

Blackpool Council

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015



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EXPLANATORY FOREWORD

INTRODUCTION

The Statement of Accounts summarises the financial performance of the Council for the year ended 31st March 2015. The foreword gives a brief summary of the Council's overall financial results for 2014/2015, the type of expenditure incurred and the funds used to pay for it. It also highlights the main influences affecting the accounts and assists in the interpretation of the main accounting statements.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and the current *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom*, based on International Financial Reporting Standards.

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 2015. It shows the reserves and balances of the Council, its long-term indebtedness and the value of non-current assets and net current assets.

Cash Flow Statement

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

Housing Revenue Account

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

Collection Fund

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

Group Accounts

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

SUMMARY OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR

REVENUE SUMMARY

The budget for 2014/2015 was set by the Council on 28th February 2014 in the sum of £141.058m. There was no change in Council Tax at Band D £1,306.00 (£1,306.00 in 2013/2014) for services which are the responsibility of the Council to deliver. There was a small increase in Council Tax Band D £1,525.61 (£1,522.57 in 2013/2014) when precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Lancashire Fire Authority are included. The budget was financed as follows:

	£m
Revenue Support Grant	52.539
Non-Domestic Rate Baseline	24.218
Non-Domestic Rate Top-Up	18.804
Section 31 grants	2.573
Council Tax Freeze Grant	0.598
Collection Fund Deficit	(3.025)
Council Tax	45.351
	141.058

The provisional revenue outturn for 2014/2015 (before allowing for changes to working balances) is £142,121,000 compared with the approved adjusted cash limited budget of £142,440,000 – a net underspend of £319,000.

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

Directorate	2014/2015 Variance £000
Chief Executive	(9)
Deputy Chief Executive	(41)
Governance & Regulatory Services	14
Area Forum and Ward Budgets	(237)
Resources	40
Places	50
Strategic Leisure Assets	-
Community & Environmental Services	592
Adult Services	336
Children's Services	1,601
Public Health	-
Total	2,346

The main reasons for this net service overspend are:-

Service	Reasons	£000
Children's Services	The Children's Social Care division over-spent by £1.9m due to the continuing high numbers of Looked After Children (LAC). There was also a shortfall in grant income of £673,000 due to academy conversions. These cost pressures were partially offset by staffing and efficiency savings in other areas of Children's Services.	1,601
Community & Environmental Services	The main components of this overspend comprise of pressures on day-to-day income on Building Services, prudential borrowing costs associated with Project 30 and CSR savings no longer deemed achievable and where no alternative savings could be delivered. One-off efficiency savings have partly offset these overspends.	592
Adult Services	A brought forward budget gap of £2.5m was partially offset by releasing savings from the further integration of Health and Social Care services, budget rightsizing around Ordinary Residence and increased Fairer Charging income, leaving a recurrent gap of £1.5m. One-off staffing savings and a review of the balance sheet reduced the 2014/2015 in-year overspend down to £336,000.	336
Places/Resources/Governance & Regulatory Services	The majority of these overspends relate to staffing pressures and income targets not achieved.	104

Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	Vacancy savings plus additional income.	(50)
Area Forum and Ward Budgets	Scheme commitments of £237,000 that are being carried forward to 2015/2016 which reduces the true surplus on budget to zero.	(237)
Total		2,346

The financial outturn for budgets 'outside the cash limit' is detailed below and shows an aggregate underspending of £761,000. The main reasons for this are:-

Service	Reasons	£000
Parking Services	Although 2014/2015 has seen an improvement in patronage, the continuing challenging income target has led to this overspend.	744
Concessionary Fares	This overspend is due to higher than expected bus patronage as a result of displacement following the removal of discretionary Tramway concessions for non-Blackpool residents.	543
Investment Portfolio	The overspend of £116,000 is primarily due to the costs of a delay in the demolition of the Syndicate.	116
Council Tax and NNDR Cost of Collection	Reduction in costs recovered.	14
Land Charges	Legal costs relating to nationwide property search litigation have resulted in this overspend.	11
New Homes Bonus	-	4
Housing Benefits	Reduction in scanning and printing costs.	(22)
Subsidiary Companies	Mainly the result of the ending of financing payments relating to previous investment at Sandcastle Waterpark.	(78)
Previous Years' Pension Liability	Reduction in payment to Pension Fund due to schools converting to Academies.	(277)
Treasury Management	The use of temporary borrowing and internal financing has enabled long-term borrowing to be delayed, therefore achieving savings against interest payable.	(1,816)
Total		(761)

Treatment of Revenue Budget Variances

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

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

However, having considered the Provisional Revenue Outturn 2014/2015 in detail and the financial outlook it is recommended that:-

- the underspending of £237,000 on Area Forum and Ward Budgets is carried forward to 2015/2016 in full;
- all remaining under and overspendings are to be written off:

Directorate	£000
Children's Services	1,601
Community & Environmental Services	592
Adult Services	336
Places	50
Resources	40
Governance & Regulatory Services	14
Chief Executive	(9)
Deputy Chief Executive	(41)
Total	2,583

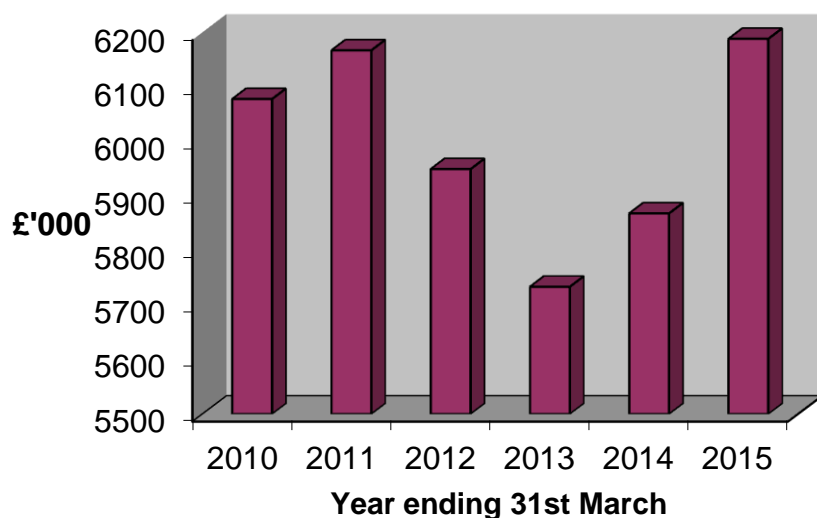
This will allow services to enter the new financial year in a balanced position and give directorates a realistic chance of meeting their budget savings targets for that year.

GENERAL FUND WORKING BALANCES

In setting the Council's original budget for 2014/2015 the target General Fund working balances as at 31st March 2015 were approximately £6m. However the outturn position means that the actual General Fund working balances as at 31st March 2015 were £6,188,000

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

General Fund Balances



CAPITAL SUMMARY

The total of the Council's capital spending in 2014/2015 was £43.4m, which is a 47.3% decrease from the previous year. The main reason for the decrease in capital spending is that many of the larger schemes have completed e.g. Project 30, Central Business District, St Mary's school. The net book value of the Council's non-current assets as at 31st March 2015 was £781.9m.

The main areas of capital spending during the year were:

	2013/2014 £m	2014/2015 £m
Children's Services	18.0	2.2
Adult Services	2.7	1.8
Human Resources and IT	2.4	1.4
Community and Environmental Services	2.5	12.0
Transport	16.0	7.2
Housing - Private Sector Housing	4.5	3.0
Housing - HRA	11.3	11.8
Places	1.9	1.2
Resources	23.1	2.8
Total	82.4	43.4

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

	2013/2014 £m	2014/2015 £m
Capital receipts	0.3	2.4
Grants	33.7	23.0
Borrowing	39.7	5.0
Other	8.7	13.0
Total	82.4	43.4

As at 31st March 2015 the Council held a balance of usable capital receipts amounting to £3.4m. 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.

- £34m of investment was made in Blackpool Tower and Winter Gardens with funding made available by ERDF, NWDA and Homes & Communities Agency. The Council is continuing to make a significant contribution to improve and develop the facilities in order to meet the requirements of the current market.
- Project 30 commenced in 2011/2012 and was completed in 2014/2015. This was an investment of £30m over 4 years to update the road network and infrastructure to a level considered adequate for a town of Blackpool's stature. This investment will provide significant long-term benefits for the town whose roads required upgrading.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

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

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT RESERVES

The balance on the HRA reserve stands at £5.6m at 31 March 2015.

ACCOUNTING PRACTICE COMPLIANCE

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 and the current *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom*, based on International Financial Reporting Standards.

In accordance with the latest *CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom*, which is applicable to financial reporting from 1st April 2014, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account is presented using a Service Expenditure Analysis (SEA) reflecting the Service Reporting Accounting Code of Practice approach to consistent financial reporting. The accounting policies adopted by the Council are explained fully in Note 1 in Section 5.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY CONTROLS & TARGETS

In 2014/2015 the Council did not apply for any supported capital expenditure (SCE) approvals in order to borrow for capital purposes. It is government policy to gradually replace SCEs with Capital Grant. In addition the Council also has authority to prudentially borrow to fund schemes. The costs of this borrowing must be met from the service revenue budget over the useful life of the asset and it is the Council's policy that the cost of the capital scheme using prudential borrowing must have a nil effect on the council tax. Therefore, increased income/savings must be achievable before the scheme can go ahead.

The Council set aside a minimum revenue provision (MRP) of £7.022m representing 4% of the capital financing requirement, as adjusted in respect of the commutation of certain Government housing grants. In addition to the statutory minimum of 4%, £1.035m has been set aside to repay debt relating to shorter life assets that have been funded by prudential borrowing.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Transparency

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

Further information about this Statement of Accounts is available from:

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

Public Inspection of Accounts

Interested members of the public have a statutory right to inspect the accounts before the audit is completed. This inspection will take place from 6th July until 31st July 2015 for the 2014/2015 Statement of Accounts. The availability of the accounts for inspection was advertised in the local press in June 2015.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1. THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council is required to:

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

Chair –Audit Committee

Date

2. THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Director of Resources has:

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

The Director of Resources has also:

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

3. THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES' CERTIFICATE

The Statement of Accounts represents fairly the financial position of the Council at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2015.



S Thompson
Director of Resources
29th June 2015

SECTION 3

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report will be inserted following audit of accounts

SECTION 4

CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and unusable reserves. The surplus or (deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the authority's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account for council tax setting and dwellings rent setting purposes. The Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Authority.

2014/2015

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

2013/2014

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	HRA	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Reserves	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 31st March 2013	(11,183)	(43,980)	(3,388)	(2,734)	-	(6,599)	(67,884)	(336,874)	(404,758)
Movements in Reserves in 2013/2014									
(Surplus) or Deficit on the provision of services	65,881	-	(65)	-	-	-	65,816	-	65,816
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(57,801)	(57,801)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	65,881	-	(65)	-	-	-	65,816	(57,801)	8,015
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	(69,500)	-	(2,820)	(249)	4,219	-	(68,350)	68,350	-
Net (Increase) or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	(3,619)	-	(2,885)	(249)	4,219	-	(2,534)	10,549	8,015
Transfer to/(from) Earmarked Reserves (Note 8)	4,724	(5,991)	2,086	(425)	(4,219)	(394)	(4,219)	4,219	-
(Increase)/Decrease in 2013/2014	1,105	(5,991)	(799)	(674)	-	(394)	(6,753)	14,768	8,015
Balance as at 31st March 2014	(10,078)	(49,971)	(4,187)	(3,408)	-	(6,993)	(74,637)	(322,106)	(396,743)

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015

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.

2013/2014				2014/2015		
Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000		Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
32,334	(11,415)	20,919	Central Services to the Public	13,127	(3,316)	9,811
25,094	(9,065)	16,029	Cultural and Related Services	17,781	(10,078)	7,703
35,267	(10,477)	24,790	Environment and Regulatory Services	17,622	5,297	22,919
273	(937)	(664)	Planning Services	2,276	(1,304)	972
158,964	(110,347)	48,617	Childrens and Education Services	118,898	(78,397)	40,501
37,391	(12,366)	25,025	Highways and Transport Services	36,557	(15,827)	20,730
17,067	(18,034)	(967)	Local Authority Housing (HRA)	17,629	(18,525)	(896)
95,942	(92,102)	3,840	Other Housing Services	90,414	(85,667)	4,747
68,680	(19,492)	49,188	Adult Social Care	70,857	(24,608)	46,249
15,120	(17,622)	(2,502)	Public Health	15,646	(17,337)	(1,691)
3,395	(3,362)	33	Corporate and Democratic Core	2,504	(2,451)	53
(38)	3,357	3,319	Non-Distributed Cost	(5,596)	3,560	(2,036)
489,489	(301,862)	187,627	Cost of Services	397,715	(248,653)	149,062
		40,776	Other Operating Expenditure (Note 9)			53,841
		5,543	Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure - Other (Note 10)			1,904
		8,740	Income & Expenditure in relation to Investment Properties and changes in their fair value (Notes 14)			1,550
		(176,870)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income - Other (Note 11)			(158,271)
		65,816	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			48,086
		(14,609)	Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment assets			3,983
		5,701	Impairment (gains)/losses on non-current assets charged to Revaluation Reserve			(2,148)
		400	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets			(300)
		18	Movement on financial instruments adjustment account			953
		(48,936)	Actuarial gains / losses on pension assets / liabilities			62,229
		(375)	Other Movements			785
		(57,801)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			65,502
		8,015	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			113,588

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015

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 2014		Notes	31st March 2015
£000			£000
810,448	Property, Plant and Equipment	12	759,842
7,764	Heritage Assets	13	7,764
13,450	Investment Property	14	13,398
129	Intangible Assets	15	97
482	Assets Held for Sale	16	763
9,900	Long Term Investments	18	10,204
10,561	Long Term Debtors	19	10,258
852,734	Long Term Assets		802,326
550	Short Term Assets Held for Sale		550
607	Inventories	20	449
38,790	Short Term Debtors	21	36,450
711	Payments in Advance	22	564
-	Short Term Investments		350
6,854	Cash and Cash Equivalents	23	3,224
47,512	Current Assets		41,587
(45,348)	Short Term Borrowing		(52,815)
(51,940)	Short Term Creditors	25	(41,713)
(13,662)	Receipts in Advance	24	(13,100)
(14,042)	Short Term Provisions	26	(17,834)
(124,992)	Current Liabilities		(125,462)
(81,061)	Long Term Creditors	25	(81,899)
(94,586)	Long Term Borrowing		(88,023)
(192,012)	Other Long Term Liabilities		(254,027)
(10,852)	Capital Grants in Advance		(11,347)
(378,511)	Long Term Liabilities		(435,296)
396,743	Net Assets		283,155
(74,637)	Usable Reserves	27	(70,702)
(322,106)	Unusable Reserves	28	(212,453)
(396,743)	Total Reserves		(283,155)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015

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.

2013/2014 £000		Notes	2014/2015 £000
65,816	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services		48,086
(64,001)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	29	(8,592)
(31,765)	Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	29	(62,161)
(29,950)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		(22,667)
35,314	Investing Activities	30	18,641
(28,602)	Financing Activities	31	134
(23,238)	Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(3,892)
(104,274)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		(127,512)
(127,512)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	32	(131,404)

SECTION 5

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

i. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2014/2015 financial year and its position at the year-end 31st March 2015. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, which those regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/2015* (the 'Code') and the *Service Reporting Code of Practice 2014/2015* (SERCOP) supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the 2003 Act.

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

ii. ACCRUALS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

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

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

iii. ACQUIRED AND DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

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

iv. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature within three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

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

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

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

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

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

vi. CHARGES TO REVENUE FOR NON-CURRENT ASSETS

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

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

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

vii. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Benefits Payable During Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements and flexi time earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement on Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

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

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional

debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year end.

Post - Employment Benefits

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

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

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

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

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the Lancashire County Council pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – ie an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by the employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc and projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 12.8% (4.12% in 2013/2014) (based on the weighted average of "spot yields" on AA rated corporate bonds).
- The assets of the Lancashire County Council pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
 - Quoted securities – current bid price
 - Unquoted securities – professional estimate
 - Unitised securities – current bid price
 - Property – market value

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

- Service cost comprising:
 - Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the revenue accounts for services for which the employees worked
 - Past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs
 - Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), ie net interest expense for the Council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes

in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

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

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

Discretionary Benefits

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

viii. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

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

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

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

ix. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial Liabilities

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

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

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

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

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified into two types:

- Loans and receivables – assets that have fixed or determinable payments but are not quoted in an active market
- Available-for-sale assets – assets that have a quoted market price and/or do not have fixed or determinable payments.

Loans and Receivables

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

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

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

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

Available-for-Sale Assets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

x. FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

Where the Council has entered into a transaction denominated in a foreign currency, the transaction is converted into sterling at the exchange rate applicable on the date the transaction was effective. Where amounts in foreign currency are outstanding at the year end they are reconverted at the spot exchange

rate at 31st March. Resulting gains or losses are recognised in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

xi. GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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

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

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has not yet been used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve. Where it has been applied it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

Business Improvement District

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

xii. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

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

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

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

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

abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

xiii. HERITAGE ASSETS

Tangible and Intangible Heritage Assets

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

Illuminations Historic Collection

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

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

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

Art Collection

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

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

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

Tower Company Collection and Local and Family History Collections

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

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

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

Civic Regalia

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

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

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

Cenotaph

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

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

Stanley Park Statues

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

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

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

xiv. INTERESTS IN COMPANIES AND OTHER ENTITIES

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

xv. INVENTORIES AND LONG TERM CONTRACTS

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

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

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

xvi. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

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

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, based on the amount at which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable parties at arm's length. Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

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

xvii. JOINTLY CONTROLLED OPERATIONS AND JOINTLY CONTROLLED ASSETS

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

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

xviii. LEASES

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

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

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

The Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

Property, Plant and Equipment held under finance leases is recognised in the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay

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

Lease payments are apportioned between:

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

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

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

Operating Leases

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

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

The Authority as Lessor

Finance Leases

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

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

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

The gain credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt. Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be

settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When the future rentals are received, the element for the capital receipt for the disposal of the asset is used to write down the lease debtor. At this point, the deferred capital receipts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

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

Operating Leases

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

xix. OVERHEADS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to those that benefit from the supply or service in accordance with the costing principles of the *CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice 2014/2015 (SERCOP)*. The total absorption costing principle is used – full cost of overheads and support services are shared between users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

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

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

The main basis for charging of overhead costs is: -

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

xx. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

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

Recognition

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

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising

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

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

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

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

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost
- Dwellings – fair value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH)
- All other assets – fair value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

Where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of fair value.

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year end, but as a minimum every four years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains.

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

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

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

Impairment

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

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

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

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

Depreciation

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer.
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – a percentage of the value of each class of assets in the Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer.
- Infrastructure – straight line allocation over 25 years

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

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

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through the sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is classified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in

fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

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

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

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains that have accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

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

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

xxi. PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI) AND SIMILAR CONTRACTS

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

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

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

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

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

- **Contingent rent** – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Waste Disposal PFI

In 2007 the Council entered into a Joint Working Arrangement with Lancashire County Council (LCC) to co-operate in the provision of certain waste disposal functions. The Council authorised Lancashire County Council to enter into a PFI contract with Global Renewables Lancashire Limited and administer all matters under that contract on behalf of Blackpool Council. The arrangement was due to be a commitment until March 2037.

The parties agreed to complete the termination of the contract on 31st July 2014. The former Operating Company transferred into the ownership of LCC with the Council due to receive a 12.5% share. The Operating Company continue to operate the facility under a Service Level Agreement with LCC. At the end of the concession period LCC may retender the service. If the Council decided that it no longer wished to continue with the contract then LCC would have to pay Blackpool the relevant rental value for its share in the assets. If LCC decides to dispose of the asset then the Council would receive a relevant percentage of the proceeds of the sale.

Street Lighting & Signals PFI

The project commenced on 4th January 2010 and is for 25 years. The total value of the project is £129m and includes the replacement of approximate 16,000 streetlights and signals. The service provider is Community Lighting Partnership.

Highfield Humanities College PFI

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

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

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

xxii. PROVISIONS, CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

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

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

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year – where it becomes less than

probable that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

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

Contingent Liabilities

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

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

Contingent Assets

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

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

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

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

xxiv. RESERVES

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

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

xxv. REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Council has determined to meet

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

xxvi. VAT

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

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

Under the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2014/15* (the Code), the Council is required to disclose information setting out the impact of an accounting change required by a new accounting standard that has been issued but not yet adopted by the Code.

The following standards have been issued and will be adopted by the Code in 2015/16. These will be applicable to the Council from 1st April 2015.

- IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement – This introduces a requirement for the concept of fair value measurement to be applied to all assets and liabilities which use fair value as a measurement basis. In respect of property, plant and equipment the only change is in the valuation of surplus property. Currently surplus property is valued at existing use value before being classified as surplus assets. In future surplus assets will be valued at fair value.
- IFRIC 21 Levies – This clarifies the recognition point for payment of levies as the activity which triggers the payment of the levy. This is not expected to have any impact on the Council as this is already current accounting practice.

3. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1 the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgments made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of the need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.
- The Council is deemed to control the services provided under the agreement for the replacement and upgrade of street lighting and also to control the residual value of the lighting at the end of the agreement. The accounting policies for PFI schemes and similar contracts have been applied to the arrangements and the assets are recognised as Property, Plant and Equipment on the Council's Balance Sheet.
- The following claims have potentially significant settlement values:
 - There are a number of claims against the Authority regarding accidents and injuries sustained on Council land.
 - There are a number of claims against the Authority regarding injuries sustained on roads and footpaths.
- Schools which have converted to Academies are not included in the Council's Balance Sheet. When a school which is held on the Council's Balance Sheet transfers to Academy status the Council accounts for this as a disposal for nil consideration, on the date the school converts to Academy status. All other schools except one voluntary aided school are included on the Council's balance sheet in line with accounting standards following an assessment of the ownership of these schools.

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

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

The items in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31st March 2015 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are shown below:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property Plant and Equipment	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Authority will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.	If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the asset falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £164,013 for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The effects on the net pensions liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured although the assumptions interact in complex ways. During 2014/2015 the Council's actuaries advised that the net pension liability has increased by £62.229m.
Arrears	At 31/3/15 the Authority had a balance of sundry debtors of £5.3m. £2.5m of this balance was expected to be paid in full. A review of the remaining £2.8m suggested that an impairment of doubtful debts of 40% was appropriate. However, in the current economic climate it is not certain that such an allowance would be sufficient.	If collection rates were to deteriorate a doubling of the impairment of doubtful debts would require an additional £1.6m to be set aside as an allowance.
Business Rates	Since the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme on 1 st 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 31 st March 2015. 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 31 st March 2015.	If the level of appeals were to increase by 1% it would require an additional £103,800 to be set aside.

5. MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

The Council has transferred land and buildings for the following 8 schools which moved to Academy status during the year. The value of the land and buildings that are no longer on the Council's balance sheet are:

	2014/2015 £000
St Mary's High School	21,958
St Georges High School	8,853
Collegiate High School	8,500
Bispham High School	8,313
Christ the King	6,055
Baines Endowed Primary School	2,726
Revoe Primary School	2,689
St Cuthberts Primary School	2,250
Total	61,344

6. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Resources on 29th June 2015. 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 2015, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

7. ADJUSTMENT BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

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

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

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

Major Repairs Reserve

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

Capital Receipts Reserve

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

Capital Grants Unapplied

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

2014/2015	Usable Reserves					Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
	General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Reserves £000	
Adjustments involving the Capital Adjustment Account:						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(29,941)	(3,135)				33,076
Capital grants and contributions applied	16,135					(16,135)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(2,121)					2,121
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(53,202)					53,202
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Statutory provision for the financing of investment Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	9,361					(9,361)
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Contribution from Capital Reserves						-
Adjustment involving the Major Repairs Reserve						
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure				4,104		(4,104)
Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:						
Amounts by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	(953)					953
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	6,980					(6,980)
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year						-
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which council tax and non domestic rating income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and non domestic rating income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	243					(243)
Adjustment involving the Available for Sale Reserve						
Gain/loss on revaluation of investments	300					(300)
Adjustment involving the Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	574					(574)
Total Adjustments	(52,624)	(3,135)	-	4,104	-	51,655

	Usable Reserves					Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
	General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Reserves £000	
2013/2014						
Adjustments involving the Capital Adjustment Account:						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(65,110)	(2,820)				67,930
Capital grants and contributions applied	23,977					(23,977)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(2,159)					2,159
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	(40,050)					40,050
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Statutory provision for the financing of investment Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	8,996					(8,996)
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Contribution from Capital Reserves			(249)			249
Adjustment involving the Major Repairs Reserve						
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure				4,219		(4,219)
Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:						
Amounts by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	18					(18)
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	8,475					(8,475)
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(7,550)					7,550
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which council tax and non domestic rating income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and non domestic rating income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	2,660					(2,660)
Adjustment involving the Available for Sale Reserve						
Gain/loss on revaluation of investments	400					(400)
Adjustment involving the Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	843					(843)
Total Adjustments	(69,500)	(2,820)	(249)	4,219	-	68,350

8. TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund and HRA balances in Earmarked Reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from Earmarked Reserves to meet General Fund and HRA expenditure in 2014/2015.

	Balance at 1st April 2013 £000	Transfers Out 2013/2014 £000	Transfers In 2013/2014 £000	Balance at 31st March 2014 £000	Transfers Out 2014/2015 £000	Transfers In 2014/2015 £000	Balance at 31st March 2015 £000
General Fund:							
Balances held by schools under scheme of delegation (1)	(5,448)	2,283	(1,044)	(4,209)	3,156	(1,923)	(2,976)
School DSG Underspend (1)	-	-	-	-	-	(2,078)	(2,078)
Unallocated Reserves	(5,735)	-	(134)	(5,869)	-	(319)	(6,188)
Total General Fund	(11,183)	2,283	(1,178)	(10,078)	3,156	(4,320)	(11,242)
Earmarked Reserves							
Potential Pay Liabilities	(8,410)	2,208	(699)	(6,901)	3,681	(11)	(3,231)
Public/Private Partnership Reserve	(12,090)	-	(3,338)	(15,428)	3,770	(5,692)	(17,350)
Council Tax & Non-Domestic Rates Deficits	(6,971)	2,220	(4,971)	(9,722)	4,604	(7,157)	(12,275)
Service Underspends	(3,939)	200	-	(3,739)	4,648	(2,800)	(1,891)
Specific Settlements in Dispute	(1,582)	-	(25)	(1,607)	1,060	-	(547)
Strategic Investments	(720)	100	-	(620)	300	-	(320)
Financial systems upgrade, renewals & replacements	(467)	110	-	(357)	106	-	(251)
Financial Instruments	(547)	-	-	(547)	533	-	(14)
Treasury Management - Prudential borrowing	(1,669)	-	(203)	(1,872)	240	(885)	(2,517)
Insurances	(1,506)	1,506	-	-	-	-	-
Other	(6,079)	2,453	(5,552)	(9,178)	7,279	(5,729)	(7,628)
Total Earmarked Reserves	(43,980)	8,797	(14,788)	(49,971)	26,221	(22,274)	(46,024)
HRA							
Housing Revenue Account	(3,388)	-	(799)	(4,187)	-	(1,430)	(5,617)

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

9. OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
65	Flood Defence Levy	65
249	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	272
40,462	Gains/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	53,504
40,776	Total	53,841

10. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
6,764	Interest payable and similar charges	7,454
(4,872)	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	(6,009)
(507)	Interest receivable and similar income	(533)
(500)	Dividend - Blackpool Transport Services	(600)
4,658	Waste PFI Financing Charges	1,592
5,543	Total	1,904

11. TAXATION AND NON SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
(44,983)	Council Tax Income	(45,351)
(1,753)	Collection Fund (surplus)/deficit	1,154
(23,682)	Retained Business Rates	(23,638)
(18,444)	Business Rates Top Up	(18,804)
(64,031)	Non-ringfenced government grants	(55,497)
(23,977)	Capital Grants & contributions	(16,135)
(176,870)	Total Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	(158,271)

12. PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (PPE)

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

2014/2015

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

COMPARATIVE MOVEMENTS 2013/2014

	Council							PFI Assets Included in PPE £000
	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 2013	94,526	375,908	31,073	430,937	66	30,032	962,542	82,341
Additions	11,337	27,849	4,768	23,970	-	18,607	86,531	6,600
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	-	(6,092)	-	699	-	-	(5,393)	-
Revaluation increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(6,440)	(38,175)	-	-	-	-	(44,615)	700
Derecognition - Disposals	(878)	(40,849)	-	-	-	(5,330)	(47,057)	-
Transfer	-	53,903	-	(21,114)	-	(32,678)	111	-
Balance as at 31 March 2014	98,545	372,544	35,841	434,492	66	10,631	952,119	89,641
Depreciation and Impairment								
Balance as at 1 April 2013	(2,185)	(13,374)	(22,976)	(85,662)	-	-	(124,197)	(1,350)
Depreciation Charge	(2,133)	(11,335)	(2,664)	(15,293)	-	-	(31,425)	(1,670)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	4,006	-	-	-	-	4,006	-
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,185	4,568	-	-	-	-	6,753	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	3,192	-	-	-	-	3,192	-
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2014	(2,133)	(12,943)	(25,640)	(100,955)	-	-	(141,671)	(3,020)
Net Book Value								
Balance as at 31 March 2014	96,412	359,601	10,201	333,537	66	10,631	810,448	86,621
Balance as at 31 March 2013	92,341	362,534	8,097	345,275	66	30,032	838,345	80,991

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 2015, the Council has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2015/2016 and future years budgeted to cost £3m. Similar commitments at 31st March 2014 were £8m. The major commitment in relation to the Queens Park re-development.

Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every four years. Valuations were carried out both internally and externally during 2014/2015. These valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Valuations of vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are based on current prices where there is an active second-hand market or latest list prices adjusted for the condition of the asset.

The significant assumptions in estimating fair values are:-

	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total £000
Carried at Historic Cost			38,439	763	39,202
Valued at fair value as at:					
31/03/2015	98,578	79,246			177,824
31/03/2014		149,803			149,803
31/03/2013		50,137			50,137
31/03/2012		34,167			34,167
Total Cost or Valuation	98,578	313,353	38,439	763	451,133

Component Accounting

Council Dwellings

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

Asset Type £000	Land £000	Kitchens and Bathrooms £000	Structure £000	Total £000
Houses & Bungalows	16,665	3,214	27,257	47,136
Flats	21,827	6,847	21,962	50,636
Total	38,492	10,061	49,219	97,772

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, the items valued in 2014/2015 and are now included on a component basis are shown below. The total value of assets within land and buildings that have been valued on a component basis is £78.9m and this represents 26% of the total land and buildings.

Asset	Land £000	Building £000	Machinery / Equipment £000	Roofs / Fenestration £000	Total £000
Marton Mere caravan park	5,580	-	-	-	5,580
Gorton St Sports Barn	200	479	287	192	1,158
Moor Park Primary	550	1,410	850	560	3,370
Stanley Primary	340	2,375	1,430	945	5,090
Stanley Park Sports Centre	290	2,165	1,300	865	4,620
My Place	65	1,890	1,160	735	3,850
Palatine Library	70	700	420	280	1,470
Palatine Sports Centre	500	2,590	3,235	645	6,970
Claremont Primary	210	1,008	603	405	2,226
Leys Road	1,650	-	-	-	1,650
Coastal House	432	454	302	252	1,440
Bickerstaffe House	1,000	7,345	4,407	2,938	15,690
Blackpool Tower	2,580	10,449	6,966	5,805	25,800
Total	13,467	30,865	20,960	13,622	78,914
Depreciation rates	Nil	2%	8%	4%	

13. HERITAGE ASSETS

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

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

	Art Collection	Civic Regalia	Other	Tower & Local History Collection	Illuminations	Stanley Park Statues	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation 1st April 2013	5,000	591	120	900	500	653	7,764
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance 31st March 2014	5,000	591	120	900	500	653	7,764

Art Collection

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

Civic Regalia

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

Cenotaph

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

Tower & Local History Collection

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

Illuminations

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

Statues

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

14. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

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

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
(925)	Rental income from investment property	(973)
2,447	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	2,427
7,218	Net (gains)/losses from fair value adjustments	96
8,740	Net (gain)/loss	1,550

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.

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
11,685	Balance at start of the year	13,450
338	Additions: - Purchases	44
(431)	Disposals	-
(122)	Net gains/(losses) from fair value adjustments	(96)
1,980	Other Changes	-
13,450	Balance at end of the year	13,398

15. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

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

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

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on straight line basis. The amortisation of £32,341 charged to revenue in 2014/2015 was charged to the ICT Administration cost centre and then absorbed as an overhead across all the service headings in the Cost of Services. It is not possible to quantify exactly how much of the amortisation is attributable to each service heading.

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

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
162	Balance at start of year	129
(33)	Amortisation for period	(32)
129	Net carrying amount at end of year	97
	Comprising:	
162	Gross carrying amounts	129
(33)	Accumulated amortisation	(32)

16. ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
3,350	Balance outstanding at start of year	482
(308)	Revaluation gains/(losses)	129
(160)	Impairment losses	(134)
	Assets declassified as held for sale:	
(2,400)	Property, plant and equipment	286
482	Balance outstanding at end of year	763

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

	Long Term		Current	
	31st March 2015 £000	31st March 2014 £000	31st March 2015 £000	31st March 2014 £000
Investments				
Loans and receivables	2,500	2,500	3,055	2,578
Unquoted equity investment at cost*	10,204	9,900	-	-
Total Investments	12,704	12,400	3,055	2,578
Debtors				
Financial assets carried at contract amounts	-	-	36,450	38,790
Total included in Debtors	-	-	36,450	38,790
Borrowings				
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(88,574)	(98,434)	(52,815)	(41,500)
Total included in borrowings	(88,574)	(98,434)	(52,815)	(41,500)
Creditors				
Financial liabilities carried at contract amount	(81,899)	(81,061)	(41,713)	(51,940)
Total creditors	(81,899)	(81,061)	(41,713)	(51,940)

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

Material Soft Loan made by the Authority to Lancashire County Developments

Upon Local Government Reorganisation in 1998 the Authority took over a 10% share in a loan made to Lancashire County Developments by Lancashire County Council. The loan is now due to be repaid in 2031. Under requirements of IAS 32 this loan has been revalued to fair value. The original amount of the loan was £721,000. The fair value of the loan in 2014/2015 was £356,279 (£340,459 in 2013/2014).

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

Employee Car Loans

The authority has made loans for car purchase to 13 employees in the authority who are in posts that require them to drive regularly on the authority's business. Interest is charged on the loans at 5.5%.

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Balance at start of year	48	91
New loans granted in year	31	6
Loans repaid	(42)	(49)
Balance at end of year	37	48

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

(1) Available for Sale Assets – The Authority holds all of the shares in Blackpool Transport Services Ltd which operates buses and trams within the Blackpool area. The shares cost £2,789,000. The fair value of the shares, based on the accounts to 31st March 2015 is £9.5m.

	2014/2015				2013/2014			
	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £'000	Financial Assets - loans & receivables £'000	Financial Assets - Available for Sale £'000	Total £'000	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £'000	Financial Assets - loans & receivables £'000	Financial Assets - Available for Sale £'000	Total £'000
Interest expense	7,454	-	-	7,454	6,749	-	-	6,749
Total expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	7,454	-	-	7,454	6,749	-	-	6,749
Interest income	-	(533)	-	(533)	-	(507)	-	(507)
Total income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(533)	-	(533)	-	(507)	-	(507)
Gains on revaluation	-	-	300	300	-	-	400	400
Surplus/deficit arising on revaluation of financial assets in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	300	300	-	-	400	400
Net gain/(loss) for the year	7,454	(533)	300	7,221	6,749	(507)	400	6,642

Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

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

- Estimated ranges of interest rates at 31st March 2015 of 1.67% to 9.5% for loans from the PWLB and 3.9% to 9.75% for other loans receivable and payable, based on new lending rates for equivalent loans at that date
- no early repayment or impairment is recognised
- where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, carrying amount is assumed to be approximate to fair value
- the fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated as follows:

	31st March 2015		31st March 2014	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Financial Liabilities	140,838	141,389	139,934	162,388
Long term creditors	110,954	110,954	110,325	110,325

The fair value of the liabilities is higher than the carrying amount because the Authority's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the prevailing rates at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future loss (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2015) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates.

	31st March 2015		31st March 2014	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Loans and receivables	4,573	4,573	8,550	8,550
Long term debtors	10,623	10,258	10,942	10,561
Short term debtors	37,014	37,014	39,501	39,501

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 2015) attributable to the commitment to receive interest below current market rates.

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

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

18. LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS

31st March 2014 £000		31st March 2015 £000
	Ordinary Shares (£1 per share) in:-	
9,200	Blackpool Transport Services Ltd	9,500
700	5% Share in Blackpool Airport	700
0	Municipal Bonds Agency	4
9,900	Total	10,204

BLACKPOOL TRANSPORT SERVICES LIMITED

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

The quoted market share prices, similar comparative companies and the audited accounts of Blackpool Transport Services have been used as the basis upon which to arrive at a formal valuation for the Council's shareholding of the company. The investment value included within the Council's Balance Sheet represents the value of Total Equity Shareholder Funds. In 2014/2015 there was an increase in value of £300,000. All profit and losses on revaluation are credited or charged to the Available for Sale Reserve via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

BLACKPOOL AIRPORT

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

MUNICIPAL BONDS AGENCY

A Local Government Association backed firm called Local Capital Finance Company (Municipal Bonds Agency) has been formed to issue bonds. The money raised from investors will then lend onwards to Councils to either invest in capital projects or to refinance existing loans. In 2014/2015 the Council purchased £4,000 worth of shares in the Company.

BLACKPOOL OPERATING COMPANY LTD (SANDCASTLE WATERPARK)

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

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

BLACKPOOL ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

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

BLACKPOOL HOUSING COMPANY

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

GLOBAL RENEWABLES LANCASHIRE OPERATIONS LIMITED (GRLOL)

On the 31st July 2014 Lancashire County Council and Global Renewables Lancashire Limited agreed to the consensual termination of the Waste Disposal PFI contract. The former operating company, GRLOL, transferred into the ownership of Lancashire County Council with Blackpool Council due to receive 12.5% of the shares in that company on signature of a Deed of variation to the Joint Working Arrangement between the two Authorities. (The consideration paid for the shareholding of GRLOL by LCC was £1.)

19. LONG-TERM DEBTORS

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

31st March 2014 £000		31st March 2015 £000
552	Waste Disposal Site (prev PFI)	552
221	Care & Repair Loans	221
34	Car Loans	33
40	Marketing Lancashire	40
340	Lancashire County Developments	356
268	Business Loans	360
5,000	Blackpool Pleasure Beach	5,000
88	HRA - Loan	0
24	Council Mortgages - (Right to Buy)	19
2,500	Local Authority Mortgage Scheme	2,500
300	VIA	300
1,194	Adult Social Care Deferred Payments	877
10,561	Total	10,258

Waste Disposal Site

The total value of land held under the Waste Disposal contract at current market value is estimated at £4.415m. Under the terms of the Joint Working Agreement, Blackpool Council will be due a 12.5% share of this at the end of the contract.

Care and Repair Loans

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

Car Loans

The number of outstanding long-term car loans at 31st March 2015 was 7 (14 as at 31 March 2014). See note 17 for breakdown.

Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board

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

Lancashire County Developments

The loan to Lancashire County Developments is due to be repaid in 2031. Under the requirements of IAS 32 this loan has been revalued to fair value. The original amount of the loan was £721,000. The fair value of the loan in 2014/2015 was £356,279 (£340,459 in 2013/2014). The movement in fair value of £15,820 has been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account and then transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account via Movement in Reserves. This does not affect the loan repayment due to the authority in 2031.

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

Business Loans

In 2009/2010 the Council set up a £3m fund for businesses to safeguard and create jobs and help Blackpool get through the recession. The aim of the fund is to provide a lifeline for local, normally sound businesses that are currently experiencing difficulty in getting finance from the banks because of the global slow down. These loans have been divided into four categories:

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

Two new loans totalling £227,839 were issued in 2014/2015.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach

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

Local Authority Mortgage Scheme

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

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

VIA Loan

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

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

Adult Social Care Deferred Payments Scheme

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

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

20. INVENTORIES

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

2013/2014	Consumables £000	Materials £000	Work in Progress £000	Total £000
Balance outstanding at start of the year	214	351	185	750
Purchases	68	1,692	1	1,761
Recognised as an expense in the year	(68)	(1,744)	(92)	(1,904)
Balance outstanding at year end	214	299	94	607

21. DEBTORS

31st March 2014 £000		31st March 2015 £000
6,691	Central government bodies	1,965
2,759	Other local authorities	825
486	NHS bodies	297
41,739	Other entities and individuals	50,177
(12,885)	Total impairment	(16,814)
38,790	Net Value of Debtors	36,450

22. PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE

31st March 2014 £000		31st March 2015 £000
137	Adult Services	101
2	Community & Environmental Services	5
363	Children's Services	334
1	Democratic Services	-
9	Deputy Chief Executive	86
199	Places	27
-	Resources	11
711	Total Payments in Advance	564

23. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

31st March 2014 £000		31st March 2015 £000
197	Cash held by the Authority	434
4,053	Bank current accounts	(265)
2,604	Short term deposits with institutions	3,055
6,854	Total	3,224

24. RECEIPTS IN ADVANCE

31st March 2014 £000		31st March 2015 £000
(2,106)	Adult Services	(1,574)
(1,302)	Community & Environmental Services	(1,858)
(3,779)	Children's Services	(3,207)
(4)	Governance & Regulatory Services	(57)
(918)	Deputy Chief Executive	(1,002)
(1,600)	Places	(1,636)
(280)	Resources	(282)
(630)	Housing Revenue Account	(564)
(2,251)	Capital	(1,900)
(768)	Collection Fund	(630)
-	Public Health	(390)
(24)	Other	-
(13,662)	Total Receipts in Advance	(13,100)

25. CREDITORS

	Long term creditors		Short term creditors	
	31st March 2015 £000	31st March 2014 £000	31st March 2015 £000	31st March 2014 £000
Central Government Bodies	-	-	(3,452)	(7,094)
Other Local Authorities	-	-	(5,452)	(7,899)
NHS Bodies	-	-	(143)	(659)
Other Entities and Individuals	(81,899)	(81,061)	(32,666)	(36,288)
Total	(81,899)	(81,061)	(41,713)	(51,940)

26. PROVISIONS

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

	Injury and Damage Compensation Claims £000	Other Provisions £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 April 2013	(569)	(9,421)	(9,990)
Additional Provisions Made in 2013/2014	(2,179)	(5,503)	(7,682)
Amounts Used in 2013/2014	-	2,130	2,130
Unused Amounts Reversed in 2013/2014	-	1,500	1,500
Balance at 31 March 2014	(2,748)	(11,294)	(14,042)

Outstanding legal cases

Injury Compensation Claims

Most of the injury compensation claims are individually insignificant. Significant claims are detailed in Note 3. They relate to personal injuries sustained where the Authority is alleged to be at fault (e.g. through failure to repair a road or pavement properly). Provision is made for those claims where it is deemed probable that the Authority will have to make settlement, based on past experience of court decisions about liability and the amount of damages payable. All outstanding claims are expected to be settled by 2015/2016. 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 2014 £000		31st March 2015 £000
(4,209)	Schools Reserves	(5,054)
(5,869)	Unallocated General Fund Reserves	(6,188)
(4,187)	Housing Revenue Account	(5,617)
(49,971)	Earmarked Revenue Reserves	(46,024)
(3,408)	Capital Receipts Reserve	(3,431)
-	Major Repairs Reserve	-
(6,993)	Capital Reserves	(4,388)
(74,637)	Total Usable Reserves	(70,702)

28. UNUSABLE RESERVES

31st March 2014 £000		31st March 2015 £000
(71,640)	Revaluation Reserve	(69,429)
(7,111)	Available for Sale Financial Instrument Reserve	(7,411)
(410,350)	Capital Adjustment Account	(366,000)
891	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	1,844
162,730	Pensions Reserve	224,959
1,288	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	2,073
2,086	Accumulated Absences Account	1,511
(322,106)	Total Unusable Reserves	(212,453)

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
(85,353)	Balance at 1st April	(71,640)
	- Upward revaluation of assets	-
5,701	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(2,148)
(4,006)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(4,341)
3,679	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	7,925
8,339	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	775
(71,640)	Balance at 31st March	(69,429)

Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve

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

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

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
(6,711)	Balance at 1st April	(7,111)
(400)	Upward revaluation of investments	(300)
(7,111)	Balance at 31st March	(7,411)

Capital Adjustment Account

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

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

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

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

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
(461,941)	Balance at 1st April	(410,350)
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
53,511	- Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	27,494
(1,230)	- Revaluation losses on PPE	(775)
369	- Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	158
40,928	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	54,124
93,578	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in year	81,001
	Capital financing applied in year:	
(304)	- Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(2,422)
(4,219)	- Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(4,104)
	- Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement that have been applied to HRA Self Financing	
(30,815)	- Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(22,250)
(6,649)	- Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(7,875)
(410,350)	Balance at 31st March	(366,000)

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.

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
873	Balance at 1st April	891
18	Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	953
891	Balance at 31st March	1,844

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.

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
211,666	Balance at 1st April	162,730
(56,486)	Remeasurement of net defined liability	62,348
(7,550)	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	119
15,100	Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(238)
162,730	Balance at 31st March	224,959

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.

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
1,663	Balance at 1st April	1,288
(375)	Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and non-domestic rate income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	785
1,288	Balance at 31st March	2,073

Accumulated Absences Account

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

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
2,929	Balance at 1st April	2,086
(2,929)	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(2,086)
2,086	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	1,511
2,086	Balance at 31st March	1,511

29. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
(507)	Interest Received	(533)
6,764	Interest Paid	7,454
(500)	Dividend Received	(600)

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

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
(72,691)	Depreciation/Impairment charges to CIES	(33,077)
925	Pension Liability	6,980
8,996	Minimum Revenue Provision	9,361
9,145	Contributions to/from reserves	6,133
(2,475)	Increase/(decrease) in Payments in Advance	(147)
294	Increase/(decrease) in Debtors	5,495
(143)	Increase/(decrease) in Inventories	(158)
(4,052)	(Increase)/decrease in Provisions	(8,911)
(3,905)	(Increase)/decrease in Creditors	7,784
(4,722)	(Increase)/decrease in Creditors over 1 year	(838)
9,289	(Increase)/decrease in Receipts in Advance	(207)
(4,662)	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(1,007)
(64,001)	Total	(8,592)

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

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
23,977	Capital grants credited to the surplus or deficit on the provisions of services	16,136
(34,720)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment investment property and intangible assets	(53,504)
(21,022)	Billing Authorities - Collection Fund adjustments	(24,793)
(31,765)	Total	(62,161)

30. CASH FLOW STATEMENT - INVESTING ACTIVITIES

31st March 2014 £000		31st March 2015 £000
68,266	Purchase of property, plant & equipment, investment property and intangible assets	39,197
20,767	Other payments for investing activities	4,876
(303)	Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(2,431)
(33,762)	Capital Grants received	(23,001)
(19,654)	Other receipts from investing activities	-
35,314	Net cash flows from investing activities	18,641

31. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – FINANCING ACTIVITIES

31st March 2014 £000		31st March 2015 £000
(127,067)	Cash receipts of short and long term borrowing	(103,051)
(1,722)	Other receipts from financing activities	-
100,453	Repayments of short and long term borrowing	102,147
(266)	Other payments for financing activities	1,038
(28,602)	Net cash flows from financing activities	134

32. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS

	31st March 2015 £000	31st March 2014 £000	Movement £000
Cash in Hand & at Bank	469	197	272
Bank overdrawn	(309)	4,052	(4,361)
Short term borrowing	(46,500)	(41,500)	(5,000)
Short term investments	3,405	2,578	827
Long term borrowing	(94,338)	(98,433)	4,095
Loan to BID	9	26	(17)
Business loans	5,860	5,568	292
Balance at 31 March	(131,404)	(127,512)	(3,892)

33. AMOUNTS REPORTED FOR RESOURCES ALLOCATION DECISIONS

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

- No charges are made in relation to capital expenditure (whereas depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses in excess of the balance on the Revaluation Reserve and amortisations are charged to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)
- The cost of retirement benefits is based on cash flows (payment of employer's pensions contributions) rather than current service cost of benefits accrued in the year

- Expenditure on some support services is budgeted for centrally and not charged to directorates.

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

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

Income & Expenditure 2013/2014	Chief Executive £000	HR, Comm & Engagement £000	Democratic Services £000	Treasurer Services £000	Built Environment £000	Regeneration, Tourism & Culture £000	Leisure & Operational £000	Public Health £000	Adult Services £000	Children's Services £000	Budgets Outside Cash limit £000	Total £000
Fees, charges & other income	13	1,644	678	4,360	7,031	5,265	14,510	17,665	19,323	10,730	11,604	92,823
Government grants	0	35	0	4,948	403	193	2,635	0	255	92,447	89,767	190,683
Recharges to services	0	7,357	0	15,703	1,841	0	6,325	0	90	3,056	3,385	37,757
Total Income	13	9,036	678	25,011	9,275	5,458	23,470	17,665	19,668	106,233	104,756	321,263
Employee expenses	336	5,039	1,667	11,880	12,059	4,759	9,948	1,191	20,314	83,290	854	151,337
Other expenses	26	3,503	1,369	13,420	22,518	12,040	36,269	16,168	45,242	50,690	117,864	319,109
Support services recharges	53	601	667	3,525	1,974	684	2,185	343	3,102	14,669	4,434	32,237
Total Expenditure	415	9,143	3,703	28,825	36,551	17,483	48,402	17,702	68,658	148,649	123,152	502,683
Net Expenditure	402	107	3,025	3,814	27,276	12,025	24,932	37	48,990	42,416	18,396	181,420

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

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

31st March 2014 £000		31st March 2015 £000
181,420	Net expenditure in the department analysis	165,093
(894)	Net expenditure of services and support services not included in the analysis	1,834
7,101	Amounts included in the Analysis not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(17,865)
187,627	Cost of Service in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	149,062

Reconciliation to the Subjective Analysis

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

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

2013/2014	Department Analysis	Services and Support services not in Analysis	Amounts not included in I&E	Cost of Services	Corporate Amounts	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income						
Fees, charges & Other Income	92,823	1,254	6,580	100,657	-	100,657
Government Grants	190,683	-	-	190,683	106,453	297,136
Interest and investment income	-	-	(862)	(862)	1,007	145
Internal Recharges	37,757	-	-	37,757	-	37,757
Income from Council Tax	-	2,426	-	2,426	70,418	72,844
Total Income	321,263	3,680	5,718	330,661	177,878	508,539
Expenditure						
Employee expenses	151,337	242	-	151,579	-	151,579
Other Service Expenditure	319,109	2,544	(15,642)	306,011	13,376	319,387
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	-	34,591	34,591	-	34,591
Interest Payable	-	-	(6,130)	(6,130)	6,764	634
Internal Recharges	32,237	-	-	32,237	-	32,237
Precepts & Levies	-	-	-	-	65	65
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-	-	-	-	249	249
Gain / Loss on disposal of Non-Current Assets	-	-	-	-	40,485	40,485
Pension Interest Cost and return on assets	-	-	-	-	(4,872)	(4,872)
Total Expenditure	502,683	2,786	12,819	518,288	56,067	574,355
Net	181,420	(894)	7,101	187,627	(121,811)	65,816

34. TRADING OPERATIONS

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

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Building Maintenance		
Expenditure	1,465	1,453
Income	(1,163)	(1,174)
Net Expenditure	302	279
Vehicle Maintenance		
Expenditure	1,311	1,187
Income	(1,316)	(1,182)
Net Expenditure	(5)	5
Building Cleaning		
Expenditure	658	816
Income	(857)	(935)
Net Expenditure	(199)	(119)

Building Maintenance

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

Vehicle Maintenance

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

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

Building Cleaning

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

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

35. ROAD CHARGING SCHEMES UNDER THE TRANSPORT ACT 2000

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
(1,437)	On-street parking operation surplus	(1,527)
	Utilised to Fund:	
6,199	Public Transport	5,280
553	Traffic Management & Road Safety	627
6,752	Total Qualifying Expenditure	5,907

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

36. AGENCY SERVICES

The Authority provides payroll services for Chorley Borough Council, Fylde Borough Council, High Peak Community Housing, Blackpool Coastal Housing, Baines School, Claremont First Step Centre, Blackpool Grand Theatre, Blackpool Operating Company and a number of Academies. These organisations pay a management fee to the Council for the service. The total management fee received by the Council in 2014/2015 was £195,921 (2013/2014 £129,788). The management fee is based on the number of employees paid.

37. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

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

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
464	Allowances	470
40	Expenses	47
504	Total	517

38. 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 2014/2015	Number in 2013/2014
£50,000 - £54,999	34	36
£55,000 - £59,999	22	32
£60,000 - £64,999	20	20
£65,000 - £69,999	14	14
£70,000 - £74,999	2	5
£75,000 - £79,999	3	9
£80,000 - £84,999	2	1
£85,000 - £89,999	3	4
£90,000 - £94,999	1	-
£95,000 - £99,999	2	3
£100,000 - £104,999	-	1
£105,000 - £109,999	2	2
TOTAL	105	127
Officers	72	78
Teachers	33	49

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

Employees in Post 2014/2015							
Post Holder Information	Salary	Expense Allowance	Compensation for loss of Office	Benefits in Kind	Total Excluding Pensions	Employer Pension Contributions	Total Including Pensions
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive	98,593	963	-	56	99,612	12,127	111,739
Director of Resources <i>(Note G)</i>	84,412	-	-	922	85,334	10,383	95,717
Deputy Chief Executive <i>(Note H)</i>	76,547	963	-	230	77,740	9,415	87,155
Director of Place <i>(Note I)</i>	78,045	963	-	1,041	80,049	9,599	89,648
Director of Governance & Regulatory Services <i>(Note J)</i>	72,056	-	-	52	72,108	8,863	80,971
Director of Community & Environmental Services <i>(Note K)</i>	76,547	963	-	245	77,755	9,415	87,170
Director of Public Health	101,047	4,841	-	639	106,527	14,360	120,887
Assistant Chief Executive - Built Environment <i>(Note L)</i>	14,475	-	-	-	14,475	1,824	16,299
Assistant Chief Executive - Children's Services <i>(Note M)</i>	45,721	401	-	355	46,477	5,733	52,210
Assistant Chief Executive - Adult Services <i>(Note N)</i>	44,459	401	-	101	44,961	6,294	51,255
Director of People <i>(Note M)</i>	62,244	562	-	141	62,947	8,812	71,759
Deputy Director of People (Adult Services) <i>(Note O)</i>	82,909	963	-	-	83,872	10,198	94,070
TOTAL	837,055	11,020	-	3,782	851,857	107,023	958,880

Employees in Post 2013/2014							
Post Holder Information	Salary	Expense Allowance	Compensation for loss of Office	Benefits in Kind	Total Excluding Pensions	Employer Pension Contributions	Total Including Pensions
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive	99,012	1,507	-	227	100,746	17,590	118,336
Assistant Chief Executive - Treasurer Services	84,418	-	-	1,268	85,686	14,917	100,603
Assistant Chief Executive - HR, Communication & Engagement	76,171	963	-	994	78,128	13,512	91,640
Assistant Chief Executive - Regen, Tourism & Culture	76,469	963	-	1,091	78,523	13,512	92,035
Assistant Chief Executive - Organisation, Property & IT - to 30/9/13 (Note E)	43,798	482	-	188	44,468	10,391	54,859
Assistant Chief Executive - Leisure & Operational	76,469	963	-	556	77,988	13,512	91,500
Assistant Chief Executive - Built Environment	87,596	-	-	375	87,971	15,479	103,450
Assistant Chief Executive - Children's Services	96,405	963	-	415	97,783	17,035	114,818
Assistant Chief Executive - Adult Services	96,857	793	-	684	98,334	13,706	112,040
Monitoring Officer	64,732	408	-	107	65,247	11,438	76,685
Director of Public Health	100,193	4,841	-	848	105,882	14,022	119,904
TOTAL	902,120	11,883	-	6,753	920,756	155,114	1,075,870

NOTES

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

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

C – Expense Allowances include essential car user payments.

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

2013/2014

E – Following a restructure the post of Assistant Chief Executive Organisation, Property and IT was disestablished on 30th September 2013. Their contracted salary was £87,596.

F – From 1st April 2013 the Council took over the responsibility for Public Health Services.

2014/2015

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

H - Following a restructure in June 2014 the post of Assistant Chief Executive – HR, Communication and

Engagement was renamed Deputy Chief Executive.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Exit Package Cost by Band (incl Special Payments)	Number of Exit Packages by Cost Band		Total Cost of Exit Packages in each Band	
	2014/2015	2013/2014	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
£0 - £20,000	131	259	1,104	1,982
£20,001 - £40,000	17	32	458	890
£40,001 - £60,000	3	7	142	343
£60,001 - £80,000	-	3	-	214
£80,001 - £100,000	-	2	-	184
£100,001 - £150,000	-	1	-	127
Total	151	304	1,704	3,740

39. 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:

	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000
Fees payable to auditors with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	114	128
Fees payable to auditors in respect of statutory inspections	5	8
Fees payable to auditors for the certification of grant claims and returns	2	47
Total	121	183

40. DISCLOSURE OF DEPLOYMENT OF DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

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

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2014/2015 are as follows:

	CENTRAL EXPENDITURE £000	ISB £000	TOTAL £000
DSG figure as issued by the Department in July 2014 (This does not include the Early Years January 2015 adjustment)			104,255
Academy figure recouped for 2014/15			44,231
Total DSG after Academy recoupment for 2014/15			60,024
B/F from 2013/14			3,272
C/F to 2015/16 agreed in advance			1,789
Agreed initial budget distribution in 2014/15	28,424	33,083	61,507
In year adjustments	(2,342)	0	(2,342)
Final budgeted distribution for 2014/15	26,082	33,083	59,165
Less Actual Central Expenditure	22,272		
Less Actual ISB deployed to Schools		33,083	
Plus Local authority contribution for 2014/15	0	0	0
C/F to 2015/16	3,810	0	3,810

41. GRANT INCOME

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2014/2015.

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
Revenue Support Grant	52,539	63,432
Council Tax Freeze Grant	613	598
Non-Domestic Rates Retained	23,638	23,682
Non-Domestic Rates Top Up	18,804	18,444
Capital Grants - Other	16,136	23,977
Total	111,730	130,133
Credited to Services		
Dedicated Schools Grant	57,682	79,301
Pupil Premium Grant	5,084	5,908
Housing & Council Tax Benefit Administration Subsidy	1,368	1,819
Rent Allowance Subsidy	74,465	76,253
Rent Rebates	13,252	13,496
Public Health Grant	17,946	17,457
Other Grants and Contributions	11,786	21,436
Total	181,583	215,670

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

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Capital Grants Received in Advance		
HCA	799	-
Tramway	61	-
Environment Agency grants	7,673	4,708
NHS Grants	36	7
Local Transport Plan	1,655	1,123
Empty Homes	1,064	1,313
Other Grants & Contributions	59	3,701
Total	11,347	10,852

42. RELATED PARTIES

In accordance with IAS 24 the Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties, bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Council might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Council.

Central Government

Central Government has significant control over the general operations of the Council. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are set out in the subjective analysis Note 33 on reporting for resource allocation decisions. Grant receipts outstanding at 31st March 2015 are shown on Note 41.

Members

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

The register of member's 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 2014/15 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 2014/2015 is shown in Note 37.

Two Members of the Council have a private interest in a local taxi firm. The Council made payments to this organisation amounting to £230,000 in 2014/2015 to meet the Council's transport requirements.

A Member of the Council has a private interest in a housing association. The Council made payments to this charity amounting to £245,388 in 2014/2015 to meet the Council's homelessness requirements.

Three Members of the Council have a private interest in a local college of further education. The Council made payments to the organisation amounting to £416,997 to meet the Council's education requirements.

A Member of the Council has a private interest in a local care charity. The Council made payments to this charity amounting to £210,080 in 2014/2015 to meet the Council's adult social care and learning requirements.

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

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

Shared Service

On 1st April 2008 the Council entered into a shared service arrangement with Fylde Borough Council for the provision of a Benefits and Revenues Service. The full cost of the service in 2014/2015 was £4.171m of which £3.212m related to Blackpool.

Chief Officers

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

43. 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.

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
<u>Capital Financing Requirement</u>		
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	290,851	255,542
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant & Equipment	39,153	67,924
Investment Properties	44	338
Assets under Construction	2,755	18,607
Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute	2,121	2,159
Sources of Finance		
Capital Receipts	(2,431)	(303)
Government Grants & Other Contributions	(23,001)	(33,762)
Sums set aside from Revenue	(22,318)	(19,654)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	287,174	290,851
Explanations of Movements in Year		
Increase in underlying need to borrow(supported by Government Financial Assistance)	(9,361)	(10,970)
Increase in underlying need to borrow(unsupported by Government Financial Assistance)	5,020	39,684
Assets acquired under PFI contracts	664	6,600
Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	(3,677)	35,314

44. LEASES

Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

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

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

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments)		
- current	91	276
- non-current	109	253
Finance lease costs payable in future years	50	70
Minimum lease payments	250	599

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

	Minimum Lease Payments	
	31st March 2015 £000	31st March 2014 £000
Not later than one year	119	305
Later than one year and not later than five years	131	294
Later than five years	-	-
Total	250	599

Operating Leases

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

	Operating Lease Payments	
	31st March 2015 £000	31st March 2014 £000
Not later than one year	26	12
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-
Later than five years	-	-
Total	26	12

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

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Minimum Lease Payments	-	12
Contingent Rents	-	-
Sub lease payments receivable	-	-
Total	-	12

The Authority as Lessor

The Council has granted various property leases including the lease of the Sandcastle Waterpark to Blackpool Operating Company Limited. The rentals received in 2014/2015 amounted to £662,000 (2013/2014 £662,000).

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

	Minimum Lease Payments	
	31st March 2015 £000	31st March 2014 £000
Not later than one year	1,497	1,148
Later than one year and not later than five years	5,175	3,940
Later than five years	10,088	8,788
Total	16,760	13,876

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.

45. PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI)

Highfield Humanities College PFI

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

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

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

The Authority makes an agreed payment each year which is increased by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year but which is otherwise fixed. Payments remaining to be made under the PFI contract at 31st March 2015 (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 2015/16	968	638	2,145	3,751
Payable in two to five years	4,753	2,292	7,970	15,015
Payable in six to ten years	7,236	3,113	8,654	19,003
Payable in eleven to fifteen years	8,925	4,078	6,954	19,957
Payable in sixteen to twenty years	10,251	6,475	4,587	21,313
Payable in twenty one to twenty five years	4,976	4,978	912	10,866
Total	37,109	21,574	31,222	89,905

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:

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
(22,572)	Balance outstanding at start of year	(22,121)
451	Payments during the year	547
	- Capital expenditure incurred in year	-
(22,121)	Total	(21,574)

Waste Disposal PFI

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

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

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

Under the terms of the Joint Working Agreement (JWA) LCC has authority to 'administer all matters under the PFI Contract' and 'carry out anything necessary to provide or procure the provision of the Relevant Functions' on behalf of the Council. Amendments are being made to the JWA in order to reflect and facilitate arrangements following termination of the Contract through a Deed of Variation to the existing JWA. Upon finalisation and signature of this Deed of Variation, 12.5% of the shares in GRLOL will transfer to Blackpool.

The PFI contract was in place for the first four months of the financial year. During that period a unitary payment was made to GRL which consisted of a fixed and variable element, both of which were subject to inflation.

Following the acquisition of GRLOL by the authorities, LCC paid compensation to GRL in the sum of £284m. Blackpool's share of the new borrowing is £35.5m (12.5%). The PFI liability has therefore been replaced by a long term creditor from LCC. At the time of the transaction, Blackpool's liability was £33.970m and the total liability reflected in the books of the two authorities was £259.994m leaving a difference of £24.006m which represents a "premium" paid on settlement of the liability. Blackpool's share of this premium amounts to £1.530m. The premium has been charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2014/15.

At the end of the concession period LCC may retender the provision of the services. At this point the Council would either continue to have a 12.5% share in any retendered contract, or continue under a new arrangement. If the Council decided that it no longer wished to continue with the contract then LCC would

have to pay Blackpool the relevant rental value for its share in the assets. If LCC decides to dispose of the asset then the Council would receive a relevant percentage of the proceeds of the sale.

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 Light 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 £129m, 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 2015 (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 2015/16	2,106	700	1,350	4,156
Payable in two to five years	8,731	3,173	5,046	16,950
Payable in six to ten years	6,899	5,432	5,975	18,306
Payable in eleven to fifteen years	7,645	7,045	6,310	21,000
Payable in sixteen to twenty years	15,218	8,283	5,419	28,920
Payable in twenty one to twenty five years	-	9,899	3,333	13,232
Payable more than 25 years	-	8,330	2,557	10,887
Total	40,599	42,862	29,990	113,451

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:

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
(22,338)	Balance outstanding at start of year	(28,204)
734	Payments during the year	680
(6,600)	Capital expenditure incurred in year	(664)
-	- Other movements	-
(28,204)	Total	(28,188)

46. IMPAIRMENT LOSSES

During 2014/2015, the Authority has recognised an impairment loss of £3,323,436 (2013/2014 £38,143,235) in relation to land and buildings. The impairment loss has been charged to the Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

47. TERMINATION BENEFITS

The Authority terminated the contracts of a number of employees in 2014/2015 incurring liabilities of £1.8m (2013/2014 £3.7m).

48. 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 2014/2015 the Council paid £2,599,480 (2013/14 £4,148,027) to the Department for Education in respect of teachers retirement benefits, representing 14.10% (2013/2014 14.10%) of teachers' pensionable pay. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year end. The contributions due to be paid in the next financial year are estimated to be £2.1m.

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 2014/2015, the Council paid £121,349 (2013/14 £104,672) to the NHS Pension Scheme in respect of Public Health employee's retirement benefits, representing 14% of pensionable pay. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year end.

49. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

Participation in Pension Schemes

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

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

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

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

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

Discretionary Post-retirement Benefits

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

Transactions Relating to Post-Employment Benefits

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
<i>Cost of Services:</i>				
<i>Service Cost comprising</i>				
- current service cost	12,377	16,376	0	0
- past service costs	648	277	0	152
- (gain)/loss from settlements	(6,657)	(5,301)	0	0
<i>Financing & Investment Income and Expenditure</i>				
Net interest expense	23,955	23,905	127	104
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	30,323	35,257	127	256
<i>Other Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</i>				
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:				
- Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	(17,221)	(15,534)	0	0
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	0	2,570	0	70
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	93,095	(58,926)	333	(244)
- Other	(31,080)	(147)	0	191
Total Post-Employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	44,794	(72,037)	333	17
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	(61,916)	49,058	(313)	(122)
Actual amount charged against the general fund balance for pensions in the year:				
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	13,201	12,278		
Retirement benefits payable to pensioners			147	151

Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	650,205	544,661	3,328	3,015
Fair value of plan assets	(428,574)	(384,946)	0	0
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	221,631	159,715	3,328	3,015

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

	Local Government Pension		Discretionary Benefits	
	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	384,946	370,798	0	0
Interest Income	17,221	15,534	0	0
Remeasurement gain/(loss):				
- The return on plan assets , excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	31,080	603	0	0
- Other	(254)	(262)	0	0
The effect of changes in foreign exchange rates	0	0	0	0
Contributions from employer	13,201	12,278	147	151
Contributions from employees into the scheme	3,994	4,188	0	0
Benefits paid	(18,590)	(17,498)	(147)	(151)
Other	(3,024)	(695)	0	0
Closing fair value of scheme assets	428,574	384,946	0	0

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

	Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme		Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000
Opening balance at 1 April	544,661	579,571	3,015	2,893
Current service cost	12,123	16,114	0	0
Interest cost	23,955	23,905	127	104
Contributions from scheme participants	3,994	4,188	0	0
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:				
- Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	0	2,570	0	70
- Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	93,095	(58,926)	333	(244)
- Other	0	456	0	191
Past service cost	23	0	0	152
Losses/(gains) on curtailment (where relevant)	625	277	0	0
Benefits paid	(18,590)	(17,498)	(147)	(151)
Liabilities extinguished on settlements (where relevant)	(9,681)	(5,996)	0	0
Closing balance at 31 March	650,205	544,661	3,328	3,015

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

	Fair Value of Scheme Assets	
	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000
Cash & cash equivalents	20,763	6,684
Equity Instruments:		
- Consumer	47,380	49,513
- Manufacturing, materials & miscellaneous	26,371	31,678
- Energy & Utilities	6,600	11,337
- Financial Institutions	25,392	28,383
- Health & care	14,564	17,355
- Information technology & telecoms	27,209	29,811
Sub total equity	147,516	168,077
Bonds:		
- Corporate	5,947	35,447
- Government	13,451	11,793
Sub total bonds	19,398	47,240
Property:		
-Retail	17,428	14,471
- Commercial	22,930	17,006
Sub total property	40,358	31,477
Private Equity:		
UK	10,753	9,785
Overseas	52,381	44,171
Sub total private equity	63,134	53,956
Other investment funds:		
- Credit Funds	110,414	54,638
- Emerging Markets	0	0
- Infrastructure	23,852	20,941
- Property	3,139	1,933
Sub total other investment funds	137,405	77,512
Total assets	428,574	384,946

All scheme assets have quoted prices in active markets.

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

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

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

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits	
	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000
Long term expected rate of return on assets in the scheme:				
Equity investments	6.5%	7.0%	-	-
Government Bonds	2.2%	3.4%	-	-
Other Bonds	2.9%	4.3%	-	-
Property	5.9%	6.2%	-	-
Cash	0.5%	5.0%	-	-
Mortality assumptions: Men/Women	100%/98%	100%/98%	100%/98%	100%/98%
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:				
- Men	22.9yrs	22.8yrs	22.9yrs	22.8yrs
- Women	25.4yrs	25.3yrs	25.4yrs	25.3yrs
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:				
- Men	25.1yrs	25.0yrs	-	-
- Women	27.8yrs	27.7yrs	-	-
Rate of inflation	2.0%	2.4%	2.0%	2.4%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.5%	3.9%	3.5%	0.0%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.0%	2.4%	2.0%	2.4%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	3.3%	4.5%	3.1%	4.3%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in 2013/2014.

	Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme	
	Approximate % change in employee liability	Approximate monetary value £000
1 year increase in member life expectancy	1.94%	12,623
Rate of Inflation - increase by 1%	1.93%	12,519
Rate of increase in salaries - increase by 1%	0.46%	297
1% increase in real discount rate	(1.89%)	(12,284)

Impact on Authority's Cash Flows

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

The scheme will need to take account of 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 to certain public servants.

The Authority anticipated to pay £12.5m expected contributions to the scheme in 2014/2015.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 19 years, 2014/2015 (19 years 2013/2014).

50. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

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

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

Credit risk

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

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

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

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

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

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

Investments in UK Government – permitted due to overall security

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

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

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

The Authority's potential maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies of £5.6m cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make the interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Authority's deposits but there was no evidence at 31st March 2015 that this was likely to crystallize.

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

	Amount at 31st March 2015 £000	Historical experience of default %	Historical experience adjusted for market conditions at 31st March 2015 %	Estimated maximum exposure to default and uncollectability At 31st March 2015 £000	Estimated maximum exposure at 31st March 2014 £000
Deposits with banks and financial institutions	3,055	0	0	0	0
Customers	37,014	35%	0	12,955	13,825

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

The Authority does not generally allow credit for its customers, such that £1.7m of the £39.0m balance is past its due date for payment. The past due but not impaired amount can be analysed by age as follows:

	31st March 2015 £000	31st March 2014 £000
Up to 3 months	297	484
Three to six months	440	827
Six months to one year	249	521
1-2 years	217	313
2-3 years	214	108
Over 3 years	300	297
Total	1,717	2,550

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 2015 £000	31st March 2014 £000
Less than one year	52,815	45,743
Between one and two years	8,421	6,315
Between two and five years	8,167	11,894
Between five and ten years	12,201	13,638
Between ten and fifteen years	7,696	5,033
Between fifteen and twenty years	11,736	14,696
More than twenty years	40,353	43,313
Total	141,389	140,632

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

Market risk

Interest rate risk

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

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

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

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

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

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

Price Risk

The Authority does not invest in equity shares but does have shareholdings to the value of £10.2m in a number of subsidiaries.

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

The £10.2m shares are classified as 'available for sale', meaning that all movements in price will impact on gains and losses recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. A general shift of 5% in the general price of shares (positive or negative) would thus have resulted in a £495,000 gain or loss being recognised in the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure for 2014/2015.

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.

51. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES / ASSETS

Blackpool Airport

Upon the sale of Blackpool Airport from City Hopper Airports to Balfour Beatty in May 2008 the agreement provides for a payment of £250,000 to the Council which will be received dependent upon passenger numbers.

Local Land Charges

A number of property research companies are seeking to claim refunds of fees paid to local authorities to access land charges data. They have also intimated that they may bring a claim against all English and Welsh local authorities for alleged anti-competitive behaviour.

Proceedings have not yet been issued and it is therefore not clear what the value of any such claims would be against the Council.

Municipal Mutual Insurance

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

NNDR Appeals

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

As at 31st March 2015 the Council had no material contingent assets to disclose.

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

52. 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.

	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance B/fwd					
Cenotaph	440	120	120	120	120
Civic Regalia	381	381	591	591	591
Illuminations	250	250	500	500	500
Art Collection	500	500	500	500	500
Tower Collection	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Local Family History Collection	400	400	400	400	400
Stanley Park Statues	653	653	653	653	653
Total Balance B/fwd	7,624	7,304	7,764	7,764	7,764
Additions					
Cenotaph	2	-	-	-	-
Total Additions	2	-	-	-	-
Impairment/Revaluation					
Cenotaph	(322)	-	-	-	-
Civic Regalia	-	210	-	-	-
Illuminations	-	250	-	-	-
Total Impairment/Revaluation	(322)	460	-	-	-
Balance C/fwd					
Cenotaph	120	120	120	120	120
Civic Regalia	381	591	591	591	591
Illuminations	250	500	500	500	500
Art Collection	500	500	500	500	500
Tower Collection	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Local Family History Collection	400	400	400	400	400
Stanley Park Statues	653	653	653	653	653
Total Balance C/fwd	7,304	7,764	7,764	7,764	7,764

53. HERITAGE ASSETS: FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE COLLECTION

Art Collection

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

Family and Local History Collection

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

Tower Company Collection

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

Illuminations

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

Cenotaph

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

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

Civic Regalia

Civic Regalia includes the following items:

Mayor's Chain – Made in 1875.

Mayoress' Chain – Made in 1897.

Deputy Mayoress' Chain – Made in 1897.

Deputy Mayor's Chain – Made 1937.

Mayoral Mace – Made in 1897.

Stanley Park Statues

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

SECTION 6

SUPPLEMENTARY SINGLE ENTITY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT			
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015			
2013/2014		2014/2015	
£000		£000	£000
	Expenditure		
4,370	Repairs and maintenance	4,373	
5,701	Supervision and management	5,725	
407	Rent, rates , taxes and other charges	396	
6,140	Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	6,707	
64	Debt management costs	64	
385	Movement in the allowance for bad debts	364	
17,067	Total Expenditure		17,629
	Income		
(16,125)	Dwelling rents	(16,639)	
(174)	Non-dwelling rents	(172)	
(1,469)	Charges for services and facilities	(1,442)	
(266)	Contributions towards expenditure	(272)	
(18,034)	Total Income		(18,525)
(967)	Net Cost of HRA Services as included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account		(896)
	HRA Share of the operating income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
413	Gain/or Loss on sale of HRA non-currents assets	302	
634	Interest payable and similar charges	620	
(145)	Interest and investment income	(151)	771
(65)	(Surplus) or deficit for the year on HRA services		(125)

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT
MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST
MARCH 2015

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Balance on HRA Reserve at 31st March	(4,187)	(3,388)
Surplus/Deficit for the year on HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	(125)	(65)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	(3,135)	(2,820)
Net increase or decrease before transfers to/from reserves	(3,260)	(2,885)
Transfers to/from reserves	1,830	2,086
Balance on HRA Reserve at 31st March	(5,617)	(4,187)

NOTES TO THE HRA STATEMENT

1. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT STOCK

The Council owned 5,023 dwellings at 31st March 2015 which are analysed below:-

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Low rise flats	2,176	2,214
Medium rise flats	772	789
High rise flats	257	255
Houses and bungalows	1,775	1,758
Multi occupied dwellings	43	43
Total	5,023	5,059

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

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Stock at 1st April	5,059	5,306
Less: Sales to tenants	11	16
Disposal to Housing Associations	44	176
Propert Conversion	28	114
Add: Right to Buy Backs	7	-
Property Conversion	14	59
Transferred from General Fund	26	-
Stock at 31st March	5,023	5,059

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

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Operational assets:		
Council dwellings	98,578	94,783
Other HRA	2,274	1,629
Stock at 31st March	100,852	96,412

2. DWELLING RENTS

This is the total rent due for the year after allowance is made for voids etc. During the year 8.67% of lettable properties, including hostels, were vacant (2013/14: 9.4%). This includes properties intentionally held vacant pending the future re-development of the Queens Park estate and other sites. The percentage excluding development site properties was 4.22% (2013/14: 6.99%)

The average rent (excluding Affordable Rent properties) was £67.99 a week in 2014/15, an increase of 3.22% over the previous year.

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Vacant possession value of properties	280,155	269,313

The vacant possession value of dwellings held on 31st March 2015 was £280,154,675. The difference between this and the Existing Use Value (Social Housing) valuation of £98,578,202 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:

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Balance at 1st April	-	-
Transferred to MRR during the year	2,274	2,133
Transfer between MRR and HRA during the year	1,830	2,086
Debits to MRR during the financial year in respect of capital expenditure:		
Houses held within HRA	(4,104)	(4,219)
Balance at 31st March	-	-

4. HOUSING REPAIRS ACCOUNT

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

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Balance at 1st April	-	-
Add: Revenue contribution	4,373	4,370
Less: Expenditure in year		
Responsive repairs	(2,055)	(1,967)
Planned maintenance	(2,318)	(2,403)
Balance at 31st March	-	-

5. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE WITHIN HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Total capital expenditure within the Housing Revenue Account on land, housing & other property	11,817	11,337
Sources of funding for the above Capital Expenditure:		
- Decent Homes Funding	3,500	5,000
- Usable Capital Receipts	101	221
- Revenue contributions (as defined in Local Government & Housing Act 1989)	1,497	59
- Major Repairs Reserve	4,104	4,220
- Grants and other funding	2,615	1,837
Total capital expenditure within the HRA	11,817	11,337

Usable capital receipts totalling £107,739 were received during the year.

6. DEPRECIATION CHARGE WITHIN THE HRA

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Depreciation charges for:		
- Operational assets, comprising dwellings and other land and buildings	2,220	2,074
- Non-Operational assets	54	59
Total	2,274	2,133

7. IMPAIRMENT

	2014/2015 £000	2013/2014 £000
Impairment charges in respect of land, houses and other property within the HRA	4,433	4,007

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

8. GOVERNMENT RULES

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

a) The Ringfence

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

b) Control

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

c) Annual Report

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

9. RENT ARREARS

Rent Arrears for 2014/2015 amounted to £650,000 compared to £560,000 in the previous year. During the year 2014/2015 rent arrears as a proportion of gross collectable rent (including service charges) were 3.49% (2013/2014 3.22%).

Amounts written off during the year amounted to £209,000 (2013/2014 £135,000). The total provision for bad and doubtful rental debts in the Housing Revenue Account at 31st March 2015 is £568,000 (£498,000 at 31st March 2014). This provision has been calculated in accordance with the Housing Revenue Account (Arrears of Rents and Charges) Directions 1990.

COLLECTION FUND 2014/2015

COLLECTION FUND STATEMENT 2014/2015

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.

2013/2014 £000 Council Tax	2013/2014 £000 NNDR	2013/2014 £000 Total		2014/2015 £000 Council Tax	2014/2015 £000 NNDR	2014/2015 £000 Total
			INCOME			
55,187		55,187	Council Tax Receivable	56,618		56,618
	50,046	50,046	Business Rates Receivable		47,775	47,775
55,187	50,046	105,233	TOTAL INCOME	56,618	47,775	104,393
			EXPENDITURE			
			<u>Apportionment of previous year's surplus/deficit</u>			
			- Central Government		(964)	(964)
(907)		(907)	Blackpool Council	452	(945)	(493)
(44)		(44)	Lancashire Fire Authority	22	(19)	3
(104)		(104)	Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	53		53
			<u>Precepts, Demands and Shares</u>			
	24,165	24,165	Central Government		24,121	24,121
44,983	23,682	68,665	Blackpool Council	45,351	23,638	68,989
2,192	483	2,675	Lancashire Fire Authority	2,210	482	2,692
5,267		5,267	Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	5,416		5,416
			<u>Charges to Collection Fund</u>			
(145)	1,116	971	less: Write offs of uncollectable amounts	(1,827)	(1,769)	(3,596)
841	1,595	2,436	less: Increase/Decrease in BDP	2,380	2,024	4,404
	4,105	4,105	less: Increase/Decrease in Provision for Appeals		5,933	5,933
	280	280	less: Cost of Collection		277	277
	(97)	(97)	less: Transitional Protection Payments		1,066	1,066
52,083	55,329	107,412	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	54,057	53,844	107,901
(3,104)	5,283	2,179	(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	(2,561)	6,069	3,508
			COLLECTION FUND BALANCE			
1,582	-	1,582	Fund balance at 1st April (Surplus)/Deficit	(1,522)	5,283	3,761
(1,522)	5,283	3,761	DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AS AT 31ST MARCH	(4,083)	11,352	7,269
			Allocated to:			
(1,301)	2,588	1,287	- Blackpool Council	(3,490)	5,562	2,072
(64)	53	(11)	- Lancashire Fire Authority	(172)	114	(58)
(157)		(157)	- Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	(421)		(421)
	2,642	2,642	- Central Government		5,676	5,676
(1,522)	5,283	3,761	TOTAL	(4,083)	11,352	7,269

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

1. GENERAL

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

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

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

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

2. COUNCIL TAX

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

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

The Council tax base for 2014/2015 was 34,725 (34,444 in 2013/2014). This reduction is as a result of the Government's Council Tax Localisation changes which revised the way Central Government pay Council Tax benefit compensation to the Council. From 1st April 2013 Council Tax Benefit Subsidy is no longer paid to the Council by Central Government and has been replaced by the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which is administered by each authority.

The tax base for 2014/2015 was calculated as follows:

Band	Chargeable Dwellings	Proportion of Band D Tax	Equivalent Band D Dwellings
A Reduced	53	5/9	29
A	15,416	6/9	10,277
B	13,988	7/9	10,880
C	8,475	8/9	7,533
D	3,744	1	3,744
E	1,541	11/9	1,884
F	468	13/9	676
G	222	15/9	370
H	20	18/9	40
Less allowances for non collection			708
Tax Base for the Calculation of Council Tax			34,725

3. NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES

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

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

The business rates shares payable for 2014/2015 were estimated before the start of the financial year as £24.121m (£24.165m in 2013/14) to Central Government, £0.482m (£0.483m in 2013/14) to Lancashire Fire Authority and £23.638m (£23.682m in 2013/14) to Blackpool Council. These sums have been paid in 2014/2015 and charged to the Collection Fund in year.

When the scheme was introduced, Central Government set a baseline level for each authority identifying the expected level of retained business rates and a top up or tariff amount to ensure that all local authorities receive their baseline amount. Tariffs due from authorities payable to Central Government are used to finance the top ups to those authorities who do not achieve their targeted baseline funding. In this respect Blackpool received top up grant to the General Fund in 2014/2015 to the value of £18.804m (£18.444m in 2013/2014).

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 2014/2015 has been calculated at £10.038m (£4.105m in 2013/2014).

For 2014/2015, the total non-domestic rateable value at the year- end is £132.6m. The national multiplier for 2014/2015 was 47.1p (46.2p in 2013/2014) for qualifying small businesses and the standard multiplier being 48.2p (47.1p in 2013/2014) for all other businesses.

4. ALLOCATION OF CLOSING BALANCES

The allocation of the closing balances for 2014/2015 between the preceptors is as follows:

	CENTRAL GOVERNMENT £000	BLACKPOOL COUNCIL £000	LANCASHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY £000	POLICE AUTHORITY £000	TOTAL £000
COUNCIL TAX					
Arrears at 31st March 2015		10,082	1,228	501	11,811
Receipts in Advance		(583)	(71)	(29)	(683)
Bad Debt Provision		(3,982)	(485)	(198)	(4,665)
Surplus/Deficit		(3,490)	(421)	(172)	(4,083)
BUSINESS RATES					
Arrears at 31st March 2015	2,271	2,226	45		4,542
Receipts in Advance	(171)	(168)	(3)		(342)
Bad Debt Provision	(925)	(907)	(18)		(1,850)
Appeals	(5,019)	(4,919)	(100)		(10,038)
Surplus/Deficit	5,676	5,562	114		11,352

SECTION 7

GROUP ACCOUNTS 2014/2015

7.0 INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

Subsidiaries

Blackpool Transport Services

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

Blackpool Operating Company

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

Blackpool Coastal Housing

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

Blackpool Entertainment Company

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

Blackpool Housing Company

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

Marketing Blackpool Limited

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

Associates*Marketing Lancashire*

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

The Via Partnership

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

CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – GROUP

GROUP MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

2014/2015

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

2013/2014

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	HRA	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Reserves	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves	Group Reserves	Total Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 31st March 2013	(11,183)	(43,980)	(3,388)	(2,734)	-	(6,599)	(67,884)	(336,874)	(404,758)	(1,550)	(406,308)
Movements in Reserves in 2013/2014											
Surplus or Deficit on the provision of services	65,881	-	(65)	-	-	-	65,816	-	65,816	1,318	67,134
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(57,801)	(57,801)	(1,849)	(59,650)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	65,881	-	(65)	-	-	-	65,816	(57,801)	8,015	(531)	7,484
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(69,500)	-	(2,820)	(249)	4,219	-	(68,350)	68,350	-	-	-
Net increase or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	(3,619)	-	(2,885)	(249)	4,219	-	(2,534)	10,549	8,015	(531)	7,484
Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	4,724	(5,991)	2,086	(425)	(4,219)	(394)	(4,219)	4,219	-	-	-
Increase/Decrease in 2013/2014	1,105	(5,991)	(799)	(674)	-	(394)	(6,753)	14,768	8,015	(531)	7,484
Balance as at 31st March 2014	(10,078)	(49,971)	(4,187)	(3,408)	-	(6,993)	(74,637)	(322,106)	(396,743)	(2,081)	(398,824)

GROUP COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2013/2014				2014/2015		
Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
32,334	(11,415)	20,919	Central Services to the Public	13,127	(3,316)	9,811
28,749	(12,915)	15,834	Cultural and Related Services	25,968	(17,105)	8,863
35,267	(10,477)	24,790	Environment and Regulatory Services	17,622	5,297	22,919
273	(937)	(664)	Planning Services	2,276	(1,304)	972
158,964	(110,347)	48,617	Childrens and Education Services	118,898	(78,397)	40,501
58,894	(34,817)	24,077	Highways and Transport Services	57,302	(38,078)	19,224
17,067	(18,034)	(967)	Local Authority Housing (HRA)	17,629	(18,525)	(896)
99,841	(93,829)	6,012	Other Housing Services	91,632	(86,675)	4,957
68,680	(19,492)	49,188	Adult Social Care	70,857	(24,608)	46,249
3,395	(3,362)	33	Corporate and Democratic Core	2,504	(2,451)	53
15,120	(17,622)	(2,502)	Public Health	15,647	(17,337)	(1,690)
(38)	3,357	3,319	Non-Distributed Cost	(5,596)	3,560	(2,036)
518,546	(329,890)	188,656	Cost of Services	427,866	(278,939)	148,927
		40,776	Other Operating Expenditure			53,841
		5,733	Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure - Other			4,876
		8,740	Income & Expenditure in relation to Investment Properties and changes in their fair value			1,550
		(176,870)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income - Other			(158,271)
		67,035	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			50,923
		40	Share of (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services by Associates			(40)
		59	Tax of Subsidiaries (Note G3)			8
		67,134	Group (Surplus)/Deficit			50,891
		(13,998)	Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets			2,725
		5,701	Impairment losses on non-current assets charged to Revaluation Reserve			(2,148)
		400	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets			(300)
		18	Movement on financial instruments adjustment account			953
		(51,396)	Actuarial gains / losses on pension assets / liabilities			62,229
		(375)	Other Movements			786
		(59,650)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			64,245
		7,484	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			115,136

GROUP BALANCE SHEET

31st March 2014 £000		Notes	31st March 2015 £000
819,507	Property, Plant and Equipment	G4	769,880
7,764	Heritage Assets		7,764
13,450	Investment Property		13,398
129	Intangible Assets		97
247	Net share of Associates		247
482	Assets Held for Sale		763
7,111	Long Term Investments		7,415
10,561	Long Term Debtors		10,258
859,251	Long Term Assets		809,822
550	Short Term Assets Held for Sale		550
1,123	Inventories		1,021
38,594	Short Term Debtors	G6	37,580
711	Payments in Advance		564
-	Short Term Investments		350
11,507	Cash and Cash Equivalents	G5	10,884
52,485	Current Assets		50,949
(45,348)	Short Term Borrowing		(52,815)
(54,828)	Short Term Creditors	G7	(49,593)
(13,662)	Receipts in Advance		(13,100)
(14,242)	Provisions		(17,834)
(128,080)	Current Liabilities		(133,342)
(81,351)	Long Term Creditors		(83,864)
(94,586)	Long term Borrowing		(88,023)
(198,043)	Other Long Term Liabilities		(260,507)
(10,852)	Capital Grants in Advance		(11,347)
(384,832)	Long Term Liabilities		(443,741)
398,824	Net Assets		283,688
(76,718)	Usable Reserves		(71,235)
(322,106)	Unusable Reserves		(212,453)
(398,824)	Total Reserves		(283,688)

GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT

2013/2014 £000		2014/2015 £000
67,134	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	50,891
(63,576)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	(15,436)
(36,790)	Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	(62,161)
(33,232)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	(26,706)
35,314	Investing Activities	18,641
(28,602)	Financing Activities	134
(26,520)	Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(7,931)
(93,735)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	(120,255)
(120,255)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	(128,186)

NOTES TO THE GROUP ACCOUNTS

G1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The group accounts include the Council's share of the operating results, assets and liabilities of each group entity's accounts. Subsidiaries are accounted for on an acquisition basis and incorporated line-by-line, writing out inter-group transactions. Associates are incorporated by accounting for the Council's share of their operating results in the group income and expenditure accounts and of their assets in the balance sheet.

G2. INTER GROUP TRANSACTIONS

Certain figures from the balance sheets of Group members have been taken out of the consolidated position as they represent amounts outstanding within the Group and therefore cancel each other out in the balance sheet. The adjustments are as follows:

- i) The Council owns shares to the value of £2,789,000 in Blackpool Transport. This has been taken out of long term investments and capital and reserves
- ii) An amount of £1,159,000 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Blackpool Operating Company has been taken out of debtors and creditors
- iii) An amount of £1,537,955 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Blackpool Coastal Housing has been taken out of debtors and creditors

G3. TAX OF SUBSIDIARIES

This figure represents the Council's share of the Corporation Tax due by its subsidiary Blackpool Operating Company, £40,000.

G4. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	NBV 31st March 2015 £000	NBV 31st March 2014 £000
Property, Plant & Equipment held by the Council	759,842	810,448
Property, Plant & Equipment held by		
- Blackpool Transport Services	8,558	7,847
- Blackpool Operating Company	1,235	1,127
- Blackpool Coastal Housing	12	85
- Blackpool Entertainment Company	233	-
Total	769,880	819,507

G5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000
Cash and cash equivalents held by the Council	3,224	6,854
Cash and cash equivalents held by:-		
- Blackpool Transport Services	3,375	2,368
- Blackpool Operating Company	116	137
- Blackpool Coastal Housing	1,739	2,148
- Blackpool Entertainment Company	2430	
Total	10,884	11,507

G6. SHORT-TERM DEBTORS

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

	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000
Debtors - single entity accounts	36,450	38,790
Debtors held by;-		
- Blackpool Transport Services	1,758	1,315
- Blackpool Operating Company	318	244
- Blackpool Coastal Housing	1,145	902
- Blackpool Entertainment Company	606	-
Removal of intra group debtors	(2,697)	(2,657)
Total	37,580	38,594

G7. SHORT-TERM CREDITORS

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

	2014/15 £000	2013/14 £000
Creditors - single entity accounts	(41,713)	(51,940)
Creditors held by;-		
- Blackpool Transport Services	(2,029)	(1,650)
- Blackpool Operating Company	(1,617)	(1,497)
- Blackpool Coastal Housing	(2,214)	(2,398)
- Blackpool Entertainment Company	(4,717)	-
Removal of intra group creditors	2,697	2,657
Total	(49,593)	(54,828)

SECTION 8

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Blackpool Council

Annual Governance Statement – 2014/2015

Scope of responsibility

Blackpool Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. Blackpool Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The purpose of the governance framework

The governance framework comprises the system and processes, culture and values by which the authority is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads its communities. It enables the authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Blackpool Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood and potential impact of those risks being realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The governance framework has been in place at Blackpool Council for the year ended 31st March 2015 and up to the date of the approval of the statement of accounts for that year.

The governance framework

The key elements of the systems and processes that comprise Blackpool Council's governance arrangements are summarised below.

The Council's Vision, Values and Priorities

The Council Plan describes our priorities, values and ambitions for 2013-15 and explains clearly what the Council will do to help improve the lives of local people and how the Council will measure our progress. The extract of these from the Council Plan is shown in the following boxes:

Our vision and priorities

Our vision sets out an image of the future in Blackpool that the Council wishes to create over the long term:

We will build a Blackpool where aspiration and ambition are encouraged and supported. We will seek to narrow the gap between the richest members of our society and the poorest and deliver a sustainable and fairer community, of which our communities will be proud.

We believe that it is by working together that we make a difference to the lives and prospects of people who live, work and learn in Blackpool. The Council has nine priorities for how we will focus our efforts and resources to make a positive difference to the borough of Blackpool. Eight of these concentrate on the needs of our community and fit under three main themes:

1. We will raise aspiration by:

- Tackling child poverty, raising aspirations and improving educational achievement
- Safeguarding and protecting the most vulnerable

2. We will become a more prosperous town by:

- Expanding and promoting our tourism, arts, heritage and cultural offer
- Attracting sustainable investment and creating quality jobs
- Encouraging responsible entrepreneurship for the benefit of our communities

3. We will create healthy communities by:

- Improving health and wellbeing especially for the most disadvantaged
- Improving housing standards and the environment we live in by using housing investment to create stable communities
- Creating safer communities and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour

Our ninth priority - to deliver quality services through a professional, well-rewarded and motivated workforce - ensures we have staff who are capable of delivering these priorities. Blackpool Council's vision and values set out a high level vision of how the Council will address the nine priorities of the Council.

Blackpool Councils Value's are:

- We are accountable for delivering on the promises we make and take responsibility for our actions and the outcomes achieved
- We are committed to being fair to people and treat everyone we meet with dignity and respect
- We take pride in delivering quality services that are community focused and are based on listening carefully to what people need
- We act with integrity and we are trustworthy in all our dealings with people and we are open about the decisions we make and the services we offer
- We are compassionate, caring, hard-working and committed to delivering the best services that we can with a positive and collaborative attitude

The Council Plan seeks to address the big issues and policy drivers facing local government. The Council priorities feed into departmental business plans and are a key tool for managers to use when developing business plans for the coming year. The strong golden thread from community aspirations continues through to individual performance appraisals as they are developed based on Council's vision, values and priorities.

The Council plan will be reviewed in 2015/16 with a new Council Plan consulted upon during the Summer and published in September 2015. During the consultation a review of the priorities and values will be undertaken, this will then be refreshed as part of the business planning arrangements.

Performance Management

Over recent years the inspection regime in some areas was reduced. To help mitigate the risk of the impact of the reduced inspection regime the Council is starting to participate in more peer reviews drawing on experience from other Local Authorities and the private sector.

The Council has a performance management system in place with high level performance issues being reported to the Scrutiny Committee and local performance indicators being managed through the business planning framework.

Performance has been reported against the Council's nine priorities throughout 2014/15 on a quarterly basis. These reports have included progress made against actions, performance indicators, contextual information and progress against issues raised at Scrutiny Committee in the previous quarter.

The performance management framework was strengthened in 2014/2015 by the introduction of an annual programme of business plan challenge sessions. These meetings were chaired by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive and sought to undertake a progress review of the business plans from each department on a rolling programme throughout the year. The lead officer and Cabinet Member for each department were invited to attend the meeting to answer questions or provide further information for the review.

The purpose of the review process was to establish whether:

- Actions are linked to the Council's themes and priorities and key actions from the Council Plan are reflected in departmental business plans;
- Progress against business plan actions is monitored and areas of concern are addressed;
- The impact of business plan actions is evaluated and understood;
- Performance is managed effectively and priorities for improvement are identified; and
- There is evidence of cross departmental working to achieve priorities.

The performance management arrangements will be reviewed for the authority in light of the publication of the new Council Plan in 2015/2016.

Roles and Responsibilities

Responsibilities and functions are in place for each of the Council's Committees, including Licensing, Planning, Standards, Scrutiny and the Finance and Audit Committees. These are reviewed annually with any changes made at the Council's Annual Meeting, to ensure they are fit for purpose. The Executive has also agreed a set of criteria relating to levels of decision making, which provide clarity and consistency for decision makers.

All Council Officers, including the Corporate Leadership Team, have a job description which sets out their roles and responsibilities. Individual objectives for each officer are then part of the Individual Performance Appraisal process.

The Council's Constitution, including the Scheme of Delegation sets out the arrangements and protocols which are in place to enable effective communication within the authority and they also identify arrangements for working with partnerships.

Behaviour and Conduct

An elected member/ officer protocol is incorporated in the Council's Constitution and there is also a Planning Committee protocol. Training is provided to officers and members to enable them to better understand the roles of each other.

There are registers of interests and hospitality for both elected members and officers. Members must register and declare interests on appropriate occasions, supported by appropriate professional advice at any time, where this is required.

The Council's Standards Framework has specific regard to probity and high standards of ethical conduct. This is supported by the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer and together with 3 independent persons appointed by Council, deal as appropriate, with any complaints referred, as part of the process.

Any development needs in terms of conduct are identified through officer Individual Performance Appraisal or member self-assessment as appropriate, a regular programme of training is also provided.

In 2014/2015 workshops were held with Standards Committee members at Blackpool Council to develop a new Member's Code of Conduct. This has now been drafted and will be approved in 2015/2016.

Employees abide by the terms of the Council's officer Code of Conduct. Where appropriate staff are expected to comply with the Constitution and Financial Regulations, these are both updated regularly and appropriate training offered on changes.

Decision Making Framework

The Constitution sets out the functions and responsibilities of the Council, the Executive and committees. Included in this are the delegation arrangements adopted by the Council and the Executive.

All Executive decisions contain all relevant policy implications including financial, risk management, human resource issues including equality analysis and legal considerations. Records of decisions and supporting materials are maintained, with public disclosure of decisions on the Council's internet site. The Monitoring

Officer or a designated representative, receive all decisions before they are processed and therefore are able to check the robustness of data quality prior to a decision being submitted for formal approval.

Certain officer decisions are now published in line with the legislation which came into force in 2014.

The Constitution is reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis.

A training session on the decision making process was delivered to approximately 50 senior managers at the Council in 2014.

Risk Management

The Corporate Risk Management Group meets quarterly to co-ordinate and promote risk management activity. It is supported by departmental and thematic risk management groups. All departments have nominated risk champions to promote best practice in their areas and risk registers are maintained for major projects and partnerships where appropriate.

The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed by the Corporate Leadership Team every six months and considered by the Finance and Audit Committee annually. Responsible officers identified in the Strategic Risk Register are required to attend Finance and Audit Committee to explain how the risks are being managed and what further mitigating controls may be required.

Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Arrangements

The Council has an Anti-Fraud and Corruption Statement in place and this is approved by the Finance and Audit Committee on an annual basis. Any suspected instances of fraud and corruption are reported to the Chief Internal Auditor so that an appropriate investigation into the matter can be undertaken.

A corporate fraud officer is in place to deal with a range of corporate fraud issues, including Council Tax Reduction Scheme. It is intended to increase capacity in this area in 2015/2016 to focus on insurance fraud and further proactive work.

The Council has appropriate procedures in place to deal with the risk of money laundering and also to raise awareness of the Bribery Act and ensure that appropriate controls are in place to reduce the risk.

The Council participates in the National Fraud Initiative and progress against this is monitored on a regular basis.

Management of Change and Transformation

The Council is committed to ensuring that it delivers value for money. Significant changes have been made to the Council structure and working practices to ensure the delivery of significant budget cuts. The Council continually considers ways in which further efficiency can be made to reduce costs whilst maintaining the delivery of a quality service and also considers how to effectively manage change.

Financial Management Arrangements

The Council has a designated Chief Financial Officer who holds Section 151 responsibilities with appropriate qualifications and experience and a deputy has also been appointed. The Chief Financial Officer has arrangements in place for financial management, financial reporting and value for money which are assessed annually by the Council's external auditors.

Monthly financial reporting summaries are made available to the Corporate Leadership Team, the Executive and the Finance and Audit Committee.

The Council's financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2010).

Assurance Arrangements

The Council prepares an annual Audit Plan which is approved by the Corporate Leadership Team and the Finance and Audit Committee each year. This includes a balance of risk and compliance work. The assurance statement for each audit is reported quarterly to the Finance and Audit Committee and contributes to the Chief Internal Auditor's annual opinion. The opinion of the Chief Internal Auditor was presented to Finance and Audit Committee on the 18th June 2015.

An element of contingency is built into the Audit Plan to enable the Internal Audit Team to proactively respond to any issues which may arise throughout the year.

The Council's assurance arrangements broadly conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (2010) and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. An external audit review of the Council's compliance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards is planned for 2015/2016 and this is reviewed annually.

Monitoring Officer

The Council has designated a Monitoring Officer with appropriate qualifications and experience and a deputy has also been appointed. The Monitoring Officer has the specific duty to ensure that the Council, its officers and its elected members maintain the highest standards in all they do and is responsible to Blackpool Council for ensuring that governance procedures are followed and all applicable statutes and regulations are complied with.

Head of Paid Service

The Council has in place effective arrangements to discharge the Head of Paid Service function and this role is undertaken by the Chief Executive.

Finance and Audit Committee

The Council has a Finance and Audit Committee which meets on a regular basis. This is independent of the scrutiny framework, and as a full committee of the Council is able to discharge all the core functions of a Finance and Audit Committee identified in *CIPFA's Audit Committee: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities* including approval of the annual Statement of Accounts.

An ongoing programme of training on finance, audit and corporate governance topics is in place to ensure members have all the skills required to undertake their role.

Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Internal Policies and Procedures

The Council has an internal control framework in place which helps ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures and that expenditure is lawful.

All managers are expected to adhere to the Council's Constitution and Financial Regulations. Non-compliance with such procedures may result in disciplinary action.

An internal audit function is in place to provide assurance that controls are being adhered to. The Finance and Audit Committee receives copies of all audit assurance statements and has the ability to challenge officers where issues of non-compliance have been identified.

The Council's Monitoring Officer has a role in ensuring that the Council acts within the remit of relevant law and regulations and that a robust democratic process is maintained.

Whistleblowing and Complaints

A whistleblowing procedure is in place. All complaints received under this procedure are investigated by appropriate officers. A corporate complaints procedure also operated during the period to ensure that any issues raised by members of the public were fully investigated. A process has been implemented to deal with complaints which reach Stage Three of the complaints process where an independent panel of officers review and investigate the complaint before a response is provided to the complainant. This is chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive and attended by the Monitoring Officer, Chief Internal Auditor and Chief Accountant.

Training and Development

A Member Development Programme is in place which helps deliver training to elected members to help them fulfil their role.

Elected members have personal development plans in place which are used to help identify training needs and the members training budget comprises of a core budget and a further budget that is split proportionally between the political groups, to ensure that appropriate training can be delivered to all members.

A Member's induction programme was developed in 2014/2015 ahead of new Members being elected in May 2015. A range of training and development opportunities are available for officers and this is informed through the Individual Performance Appraisal process which is mandatory for all officers across the Council.

A training programme is in place for senior officers to help enhance leadership skills.

Consultation

The Council consults and engages with a diverse cross-section of the community to help ensure that their views are considered.

Public speaking is available at many meetings such as Executive, Scrutiny and the full Council meeting.

The Council produces a quarterly newsletter *Your Blackpool* which is distributed to every household in the Borough. Blackpool Council has recently invested in updating its website to help improve access to information and uses social media daily to engage with residents and visitors alike.

As part of our statutory arrangements on Health and Wellbeing, Healthwatch Blackpool has used a series of Open Events and engagement techniques to seek views on health and social care services. They have undertaken a programme of "Enter and View" visits to care homes from the CCG, carried out patient-led assessments of the care environment at hospitals, hospices and day treatment centres, and developed and delivered dentistry services.

The Council sought the views of 750 local residents through a General Household Survey, ensuring we have an accurate picture of resident's priorities, perceptions of the Council and our services. The survey will be undertaken every two years to ensure that we deliver service improvements in line with resident expectations.

The Council is part of a Local Authority Research Partnership known as Infusion Research. Based in Nelson Town Hall in Pendle, they provide consultancy support on primary research and consultation programmes at a preferential rate. They worked on 27 projects in 2014/2015, including internal staff surveys plus public research on Blackpool Town Centre, the Blackpool Museum, the Air Show and Adult Learning.

The Blackpool Fairness Commission undertook a review of its governance arrangements during 2014/2015 as part of a wider consultation exercise to make sure the Commission, its structure and membership were fit for purpose. In the last year the Commission has held a number of engagement events with older and young people, held a number of steering group meetings and championed local issues such as Fairtrade and Dementia.

Consultation also takes place with staff, particularly through the Point of View sessions where the Chief Executive meets with a wide range of employees.

Partnerships and Joint Working

Following the award of £45m of lottery funding to the Better Start project led by the NSPCC, the Council has now formed partnership arrangements to deliver projects targeting 0-3 year olds in seven of our most deprived wards. Staff based at Bickerstaffe House have been appointed and governance arrangements established to ensure the effective delivery of the project.

Review of effectiveness

Blackpool Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of executive managers within Blackpool Council, who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Chief Internal Auditor's annual report and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

A number of steps have been taken to review the effectiveness of governance arrangements in 2014/2015 and these include:

- All Directors, in conjunction with the Risk Champions have completed a control self-assessment on the internal control framework within their departments.
- The Finance and Audit Committee have undertaken a self-evaluation of their effectiveness.
- The strategic risk register has been reviewed by the Corporate Leadership Team.
- Key officers, charged with governance responsibilities, including the Monitoring Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer, Chief Internal Auditor and Head of Corporate Development, Engagement and Communication were involved in the review.
- The Corporate Leadership Team has had the opportunity to comment on the governance framework and statement.

The implications of the results of the effectiveness of the governance framework have been reviewed by the Finance and Audit Committee and these state that arrangements continue to be regarded as fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework. The areas already addressed and those to be specifically addressed with new actions planned are outlined below.

Significant Governance Issues

As part of the review of significant governance issues highlighted in 2013/2014 it has been deemed appropriate to remove some of the actions as these have now been effectively addressed included in this are:

Governance Issues Addressed in 2014/2015		
Issues	Action to be taken	Responsible Officer
Risk Management	The Property Risk Management Group's terms of reference and representation should be reviewed to ensure that it is working effectively. Ensure that all departments have in place an effective Departmental Risk Management Group	Director of Resources
Protect vulnerable adults and children	Ensure that adequate controls are put in place to safeguard vulnerable adults and children. Ensure steps are taken to address the control failings identified in the recent inspection reports.	Director of People

There are a number of governance issues which it would be prudent to carry forward as further work is required to fully address the issues. Additional actions have been identified as part of the 2014/2015 review of the effectiveness of the governance framework and these are captured in the following table. It should be noted that some of the issues identified are not deemed as significant but have been included to aid openness and transparency.

Governance Issues to be Addressed in 2015/2016		
Issues	Action to be taken	Responsible Officer
Delivery of corporate savings programme combined with significant demand pressures.	<p>Departments to adhere to agreed savings targets, identifying alternative savings or income generation where pressures develop.</p> <p>Progress on achieving savings monitored from month 0.</p> <p>Plans for the management of recurrent pressures to be developed for all directorates.</p>	Chief Executive/Director of Resources
Project management	<p>Undertake an advisory role to ensure effective project management leads to successful project outcomes across all Council projects.</p> <p>Ensure effective project management leads to successful project outcomes within sphere of influence.</p> <p>Ensure adequate project management resource is available to deliver key projects.</p>	Chief Executive
Property Rationalisation	<p>Deliver Council's accommodation strategy and reduce desk footprint.</p> <p>Ensure that the Council's property estate is operated to maximise rental income or disposal values as appropriate.</p> <p>Improve asset management planning, including business continuity arrangements.</p>	Director of Resources
Procurement	<p>Ensure all services comply with Contract Procedure Rules.</p> <p>Completion of e-procurement and e-invoicing rollout.</p> <p>Ensure adequate time is</p>	Director of Resources/Director of People

	<p>committed to procurement activity and subsequent contract management.</p> <p>Development of integrated commissioning frameworks with economies of scale.</p> <p>Delivery of Personalisation agenda.</p>	
Compliance with corporate requirements	<p>Ensure that all staff complete mandatory training requirements.</p> <p>Ensure that effective workforce development planning is in place.</p> <p>Ensure that all Individual Performance Appraisals are completed.</p> <p>Ensure all business plans are in place for all directorates.</p> <p>Increasing compliance requirements for complaints, asset and data security, data protection and FOI requests whilst resources continue to reduce.</p>	Deputy Chief Executive
Risk management	<p>Ensure that all services have in place up-to-date and fit-for-purpose business continuity plans which have been tested.</p> <p>Changes in legislation leading to a surge in insurance claims, particularly regarding children sexual exploitation/abuse and court-determined orders with costs falling to the local authority.</p>	Chief Executive/Director of Resources
Performance management	<p>Performance management arrangements should be reviewed.</p> <p>Conclude the review of performance management with the LGA to strengthen</p>	Deputy Chief Executive

	<p>the integrity of reporting data both internally and externally to residents.</p> <p>Review how the Council consults with its communities through the review of the Corporate Plan.</p> <p>Develop a comprehensive training programme for Scrutiny Committee members whose focus will be performance.</p>	
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We propose over the coming year to take steps to address the above matters to further enhance our governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.



Signed:

(Leader of the Council)



Signed:

(Chief Executive)

SECTION 9

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Those principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by an entity that specify how the effects of transactions and other events are to be reflected in its financial statements through:

- i) recognising,
- ii) selecting measurement bases for; and
- iii) presenting assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes to reserves.

Accounting policies do not include estimation techniques.

Accounting policies define the process whereby transactions and other events are reflected in financial statements. For example, an accounting policy for a particular type of expenditure may specify whether an asset or a loss is to be recognised; the basis on which it is to be measured; and where in the revenue account or balance sheet it is to be presented.

ACCRUALS

The concept that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

ACQUIRED OPERATIONS

Operations comprise services and divisions of service as defined in Service Reporting Code of Practice. Acquired operations are those operations of the local authority that are acquired in the period.

ACTUARIAL GAINS AND LOSSES

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

- (a) events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experienced gains and losses); or
- (b) the actuarial assumptions have changed.

ASSOCIATE COMPANY

This is an entity other than a subsidiary or joint venture in which the Council has a participating interest and over whose operating and financial policies the Council is able to exercise significant influence.

CAPITAL CHARGE

A charge to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of non current assets used in the provision of services.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure above £15,000 on the acquisition of a non current asset or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing fixed asset.

CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Proceeds above £10,000 from the sale of capital assets. Such income may only be used for capital purposes, ie to repay existing loan debt or to finance new capital expenditure. Any receipts which have not yet been utilised as described are referred to as "capital receipts unapplied".

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy - the Institute provides financial and statistical information for local government and other public sector bodies and advises central government and other bodies on local government and public finance matters.

CLASS OF NON CURRENT ASSETS

The classes of non-current assets required to be included in the accounting statements are:

Operational assets

- council dwellings
- other land and buildings
- vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment
- infrastructure assets
- community assets

Non-operational assets

- Investment properties
- Assets under construction
- Surplus assets, held for disposal

COLLECTION FUND

A statutory account which billing authorities have to maintain for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

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

CONSISTENCY

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

CONTINGENT ASSET

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

CONTINGENT LIABILITY

A contingent liability is either:

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

CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC CORE

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

COUNCIL TAX

A banded property tax which is levied on domestic properties throughout the country. The banding is based on estimated property values as at 1st April 1991. The level of tax is set annually by each local authority for the properties in its area.

CREDITORS

Amounts owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered to it during the accounting period, but for which payment has not been made by the balance sheet date.

CURRENT ASSETS

Assets which will be consumed or cease to have value within the next accounting period, e.g. inventories and debtors.

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Amounts which will become payable or could be called in within the next accounting period, e.g. creditors and cash overdrawn.

CURRENT SERVICE COST (PENSIONS)

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

CURTAILMENT

For a defined benefit scheme, an event that reduces the expected years of future services of present employees or reduces for a number of employees the accrual of defined benefits for some or all of their future service. Curtailments include:

- termination of employees' services earlier than expected, for example as a result of closing a factory or discontinuing a segment of a business, and
- termination of, or amendment to the terms of, a defined benefit scheme so that some or all future service by current employees will no longer qualify for benefits or will qualify only for reduced benefits.

DEBTORS

Amounts due to the Council which relate to the accounting period and have not been received by the balance sheet date.

DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contribution scheme. Usually, the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded (including notionally funded).

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme into which an employer pays regular contributions fixed as an amount or as a percentage of pay and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the scheme does not have sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

DEPRECIATION

The measure of the cost or revalued amount of the benefits of the non-current asset that have been consumed during the period.

Consumption includes the wearing out, using up or other reduction in the useful life of a fixed asset, whether arising from use, effluxion of time or obsolescence through either changes in technology or demand for the goods and services produced by the asset.

DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

Operations comprise services and divisions of service as defined in CIPFA's Standard Classification of Income and Expenditure. An operation should be classified as discontinued if all the following conditions are met:

- the termination of the operation is completed either in the period or before the earlier of three months after the commencement of the subsequent period and the date on which the financial statements are approved.
- The activities relating to the operations have ceased permanently.
- The termination of the operation has a material effect on the nature and focus of the local authority's operations and represents a material reduction in its provision of services resulting either from its withdrawal from a particular activity (whether a service or division of service or its provision in a specific geographical area) or from a material reduction in net expenditure in the local authority's continuing operations.
- The assets, liabilities, income and expenditure of operations and activities are clearly distinguishable physically, operationally and for financial reporting purposes..

Operations not satisfying all these conditions are classified as continuing.

DISCRETIONARY BENEFITS

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

EMOLUMENTS

All sums paid to or receivable by an employee and sums due by way of expenses allowances (as far as those sums are chargeable to UK income tax) and the money value of any other benefits received other than in cash. Pension contributions payable by either employer or employee are excluded.

ESTIMATION TECHNIQUES

The methods adopted by an entity to arrive at estimated monetary amounts, corresponding to the measurement bases selected, for assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes to reserves.

Estimation techniques implement the measurement aspects of accounting policies. An accounting policy will specify the basis on which an item is to be measured; where there is uncertainty over the monetary amount corresponding to that basis, the amount will be arrived at by using an estimation technique. Estimation techniques include, for example:

- Methods of depreciation, such as straight line and reducing balance, applied in the context of a particular measurement basis, used to estimate the proportion of the economic benefits of a non-current asset consumed in period.
- Different methods used to estimate the proportion of debts that will not be recovered, particularly where such methods consider a population as a whole rather than individual balances.

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

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

EXPECTED RATE OF RETURN ON PENSIONS ASSETS

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

EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS

Material items possessing a high degree of abnormality, which derive from events or transactions that fall outside the ordinary activities of the authority and which are not expected to recur.

FINANCE LEASE

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

FINANCIAL YEAR

The Council's financial year runs from the 1st April through to the following 31st March.

FORMULA GRANT

Grant distributed by formula through the local government finance settlement. It comprises Revenue Support Grant and redistributed business rates (NNDR). It is a general subsidy towards council spending and is not ring-fenced for specific services.

GENERAL FUND

The main revenue account of the Council which brings together all income and expenditure other than that recorded in the Housing Revenue Account and the Collection Fund.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

A statutory account which local authorities have to maintain if they provide public housing and which includes all income and expenditure relating to the administration and maintenance of council dwellings and related properties.

IMPAIRMENT

A reduction in the value of a fixed asset below its value brought forward in the Balance Sheet. Examples of factors which may cause such a reduction in value include general price decreases, a significant decline in a fixed asset's market value and evidence of obsolescence or physical damage to the asset.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Fixed assets that are inalienable, expenditure on which is recoverable only by continued use of the asset created. Examples are highways and footpaths.

INTEREST COST (PENSIONS)

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

INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS (IAS)

Accounting standards developed by the International Accounting Standards Board that are primarily applicable to general purpose company accounts. These standards are adopted by the CIPFA Code of Practice except where the standards conflict with specific statutory requirements.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (IFRS)

Financial reporting standards developed by the International Accounting Standards Board.

INVENTORIES

The amount of unused or unconsumed stocks held in expectation of future use. When use will not arise until a later period, it is appropriate to carry forward the amount to be matched to the use or consumption when it arises. Stocks comprise the following categories: goods or other assets purchased for resale, consumable stores, raw materials and components purchased for incorporation into products for sale, products and services in intermediate stages of completion, long-term contract balances and finished goods.

INVESTMENTS (NON-PENSIONS FUND)

A long-term investment is an investment that is intended to be held for use on a continuing basis in the activities of the authority. Investments should be so classified only where an intention to hold the investment for the long term can clearly be demonstrated or where there are restrictions as to the investor's ability to dispose of the investment.

Investments, other than those in relation to the pensions fund, that do not meet the above criteria should be classified as current assets.

LEA

Local Education Authority – a local authority with the statutory responsibility for securing the provision of education in its area.

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION

Minimum revenue provision is the minimum amount which must be charged to an Authority's revenue account each year and set aside as provision for credit liabilities, as required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES (NNDR)

A tax levied on business properties and sometimes known as Business Rates. An NNDR poundage is set annually by the Government. Sums based on rateable values are collected by billing authorities and paid into a national pool. The proceeds are then redistributed by central government as a grant to local authorities in proportion to adult population.

NET BOOK VALUE

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

NET CURRENT REPLACEMENT COST

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

NET REALISABLE VALUE

The open market value of an asset in its existing use less the expenses to be incurred in realising the asset.

NON CURRENT ASSETS (previously fixed assets)

Assets that yield benefits to the local authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

OPERATING LEASES

Leases which do not meet the definition of a finance lease, ie where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to the ownership of the property, plant and equipment from the lessor to the lessee, are accounted for as operating leases.

PAST SERVICE COST

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

PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI)

A central Government initiative which aims to increase the level of funding available for public services by attracting private sources of finance. The PFI is supported by a number of incentives to encourage Authority's participation.

PROVISION

An amount set aside by the Council for any liability of uncertain timing or amount that has been incurred.

PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE

The Code was introduced from 1st April 2004. The basic principle of the Code is that local authorities will be free to invest so long as their capital spending plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Code sets out indicators that the authority must use and factors that they must take account to demonstrate that they have fulfilled this objective.

RESERVES

Amounts set aside in the accounts to meet expenditure which the Council may be committed to in future periods, but not allocated to specific liabilities which are certain or very likely to occur.

Earmarked reserves are allocated to a specific purpose or area of spending. Unallocated reserves are often described as balances.

REVENUE ACCOUNT

An account which records all annual running costs and the associated income.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE

Expenditure incurred on the day-to-day running of the Council.

REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT

A central government grant paid to each local authority to help to finance its general expenditure. The distribution of the grant between authorities is intended to allow the provision of similar standards of service throughout the country for a similar council tax levy.

SERVICE REPORTING CODE OF PRACTICE

A code of practice prepared to provide accounting guidance on financial reporting to stakeholders which is designed to enhance the comparability of local authority financial information. The code represents proper accounting practice for the purpose of best value reporting.

SUPPORTED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (REVENUE) (SCE(R))

Replaces Basic Credit Approvals from 2004/2005 under the Local Government Act 2003. A specific amount of capital expenditure for which the Government will support the borrowing via RSG grant.

WORK IN PROGRESS

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

