclosure requirements set out in CIPFA guidance, is misleading, or is inconsistent with other information from our audit. Based on our initial review, we have suggested a number of minor changes to the Annual Governance Statement, which management are considering. We will review the updated Annual Governance Statement on receipt from management and report back to the Audit Committee any further observations.

Purpose of our report and responsibility statement

Our report is designed to help you meet your governance duties

What we report

Our report is designed to help the Audit Committee and the Council discharge their governance duties. It also represents one way in which we fulfil our obligations under ISA (UK) 260 to communicate with you regarding your oversight of the financial reporting process and your governance requirements. Our report includes:

- Current status of our work on key audit judgements and our observations on the quality of your Statement of Accounts and Narrative Report;
- Our internal control observations; and
- Other insights we have identified to the date of issuing our report.

The scope of our work

Our observations are developed in the context of our audit of the financial statements.

We described the scope of our work in our audit plan.

Use of this report

This report has been prepared for the Council, as a body, and we therefore accept responsibility to you alone for its contents. We accept no duty, responsibility or liability to any other parties, since this report has not been prepared, and is not intended, for any other purpose.

What we don't report

As you will be aware, our audit was not designed to identify all matters that may be relevant to the Audit Committee.

Also, there will be further information you need to discharge your governance responsibilities, such as matters reported on by management or by other specialist advisers.

Finally, our views on internal controls and business risk assessment should not be taken as comprehensive or as an opinion on effectiveness since they have been based solely on the audit procedures performed in the audit of the financial statements and work under the Code of Audit Practice in respect of Value for Money arrangements.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss our report with you and receive your feedback.

Deloitte LLP

Deloitte LLP

Newcastle upon Tyne| 3 November 2021

Appendices

Audit adjustments
Corrected misstatements

The following misstatements above our reporting threshold of £0.5m have been identified up to the date of issue of this report, which have been corrected by management. We nonetheless communicate them to you to assist you in fulfilling your governance responsibilities, including reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control.

		Debit/ (credit) Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £m	Debit/ (credit) OCI £m	Debit/(credit) Net Assets £m	Debit/ (credit) General Fund £m	Debit/ (credit) Unusable Reserves £m
Misstatements identified in current year						
Pension – Treatment of upfront pension contributions	[1]	-	-	23.2	-	(23.2)
Accruals – Over-accrual in relation to Housing Benefit overpayment	[2]	(5.7)	-	5.7	-	-
Grant income – Local Tax income guarantee scheme	[3]	(0.8)	-	0.8	-	-
Creditors – Debit balances in creditors ledger	[4]	-	-	-	-	-
CIES – Manual adjustment	[5]	-	-	-	-	-
Total		**(6.5)**	**-**	**29.7**	**-**	**(23.2)**

We have set out on the following pages additional detail in relation to each of the misstatements highlighted above.

Audit adjustments (continued)

Corrected misstatements

We have set out below further detail in relation to each of the misstatements identified in the table on the previous page.

Title	Finding
[1] Pension – Treatment of upfront pension contributions	As part of the triennial revaluation of the LGPS, the Council agreed to pay pension contributions totalling £34m in April 2020. These payments covered the years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23, with a total of £23.2m relating to the years after 2020/21. On review of the IAS 19 report produced by the Council's actuary, it was noted that the actuary had not included the upfront payment in their initial valuation for 2020/21. The Council therefore requested a revised IAS19 valuation that included this information. The impact was that the net pension liability for 2020/21 reduced by £23.2m. In the draft Statement of Accounts, the Council included the upfront pension contributions of £23.2m in the pension reserve, which is an unusable reserve. However, per the CIPFA Code this reserve should only contain transactions that have previously been included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES). The upfront pension contributions for 2021/22 and 2022/23 have not been recognised in the CIES and therefore they should not be included in the pensions reserve. As a result, it was agreed with the Council that this treatment was incorrect and instead the upfront pension contributions should be recognised in the net pension liability at 31 March 2021, which is in line with the recognition principles set out in IAS19.
[2] Accruals – Over-accrual in relation to Housing Benefit overpayment	In the draft financial statements, the Council included an accrual of £5.7m in relation to historic overpayments made to Housing Benefit claimants. The Council explained that this accrual was made on the assumption the Council would need to make a repayment to the DWP for the overpayment amount. However, the Council have confirmed that this payment has not been made to the DWP post year end. In addition, it is our understanding that Housing Benefit overpayments in year are reflected in the Housing Benefit subsidy claim, which calculates the overall eligible subsidy payment the Council can claim for the year. The overall eligible subsidy amount is disclosed in the Statement of Accounts at the year end, and as this figure takes into account the total overpayments made in year, it is not necessary to include a separate accrual for overpayments.
[3] Grant income – Local Tax income guarantee scheme	The Council have included a value of £0.4m in their draft Statement of Accounts in relation to the Local Tax Income Guarantee Scheme based on the draft guidance issued by MHCLG in April 2021. However, in July 2021 MHCLG released a revised calculation for the amount of income each Local Authority would receive under the scheme. After completing this calculation, the Council identified that the total amount of income due for 2020/21 was £1.2m, which is an increase of £0.8m. Both the CIPFA and Central Government guidance has highlighted that this income should be reflected in full in 2020/21 and therefore the Council has decided to recognise the revised calculation in the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts. It should be noted that this is a national issue.

Audit adjustments (continued)

Corrected misstatements

We have set out below further detail in relation to each of the misstatements identified in the table on the previous page.

Title	Finding
[4] Creditors – Debit balances in creditors ledger	Our testing has identified debit balances of £0.9m that are included on the creditors ledger. Given the nature of these balances, we would expect them to be reclassified to debtors which would have the impact of increasing the creditors value by £0.9m and also increasing the debtors value in the accounts by £0.9m.
[5] CIES – Manual adjustment	When preparing the Statement of Accounts, the Council is required to remove all internal recharges from the trial balance before the accounts are produced. This is in line with CIPFA guidance that states transactions between internal Council departments should not be disclosed in the CIES. As part of our audit procedures, we review and test this process in order to gain assurance no material misstatements have occurred as a result of the manual adjustments made by the Council. This testing is still ongoing, however we have identified one manual adjustment that has been made in error of £4.7m. The impact of this adjustment is that both gross income and gross expenditure in the draft CIES were understated by £4.7m. The net impact of this error on the Deficit on Provision of Services line is £nil.

Uncorrected misstatements – based on the procedures so far performed, we have not identified any uncorrected misstatements above our reporting threshold of £0.5m, as part of our work.

Outstanding items

Items outstanding at the date of issue of this report

The following are the principal outstanding items required to complete our audit.

- Queries with the Council's property valuer in relation to some of the year end valuations
- Resolution of queries in relation to the long term investment value disclosed in the Council's accounts
- Review of the Council's long term debtor recoverability assessment
- Finalisation of review of manual adjustments made by the Council to the CIES
- Receipt and review of amended financial statements
- Completion of our internal quality assurance procedures
- Review of events from 31 March 2021 to the date of signing the financial statements
- Receipt of signed management representations letter
- Value for Money procedures to be finalised within 3 months of the date of the audit opinion

Independence and fees

As part of our obligations under International Standards on Auditing (UK), we are required to report to you on the matters listed below:

Independence confirmation	We confirm the audit engagement team, and others in the firm as appropriate, Deloitte LLP and, where applicable, all Deloitte network firms are independent of the Council and will reconfirm our independence and objectivity to the Audit Committee for the year ending 31 March 2021 in our final report to the Audit Committee.
Fees	There are no non-audit fees for 2020/21 outside of those noted in the table on the following page.
Non-audit services	We continue to review our independence and ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place including, but not limited to, the rotation of senior partners and professional staff and the involvement of additional partners and professional staff to carry out reviews of the work performed and to otherwise advise as necessary.
Relationships	We have no other relationships with the Council, its directors, senior managers and affiliates, and have not supplied any services to other known connected parties.

Independence and fees (continued)

The professional fees expected to be charged by Deloitte in the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 are as follows:

	2020/21 Audit £	2019/20 Audit £
Financial statement audit including Whole of Government work [1]*	84,818	84,818
Additional fee for prior year audit [2]*	-	TBC
Additional fee for changes in the current year [3]*	TBC	-
Total audit	84,818	84,818
Teachers' Pensions certification fees	TBC	4,000
Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts certification fees	TBC	4,000
Housing benefits certification fees	-	10,250
Total assurance services	TBC	8,000
Total fees	TBC	TBC

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[1] The fee reflected here is the scale fee. In line with recent PSAA correspondence that scale fees should be negotiated by individual s151 officers based on the individual circumstances of each body, we will be looking to discuss with the Council the current level of fee.

[2] Fee for additional audit work to be agreed. This will include the impact of the acquisition of Houndshill, Covid-19 procedures and prior year restatements.

[3] Fee for additional audit work relating to changes to the work required on Value for Money, updated auditing standards and Covid-19 procedures. We expect this to be in the range of £25,000 - £30,000.

* All additional fees are subject to agreement with PSAA.

Report to:	**AUDIT COMMITTEE**
Relevant Officer:	Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk
Date of Meeting:	11 November 2021

RISK SERVICES QUARTER TWO REPORT

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 two of the 2021/2022 financial year.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider and note the contents of the report.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure that the Council has effective risk management processes in place.

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

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

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The work of the internal audit team contributes to the achievement of all of the Council's priorities.

6.0 Background information

6.1 Each quarter the Head of Audit and Risk produces a report summarising the work of Risk Services and this includes the overall assurance statements for all audit reviews completed in the quarter. The Risk Services Quarterly Report is reported to the Corporate Leadership Team prior to being presented at Audit Committee.

On completion of each audit an overall assurance statement is provided which summarises the strength of controls in the area being audited. The opinions can provide positive assurance, such as when controls are identified to be good or adequate, or negative assurance when the controls are considered to be inadequate or uncontrolled.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 6(a) – Risk Services Quarter Two Report

8.0 Financial considerations:

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

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 All work undertaken by Risk Services is in line with relevant legislation. This is particularly important when undertaking fraud investigations where a number of regulations need to be adhered to.

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 Equalities considerations:

11.1 Where appropriate, matters pertaining to equalities will be considered as part of the advice and assurance work of Audit and Risk.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 Where appropriate, matters pertaining to sustainability, climate change and the environment will be considered as part of the advice and assurance work of Audit and Risk.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 The report was considered by the Corporate Leadership Team on 26 October 2021.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

Audit and Risk Quarter Two Report
1st July to 30th September 2021

Contents Page

1. *Quarter Two Summary*

Service Developments

1.1 *Internal Audit*

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

Directorate	Internal Audits
Adult Services	• Care at Home (Internal Provision)
Children's Services	• Early Years Services • Executive Decisions
Communication and Regeneration	• Town Deal
Community and Environmental	• Highways Maintenance Grant • Enforcement Activity
Corporate	• Compliance with Corporate Arrangements • Business Support Grants
Governance and Partnerships	• Bereavement Service • Governance of Wholly Owned Companies
Resources	• Covid Income Loss Grant Return • Carbon Emissions

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

The team are currently carrying two vacancies (one permanent and one temporary). Due to difficulties appointing qualified staff a new trainee auditor has been recruited who started in the team in September. A conditional offer of employment has also been issued for a part qualified auditor and this is currently subject to pre-employment checks so no start date has yet been confirmed.

To assist with the backlog of work, Mersey Internal Audit Agency have been commissioned to deliver two pieces of risk based work in the quarter. These include the Council's arrangements for governance of wholly owned companies and the business grant schemes which were delivered as part of the pandemic response. These areas were selected as the Head of Audit and Risk is operationally involved in both areas and therefore the use of an external provider offers some independence.

The team were externally assessed against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and were found to conform to the standards. Some good practice recommendations were made which will feature in the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme for 2022/23.

1.2 *Corporate Fraud*

The Senior Counter Fraud Advisor is leading on the post assurance work which is a requirement ofCentral Government, in relation to the various grants paid to local businesses who were impacted by the pandemic and which apparently qualified for the various schemes in place.

With the relaxation of lockdown restrictions and the associated grants, the Corporate Fraud Team have been able to move towards business as usual and make inroads into the current backlog of active cases and proactive fraud prevention work.

A recruitment exercise has been undertaken to appoint a Corporate Fraud Officer to the vacant post and the successful candidate is due to join the team in October. In addition, a new Corporate Investigations Officer post has been created who will lead on undertaking disciplinary and grievance investigations for all Council services. A recruitment exercise is underway in order to identify the right candidate for this role.

The Cabinet Office, Government Counter Fraud Profession has released new standards, 30 September 2021. The standards are designed to be inclusive and encourage all member counter fraud officers in local government, wider public authorities, NHS and police to review the standards now accessible to all on GOV.UK. These will be used by the team going forward to further enhance procedures and staff development. The standards set out a competency framework for counter fraud professionals undertaking work in the public sector and covers the following key areas:

1.3 ***Risk and Resilience***

The team are continuing to support services to review their business continuity plans and transfer these onto the new template which combines business impact analysis and business continuity arrangements.

The team have procured and placed insurance for Enveco Phase Two and are in the process of securing insurance for the Airport with a view to placing the cover by October 2021.

A number of risk workshops have taken place in the quarter including for the potential demolition of the court buildings, the Blackpool Central programme and strategic financial risks which will factor into the updated Medium Term Financial Sustainability Strategy.

Overall 66% of the scheduled risk management groups were held in the quarter. One was meeting cancelled and rescheduled to be held in Q3 the other meeting was cancelled until a new Risk Champion was identified.

An exercise has been undertaken to test the Council major emergency plan relating to flood risks. This served as both a training exercise for key officers and also to see what lessons can be learned in order to further enhance the Councils planned response.

1.4 ***Health and Safety***

The team continue to have a key role in providing advice, support and guidance to all Council services and schools with regards to safe working practices during the Covid-19 pandemic. The team have been undertaking unannounced workplace inspections at some Council buildings to continue to ensure compliance with the Covid Secure arrangements. During the quarter this included visits to Bickerstaffe House, Blackpool Sports Centre and the Illuminations Depot.

Face to face health and safety training has been delivered where necessary in a Covid Secure way and progress is being made on developing virtual training to ensure all staff who require training are able to access the training. Work is underway to review how health and safety training and communications are delivered going forward including 'how to' tutorial videos which could help with staff queries. The filming of 'how to guides' for setting up a work station at home and in the office have been completed and are currently out for comment before being launched.

Some elements of 'business as usual' activities have now resumed as Covid restrictions are gradually relaxed. This includes commencement of the health and safety management audit programme, reviewing how the health and safety management system can be modernised on the Hub and also undertaking a review of all generic risk assessments and supporting documents which are available on the Hub.

1.5 ***Equality and Diversity***

In the quarter changes were made to the reporting lines of this service which now reports to the Director of Resources. Therefore service updates in relation to equality and diversity will no longer be reported as part of the Risk Services Quarterly Report.

Performance

Risk Services performance indicators

Performance Indicator (Description of measure)	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual
Professional and technical qualification as a percentage of the total.	85%	71%

Internal Audit Team performance indicators

Performance Indicator (Description of measure)	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual
Percentage audit plan completed (annual target).	90%	41%
Percentage draft reports issued within deadline.	96%	93%
Percentage audit work within resource budget.	92%	100%
Percentage of positive satisfaction surveys.	85%	94%
Percentage compliance with quality standards for audit reviews.	85%	92%

Risk and Resilience Team performance indicators

Performance Indicator (Description of measure)	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual
Percentage of Council service business continuity plans up to date.	100%	100%

Performance Indicator (Description of measure)	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual
Percentage of risk registers revised and up to date at the end of the quarter.	100%	64%
Number of risk and resilience training and exercise sessions held (annual target).	6	2
Number of trained Emergency Response Group Volunteers. (For monitoring purposes only – responsibility lies with Adult Social Care). We don't hold details of the ERG volunteers across the Lancashire footprint but it is going to requested that numbers are shared at the next pan-Lancashire meeting.	50	27
Percentage of property risk audit programme completed (annual target).	100%	100%

The following table details the risk registers which were not updated by the end of quarter two:

Risk Management Group	Percentage Updated In Quarter Two	Risk Registers Not Updated
Adult Services	50%	• Adults Commissioning • Business Support & Resources
Central Support Services	62%	• Commissioning & Corporate Delivery • Customer Engagement & Life Events • Executive's Management Support • Housing Strategy • ICT
Children's Services	100%	
Communications & Regeneration	53%	• Beach Patrol • Blackpool Museum Project • Communications • Illuminations • Parking Services • Planning • Visit Blackpool
Community & Environmental Services	88%	• Public Protection
Public Health	0%	• Public Health

Health and Safety performance indicators

Performance Indicator (Description of measure)	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual
RIDDOR Reportable Accidents for Employees	0	2

Performance Indicator (Description of measure)	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual
Training Delivered to quarterly plan	100%	100%

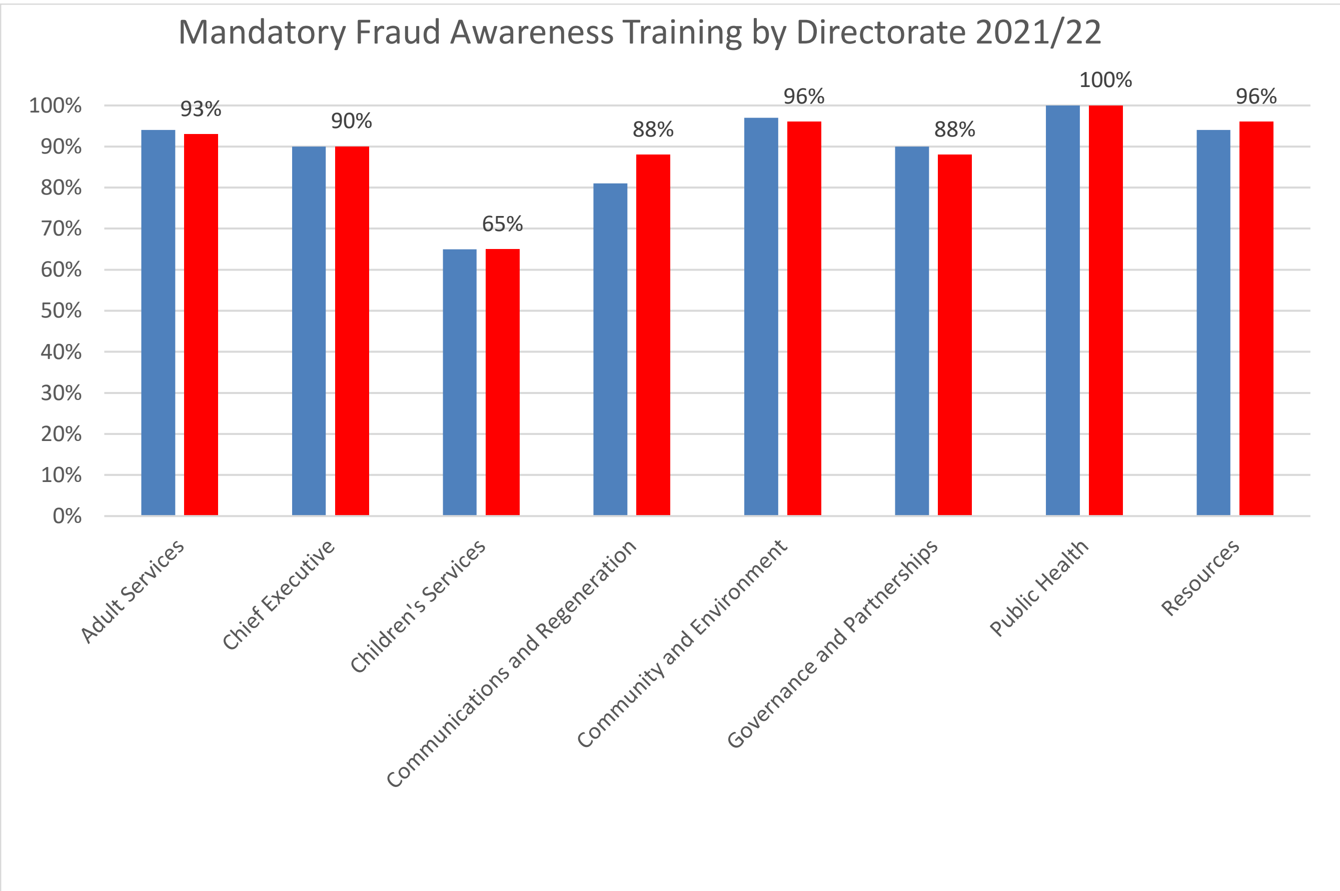
There were no new RIDDOR cases relating to employees reported in the quarter.

Corporate Fraud Team performance indicators

Performance Indicator (Description of measure)	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual
% of agreed Council employees completed i-Pool fraud awareness course.	100%	90%

As at 30th September 2021, the overall completion rate has increased from 87% to 90%.

Whilst there have been some minor changes to the levels of completion within individual Directorates, further analysis has revealed that such fluctuations can be attributed to Directorate staffing changes which have occurred during the quarter.



CORPORATE FRAUD STATISTICS - 2021/2022	Number of Cases Brought Forward from 2020/21	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		**ANNUAL SUMMARY 2021-22**									
Council Tax - Single Person Discount	6	29	12	13	£2,104.77	25	0	0	0	0	10
Council Tax Reduction (CTR)	2	11	0	5	-	5	0	0	0	0	8
Business Rates	4	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	4
Procurement	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fraudulent Insurance Claims	2	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	2
Social Care	1	2	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	3
Economic & Third Sector Support	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gross Misconduct (Disciplinary Code)	3	0	1	0	-	0	0	1	0	0	2
Pension	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Investment	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Payroll & Employee Contract Fulfilment	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenses	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abuse of Position - Financial Gain	1	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	1
Abuse of Position - Manipulation of Financial or Non-Financial Data	1	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	1
General Financial Fraud	6	2	0	4	-	4	0	0	0	0	4
Disabled parking concessions	0	3	0	1	-	1	0	0	0	0	2
NFI 2018	40	0	0	40	-	40	0	0	0	0	0
NFI Single Person Discount Proactive Exercise	83	2,026	1	13	£862.35	14	0	0	0	0	2,012
NFI 2021/21	0	6,943	619	2,654	£132,661.24	3,273	0	0	0	0	3,670
Totals:	**66**	**9,016**	**633**	**2,730**	**£135,628.36**	**3,362**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**5,719**

2. Appendix A: Performance & Summary Tables for Quarter Two

Internal Audit reports issued in period

<table>
<tr><th>Directorate</th><th>Review Title</th><th>Assurance Statement</th></tr>
<tr><td>Adult Services</td><td>Vitaline</td><td>
<u>Scope</u>
The scope of the audit was to undertake compliance testing in the following areas:

Compliance with the regulations set out by the Technology Enabled Care Services Association;
Up-to-date policies and procedures are in place;
Health and Safety Manuals and Risk Assessments;
Referral and escalation processes are robust;
Care plans and customer profiles are up to date;
Procedures for external activities (visits);
Robust quality assurance arrangements;
Roles and responsibilities for staff are clearly defined and staff training logs are up-to-date;
Enhanced DBS checks have been carried out;
Staff rotas are in place;
Purchase card users are compliant;
Covid Secure arrangements are in place;
Suitable security arrangements are in place; and
Stock control records for equipment are maintained.

<u>Overall Opinion and Assurance Statement</u>
Good
We consider that the controls in place are good. We have made a number of best practice recommendations to further strengthen the procedures in place.

<u>Number of Recommendations Made</u>
<table>
<tr><td>Priority 1</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 2</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 3</td><td>4</td></tr>
</table>
<u>Management Response</u>
The training logs will be regularly updated at staff supervision sessions.
RAG ratings will be added to all training log tabs along with the frequency at which training courses need to be refreshed.
Management will promptly inform HR of instances where casual members of staff have a break in employment exceeding 3 months as part of the rota planning process.
Staff will be reminded to promptly provide the Administrator with receipts for purchase card transactions and adhere to the corporate procedures.
</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Directorate</th><th>Review Title</th><th>Assurance Statement</th></tr>
<tr><td>Chief Executives</td><td>Employee Health and Wellbeing</td><td>
<u>Scope</u>
The scope of our audit was to review:

What Employee Health and Wellbeing support is available to staff;
How the available support is communicated;
How effective the available support is; and
How much the available support is being used.

<u>Overall Opinion and Assurance Statement</u>
Good
The structure in place for the creation, approval and delivery of Health and Wellbeing support and initiatives to Blackpool Council is well established and operating as intended. A range of support and initiatives are in place, and these are regularly adjusted in response to the needs of employees. Regular review of initiatives is undertaken, and feedback is obtained and used to inform future events. A range of communication methods are in place to ensure staff awareness and enable them to access support when required.
We therefore consider that the controls in place are good for Employee Health and Wellbeing.
<u>Number of Recommendations Made</u>
<table>
<tr><td>Priority 1</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 2</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 3</td><td>4</td></tr>
</table>
<u>Management Response</u>
Management will continue to regularly obtain input from the members of the Pause for Support group to further enhance the offer going forward.
When available, the data obtained from the 2021 Employee Survey will be considered by the Wellbeing at Work and Corporate Wellbeing groups to help target awareness raising of existing support and the development of new initiatives as required/appropriate.
Consideration will be given to including contact details for Health Champions on the Health Champion list held on the Hub.
Consideration will be given to mandating the inclusion of Employee Wellbeing as a standing agenda item on every team meeting.
</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Directorate</th><th>Review Title</th><th>Assurance Statement</th></tr>
<tr><td>Children’s Services</td><td>School Improvement Strategy</td><td>

<u>Scope</u>

The scope of our audit was to review the progress which has been made in relation to school improvement over the last three years, and whether the 2020-30 strategy is coherent and understandable with an appropriate level of challenge.

<u>Overall Opinion and Assurance Statement</u>

Adequate

There has been progress against a number targets depicted in the BEIB strategy, although some areas of concern are still evident. However, the strategy stretches from 2020 to 2030 and is therefore very much in its infancy. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has also hampered progress in some areas.

The recently improved structure and effectiveness of the BEIB has improved the level of challenge and this should help enforce the BEIB’s ‘school led’ approach.

We therefore consider that the controls in place are currently adequate. However it is too early to say whether the new approach will make significant in-roads into school attainment, particularly at secondary school level, which remains a challenging area.

<u>Number of Recommendations Made</u>

<table>
<tr><td>Priority 1</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 2</td><td>5</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 3</td><td>5</td></tr>
</table>

<u>Management Response</u>

Steps will be taken to ensure that Early Years providers have an appropriate presence on the BEIB.

Advice will be sought from the Equality and Diversity function in relation to the Inclusion Strategy and Literacy Strategy to ensure that the Public Sector Equality Duty, is addressed.

The approach for how to achieve the BEIB strategy target ‘pupils with a high level of attainment will achieve above average levels of progress at GCSE’ will be agreed and included in the BEIB strategy/vision.

The responsibilities that currently fall under the remit of the Teaching Schools will be considered to determine how they will be taken forward following the replacement of the Teaching Schools by Teaching Hubs.

Wider discussion around how best to integrate SEND provision in schools will take place to ensure a consistent approach.

</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Directorate</th><th>Review Title</th><th>Assurance Statement</th></tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication and Regeneration</td>
<td>Tourism and Destination Management</td>
<td>
<u>Scope</u>
The scope of our audit was to review:

Governance and management arrangements;
Destination Management Plan;
COVID-19 impact and arrangements;
Tourism Recovery Plans and investment; and
Effective relationships with key partners and stakeholders.

<u>Overall Opinion and Assurance Statement</u>
Adequate
We consider that the controls in place are adequate, with only a few minor improvements suggested to further strengthen governance arrangements.
<u>Number of Recommendations Made</u>
<table>
<tr><td>Priority 1</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 2</td><td>3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 3</td><td>0</td></tr>
</table>
<u>Management Response</u>
When developing the Destination Management Plan consideration will be given to:

A more explicit display of and representation of the private sector involvement in the plan;
Gathering evidence stage includes a consultation process;
Be market based and fully informed by a knowledge of visitors and their experiences;
Give high priority to the performance and impact of tourism businesses and so they should be based on a clear understanding of their needs;
Coverage of creating and maintaining jobs and improving quality of current jobs;
Consideration of current and future target markets;
Greener tourism; and
The inclusion of a detailed action plan.

The Blackpool tourism marketing and events offering will be supported by an operational plan.
The Visit Blackpool risk register will be reviewed to ensure it comprehensively covers the main risks to tourism in the town.
</td>
</tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Directorate</th><th>Review Title</th><th>Assurance Statement</th></tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and Environmental Services</td>
<td>Animal Health Outbreak Planning</td>
<td>
<u>Scope</u>
The scope of our audit was to review:

National guidelines and local authority responsibilities;
Roles and responsibilities and stakeholder engagement; and
Maintenance of effective and current local guidance.

<u>Overall Opinion and Assurance Statement</u>
Inadequate
We consider that the controls in place are inadequate, with a number of material risks identified and significant improvement required. Particular focus is around the need to have an up to date contingency plan, which factors in wider stakeholders and a requirement to ensuring roles and responsibilities are defined and that staff are appropriately trained.
<u>Number of Recommendations Made</u>
<table>
<tr><td>Priority 1</td><td>2</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 2</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 3</td><td>2</td></tr>
</table>
<u>Management Response</u>
Management will ensure that a contingency plan for managing exotic and notifiable disease is developed as a matter of urgency.
A “committee/steering” group will be established to help coordinate the plan so delivery remains on track.
Management will ensure as part of the plan development that a comprehensive review is undertaken (gap analysis) across the Council to identify key roles/positions required, that these are defined, documented and tested.
Steps will be taken to ensure that each post holder is provided adequate training so they are accustomed to his/her roles and responsibilities.
</td>
</tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Directorate</th><th>Review Title</th><th>Assurance Statement</th></tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and Environmental Services</td>
<td>Delivery of the Track Maintenance Programme</td>
<td>
<u>Scope</u>
The scope of the audit was to review:

The operation of the current track maintenance regime and the planned maintenance programme;
The operational and financial oversight/management and effectiveness of the recharging arrangements;
The effectiveness of the working partnership with Blackpool Transport Services and co-ordination of the maintenance programmes; and
The underlying rationale and comparison of maintenance costs and resources for the Council and BTS.

<u>Overall Opinion and Assurance Statement</u>
Split Assurance
We consider that the controls in place are good in terms of day to day and planned maintenance and a comprehensive safety management system is in place.
However the arrangement between the Council and Blackpool Transport Services need to be strengthened with a service level agreement put in place to aid transparency of operations and ensure value for money is achieved. We have therefore assessed this element of the service to be inadequate however recognise that work is underway to improve this.
<u>Number of Recommendations Made</u>
<table>
<tr><td>Priority 1</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 2</td><td>3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 3</td><td>0</td></tr>
</table>
<u>Management Response</u>
The tramway maintenance arrangements between BTS and the Council will be firmed up in the form of a SLA. The SLA will set out the responsibilities of each party including reporting requirements, KPIs and frequency of meetings.
Consideration will be given to extending the Tramway Infrastructure Improvement Board’s remit to include the OLE, the buildings and the trams.
The Tramway Infrastructure Improvement Board meetings will be minuted and circulated as appropriate.
The arrangement with BTS will be reviewed to ensure best value is achieved. Initial discussions will take place through the Tramway Infrastructure Improvement Board.
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<table>
<tr><th>Directorate</th><th>Review Title</th><th>Assurance Statement</th></tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and Environmental Services</td>
<td>Permit for Street Works</td>
<td>

<u>Scope</u>

The scope of our audit was to review:

- Permit scheme policy and operation;
- Finances – fee setting and collection and fixed notice penalties;
- Permit Scheme independent review – implementation of recommendations and improvements; and
- Management oversight and monitoring arrangements.

<u>Overall Opinion and Assurance Statement</u>

Adequate

We consider that the controls in place are adequate, however there are a number of procedural improvements that need to be addressed in order to strengthen the robustness of the Permit Scheme.

Some control improvements may also improve income, particularly around Fixed Penalty Notices, where there is more flexibility for utilisation to meet wider highway's objectives.

<u>Number of Recommendations Made</u>

<table>
<tr><td>Priority 1</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 2</td><td>6</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 3</td><td>3</td></tr>
</table>

<u>Management Response</u>

A full review of the Highways and Traffic Management Risk Register will be undertaken.

A clear audit trail of income and expenditure will be established to review permit scheme fees after year three.

A review of the current process of permitting the authority's own works in order to ensure compliance with Blackpool Council Permit Scheme for Road and Street Works policy will be carried out.

A retrospective review will be undertaken for year two of the operational scheme, and the third annual review is scheduled for March 2022, with appropriate reporting to stakeholders in line with the statutory requirements.

A set of local performance indicators and targets will be produced in order to monitor performance on an ongoing basis.

Performance monitoring meetings will be with each utility company on a regular basis, with regular performance reporting issued and discussed.

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<tr>
<td>Corporate</td>
<td>Management of Investment Properties</td>
<td>
<u>Scope</u>
The scope of our audit was to review:

Investment decision process, including due diligence;
Compliance with legislation and regulations;
Management of the investment property portfolio; and
On-going assessment of and review of investment properties against projected outcomes.

<u>Overall Opinion and Assurance Statement</u>
Split Assurance
We found the controls related to Property Services to be largely adequate, we do however consider that the controls relevant to the scope of this audit and in place within Growth and Prosperity are inadequate.
Growth and Prosperity’s processes require significant tightening to ensure that the Council maintains a clear and comprehensive audit trail of all investment property purchasing decisions and their on-going management.
In addition, the impact of the pandemic on the Council’s investment portfolio presents a financial risk which will need to be managed throughout the recovery phase.
<u>Number of Recommendations Made</u>
<table>
<tr><td>Priority 1</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 2</td><td>9</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 3</td><td>2</td></tr>
</table>
<u>Management Response</u>
A fundamental review of records and file maintenance within the Growth and Prosperity team will take place to ensure a clear, consistent and complete record is maintained of all investment properties with appropriate linkage identified to other legal and finance systems
The Growth and Prosperity risk register will be updated to ensure all potential risks are considered.
The Corporate Asset Management Plan is being updated and will include detailed roles and responsibilities, post purchase management/oversight arrangements and a process for regular review of the plan.
Steps will be taken to review transparency arrangements regarding properties and land in particular its investment property holdings to ensure that residents are sufficiently informed about investments that its Council have made.
Steps will be taken to update procedures to ensure that these reflect day to day practice in both Growth and Prosperity and Property Services.
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<table>
<tr><th>Directorate</th><th>Review Title</th><th>Assurance Statement</th></tr>
<tr><td>Resources</td><td>Sundry Debtors Financial Control Assurance Testing</td><td>
<u>Scope</u>
The scope was to ensure that effective controls are in place to minimise financial risk related to sundry debtors.
<u>Overall Opinion and Assurance Statement</u>
Adequate
We consider that the controls in place are adequate with some risks identified and assessed with several changes necessary. Some control weaknesses have been brought about by Covid working pressures, however our testing identified a few control weaknesses relating to poor practice and not in line with policy and procedures.
<u>Number of Recommendations Made</u>
<table>
<tr><td>Priority 1</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 2</td><td>5</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 3</td><td>1</td></tr>
</table>
<u>Management Response</u>
The Income Management Code of Practice will be reviewed, circulated to users and notified to the Corporate Income Management Group for circulation.
The reconciliation between the write off authorisation book and Cedar will be retained to evidence having taken place and balancing.
The write off authorisation process will be reviewed as part of the new systems implementation to determine if a more efficient method is possible, by utilising available systems with built in authorisation processes and audit trails.
The Corporate Debt Team will resume following up outstanding invoices with dispute codes after 30 days, in order to ensure these are actioned promptly and issues are resolved by initiating departments.
A review of the authorised signatory lists will take place to ensure all departmental authorising officers have their signature appropriately documented.
Access to Cedar will be granted to new users once full training is being given by the Corporate Debt Team and procedure documents issued. As the new system is introduced, all users will be retrained formally prior to being granted access.
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<table>
<tr><th>Directorate</th><th>Review Title</th><th>Assurance Statement</th></tr>
<tr><td>Resources</td><td>Budgetary Control Financial Control Assurance Testing</td><td>
<u>Scope</u>
The scope was to ensure that effective controls are in place to minimise financial risk related to budgetary control.
<u>Overall Opinion and Assurance Statement</u>
Adequate
We consider that the controls in place for budgetary control are adequate with some risks identified and assessed and several changes necessary.
<u>Number of Recommendations Made</u>
<table>
<tr><td>Priority 1</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 2</td><td>6</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 3</td><td>2</td></tr>
</table>
<u>Management Response</u>
The updated Corporate Scheme of Delegation has now been uploaded on the Hub.
New system users and roles will be reviewed as part of the implementation of the new financial system. In the meantime, a Senior Accountant has begun to review the process for setting up new users in Cedar.
To evidence that authorisation limits and dispensations are appropriate within Cedar, a full audit trail will be retained for all users.
All journal transfers will be scrutinised, however the process is to be amended so that a more senior member of staff within Accountancy scrutinises journal transfers of less senior staff, as opposed to the current process where Senior Accountants carry out all scrutiny.
Procedures will be documented for Accountancy and non-Accountancy members of staff carrying out journal transfers. For journal transfers carried out by non-Accountancy staff, the authorisation process will be centralised so that these journals must be scrutinised and authorised by staff within Accountancy.
The Director of Resources advised that due to Growth & Prosperity (G&P) being a high risk area, careful monitoring of the G&P financial position is currently a number one priority. The pandemic has significantly impacted G&P schemes and income, including the delivery of capital receipts. Frequent meetings take place to monitor the G&P financial position including meetings with the Chief Executive, the G&P Portfolio Holder, the G&P Programme Director and budget managers for individual projects.
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<table>
<tr><th>Directorate</th><th>Review Title</th><th>Assurance Statement</th></tr>
<tr><td>Resources</td><td>Capital Accounting</td><td>
<u>Scope</u>
The scope of our audit was to review:

Year-end reporting on capital expenditure;
Capital accounting systems and processes including management oversight; and
Findings of the external auditors, Deloitte.

<u>Overall Opinion and Assurance Statement</u>
Adequate
We consider that the controls in place are adequate with some risks identified and assessed, with several changes necessary. The restructure of the Finance teams and the implementation of the new asset register should help to increase capacity and speed up processes by reducing the amount of manual intervention.

<u>Number of Recommendations Made</u>
<table>
<tr><td>Priority 1</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 2</td><td>3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Priority 3</td><td>1</td></tr>
</table>
<u>Management Response</u>
A reminder will be issued to the Corporate Leadership Team to help ensure that the Capital team are notified of the acquisition and disposal of vehicles.

A detailed roles and responsibilities schedule is in place following the finance team restructure. Weekly meetings with Finance Managers will highlight any issues with the new structure and the impact of the restructure will be reviewed in 6 months.

The functionality of the new asset register will be explored, however, the priority is data migration.

Clarification will be sought from Property Services to ensure that the recommendations made in the Deloitte report have been fully implemented.
</td></tr>
</table>

Progress with Priority 1 audit recommendations

One priority one recommendation were implemented in the quarter including:

- Purchase Card x 1

A number of priority one recommendations which were due in the quarter have had their deadline extended following discussion between the relevant Head of Service and the Head of Audit and Risk and these include:

- Community Engagement x 1
- Water Self-Supply x 1

- Managing the Leavers Process x 1
- CCTV x 1

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

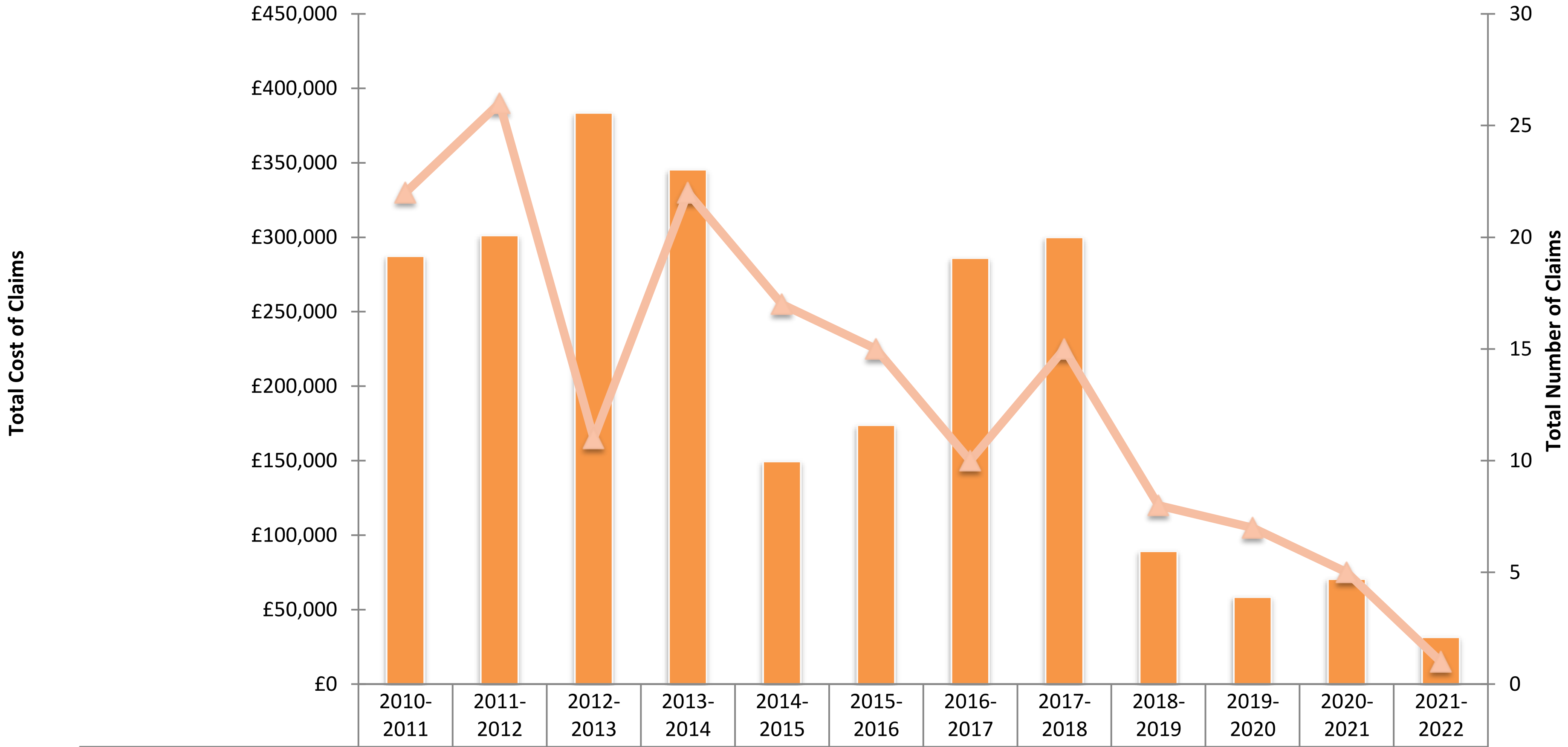
In line with best practice it has been agreed that the Council will report to the Audit Committee the number of RIPA authorisations undertaken each quarter, which enables the Council to undertake directed and covert surveillance. Between July 2021 and September 2021 the Council authorised no RIPA's.

Insurance claims data

The graphs at Appendix B show the cost of liability insurance claims paid to date during each financial year by the Council.

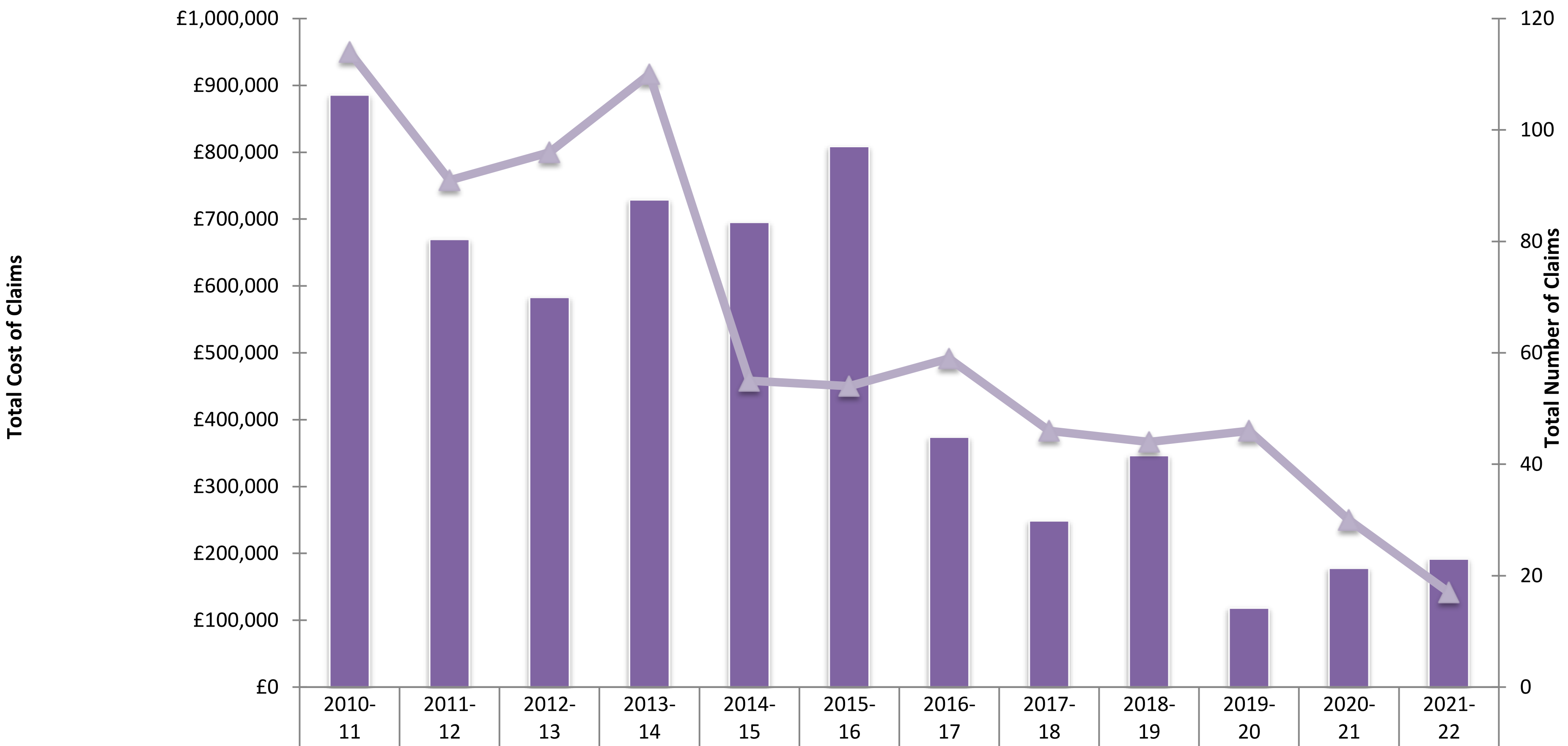
3. *Appendix B – Insurance Claim Payments by Financial Year*

Total Number and Cost of Employer Liability Claims (Paid Amounts) as at 30.09.2021



	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Payments Made	£287,329	£301,170	£383,447	£345,395	£149,514	£173,921	£286,045	£299,961	£89,210	£58,467	£70,393	£31,522
Total Number of Claims (By Notification Date)	22	26	11	22	17	15	10	15	8	7	5	1

Total Number and Cost of Public Liability Claims (Paid) as at 30.09.2021



	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Payments Made	£885,718	£669,626	£583,142	£729,041	£695,199	£808,739	£373,983	£248,806	£346,354	£118,272	£177,936	£191,792
Total Number of Claims (By Notification Date)	114	91	96	110	55	54	59	46	44	46	30	17

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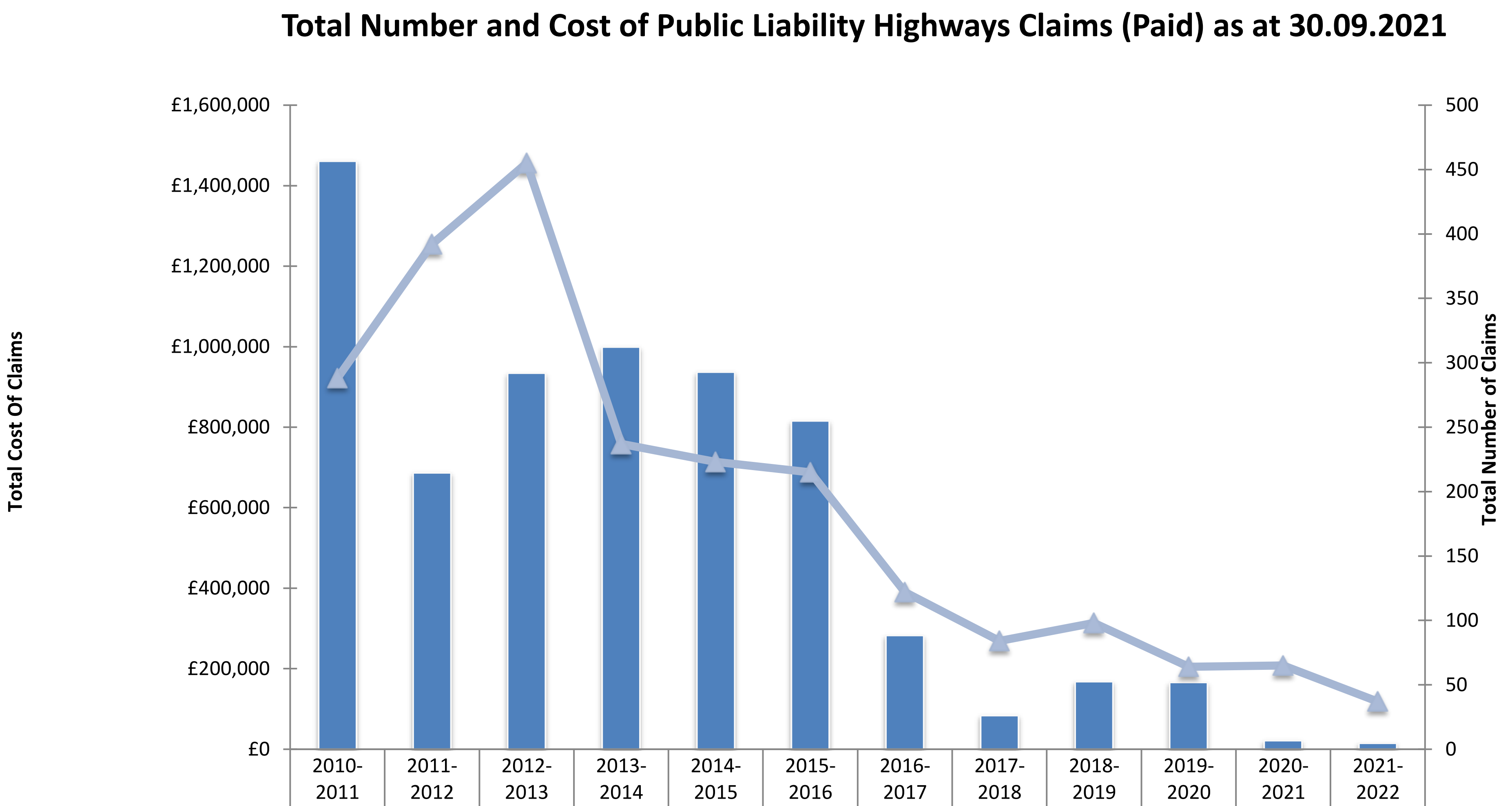
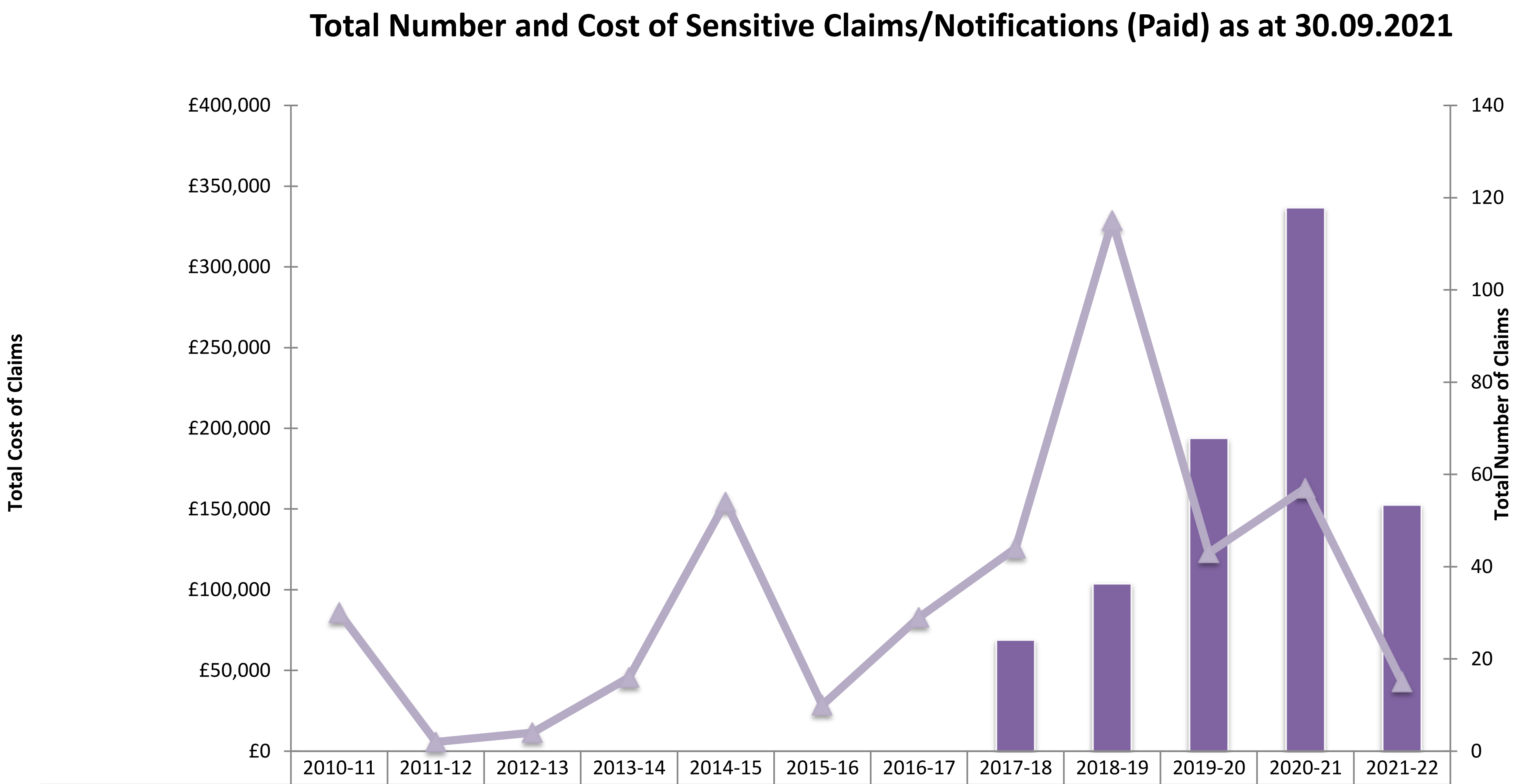
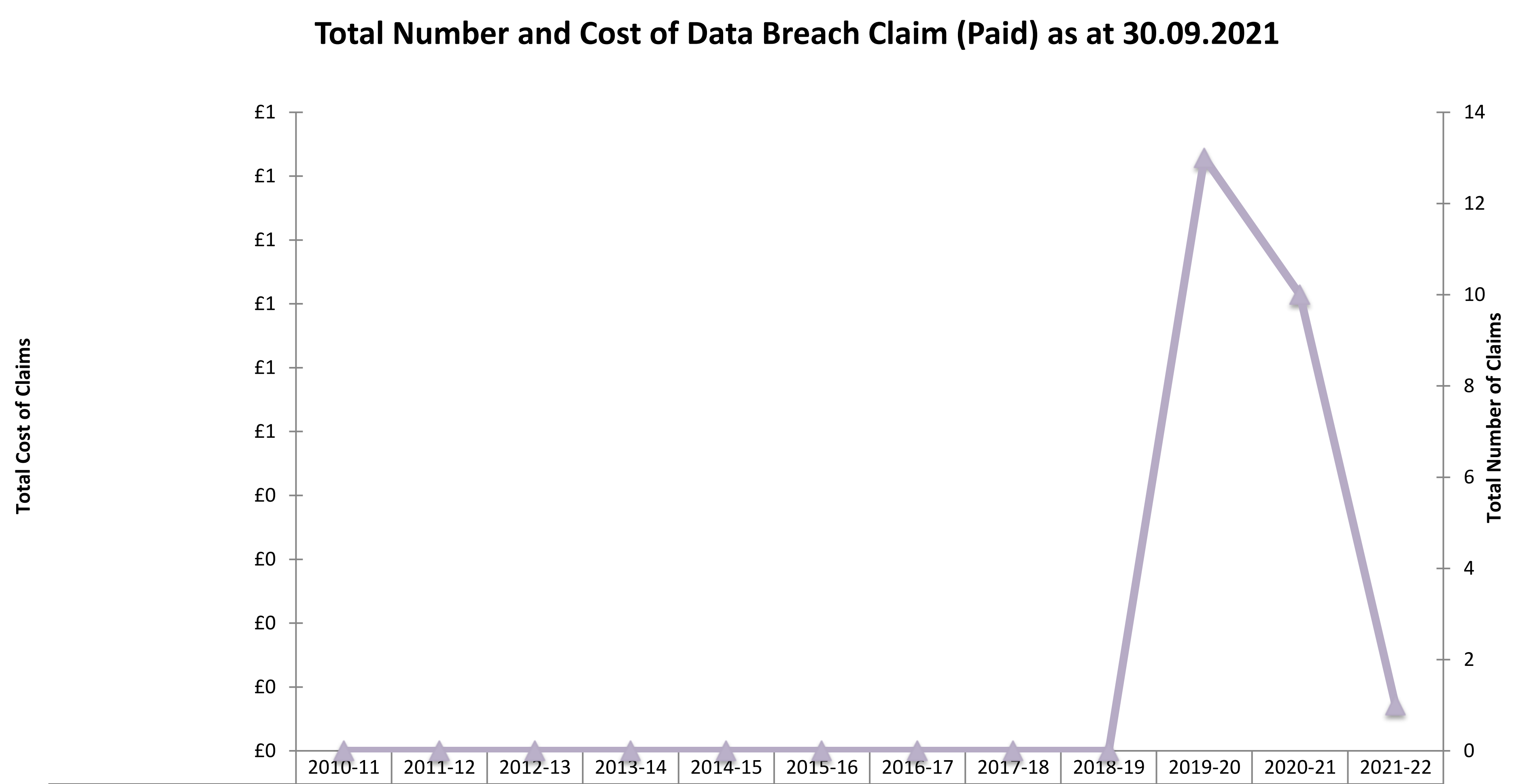


	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Payments Made	£1,460,5	£686,291	£934,112	£999,197	£936,676	£815,338	£282,325	£83,316	£167,924	£166,138	£21,369	£15,030
Total Number of Claims (By Notification Date)	288	392	455	237	223	215	122	84	98	64	65	37



	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Payments Made	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£68,803	£103,722	£193,832	£336,667	£152,577
Total Number of Claims/Notifications (By Notification Date)	30	2	4	16	54	10	29	44	115	43	57	15



	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Payments Made	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Total Number of Claims/Notifications (By Notification Date)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	10	1

AUDIT COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER

	DATE OF REQUEST	ACTION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG RATING
1	23.01.20	That the impact of the newly established joint working arrangements with the Department for Work and Pensions be reported to the Committee at a future meeting.	March 2022	Mrs Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk		Not yet due
2	24.09.20	To receive a 12 month update on the Internal Audit recommendations from the review of advertising.	December 2021	Mr Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communications		Not yet due
3	24.09.20	The Committee requested that further assurance around the governance framework for the Council's wholly owned companies be provided to Members via a briefing session.	April 2021	Mr Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships	Briefing session has been scheduled for Members to take place on 9 November 2021.	
4	30.11.20	To receive an update report on the cost analysis findings of Traffic Regulations Orders at a future meeting of the Committee.	January 2022	Mr John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services		Not yet due
5	30.11.20	To receive an update on the Commissioner's feedback in relation to Children's Social Care at a future meeting of the Committee.	November 2021	Ms Vicki Gent, Director of Children's Services	To be considered as part of the Strategic Risk Register – Service Failure report at the November 2021 meeting.	

	DATE OF REQUEST	ACTION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG RATING
6	30.11.20	To receive the results from the CIPFA benchmarking exercise at a future meeting of the Committee.	December 2021	Mrs Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk		Not yet due
7	21.01.21	To receive a progress report on the local Voluntary Community Faith Sector (VCFS) accord.	December 2021	Mrs Chloe Pieri, Community Engagement and Partnership Manager		Not yet due
8	21.01.21	To receive, in due course, Deloitte's detailed log of all additional work and the associated costs, with any materially significant queries identified.	TBC	Ms Nicola Wright, Deloitte		Not yet due
9	25.03.21	The Committee agreed to revisit the communications strategy after a period of four months to receive an update on progress.	December 2021	Mr Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communications		Not yet due
10	29.04.21	That follow-up of the Priority Two and Priority Three recommendations from the internal audit review of the household waste recycling centre be added to the Audit Committee's plan.	December 2021	Mrs Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk		Not yet due
11	29.04.21	That the Chair of the Audit Committee give further consideration as to the role of the Committee in relation to	TBC	Mrs Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk		Not yet due

	DATE OF REQUEST	ACTION	TARGET DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE	RAG RATING
		contract management and procurement arrangements, in conjunction with Mrs Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk.				
12	30.09.21	The Committee to receive a progress update on the development of the junction of Common Edge Road following the appointment of a consultant and designers.	January 2022	Mr John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services		Not yet due

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