

Notes to the Accounts

Accounting Policies

1. General

The Statement of Accounts has been prepared with reference to the objective of showing the results of the stewardship and accountability of elected members and management for the resources entrusted to them, and on the underlying assumption of a going concern basis.

The Statement of Accounts summarises the council's transactions for the 2022/23 financial year and its position at the year- end of 31 March 2023. The council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which requires the statement to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices under Section 21 of the 2003 Act primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Council Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under Section 12 of the Local Government Act 2003.

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

The council's accounting policies are updated annually to reflect any changes in IFRS, including changes in International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), HM Treasury guidance, CIPFA guidance, The Service Reporting Code of Practice

(SeRCOP) or any other change in statute, guidance or framework impacting on the council's accounts.

The council's accounting policies as far as possible have been developed to ensure that the accounts are understandable, relevant, free from material error or misstatement, reliable and comparable, and are applied consistently.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in any future periods affected. Critical judgements and areas where the use of estimates is significant are discussed at the end of this section in note 26.

2. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

In particular:

- **Fees**, charges, and rents due from customers are accounted for as income at the date the Council provides the relevant goods or services.
- **Revenue** from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.
- **Supplies** are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed. Where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventory 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.
- **Interest payable on borrowings and receivable on investments** is accounted for 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 **income and expenditure** has 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 it is doubtful that debts will be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

the year where the period starts and are not apportioned between the years.

Exceptions to the accrual's principle are consistently applied each year, and therefore do not have a material effect on the year's accounts.

3. 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 one month period or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Exceptions to this are:

- **Telephone accounts** are being charged to that year which has most of the quarter to which the rental or the charge relates as appropriate. This is rather than apportioning them between the financial years and as this policy is consistently applied each year it does not have a material effect on the year's accounts.
- **Insurance premiums** are due on the 30 September each year and are charged to the year that the payment is made and not adjusted between the years.
- **Rentals and maintenance agreements** are consistently charged to

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 authority's cash management.

4. Exceptional Items

Exceptional items are material items which derive from individual events that fall within the ordinary activities of the Council and are identified as exceptional items by virtue of their size, nature, or incidence. When items of income and expense are material, their nature and amount is disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the notes to the accounts, depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the council's financial performance

5. Prior period adjustments, changes in accounting policies and estimates and errors

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

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

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

6. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Service revenue accounts, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following charges to record the real cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

- **Depreciation** attributable to the assets used by the relevant service.
- **Revaluation and Impairment losses** on assets used by the service and other losses 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 services.

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to cover depreciation, impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual provision from revenue (known as the Minimum Revenue Provision - MRP) to contribute towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement. For this year, in respect of debt that is supported by Revenue Support Grant (RSG), the provision is calculated using the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) method. For new borrowing for which no Government support has been given and is therefore self-financed, the asset life method has been used for the 2022/23 accounts.

The CFR method calculates the provision as 2% of the non-housing supported CFR at the end of the preceding financial year (2% of the capital expenditure funded by supported borrowing).

The asset life method requires MRP to be made in equal annual instalments over the estimated life of the asset for which the unsupported borrowing is undertaken.

The annuity asset life method requires that the MRP for each year be the amount presumed to be the principal element of the equal amounts that would be payable each year in respect of a loan at a specified rate of interest that would reduce the outstanding principal amount to zero at the end of the estimated useful life of the asset. This results in an MRP charge that rises over time. This is deemed to be particularly appropriate for assets

which generate increasing revenues over time.

Depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by revenue provision in the Movement in Reserves Statement, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account for the difference between the two.

7. Council tax and non-domestic rates (England)

Billing authorities act as agents, collecting council tax and non-domestic rates (NDR) on behalf of the major preceptors (including government for NDR) and, as principals, collecting council tax and NDR for themselves.

Billing authorities are required by statute to maintain a separate fund (the Collection Fund) for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and NDR. Under the legislative framework for the Collection Fund, billing authorities, major preceptors and central government share proportionately the risks and rewards that the amount of council tax and NDR collected could be less or more than predicted.

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

The council tax and NDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the council's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax and NDR that must be included in the council's General Fund. Therefore, the difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to

the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the statutory arrangements will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure line in the CIES. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows.

8. Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

Short-term employee benefits (those that fall wholly within 12 months of the year end), such as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits such as car loans for current employees, are recognised as an expense in the year in which employees render service to the Council.

An accrual is made against the service in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for the cost of holiday entitlements and flexitime earned by employees but not taken before the year end and which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual made is required under statute to be reversed out of the

General Fund Balance by a credit to the Un-useable Reserve – Accumulated Absence Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday entitlements are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service segment or, where applicable, to a corporate service segment at the earlier of when the council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the council recognises costs for a restructuring.

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

Post-employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pensions

Scheme, administered by Leicestershire County Council.

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

- The liabilities of the pension scheme attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e., an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc. and projections of future earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate dependent on the duration of the liability. (A Corporate Bond yield curve is constructed based on the constituents of the iBoxx Corporates AA bond index and using the UBS delta curve fitting methodology. The discount is set based on the employer's own weighted average duration).
- The assets of 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's 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 of 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 cost – the expected increase in the present value of liabilities during the year as they move one year closer to being paid – debited to Net Operating Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

- Remeasurements comprising;
The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure
Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
Contributions paid to the 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 in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement this means that there are appropriations 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 any amounts payable to the fund but unpaid at the year end.

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

9. 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.

10. Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities 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 and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

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

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund balance to be spread over future years.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business

model for holding the financial assets and their cash flow characteristics. The Council holds financial assets measured at:

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

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

Loans and Receivables

Loans and receivables are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual credits to 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 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 several loans to employees as part of its assisted car purchase scheme at less than market rates (soft loans). When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the present

value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal. Interest is credited at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from employees, 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 against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement on the General Fund Balance.

Where assets are identified as impaired because of the 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Any gains or losses that arise on de-recognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

11. Government Grants and Contributions

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

- The Council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments, and
- The grants or contribution 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 in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ring-fenced revenue grants and contributions and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

Covid-19 Grants

As part of the Covid-19 pandemic the government provided a range grant schemes to support businesses that has been administered by the Council (Covid-19 Additional Relief fund and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief). The Council is responsible for paying over the grants to the businesses and are then reimbursed by the government using a grant under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 (S31). Some of the schemes are fully reimbursed, others are a set allocation.

The Council is required to use their Business Rates system to identify the properties that meet the eligibility criteria. These grants are not Collection Fund transactions.

12. Heritage Assets

Tangible heritage assets are defined as those tangible assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical, or environmental qualities and are held and maintained for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

Heritage assets are recognised where they meet these criteria and are valued in excess of the de-minimus threshold of £3,000. Heritage assets are measured in the Balance Sheet at insurance value which is based on market value. An impairment review is carried out each year to assess any physical depletion of the assets. All heritage assets held by the Council are deemed to have indefinite lives and are therefore not depreciated. Any disposal of assets will be treated in the same manner as other Property, Plant and Equipment.

13. Intangible Assets

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and controlled by the Council (e.g., software licences) is capitalised when it will bring benefits to the Council for more than one financial year.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are carried at amortised costs and the depreciable amount of the intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired –any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

14. Inventories and Work in Progress

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

realisable value. Work in progress is subject to an interim valuation at the year-end and recorded in the Balance Sheet at cost plus any profit reasonably attributable to the works

15. Investment Properties

An investment property is one that is used solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both. Property that is used to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods as well as to earn rentals or for capital appreciation does not meet the definition of an investment property.

Investment properties are measured at fair value, with gains and losses recognised in surplus or deficit within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement rather than through the Revaluation Reserve. Investment properties held at fair value are not depreciated.

Fair value is to be interpreted as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its highest and best use which is market value. The fair value of investment property held under a lease is the lease interest.

16. Leases

The Council accounts for leases as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards relating to the leased property to the Council. All other leases are classed as operating leases.

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification. Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the

arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

The Council as lessee.

Finance Leases

Where a lease is classified as a finance lease, then the substance of the transaction is considered to be the same as if the authority had purchased the asset and financed it through taking out a loan.

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Initial direct costs of the authority are added to the carrying amount

of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred. Lease payments are apportioned between:

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

Property, plant and equipment recognised under finance leases is

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

The CIPFA LAS AAC Local Authority Code Board defer the implementation of IFRS 16 Leases in the Code of practice on local Authority Accounts. In the UK (the code) until the 2024/25 financial year.

Operating Leases

If a lease meets the Code's definition of an operating lease, the property in question is not required to be recognised as an asset in the authority's Balance Sheet and the payments under the lease will be a charge to revenue.

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

The Council as lessor

Finance Lease

If the authority is the lessor in an operating lease, it will retain the property either as an item of property, plant and equipment or as an investment property on the Balance Sheet and credit rentals to income as they become payable, subject to any

requirement to smooth the payments and/or the lease incentives.

Where the authority grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether property, plant and equipment or assets held for sale) is written off to the other operating expenditure line in the Comprehensive

Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the authority'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).

Operating Leases

If the authority is the lessor in an operating lease, it will retain the property either as an item of property, plant and equipment or as an investment property on the Balance

Sheet and credit rentals to income as they become payable, subject to any requirement to smooth the payments and/or the lease incentives.

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

17. Overheads and Support Services

Segmental Reporting

The Council's operating segments are organised into seven service areas. These were determined to give both members and the general public a clear picture of the services the Council provides and will assist the making of decisions about allocating resources and assessing performance. For the purposes of the 2022/23 financial statements, there are eight segments. The eight segments are

- Customer Services & Business Transformation
- Senior Leadership Team
- Community & Wellbeing
- Community & Wellbeing Depot
- Law & Democracy
- The Built Environment

- Finance & Resources
- Housing Revenue Account

Measurement of segmental income and expenses is in accordance with the Council's accounting policies. Shared costs are included in segments based on the actual recharges made.

The Council does not report on segmental asset and liability internally, therefore it is not required to report segmental information on assets and liabilities.

18. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

Expenditure equal to or in excess of £3,000 (De Minimis level) on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accrual's basis, provided that it yields benefits to the Council for more than one financial year. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (e.g., repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising the purchase price and any expenditure that is directly attributable

to bringing the asset into working condition for its intended use.

The council does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred while assets are under construction.

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

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

- Assets are then carried in the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:
- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost
- Dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV–SH)
- Council offices – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value EUV), except for a few offices that are situated close to the council’s housing properties, where there is no market for office accommodation, and that are measured at depreciated replacement cost (instant build) as an estimate of current value
- Surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant’s perspective
- All other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would

be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value EUV).

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued each year by either a desktop revaluation or by the major revaluation exercise which occurs every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of an impairment loss previously charged to a service revenue account.

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

Impairment

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

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

- Where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).

- Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.
- **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. Council currently is using the straight-line allocation method over the useful life of the asset. The useful life of the plant, equipment and vehicles has fallen into a range of between 5 and 10 years.

Newly acquired or operational assets are depreciated for a full year in the first year, although assets during construction are not depreciated until they are brought into use

No depreciation is provided on assets in the year of disposal

Depreciation is not charged on freehold land, investment properties or assets held for sale.

Where an asset has major components with different estimated useful lives, these are depreciated separately.

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

Depreciation

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- **Council dwellings and other buildings** – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer. Generally, a prudent view has been taken on the life of the Council's **operational buildings** and as such they have been depreciated over a period of between 5 and 20 years. However, it is recognised that the Leisure Centres which are a new build, therefore the expected life is greater, and these have been depreciated over 40 years.

Disposals

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the value of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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 in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account

Amounts received for a disposal more than £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of capital receipts relating to Housing Revenue Account disposals (75% for dwellings, 50% for land and other assets, net of deductions and allowances) is payable into a government pool. The Council also retains an amount relating to the building of new houses in the One-for-One replacement agreement the Council has signed up to as well as Council House Buy-Back should these occur.

The balance of receipts received from disposals are credited to the Useable Capital Receipts Reserve, which 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 Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

Available-for-sale Assets

Available-for-sale assets are initially measured and carried at fair value. Where the asset has fixed or determinable payments, annual credits to the Income and Expenditure Account

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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Where impairment losses have been incurred – these are also debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any net gain/loss for the asset accumulated in the Reserve.

Where assets are identified as impaired because of the 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Any gains or losses that arise on de-recognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with

any accumulated gains or losses previously recognised.

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

Componentisation

A component is a part of a larger asset that must be separately identified and depreciated, for the purposes of assisting more accurate financial reporting and asset management.

A component must have the following factors:

- A significantly different useful life from the parent asset
- A significantly different value to the parent asset
- Provide an economic or service benefit to the Council, which is materially different to the rest of the asset.

The Council will recognise significant components of an item of property, plant and equipment where the asset's value is greater than £1,000,000 or where the component is more than 25% of the total asset's value.

Componentisation takes place at valuation, acquisition, and enhancement of the parent asset.

The following assets have been componentised (as per 2022/23)

- Wigston Swimming Pool
- Brocks Hill Visitor Centre
- Blaby Road Park
- Parklands Leisure Centre

Council Dwellings are not componentised, other than the separations of the land value, as the

internal components, individually, do not form a significant enough part of the value to be material. However, where components are replaced, the Council derecognises the replaced components in the accounts.

19. Provisions, contingent liabilities, and contingent assets

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council an obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits, but where the timing of the transfer is uncertain. For instance, the Council may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged to the appropriate revenue account when the Council becomes aware of the obligation, based on the best estimate of the likely settlement. When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision set up in the balance sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year - where it becomes more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will not be required, the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service revenue account.

Where some or all the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be met by another party (e.g., from an insurance claim), 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 Council 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.

20. Reserves

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts in the Movement on Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service revenue account in that year to score against the Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and

Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund Balance statement so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

21. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute results from expenditure of a capital nature where no fixed asset is created for the Council. They include private sector renewal grants and advances to other parties to finance capital investments.

This also includes exceptional revenue expenditure for which a capitalisation direction can be granted to allow this expenditure to be funded from capital. Capitalisation direction gives the Council the flexibility to treat specified revenue expenditure as capital expenditure, the Council must meet strict criteria and should only be sought for costs which are due largely to factors beyond the control of the Council and are unavoidable.

The Council generally writes off revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute to revenue in the year in which it is created.

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

22. Value Added Tax (VAT)

Income and expenditure exclude any amounts related to VAT, as all VAT

collected is payable to HM Revenue and Customs and all VAT paid is recoverable from them.

23. Related Party Transactions

Are circumstances where an authority might have the potential either to be controlled/influenced or to exert control/influence, the following specific related parties can be identified.

- Pension fund
- Assisted organisations
- Controlled companies
- Associated companies and joint venture partners.

Material related party relationships and transactions, outstanding balances between the Council and its related parties are disclosed within notes to the Statement of Accounts.