



TO COUNCILLOR:

Miss P V Joshi
J Kaufman

K J Loydall (Chair)
D W Loydall

Mrs S B Morris
Dr I K Ridley

Dear Sir or Madam

I hereby **SUMMON** you to attend a meeting of the **AUDIT COMMITTEE** to be held at the **COUNCIL OFFICES, STATION ROAD, WIGSTON** on **WEDNESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2021** at **4.00 PM** for the transaction of the business set out in the Agenda below.

Yours faithfully

Council Offices
Wigston
21 September 2021

Mrs Anne E Court
Chief Executive



IMPORTANT COVID-19 NOTICE

In-person Council and Committee meetings which are open to the press and public to observe have resumed from 7 May 2021 following the expiry of the Regulations that allowed local authorities to hold remote meetings.

Whilst most of these meetings will take place in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices in Wigston, it may be necessary to host a meeting at an alternative venue and/or at short notice. This will allow all attendees to maintain social distancing and follow the latest COVID-secure guidelines.

If attending an in-person meeting, all attendees must wear a face covering (unless exempt or when seated) and must sanitise their hands on entry and exit to/from the meeting venue. Meeting venue capacity will be severely restricted due to COVID-19 regulations, however there will still be opportunities for public participation in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Where the necessary technology is available and working, the press and public may still be able to watch the live streams of meetings without having to attend in-person. Instructions on how to access live streams can be found below where applicable. At a minimum, audio recordings of meetings will be made available on the Council's website shortly after any given meeting.

ITEM NO.

AGENDA

PAGE NO'S

Audit Committee Member Training

Audit Committee Member training will take place at 3pm, before the commencement of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence



Postal Address: Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston, Leicestershire LE18 2DR

Refuse & Recycling Centre: The Depot, Wigston Road, Oadby, Leicestershire LE2 5JE

Tel: (0116) 288 8961 **Fax:** (0116) 288 7828 **Email:** csc@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



oadby-wigston.gov.uk

~ Page 1 ~



OadbyWigstonBC



@Oadby_Wigston

To receive apologies for absence from Members to determine the quorum of the meeting in accordance with Rule 7 of Part 4 of the Constitution.

2. Appointment of Substitutes

To appoint substitute Members in accordance with Rule 26 of Part 4 of the Constitution and the Substitution Procedure Rules.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that any declaration of interest should be made having regard to the Members' Code of Conduct. In particular, Members must make clear the nature of the interest and whether it is 'pecuniary' or 'non-pecuniary'.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

4 - 6

To read, confirm and sign the minutes of the previous meeting in accordance with Rule 19 of Part 4 of the Constitution.

5. Action List Arising from the Previous Meeting

To read, confirm and note the Action List arising from the previous meeting.

6. Petitions and Deputations

To receive any Petitions and, or, Deputations in accordance with Rule(s) 11 and 12 of Part 4 of the Constitution and the Petitions Procedure Rules respectively.

7. External Audit Update Report (Q1 2021/22)

7 - 204

Report of the Head of Finance / Acting Section 151 Officer.

8. Internal Audit Update Report (Q1 2021/22)

205 - 213

Report of the Head of Finance / Acting Section 151 Officer.

For more information, please contact:

Democratic Services

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
Council Offices
Station Road, Wigston
Leicestershire
LE18 2DR

t: (0116) 257 2775

e: democratic.services@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

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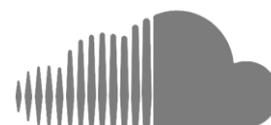
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Our audio platform
soundcloud.com/

Audit Committee

Wednesday, 29 September 2021

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Station Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2DR*

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Agenda Item 4

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, STATION ROAD, WIGSTON ON WEDNESDAY, 28 JULY 2021 COMMENCING AT 4.00 PM

PRESENT

K J Loydall Chair



COUNCILLORS

J Kaufman
D W Loydall
Mrs S B Morris
Dr I K Ridley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Miss E Byrne Democratic Services Officer
C Campbell Head of Finance / Deputy Section 151 Officer
S Tucker Democratic & Electoral Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

R Deo CW Audit Services
P Harvey Grant Thornton LLP
G Patterson Grant Thornton LLP
K Watkins CW Audit Services

26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Miss P V Joshi.

27. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

None.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

29. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 April 2021 be taken as read, confirmed and signed.

30. ACTION LIST ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There was no Action List arising from the previous meeting held on 14 April 2021.

31. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None.

32. OPPORTUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Committee gave consideration to the report as set out on pages 6- 48 of the agenda, which asked it to approve the Opportunity Risk Management Policy and note the Operational and Strategic Risk Registers.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Mrs S B Morris and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The Opportunity Risk Management Policy be approved; and**
- (ii) The Operational and Strategic Risk Registers be noted.**

33. INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE REPORT

The Committee gave consideration to the report as set out on pages 49 – 61 of the agenda, which asked it to note the key outcomes arising from the work of Internal Audit for 2020/21 and to endorse the audit opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's arrangements for governance, risk management and internal control.

The Committee requested that further work be undertaken in order to ensure that records of historic contracts are included on the Council's contract registers as appropriate.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor D W Loydall and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The audit opinion regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's arrangements for governance, risk management and internal control (as set out at Appendix 1) be noted; and**
- (ii) The conclusion that the Council has an effective internal service be endorsed.**

34. EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (2019/20)

The Committee gave consideration to the report as set out on pages 62 – 181 of the agenda, which asked it to review and approve the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Mrs S B Morris and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The Statement of Accounts for the Year ended 31 March 2020 be approved;**
- (ii) The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 be published and the Section 151 Officer be authorised, following consultation with the Chair of Audit Committee, to make any changes to the accounts that may be agreed with Grant Thornton LLP, the Council's External Auditors.**
- (iii) Approval be given for The "Letter of Representation" to be signed by the**

Head of Finance / Acting Section 151 Officer and the Chair of Audit Committee.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.40 PM



Chair

Wednesday, 29 September 2021

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Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2DR*

Agenda Item 7



Audit Committee	Wednesday, 29 September 2021	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **External Audit Update Report (Q1 2021/22)**

Report Author(s): **Comie Campbell (Head of Finance/Acting Section 151 Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	To update Members on the progress of the external audit of the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts made up to 31 March 2021.
Report Summary:	<p>The Council's draft statement of accounts are required to be audited each year by set dates. There has been temporary legislative extension changes to these dates.</p> <p>Grant Thornton have provided an update on the date and timescale for auditing the Councils 2020/21 Draft Unaudited Statement OF Accounts. These draft accounts include the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021.</p> <p>This report also includes recommendations Grant Thornton have made following the audit of the Council's 2019/20 Statement of Accounts.</p>
Recommendation(s):	<p>That the Committee:</p> <p>A. Notes that the 2019/20 Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 have been approved and published on the Council's website.</p> <p>B. Notes that the Unaudited 2020/21 Statement of Accounts for the year ended March 2021 are subject to an external audit with a view to being reviewed and approved at an Audit Committee later this year.</p> <p>C. Approves the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021.</p>
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	Comie Campbell (Head of Finance/Acting Section 151 Officer) (0116) 257 2713 Comie.Campbell@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Corporate Objectives:	Providing Excellent Services (CO3)
Vision and Values:	"A Stronger Borough Together" (Vision) Accountability (V1)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Reputation Damage (CR4) Regulatory Governance (CR6)

Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	As the author, the report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 • Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unaudited 2020/21 Statement of Accounts 2. OWBC Annual Audit Letter 2019/20 3. Audit Committee Progress Report

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The publication of the Statement of Accounts is governed by the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011. These require the Statement of Accounts to be certified by the Council's Section 151 Officer as presenting a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council by 31 May each year. The accounts must then be submitted for external audit to publish audited accounts by no later than the 31 July each year.
- 1.2 However, due to the Covid 19 pandemic the deadlines have been altered, with the 2020/21 accounts being presented by 31 July 2021, with the audited accounts to be published by 30 September 2021. The 2020/21 unaudited accounts shown at **Appendix 1**, certified by the Section 151 Officer, were published on the Council's website on 26 August 2021.
- 1.3 Publication of the 2020/21 unaudited accounts on the Council website was delayed. This was due to waiting to finalise the figures and making relevant adjustments to the accounts once the previous year's 2019/20 Accounts were formally signed off on the 9 August 2021 by Grant Thornton.

2. Unaudited 2020/21 Statement of Accounts

- 2.1 There was an additional requirement to show the Covid 19 Business grants paid out split between Agent (government was specific in which businesses would receive a certain type of grant on set criteria) and Principal (There was some discretion on what businesses grants were paid to be certain guidelines local authorities had to work within).
- 2.2 It is worth noting the Council has supported Businesses within the Borough throughout 2020/21 with approx. £12.5million of Covid 19 related Business grants. This is shown in the notes to the accounts on page 112.

3. Annual Governance Statement

- 3.1 The Annual Governance Statement to 31 March 2021 is included within the published unaudited 2020/21 Statement of Accounts (pages 140 to 155). It is a requirement of the Council to undertake an annual review of its governance arrangements, which includes the effectiveness of its systems of internal control.

4. 2019/20 Statement of Accounts

- 4.1 Following the completion of the audit of the 2019/20 statement of accounts by Grant Thornton an unqualified opinion was given and a certified audit certificate issued on 9 August 2021. The audited 2019/20 accounts have now published on the Council's website during August 2021.
- 4.2 Grant Thornton's "OWBC Annual Audit Letter 2019/20 " shown at **Appendix 2** highlights the fees chargeable of £62,000 for this completed audit in Section A on page 13. This report identifies four recommendations made by the external auditors the Council needs to rectify, shown in Section B on page 14 and listed below:
- Other Land & Building Revaluations
 - Finance Function Capacity
 - Collection Fund
 - Property, Plant & Equipment – Useful Economic Lives

5. 2020/21 Statement of Accounts

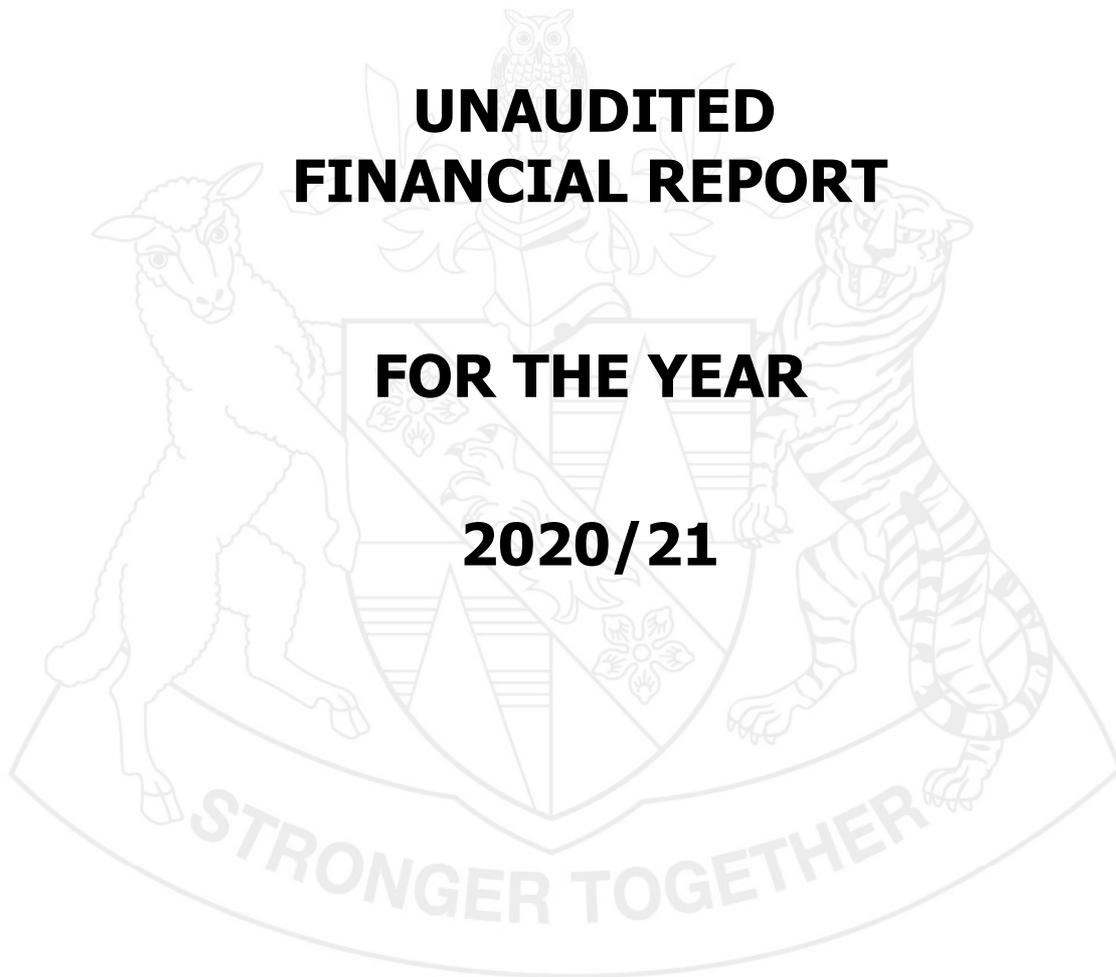
- 5.1 Grant Thornton have produced an Audit Committee Progress Report shown at **Appendix 3**. This outlines the current status of the 2020/21 audit and the estimated timescale for completing it by 30 November 2021 with a view to giving an audit opinion by early December 2021. The report also includes the proposed audit fees of £55,444.

OADBY & WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

2020/21



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THE NARRATIVE REPORT

Introduction by the Head of Finance and Acting Section 151 Officer

I am pleased to present Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2021. These accounts inform their users as to the financial performance of the Council during the year and as a result are an important element of demonstrating sound financial stewardship of the taxpayers' money.

The Council's Auditors, Grant Thornton LLP, will commence their audit late August early September 2021 after which the full audited accounts will be presented to members for their approval at the Audit Committee in November 2021.

Prior to approval the draft accounts were subjected to a thirty working days public inspection period. For the 2020/21 accounts, this inspection period commenced on 26th August 2021. From that date the unaudited accounts are available to the public on the Council's website.

The purpose of this Narrative Report is to provide an organisational overview of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and the external environment in which it operates. It provides information about Oadby and Wigston, including key issues affecting the Council and its accounts.

This Statement of Accounts (the Accounts) summarises the financial position of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2021. These accounts have been produced for the Council as a single entity. No group accounts are required.

The principles adopted in compiling the Statement of Accounts are those recommended by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) namely:

- The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code);
- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS); and
- The Service Reporting Code Of Practice (SeRCOP)

A Guide to Oadby and Wigston

The Borough is located at the south-east of the city of Leicester and comprises the three town centres of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston. Along with Leicester it shares its boundaries with the two other local authorities of Harborough District and Blaby District.

Geography

The Borough is primarily urban in nature consisting of 2,400 hectares in area with a population of 57,336 residents (2020/19 57,035 residents). It is situated 5 miles from both Leicester City centre and from Junction 21 of the M1 motorway.

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Population

The population of the Borough has a gender split of Males 48.5% and Females 51.5% (*Source Mid 2020 Population Estimates*).

2020/21 Population Males 48.6% and Females 51.4% (*source Mid 2020 Population Estimates*).

The age demographic is set out below and shows a population that is aging when compared to both the surrounding area and the country as a whole.

Age	Oadby & Wigston	Leics County	East Midlands	England
0 – 19	24.51%	24.01%	23.11%	23.57%
20 - 64	53.90%	58.16%	57.27%	57.93%
65 - 89	20.09%	16.97%	18.72%	17.58%
90 and over	1.50%	0.86%	0.90%	0.92%

The residential population is one of the most culturally diverse in the region with the overall Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population being 26.99%, which is over double the Leicestershire County average (10.74%) and almost double the East Midlands regional figure (15.53%). This diversity is also reflected in the religious composition of the Borough, with 21.87% belonging to non-Christian religions compared to a national average of 9.76%.

Political Structure

There has been political continuity since 1991 when the Liberal Democrats achieved an overall majority for the first time. The Council at 31 March 2021 consisted of 26 members including 24 Liberal Democrats and 2 Conservatives. Councillor John Boyce is the Leader of the Council while his deputy is Councillor Michael Charlesworth (May 2021 being replaced by Samia Haq Deputy Leader). Local Borough Elections were last held on 6 May 2021 leaving the Council with 24 Liberal Members and 2 Conservative Members.

All 26 members sit on the Full Council and this oversees decisions and actions of the four main committees.

The four committees are:

- Policy, Finance & Development Committee
- Service Delivery Committee
- Development Control Committee
- Licensing & Regulatory Committee

The Committees debate and decide Council policy and make specific decisions in relation to those individual committee's responsibilities. There are

THE NARRATIVE REPORT

also a number of working groups with limited decision making power, that develop specific initiatives and which report through the main committees to Council. A Standards Panel to oversee Councillor's conduct can be called at any time from the membership of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee.

Oadby and Wigston Council operate a Committee system of governance and all 26 members are involved in the decision making.

On a national level Oadby and Wigston is contained wholly within the Harborough Constituency and is represented at Westminster by Neil O'Brien, MP of the Conservative Party. Mr O'Brien held the seat, for the Conservatives, was re-elected as the MP for the Harborough constituency in December 2019 with a majority of 17,728.

Management Structure

During the financial year 2020/21 the Senior Management Team comprised of the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer), Head of Finance (Deputy S151 Officer/Acting S151 Officer from March 2021), Head of Law & Democracy (Monitoring Officer) and three other Heads of Service. Its role is to lead the organisation so that the Council can fulfil its statutory responsibilities and deliver its services and local priorities.

Workforce

At 31 March 2021 the Council employed 169 (2019/20 -168) members of staff equating to 179.84 (2019/20 – 157.8) Full Time Equivalent posts.

Agency Staff Expenditure 2020/21					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2020/21	203	254	350	245	1052
2019/20	134	191	173	132	630

The Council holds the Investors in People Award, Level 6, and is one of a handful of local authorities to achieve this status.

Customer Service Excellence (CSE) has been award to the Council (December 2020) – (nationally) recognising standard designed to drive customer-focused change.

The (CSE) Award identified the Councils high achievements within:

- Customer Insights
- The Culture Organisation
- Information and Access
- Delivery
- Timeliness and Quality

THE NARRATIVE REPORT

The **ARTIC Award** has been given to the Council's staff (reviewed yearly at the end of December) for the Council's values. Staff display the values and receive nominations for an award.

The Vision and Values of the Council

The Council has a clear vision for the borough, its services and employees. These were adopted after lengthy consultation with officers and members. The Council's adopted vision is 'A Stronger Borough Together' along with five organisational values;

- 1) **Accountability** – Proud to take responsibility for actions, seeing tasks through to completion.
- 2) **Respect** – Act with honesty, fairness and equality at all times.
- 3) **Teamwork** – Committed to sharing information, skills and experience.
- 4) **Innovation** – Striving for service improvements by exploiting new ways of working.
- 5) **Customer Focus** – A mind-set that exceeds residents and stakeholder expectations.

These values are ingrained into the Council's service provision, performance, management and recruitment policies throughout the Council.

Council Pledges and Priorities

The Council is committed to delivering quality services to all its residents and in order to do so have adopted the ***following nine underlying public pledges*** to its residents which continued throughout 2020/21 which is the final year of this current administration.

1) Protect the Borough

- a. The Council will resist any attempt by either the City or County Councils to impose their control over the Borough.
- b. The Council will work cooperatively and consensually with all the other Councils in Leicester and Leicestershire in order to form a Combined Authority and to seek the devolution of powers with the corresponding financial support from central government without the loss of its sovereignty.

2) Maintain Front Line Services

- a. The Council is committed to weekly collection of waste and recycling.
- b. No major change would be made to this service without consultation.

THE NARRATIVE REPORT

3) Offering Choice when Possible

- a. The Council will offer choice wherever possible.
- b. When major decisions affecting front line services need to be considered, the Council will ensure that all the options available are explained clearly and listen and respond to residents.

4) Save Money through Service Redesign

- a. The Council will look at all its services and redesign those that can be improved and cheaper to run.
- b. The main focus of this redesign will be the better and wider use of ICT, Council assets and procurement.

5) Involve Residents and Partners

- a. The Council is committed to continue with the town forums and to develop other community engagement systems.
- b. The Council will work with and continue to support partners.

6) Economic Development

- a. The Council recognises the need to develop both housing and the town centres.
- b. This will be done with maximum public involvement and at minimum cost to the green spaces in the Borough.

7) Greening the Borough

- a. The Council will continue to invest in and encourage activities which result in a greener Borough
- b. The prioritising of the protection of trees will be a cornerstone of this commitment.

8) Improving the Health of Residents

- a. The Council wants to ensure residents live a full and healthy life.
- b. The Council will continue to develop its relationship with partners in order to develop and implement appropriate outcomes that attempt to achieve this.

9) Value for Money

- a. The Council will always accept any council tax freeze grant offered by the Government.
- b. The Council will endeavour to benchmark its services against the “most like” authorities to ensure transparency and demonstrate value for money.

THE NARRATIVE REPORT

These nine pledges have in turn been translated into five corporate priorities:

1) An Inclusive and Engaged Borough

To work with existing forums and forge new relationships in order to strengthen community engagement and cohesion throughout the borough. To listen and empower residents by communicating, consulting and where possible offering a choice on decisions which would affect frontline services.

2) Effective Service Provision

To continue to examine services and identify improvements in order to provide the most cost effective front line services. Through Innovation strive for the optimum use of Council assets, its human resources and those of its partners in order to protect front line services.

3) Balanced Economic Development

Develop, implement and create opportunities for a balanced economic development primarily focused around the three town centres, respecting the Borough's natural environment whilst providing suitable housing that meets local needs.

4) Green and Safe Places

Invest in and encourage activities that provide green, pleasant and safe places in the borough for all to enjoy, whilst protecting the borough's trees and natural habitat wherever possible.

5) Wellbeing for all

Work with other organisations to improve wellbeing for all in the borough. Help secure new easy to access opportunities to enable everybody to live a harmonious and healthy life.

The new Corporate Plan which took effect from 2020/21 when a new Council will take its seats will see a refocusing of the corporate objectives of which there will be three;

- i) Building Protecting and Empowering Communities
- ii) Growing the Borough Economically
- iii) Providing Excellent Services

Equality

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is committed to ensure that all people who visit, live or work in the Borough are treated justly and equally, are free

THE NARRATIVE REPORT

from prejudice, fear, harassment and discrimination, and have equal access to learning, employment and social opportunities to enhance their quality of life.

Service Performance

The Council operates performance management through Key Performance Indicators. The year 2020/21 saw a continuation of this with the indicators evolving as well as being added to. All the indicators are formally reported to management monthly and to members at each quarter of the committee cycle before being published.

There are **98 Key Performance Indicators** for our Corporate Plan Objectives. These are categorised by each objective and service delivery arm. Each target has been graded using the **Red/Amber/Green** status ranking system. There is also a “blue” ranking and this is for indicators where work has yet to begin, and therefore cannot be ranked. Finally, there is a “white” rating where the indicator cannot be met due to circumstances outside of the Council’s control.

The scoring system has been applied using the following definitions:

- **Green** Target fully achieved or is currently on track to achieve target.
- **Amber** Indicator is in danger of falling behind target.
- **Red** Indicator is off target or has been completed behind the deadline target.

Out of the **98 indicators, 81 were due for reporting** as at the end of the financial year. It is important to note that COVID19 has had an impact on the reporting of some of the KPI’s and the ability to deliver and these have fallen into the white and blue categories.

Of the 81:

- **66 were green status**
- **5 were amber status**
- **10 were red status**

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This equates to 82% Green, 6% Amber and 12% Red status. The previous quarter was 80% Green, 14% Amber and 6% Red. The following table identifies the Council's performance, by objective and service delivery section.

Chart 1: Performance Table by Corporate Objective

Quarter Four 2020/21	Green		Amber		Red	
	Number of Indicators	Percentage	Number of Indicators	Percentage	Number of Indicators	Percentage
Overall Performance						
All Targets Due	66	82%	5	6%	10	12%
Corporate Priority						
Building, Protecting and Empowering Communities	21	75%	1	4%	6	21%
Growing the Borough Economically	12	92%	0	0%	1	8%
Providing Excellent Services	33	83%	4	10%	3	7%

Chart 2: Performance Table by Service Delivery

Quarter Four 2020/21	Green		Amber		Red	
	Number of Indicators	Percentage	Number of Indicators	Percentage	Number of Indicators	Percentage
Overall Performance						
All Targets Due	66	82%	5	6%	10	12%
Department						
Built Environment	20	87%	1	4%	2	9%
Community & Wellbeing	19	90%	0	0%	2	10%
Customer Service & Transformation	8	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Finance & Resources	10	67%	3	20%	2	13%
Law & Democracy	8	62%	1	8%	4	30%

Risks and Opportunities

The Council's recognises **eleven key risks** within its corporate risk register, which are then mitigated through risk assessments and careful planning together with performance management across the authority. Although all these risks have an impact on Council activities it is the threat of decreasing financial resources which has the most direct impact on the services it provides.

The risk register has been reviewed this year and is updated, as appropriate, each month as any new risks become apparent. The principal addition during the course of the year is in recognising the increased risk that cybercrime now poses and the Council has taken steps to recognise this with both training for offers as well a simulated attack exercise. All departments of the

THE NARRATIVE REPORT

authority have a comprehensive business continuity plan and this two has gone through a thorough testing process.

Impact of Covid-19

The impact of Covid-19 is profound and dramatic, and will have far reaching consequences for the Council and its residents. The Council has been at the forefront of the response reacting both positively and proactively and contributing to the wider Leicestershire response to the pandemic. The Council has continued to operate to a high standard.

Operationally, OWBC has adapted and learned and recorded some significant achievements and milestones; including, set up of the OWBC Community Hub as an emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic with staff and volunteers helping people, contacting residents who were vulnerable or shielding.

The impact of Covid19 continued to impact severely on the Council although the council was able to maintain all statutory services. There was a continuing demand on the services provided by the Community Hub to vulnerable residents and it remained operational 12 hours a day, 7 days a week until September when it reverted to normal office hours following a relaxation in the lock down rules. Greater emphasis was then placed on re-opening the Town Centres and the night time economy and the Council was at the forefront in developing an effective role for the Covid-19 Marshall's. Both the Covid-19 Marshall's and the Community Hub remained active throughout the remainder of the financial year.

The Council awarded Business Grants to 730 businesses in 2020-21, totalling £8.5m.

Financially, the impact of Covid-19 includes: new and additional costs as a result of the response, an adverse impact on planned income, non-delivery or deferment of previously planned savings in 2021-22, the potential impact on future income from projects and slippage on delivery of new systems. The current situation is un-precedence and highly unpredictable, and is therefore it is still challenging to estimate the exact financial impact.

Whilst there has been some financial impact in 2020-21, the most significant impact on the financial position will be in 2021-22. The impact on the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates is not yet to be calculated. Whilst the Council has a good record for the collection of Council Tax, indicatively, each 50% reduction in the Business Rates and 3% Council Tax would lead to a loss of income for the year.

COVID-19 will potentially continue to impact on the Council's performance going forward. Whilst, the most significant impact was in 2020-21, the Council will continue to focus on service delivery as summarised above.

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The Statutory Accounts

The pages which follow are the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 and comprise:-

- **Statement of Responsibilities**

This sets out the respective responsibilities of the Council and the Chief Financial Officer in respect of preparation of the Statement of Accounts.

- **Accounting Policies Statement**

This explains the basis of the figures included in the accounts. The accounts can only be properly appreciated if the policies, accounting estimates and judgements, which have been followed in dealing with Material items, are explained.

- **Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS)**

This statement shows the movement in the 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. The Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account for Council Tax setting and dwellings rent setting purposes. The "Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves" line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves are undertaken by the Council.

- **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)**

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), 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**

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at 31 March each year of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may

THE NARRATIVE REPORT

use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves includes those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement of Reserves Statement line ***“Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations”***.

- **Cash Flow Statement**

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

- **The Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**

This reflects a statutory obligation to separately account for housing provision. It shows the major elements of housing revenue expenditure - maintenance, administration and capital financing costs and how these are met from rents, subsidy and other income. This account is reported using two statements – the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement and the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement.

- **The Collection Fund**

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council acts as an agent in the collection of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates on behalf of other precepting authorities in Leicestershire. As such 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 Council in relation to the collection from taxpayers and ratepayers, and distribution to local authorities and the Government of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates.

Financial Performance and Monitoring

THE NARRATIVE REPORT

The 2020/21 Budget

Once again, reduced level of core grant funding together with the limitations on Council Tax increases, effectively pre-set the amount of money available for the Council to spend on services in 2020/21. The budget was, therefore, formulated with a view to ensuring that realistic service costs were reflected whilst striving to deliver services within future funding limits. The 2020/21 budget was scrutinised by both Service Delivery and Policy Finance and Development Committees before finally being approved at Full Council in February 2020. Budget performance has been reported to members at the Policy, Finance and Development Committee during the year.

At 31 March 2021, the Council's General Fund Balance was £1,015,000 which equates to 14.3% of total expenditure in the 2021/22 budget.

During 2020/21 there has been an increase in reserves due to a one off additional business rate grants to cover the cost of the additional reliefs. This has been given due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This will be taken out of the Collection Fund account next year to cover the cost of the deficit on the fund account created by the new reliefs. This year the Collection Fund Reserves account will be utilised to manage the financial impact of Covid-19 and continuing into 2021/22.

Financial Outturn 2020/21

During 2020/21, the General Fund revenue account has been subject to regular monitoring through the budget monitoring processes and reporting to committees. The year-end net outturn position compared to budget is set out below:

	Original Budget 2020/21	Revised Budget 2020/21	Actual Spent 2020/21	Variance Under /(Over) Spend 2020/21
Services	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Customer Services & Business Transformation	1,026	1,026	1,117	(91)
Senior Leadership Team	473	473	435	38
Community & Wellbeing	1,521	1,516	890	626
Law & Governance	228	165	109	56
The Built Environment	794	758	562	196
Finance & Resources	1,023	1,028	1,962	(934)
COVID-19 Council Costs	0		(1,953)	1,953
Net Service Expenditure	5,065	4,966	3,122	1,844
Capital Financing	1,053	1,053	991	62
Total Net Expenditure	6,118	6,019	4,113	1,906
Transfer to/(from) Reserves	371	371	7,162	(6,791)
Net Expenditure	6,489	6,390	11,275	(4,885)
Financing	6,489	6,390	11,605	(5,215)
Transfer (from)/to Balances	0	0	330	330

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The actual position for the year shows an increase in the General Fund Balance of £330K. This is after planned usage of earmarked reserves and keeps the General Fund at an appropriate level and in line with the MTFS.

The figures given above are reported on the same basis as the management accounts. These do not consider pure accounting entries that would have equal contra entries such as “Non Distributed Costs” and depreciation that occur at year end and are part of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Major Changes in the Council’s Assets and Liabilities

During 2020/21 the Council expended £2.469m (2019/20 £4.543m) on capital projects as shown below.

	Budget 2020/21	Outturn 2020/21	Outturn 2019/20
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Capital Expenditure			
Service Delivery (Housing Related)			
Housing Revenue Account	1,500	1,237	2,382
General Fund	0	0	0
	1,500	1,237	2,382
Service Delivery	849	672	1,604
Policy Finance and Development	120	240	481
Total	2,469	2,149	4,467
Financed By			
Capital Receipts	0	0	822
Government Grants	180	0	19
Borrowing	544	854	1,529
External Funding	245	163	241
Revenue & Reserves	0	0	0
Major Repairs Allowance	1,500	1,132	1,856
Total	2,469	2,149	4,467

Throughout 2020/21, the Council struggled with capacity in the Housing area resulting in the capital programme not being completed. Support was bought in for the department in the last quarter of the year to bring the programme up to date over the forthcoming twelve months. The General Fund expenditure was largely made up of the purchase of new vehicles.

Material Charges

Any material items impacting the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Housing Revenue Account are disclosed separately to ensure transparency. For 2020/21, there are no material charges other than those disclosed in the Notes to the Core Financial Statements.

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Pensions Liability

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Leicestershire County Council – this is a defined benefit funded scheme, meaning the benefit is guaranteed. Both the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund. Under International Accounting Standard 19 the Council is required to account for its share of the scheme's total liabilities. In this respect, the Council's liability to the fund has been included in the accounts in the sum of £30.1m as at 31 March 2021. This liability is matched by a corresponding reserve in the Balance Sheet which means it has no impact on the net worth of the Council. The value of the liability is assessed at each year end by an independent actuary, to establish any changes in the market or the membership of the scheme that may impact the balance. The total liability Increase by £7.6m since the prior year due to these changes. 2020-21 £30.1m (2019-20 £22.5m).

Further details on the pension schemes are set out in Note 37.

Accounting Policies

Accounting policies have been reviewed and are explained fully in the Statement of Accounting Policies which is part of the financial statements.

Statutory Functions and Planned Future Developments

There have been no changes in the statutory functions of the Council. The Council is constantly reviewing how services are provided to ensure excellent levels of service delivery whilst protecting frontline services.

The Council has approved a net General Fund revenue budget for 2021/22 of £7.082m and a total Capital Programme of £12.229m. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget is expected to break even in the forthcoming year, leaving revenue balances of around £1.34m, which is higher than the minimum level prescribed in the business plan.

Borrowing Facilities

The Council is able to raise finance for capital expenditure and operational requirements from a number of approved borrowing instruments. As part of its prudential indicators and treasury strategy, the Council sets limitations on borrowing and sets strategic objectives, including the minimisation of the value and cost of external borrowing.

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The Prudential Code sets the following indicators for external debt:

- **The Authorised Limit** - This represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short-term, but is not sustainable. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some head room for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit under Section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.
- **The Operational Boundary** - This indicator is based on the probable external debt during the course of the year. It is not a limit and actual borrowing could vary around the boundary for short times during the year. It should act as an indicator to ensure the authorised limit is not breached.

The following table illustrates the limits and levels of borrowing as at 31 March 2021 as compared to the preceding year end.

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	<u>£000's</u>	<u>£000's</u>
Borrowing Limits		
Authorised	<u>44,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>
Operational	<u>39,000</u>	<u>35,000</u>
Other Resources		
Long-term	20,245	21,333
Short-term	14,506	11,506
Bank Overdraft	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>34,751</u>	<u>32,839</u>

The Council also utilises operating leases primarily in respect of operational vehicles and finance leasing relating to photocopying equipment. Leasing obligations are shown in note 29 to the core financial statements. The use of operating leases is gradually being wound down in favour of the outright purchase of vehicles.

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Reserves and Balances

The following table sets out the resources available to the Council to meet its capital expenditure plans and other financial commitments as at 31 March 2021.

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£000's	£000's
Revenue Reserves		
General Fund	1,345	1,015
Housing Revenue Account	1,341	404
Other Resources		
Useable Capital Receipts	1,180	1,046
Earmarked Reserves Non-COVID	3,043	2,195
Earmarked Reserves COVID	6,709	0

The earmarked reserves are inflated in 2021 by unspent COVID-related business support grants, and uncommitted S31 Business Rate Relief grants. These balances will either be used for their specified purpose or returned to central government in 2021/22, and do not constitute useable resources for general council expenditure.

Outlook and the Impact of the Current Economic Climate

2020/21 saw a continuation of the Government's austerity programme and with it a reduction in central government grants to fund Council services. For example, the Council did not receive the Revenue Support Grant in its traditional form in 2020/21. Low interest rates mean there is very little opportunity for the Council to earn interest from investing any "surplus" cash balances.

The uncertainty around Brexit and related transition is still a key issue and is further complicated by the impact of COVID-19.

The coronavirus outbreak has impacted the UK and global economies in different ways. From the lockdown restrictions, closing down many businesses, limits on mobility, voluntary and enforced, the economic impact is severe.

The scale of the recession caused by the coronavirus outbreak is unprecedented in modern times. UK GDP has shrunk by around 9% since the start of the Pandemic.

COVID-19 will therefore bring about new challenges for local authorities. The pandemic will leave public finances strained, allowing less headroom for the government to pursue prior COVID-19 agendas.

THE NARRATIVE REPORT

In the short term, the crisis will put pressure on local finances while increasing demand on local services. Local authorities will need to address the immediate challenges, while keeping another eye on ways to respond to future needs.

The Economic recovery prospects largely depend on how the Covid-19 caseload evolves. The likelihood of resurgence in cases presents the greatest risk to the economic outlook. In addition, the response from consumers and businesses to the uncertainty is a key ingredient in the speed of the recovery.

Consumers may be reluctant to return to 'normal' spending patterns. This may be due to health concerns but also perhaps due to concerns over their income. A key factor will be how high unemployment levels rise. Particularly important is how many employees currently furloughed will return to work and how many will become unemployed. Uncertainty may adversely impact businesses' inclination to invest.

As at 31 March 2021 the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic includes the administration of the various grants and reliefs administered by the authority on behalf of the central government. This includes both the principal and agent transactions giving wider picture of the Council's activities. Than reporting in the CIES and supporting grant disclosure notes that will just disclose those where the Council is acting as a principal.

In conclusion, the current economic outlook is uncertain and subject to change.

THE NARRATIVE REPORT

Receipt of Further Information

For further information about these accounts

Please email: finance@oadby-wigston.gov.uk (or)

Write to:

The Head of Finance/Acting S151 Officer,
Council Offices,
Station Road,
Wigston,
Leicestershire
LE18 2DR

Acknowledgements

The production of the Statement of Accounts would not have been possible without the exceptionally hard work and dedication of staff across the Council and in particular the Finance Section.

I would like to express my thanks to all colleagues who have assisted in the preparation of this document.

I would also like to thank them for all their support during the financial year.



Comie Campbell FCCA
Head of Finance/Acting S151 Officer

Date: 26 August 2021

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Authority's responsibilities

- Manage arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Section 151 Officer.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Section 151 Officer's responsibilities:

The Section 151 Officer 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 the United Kingdom (the Code).

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Financial Officer has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Complied with the Code.
- kept proper accounting records which are up to date
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.
- assessed the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
- used the going concern basis of accounting on the assumption that the functions of the Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future; and
- Maintained such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Certification of the Accounts

I certify that the unaudited statement of accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council as at the 31 March 2021 and the Council's income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2021.



Comie Campbell FCCA

Date: 26 August 2021

Head of Finance/Acting S151 Officer

Approval of the Accounts

I certify that the unaudited Financial Statements have been approved by the Section 151 Officer in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 and are authorised for issue.



Councilor Dean. A. Gamble

Chair, Policy Finance and Development Committee

Date: 26 August 2021



Anne Court

Chief Executive

Date: 26 August 2021

THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. General

The Statement of Accounts (the Accounts) summarise the Council's transactions for the 2020/21 financial year and its position at 31 March 2021. It has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 (the Code) and The Service Reporting Code Of Practice (SeRCOP), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). It also complies with guidance notes issued by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) on the application of accounting standards to local Council accounts.

Since the Statement of Accounts is prepared under the Code, it means that the relevant accounting policies adopted, have been reviewed to ensure that the Statement of Accounts can be relied upon to give a true and fair view of the Council's financial performance and position. It also ensures that all legislative requirements have been correctly applied and that finally, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. That is, the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The accounting convention adopted is historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets, and the Statement of Accounts have been prepared with reference to the following fundamental qualitative characteristics:

- **Understand ability**
- **Relevance**
- **Materiality**
- **Faithful Representation**
- **Completeness**
- **Neutrality**
- **Free from error**

These accounts are presented in GB Pounds Sterling (£) as this is the most representative currency of the Council's operations, and rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

The preparation of accounts in accordance with the Code requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies, the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. These estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors which are considered to be reasonable under the circumstances. They form the basis of judgements about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily available from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on a continuing basis. 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 in note 2.

THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events.

The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts 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 yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.
- The Code gives strict criteria for assets held as Investment Properties. For the Council, investment properties are classified as those assets which are held for rental.
- All leases held by the Council have been reviewed in detail using the finance lease flowchart, to determine whether they should be classified as finance or an operating lease. The results of this exercise have been reviewed to establish the substance of the transaction and its appropriate treatment.
- When the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) benefit structure was reformed in 2014, transitional protections were applied to certain older members close to normal retirement age allowing them certain protections against the changes in the new scheme. In December 2018 the Court of Appeal upheld a ruling in the McCloud/Sargeant cases that these protections were unlawful on the grounds of age discrimination and that these protections should apply to all members regardless of age. In June 2019 the Government were denied leave to appeal to the Supreme Court. Although the ruling in the McCloud/Sargeant case related to the Judges and Firefighter pension schemes it is widely expected to apply to the LGPS also. In the light of this the Council requested that its actuaries, Hymans Robertson LLP, review its pension liability and have taken the view that it would be both prudent and correct to adjust the accounts for this ruling. The increase liability for this adjustment is £0.305m.

3. Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

Prior period adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policy 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 policy are only made when required by proper accounting practices, or the change provides more reliable or relevant

THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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 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.

4. Revenue Recognition

Revenue (excluding discounts, value added tax and similar sales taxes), represents the amount receivable in respect of services provided to customers. Revenue is recognised only when payment is probable.

Revenue from services is recognised as the services are provided.

The total consideration on arrangements with multiple revenue generating activities is allocated to those components that are capable of operating independently based on the estimated fair value of the components. When the fair value of components cannot be assessed, the revenue is spread over the term of the service.

Revenue arising from the provision of other services is recognised evenly over the periods in which the service is provided.

5. Segmental Reporting

The Council's operating segments are organised into eight 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. The eight segments are

Welfare and Taxation	Finance and Corporate Services	Community Services	Depot Operations
Regulatory Services	Planning and Economic Development	Leisure Services	Housing Revenue Account

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

THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

6. 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.
- **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.
- When **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.

Exceptions to this are:

- **Telephone accounts** are being charged to that year which has the majority 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 the year where the period starts and are not apportioned between the years.

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

7. Interest Income and Expenses

Interest income and expenses are accrued on a time basis by reference to the principal outstanding and the effective interest rate applicable.

An interest expense on a qualifying asset is capitalised.

THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

8. 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. These items are disclosed separately in the accounts.

9. Overheads and Support Services

The cost 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 2020/21 (SeRCOP). The total absorption costing principle is used – the 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 any depreciation and impairment losses chargeable on non-operational properties.

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 Cost of Services.

An appropriate charge has been made from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account for Corporate and Democratic Core costs. This has been based on the proportion of committee time spent on Housing Revenue Account business.

10. 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.

THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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 (Small Business Grant Fund, Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund, multiple Local Restrictions grant (open/closed sectors). 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.

Principle or Agent

Accounting for the S31 grants being paid to the Council by BEIS and distribution of the grants eligible to businesses will be identified (either principle or agent).

Where the Council is acting as principle, the transactions will be included in the CIES.

The Council will determine how the grant operates to acknowledge their position as a principle or agent.

Acting as a distribution point for grant monies to other bodies and has no control over the amount of grant allocated to a recipient then the authority is considered to be acting as agent.

Where the authority has control over the distribution or amounts of the grant it would be deemed to be acting a principle.

THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The performance obligations will be considered regarding the grants.

Where the Council acts as an agent, transactions will not be reflected in any authority's financial statements. Exceptions to this are in respect of the cash collected or expenditure incurred by the agent on behalf of the principle, in which case there is a debtor/creditor position and the net cash position included in the finance activities in the Cash Flow statement.

Any materially sums will stated with a separate disclosure note (income or expenses with given explanations).

11. 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 has to 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.

12. Value Added Tax (VAT)

Income and expenditure excludes any amounts related to VAT, as all VAT collected is payable to HM Revenue and Customs and all VAT paid is recoverable from them.

13. 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

THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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.

14. 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.
- **Impairment losses** attributable to the clear consumption of economic benefits on non-current assets used by the service and other losses where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which they 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 2020/21 accounts.

The CFR method calculates the provision as 4% of the non-housing supported CFR at the end of the preceding financial year (4% 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

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adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account for the difference between the two.

15. Intangible Fixed Assets

Expenditure on 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. The balance is amortised to the relevant revenue account over the economic life of the investment to reflect the pattern of consumption of benefits.

16. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment are non-current assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the provision of services or for administration purposes on a continuing basis.

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 accruals basis, provided that it yields benefits to the Council for more than one financial year. Expenditure that secures but does not extend the previously assessed standards of performance of an asset (e.g. repairs and maintenance) is charged to revenue as it is incurred.

Measurement: Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising all expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset into working condition for its intended use. Assets are then carried in the balance sheet using the following measurement bases:

- **Council Dwellings** - Existing Use Value (Social Housing)
- **Property, Plant and Equipment** (Includes Other Land and Buildings, Vehicles, Plant and Equipment) – At Existing Use Value or Depreciated Replacement Cost where the asset is specialised.
- **Infrastructure Assets** – Depreciated Historical Cost
- **Community Assets** – Historical Cost if available otherwise Depreciated Replacement Cost
- **Investment Properties** – Existing Use Value
- **Assets Held for Sale** – Market Value (As an approximation to Fair Value)
- **Surplus Assets** - Market Value (As an approximation to Fair Value)

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.

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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.

Depreciation: depreciation is provided for on all assets with a determinable finite life (except for investment properties), by allocating the value of the asset in the balance sheet over the periods expected to benefit from their use.

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- **Council dwellings and other buildings** – straight-line allocation over the life of the property as estimated by the valuer. Council dwellings are depreciated over a useful life of between 45 and 50 years.
- **Vehicles, plant and equipment** – straight line allocation over the life of the asset as advised by a suitably qualified officer. The useful life of the plant, equipment and vehicles has fallen into a range of between 5 and 10 years.
- 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.
- **Newly acquired or operational assets** are depreciated for a full year in the first year, although assets in the course of 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.

Componentisation: A component is a part of a larger asset that has to 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

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- 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 and 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 2019/20)

- 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.

Impairment: the values of each category of assets and of material individual assets are reviewed at the end of each financial year for evidence of reductions in value. Where impairment is identified as part of this review or as a result of a valuation exercise, this is accounted for as follows:

- If 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).
- If 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.

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

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A proportion of 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.

17. Heritage Assets

Heritage assets are defined as those tangible assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities and are held 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.

18. 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.

19. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

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20. Leases

Finance Leases

The Council accounts for leases as finance leases when substantially all the risks and rewards relating to the leased property transfer to the Council. Rentals payable are apportioned between:

- A charge for the acquisition of the interest in the asset (recognised as a liability in the Balance Sheet at the start of the lease, matched with a tangible fixed asset – the liability is written down as the rent becomes payable) and :
- A finance charge (debited to Net Operating Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the rent becomes payable).

Assets recognised under finance leases are accounted for using the policies applied generally to Property, Plant and Equipment, subject to depreciation being charged over the lease term if this is shorter than the asset's estimated useful life.

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 2022/23 financial year.

This aligns with the decisions at the governments financial reporting Advisory Board to establish a new effective date of 1st April 2022 for the implementation of IFRS 16.

The deferred IFRS 16 leases standard; Applies 1st 2021 allowing the council to make effective preparations implementing the standard in 2021/22 financial year. No early adoption of IFRS 16 permitted.

Operating Leases

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 an accruals basis.

21. 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

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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 of 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.

22. Employee 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 flexi-time 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.

Termination Benefits

These 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 relevant service(s) within the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Council is demonstrably committed to either terminating the employment of an officer or group of officers or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

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

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23. Retirement Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by Leicestershire County Council.

The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees work for the 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 of 2.8% and 2.9% 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
 - **Unlisted securities** – current bid price
 - **Property** – market value
- **The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into eight components:**
 - **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.
 - **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.

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- **Expected return on assets** – the annual investment return on the fund assets attributable to the Council, based on an average of the expected long-term return – credited to Net Operating Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

- **Gains/losses on settlements and curtailments** – the result of actions to relieve the Council of liabilities or events that reduce the expected future service or accrual of benefits of employees – debited to the Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non-Distributed Costs.

- **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 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.

IFRS Amendments materiality disclosure relating to IAS 19 – Plan Amendment, curtailment/settlement, the proxy assessment of quantitative materiality. Amendments to reporting the pension fund to align with presentation practices under the pension SORP.

24. Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities (IFRS 19) are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount

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of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For all of the borrowings that the Council has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year in the loan agreement.

25. 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 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 a number of 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.

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

26. 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

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

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for Property, Plant and Equipment, retirement benefits and other items that do not represent useable resources for the Council. Full explanations are given within the Notes to the Core Financial Statements of the Capital Adjustment Account (Note 23), the Revaluation Reserve (Note 24) and the Pensions Fund Reserve (Note 25). Other than these the following unusable reserves apply:

- **Financial Instruments Adjustment Account** – This 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 (Note 44).
- **Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve** – This holds the gains recognised on the disposal of non-current assets but for which cash settlement has yet to take place. Under statutory arrangements, the Council does not treat these gains as useable for financing new capital expenditure until they are backed by cash receipts. When the deferred cash settlement eventually takes place, amounts are transferred to the Useable Capital Receipts Reserve.
- **Collection Fund Adjustment Account** – This manages the difference arising from the recognition of council tax and non-domestic rates income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it falls due from Council Tax payers compared with statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.
- **As at 31 March 2021 – Transfer between the General Fund and the Collection Fund Adjustment Account;**
 - The council received S31 grants to offset the reliefs given to businesses during the lockdown. Under the current collection fund accounting rules, the S31 grants received this year is not discharged against the Collection Fund deficit until 2020/22. Thereby inflating General Fund Balances at the end of the 2020/21 financial year. Even though showing a significant increase in available reserves that are not actually available but earmarked against the following year's collection fund deficit.
 - The purpose of the Reserve, which would be used in 2021/22 to fund that element of the estimated Collection Fund deficit at 31 March 2021 which is transferred from the CFAA back to the General Fund in 2021/22.
 - Giving the Council to transfer the 75% Tax Income Guarantee S31 grant to an earmarked reserve for the same reason above.
 - Where the compensation grant income being considered material the Council discloses a separate/additional line on the face of the CIES.

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Showing it as a material component of Taxation and non-specific grant income. Or a note to the CIES in line with the Code.

- The Council presenting the earmarked reserve as a separate column within the usable reserves in the Movement in Reserves Statement emphasise it falls outside the scope of the reserves earmarked for service requirements (General Fund, Earmarked Reserves and S31 business rate relief compensation grant reserve).

- **The Earmarked Reserve**

shown as a separate line on the face of the balance sheet within Usable Reserves. Provides sufficient supplementary information to the accounts making clear status of the unspent grant. (Balance sheet does not represent additional spending power taken forward into 2021/22).

- The presentation of additional reserves within the MiRS and Balance Sheet is permitted within the Code (specifies the minimum disclosure requirements).
- **Accumulated Absence Account** – This absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year such as leave carried forward at 31 March.

27. Contingencies

Where a contingent loss can be accurately estimated and it is probable that a future event will confirm a material loss, it will be accrued in the financial statements. In the case of contingent liabilities that cannot be accurately estimated or where it is not certain that a future event will confirm a material loss, no accrual is made but details are set out in a disclosure note. In accordance with the concept of prudence, contingent gains are not allowed in the accounting statements.

28. Related Party Transactions

Material related party relationships and transactions, outstanding balances between the Council and its related parties are disclosed within a note to the Statement of Accounts (Note 34).

29. Events after the Reporting Period

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, which provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting but occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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An adjustment is made to the Statement of Accounts where events provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting. Where events are only indicative of conditions, no adjustment is made but a disclosure is made where the impact is deemed to be material.

30. Collection Fund

The Council acts as an agent collecting Council Tax on behalf of the major preceptors and itself. Consequently, Council Tax transactions and balances are allocated to this Council and the other major preceptors. This results in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement showing the accrued amounts payable with an adjustment in the Movement in Reserves Statement on the General Fund Balance to reflect statutory requirements. The Balance Sheet shows debtors or creditors for the amounts receivable or payable to the major preceptors and this Council.

Council Tax Collection Fund Deficits/Surplus

As at 31 March 2021 apportioning the Council Tax collection fund outturn surplus/deficit has changed for those authorities that calculate a negative exceptional balance in accordance with the regulations. Ultimately spreading the exceptional balance deficit over the three years 2021/22 to 2023/24.

The Council will follow the below where a negative exceptional balance in accordance with 2020/2021, the collection fund outturn surplus/deficit being apportioned in the following way;

Collection fund balances adjusted for the impact of any net movement on community charges for the year (limiting to any windfall income from charges previously written off or adjusted to the bad debt provision).

Extracting the balance estimated for 15th January 2021 purpose and apportion this to authorities based on the proportion of their demand/precepts for 2020/21.

Then taking two thirds of any exceptional balances calculated as a negative deficit for 15th January 2021 purpose in accordance with SI 2020/1202 and spread over three years. Apportion to authorities based on the proportion of their demands/precepts for 2020/21. (*)

The balance remaining after the above first three adjustments be according to their demands and precepts for 2020/21. The reason this has been done because, any remaining balance at the end of the year that will not be recovered/distributed at the end of the year will effectively roll forward to be part of the balance at the next 15th January estimate.

For a positive exceptional balance and not spread over three years the Code applies with above note applied (*)

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The Council has communicated to their precepting authorities, their share of the above balances and all other relevant information to allow the precepting authorities to account for their own share of the collection fund position and performance for 2020/21.

Covid-19 Council Tax Hardship Fund (2020/21)

The Covid-19 Council Tax Hardship Fund delivers relief to the council's taxpayers during 2020/21 reducing the council tax liability. Awarding additional council tax discounts by the collection fund billing authority funded in full, part or by a grant under S31.

The full cost any discretionary discounts are borne only by the billing authority's general fund not the collection fund. An amounts equal to the discount (not the S31 grant) will therefore need to be transferred from the billing authority's general fund to the collection fund. The S31 grant will be reimburse the billing authority's general fund to the extent of the authority's S31 allocation.

No requirements have been made to spend fully awarded funding in 2020/21 or to return any unspent allocation at the end of the financial year. Where the Council has remaining allocation, MHCLG recognises the spent supporting vulnerable households during 2021/22. The Council make best decisions on how best to respond any retrospective adjustments to local council tax support eligibility for 2020/21. Where this may impact on the Hardship Fund discount that a taxpayer might have been, or may become entitled to.

Any unspent Hardship Funds at the end of the financial year, the council can therefore spend this in a way that is consistent with the aims of the fund as set out by the MHCLG guidance. The fund is not used to write off any historical council tax debt.

By writing off debt will effect some of the cost written off to the preceptors, as it is not covered by the collection fund direction for the transfer from general fund to the collection fund.

75% Tax Income Guarantee Compensation

The MHCLG has issued Council's with the 75% of 2020/21 irrecoverable losses for council tax and business rates scheme;

Compensation being paid to local authorities (billing/precepting) by a way of a S31 grant, so does not feature in the Collection Fund But will require recognition in the general fund.

Grants and contributions including donated assets should not be recognised until there is reasonable assurance; conditions attached to them and grants/contribution being received.

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The amounts receivable is known for the council tax clarified in April 2021 for non-domestic rates. There is no return condition attached to the compensation, so authorities recognise the total amounts due in the CIES in 2020/21. The amounts being paid in 2021/22. Authorities can consider to earmark this element of the General Fund balance.

The retained rates income (calculating if the authority is in levy or safety) net for 2020/21, will be amended to avoid double compensating for the same losses.

NNDR – National Non-Domestic Rates

In the case of National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR), the Council again acts as agents collecting the income for major preceptors including Central Government. This results in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement showing the accrued amounts payable with an adjustment in the Movement in Reserves Statement on the General Fund Balance to reflect statutory requirements. The Balance Sheet shows debtors or creditors for the amounts receivable or payable to the major preceptors and this Council. "Tariff" expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year is treated as accrued expenditure.

NNDR – National Non- Domestic Rates Deficits/Surplus

The NNDR collection fund arrangements for apportioning deficits/surplus have not change during 2020/21.

As a result of authorities being awarded with expanding retail, hospitality and leisure relief, nursery and newspaper reliefs in 2020/21 that were not included on the NNDR 1 for 2020/21. Resulting collection fund deficit and S31 Grant through earmarked reserves and providing explanations to any large balances within the notes in the accounts.

THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

This Statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'useable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council'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/from Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance before any discretionary transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves undertaken by the Council.

As at 31 March the (surplus/deficit) on Business Rates Section 31 grants includes £4,993K of grant received by the council to compensate for the loss of Business Rates income as a result of the extended retail relief given to retail hospitality and leisure businesses, and nursery providers to support them through the Covid-19 pandemic. The legislation that governs the Collection Fund accounting means the related deficit as a result of the loss Business Rate income in – year will not be charged to the council's General Fund until 2021/22. As a result, the £4,993K has been transferred to the Collection Fund Reserve and will be draw down to offset the deficit** in 2021/22. These resources are not available funds.

(*) The government granted business rates relief to retail, hospitality, and leisure services during 2020/21. Compensating Councils for these reliefs with a Section 31 grant. These reliefs must be shown as a deficits on the Council's share of income within the Collection Fund Adjustment Account Reserves. While the grant income must be shown within the Council's General Fund. In 2021/22 is expected to be transferred from the Collection Fund Adjustment Account to the General Fund and this will be funded from the Section 31 grant in this reserve.

THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

Movement in Reserves 2020/21		General Fund Balance	Deferred Capital Receipts	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked Reserves	COVID-19 Grant Reserve	Collection Fund Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
Note	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Balance at 1 April 2020		1,015	3	1,140	2,188	0	0	1,022	24	5,392	34,741	40,133
<u>Movement in Reserves during 2020/21</u>												
Deficit on the provision of services		3,699	0	955	0	0	0	0	0	4,654	0	4,654
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(3,077)	(3,077)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		3,699	0	955	0	0	0	0	0	4,654	(3,077)	1,577
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	4	3,793	0	(753)	402	0	0	158	0	3,600	(3,600)	0
Net Increase/(Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		7,492	0	202	402	0	0	158	0	8,254	(6,677)	1,577
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	5	(7,162)	0	0	453	1,717	4,992		0	0	0	0
Increase/(Decrease) in 2020/21		330	0	202	855	1,717	4,992	158	0	8,254	(6,677)	1,577
Balance at 31 March 21 carried forward		1,345	3	1,342	3,043	1,717	4,992	1,180	24	13,646	28,064	41,710

THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

Movement in Reserves 2019/20	Note	General Fund Balance £000's	Deferred Capital Receipts £000's	Housing Revenue Account £000's	Earmarked Reserves £000's	Capital Receipts Reserve £000's	Capital Grants Unapplied £000's	Total Usable Reserves £000's	Total Unusable Reserves £000's	Total Authority Reserves £000's
Balance at 1 April 2019		600	3	1,086	2,625	1,326	24	5,664	31,169	36,833
<u>Movement in Reserves during 2019/20</u>										
Deficit on the provision of services		(2,532)	0	477	0	0	0	(2,055)	0	(2,055)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,340	5,340
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		(2,532)	0	477	0	0	0	(2,055)	5,340	3,285
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	4	2,932	0	(423)	(437)	(304)	0	1,768	(1,768)	0
Net Increase/(Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		400	0	54	(437)	(304)	0	(287)	3,572	3,285
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/(Decrease) in 2019/20		400	0	54	(437)	(304)	0	(287)	3,572	3,285
Balance at 31 March 2020 carried forward		1,000	3	1,140	2,188	1,022	24	5,377	34,741	40,118

THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

This Statement (The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure (CIES)) shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, 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 (MIR) Statement.

		2020/21		2019/20		
	Gross	Gross	Net	Gross	Gross	
	Expend	Income	Expend	Expend	Income	
Note	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
					Net	
					Expend	
					£000's	
EXPENDITURE ON SERVICES						
Customer Services & Business Transformatio	1,374	(101)	1,273	618	0	618
Senior Leadership Team	437	0	437	639	0	639
Community & Wellbeing	3,199	(1,418)	1,781	3,928	(1,173)	2,755
Law & Governance	743	(621)	122	1,309	(551)	758
The Built Environment	1,845	(1,157)	688	1,602	(925)	677
Finance & Resources	12,318	(8,611)	3,707	13,681	(9,326)	4,355
COVID-19 Council Costs	2,610	(4,561)	(1,951)	0	0	0
Housing Revenue Account	2,021	(5,040)	(3,019)	2,182	(4,951)	(2,769)
Net Cost of Services	24,547	(21,509)	3,038	23,959	(16,926)	7,033
Other Operating Expenditure	7		411			716
Financing and Investment Income	8		1,277			1,344
Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income and Expenditure	9		(9,380)			(7,038)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			(4,654)			2,055
(Surplus)/Deficit arising on Revaluation of Plant, Property and Equipment Assets	24		(3,996)			(1,471)
Actuarial (Gains)/Losses on Pension Fund Assets and Liabilities	25		7,074			(3,869)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			3,078			(5,340)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(1,576)			(3,285)

COVID-19 support grants paid to business and individuals. Where the Council is acting as Principal, i.e. the Council determines the eligibility criteria, these payments, and the income that funds them, are included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement. Where the Council acts as an Agent of Central Government, i.e. where Central Government determines the eligibility criteria, they are excluded.

THE BALANCE SHEET

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council (31 March 2021). The net assets of the Council (**assets less liabilities**) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the 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 the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt).

The second category of reserves is those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold, and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves (MIR) Statement line "Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations".

		As At 31/03/2021	As At 31/03/2020
	Note	£000's	£000's
Property, Plant & Equipment	10	97,198	93,983
Heritage Assets	11	69	50
Investment Property	12	374	419
Intangible Assets	13	398	234
Long Term Debtors	14	114	123
Long Term Investments	15	0	0
Long Term Assets		98,153	94,809
Short Term Debtors	14	8,491	3,120
Short Term Investments	15	1	1
Inventories	17	33	13
Cash and Cash Equivalents	18	5,940	3,897
Current Assets		14,465	7,031
Short Term Borrowing		(14,545)	(11,551)
Bank Overdrawn	18	1	(1)
Short Term Creditors	19	(4,407)	(4,535)
Short Term Provisions	20	(655)	(831)
Current Liabilities		(19,606)	(16,918)
Long Term Creditors		(22)	(48)
Long Term Borrowing		(20,245)	(21,332)
Other Long Term Liabilities	37	(30,090)	(22,470)
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	21	(945)	(940)
Long Term Liabilities		(51,302)	(44,790)
Net Assets		41,710	40,132

THE BALANCE SHEET

		As At 31/03/2021	As At 31/03/2020
	Note	£000's	£000's
Usable Reserves	22	(13,646)	(5,391)
Unusable Reserves			
Capital Adjustment Account	23	(45,635)	(45,568)
Revaluation Reserve	24	(15,246)	(11,992)
Pension Fund Reserve	25	30,090	22,470
Financial Instrument Adjustment Account		7	7
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	22	2,617	250
Accumulated Staff Absences Reserve	22	103	92
Total Reserves		(41,710)	(40,132)

THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

The Cash Flow Statement shows the change 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 Council 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 flows by providers of capital (*i.e. borrowing*) to the authority.

	2020/21	2019/20
Note	<u>£000's</u>	<u>£000's</u>
Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(4,654)	2,056
Adjustments to the Net Surplus or Deficit of the Provision of Services for Non Cash Movement		
Depreciation and Impairment of Non-current Assets	(2,072)	(2,834)
Bad Debts Written Off in Year	0	0
Increase/(Decrease) in Inventories	(20)	(4)
Increase/(Decrease) in Debtors	4,745	505
(Increase)/Decrease in Creditors	224	(381)
Net Charges made for Retirement Benefits	(546)	(981)
Carrying Amount of Non Current Assets Sold	(189)	(468)
Carrying Amount of Non Current Assets De-recognised	(381)	(730)
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	176	44
Movement in the Value of Investment Properties	(45)	4
Other Cash and Non Cash Movements	39	(94)
	<u>1,931</u>	<u>(4,939)</u>
Adjustments for Items Included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities	(2,644)	167
Interest Received in Year	(14)	(13)
Interest Paid in Year	736	747
Net Cashflows from Operating Activities	(4,645)	(1,982)
Investing Activities	26	3,653
Financing Activities	27	(1,456)
Net Increase or (Decrease) in Cash or Cash Equivalents	<u>2,956</u>	<u>215</u>
Cash or Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period	(3,897)	(4,112)
Cash or Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period	18 (941)	(3,897)
Movement in Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>2,956</u>	<u>215</u>

1. Accounting Standards Issued but not Adopted

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard which has been issued but is yet to be adopted by the 2020/21 Code.

The Code also requires that changes in accounting policy are to be applied retrospectively unless transitional arrangements are specified, this would result in an impact on disclosures spanning two financial years.

Accounting changes that are introduced by the 2020/21 code are:

- **IAS 8 Accounting Policies** - (Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors) on an annual basis limit the impact of the standard.
- **IAS 8 Standard** have been issued and yet to be adopted. Excludes IFRS 16 Leases and IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts (from being included in these reporting requirements).
- **Interest Rate Benchmark Reform Amendments to IFRS 9**, IAS 39 and IFRS 7 (relevant for additional disclosures required 2020/21).
- **Interest Rate Benchmark Reform** – Phase 2: Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16.
- **IFRS 16 Leases** – CIPFA Local Authority Accounting Code defer until 2020/23. Aligns with the decision at the Government's Financial Reporting Advisory Board established a new effective date 1 April 2022. Due to the pressure and impact on the COVID-19 Pandemic (the further deferral limited to one year only).
- **FRS 102 Related Rent Concessions - (Covid-19)** CIPFA LASAAC in January 2021 issued guidance on the accounting treatment of Covid-19 related rent concessions. This includes the forgiveness of a portion of or all lease payments for an agreed period (i.e. a temporary rent reduction or rent holiday). As at 31 March 2021 the Council has not entered into such arrangements.

These changes are not expected to have a material impact on the Council's financial statements

2. Events after the Reporting Period

There were no adjusting events after the reporting period.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The Statement of Accounting Policies describes the significant areas in which estimates and assumptions have been made, relating to the reporting of results of operations and the financial position of the Council.

The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31st March 2021 for which there is significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment	<p>Depreciation and Amortisation are provided for Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible assets respectively. This enables the assets to be written down over their estimated useful lives and show an appropriate cost of the asset in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Management judgement based on independent external advice is used to determine the useful economic lives of the Council's property.</p> <p>Property Plant and Equipment are reviewed for both economic and price impairment on an annual basis. As at 31st March each year the Council's valuers carry out a valuation review of the Council's assets. In addition, a year end impairment review is also undertaken. The recoverable amount is then estimated having regard to the application of the concept of materiality.</p> <p>The Council's external valuers provided valuations as at 31 March 2020.</p> <p>The Outbreak of Covid-19 has impacted global financial markets and as at the valuation date, less weight</p>	<p>If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £86k on General Fund Property and £42k on Housing Revenue Account property for every year that the useful life is reduced. If an asset is impaired the carrying amount of the asset is reduced.</p>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	<p>can be attached to previous market evidence to inform opinions of value. There is an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement.</p> <p>Valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per the RIC Red Book Global.</p> <p>Consequently, less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the valuation. At the current time, it is not possible to accurately predict the longevity and severity of the impact of Covid-19 on the economy. Therefore, values have been based on the situation prior to Covid-19 on the assumption that values Will be restored when the real estate market becomes more fluid.</p>	
<p>Pensions Liability</p>	<p>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. These judgements are made by actuaries appointed by Leicestershire County Council who administer the pension fund.</p> <p>The Council has engaged Hymans Robertson to provide expert advice about the assumptions applied. The ongoing impact of the Covid19 pandemic has created uncertainty around liquid asset values such as Real Estate within the pension asset portfolio.</p>	<p>The effect on net pensions of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A decrease in the discount rate assumption would result in an increase in pension liability. • A one year increase in member life expectancy would result in an increase in pension liability. • An increase in the pension increase rate would result in an increase in pension liability.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	<p>The pension fund auditor as part of their report stated that they are anticipating including Emphasis of Matter paragraph in their opinion in respect of the valuation of the Pension Fund's Pooled Property Unit Trust Investment Assets, where the associated valuation report includes a material uncertainty disclosure as a result of the impact of Covid-19 on the market at 31 March 2020.</p>	
<p>Arrears</p>	<p>At 31st March 2021, the Council had a balance of £0.35m for sundry debtors. A review of balances suggested that no impairment of doubtful debts of was necessary.</p>	<p>If collection rates were to deteriorate and sundry debt increased with the same debt profile, an additional contribution would be required to be set aside as an allowance.</p>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Adjustments between Accounting and Funding Basis under Regulation

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

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2020/21	Usable Reserves							Movement In Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Deferred Capital Receipts	Housing Revenue Account	COVID-19 Grant Reserve	Collection Fund Reserve	Capital Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserves	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adjustment primarily involving the Capital adjustment								
Account:								
<u>Reversal of item debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>								
Depreciation and impairment of non-current Assets	1,512	0	415	0	0	0	0	(1,927)
Movement in Market Value of Investment Properties	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	(45)
Amortisation of Intangible Assets	118	0	27	0	0	0	0	(145)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	(90)
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	0	0	570	0	0	0	0	(570)
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>								
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(805)	0	0	0	0	0	0	805
Capital Expenditure charged against General Fund and HRA Balances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Expenditure charged against Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2020/21	Usable Reserves							Movement In Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Deferred Capital Receipts	Housing Revenue Account	COVID-19 Grant Reserve	Collection Fund Reserve	Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserves	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adjustment primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:								
<u>Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive income and expenditure Statement</u>								
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to Capital Adjustment Account	(163)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserves:								
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0	0	(276)	0	0	0	276	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserves to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserves towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposal	3	0	0	0	0	0	(3)	0
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserves to finance the payments to the Government capital receipts pool	114	0	0	0	0	0	(114)	0
Adjustments involving the Major Repairs Reserves:								
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA	0	0	(1,533)	0	0	1,533	0	0
Use of the Major Repairs Reserves to Finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	(1,132)	0	0

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2020/21	Usable Reserves							Movement	
	General Fund Balance	Deferred Capital Receipts	Housing Revenue Account	COVID-19 Grant Reserve	Collection Fund Reserve	Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	In Unusable Reserves
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adjustments involving the Pension Reserves:									
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	1,691	0	147	0	0	0	0	0	(1,838)
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(1,189)	0	(103)	0	0	0	0	0	1,292
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:									
Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council atx income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	2,368	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(2,368)
Adjustments involving the Accumulated Absences Account:									
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accrual basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirement	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	(10)
Total Adjustments	3,793	0	(753)	0	0	402	158	0	(3,600)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2019/20

	Usable Reserves						Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Deferred Capital Receipts	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adjustment primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:							
<u>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>							
Depreciation and impairment of non-current Assets	2,357	0	389	0	0	0	(2,746)
Movement in Market Value of Investment Properties	(4)	0	0	0	0	0	4
Amortisation of Intangible Assets	82	0	6	0	0	0	(88)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	292	0	0	0	0	0	(292)
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	37	0	1,198	0	0	0	(1,235)
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>							
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(713)	0	0	0	0	0	713
Capital Expenditure charged against General Fund and HRA Balances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Expenditure charged against Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2019/20	Usable Reserves						Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Deferred Capital Receipts	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:							
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to Capital Adjustment Account	(241)	0	0	0	0	0	241
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:							
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0	0	(689)	0	689	0	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure					(822)	0	822
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposal	3	0	0	0	(3)	0	0
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government capital receipts pool	167	0	0	0	(167)	0	0
Adjustments involving the Major Repairs Reserve:							
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA	0	0	(1,423)	1,423	0	0	0
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	(1,855)	0	0	1,855

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2019/20	Usable Reserves						Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Deferred Capital Receipts	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:							
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	1,990	0	197	0	0	0	(2,187)
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(1,097)	0	(109)	0	0	0	1,206
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:							
Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(30)	0	0	0	0	0	30
Adjustments involving the Accumulated Absences Account:							
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accrual basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirement	30	0	3	0	0	0	(33)
Total Adjustments	2,932	0	(423)	(437)	(304)	0	1,768

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5. Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund and HRA expenditure in 2020/21.

	2021	Fund	Reserves	2020	Fund	Reserves	2019
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
General Fund Earmarked							
Budget Carried Forward	0			0			0
Homelessness	100			100			100
Wellbeing	138			138	-22		160
Capital	0			0			0
Service Improvement	12			12			12
Council Priority	112			112			112
Welfare Reform	72			72			72
Troubled Families	0			0			0
Disabled Facilities	22			22	22		0
ERDF Schemes	16			16			16
Greening the Borough	120			120			120
Active Assest Management	300			300			300
Cointingency	43			43			43
Budget Equilibrium	32			32			32
Income Profiling	47			47			47
Land Valuation	17			17			17
Land Charges	22			22			22
Borough Events	6			6			6
COVID-19	4,992	4,992		0			0
Collection Fund	1,717	1,717		0			0
Local Elections Reserve	50	50		0			0
Retained Rates Reserve	350	350		0			0
Total General Fund	8,168	7,109	0	1,059	0	0	1,059
Earmarked Reserves							

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	<u>2020/21</u>			<u>2019/20</u>			
	<u>Balance</u> <u>31 March</u> <u>2021</u> <u>£000's</u>	<u>Transfer</u> <u>In/(Out)</u> <u>Fund</u> <u>£000's</u>	<u>(To)/From</u> <u>Other</u> <u>Reserves</u> <u>£000's</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>31 March</u> <u>2020</u> <u>£000's</u>	<u>Transfer</u> <u>In/(Out)</u> <u>Fund</u> <u>£000's</u>	<u>(To)/From</u> <u>Other</u> <u>Reserves</u> <u>£000's</u>	
General Fund Grants							
Grounds Maintenance	241	(35)	0	276	(38)	0	314
Local Plan Reserve	180	88	0	92	16	0	76
Earmarked Grants	22	0	0	22	22	0	0
Total General Fund Grants	443	53	0	390	0	0	390
Total General Fund	8,611	7,162	0	1,449	0	0	1,449
HRA							
Regeneration Reserve	361			361	0	0	361
Major Repairs Reserve	412	402		10	(437)	0	447
Housing Voids Levy Reserve	220			220	0	0	220
Universal Credit Reserve	140			140	0	0	140
Budget Carried Forward	8			8	0	0	8
Total HRA	1,141	402	0	739	(437)	0	1,176
Grand Total	9,752	7,564	0	2,188	(437)	0	2,625

Purpose of Reserves

Details of the purpose of reserves not given elsewhere in either the Notes to the Core Financial Statements or the Statement of Accounting Policies are shown below.

Local Plan Reserve Formerly Housing and Planning Delivery Grant Reserve and will be used to fund the development of the Local Plan in future years.

Earmarked Revenue Grants and Contributions Reserves containing the proceeds of revenue grants and other external contributions that are Yet to be used.

Budget Carried Forward Contains authorised budget carry forwards from this year, to be used in the next financial year.

Homelessness Fund to mitigate the increased incidence of homelessness within the borough.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Health & Wellbeing	Fund to promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of residence of the borough through sport and light recreation.
Capital	Monies put aside specifically for use to fund capital projects.
Service Improvement Reserve	Used to fund improvements in Council services to improve performance after corporate restructure and reductions in commensurate budgets
Council Priority Reserve	Funding to be used to fund the improvement of areas which are specific to Council priorities and allocated through the Local Forums.
Grounds Maintenance Reserve	This reserve holds a commuted lump sum received from a developer earmarked for the maintenance of a specific green space.
Major Repairs Reserve	Resources available to meet capital investment in council housing.
Welfare Reform	Monies set aside to cover the additional costs of administration and recovery following the introduction of the local Council Tax Benefit scheme and Universal Credit.
Troubled Families	Used to fund investment in the Leicestershire Troubled Families programme.
Disabled Facilities	Monies put aside specifically to fund Disabled Facilities Grants.
ERDF	Monies put aside specifically to provide matched funding for European Regional Development Fund schemes.
Greening the Borough	Resources available to improve the environment Of the Borough and well-being of residents.
Active Asset Management	Funding for developing Business Enterprise Centres in the Borough.
Regeneration Reserve	Additional reserve set aside for regeneration and new build of council housing.
Contingency Reserve	To safeguard against budget risk and for one off Priming initiatives.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Income Profiling Reserve	To safeguard against the volatility of planning income in future years
Budget Equilibrium Reserve	To safeguard against changes in Council funding.
Land Valuation Reserve	To allow the Council to value land within the Borough with a view to selling.
Land Charges Reserve	To fund improvements in the land charges service
Borough Events Reserve	To fund commemorative events held in the borough by the Council or other grant assisted groups.
Housing Voids Levy Reserve	To mitigate the impact of any levy imposed by the Government in relation to the sale of high value void dwellings.
Universal Credit Reserve	To fund if necessary the impact of Universal Credit on the level of rent arrears and therefore income to the HRA.
COVID-19 Grant Reserve	To hold unspent grant funding received from central government for the financing of COVID-19 business support grants. This is a temporary reserve, with the expectation that all funding will either be granted or reclaimed by central government in 2021/22.
Collection Fund Reserve	To hold the surplus of Section 31 grant received from central government in-year over and above the applicable deficit on business rate for the year. This will be released to the collection fund to offset the expected deficit on businesses rates arising from COVID-19. Over the course of the next three years.
Elections Reserve	To balance the budget for the four-yearly borough election cycle. Contributions of one quarter of the anticipated cost of the election are appropriated into the reserve in each of years 1-3, and then the balance is appropriated out in the year of the election.
Business Rates Retention Reserve	To hold the amounts required to fund the anticipated deficit on business rates collection over the following three financial years.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. Material Items of Income and Expenditure

For 2020/21 the Council has the following material items of income and expenditure for both capital and revenue:

The Council paid out £4.901 million in housing benefits during 2020/21 and a further £2.078 million in rent rebates. The Government subsidy that provides the funding for these items is not listed here, but is included in Note 38 to the core statements. The Council also paid out £1.075 million of COVID-19 business grants as a Principal, and £12.404 million as an Agent, though the latter do not appear in the financial statements (see Note 47).

The Council also carried out £1.237 million of major refurbishment work on the Council's housing stock.

7. Other Operating Expenditure

	<u>2020/21</u> £000's	<u>2019/20</u> £000's
(Gain)/Loss on Disposal of Non-Current Assets	(86)	(184)
Loss on De-Recognition of Fixed Assets *	381	730
Contribution to Housing Pooled Capital Receipts	117	167
	<u>412</u>	<u>713</u>

* De-recognition relates to components of various housing assets which have been replaced and therefore de-recognised in year.

8. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

	<u>2020/21</u> £000's	<u>2019/20</u> £000's
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	729	747
(Gains)/Loss on Revaluation of Investment Properties	45	(4)
Interest and Investment Income	(14)	(14)
Pension Interest Costs and Expected Return on Pension Assets	517	615
Total	<u>1,277</u>	<u>1,344</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9. Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income and Expenditure

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
General Government Grants	(116)	(150)
Council Tax Income	(4,021)	(3,912)
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit - Council Tax	(249)	(6)
Non Domestic Rates Income	(2,589)	(4,788)
Non Domestic Rates Tariff Payment	(152)	0
Non Domestic Rates Levy	(167)	101
Non Domestic Rates LLP Share of Surplus (Pool)	0	0
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit - NNDR	2,402	28
S31 Small Business Rate Relief	(6,356)	(946)
Capital Grants and Contributions	(163)	(505)
New Homes Bonus	(141)	(264)
Total	(11,552)	(10,442)

The general government grants, contributions in the form of Revenue Support Grant, NDR redistribution, other unring-fenced government grants are disclosed within the Taxation, non-specific grant, income and expenditure (Note 9).

Revenue grants, contributions that are not considered as general grants are credited to service revenue accounts, support services, trading accounts and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. Property, Plant and Equipment

Cost or Valuation

	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Community Assets	Vehicles, plant etc.	Assets Under Construction	Total Assets
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Balance at 1 April 2019	61,421	24,307	3,148	7,316	504	96,696
Additions	2,382	1,096	46	558	0	4,082
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(72)	165	115	0	0	208
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	255	(1,082)	(34)	0	0	(861)
Derecognition - Disposals (Sales)	(468)	(24)	0	0	0	(492)
Derecognition - Disposals (Component Disposal)	(730)	0	0	0	0	(730)
Derecognition - Disposals (Other)	0	0	0	0	(13)	(13)
Assets Reclassified (to)/from Non-Operational Assets	0	462	0	0	(491)	(29)
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	0	(17)	17	0	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2020	62,788	24,907	3,292	7,874	0	98,861
Adjustments between Cost/Value and Depreciation/Impairment						0
Balance at 1 April 2020	62,788	24,907	3,292	7,874	0	98,861
Additions	1,132	33	46	230	293	1,734
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	2,243	91	105	0	0	2,439
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	406	(167)	(33)	0	0	206
Derecognition - Disposals (Sales)	(189)	0	0	0	0	(189)
Derecognition - Disposals (Component Disposal)	(381)	0	0	0	0	(381)
Balance at 31 March 2021	65,999	24,864	3,410	8,104	293	102,670

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Depreciation and Impairment

	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Community Assets	Vehicles, plant etc.	Assets Under Construction	Total Assets
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Balance at 1 April 2019	0	0	0	(4,256)	0	(4,256)
Depreciation Charge	(1,283)	(988)	(9)	(622)	0	(2,902)
Depreciation Written out to the Revaluation Reserve	514	749	0	0	0	1,263
Depreciation & Impairment Written Out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	769	239	9	0	0	1,017
Derecognition - Sales						0
Balance at 31 March 2020	0	0	0	(4,878)	0	(4,878)
Balance at 1 April 2020	0	0	0	(4,878)	0	(4,878)
Depreciation Charge	(1,352)	(1,034)	(9)	(595)	0	(2,990)
Depreciation Written out to the Revaluation Reserve	665	873	0	0	0	1,538
Depreciation & Impairment Written Out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	687	161	9	0	0	857
Derecognition - Sales	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2021	0	0	0	(5,473)	0	(5,473)

	2020/21			2019/20		
	Net Book Value	Nature of Asset Finance Lease	Holding Owned	Net Book Value	Nature of Asset Finance Lease	Holding Owned
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Council Dwellings	66,000	0	66,000	62,789	0	62,789
Other Land & Buildings	24,865	0	24,865	24,907	0	24,907
Community Assets	3,409	0	3,409	3,290	0	3,290
Vehicles, Plant etc	2,631	41	2,590	2,997	67	2,930
Incomplete Assets	293	0	293	0	0	0
Total	97,198	41	97,157	93,983	67	93,916

Depreciation

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

- i) Council Dwellings - 45 to 50 Years
- ii) Other land and buildings - 5 to 40 years
- iii) Vehicle Plant and Equipment - 5 to 10 years

Capital Commitments

At 31st March 2021, the Council had the following outstanding capital commitments of £320,373.57 (2019/20 £485k) on the Housing Revenue Account, comprising;

- Decent Homes Missed/Refused Premises Repairs £169K
- Kitchen Replacements Decent Homes Premises Repairs £152K

There are no material capital commitments on the General Fund.

Valuation of Assets

The freehold and leasehold properties which comprise the Council's property portfolio have been valued as at 31 March 2021 by an external independent valuer, Innes England, in accordance with the statements of Asset Valuation Practice and Guidance Notes of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), except that not all the properties were inspected. This was neither practical nor considered by the valuer to be necessary for the purposes of the valuation. Consequently, Council Dwellings were valued using the "Beacon Principle". Inspections to determine the Beacon properties were carried out between January and April 2021.

Plant and machinery directly associated with the building is generally included in the valuation of the buildings. However, where in conjunction with the valuer it is found that a building has plant of which the value forms a significant part of the building and which needs to be depreciated at a different rate from the building, then this has been dealt with as a separate item.

Properties regarded by the Council as operational were valued on the basis of open market value for the existing use or, where this could not be assessed because there was no market value for the subject asset, the depreciated replacement cost.

Where an impairment loss on an operational fixed asset occurs this has been recognised, if it is caused by a clear consumption of economic benefit (e.g. physical damage or deterioration in the quality of the service provided by the asset), or a significant decline in the market value of assets that is significantly greater than would be expected as a result of the passage of time or normal use.

In order to judge impairment of Council Dwellings, a rolling stock condition survey is being carried out. Any assets that are considered to have suffered any impairment are referred to the Council's independent valuer for assessment. To date no impairment relating to obsolescence has been recognised although some assets have suffered a reduction in value due to market forces.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

11. Heritage Assets

Heritage assets are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture. They have historical, artistic, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities. All assets are deemed to have indefinite useful economic lives.

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Balance at 1 April	50	50
Additions	0	0
Revaluation	19	0
Balance at 31 March	69	50

12. 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

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Rental Income from Investment Property	(13)	(11)
Net Gain/(Loss)	(13)	(11)

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

2020/21 has seen a net decrease of £45,000 in the value of the Council's investment properties due to revaluation gains

The current investment property balance consists of £129,000 of retail property let out, and £245,000 of property awaiting development.

	20/20/21	20/19/20
	£000's	£000's
Balance at 1 April	419	415
Disposals	0	0
Revaluation Gain Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(45)	4
Reclassification of asset	0	0
Balance at 31 March	374	419

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

13. Intangible Assets

The Council accounts for its software and licenses 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.

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

Amortisation of the assets is charged to the ICT support service and then recharged to services on an appropriate basis under Net Cost of Services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Cost or Valuation of Software

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Balance at 1 April	980	802
Additions	308	178
Disposals	0	0
Balance at 31 March	1,288	980

Depreciation and Impairment of Software

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Balance at 1 April	746	659
Amortisation for the Year	145	87
Disposals	0	0
Balance at 31 March	891	746

Net Book Value

	Balance as at 31 March 2021	Balance as at 31 March 2020
	£000's	£000's
Software	396	234

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

14. Debtors

Amounts falling due in less than one year are:

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£000's	£000's
Central Government Bodies	4,089	240
Other Local Authorities	2461	1044
Other Entities and Individuals	1941	1836
Total	<u>8,491</u>	<u>3,120</u>

Amounts falling due after one year are:

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£000's	£000's
Voluntary Organisation Loans	2	2
Bushloe Developments Loan	100	100
Car Loans to Employees	11	21
Other Long Term Debtors	0	0
	<u>113</u>	<u>123</u>

15. Investments

The Council had £2.6 Million (Thurrock Borough Council) of short term investments outstanding 31 March 2021.

16. Assets Held for Sale

In 2020/21 no assets were held for sale (2019/20 £0)

17. Inventories

	Stores		Materials		Total	
	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Balance Outstanding at Start of Year	8	12	5	5	13	17
Purchases	141	162	17	5	157	167
Recognised as an Expense in the Year	(137)	(166)	(1)	(4)	(137)	(170)
Written Off Balances	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance Outstanding at End of Year	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>14</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

18. Cash and Cash Equivalent and Bank Overdrawn

	31 March	31 March
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£000's	£000's
Short Term Deposits	<u>2,773</u>	<u>3,401</u>
Bank and Overdrafts	<u>31 March</u>	<u>31 March</u>
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Cash held by the Authority		
Bank Current Accounts	<u>556</u>	<u>496</u>

Cash and cash equivalents consist of short-term bank deposits and money market funds.

Short-term bank deposits consist primarily of money market deposits, which can be readily converted to cash at short notice. The effective interest rate on short-term bank deposits at 31st March 2021 was 0.01% (0.50% as at 31st March 2020).

The maximum exposure to credit risk for cash and cash equivalents is equal to the carrying value.

19. Short Term Creditors

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£000's	£000's
Central Government Bodies	(1,080)	(946)
Other Local Authorities	(950)	(782)
Other Entities and Individuals	(2,377)	(2,807)
Total	<u>(4,407)</u>	<u>(4,535)</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

20. Short Term Provisions

	Accumulated Absence 2020/21	NNDR Appeals 2020/21	Total 2020/21
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Balance B/Fwd	(92)	(739)	(831)
Arising during the year	(10)	186	176
Used during the year		0	0
Balance C/Fwd	(102)	(553)	(655)
 Current Provision	(102)	(553)	(655)
 Expected Timing of Cash Flows:			
To 31 March 2021	(102)	(553)	(655)
Total	(102)	(553)	(655)

	Accumulated Absence 2019/20	NNDR Appeals 2019/20	Total 2019/20
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Balance B/Fwd	(61)	(815)	(876)
Arising during the year	(31)	76	45
Used during the year	0	0	0
Balance C/Fwd	(92)	(739)	(831)
 Current Provision	(92)	(739)	(831)
 Expected Timing of Cash Flows:			
To 31 March 2019	(92)	(739)	(831)
Total	(92)	(739)	(831)

An accumulated absence provision was made for the best estimate of the unavoidable cost associated with holiday pay. This provision is expected to be used by the end of next period as no holiday pay can be carried forward for more than one year.

A provision has been set up to fund appeals against rateable values for business within the Borough. This will be utilised as appeals are settled.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

21. Capital Grants and Contributions - Receipts in Advance

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£ 000's	£ 000's
Grants and Contributions		
Big Lottery Grant - Toy library	(5)	(5)
Big Lottery Grant - Mobile library	(1)	(1)
Section 106 South Wigston Regeneration	(10)	(10)
South Wigston Regeneration - Interest	(152)	(152)
Section 106 - Open Space	(685)	(760)
Green Roof Bus Shelter	(6)	(6)
Brocks Hill Alarm	(1)	(1)
DECC Grant	(5)	(5)
LCC BRP Highways Improvements	(50)	0
LCC BRP Kirby Bridge	(30)	0
Total	<u><u>(945)</u></u>	<u><u>(940)</u></u>

22. Movements on Reserves (MIR)

	<u>Balance</u> <u>At</u> <u>31st March</u> <u>2021</u> <u>£000's</u>	<u>Net</u> <u>Movement</u> <u>in</u> <u>Year</u> <u>£000's</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>At</u> <u>31st March</u> <u>2020</u> <u>£000's</u>	<u>Net</u> <u>Movement</u> <u>in</u> <u>Year</u> <u>£000's</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>At</u> <u>31st March</u> <u>2019</u> <u>£000's</u>
Earmarked Reserves (Note 5)	(9,752)	(7,564)	(2,188)	437	(2,625)
Other Usable Reserves					
Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	(1,180)	(158)	(1,022)	304	(1,326)
Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	(24)	0	(24)	0	(24)
Deferred Capital Receipts - General Fund	(3)	0	(3)	0	(3)
General Fund	(1,346)	(331)	(1,015)	(415)	(600)
Housing Revenue Account	(1,341)	(202)	(1,139)	(53)	(1,086)
	<u>(13,646)</u>	<u>(8,255)</u>	<u>(5,391)</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>(5,664)</u>
Unusable Reserves					
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	2,618	2,368	250	30	220
Pensions Reserve	30,090	7,620	22,470	(2,888)	25,358
Revaluation Reserve	(15,246)	(3,254)	(11,992)	(869)	(11,123)
Capital Adjustment Account	(45,635)	(67)	(45,568)	123	(45,691)
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	7		7		7
Accumulated Absences Reserve	102	10	92	32	60
	<u>(28,064)</u>	<u>6,677</u>	<u>(34,741)</u>	<u>(3,572)</u>	<u>(31,169)</u>
Total	<u>(41,710)</u>	<u>(1,578)</u>	<u>(40,132)</u>	<u>(3,299)</u>	<u>(36,833)</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Purpose of Reserves

Details for the purpose of reserves not given elsewhere in either the Notes to the Core Financial Statements or the Statement of Accounting Policies are shown below.

Usable Capital Receipts	Proceeds of fixed asset sales available to meet future capital investment
Capital Grants Unapplied	Reserve contains capital grants for which all conditions of use have been fulfilled, but have yet to be used for funding.
Deferred Capital Receipts	Proceeds of fixed asset sales which are not Receivable immediately on sale.
General Fund	Resources available to meet future running costs of non-housing services.
Housing Revenue Account	Resources available to meet future running costs of council houses.
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	Accounts for the timing differences in the different methods of accounting for Financial Instruments.
Accumulated Staff Absence	The authority's obligation to staff for leave earned but not taken at the end of the financial year.
Useable Revenue Reserves	<p>31 March 2021 government has changed how authorities are compensated through the S31 grants for administering their Covid-19 support programmes. Primarily in the form of Business Rate Reliefs and Business Grants. Districts in particular are seeing a larger than expected temporary increase in reported reserves.</p> <p>Due to timing the payments were not considered within the NNDR 1 set business rates share for 2020/21. They were paid to the General Fund in the year and the reliefs sit in Earmarked Reserves at the year end. (Revised Note has been compiled to reflect the movements and changes as per reporting requirements).</p>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

23. Capital Adjustment Account

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

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Balance as at 1 April 2020	(45,569)	(45,691)
Reversal of Items Relating to Capital Expenditure Debited or Credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	1,927	2,746
Amortisation of intangible assets	145	88
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	90	292
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	570	1,235
	2,732	4,361
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(743)	(602)
Net Written Out Amount of the Cost of Non-current Assets Consumed in the Year	1,989	3,759
Capital financing applied in the year		
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	(822)
Use of Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(1,132)	(1,855)
Capital Grants & Contributions Credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement That Have Been Applied to Capital Financing	(163)	(241)
Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	0	0
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(805)	(713)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	0	0
	(2,100)	(3,632)
Movements in the Market Value of Investment Property Debited or Credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	45	(4)
Balance as at 31 March 2021	(45,635)	(45,569)

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

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

24. Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets.

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.

	2020/21	2019/20
	<u>£000's</u>	<u>£000's</u>
Balance as at 1 April 2020	(11,992)	(11,123)
Upward revaluation of assets	(4,431)	(1,980)
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the surplus/deficit on the Provision of Services	434	509
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(3,997)	(1,471)
Difference Between Fair Value Depreciation & Historical Cost Depreciation	(743)	(602)
Accumulated Gains on Assets Sold or Scrapped	743	602
Amount Written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	743	602
Balance as at 31 March 2021	<u>(15,246)</u>	<u>(11,992)</u>

25. Pensions Fund Reserve

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

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Balance as at 1 April 2020	22,470	25,358
Transfer to Pension Reserve	5	(97)
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	7,069	(3,772)
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.	1,838	2,187
Employer's Pension Contributions and direct payments to the pensioners payable in the year.	(1,292)	(1,206)
Balance as at 31 March 2021	30,090	22,470

26. Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment	2,043	4,341
Proceed of the Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment	(276)	(688)
Other Receipts from Investing Activities	(168)	0
Net Change in Investments	5,000	0
Total Investing Activities	6,599	3,653

27. Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Cash Receipts from Long and Short Term Borrowing	(3,000)	(2,500)
Repayments of Short Term and Long Term Borrowing	1,088	1,086
Appropriation to/from the Collection Fund Adjustment Account	2,368	30
Other Payments for Financing Activities	546	(71)
Total Financing Activities	1,002	(1,455)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

28. Net Movement in Liquid Resources

The Council seeks to maximise return on short term cash surpluses by the use of money market deposits.

	As at 31st March 2021	As at 31st March 2020	Increase/ (Decrease) in Year
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Money Market	5,359	3,401	1,958
Short Term Deposits	5,359	3,401	1,958

The Council collects Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates on behalf of its Precepting Authorities and the Government. At the end of the year the difference between money collected and paid over is shown as an increase or decrease in liquid resources.

	As At 31/03/2021	As At 31/03/2020
	£000's	£000's
Net Movement in other Liquid Resources	546	(71)

29. Operating and Finance Leases

Operating Leases

During the year the Council made payments on operating leases as detailed below.

2020/21			2019/20
Vehicles £000's	Other Equipment £000's	Total £000's	Total £000's
5	1	6	12

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At 31 March 2020 the Council had commitments in respect of operating leases for future years as shown below.

As at 31st March 2021	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Other Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Less than 1 year	1	0	1
Between 1 and 5 years	0	0	0
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>

As at 31st March 2020	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Other Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Less than 1 year	4	2	6
Between 1 and 5 years	1	0	1
Total	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>

Finance Leases

During 2020/21 the Council held photocopying equipment under a finance lease. This is carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at a net amount of £41,213 at 31 March 2021 (£66,766 at 31 March 2020).

The Council is committed to making minimum lease payments as shown below:

Minimum Lease Payments	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£000's	£000's
Amounts Payable under Finance Leases		
Within One Year	31	11
Between One and Five Years	27	14
Less Future Finance Charges	(9)	(5)
Present Value of Minimum Lease Payments	<u>49</u>	<u>20</u>
Included in:		
Current Liabilities	27	9
Non-current Liabilities	22	11
Total	<u>49</u>	<u>20</u>

The total future minimum lease payments amount to £57,399 (2019-20 £25,401) which includes a future rental cost of £47,906 at 31 March 2021 (2019-20 £20,452).

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30. Note to The Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis

2020/21	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensiv e Income and Expenditure Statement £000's
Customer Services & Business Transformation	1,116	157	1,273
Senior Leadership Team	435	2	437
Community & Wellbeing	890	891	1,781
Law & Governance	110	12	122
The Built Environment	546	142	688
Finance & Resources	2,635	1,072	3,707
COVID-19 Council Costs	(1,953)	2	(1,951)
Housing Revenue Account	(3,461)	442	(3,019)
Net Cost of Services	318	2,720	3,038
Total - Other Operating Expenditure	0	411	411
Total - Financing & Investment Income & Expen	2,642	(1,365)	1,277
Total - Taxation & Non Specific Grant Income	(9,217)	(163)	(9,380)
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	(6,257)	1,603	(4,654)
Opening General Fund & HRA Balance at 1st April	(2,153)		
Less Deficit/(Surplus) on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year	(532)		
Closing General Fund & HRA Balance at 31st March	(2,685)		

* See Movement in Reserves Statement for the split of General Fund and HRA balances.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2019/20	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Customer Services	542	76	618
Senior Leadership Team	604	35	639
Community & Wellbeing	1,436	1,319	2,755
Law & Governance	692	66	758
Planning, Development & Regeneration	501	176	677
Finance & Resources	2,970	1,385	4,355
COVID-19 Council Costs	0	0	0
Housing Revenue Account	(3,203)	434	(2,769)
Net Cost of Services	3,542	3,491	7,033
Total - Other Operating Expenditure	0	716	716
Total - Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	2,832	(1,488)	1,344
Total - Taxation & Non Specific Grant Income	(6,827)	(211)	(7,038)
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	(453)	2,508	2,055
Opening General Fund & HRA Balance at 1st April	(1,686)		
Less Deficit/(Surplus) on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year	(467)		
Closing General Fund & HRA Balance as 31st March 2020	(2,153)		

* See Movement in Reserves Statement for the split of General Fund and HRA balances.

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis above shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, Council Tax and Business Rates) by local authorities, in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes, between the Council's directorates/ services/ departments. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. (See also Note 30 and 31)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2020/21

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis				
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments		Other Differences	Total Adjustments
		(Note 1)	(Note 2)		
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Customer Services & Business Transferr	59	4	0	63	
Senior Leadership Team	0	2	0	2	
Community & Wellbeing	883	8	0	891	
Law & Governance	10	2	0	12	
The Built Environment	138	4	0	142	
Finance & Resources	648	518	0	1,166	
COVID-19 Council Costs	0	2	0	2	
Housing Revenue Account	439	3	0	442	
Net Cost of Services	2,177	543	0	2,720	
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(1,644)	517	10	(1,117)	
Difference between General Fund Surplus or Deficit and the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	533	1,060	10	1,603	

2019/20

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis				
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments		Other Differences	Total Adjustments
		(Note 1)	(Note 2)		
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Customer Services	39	36	0	75	
Senior Leadership Team	0	35	0	35	
Community & Wellbeing	1,192	128	0	1,320	
Law & Governance	13	53	0	66	
Planning, Development & Regeneration	122	54	0	176	
Finance & Resources	1,367	18	0	1,385	
COVID-19 Council Costs	0	0	0	0	
Housing Revenue Account	391	43	0	434	
Net Cost of Services	3,124	367	0	3,491	
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(1,660)	614	63	(983)	
Difference between General Fund Surplus or Deficit and the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,464	981	63	2,508	

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1 - Adjustments for Capital Purposes

This column adds in depreciation and impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the services line, and for:

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

Note 2 – Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

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

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

Note 3 – Other Differences

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

- **For Financing and investment income and expenditure** – the other differences column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences of premiums and discounts.
- **Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure** – this charge represents the difference between, what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and NNDR that was projected to be received at the start of the year, and the income recognised under generally accepted

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future Surpluses or Deficits on the Collection Fund.

Segmental Income

Income received on a segmental basis is analysed below:

Services	2020/21	2019/20
	Income from	Income from
	Services	Services
	£000's	£000's
Customer Services & Business Transformation	(101)	0
Senior Leadership Team	0	0
Community & Wellbeing	(1,418)	(1,173)
Law & Governance	(621)	(551)
The Built Environment	(1,157)	(925)
Finance & Resources	(8,611)	(9,326)
COVID-19 Council Costs	(4,561)	0
Housing Revenue Account	(5,040)	(4,951)
Total Income analysed on a Segmental Basis	(21,509)	(16,926)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31. Expenditure and Income Analysed By Nature

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

	2020/21	2019/20
Expenditure / Income :	£000's	£000's
Expenditure		
Employee benefits expenses	7,058	7,075
Other services expenses	14,418	13,780
COVID Grants	1,088	0
Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	2,177	3,105
Interest payments	1,990	2,201
Precepts and levies	2,388	3,048
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	117	170
Gain on the disposal of assets	339	542
Total Expenditure	29,575	29,921
Income		
Fees, charges and other service income	(9,026)	(9,020)
Interest and investment income	(758)	(853)
Income from council tax, non-domestic rates and district rate income	(4,990)	(8,485)
Government grants and contributions Non-COVID	(14,683)	(9,507)
Government grants and contributions COVID	(4,772)	0
Total Income	(34,229)	(27,865)
Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	4,654	(2,056)

32. Members Allowances

As a result of the pandemic a review of the Members Allowance scheme was not undertaken and the 2019/20 scheme was carried forward into 2020/21.

In 2020/21, the Council paid allowances to members totalling £170,496 (2019/20 £168,711).

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

33. Audit Costs

In 2020/21 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council incurred the following fees relating to external audit and inspection:

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£000's	£000's
Fees payable to the Council's auditors for external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor.	62	36
Fees payable to the Council's auditors for the certification of grant claims and returns.	10	9
Fees payable in respect of other services.	3	3
	<u>75</u>	<u>48</u>

A significant increase in audit fees was levied for 20/21 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, both on the Council, and upon the audit process.

34. Related Party Transactions

The aim of this note is to demonstrate that any material transactions between the Council and those in a position to influence decisions are properly disclosed.

Any material transactions between related parties must be disclosed in the Statement of Accounts. The purpose of this is to highlight the possibility that the reported position and results may have been affected by the existence of the related parties and by any material transactions with them.

As Members and Chief Officers are considered to be related party, a Register of Interest is used to record and monitor related party transactions. Disclosure forms were also completed by both Members and Chief Officers. Any declarations made by members are listed below. Leicestershire County Council, Leicestershire Police and the Leicestershire Local Government Pension Scheme are considered to be related party transactions, their year end balances being:

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2020/21	2019/20
	Payments	Payments
	£000's	£000's
Leicestershire County Council	0	367
Leicestershire County Council, Pension Fund	1,333	1,206
Leicestershire County Council - Year End Debtor	1,103	0
Leicestershire County Council - Year End Creditor	760	213
Leicestershire Police Authority	192	196
	3,388	1,982
	Precepts	Precepts
	£000's	£000's
Leicestershire County Council	23,543	22,514
Leicestershire Police	4,086	3,889
Leicestershire and Rutland Fire Authority	1,195	1,161
	28,824	27,564

In 2020/21 the Council received a number of Government grants. These have been listed in notes 9 and 38 in the accounts.

Entities controlled or significantly influenced by the Council:

The following grants were given to external organisations in year. Whilst these amounts may not be material to the Council they may be material to and indicate control of the awarded bodies.

	2020/21	2019/20
	Receipts	Receipts
	£000's	£000's
Leicestershire County Council		
Safer Communities Grant	0	28
Lockdown Support Grant	25	0
Winter Grant Scheme	93	0
	118	28
Charnwood Borough Council		
Next Steps Accommodation Scheme	28	0
	28	0
	2020/21	2019/20
	Payments	Payments
Community/Youth Grants		
South and West Leicestershire CAB	28	28
SSAFA	0	0
Age UK – Oadby & Wigston	6	7
Helping Hands	28	21
Pride of the Borough	0	0
Total	62	55

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

35. Remuneration of Senior Staff

The Council is required to disclose payments made to senior employees, by post, whose remuneration is in excess of £50,000 per annum. The situation for 2020/21 is as follows;

Senior Officers' Salary - £50,000 to £150,000

Post Holder Information		Salary, Fees &		Expenses	Pension	Total
		Allowances	Other	Allowances	Contribution	
		£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
Chief Executive	2020/21	106	0	0	34	140
	2019/20	103	0	0	22	125
Deputy Chief Executive & S151 Officer	2020/21	90	0	0	29	119
	2019/20	84	0	1	18	103
Head of Finance & (a) Acting S151 Officer	2020/21	13	93	0	4	110
Head of Law & Democracy (Monitoring Officer)	2020/21	61	0	0	19	80
	2019/20	60	0	1	13	74
Head of Customer Services & Business Transformation	2020/21	53	0	0	16	69
Head of Community & Wellbeing	2020/21	55	0	0	17	72
Head of The Built Environment	2020/21	55	0	0	17	72
Total	2020/21	433	93	0	136	662

The Deputy Chief Executive was also the Section 151 Officer throughout 2020/21. When the Deputy Chief Executive left in March 2021 the Head of Finance & Deputy S151 Officer became the Acting S151 Officer.

(a) Initially the Head of Finance was employed through an agency for part of 2020/21 but was employed on a fixed term contract from February 2021. The total fees paid to the agency for this role were £93K which is shown as other costs.

The Senior Leadership Team was expanded to include all heads of department in 2020/21.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Officers Salary Exceeding £50,000

The Council's other employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year 2020/21 were paid in the following bands:

Remuneration Band	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
£50,000 - £55,000	0	4
£55,000 - £60,000	1	0
	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>

Remuneration for these purposes includes all sums paid to or receivable by an employee, sums due by way of expense allowances and the money value of any other benefits received other than in cash, but excludes pension contributions payable by either the employee or the Council.

Exit Packages

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

Exit Package Cost Band	Number of Compulsory Redundancies	2020/21 Number of Other Departures Agreed	Total Number of Exit Packages by Cost Band	Total Cost of Exit Packages in Each Band
				£000's
£0 - £20,000	1	0	1	10,094
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10,094</u>

Exit Package Cost Band	Number of Compulsory Redundancies	2019/20 Number of Other Departures Agreed	Total Number of Exit Packages by Cost Band	Total Cost of Exit Packages in Each Band
				£000's
£0 - £20,000	10	0	10	106
Total	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>106</u>

36. Termination Benefits

The Council has terminated the contract of one employee in the year through redundancy. The cost of this movement was £10,094 (2019/20 £105,656,000) - see note 35 for the number of exit packages and total cost by band.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Cost of termination benefits has been met by a combination of earmarked reserves, balance sheet provisions and revenue. All capital costs associated with early retirement have been funded by a combination of the Leicestershire County Pension Fund, earmarked reserves, balance sheet provisions and revenue.

37. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

The Council participates in the Local Government Scheme administered by Leicestershire County Council. This is a defined benefit funded scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level estimated to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.

In 2020-21 the Council paid an employer's contribution of £1,286,855 (2019-20 £1,162,766) into the Leicestershire County Council Superannuation Fund, representing 32.496% (2019-20 30.745%) of Pensionable Pay.

In addition the Council made payment into the Leicestershire County Council Superannuation Fund relating to added years benefits of £5,076 (2019-20 £42,935), representing 0.128% (2019-20 1.135%) of Pensionable Pay.

The annual report of the Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund is available from County Hall, Glenfield, and Leicester.

Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

We recognise 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 change we are 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 and Housing Revenue Account via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Cost of Services		
Service Cost comprising		
Current Service Cost	1,319	1,630
Past Service Costs	2	(58)
(Gain)/Loss from Settlements		
Financial and Investment Income and Expenditure		
Net interest expense	517	615
Total Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,838	2,187

Other Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising

Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	(6,503)	3,157
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	770	(1,913)
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	13,428	(5,209)
Other	(626)	189
Transfer to Pension Reserve for Post Year Actuaries Adjustment		
Total Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.	7,069	(3,776)

Movement in Reserves Statement

Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the code.	(32)	(467)
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Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pension in the year

Employers contribution payable to scheme	1,247	1,260
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Pensions 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 benefit plan is as follows:

	2020/21	2019/21
	£000's	£000's
Present Value of the Defined Benefit Obligation	69,622	54,911
Fair Value of the plan assets	(39,532)	(32,441)
Net liability arising from Defined Benefit Obligation	30,090	22,470

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Opening fair value of scheme assets	<u>32,441</u>	<u>35,046</u>
Interest Income	744	839
Remeasurement gain/ (loss)		
The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	6,503	(3,161)
Contributions from employer	1,247	1,260
Contribution from employees into the scheme	269	242
Losses/(gains) on curtailment (where relevant)	0	0
Benefits paid	<u>(1,672)</u>	<u>(1,785)</u>
Closing fair value of scheme assets	<u>39,532</u>	<u>32,441</u>

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

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Opening balance at 1st April 2020	<u>54,911</u>	<u>60,404</u>
Current Service Costs	1,319	1,630
Interest cost	1,261	1,454
Contributions from scheme participants	269	242
Remeasurement (gain) and loss		
Actuarial gain/loss arising from changes in demographic assumptions	770	(1,913)
Actuarial gain/loss arising from changes in financial assumptions	13,428	(5,209)
Other	(626)	189
Past Service Costs	2	(58)
Losses/(gains) on curtailment (where relevant)	0	0
Benefits Paid	<u>(1,712)</u>	<u>(1,828)</u>
Closing balance at 31st March 2021	<u>69,622</u>	<u>54,911</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised

Fair Value of Scheme Assets	Fixed Value of Scheme Assets	
	2020/21	2019/20
	<u>£000's</u>	<u>£000's</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	1,184	972
Equity Securities	688	565
Debt Securities	3,859	3,167
Private Equity	1,823	1,496
Real Estate	<u>2,955</u>	<u>2,425</u>
	10,509	8,625
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts:		
Equities	15,877	13,029
Bonds	1,671	1,371
Hedge Funds	3	3
Commodities	1,398	1,147
Infrastructure	2,079	1,706
Other	<u>8,044</u>	<u>6,601</u>
	29,072	23,857
Derivatives: Foreign Exchange	(50)	(41)
Total Assets	<u><u>39,531</u></u>	<u><u>32,441</u></u>

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 dependant on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc.

Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and discretionary benefits liabilities have been estimated by Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 1st April 2014.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
Mortality assumptions		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners		
Men	21.7	21.5
Women	24.2	23.8
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners		
Men	22.6	22.2
Women	25.9	25.2
Rate of Inflation		
Rate of increase in salaries	3.5%	2.4%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.9%	1.9%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.0%	2.3%

Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme

	<u>Increase in Employer's Liability</u>	<u>Appropriate Monetary Amount</u>
	%	£000's
Change in Assumptions at 31st March 2021		
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	9%	6,501
1 Year increase in member life expectancy	0%	0
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	1%	419
0.5% increase in the Pensions Increase Rate	9%	5,962

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

38. Revenue and Capital Grants

The Council has credited the following grants and contributions to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) during 2020/21:

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Revenue :		
Rent Allowance	4,545	4,933
Benefit Administration	137	132
Rent Rebates	2,150	2,221
Housing Benefit Hardship	103	62
Council Tax Hardship Fund	274	0
Universal Credit Grant	4	13
Housing Benefit New Burdens Grants	21	20
Business Rates New Burdens	19	0
Brexit Preparations Grant	0	35
Council Tax Family Annexe Discount	2	2
Transparency Code	8	8
Local Authority Data Sharing	8	11
Safer Communities	0	28
Brownfield Site Register New Burdens Grant	0	2
Custom Build Grant	0	15
Taxi License New Burdens	1	0
Mobile Homes Fit & Proper Testing Grant	1	0
Letting Agent Transparency & Redress Scheme	1	0
Rough Sleeping Contingency Grant	2	0
Next Steps Accommodation Program Grant	28	0
Leisure Recovery Grant	92	0
Council Tax Data Supply Grant	1	0
COVID-19 Emergency Funding Grants	770	0
COVID-19 Resident Support Schemes Grants	314	0
COVID-19 Loss of Income Grants	516	0
COVID-19 Business Grant Administration Grants	59	0
COVID-19 Community Champions Grant	86	0
COVID-19 Business Support Grants	2,710	0
COVID-19 Test, Track and Contain Grants	250	0
COVID-19 Self-Isolation Grants	177	0
Physical Activity Development Grants	83	87
Individual Electoral Registration Grants	0	6
Total Revenue	12,362	7,575
Capital :		
Improvement Grants	415	406
Total	12,777	7,981

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

39. Capital Expenditure

The Council's in year capital expenditure was financed as follows:

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	37,059	36,167
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant, Equipment and Intangible Assets	2,044	4,233
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute - Other	105	311
Sources of Finance		
Capital Receipts	0	(822)
Government Grants and Other Contributions	(163)	(261)
Revenue Contribution	(1,132)	(1,855)
Revenue Provision	(806)	(713)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	37,107	37,059
Explanation of Movement in Year		
Increase/Decrease in underlying need for supported Borrowing	0	0
Increase/Decrease in underlying need for unsupported Borrowing	48	893
	48	893

General Fund capital expenditure in 2020/21 resulted in a net increase in the underlying need for unsupported borrowing of £48,081 (2019/20 £892,245 increase).

40. Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

Under the Capital Finance Regulations, this Council has a duty to set aside a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the repayment of external debt that it considers "prudent".

For this financial year in respect of debt that is supported by the Revenue Support Grant the method chosen is the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) method. The CFR method calculates MRP as 4% of the non-housing CFR at the end of the preceding financial year.

In the case of new borrowing for which no government support has been given and is therefore self-financed, the Asset Life method has been used. This 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

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

assets which generate increasing revenues over time. This has been chosen for the leisure facilities project.

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
General Fund Charge	805	713
HRA Charge	0	0
Minimum Revenue Provision	805	713

The provisions for depreciation and impairment should be regarded as part of the minimum revenue provision with the balance being treated as a transfer to or from the Capital Adjustment Account.

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Minimum Revenue Provision	805	713
Amount Charged as Depreciation	(1,601)	(1,571)
Amount Charged as Impairment	(29)	(867)
Additional Charge to/from the General Fund Balance	(825)	(1,725)

41. Analysis of Net Assets Employed

	31st March 2021 £000's	31st March 2020 £000's
General Fund	(4,999)	(1,292)
Housing Revenue Account	46,708	41,424
	41,709	40,132

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

42. Information on Assets Held

Fixed assets owned by the Council include the following;

	No. as at 31st March 2021	No. as at 31st March 2020
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Operational Buildings :		
Allotment Sites	4	4
Car Parks	11	11
Cemeteries	2	2
Cemetery Buildings	4	4
Council Offices	1	1
Community / Day Centres	2	2
Depots & Garage	1	1
Garages	179	179
Garage Spaces	54	54
Homelessness Shelter	1	1
Pavilions	7	7
Public Conveniences	4	4
Sports Centre	2	2
Swimming Pools	0	0
Sports Grounds & Parks	17	17
Vehicle Workshop	1	1
Brocks Hill Visitor Centre	1	1
Brocks Hill Country Park	1	1
Investment Property: Shops	3	3
 Council Dwellings	 1,199	 1,202
 Total	 <u> </u> 1497	 <u> </u> 1497

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

43. Financial Instruments Balances

The borrowings and investments disclosed in the Balance Sheet are made up of the following categories of financial instruments:

Financial Assets

	Non-Current				Current				Total	
	Investments		Debtors		Investments		Debtors		Total	
	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Fair value through profit & loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amortised cost	100	100	14	23	8,354	3,897	2,197	2,279	10,665	6,299
Fair value through comprehensive income - designated equity instruments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fair value though other comprehensive income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Financial Assets	100	100	14	23	8,354	3,897	2,197	2,279	10,665	6,299
Non Financial Assets									0	0
Total	100	100	14	23	8,354	3,897	2,197	2,279	10,665	6,299

Financial Liabilities

	Non-Current				Current				Total	
	Borrowings		Creditors		Borrowings		Creditors		Total	
	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Fair value through profit & loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amortised cost	20,245	21,333	22	48	14,545	11,552	1,974	2,391	36,786	35,324
Total Financial Liabilities	20,245	21,333	22	48	14,545	11,552	1,974	2,391	36,786	35,324
Non Financial Liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	20,245	21,333	22	48	14,545	11,552	1,974	2,391	36,786	35,324

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

44. Financial Instruments Gains/Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are made up as follows:

	Financial Assets	
	Loans and Receivables	
	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Interest Expense	729	747
Interest Income	(14)	(14)
Net (Gain)/Loss for the Year	715	733

45. Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities Carried at Amortised Cost

Financial liabilities and financial assets represented by loans and receivables 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 interest rates at 31 March 2021 for loans and investments, including those loans from the Public Works Loan Board, are based on a rate equivalent to that of the outstanding period of each loan or investment.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised
- Where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, the carrying amount is assumed to 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 are as follows:

Financial liabilities	31st March 2021		31st March 2020	
	Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Financial liabilities held at amortised cost -				
Public Works Loans	(36,764)	(41,581)	(35,276)	(41,980)
Long term creditors	0	0	0	0
PFI & finance lease liabilities	(22)	(20)	(48)	(20)
Total	(36,786)	(41,601)	(35,324)	(42,000)

The fair value is more than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the balance sheet date. This commitment

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

to pay interest above current market rates increases the amount that the Council would have to pay if the lender requested or agreed to early repayment of the loans.

Financial assets

	31st March 2021		31st March 2020	
	Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Financial assets held at amortised cost	10,651	10,651	6,276	6,276
Long term Debtors	14	14	23	32
Total	10,665	10,665	6,299	6,308

The fair value is represented by the carrying amount as the Council has no material long-term investments.

46. 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;
- **Re-financing risk** – the possibility that the Council might be required to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms.
- **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 implementing restrictions to minimize these risks. The procedures for risk management are set out through a legal framework set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and the associated regulations. These require the Council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Investment Guidance issued through the Act.

Overall these procedures require the Council to manage risk in the following ways:

- By formally adopting the requirements of the Code of Practice;
- By approving annually in advance prudential indicators for the following three years limiting:
 - The Council's overall borrowing;
 - The maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable rates;
 - The maximum and minimum exposures to the maturity structure of its debt;

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- The maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond a year.
- By approving an Investment Strategy for the forthcoming year, setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties, in compliance with the Government Guidance:

These are required to be reported and approved at or before the Council's annual Council Tax setting budget or before the start of the year to which they relate. These items are reported with the annual Treasury Strategy and Plan which outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the Council's financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is also reported at least annually to Members.

These policies are implemented by a central treasury team. The Council maintains 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 through Treasury Management Practices (TMPs). These TMPs are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed periodically.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. Deposits are only made with UK banks and "top 20" building societies with a minimum long-term rating of 'A' and a short-term rating of F1. In addition, investments in money market funds may be made, provided that such funds have a long-term rating of 'AAA'. Top 20 is defined as building societies with a minimum asset base of £1 billion. The Council has a policy of not lending more than £1.5 million of its surplus balances to one institution.

The following analysis summarises the Council's maximum exposure to credit risk on other financial assets, based on experience of default, adjusted to reflect current market conditions. For sundry debtors, other debtors and housing rents the historical experience of default is based on the provision for bad and doubtful debts according to generally accepted accounting practice. This is adjusted to reflect current market conditions.

(IFRS 7) Financial Instruments; Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic 31 March 2021 has had an impact of financial pressures relating to the liquidity and credit risks. Covid-19 impacting on the local authorities financial sustainability.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Amount at 31st March 2021 £000's A	Historical Experience of Default % B	Market Conditions at 31st March 2021 % C	Maximum Exposure to Default and Uncollectibility £000's (A x C)
Deposits with banks and financial Institutions				
Local Authorities	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
A'AA' Rated Counterparties	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
'AA' Rated Counterparties	0	0.02	0.02	0.00
'A' Rated Counterparties	0	0.06	0.06	0.00
BBB' Rated Counterparties	0	0.00	0.21	0.00
Sundry Debtors *	954	0.04	0.04	38.16
Other Debtors	893	0.04	0.04	35.72
Housing Rents	350	0.02	0.02	7.00
				80.88

* **Sundry debtors** includes the overpayment of housing benefits, building control fees and charges, licensing fees and other service fees and charges.

Whilst the current credit crisis in international markets has raised the overall possibility of default, the Council maintains strict credit criteria for investment counterparties. As a result of these high credit criteria, we have maintained historical default rates as a good indicator under these current conditions.

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

The Council does not allow credit for customers, such that all of the debtor's balance is past its due date for payment. The past due amount can be analysed by age as follows:

	<u>2020/21</u> £000's	<u>2019/20</u> £000's
Less than three months	111	897
Three to six months	10	43
Six months to one year	52	113
More than one year*	781	712
	<u>954</u>	<u>1,765</u>

* **The majority of debt that has been outstanding for more than one year relates to the overpayment of housing benefit where instalment payments have been set up.**

Liquidity Risk

The Council manages its liquidity position through the risk management procedures above (the setting and approval of prudential indicators and the approval of the Treasury Strategy and Plan and Investment Strategy reports), as well as through a comprehensive cash flow management system, as required by the Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when it is needed.

The Council has ready access to borrowings from the Money Markets to cover any day to day cash flow need, and whilst the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) provides access to longer term funds, it also acts as a lender of last resort to councils (although it will not provide funding to a council whose action is unlawful). The Council is also required to provide a balanced budget through the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is therefore no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

Refinancing and Maturity Risk

The Council maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered against the refinancing risk procedures, longer term risk to the Council relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. This risk relates to both the maturing of longer term financial liabilities and longer term financial assets.

The approved prudential indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt, and the limits placed on investments placed for greater than one year in duration, are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Council approved the Treasury Strategy and Plan and Investment Strategy to address the main risks, and the central treasury team addresses the operational risks within the approved parameters.

This includes:

- monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or the rescheduling of the existing debt; and
- Monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure sufficient liquidity is available for the Council's day to day cash flow needs, and the spread of longer term investments to provide stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer term cash flow needs.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£000's	£000's
Less than one year	16,519	13,943
Between one and two years	1,029	1,033
Between two and five years	3,019	3,041
More than five years	16,219	17,307
	<u>36,786</u>	<u>35,324</u>
Short Term Creditors*	(1,974)	(2,391)
Short Term Borrowing	(14,545)	(11,552)
Long Term Creditors	(22)	(48)
Long Term Borrowing	(20,245)	(21,333)
	<u>(36,786)</u>	<u>(35,324)</u>

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

***Amounts owing to and from central government and other local government agencies** are not deemed financial instruments, as they represent statutory obligations, rather than tradable instruments. Consequently, the short-term creditors figure here is lower than the Balance Sheet figure.

Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council. For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- **Borrowings at variable rates** – the interest expense charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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 fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Movement in the fair value of fixed rate investments will be reflected in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and affect the General Fund Balance.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The policy is to have no more than 25% of its borrowings in variable rate loans. 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 Council's cost of borrowing and provide compensation for a proportion of any higher costs.

The treasury management team has an active strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the setting of the annual budget and which is used to update the budget during the year. This allows any adverse changes to be accommodated. The analysis will also advise whether new borrowing taken out should be fixed or variable.

According to this assessment strategy, at 31 March 2021, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would have been:

	<u>2020/21</u> £000's	<u>2019/20</u> £000's
Increased return on money market investments	(42)	(8)
Impact on Income and Expenditure Account	<u>(42)</u>	<u>(8)</u>
Share of Overall Impact Credited to the HRA	<u>(11)</u>	<u>(6)</u>

The current Bank of England Base Rate is 0.1%. The scope for any further decrease in prevailing interest rates for investments with a maturity of less than one year is so small that the Council does not regard the risk to be material.

- **Price Risk**

The Council is not exposed to price risk as it does not invest in equity shares.

- **Foreign Exchange Risk**

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

47. Agency Services

The Council does not normally act as an agent for other entities, beyond its role as a billing authority, collecting Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates on behalf of Central Government and local precepting authorities. These transactions are reflected in the Collection Fund, details of which are disclosed later on in these financial statements.

However, during 2020/21, the Council was obliged to act on behalf of Central Government, for the administration and distribution of various monies related to relief payments to local people and businesses, to alleviate the economic effects of the various Covid-19 lockdowns.

While the Council was given discretion over the distribution of certain funds, the majority of the relief grant funding received in 2020/21 was distributed in accordance

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

with criteria determined by Central Government. As such, while the former are deemed *Principal* transitions, and are included as expenditure and income of the Council in-year, the latter are deemed *Agency* transactions, and are excluded from the primary financial statements.

Below is a table listing the grant schemes and the volume and amount paid out by the Council in 2020/21.

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Value</u> £000s
Coronavirus Small Business Rates Relief Grants	603	6,030
Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grants	147	2,685
Local Restrictions Support Grant Closed	759	1,473
Christmas Support Payments	16	16
Tier 4 Closed Business Grants	228	62
Closed Business Lockdown Payment	229	1,041
Test and Trace Support Payments Main Scheme	146	73
Total Processed as Agent	<u>2,128</u>	<u>11,380</u>
Coronavirus Discretionary Grants	54	400
Extended Lockdown Discretionary Grants	114	356
Test and Trace Support Payments Discretionary Scheme	25	13
Additional Restrictions Grant	80	147
Local Restrictions Support Grant Open	111	172
Total Processed as Principal	<u>384</u>	<u>1,088</u>
Grant Total	<u><u>2,512</u></u>	<u><u>12,468</u></u>

48. Contingent Liabilities

Municipal Mutual Insurance

The Scheme of Arrangement was enacted in 2012/13. The impact upon the Council as a scheme creditor is not clear, nor is the consequential impact on future funding for unknown claims incurred but not reported between 1974 and 1992. Whilst the Council has so far fulfilled its obligations to the scheme, the total liability going forward is uncertain, and there thus remains the possibility of future demands on Council funds.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Litigation

As at 31 March 2021 there are no Litigation for Council to report.

(2019-20) The Council undergone an HSE enquiry in relation to a fatal accident in Willow Park. Following the inquest it was determined that works undertaken by the Council at Willow Park were a subsequently decided that there was no public interest pursuing a prosecution. So no further costs were incurred.

49. Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

There are no prior period adjustments which relate to the 2020/21 Accounts.

**THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**

This account summarises the resources that have been generated and consumed in providing services and managing the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) during the last year. It includes all day-to-day expenses and related income on an accruals basis, as well as transactions measuring the value of fixed assets actually consumed and the real projected value of retirement benefits earned by employees in the year.

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
Note	£000's	£000's
Expenditure		
Repairs and maintenance	849	1,143
Supervision and management	648	629
Rents, rates, taxes and other charges	12	15
Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	6, 7 439	391
Debt management charges	6	4
Increase/(decrease) in bad debt provision	67	(1)
Total Expenditure	<u>2,021</u>	<u>2,181</u>
Income		
Dwellings rent	(4,873)	(4,780)
Non dwellings rent	(72)	(74)
Charges for services and facilities	(95)	(96)
Total Income	<u>(5,040)</u>	<u>(4,950)</u>
Net Income of HRA Services as included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
	(3,019)	(2,769)
HRA services share of Corporate and Democratic Core	1,195	1,195
HRA Share of other amounts included in whole authority net expenditure of continuing operations not allocated to specific services	4	(5)
Net Income of HRA Services	<u>(1,820)</u>	<u>(1,579)</u>
HRA share of the operating income and expenditure included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement :		
(Gain)/Loss on the Sale of HRA non-current assets	(87)	(221)
De-recognition of Non-Current Assets	381	730
Interest and investment income	(3)	(11)
Interest payable and similar charges	533	549
Pensions interest cost and expected return on pension assets	41	55
(Surplus) / Deficit for the Year on HRA Services	<u>(955)</u>	<u>(477)</u>

MOVEMENT ON THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT STATEMENT

This reconciliation statement summarises the differences between the outturn on the HRA Income and Expenditure Account and the HRA Balance.

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
Note	<u>£000's</u>	<u>£000's</u>
Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous reporting period	(1,139)	(1,086)
(Surplus) / Deficit for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	(955)	(477)
Adjustments made between Accounting Basis and funding basis under statute	753	424
Net (increase) or decrease before transfers to or from reserves	(202)	(53)
Transfers to or (from) Reserves	0	0
(Increase) or decrease in year on the HRA	(202)	(53)
Balance on the HRA at the end of the current reporting period	(1,341)	(1,139)

NOTES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

1. Adjustment Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Statute

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Impairment of non-current assets	1,092	1,024
(Gain) / loss on the sale of non-current assets	87	221
Accumulating compensating absences	(1)	(3)
De-recognition of non-current assets	(381)	(730)
Net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19	(147)	(197)
Transfer (to) / from major repairs reserve	0	0
Revenue contribution to capital	0	0
Employers contribution payable to the Leicestershire Pension Fund and retirement benefits payable direct to pensioners	103	109
Adjustments made between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Statute	753	424

2. Balance Sheet Value of Authority's Housing Stock

	2020/21	2019/20
	£000's	£000's
Operational Assets		
Dwellings	66,000	62,789
Other Land and Buildings	1,186	1,091
	67,186	63,880
Non Operational Assets		
Investment Property	129	174
Total	67,315	64,054

The vacant possession value of dwellings at 31 March 2021 was £158,328,350 (2020/19 £149,497,239), against a balance sheet value of £65,999,703 (2020/19 £62,788,841) at the same point in time.

The difference reflects the fact that social housing rents generate a lower income stream than could be obtained in the open market. The value placed on assets in a commercial environment will reflect the required economic rate of return in relation to income streams that the assets might be expected to generate throughout their economic life. To the extent that income streams are constrained to serve a wider social purpose, the value of capital assets employed for council housing will be reduced.

NOTES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

3. Housing Stock

The Council was responsible for managing on average 1,200.5 dwellings during 2020/21. The stock at year end was as follows;

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	Number	Number
Houses / Bungalows	665	667
Flats / Maisonettes	534	535
Total Stock	<u>1,199</u>	<u>1,202</u>

The change in stock can be summarised as follows;

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	Number	Number
Stock at 1 April	1,202	1,207
Sales	(3)	(8)
Additions	0	3
Stock at 31 March	<u>1,199</u>	<u>1,202</u>

4. Major Repairs Reserve

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£000's	£000's
Balance at 1 April	10	450
Amounts Transferred In	1,534	1,415
Transfers to/(from) HRA		0
Used for Capital Expenditure	(1,237)	(1,855)
Balance at 31 March	<u>307</u>	<u>10</u>

5. Funding of HRA Stock

A total of £1,236,832 was spent on the Authority's housing stock in 2020/21 (£2,382,337 in 2019/20).

This was funded as follows:

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£000's	£000's
Major Repairs Reserve	1,237	1,856
Unsupported Borrowing	0	527
Balance at 31 March	<u>1,237</u>	<u>2,383</u>

NOTES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

HRA Capital Receipts retained by the Authority for 2020/21 totalled £158,494 (2019/20 £379,913). These were entirely attributable to the sale of council houses under the Right to Buy Scheme.

6. Depreciation and Amortisation

The total charge for non-current assets within the Authority's HRA during the financial year 2020/21 is £1,534,000 (2019/20 £1,284,046)

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£000's	£000's
Dwellings	1,352	1,283
Other Land & Buildings	153	126
Plant, Equipment & Vehicles	2	4
Intangibles (Computer Software)	27	6
Total	<u>1,534</u>	<u>1,419</u>

7. Impairment of HRA Assets

Due to Central Government changes in valuation guidelines, there was no net impairment charge made to the HRA for 2020/21. Instead, there was a considerable reversal of impairment charged in previous years.

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£000's	£000's
Dwellings	<u>(1,092)</u>	<u>(1,024)</u>
Total	<u>(1,092)</u>	<u>(1,024)</u>

8. Rent Arrears

During the year rent arrears have increased by £27,000.

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
	£000's	£000's
Arrears at 31 March	350	323

A bad debt provision has been made in the accounts in respect of potentially uncollectible rent arrears. The value of the provision at 31 March 2021 is £236,223 (31 March 2020 £169,249).

9. HRA Share of Contribution To or From the Pension Fund

To Comply with IAS 19 the current service costs for the HRA are incorporated into Supervision and Management and Repairs and Maintenance costs shown.

These Items are then reversed by the net effect of the following items:

- (i) **Net Charges Made for Retirement Benefits** in Accordance with IAS 19. This amounted to £147,040 in 2020/21 (£196,830 in 2019/20).
- (ii) **Employers Contributions** to Leicestershire County Council pension fund and retirement benefits paid direct to pensioners. This amounted to £103,354 in 2020/21 (£88,317 in 2019/20).

Explanatory Foreword

The Collection Fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation of billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) and its distribution to local government bodies and the Government.

The Council has a statutory requirement to operate a Collection Fund as a separate account to the General Fund. The purpose of the Collection Fund therefore, is to isolate the income and expenditure relating to Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Business Rates. The administrative cost associated with the collection process is charged to the General Fund.

Collection Fund surpluses declared by the billing authority in relation to Council Tax are apportioned to the relevant precepting bodies in the subsequent financial year. Deficits likewise are proportionately charged to the relevant precepting bodies in the following year. For Oadby and Wigston, the Council Tax precepting bodies are the Leicestershire County Council (LCC), the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire (PCCL) and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority (LLRCFA).

In 2013/14, the local government finance regime was revised with the introduction of the retained business rates scheme. The main aim of the scheme is to give councils a greater incentive to grow businesses in the borough. It does, however, also increase the financial risk due to non-collection and the volatility of the NNDR tax base.

The scheme allows the Council to retain a proportion of the total NNDR received. The Oadby and Wigston share is 40% with the remainder paid to precepting bodies. For Oadby and Wigston the NNDR precepting bodies are Central Government (50% share), County Council (9%) and Fire Authority (1% share).

NNDR surpluses declared by the billing authority in relation to the Collection Fund are apportioned to the relevant precepting bodies in the subsequent financial year in their respective proportions. Deficits likewise are proportionately charged to the relevant precepting bodies in the following year.

The national code of practice followed by Local Authorities in England stipulates that a Collection Fund Income and Expenditure account is included in the Council's accounts. The Collection Fund balance sheet meanwhile is incorporated into the Council's consolidated balance sheet.

The Accounts include an Explanatory Forward, a Statement of Accounting Policies and an Income and Expenditure Account, together with supporting notes.

COLLECTION FUND

Accounting Policies

1. Income and Expenditure

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis. This means sums due to or from the Collection Fund, are included whether or not the cash has actually been received or paid in the year.

The above policy is not followed when dealing with the apportionment of the surplus or deficit on the fund to precepting authorities.

2. Council Tax/NNDR Bad Debt Provision and NNDR Provision for Valuation Appeals

A provision is created when a sum of money is set aside to meet future specific expenses which are likely or certain to be incurred, but the amount of which cannot yet be determined accurately.

The Collection Fund provides for bad debts on arrears on the basis of prior year experience and the current year's collection rates.

3. Collection Fund updates for 31 March 2021 includes the following: (see Statement of Accounting policies – Note 30)

- Council Tax Collection Fund surplus/deficits.
- Transfer between the General Fund and the Collection adjustment Account.
- Covid-19 Pandemic /Grants schemes not Collection Fund Transactions.
- 75% Tax Income Guarantee Compensation.
- Covid-19 Council Tax Hardship Fund.
- NNDR – National Non- Domestic Rates Deficits/Surplus.

THE COLLECTION FUND ACCOUNT

2019/20			2020/21			
Business Rates £000's	Council Tax £000's	Total £000's	Note	Business Rates £000's	Council Tax £000's	Total £000's
Income						
0	31,673	31,673		0	32,754	32,754
Council Tax Payers						
Transfers from General Fund -						
0	6	6		0	249	249
Council Tax Benefits						
12,809	0	12,809	3	6,369	0	6,369
Business Ratepayers						
Apportionment of Previous Year Deficit -						
125	0	125		83	0	83
Central Government						
100	0	100		20	0	20
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council						
22	0	22			0	0
Leicestershire County Council						
Police and Crime Commissioner for						
Leicestershire						
0	0	0			0	0
Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland						
2	0	2			0	0
Combined Fire Authority						
<u>13,058</u>	<u>31,679</u>	<u>44,737</u>		<u>6,472</u>	<u>33,003</u>	<u>39,475</u>
Total Income						
Expenditure						
12,242	31,476	43,718	4	12,742	32,841	45,583
Precepts and Demands						
55	0	55		55	0	55
Costs of Collection						
4	0	4		(2)	0	(2)
Court Costs						
Bad and Doubtful Debts -						
0	9	9		192	75	267
Write Offs						
42	142	184		14	142	156
Provisions						
(68)	0	(68)		(466)	0	(466)
Appeals						
Apportionment of Previous Year Surplus -						
	0	0			0	0
Central Government						
	5	5			13	13
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council						
	28	28		69	74	143
Leicestershire County Council						
	1	1			13	13
Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland						
	0	0			4	4
Combined Fire Authority						
	5	5			0	0
Police and Crime Commissioner for						
Leicestershire						
	7	7		8	0	8
Disregarded Amounts - Renewable						
				95		95
Energy						
				95		95
Transitional Relief						
<u>12,282</u>	<u>31,666</u>	<u>43,941</u>		<u>12,707</u>	<u>33,162</u>	<u>45,774</u>
Total Expenditure						
(776)	(13)	(789)		6,235	159	6,394
Movement on Fund						
546	64	610		(230)	51	(179)
Balance at Beginning of Year						
<u>(230)</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>(179)</u>		<u>6,005</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>6,215</u>
(Surplus)/Deficit on Fund at End of Year						
Allocated to -						
17	0	17		3,003		3,003
Central Government						
(79)	6	(73)		2,402	26	2,428
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council						
(166)	37	(129)		540	150	690
Leicestershire County Council						
	2	0		60	8	68
Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland						
(2)	2	0		60	8	68
Combined Fire Authority						
	6	6			26	26
Police and Crime Commissioner for						
Leicestershire						
<u>(230)</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>(179)</u>		<u>6,005</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>6,215</u>

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND ACCOUNT

1. Council Tax Balance and Transactions at Year End

For the purpose of the Balance Sheet, it is considered that this authority acts as an agent, collecting Council Tax on behalf of the major preceptors and itself. Council Tax transactions and balances are therefore allocated between this authority and the other major preceptors.

Shown below are the allocations to all preceptors as at 31st March 2021.

<u>Authority</u>	<u>Arrears</u> £000's	<u>Bad Debt</u> <u>Provision</u> £000's	<u>Over & Pre</u> <u>payments</u> £000's	<u>(Surplus)</u> <u>/Deficit</u> £000's	<u>Balance</u> <u>Payable</u> £000's	<u>Balance</u> 2019/20 £000's
Leicestershire County Council	2,044	(683)	(410)	150	1,101	599
Leicestershire PCCO	355	(119)	(71)	26	191	105
Combined Fire Authority	104	(35)	(21)	8	56	31
Total Other Major Preceptors	2,503	(837)	(502)	184	1,348	735
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council	349	(117)	70	26	328	104
Total All Preceptors	2,852	(954)	(432)	210	1,676	839

2. Council Tax

Council Tax derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties, which have been classified into 9 valuation bands (A-H) for this specific purpose. Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required to be taken from the Collection Fund by the Council for the forthcoming year and dividing this by the Council Tax base (i.e. the equivalent numbers of Band D dwellings).

The Council Tax base for 2020/21 has increased to £17,575.80 (£17,423.20 in 2020/19).

<u>Band</u>	<u>Estimated No. of</u> <u>Taxable Properties</u> <u>after Effect of</u> <u>Discounts</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>No. of Band</u> <u>D</u> <u>Equivalent</u> <u>Dwellings</u>
Z	5.64	5/9	3.13
A	2,620.30	6/9	1,746.87
B	5,003.25	7/9	3,891.42
C	6,125.03	8/9	5,444.47
D	2,810.35	9/9	2,810.35
E	1,800.08	11/9	2,200.10
F	479.71	13/9	692.91
G	435.72	15/9	726.20
H	68.20	18/9	136.40
Total	19,348.28		17,651.85
Add Adjustment**			191.60
Deduct Allowance for Losses in Collection			(267.65)
Council Tax Base			17,575.80

** Adjustment

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND ACCOUNT

The adjustment relates to anticipated changes during the year for successful appeals against valuation bandings, new properties, demolitions, disabled persons relief, exempt properties, and crown contributions.

3. Income from Business Ratepayers (Non – Domestic Rates or NDR)

In 2013/14, the administration of NNDR changed following the introduction of a business rates retention scheme which aims to give councils a 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 the total collectable rates due. In the case of Oadby and Wigston the local share is 40%. The remainder is distributed to preceptors and in the case of Oadby and Wigston these are Central Government 50%, Leicestershire County Council (LCC) 9% and 1% to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority (CFA).

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 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 Oadby and Wigston paid a tariff in 2020/21 to the value of £0 (£3,911,508 in 2020/19) (see Note 9, Notes to the Core Financial Statements).

In addition to the top up, a 'safety net' figure is calculated at 92.5% of baseline amount which ensures that authorities are protected to this level of Business Rates income. For Oadby and Wigston the value of safety net figure is £167,673 in 2020/21 (£ in 2020/19). The comparison of business rate income to the safety net uses the total income collected from business rate payers and adjusts for losses in collection, losses on appeal, transitional protection payments, the cost of collection and the revision to Small Business Rate Relief (announced in the Autumn Statement 2014) not allowed for when the safety net was set.

A further Safety Net or Levy system acts to ensure that any local authority is protected from a net localised business rate yield of less than 92.5% of its Baseline Funding. A Safety Net grant is paid if the authority's yield falls below this with a Levy being imposed if it is greater. In 2020/21, the Council was in a Levy position of £0 (Levy of £ for 2020/19).

In addition to the local management of business rates, authorities are expected to finance appeals made in respect of rateable values as defined by the Valuation Office Agency, and hence business rates outstanding as at 31 March 2021. As such, authorities are required to make a provision for these amounts. Appeals are charged and provided for in proportion of the precepting shares. The total provision charged to the collection fund for 2020/21 has been calculated at £2,435,870 (£1,969,982 2019/20).

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND ACCOUNT

The total non-domestic rateable value at 31 March 2021 was £34,928,012 (£34,950,652 31 March 2020). The national non-domestic multipliers for the year were:

Full	0.512 (0.504 for 2019/20)
Small Business	0.499 (0.491 for 2019/20)

Shown below are the allocations to all preceptors as at 31 March 2021.

<u>Authority</u>	<u>Arrears</u> £000's	<u>Bad Debt</u> <u>Provision</u> £000's	<u>Appeals</u> <u>Provision</u> £000's	<u>Over & Pre</u> <u>payments</u> £000's	<u>(Surplus)</u> <u>/Deficit</u> £000's	Balance Payable £000's	Balance 2019/20 £000's
Central Government	793	(147)	(752)	(370)	3,003	2,527	(85)
Leicestershire County Council	143	(27)	(135)	(67)	540	454	(127)
Combined Fire Authority	16	(3)	(15)	(7)	60	51	(3)
Total Other Major Preceptors	952	(177)	(902)	(444)	3,603	3,032	(215)
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council	634	(118)	(602)	(296)	2,402	2,020	44
Total All Preceptors	1,586	(295)	(1,504)	(740)	6,005	5,052	(171)

4. Precepts and Demands

<u>2019/20</u>			<u>2020/21</u>		
Business	Council		Business	Council	
Rates	Tax	Total	Rates	Tax	Total
£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
4,468	22,514	26,982	1,147	23,543	24,690
0	3,889	3,889	0	4,086	4,086
122	1,161	1,283	127	1,194	1,321
3,061	0	3,061	6,371	0	6,371
4,591	3,912	8,503	5,097	4,021	9,118
12,242	31,476	43,718	12,742	32,844	45,586

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

For the purposes of the Code of Practice the following definitions have been adopted:
***(2020-21 updates)**

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 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.

ACQUIRED OPERATIONS

Operations comprise services and divisions of service as defined in the Best Value Accounting 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 pension 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 (experience gains and losses), or
- (b) The actuarial assumptions have changed.

ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

Assets which are being marketed for sale in their current condition.

***BUSINESS RATE RELIEF S31 GRANT (2020-21)**

This is the compensation from the government paid to the billing authorities and major preceptors for the cost of reliefs announced by government for 2020/21.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing fixed asset.

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
- Community assets
- Intangible assets

Non-operational assets

- Investment properties
- Heritage Assets
- Assets under construction
- Assets held for sale

Further analysis of any of these items should be given if it is necessary to ensure fair presentation.

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, cemeteries and allotments.

CONSISTENCY

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

CONSTRUCTIVE OBLIGATION

An obligation that derives from an authority's actions where:

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- (a) by an established pattern of past practice, published policies or a sufficiently specific current statement, the authority has indicated to other parties that it will accept certain responsibilities; and
- (b) as a result, the authority has created a valid expectation on the part of those other parties that it will discharge those responsibilities.

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.

***COVID-19 HARDSHIP FUND (2020-21)**

The Budget announced during 11 March 2020 by the government to provide local authorities with new grant funding to support economically vulnerable people and households in their local areas.

Where billing authorities to receive this allocation for 2020/21 under S31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

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.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CURTAILMENT

For a defined benefit scheme, an event that reduces the expected years of future service 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:**

- (a) termination of employees' services earlier than expected, for example as a result of closing a factory or discontinuing a segment of a business, and
- (b) 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.

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 fixed 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 of the following conditions are met:

- (a) 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;
- (b) the activities related to the operation have ceased permanently;

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- (c) 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;
- (d) 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, the Local Government (Discretionary Payments and Injury Benefits) (Scotland) Regulations 1998, or The Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001.

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:

- (a) 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 tangible fixed asset consumed in a period;
- (b) 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.

EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

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

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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.

FAIR VALUE

The fair value of an asset is the price at which it could be exchanged in an arm's length transaction less, where applicable, any grants receivable towards the purchase or use of the asset.

FINANCE LEASE

A finance lease is a lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of a fixed asset to the lessee. Whether a lease is a finance lease or an operating lease depends on the substance of the transaction rather than the form of the contract.

GENERAL FUND

The main revenue account of the Council covering all services apart from housing landlord functions.

GOING CONCERN

The concept that the authority will remain in operational existence for the foreseeable future, in particular that the revenue accounts and Balance Sheet assume no intention to curtail significantly the scale of operations.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Assistance by government and inter-government agencies and similar bodies, whether local, national or international, in the form of cash or transfers of assets to an authority in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the authority.

HERITAGE ASSETS

An asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture. Examples of heritage assets are historical buildings, civic regalia, and antiques.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

IMPAIRMENT

A reduction in the fair value of a fixed asset below its carrying amount on the Balance Sheet. Destruction or damage to fixed assets will result in an impairment.

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Assets that have no physical substance, primarily intellectual property. The most common examples for local authority purposes are computer software licenses.

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 FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS

Accounting Standards now applicable to local authorities from 2010/11 onwards, replacing the UK GAAP regime.

INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

Interest in land and/or buildings:

- (a) in respect of which construction work and development have been completed; and
- (b) which is held for its investment potential, any rental income being negotiated at arm's length.

INVESTMENTS (PENSIONS FUND)

The investment of the pensions fund will be accounted for in the statements of that fund. However authorities are also required to disclose, as part of the disclosures relating to retirement benefits, the attributable share of pension scheme assets associated with their underlying obligations.

LIQUID RESOURCES

Current asset investments that are readily disposable by the authority without disrupting its business and are either; readily convertible to known amounts of cash at or close to the carrying amount, or traded in an active market.

***LOCAL AUTHORITY DISCRETIONARY GRANTS FUND (2020-21)**

For small and micro businesses who are not eligible for the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Fund.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The local authorities will be responsible for delivering grants to eligible businesses. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides all local authorities with the vires to make these payments.

***LOCAL RESTRICTIONS SUPPORT GRANTS (LRSG), RESTART GRANT AND ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT (ARG) (2020-21)**

The Local Authorities pay grants to support businesses during national lockdown periods and periods of local restrictions.

Eligibility for support is determined by the government and authority payments are reimbursed by government through S31 grant.

***LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT (2020-21)**

New grant funding for local council for council tax support. Allocations based on each billing authority's mean average working age local council tax support caseload over the first two quarters 2020/21. Along with the average per dwelling compared to UK overall average.

***LOCAL TAX INCOME GUARANTEE (2020-21)**

Government compensates local authorities for 75% of irrecoverable losses in council tax and business rates for 2020/21.

LONG-TERM CONTRACTS

A contract entered into for the design, manufacture or construction of a single substantial asset or the provision of a service (or a combination of assets or services which together constitute a single project), where the time taken substantially to complete the contract is such that the contract activity falls into different accounting periods. Some contracts with a shorter duration than one year should be accounted for as long-term contracts if they are sufficiently material to the activity of the period.

NET BOOK VALUE

The amount at which fixed assets are included in the Balance Sheet, i.e. their historical 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 DEBT

The authority's borrowings less cash and liquid resources. Where cash and liquid resources exceed borrowings, reference should be to net funds rather than net debt.

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NET REALISABLE VALUE

The open market value of the asset in its existing use (or market value in the case of non-operational assets), less the expenses to be incurred in realising the asset.

NON CURRENT ASSETS

Non-current assets that yield benefits to the local authority and the service it provides for a period of more than one year.

NON-OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Fixed assets held by a local authority but not used or consumed in the delivery of services or for the service or strategic objectives of the authority. Examples of non-operational assets include; investment properties and assets that are surplus to requirements, pending their sale. It should be noted that the incident of rental income does not necessarily mean that the asset is an investment property, it would be deemed an investment property only if the asset is held solely for investment purposes and does not support the service or strategic objectives of the authority and the rental income is negotiated at arm's length.

OPERATING LEASES

In a finance lease agreement, ownership of the property is transferred to the lessee at the end of the lease term. But, in operating lease agreement, the **ownership of the property is retained during and after the lease term** by the lessor under an operating lease, the lessee does not have this option.

OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Fixed assets held and occupied, used or consumed by the local authority in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility or for the service or strategic objectives of the authority.

PAST SERVICE COST

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

PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS

Those material adjustments applicable to prior years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. A fundamental error is one that is of such significance as to destroy the validity of the financial statements. They do not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

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PROJECTED UNIT METHOD

An accrued benefits valuation method in which the scheme liabilities make allowance for projected earnings. An accrued benefits valuation method is a valuation method in which the scheme liabilities at the valuation date relate to:

- (a) the benefits for pensioners and deferred pensioners (i.e. individuals who have ceased to be active members but are entitled to benefits payable at a later date) and their dependants, allowing where appropriate for future increases; and
- (b) the accrued benefits for members in service on the valuation date.

The accrued benefits are the benefits for service up to a given point in time, whether vested rights or not. Guidance on the projected unit method is given in the Guidance Note GN26 issued by the Faculty and Institute of Actuaries.

RELATED PARTIES

Two or more parties are related parties when at any time during the financial period:

- (i) one party has direct or indirect control of the other party; or
- (ii) the parties are subject to common control from the same source; or
- (iii) one party has influence over the financial and operational policies of the other party to an extent that the other party might be inhibited from pursuing at all times its own separate interests; or
- (iv) the parties, in entering a transaction, are subject to influence from the same source to such an extent that one of the parties to the transaction has subordinated its own separate interests.

Examples of related parties of an authority include:

- (i) central government;
- (ii) local authorities and other bodies precepting or levying demands on the council tax;
- (iii) its subsidiary and associated companies;
- (iv) its joint ventures and joint venture partners;
- (v) its members;
- (vi) its chief officers; and
- (vii) its pension fund.

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Examples of related parties of a pension fund include its:

- (i) administering authority and its related parties;
- (ii) scheduled bodies and their related parties; and
- (iii) trustees and advisers.

These lists are not intended to be comprehensive.

For individuals identified as related parties, the following are also presumed to be related parties:

- (i) members of the close family, or the same household; and
- (ii) partnerships, companies, trusts or other entities in which the individual, or a member of their close family or the same household, has a controlling interest.

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION

A related party transaction is the transfer of assets or liabilities or the performance of services by, to or for a related party irrespective of whether a charge is made. Examples of related party transactions include:

- (i) the purchase, sale, lease, rental or hire of assets between related parties;
- (ii) the provision by a pension fund to a related party of assets of loans, irrespective of any direct economic benefit to the pension fund;
- (iii) the provision of a guarantee to a third party in relation to a liability or obligation of a related party;
- (iv) the provision of services to a related party, including the provision of pension fund administration services;
- (v) transactions with individuals who are related parties of an authority or a pension fund, except those applicable to other members of the community or the pension fund, such as council tax, rents and payments of benefits.

This list is not intended to be comprehensive

The materiality of related party transactions should be judged not only in terms of their significance to the authority, but also in relation to its related party.

***Related Rent Concessions – (Covid-19) (2020-21)**

Forgiveness of a portion of or all lease payments for an agreed period (temporary rent reduction or rent holiday). Due to Covid-19 pandemic conditions have to be met where lessees recognise any changes in lease payments rising from rent

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concessions over the periods where the changes in the lease payments is intended to be compensated.

Conditions;

Where changes in the lease payments lead to revised considerations for the lease that is less than the consideration for the lease immediately preceding the change.

If there are any reductions in the lease payments affecting the original payments due before applying the Concessions.

No significant change to the other terms and conditions of the lease.

REMUNERATION

All sums paid to or receivable by 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 cash. Pension contributions payable by the employer are excluded.

RESIDUAL VALUE

The net realisable value of an asset at the end of its useful life. Residual values are based on prices prevailing at the date of the acquisition (or revaluation) of the asset and do not take account of expected future price changes.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by employees that are payable after the completion of employment. Retirement benefits do not include termination benefits payable as a result of either (i) an employer's decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date or (ii) an employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits, because these are not given in exchange for services rendered by employees.

***SALES, FEES, CHARGES SCHEME EXTENSION (2020-21)**

Compensation given to local authorities for irrecoverable, unavoidable losses from sales, fees and charges income generated in the delivery of service in the financial year 2020/21. The Government have extended this scheme into the first three months of 2021/22.

SCHEME LIABILITIES

The liabilities of a defined benefit scheme for outgoings due after the valuation date. Scheme liabilities measured using the projected unit method reflect the benefits that the employer is committed to provide for service up to the valuation date.

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SETTLEMENT

An irrevocable action that relieves the employer (or the defined benefit scheme) of the primary responsibility for a pension obligation and eliminates significant risks relating to the obligation and the assets used to effect the settlement.

Settlements include:

- (a) a lump-sum cash payment to scheme members in exchange for their rights to receive specified pensions benefits
- (b) the purchase of an irrevocable annuity contract sufficient to cover vested benefits, and
- (c) the transfer of scheme assets and liabilities relating to a group of employees leaving the scheme

***SMALL BUSINESS GRANT FUND AND RETAIL; HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE GRANT FUND (2020-21)**

The two grant funding schemes in the Financial Year 2020/21 (Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund).

In line with the eligibility the government sets out specific criteria/guidance; reimburse Local Authorities that pay grants to eligible businesses.

STOCKS

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:

- (a) goods or other assets purchased for resale;
- (b) consumable stores;
- (c) raw materials & components purchased for incorporation into products for sale;
- (d) products and services in intermediate states of completion;
- (e) long-term contract balances; and
- (f) finished goods.

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USEFUL LIFE

The period over which the local authority will derive benefits from the use of fixed assets.

VESTED RIGHTS

In relation to a defined benefit scheme, these are:

- (a) for active members, benefits to which they would unconditionally be entitled on leaving the scheme;
- (b) for deferred pensioners, their preserved benefits;
- (c) for pensioners, pensions to which they are entitled.

Vested rights include where appropriate the related benefits for spouses or other dependants.

Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2020/21

1. Introduction

Oadby & Wigston Council (the Council) is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with legislation, regulation, government guidance and that proper standards of stewardship, conduct, probity and professional competence are set and abided to by all those representing , working for and working with the Council.. The 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.

In discharging this overall responsibility the Council must make proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and for facilitating the effective exercise of its functions including the management of risk.

The Council has previously approved and adopted a Code of Corporate Governance which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. This statement shows how the Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, regulation 6(1)(b), which requires each English local authority to conduct a review, at least once a year, of the effectiveness of its systems of internal control and approve an annual governance statement (AGS).

2. Purpose of the Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, culture and values by which the Council is directed and controlled. It reflects activities through which the Council meets the needs of the community. It includes arrangements 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 at a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risks of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and therefore can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives. Evaluation of the likelihood and potential impact of those risks being realised and how to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically are key parts of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and its Corporate Plan.

This AGS confirms that the governance framework has been in place for the financial year ended 31st March 2021 and up to the date of the approval of the Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts.

3. What does the AGS tell you about Good Governance?

The AGS is a summarised account of how the Council's management arrangements are set up to meet the principles of good governance and how we as a Council assure ourselves that these are effective and appropriate. The main goal of an AGS is to provide the reader with confidence that the Council has an effective system of internal control that is able to manage risks to reasonable levels. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable assurance of effectiveness.

The CIPFA Delivering Good Governance publication (2016) defines the various principles of good governance in the public sector and how they relate to each other and are defined as:

- Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law.
- Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
- Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.
- Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
- Developing the Council's capacity, including its leadership and the individuals within it.
- Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
- Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit, to deliver effective accountability.

The governance framework at Oadby and Wigston Borough Council comprises the systems and processes, culture and values which the Council has adopted in order to deliver on the above principles.

4. The Governance Framework

Current Governance Structure

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council has retained a committee system. The majority of UK local authorities now operate using a cabinet system where a group of members have been given the power to make the majority of decisions on behalf of their Council.

The benefits of retaining the committee system are that all members are able to sit on a range of decision making committees and every member has a vote that counts. This is the cornerstone of the Council's governance – members are not

marginalised in decision making. All decisions are debated and made during open committee in full public view. Closed sessions, for instance where commercially sensitive matters need to be discussed, are kept to an absolute minimum. Only the most urgent decisions are delegated to the Chair/Vice Chair of committees, and these must be reported back to the main committee as soon as possible. In addition to the statutory committees that deal with development control and with licensing, the Council has three main committees:

- The Policy, Finance and Development Committee, which has overall responsibility for setting the long term aims of the Council and moving it forward in line with these objectives.
- The Service Delivery Committee, which has direct responsibility for the day-to-day operation of all services.
- The Audit Committee, which is responsible for Internal and External Audit and Risk Management (from autumn 2019).

Visions and Priorities

The Corporate Plan was approved in March 2019, covering the period 2019 - 2024 and updated in March 2020 , along with the updated MTFs (Feb 2020) reflects the Plan's priorities:

“A Stronger Borough Together, Improving the Lives of Our Communities”

This is supported by three new corporate objectives which aim to serve our residents, communities, businesses and partners to the highest standards, improving our borough as a place to live, work and visit.

Corporate Objective One:

Building, Protecting and Empowering Communities ***“Be Proud of your borough as a place to live”***

This objective looks to not only build suitable accommodation to meet the needs of the community, delivering housing, attract people to our borough to live, reducing homelessness and the causes of homelessness, but to also build upon our strong communities, engaging with them and building greater community cohesion.

We also want to protect our communities, not just working with the Police to tackle crime, antisocial behaviour and enforcement, but to address health needs across the borough. We will work with health partners, including the Fire Service, to improve health equality, meaning nobody should feel excluded and reducing loneliness created by the modern world.

We will empower our communities, generating positive involvement, not only through the work of Councillors within their wards and neighbourhood forums, but to engage

a greater proportion of our borough, engaging with those who often feel disenfranchised. We will increase our volunteering opportunities and encourage our communities to get more involved, taking greater responsibility for where they live, work and play.

Corporate Objective Two:

Growing the Borough Economically

“Realise the aspirations of the borough, benefiting those who live and work here”

This objective aims for our borough to be the best it can be, economically. We will work with businesses – from local sole traders to multinational corporations as to how we can help businesses develop and grow within our borough whilst attracting new organisations to the borough. This will not only provide greater opportunities for employment for our residents and regeneration opportunities, but helps our local students with opportunities to stay within the borough whereas they may be forced to look further afield for such opportunities.

The borough has a rich array of attractions that should attract people to the borough, but sadly we are not maximising these. We will market the borough as a place that is worth visiting, working with partners to create a “joined-up” approach. We will also identify what areas of demand we are lacking and look to plug those gaps – increasing the reasons to visit the borough. We will also look at our entertainment and night-time economy and look to create a sustainable and enjoyable environment where people can enjoy the borough through a host of opportunities in the evenings.

The Council will look to be more commercial in regards to generating income that can protect frontline services and not have to cut them. We will look to maximise the value our assets can provide and look at ventures that could generate commercial income rather than increase taxes on our communities.

Corporate Objective Three:

Providing Excellent Services

“Delivering those services needed to the highest standard whilst providing value for money”

This objective for our borough is to put the customer first – getting things right first time and providing services to the highest standards. The Council has always aspired to provide excellent services for all of our customers, be they Residents, Businesses, Partner Organisations or internally, meaning that we need to understand their needs. The Council has already shifted to focussing on outcome delivery, and we will ensure that we will get things right at the first opportunity we have.

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The Council will aim to achieve the prestigious and nationally recognised “Customer Service Excellence Award” to demonstrate that we are achieving what we have set out to do. The award is a quality-mark award that rates how the services received by residents are delivered by the Council. We will use this award as a driver of continuous improvement and enable our staff to improve their skills which will enable further improvements in the delivery of services.

We will also be utilising technology to make life safer for our residents or the implementation of smart technology in the homes of the vulnerable to allow them instant access to services, alongside the utilisation of technologies to improve our effectiveness in delivering our services.

The Council’s financial plans are outlined in its Medium Term Financial Strategy – the latest update to the Strategy was agreed by Council in February 2020. The document outlines the financial objectives which the Council looks to achieve in order to meet continuing pressure on available resources, and also how the Medium Term Financial Strategy is now a “living” document, regularly updated during the year. In addition, the Council has agreed its Housing Revenue Account business plan which sets out how housing services will be maintained and financed over the long term.

Quality of Services

Service plan targets and key performance indicators are set for each department within the annual service delivery and development plans. Progress against targets is monitored monthly by the management team and reported regularly to relevant committees. The Council’s financial position is reported against budget to every meeting of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee. Detailed budget information is provided to budget holders each month and dedicated project teams provide financial information for large projects or capital schemes.

The Council ensures that its key priorities determine the allocation of resources to deliver its agreed activities. A robust corporate business planning programme is used to identify projects against agreed criteria, including the Council’s policies, its priorities, the outcome of public consultations, demonstration of continuous improvements, and responding to legislative change. The Council has a Project Management Board, who reviews the progress of all major projects. The Board in 2020/21 consisted of the Senior Leadership Team who report back to the Performance, Finance and Development Committee on a quarterly basis.

Achievement of the Council’s priorities has been monitored throughout the financial year 2020/21 by the Council’s Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and reports to the relevant committees. The monitoring of delivery against agreed priorities ensures the Council’s capacity to deliver projects within agreed costs, time and resources.

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As part of the budget setting process in 2020/21, this was aligned to the setting of service delivery plans and Key Performance Indicators, all in which were linked to the Corporate Strategy. By linking Budgets, Service planning and Performance, the council can ensure that it is working effectively towards the strategic objectives.

Financial Management

The financial elements of the Council's corporate business planning process are included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, which has a detailed one year budget and high levels for the forthcoming years given the complete lack of clarity from central government regarding future funding for local authorities. Whilst the Council's MTFS runs until the end of the current national local government funding settlement, the Council has financial scenarios in place further to that, and this enables the authority to be agile in its development, and be alert to potential significant financial risks that the authority may face. The Council has a good track record of financial management and internal control, but resources are necessarily limited and significant net savings year-on-year continue to be required, and are met without the need to identify significant in-year savings.

The Council continues to ensure that the accounts are compliant with the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice. Performance against budget is reported at committee meetings and managed by SLT and through the corporate business planning process. The Council ensures that the levels of reserves it holds are sustainable over the medium term. The MTFS takes account of the current economic climate and changes to funding for local government.

The Council has a Treasury Management Strategy that is reviewed each year and monitored on a regular basis. This ensures the Council has sound processes and controls over its treasury function to minimise risk exposure.

Decision Making, Scrutiny and Governance

The Council, the Policy, Finance and Development Committee and the Service Delivery Committee take decisions on service and management matters in line with terms of reference set out in the constitution. The committees meet four times each municipal year. The Policy, Finance and Development Committee undertake the role of the Audit Committee for the Council and provide continuous monitoring and scrutiny of financial management, performance, policy and action plans. Further challenge is provided by elected members through meetings with Committee Chairmen, Resident Forums and Member Workshops.

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Scrutiny is provided at officer level through the work of the Council’s internal audit function which is currently delivered by CW Audit Services. The annual risk based audit plan contributes to the review of the Council’s key internal control systems, risk management processes and corporate governance arrangements. CW Audit supports the design and effectiveness of the governance framework. Each internal audit review is given an assurance level. The definition of each of these assurance levels is provided in the table below:

Table – Definition of Assurance Levels

Level of Significance	Criteria
Full	No significant risk issues identified.
Significant	Exposure to levels of risk that may only impair the effectiveness of the system or process under review.
Moderate	Exposure to levels of risk that render some elements of the system’s control environment undeliverable.
Limited	Exposure to unacceptable level of risk that could have a serious impact upon the system or process under review.
No	Exposure to unacceptable levels of risk that could have a serious impact upon the organisation as a whole.

Regular meetings are held between CW Audit Services and the Section 151 Officer and with the Chief Executive. This ensures the high standard of internal audit support is maintained. The annual audit plan is reviewed on a frequent basis to identify any amendments needed to reflect changing priorities, emerging risks or resourcing challenges.

The Audit Committee receives regular reports from the Council’s External Auditors Grant Thornton LLP and Internal Audit (CW Audit). Where appropriate, comments are made on non-compliance with legislation that has been identified as part of a routine audit. The Section 151 Officer has direct access to this committee as well as to the External Auditors. All members of the Audit Committee receive training in risk management so as to allow them to appreciate the nature of risks presented to the Council through its activities.

There are governance arrangements in place to ensure that members and officers work together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles. The Council’s constitution includes a scheme of delegation and terms of reference for each committee. Responsibilities are set out to make clear how the Council and its committees operate within the organisation. The scheme of

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delegation also defines the powers granted to the Chief Executive (the Head of Paid Service) and other chief officers within the areas of their service responsibility. The constitution reflects all relevant legislation impacting on decision making in local government and is published on the Council's website.

Elected members are responsible for ensuring that effective policy making, scrutiny and monitoring activities occur. A clear committee structure assists such responsibilities to be effectively carried out. Member expertise and involvement is further enhanced by on-going training and development opportunities.

The Council has a statutory responsibility to have a Section 151 Officer and a Monitoring Officer. The Council's financial arrangements fully conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government. The Section 151 Officer is a key member of the Senior Leadership Team. The Section 151 Officer is responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial arrangements and led a fully resourced and suitably qualified finance function. The Section 151 Officer was actively involved in and able to bring influence to bear on all material business decisions to ensure immediate and long term implications, opportunities and risks, were fully considered and in alignment with the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Underpinning the Council's financial management arrangements is a regularity framework comprising Financial Regulations, Contract Procedure Rules, annual audits of key financial systems and audits of other systems undertaken on a risk-based basis. Other processes and procedures such as the Procurement Strategy and Risk Management Strategy are monitored on a regular basis.

The Monitoring Officer role is fulfilled by the Council's Head of Law and Democracy, who acts as guardian of the Council's constitution to ensure lawfulness, probity and fairness in Council decision making. The Monitoring Officer has processes for the review of legislative changes which feed into the annual review of the constitution.

Consultation meetings and other forms of communication between the Monitoring Officer and senior managers as appropriate ensures that managers can contribute to revisions to the constitution including the scheme of delegation. The annual review includes the constitution's terms of reference.

Officer decision making at a strategic level is led by the Senior Leadership Team, comprising the Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer), Head of Finance (Deputy S151 Officer/Acting S151 Officer from March 2021) the Monitoring Officer, the Head of Built Environment, the Head of Community and Wellbeing and the Head of Customer Service and Transformation. The Team meets formally on a weekly basis and standing items of business include finance, policy, governance, human resources, performance management and the delivery of the Council's priorities.

Standards of Conduct

Officers of the Council are expected to maintain high standards of conduct. The Council has a staff code of conduct that is published on the intranet along with other policies and procedures.

There is an agreed protocol between members and officers to ensure that a constructive working relationship exists and this Annual Governance Statement also promotes and demonstrates the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

In addition, Policy, Finance and Development committee fulfils the functions of the Standards Committee and operates to ensure that councillors and any co-opted members of the Council behave in a way that exemplifies high standards of conduct and effective governance and has regard to the member code of conduct.

Regular records of advice and code issues are kept by the Monitoring Officer.

Declaring interests under the code of conduct is a standard item on the agenda at every committee meeting and Council and declarations are minuted by the clerk. A legal advisor attends all Council and committee meetings to advice on the application of the code and other issues where this is requested or otherwise considered appropriate. A planning code of conduct is in place and is adhered to by members who sit on the Development Control Committee.

Members and officers comply with the Council's gift and hospitality policy.

The Council's website explains how complaints can be made against elected members by either downloading a complaint form or making a complaint on-line. The web page also has links to the code of conduct and the constitution.

A register of the Council's contracts is published on the Council's website. In addition, details of the Council's spend on individual items over £250 is published on a quarterly basis.

Compliance

The Council's policies and procedures are drawn up and regularly reviewed to ensure compliance with current legislation and regulations. Legal Services assist with updating and amending policies and advice on legal implications including legislative impacts on recommendations included in committee reports.

Equalities implications are also considered as part of committee reports.

Whistle Blowing

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Concerns regarding non-compliance with policies, procedures, laws and regulations can be raised through the Council's anti-fraud and confidential reporting policies. Concerns raised are always investigated and acted upon following clearly defined guidelines.

The Whistle Blowing Policy is published on the Council's intranet and internet to raise awareness and outline procedures in place to staff, contractors and the public. It features in the induction of new staff.

The Monitoring Officer, after consultation with the Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, has statutory powers to report to Council in relation to any function, proposal, decision or omission that s/he considers would give rise to unlawfulness or any decision or omission that might give rise to maladministration. Such a report would have the effect of stopping the proposal or decision being implemented until the report has been considered.

Officer and Member Development

The Council's staff appraisal process assesses performance and delivery of Council objectives and also identifies any skills gaps that need addressing. Each officer has an agreed annual personal development plan. Progress against these plans is reviewed regularly through one-to-one discussions with line managers. The process ensures that the Council continually keeps under review the levels of skills required to carry out functions with due regard to law, policy and regulation.

As part of the Council's business planning process each service plan includes learning and development needs linked to specific actions. This ensures that the skills sets required delivering the key priorities and actions for the Council are identified and provided.

Training programmes and other development opportunities are circulated and shared more broadly using the Council's internal communication mechanisms. The Council also supports the training and development of members.

Consultation

Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability is a key element of the governance framework. The Council takes every opportunity to consult with relevant stakeholders before taking any decisions likely to impact on the level and quality of services. In addition, the Council's business planning process includes an annual timetable of formal consultation

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events ensuring statutory, voluntary and business partners have the opportunity to comment on budget proposals under consideration.

The Council has given delegated authority on budget provision to three Resident Forums who can make recommendations to the Policy, Finance & Development Committee on how funds could be allocated to various projects within their geographic area. The Forums' membership is open to people who live in the three areas and this approach has been found to be a very good sources of two-way communication and consultation around the Council's policy initiatives.

The Council also implemented a "Citizens Panel" in 2019/20, comprised of a wider-representative group than would normally interact with the Council to improve our understanding of residents opinions.

Reviewing the Effectiveness of the Governance Framework

The 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 senior managers within the Council who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment. The annual report from the Council's Internal Audit service (CW Audit Services) is a key document in assessing the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements. Comments from External Auditors Grant Thornton LLP and other agencies and inspectorates such as the Local Government Association are also important.

The Senior Management Team, chaired by the Chief Executive, reviews the Council's governance framework and control environment and is responsible for the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement. Appropriate managers are responsible for producing their own service assurance statements and developing an improvement plan to rectify any identified governance weaknesses within their service areas. The Policy, Finance & Development Committee reviews the Annual Governance Statement and evaluates the strength of the underlying assurance statements and evidence.

5. Annual Review of Effectiveness

The Framework provides examples of documents, systems and processes that an authority should have in place. Using this guidance, the Council can provide assurance that it has effective governance arrangements. The Council has an approved Local Code of Corporate Governance and this provides examples of good governance in practice.

The Council's Constitution includes Finance and Contract Procedure Rules and Schemes of Delegation to Chief Officers. These translate into key operational internal controls such as: control of access to systems, offices and assets; segregation of duties; reconciliation of records and accounts; decisions and

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transactions authorised by nominated officers; and production of suitable financial and operational management information. These controls demonstrate governance structures in place throughout the Council.

Audit Functions

The Council has a separate audit committee which came into existence in the autumn of 2019. The Committee receives reports from the Internal Audit service and can require service heads to attend to answer questions as required. Reports from the External Audit service are also received at these meetings.

External Audit

The Council's external auditors are Grant Thornton.

Each year the external auditors review the Council's arrangements for:

- Preparing accounts and compliance with statutory and other relevant requirements.
- Ensuring the proper conduct of financial affairs and monitoring their adequacy and effectiveness in practice.
- Managing performance to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

In September 2019 Grant Thornton issued their Annual Audit Letter, covering the audit of the Council's 2018/19 financial statements and Value for Money conclusion, providing an unqualified opinion on the accounts and an unqualified conclusion on the Council's arrangements for Value for Money.

There were no recommendations included in the Letter and no significant governance issues were identified.

Internal Audit

The Council's Head of Internal Audit is required to provide an annual opinion, based upon and limited to the work performed, on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's risk management, control and governance processes (i.e. the Council's system of internal control). This is achieved through a risk-based plan of work, agreed with management and approved by the Audit Committee, which should provide a reasonable level of assurance, subject to the inherent limitations described below. The Head of Internal Audit's role reflects best practice as set out in the CIPFA Guidance on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit.

For 2020/21, the auditor's opinion was that significant assurance can be given that there is a generally sound system of internal control, designed to meet the organisation's objectives, and that controls are generally being applied consistently.

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However, some weakness in the design and/or inconsistent application of controls put the achievement of particular objectives at risk. No significant governance issues were identified by the auditor.

Basis of the Auditors opinion formed:

- An initial assessment of the design and operation of the underpinning risk management framework and supporting processes.
- An assessment of the range of individual opinions arising from risk-based audit assignment containing within internal audit risk-based plans that have been reported throughout the year. This assessment has taken account of the relative materiality of these areas and management's progress in respect of addressing control weaknesses.
- Any reliance that is being placed upon third party assurances.

Risk Management

During 2020/21 the Council's Strategic Risk Register was monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and initially the Policy, Finance & Development Committee. The register identified major risks and commented on their likelihood and impact on the Council's objectives. Each risk is allocated a responsible officer for identifying an action plan and provides an update. Risk management is embedded in processes such as appraisal of new capital investment and service development plans.

The Role of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

The CFO conforms to the governance requirements and core responsibilities of two CIPFA Statements on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer; in Local Government (2016) and in the Local Government Pension Scheme (2014). The CFO is a key member of the Corporate Management Team and is able to bring influence to bear on all material business decisions, ensuring that immediate and long term implications, opportunities and risks, are fully considered and in alignment with the MTFs and other corporate strategies. The CFO is aware of, and committed to, the five key principles that underpin the role of the CFO, and has completed an assurance statement that provides evidence against core activities which strengthen governance and financial management across the Council.

The Role of the Monitoring Officer (MO)

The Monitoring Officer has responsibility for ensuring that decisions taken comply with all necessary statutory requirements and are lawful. Where in the opinion of the Monitoring Officer any decision or proposal is likely to be unlawful and lead to maladministration, he/she shall advise the Council.

The MO is also bound to ensure that decisions taken are in accordance with the Council's budget and its Policy Framework, and provides advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions.

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In discharging this role the Monitoring Officer is supported by officers within the Legal and Democratic Services Teams.

Key Matters

The following key matters were considered by the Council and its principal committees during 2020/21:

Council

- Budget proposals and budget monitoring
- Council Tax Base, Support and Setting
- Members' Code of Conduct
- GDPR
- Staffing Issues
- Building Control Shared Services
- Delegated reports from Forums and Committees
- Council Tax Support Scheme
- Universal Credit
- Members' Allowances
- Constitutional review

Policy, Finance and Development Committee

- Budgetary control and financial updates
- Treasury management and prudential indicators
- Debt recovery
- Residents' Forums
- Welfare Reform and Council Tax Support Scheme
- Pooling of Non-Domestic Rates
- Risk management
- Updating of Council policies and strategies
- Medium Term Financial Strategy and Housing Business Plan
- Contract Procedure Rules

Service Delivery Committee

- Council Performance and KPIs
- Housing allocations
- Homelessness
- Disabled Facilities Grants
- Leisure Contract Performance
- Service operational updates
- Fees and charges
- Corporate enforcement
- Empty homes strategy

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- Customer Services transformation and charters
- Refuse and Recycling

Audit Committee

- Reports from the external auditor including the annual plan and report on the Statement of Accounts
- Individual internal audit reports and the annual report and plan

Local Government Ombudsman

The number of references to the Local Government Ombudsman amounted to 1, outstanding from 2019-20 resolved no finding of maladministration.

2020/21 – 2 complaints both have been resolved – no finding of maladministration

Constitutional Matters

The key roles and responsibilities of Council committees, elected members, the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer are set out in the Council's constitution scheme of delegation.

These three officers are responsible for ensuring that the Council acts within the law and in accordance with established policies and procedures. No report can be presented to Council or a committee for approval without first being reviewed by these officers or their delegated representative(s). These officers are also responsible for ensuring that legislation and policy relating to health and safety are implemented in practice.

The constitution includes the Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations which detail the processes and improvements required for various levels of purchase and the internal control procedures required for managing the risk across the Council.

The Council adopted a revised Constitution on 16 April 2019 which came into force on 13 May 2019. The Constitution remains under continuous review and a further amendment was made to the Constitution on 30 July 2019.

Code of Conduct

The standards of behaviour expected from members and officers are set out in the Member/Officer Codes of Conduct. A register of members' interests is maintained and the records of interest are declared at Council and committee meetings. All members are required to complete Related Party Declarations at the end of the financial year in support of the statutory financial statements. Members' allowances are examined on an annual basis and a review of the allowance scheme was undertaken in 2018/19 by an independent remuneration panel and came into force

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on 13 May 2019 for the 2019/20 municipal year. Following the Borough Elections in May 2019

The Monitoring Officer received 1 complaint in 2020/21 which was resolved informally without the need to conduct an investigation.

6. Significant Governance Issues

During the 2020/21 financial year, no significant governance issues were identified that would lead to internal control issues. The introduction of a Risk Management Strategy in 2020/21 has significantly improved risk management arrangements within the Council and helps identify potential governance issues.

A number of minor weaknesses in control limited assurance in the following areas:

- Debtors
- Contract Register
- Website Management
- Payroll and Expenses
- Agency Workers

Recommendations received to resolve these minor weakness in control have been implemented now or are in the process of being implemented.

Conclusion and Statement from the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive

This statement is intended to provide reasonable assurance. We propose that we continue to maintain the level of governance at the authority, whilst striving to improve wherever we can. Where issues have been identified in preparation of this report, we will ensure that they are effectively addressed and we will monitor their improvement as part of the next annual review.



Cllr John Boyce

Anne Court

Leader of the Council

Chief Executive

Date: 26 August 2021

Date: 26 August 2021

The Annual Audit Letter for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

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Appendices

- A Reports issued and fees
- B Recommendations action plan

Executive Summary

Purpose

Our Annual Audit Letter (Letter) summarises the key findings arising from the work that we have carried out at Oadby & Wigston Borough Council (the Council) for the year ended 31 March 2020.

This Letter is intended to provide a commentary on the results of our work to the Council and external stakeholders, and to highlight issues that we wish to draw to the attention of the public. In preparing this Letter, we have followed the National Audit Office (NAO)'s Code of Audit Practice and Auditor Guidance Note (AGN) 07 – 'Auditor Reporting'. We reported the detailed findings from our audit work to the Council's Audit Committee as those charged with governance in our Audit Findings Report on 28 July 2021.

Respective responsibilities

We have carried out our audit in accordance with the NAO's Code of Audit Practice, which reflects the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the Act). Our key responsibilities are to:

- give an opinion on the Council financial statements (section two)
- assess the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (the value for money conclusion) (section three).

In our audit of the Council financial statements, we comply with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs) and other guidance issued by the NAO.

Our work

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Materiality	We determined materiality for the audit of the Council's financial statements to be £420,000, which is 2% of the Council's gross cost of services.
Financial Statements opinion	We gave an unqualified opinion on the Council's financial statements on 09 August 2021.
Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)	We completed work on the Council's consolidation return following guidance issued by the NAO.
Use of statutory powers	We did not identify any matters which required us to exercise our additional statutory powers.
Value for Money arrangements	We were satisfied that the Council put in place proper arrangements to ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We reflected this in our audit report to the Council on 09 August 2021.
Certificate	We certified that we have completed the audit of the financial statements of Oadby & Wigston Borough Council in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice on 09 August 2021.

We would like to record our appreciation for the assistance and co-operation provided to us during our audit by the Council's staff .

Grant Thornton UK LLP
September 2021

Audit of the Financial Statements

Our audit approach

Materiality

In our audit of the Council's financial statements, we use the concept of materiality to determine the nature, timing and extent of our work, and in evaluating the results of our work. We define materiality as the size of the misstatement in the financial statements that would lead a reasonably knowledgeable person to change or influence their economic decisions.

We determined materiality for the audit of the Council's financial statements to be £420,000, which is 2% of the Council's gross cost of services. We used this benchmark as, in our view, users of the Council's financial statements are most interested in where the Council has spent its revenue in the year.

We set a lower threshold of £25,000, above which we reported errors to the Audit Committee in our Audit Findings Report.

We also set a lower level of specific materiality for senior officer remuneration of £21,000, which we consider to be sensitive and of interest to the public.

The scope of our audit

Our audit involves obtaining sufficient evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements to give reasonable assurance that they are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes assessing whether:

- the accounting policies are appropriate, have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed;
- the significant accounting estimates made by management are reasonable; and
- the overall presentation of the financial statements gives a true and fair view.

We also read the remainder of the Statement of Accounts to check it is consistent with our understanding of the Council and with the financial statements included in the Statement of Accounts on which we gave our opinion.

We carry out our audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) and the NAO Code of Audit Practice. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our audit approach was based on a thorough understanding of the Council's business and is risk based.

We identified key risks and set out on pages 6 to 8 the work we performed in response to these risks and the results of this work.

Audit opinion

We gave an unqualified opinion on the group's financial statements on 09 August 2021.

Preparation of the financial statements

Management provided draft financial statements for audit on 21 August 2020. As agreed with officers we planned to spend a week on the audit at this time to select samples for substantive testing to then recommence work in mid September. We were unable to pick samples for debtors, creditors or PP&E revaluations at this time, as the information was not yet available, and this element of the audit was therefore delayed.

On our return in September 2020 there were still some areas where evidence and supporting information that had been requested was not available and there continued to be items outstanding as at the time of writing our draft AFR in late October.

We have worked constructively with the finance team to ensure that we jointly managed an unprecedented situation effectively, including the departure of both the Director of Finance and Head of Finance and more latterly the Deputy Chief Executive. The Council now has an interim Head of Finance on a 2 year fixed term contract and is starting the recruitment process for a permanent position, has recruited a Finance Manager and has a specific interim role to closedown the 2020/21 accounts. Looking forward into the current year we can therefore see that the Council has taken steps to address some of the challenges it experienced in 2019/20, however as it has been going through this process there have been issues that impacted adversely on the efficiency of our 2019/20 accounts audit:

Audit of the Financial Statements

- We agreed our working paper requirements before the start of the audit, but these were not all available when the audit started.
- The Financial Reporting Council's expectation for auditor's to be able to demonstrate increased scepticism and challenge has meant that the depth of our enquiry has increased and, as a result, the levels of information required from the Council to respond to it has also substantially increased i.e. as noted on page 8, floor areas of buildings. Whilst the Council does hold these they have not been regularly required for audit and as a result we experienced difficulties in obtaining appropriate working papers in a timely manner which meant that some procedures were delayed and ultimately the Council had to use alternative methods in order to demonstrate that the figures were not materially misstated. The focus on these areas will continue into future years and it is therefore important that the Council improves its arrangements for recording and retaining information that supports its key assumptions.

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In August 2020 we informed management that figures in the Collection Fund had not changed from 2018/19 It was acknowledged that an updated set of Collection Fund accounts needed to be produced. These were received in May 2021, hence delaying the completion of the audit.

Issues arising from the audit of the financial statements

We reported the key issues from our audit to the Council's Audit Committee on 28 July 2021.

In addition to the key audit risks reported above, we identified four recommendations for the Council as a result of issues identified during the course of our audit. We have agreed our recommendations with management and we will report on progress on these recommendations during the course of the 2020/21 audit. Details of these recommendations, along with managements responses, can be found in Appendix B.

Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report

We are also required to review the Council's Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report. It published them on its website in the Statement of Accounts in line with the national deadlines

Both documents were prepared in line with the CIPFA Code and relevant supporting guidance. We confirmed that both documents were consistent with the financial statements prepared by the Council and with our knowledge of the Council.

Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)

We carried out work in line with instructions provided by the NAO . We issued an assurance statement which confirmed the Council was below the audit threshold.

Other statutory powers

We also have additional powers and duties under the Act, including powers to issue a public interest report, make written recommendations, apply to the Court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law, and to give electors the opportunity to raise questions about the Council's accounts and to raise objections received in relation to the accounts. We did not identify any matters which required us to exercise our additional statutory powers.

Certificate of closure of the audit

We certified that we have completed the audit of the financial statements of Oadby & Wigston Borough Council in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice on 09 August 2021.

Audit of the Financial Statements

Significant Audit Risks

These are the significant risks which had the greatest impact on our overall strategy and where we focused more of our work.

Risks identified in our audit plan	How we responded to the risk	Findings and conclusions
<p>Covid-19</p>	<p>As part of our audit work we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> worked with management to understand the implications the response to the Covid-19 pandemic had on the organisation's ability to prepare the financial statements and update financial forecasts and assessed the implications for our materiality calculations. No changes were made to materiality levels previously reported. The draft financial statements were provided in the agreed timescale; liaised with other audit suppliers, regulators and government departments to co-ordinate practical cross-sector responses to issues as and when they arose. Examples include the material uncertainty disclosed by the Council/groups' property valuation expert evaluated the adequacy of the disclosures in the financial statements that arose in light of the Covid-19 pandemic; evaluated whether sufficient audit evidence could be obtained through remote technology; evaluated whether sufficient audit evidence could be obtained to corroborate significant management estimates such as assets and the pension fund liability valuations; and evaluated management's assumptions that underpin the revised financial forecasts and the impact on management's going concern assessment; 	<p>Our audit work has not identified any issues in respect of Covid-19</p>
<p>Management override of internal controls</p>	<p>As part of our audit work we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluated the design effectiveness of management controls over journals analysed the journals listing and determine the criteria for selecting high risk unusual journals tested unusual journals recorded during the year and after the draft accounts stage for appropriateness and corroboration gained an understanding of the accounting estimates, critical judgements applied and decisions made by management and consider their reasonableness with regard to corroborative evidence evaluated the rationale for any changes in accounting policies or significant unusual transactions. 	<p>Our audit work has not identified any issues in respect of management override of controls.</p>

Audit of the Financial Statements

Significant Audit Risks - continued

These are the risks which had the greatest impact on our overall strategy and where we focused more of our work.

Risks identified in our audit plan	How we responded to the risk	Findings and conclusions
<p>Valuation of net pension liability</p>	<p>As part of our audit work we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updated our understanding of the processes and controls put in place by management to ensure that the Authority's pension fund net liability is not materially misstated and evaluate the design of the associated controls; • evaluated the instructions issued to the management expert (actuary) for this estimate and the scope of the actuary's work; • assessed the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the actuary who carried out the Authority's pension fund valuation; • assessed the accuracy and completeness of the information provided by the Authority to the actuary, through the Pension Fund, to estimate the liability; • tested the consistency of the pension fund asset and liability and disclosures in the notes to the core financial statements with the actuarial report from the actuary; • undertaken procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made by reviewing the report of the consulting actuary (as auditor's expert) and performing any additional procedures suggested within the report; and • documented and evaluated the controls surrounding the validity and accuracy of membership data; contributions data and benefits data sent to the actuary by the pension fund and the fund assets valuation in the pension fund financial statements. 	<p>Where appropriate, we have relied on the audit work carried out by Grant Thornton as auditors of the Leicestershire Pension Fund in undertaking the above procedures.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has created uncertainty surrounding illiquid asset values. As such, the Pension Fund property and infrastructure allocations as at 31 March 2020 are difficult to value. Professional valuers have not been actively valuing many similar sized assets in the market due to the current lockdown environment. As such values were rolled over from the end of February 2020 with an adjustment and may be inaccurate to the true 31 March 2020 position.</p> <p>We referred to this material valuation uncertainties in our audit report as an emphasis of matter.</p>

Audit of the Financial Statements

Significant Audit Risks - continued

These are the risks which had the greatest impact on our overall strategy and where we focused more of our work.

Risks identified in our audit plan	How we responded to the risk	Findings and conclusions
<p>Valuation of land and buildings</p> <p>~ Page 172 ~</p>	<p>As part of our audit work we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluated the processes, controls and assumptions put in place by management to ensure that the PPE valuation is not materially misstated and evaluate the design of these and whether they are sufficient to mitigate the risk of material misstatement; assessed the competence, capabilities and objectivity of management's experts (valuers) who carried out your PPE valuations; evaluated the instructions issued by management to their management expert (a valuer) for this estimate and the scope of the valuer's work; communicated with the valuer about the basis on which the valuation is carried out and where necessary challenge the key assumptions reviewed and challenged the information used by the valuer to ensure it is robust and consistent with our understanding tested revaluations made during the year to ensure they are consistent with the valuer's report and input correctly into the Council's asset register evaluated the assumptions made by management for those assets not revalued during the year and how management have satisfied themselves that these are not materially different to current value 	<p>The Council's valuer has prepared their valuations as at 31 March 2020. In their reports, they have confirmed that as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown and impact on market activity, less certainty – and a higher degree of caution – should be attached to their valuations than would normally be the case. We asked officers to refer to this issue in Note 3 Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty.</p> <p>We referred to these material valuation uncertainties in our audit report as an emphasis of matter.</p> <p>As part of our testing we selected a sample of 12 assets to agree to the source data (e.g. floor plans) used by the valuer in preparing their valuation. In all cases officers were unable to identify the source data used. Officers provided alternative evidence to support the data used in the revaluations, however these didn't agree to the data used. We considered these differences and extrapolated the error across the other land and buildings population, resulting in an estimated error of £0.288m. Officers have not amended the financial statements for this error as it will be addressed as part of the 2020/21 valuation which has already taken place.</p> <p>We also identified issues with the categorisation of Council Dwelling within the Beacon Property valuation. We identified discrepancies between the classification of properties within the Fixed Asset Register and the housing system. Officers have identified that the housing system holds the correct categorisations and have updated the Fixed Asset Register to reflect these categorisations. This has resulted in an increase of £312k in the carrying amount of Council Dwellings. This issue also affected 2018/19 and Officers have undertaken a prior period adjustment to correct the 2018/19 figures.</p>

Value for Money conclusion

Background

We carried out our review in accordance with the NAO Code of Audit Practice, following the guidance issued by the NAO in April 2020 which specified the criterion for auditors to evaluate:

In all significant respects, the audited body takes properly informed decisions and deploys resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.

Key findings

Our first step in carrying out our work was to perform a risk assessment and identify the risks where we concentrated our work.

The risks we identified and the work we performed are set out overleaf.

As part of our Audit Findings report agreed with the Council in July 2021, we agreed recommendations to address our findings.

Overall Value for Money conclusion

We are satisfied that in all significant respects the Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2020.

Value for Money conclusion

Value for Money Risks

Risks identified in our audit plan	Findings and conclusions
<p>Financial Sustainability</p> <p>Local Government funding continues to be stretched with increasing cost pressures and demand from residents. For 2020/21 the Council is proposing a balanced budget with the use of £101k of General Fund reserves.</p> <p>The Authority has historically been able to achieve savings through making incremental changes to services and ways of working, however, there is a growing acceptance that more challenging decisions are needed to ensure financial stability in the longer term. The Council's new medium term financial strategy (MTFS) to 2024/25 has been prepared to make the Council financially sustainable and shows the Council rebuilding its general fund reserves from 2022/23. To achieve this the MTFS includes a range of savings and 'invest to save' proposals alongside a number of income generation opportunities, that result in cumulative savings of £4.9m and additional income of £3.4m over the MTFS period.</p> <p>We will review the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's arrangements for identifying and agreeing savings plans and income generation to ensure that the Council is resilient to the increasing financial challenges of future years, and • the outturn for 2019/20 and the updated MTFS to 2024/25 to gain a better understanding of how the Council plans to remain financially sustainable in the medium to long term. 	<p>The Council reported an overspend of £72k on its net expenditure revised general fund budget for 2019/20. General Fund reserve stands at £1.004m with an additional £2.195m of earmarked general fund reserves as at 31 March 2020.</p> <p>From a review of 2018/19 Value for Money Profiles because of its size the Council's absolute reserves level are in the lower quartile nationally. In relation to reserves the Council is below the mean for unallocated reserves as a % of expenditure when compared to other District Councils (4% versus a mean of 13%) and are also below the mean for earmarked reserves (19% versus a mean of 37%). However, the Council has set a minimum General Fund reserve balance (excluding earmarked reserves) of 10% of net expenditure (£649.5k) and the current General Fund reserve is therefore above this and an increase from last year. Based upon its historic financial management this level should give the Council sufficient resilience in the short-term.</p> <p>In February 2020 the Council set a General Fund balanced net budget of £6.119m for 2020/21. The Authority has also set a balanced HRA budget. At Quarter 2 of 2020/21 the Council has reported an adverse variance of £251k against this budget. The main reason for this variance is the current pandemic, which has a net impact of £167k. The pandemic has led to the Council incurring additional costs of £384k (a mixture of supplies and additional staff costs) and income losses of £1,192k. The Council has received government grants of £1,409k in the first half of the year leaving unfunded costs of £167k in relation to Covid-19.</p> <p>The outturn for 2020/21 resulted in an underspend of £296k against the revised budget. This was mainly due to additional income relating to Covid 19 and Garden Waste.</p> <p>The Council approved the 2021/22 budget in February 2021 and set a General Fund balanced budget of £6.501m. As part of the budget a MTFS to 2022/23 was approved. This shows a balanced budget for 2022/23 with a use of £117k of reserves.</p> <p>Like most of local government, the Council faces a challenging future driven by funding reductions and an increase in demand for services. This is further complicated by the uncertainty relating to the current pandemic which has impacted on income and expenditure of the Council. It has also delayed government decisions on the future of long-term financing of local government, particularly business rate reform, the fair funding review and the strategy for funding social care.</p> <p>The Council is aware that it will need to monitor decisions from the Government with regard to funding and respond accordingly. Inevitably, there will be an ongoing need for the Council to continue revisiting its projections and forecasts as new information comes to light. This may involve making difficult and challenging decisions on priorities in order to deliver balanced budgets over the coming years, including reviewing how it delivers its services going forward, while also maintaining strict budgetary control to minimise overspends.</p>

Value for Money conclusion

Value for Money Risks

Risks identified in our audit plan	Findings and conclusions
<p>Changes in Governance Arrangements</p> <p>During 2019/20 the Council have created a standalone Audit Committee. We will gain an understanding of how this change has been implemented and embedded into the Council's governance arrangements.</p> <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review the changes to the committee structure and governance arrangements. review the training and guidance provided to the new Audit Committee and arrangements for determining its effectiveness 	<p>The Audit Committee was introduced into the Constitution on 30 July 2019, following approval by the Full Council on the same date. From a review of the Constitution the role and function of the Audit Committee are in line with our expectations. Committee members have received suitable training to help them develop in their new roles. The Committee is still embedding itself within the Council's governance arrangements but from attendance at Committee we have observed that members are developing in their roles and challenging the reports presented to the Committee.</p>
<p>Capacity within the Council's Finance Function</p> <p>During the last year the Council has experienced a significant turnover of senior staff within the Function. This includes the Head of Finance, Director of Finance and the Deputy Chief Executive.</p> <p>These capacity issues contributed to the delays in production in draft accounts and completion of the audit.</p> <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider the circumstances of these departures and review the Council's response to addressing the capacity going forward 	<p>The Council was faced with a challenging time, the impact of Covid-19 put significant workload pressures on officers to deliver support and assistance to the population of Oadby & Wigston. This coincided with a number of staff departures and the move to remote working. This was especially significant within the Council Revenue & Benefits and Finance departments who were responsible for awarding and distributing Business Support Grants.</p> <p>During this period the finance department brought in additional resources to address the departures of the Director and Head of Finance. These resources included a Interim Head of Finance and an interim Closedown Accountant, with the Deputy Chief Executive taking over the s151 responsibilities.</p> <p>Following the departure of the Deputy Chief Executive in March 2021 the interim Head of Finance has taken on the s151 responsibilities and is on a long term temporary contract. The Council have also employed a different interim closedown accountant to oversee the production of the 2020/21 financial statements.</p> <p>Going forward the Council will need to ensure that it has in place sufficient capacity at senior levels and within the finance department.</p>

A. Reports issued and fees

We confirm below our final reports issued and fees charged for the audit and provision of non-audit services.

Reports issued

Report	Date issued
Audit Plan	March 2020
Audit Findings Report	July 2021
Annual Audit Letter	August 2021

Statutory Audit Fees

	2019/20 Planned £	Actual fees £	2018/19 Fees £	2017/18 fees £
Statutory audit	32,944	62,000	36,444	42,784
Total fees	32,944	62,000	36,444	42,784

Audit fee variation

As outlined in our audit plan, the 2019-20 scale fee published by PSAA of £32,944 assumes that the scope of the audit does not significantly change. There are a number of areas where the scope of the audit has changed, which has led to additional work. These are set out in the following table (page 15).

The revised planning fee was agreed with the Council early in 2020 in advance of the audit. The elements for the audit overrun and Covid were reported in our Audit Findings Report in July 2021.

All fee variations are subject to PSAA approval.

Fees for non-audit services

Service	Fees £
Audit related services	
- Housing Benefit (Subsidy) Assurance Process	£10,250
- Certification of Housing capital receipts grant	£3,250
Non-Audit related services	
- None	

Non-audit services

- For the purposes of our audit we have made enquiries of all Grant Thornton UK LLP teams providing services to the group. The table above summarises all non-audit services which were identified.
- We have considered whether non-audit services might be perceived as a threat to our independence as the group's auditor and have ensured that appropriate safeguards are put in place.

The above non-audit services are consistent with the group's policy on the allotment of non-audit work to your auditor

Final proposed audit fees

The table below shows the proposed variations to the original scale fee for 2019/20 subject to PSAA approval

Audit area	£	Rationale for fee variation
2019/20 Scale fee	32,944	
Raising the bar (increased challenge and depth of work)	2,500	The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) has highlighted that the quality of work by all audit firms needs to improve across local audit. This will require additional supervision and leadership, as well as additional challenge and scepticism in areas such as journals, estimates, financial resilience and information provided by the entity.
PPE Valuation – work of experts	1,250	We have increased the volume and scope of our audit work to ensure an adequate level of audit scrutiny and challenge over the assumptions that underpin PPE valuations.
Pensions – valuation of net pension liabilities under IAS 19	1,250	The Financial Reporting Council has highlighted that the quality of work by audit firms in respect of IAS 19 needs to improve across local government audits. Accordingly, we have increased the level of scope and coverage in respect of IAS 19 this year to reflect this. Specifically, we have increased the granularity, depth and scope of coverage, with increased levels of sampling, additional levels of challenge and explanations sought, and heightened levels of documentation and reporting.
New standards and developments	1,200	PSAA's original scale fee for this contract was set in March 2018, so any new developments since that time need to be priced in.
Revised planning fee	39,194	
Covid-19	5,879	<p>The current Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on all of our lives, both at work and at home. The impact of Covid-19 on the audit of the financial statements for 2019/20 has been multifaceted. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisiting planning - we have needed to revisit our planning and refresh risk assessments, materiality and testing levels. This has resulted in the identification of a significant risk at the financial statements level in respect of Covid-19 necessitating the issuing of an addendum to our original audit plan as well as additional work on areas such as going concern and disclosures in accordance with IAS1 particularly in respect to material uncertainties. • Management's assumptions and estimates - there is increased uncertainty over many estimates including pension and other investment valuations. Many of these valuations are impacted by the reduction in economic activity and we are required to understand and challenge the assumptions applied by management. • Financial resilience assessment – we have been required to consider the financial resilience of audited bodies. Our experience to date indicates that Covid-19 has impacted on the financial resilience of all local government bodies. This has increased the amount of work that we need to undertake on the sustainable resource deployment element of the VFM criteria necessitating enhanced and more detailed reporting in our ISA260. • Remote working – the most significant impact in terms of delivery is the move to remote working. We, as other auditors, have experienced delays and inefficiencies as a result of remote working, including the delays in receiving accounts, quality of working papers, and delays in responses. These are understandable and arise from the availability of the relevant information and/or the availability of key staff (due to shielding or other additional Covid-19 related demands). In many instances the delays are caused by our inability to sit with an officer to discuss a query or working paper. Gaining an understanding via Teams or phone is more time-consuming. • Remote working has also highlighted the complexity of the Council's underlying financial systems. Certain reports have taken longer to obtain in an appropriate format than would be expected, for example Journal, debtor and creditor reports.
Audit overrun	16,927	<p>It has taken around an additional 40 days of audit inputs in order to complete our work on the 2019/20 financial statements. The key areas have been additional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • catch up calls with the Council's Finance team which have involved the Engagement Lead, Engagement Manager and Assistant Manager • audit procedures in respect of auditing the movement in council dwelling valuations • audit procedures in respect of reviewing the alternative approach to other land and building floor areas • work required to audit the collection fund then re-audit the updated collection fund • time to obtain sufficient audit assurance through working papers on other account balances
Total proposed audit fees on completion	62,000	

B. Recommendation action plan

We have identified four recommendations for the Council as a result of issues identified during the course of our audit. We have agreed our recommendations with management and we will report on progress on these recommendations during the course of the 2020/21 audit. The matters reported here are limited to those deficiencies that we have identified during the course of our audit and that we have concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported to you in accordance with auditing standards.

Assessment	Issue and risk	Recommendations
 High	Other Land & Buildings Revaluations – Source Data The Council and valuer were unable to provide the original source data used in the revaluation of a sample of other land & buildings assets.	The Council should ensure that it holds the source data used by the valuer in revaluing Other Land & Buildings Assets Management response Steps are being taken to facilitate this recommendation.
~ Page 178 ~  Medium	Finance Function Capacity During the last year the Council has experienced a significant turnover of senior staff within the Function. This includes the Head of Finance, Director of Finance and the Deputy Chief Executive.	The Council needs to ensure that it has in place sufficient capacity at senior levels and within the finance department. Management response The Council will be reviewing the finance structure to facilitate this recommendation.
 Medium	Collection Fund Our testing on the collection fund identified that the NNDR figures used in the collection fund didn't agree to supporting evidence. We also identified that the collection fund balances within short term debtors, short term creditors and provision were the 2018/19 amounts and had not been updated for 2019/20 figures.	The Council should ensure that the correct reports in relation to the collection fund are run in a timely manner to enable officer to prepare an accurate collection fund statement and financial statements. Management response Procedures have now been put in place to ensure the correct reports are run on a timely basis for the collection fund.
 Low	Property, Plant & Equipment - Useful Economic Lives The Council have assigned useful economic lives which are shorter than those recommend by their valuer. It was also identified that Belmont House had an useful economic live that wasn't within the range specified in the accounting policy.	The Council should ensure it reviews the useful economics lives of its assets and considers these against the valuers guidance and other Local Authority practice. It should also ensure that the useful economic lives are accurately disclosed in the financial statements. Management response These recommendations will be incorporated in future financial statements.

Controls

-  High – Significant effect on control system
-  Medium – Effect on control system
-  Low – Best practice



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Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

Year ending 31 March 2021

September 2021

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The contents of this report relate only to the matters which have come to our attention, which we believe need to be reported to you as part of our audit planning process. It is not a comprehensive record of all the relevant matters, which may be subject to change, and in particular we cannot be held responsible to you for reporting all of the risks which may affect the Authority or all weaknesses in your internal controls. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.

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Introduction

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This paper provides the Audit Committee with a report on progress in delivering our responsibilities as your external auditors.

The paper also includes:

- a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant to you as a local authority; and
- includes a number of challenge questions in respect of these emerging issues which the Committee may wish to consider (these are a tool to use, if helpful, rather than formal questions requiring responses for audit purposes)

Members of the Audit Committee can find further useful material on our website, where we have a section dedicated to our work in the public sector. Here you can download copies of our publications www.grantthornton.co.uk ..

If you would like further information on any items in this briefing, or would like to register with Grant Thornton to receive regular email updates on issues that are of interest to you, please contact either Grant or Paul.

Summary of Progress at September 2021

2019/20 Financial Statements Audit

We presented our Audit Findings Report for our 2019/20 audit of the Council's financial statements to the Audit Committee on the 28th July 2021. Following the receipt of the final version of the financial statements we issued our audit opinion and certificate on 9th August 2021.

2020/21 Financial Statements Audit

You published your draft financial statements for 2020/21 on the 26th August 2021.

Following completion of the 2019/20 financial statements audit and receipt of your draft financial statements for 2020/21 we have commenced our audit planning for the 2020/21 financial statements audit. This work is still at an early stage and expect to issue our Audit Plan at the end of October 2021.

We are currently planning to substantively complete our audit testing by 30th November and issue our audit opinion shortly afterwards.

Value for Money

The new Code of Audit Practice (the "Code") came into force on 1 April 2020 for audit years 2020/21 and onwards. The most significant change under the new Code is the introduction of an Auditor's Annual Report, containing a commentary on arrangements to secure value for money and any associated recommendations, if required.

The new approach is more complex, more involved and is planned to make more impact.

Under the 2020 Code of Audit Practice, for relevant authorities we are required to issue our Auditor's Annual Report no later than 30 September or, where this is not possible, issue an audit letter setting out the reasons for delay. As a result of the ongoing pandemic, and the impact it has had on both preparers and auditors of accounts to complete their work as quickly as would normally be expected, the National Audit Office has updated its guidance to auditors to allow us to postpone completion of our work on arrangements to secure value for money and focus our resources firstly on the delivery of our opinions on the financial statements. The extended deadline is now no more than three months after the date of the opinion on the financial statements. We are still required to issue a letter setting out for the reasons for the delay which is shown on page 9.

Please see pages 11 to 13 for further details on the new VFM approach.

Progress at September 2021 (continued)

Other areas

Certification of claims and returns

We certify the Authority's annual Housing Benefit Subsidy claim in accordance with procedures agreed with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The certification work for the 2020/21 claim has started and is due to be completed by the revised 31st January 2022 deadline. We will report our findings to the Audit Committee as part of our progress reporting.

We also certify the Authority's annual Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts return in accordance with procedures agreed with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. (MHCLG). The certification work for the 2020/21 return is due to begin in October.

Meetings

We met with Finance Officers in March, June and September as part of our quarterly liaison meetings and continue to be in discussions with finance staff regarding emerging developments and to ensure the audit process is smooth and effective.

Publications

Further details of the publications that may be of interest to the Authority are set out in our Sector Update section of this report.

Audit Deliverables

2020/21 Deliverables

Audit Plan

We are required to issue a detailed audit plan to the Audit Committee setting out our proposed approach in order to give an opinion on the Authority's 2020/21 financial statements and the Auditor's Annual Report on the Authority's Value for Money arrangements.

Planned Date

October 2021

Status

Not yet due

Audit Findings Report

The Audit Findings Report will be reported to the Audit Committee.

November 2021

Not yet due

Auditors Report

This is the opinion on your financial statements.

Early December 2021

Not yet due

Auditor's Annual Report

This Report communicates the key issues arising from our Value for Money work.

February 2022

Not yet due

Audit fees 2020/21

In 2018, PSAA awarded a contract of audit for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council to begin with effect from 2018/19. The fee agreed in the contract was £32,944. Since that time, there have been a number of developments, particularly in relation to the revised Code and ISA's which are relevant for the 2020/21 audit.

As referred to on page 4, the 2020/21 Code introduces a revised approach to our VFM work. This requires auditors to produce a commentary on arrangements across all of the key criteria, rather than the current 'reporting by exception' approach. Auditors now have to make far more sophisticated judgements on performance, as well as issue key recommendations if any significant weaknesses in arrangements are identified during the audit. We will be working with the NAO and other audit firms to discuss and share learning in respect of common issues arising across the sector.

The new approach will be more challenging for audited bodies, involving discussions at a wider and more strategic level. Both the reporting, and the planning and risk assessment which underpins it, will require more audit time, delivered through a richer skill mix than in previous years. Our estimate is that for your audit, this will result in an increased fee of £55,444. This is in line with increases we are proposing at all our local audits.

Additionally, across all sectors and firms, the FRC has set out its expectation of improved financial reporting from organisations and the need for auditors to demonstrate increased scepticism and challenge and to undertake additional and more robust testing, as noted in the number of revised ISA's issued by the FRC that are applicable to audits of financial statements commencing on or after 15 December 2019, as detailed in Appendix 1.

As a firm, we are absolutely committed to meeting the expectations of the FRC with regard to audit quality and public sector financial reporting. Our proposed work and fee for 2020/21, as set out below, is detailed overleaf.

Assumptions

In setting the above fees, we have assumed that the Council will:

- prepare a good quality set of accounts, supported by comprehensive and well presented working papers which are ready at the start of the audit
- provide appropriate analysis, support and evidence to support all critical judgements and significant judgements made during the course of preparing the financial statements
- provide early notice of proposed complex or unusual transactions which could have a material impact on the financial statements.

Relevant professional standards

In preparing our fee estimate, we have had regard to all relevant professional standards, including paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 of the FRC's [Ethical Standard \(revised 2019\)](#) which stipulate that the Engagement Lead (Key Audit Partner) must set a fee sufficient to enable the resourcing of the audit with partners and staff with appropriate time and skill to deliver an audit to the required professional and Ethical standards.

	Actual Fee 2018/19	Actual Fee 2019/20	Proposed fee 2020/21
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Audit	£36,444	£62,000	£55,444
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	£36,444	£62,000	£55,444

Audit fees – detailed analysis

Scale fee published by PSAA	£32,944
<i>Ongoing increases to scale fee first identified in 2019/20</i>	
Raising the bar/regulatory factors	£2,500
Enhanced audit procedures for Property, Plant and Equipment	£1,250
Enhanced audit procedures for Pensions	£1,250
<i>New issues for 2020/21</i>	
Additional work on Value for Money (VfM) under new NAO Code	£9,000
Increased audit requirements of revised ISAs	£6,500
Issues in quality of accounts preparation and supporting working papers identified in 2019/20	£2,000
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	£55,444

Please note, the proposed fees for 2020/21 set out above do not include any additional fees to reflect potential additional work necessary in 2020/21 due to Covid-19. We continue to monitor developments in this area and will update you accordingly as clarity emerges on its impact in the current year.

Audit letter in respect of delayed VFM work

Note that this letter does not form part of our formal communications under ISA 260 (Communication with Those Charged with Governance) but is included here for ease of reference.

Cllr Kevin Loydall,
Audit Committee Chair
c/o Democratic Services
Council Offices
Station Road
Wigston
Leicestershire
LE18 2DR

Dear Kevin, Chair of Audit Committee as TCWG,

Under the 2020 Code of Audit Practice, for relevant authorities other than local NHS bodies we are required to issue our Auditor's Annual Report no later than 30 September or, where this is not possible, issue an audit letter setting out the reasons for delay.

As a result of the ongoing pandemic, and the impact it has had on both preparers and auditors of accounts to complete their work as quickly as would normally be expected, the National Audit Office has updated its guidance to auditors to allow us to postpone completion of our work on arrangements to secure value for money and focus our resources firstly on the delivery of our opinions on the financial statements. This is intended to help ensure as many as possible could be issued in line with national timetables and legislation.

As a result, we have therefore not yet issued our Auditor's Annual Report, including our commentary on arrangements to secure value for money. We now expect to publish our report no later than 28 February 2022.

For the purposes of compliance with the 2020 Code, this letter constitutes the required audit letter explaining the reasons for delay.

Yours faithfully

Grant Patterson

Director and Key Audit Partner
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor

Sector Update

Authorities continue to try to achieve greater efficiency in the delivery of public services, whilst facing the challenges to address rising demand, ongoing budget pressures and social inequality.

Our sector update provides you with an up to date summary of emerging national issues and developments to support you. We cover areas which may have an impact on your organisation, the wider local government sector and the public sector as a whole. Links are provided to the detailed report/briefing to allow you to delve further and find out more.

Our public sector team at Grant Thornton also undertake research on service and technical issues. We will bring you the latest research publications in this update. We also include areas of potential interest to start conversations within the organisation and with audit committee members, as well as any accounting and regulatory updates.

- [Grant Thornton Publications](#)
- [Insights from local government sector specialists](#)
- [Reports of interest](#)
- [Accounting and regulatory updates](#)

More information can be found on our dedicated public sector and local government sections on the Grant Thornton website by clicking on the logos below:

Public Sector

Local
government

The new approach to Value for Money

The nature of value for money work

Section 20 and 21 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the Act), require auditors to be satisfied that the body “has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources”. The auditor’s work on VFM arrangements is undertaken in accordance with the Code and its supporting statutory guidance. The Comptroller and Auditor General has determined through the 2020 Code and guidance that the key output from local audit work in respect of VFM arrangements is the commentary as reported in the Auditor’s Annual Report. It is therefore not a VFM arrangements ‘conclusion’ or an ‘opinion’ in the same sense as the opinion on the financial statements themselves. The Act and the Code require auditors to consider whether the body has put in place ‘proper arrangements’ for securing VFM. The arrangements that fall within the scope of ‘proper arrangements’ are set out in ‘AGN 03 Auditors’ work on VFM arrangements’, which is issued by the NAO. When reporting on these arrangements, the Code requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under three specified reporting criteria:

Financial sustainability

How the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services, including how the body:

- ensures that it identifies all the significant financial pressures that are relevant to its short and medium-term plans and builds these into them;
- plans to bridge its funding gaps and identifies achievable savings;
- plans finances to support the sustainable delivery of services in accordance with strategic and statutory priorities;

- ensures that its financial plan is consistent with other plans such as workforce, capital, investment, and other operational planning which may include working with other local public bodies as part of a wider system; and
- identifies and manages risks to financial resilience, e.g. unplanned changes in demand, including challenge of the assumptions underlying its plans.

Governance

How the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including how the body:

- monitors and assesses risk and how the body gains assurance over the effective operation of internal controls, including arrangements to prevent and detect fraud;
- approaches and carries out its annual budget setting process;
- ensures effective processes and systems are in place to ensure budgetary control; to communicate relevant, accurate and timely management information (including non-financial information where appropriate); supports its statutory financial reporting requirements; and ensures corrective action is taken where needed;
- ensures it makes properly informed decisions, supported by appropriate evidence and allowing for challenge and transparency. This includes arrangements for effective challenge from those charged with governance/audit committee; and
- monitors and ensures appropriate standards, such as meeting legislative/regulatory requirements and standards in terms of officer or member behaviour (such as gifts and hospitality or declarations/conflicts of interests).

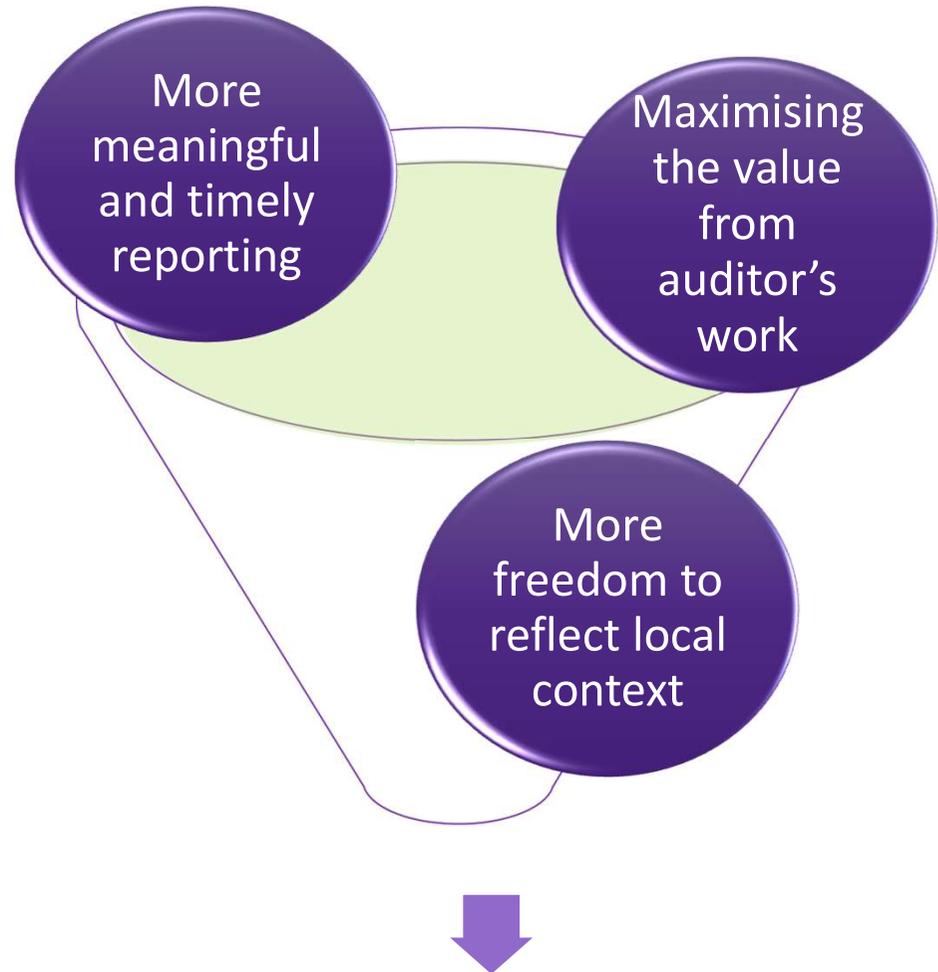
The new approach to Value for Money

Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

How the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services, including:

- how financial and performance information has been used to assess performance to identify areas for improvement;
- how the body evaluates the services it provides to assess performance and identify areas for improvement;
- how the body ensures it delivers its role within significant partnerships, engages with stakeholders it has identified, monitors performance against expectations, and ensures action is taken where necessary to improve; and
- where the body commissions or procures services, how the body ensures that this is done in accordance with relevant legislation, professional standards and internal policies, and how the body assesses whether it is realising the expected benefits.

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VFM arrangements commentary and recommendations

The new approach to Value for Money

The table below details what will be reported in the Auditor's Annual Report:

Section of report	Content
Commentary on arrangements	An explanation of the VFM work that has been undertaken during the year, including the risk assessment and any further risk-based work. It will also highlight any significant weaknesses that have been identified and brought to the body's attention. The commentary will allow auditors to better reflect local context and draw attention to emerging or developing issues which may not represent significant weaknesses, but which may nevertheless require attention from the body itself.
Recommendations	Where an auditor concludes that there is a significant weakness in a body's arrangements, they report this to the body and support it with a recommendation for improvement.
Progress in implementing recommendations	Where an auditor has reported significant weaknesses in arrangements in the previous year, the auditor should follow up recommendations issued previously and include their view as to whether the recommendations have been implemented satisfactorily.
Use of additional powers	Where an auditor uses additional powers, such as making statutory recommendations or issuing a public interest report, this should be reported in the auditor's annual report.
Opinion on the financial statements	The auditor's annual report also needs to summarise the results of the auditor's work on the financial statements.

The table below details the three types of recommendations that auditors can make. Auditors may make recommendations at any time during the year.

Type of recommendation	Definition
Statutory recommendation	Where auditors make written recommendations to the body under Section 24 and Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. A recommendation of this type requires the body to discuss and respond publicly to the report.
Key recommendation	Where auditors identify significant weaknesses in a body's arrangements for securing value for money, they have to make recommendations setting out the actions that the body should take to address them
Improvement recommendation	Where auditors do not identify a significant weakness in the body's arrangements, but still wish to make recommendations about how the body's arrangements can be improved

Insight into accounting for grants in local government financial statements – Grant Thornton

The government has provided a range of financial support packages throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have issued a brief bulletin aimed at helping local government bodies identify the key things they should consider when determining the accounting treatment for these grants in their financial statements for 2020/21.

There are no changes to the accounting treatment for grants as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. What has changed, is the extent of additional funding to support the cost of services, to offset other income losses along with grant packages to be paid out to support local business. Local authorities need to consider the nature and terms of the various COVID-19 measures in order to determine whether there is income and expenditure to be recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2020/21.

The report highlights the factors to consider, including:

- Where the funding is to be transferred to other parties, is the authority acting as principal or as agent?
- Are there grant conditions outstanding?
- Is the grant a specific or non-specific grant?

Our bulletin provides you with links to further information on the various support packages and summarises features that may be relevant to your judgements as you determine the appropriate accounting treatment.

Local authorities need to demonstrate their judgements on the accounting treatment to be reasonable and soundly based and, where these have a significant effect on the accounts, to ensure they include sufficient disclosures to meet the requirements of IAS 1:122.

Please ask your audit manager for the full report:



What can be learned from Public Interest Reports? – Grant Thornton

2020 will be remembered as a tumultuous year in local government, with the pandemic creating unprecedented pressure on the sector. It also saw the appearance of two Public Interest Reports (PIRs), followed by another in January this year – the first to be issued in the sector since 2016. PIR's can be issued by local auditors if there are significant concerns around council activity, such as major failings in finance and governance.

The recent PIRs have made headlines because, up to this point, very few have ever been issued. But, as our latest report “Lessons from recent Public Interest Reports” explores, all three illustrate some of the fundamental issues facing the wider sector and provide a lesson for all local authorities around: weaknesses in financial management; governance and scrutiny practices; and council culture and leadership; which, when combined, can provide fertile ground for the kind of significant issues we might see in a PIR.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted four essential factors we probably always knew about local government, have often said, but which are now much better evidenced:

- 1) Local government has provided fantastic support to its communities in working with the NHS and other partners to deal with the multifaceted challenges of the pandemic.
- 2) Britain's long centralised approach to government has been exposed to some degree in terms of its agility to tailor pandemic responses to regional and local bodies. This is recognised by the current government who continue to pursue the options for devolution of powers to local bodies. Track and Trace delivered centrally has not been as successful as anticipated and, according to government figures, local interventions have had more impact.

- 3) Years of reduced funding from central government have exposed the underlying flaws in the local authority business model, with too much reliance on generating additional income.
- 4) Not all authorities exercise appropriate care with public money; not all authorities exercise appropriate governance; and not all authorities have the capability of managing risk, both short and long term. Optimism bias has been baked into too many councils' medium-term plans.

The PIRs at Nottingham City Council (August 2020), the London Borough of Croydon (October 2020), and Northampton Borough Council (January 2021) are clear illustrations of some of the local government issues identified above. The audit reports are comprehensive and wide-ranging and a lesson for all local authorities. Local authorities have a variety of different governance models. These range from elected mayor to the cabinet and a scrutiny system approach, while others have moved back to committee systems. Arguments can be made both for and against all of these models. However, in the recent PIR cases, and for many other local authorities, it's less about the system of governance and more about how it operates, who operates it and how willing they are to accept scrutiny and challenge.

There are a number of lessons to be learned from the recent PIR reports and these can be broken down into three key areas which are explored further in our report:

- 1) The context of local government in a COVID-19 world
- 2) Governance, scrutiny, and culture
- 3) Local authority leadership.

The full report is available here:

[Lessons from recent Public Interest Reports | Grant Thornton](#)

Annual Transparency Report – Grant Thornton

As auditors of several listed entities as well as nearly one hundred major local audits, we are required as a firm to publish an annual transparency report.

The report contains a variety of information which we believe is helpful to audit committees as well as wider stakeholders. The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) in their thematic review of transparency reporting noted that they are keen to see more Audit Committee Chairs actively engaging and challenging their auditors on audit quality based on the information produced in Transparency reports on a regular basis. We agree with the FRC and are keen to share our transparency report and discuss audit quality with you more widely.

The transparency report provides details of our:

- Leadership and governance structures
- Principle risks and Key Performance Indicators
- Quality, risk management and internal control structure
- Independence and ethics processes
- People and culture
- Compliance with the Audit Firm Governance code and EU Audit directive requirements

We have made significant developments in the year as part of our Local Audit Investment Plan to improve our audit quality. We welcome an opportunity to discuss these developments and our transparency report should you wish.



The full report is available here:

[Transparency report 2020 \(grantthornton.co.uk\)](https://www.grantthornton.co.uk/transparency-report-2020)

Local authority Covid-19 pressures - MHCLG

Outturn figures from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) show that local authorities in England reported additional cost pressures of £12.8bn relating to Covid-19 in 2020-21. Overall, local authorities spent £7.2bn responding to the pandemic last year, with the largest share of additional expenditure going on adult social care services at £3.2bn.

Additional expenditure due to COVID-19 by class and service area (£ millions) (2020-21)

	Shire District	Shire County	Unitary Authority	Metropolitan District	London Borough	Total
Adult Social Care – total	0.473	1,254.880	848.656	663.404	413.842	3,181.254
Children's social care - total (excluding SEND)	0.000	94.933	131.127	89.799	62.987	378.846
Housing - total (including homelessness services) excluding HRA	63.129	5.254	74.949	42.281	112.971	298.584
Environmental and regulatory services - total	33.564	68.097	67.512	66.704	63.556	299.433
Finance & corporate services - total	48.222	53.445	83.984	76.923	78.284	340.858
All other service areas not listed in rows above	184.550	634.578	584.924	564.737	395.137	2,363.926
Total	329.937	2,111.187	1,791.153	1,503.848	1,126.777	6,862.902



The figures are available in full here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-covid-19-financial-impact-monitoring-information>

Income losses due to COVID-19 by class and source of income (£ millions) (2020-21)

	Shire District	Shire County	Unitary Authority	Metropolitan District	London Borough	Total
Business rates	276.498	0.000	194.192	207.351	537.667	1,215.708
Council tax	399.037	0.000	217.633	191.219	232.727	1,040.616
Sales fees and charges	516.426	194.923	553.907	396.745	475.728	2,137.728
Commercial income	82.448	24.159	120.629	204.211	52.154	483.600
Other	33.494	39.947	27.163	53.664	45.166	199.435
Total	1,307.903	259.029	1,113.524	1,053.190	1,343.441	5,077.087

Government response to Redmond review – MHCLG

Government has published an update on the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government response to Sir Tony Redmond’s independent review into the effectiveness of external audit and transparency of financial reporting in local authorities.

The MHCLG press release states “The Audit, Reporting and Governance Authority (ARGA) – the new regulator being established to replace the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) – will be strengthened with new powers over local government audit, protecting public funds and ensuring councils are best serving taxpayers.

The new regulator, which will contain a standalone local audit unit, will bring all regulatory functions into one place, to better coordinate a new, simplified local audit framework.

ARGA will continue to act as regulator and carry out audit quality reviews as the FRC does now. It will now also provide annual reports on the state of local audit and take over responsibility for the updated Code of Local Audit Practice – the guidelines councils are required to follow.

The government has confirmed that the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) will continue as the appointing body for local audit, in charge of procurement and contract management for local government auditors.

In the immediate term, MHCLG will set up and chair a Liaison Committee, which will comprise senior stakeholders across the sector that will oversee the governance of the new audit arrangements and ensure they are operating effectively.”

The press release goes on to state the “measures finalise the government’s response to Sir Tony Redmond’s independent review into local audit, carried out last year.

The government has already announced £15 million to support councils with additional costs in audit fees, and recently consulted on the distribution of this funding. Government is also consulting on improving flexibility on audit fee setting and has extended the deadline for when councils must publish their audited accounts.



The press release can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-publishes-update-to-audit-review-response>

2019/20 audited accounts – Public Sector Audit Appointments

In December 2020 Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) published figures relating to the audit of 2019/20 local authority financial statements.

PSAA report “Audit arrangements in local councils, police, fire and other local government bodies are continuing to exhibit signs of stress and difficulty. In the latest audit round, focusing on 2019/20 financial statements and value for money arrangements, fewer than 50% of bodies’ audits were completed by the revised target of 30 November.

Figures compiled by PSAA, the organisation responsible for appointing auditors to 478 local bodies, reveal that 55% (265) of audit opinions were not issued by 30 November. This is a further deterioration on 2018/19 audits when 43% of opinions (210 out of 486) were delayed beyond the then target timetable of 31 July.”

By 30 November, Grant Thornton had signed 113/208 audits (a 55% completion rate), meaning that only 45% of audit opinions were not signed by 30 November, compared to the 55% all firms average.

PSAA go on to note “This year’s timetable has been deliberately eased by Ministers in recognition of the underlying pressures on the audit process and the significant added complications arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic has posed practical challenges for bodies in producing accounts and working papers, and for auditors to carry out their testing. Both sets of staff have had to work remotely throughout the period, and the second national lockdown came at a critical point in the cycle.

Questions and concerns about the potential implications of the pandemic for some bodies have meant that both finance staff and auditors have needed to pay particular attention to the financial position of each entity. Additionally, following a series of increasingly challenging regulatory reviews, auditors have arguably been more focused than ever on their professional duty to give their opinion only when they are satisfied that they have sufficient assurance.”



The news article can be found here:

[News release: 2019/20 audited accounts – PSAA](#)

Consultation on 2023-24 audit appointments – Public Sector Audit Appointments

Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) is consulting on the Draft prospectus for 2023 and beyond.

PSAA state “Our primary aim is to secure the delivery of an audit service of the required quality for every opted-in body at a realistic market price and to support the drive towards a long term competitive and more sustainable market for local public audit services.

The objectives of the procurement are to maximise value for local public bodies by:

- securing the delivery of independent audit services of the required quality;
- awarding long term contracts to a sufficient number of firms to enable the deployment of an appropriately qualified auditing team to every participating body;
- encouraging existing suppliers to remain active participants in local audit and creating opportunities for new suppliers to enter the market;
- encouraging audit suppliers to submit prices which are realistic in the context of the current market;
- enabling auditor appointments which facilitate the efficient use of audit resources;
- supporting and contributing to the efforts of audited bodies and auditors to improve the timeliness of audit opinion delivery; and
- establishing arrangements that are able to evolve in response to changes to the local audit framework.”

The plans include proposals to adjust the procurement ratio between quality and costs from an equal 50:50 to 80:20, as well as trying to bring new suppliers in to the market.

The consultation on the PSAA’s proposals closes on 8 July.



The news article can be found here:

<https://www.psa.co.uk/about-us/appointing-person-information/appointing-period-2023-24-2027-28/prospectus-2023-and-beyond/draft-prospectus-for-2023-and-beyond/page/7/>

Councils given power to build more homes for first time buyers and for social rent – MHCLG

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) has announced that councils in England will have more freedom on how they spend the money from homes sold through Right to Buy to help them build the homes needed in their communities.

The MHCLG press release states the “package will make it easier for councils to fund homes using Right to Buy receipts, including homes for social rent, and give them greater flexibility over the types of homes they provide to reflect the needs of their communities.

It will also give councils more time to use receipts and to develop ambitious building programmes. The government wants homes supplied using Right to Buy receipts to be the best value for money, and to add to overall housing supply, to help towards delivering 300,000 new homes a year across England by the mid-2020s.”

The press release goes on to note “New measures include:

- extending the time councils have to spend Right to Buy receipts from 3 years to 5 years
- increased cap on the percentage cost of new homes councils can fund from Right to Buy receipts raised from 30% to 40% per home, making it easier to build replacement homes
- allowing receipts to be used for shared ownership, First Homes, as well as affordable and social housing, to help councils build the homes their communities need
- introducing a cap on the use of Right to Buy receipts for acquisitions to help drive new supply.”



The press release can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/councils-given-power-to-build-more-homes-for-first-time-buyers-and-for-social-rent>

Appendix 1: Revised Auditor Standards and application guidance

FRC revisions to Auditor Standards and associated application guidance

The following Auditing Standards and associated application guidance that were applicable to 19/20 audits, have been revised or updated by the FRC, with additional requirements for auditors for implementation in 2020/21 audits and beyond.

	Date of revision	Application to 2020/21 Audits
ISQC (UK) 1 – Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and other Assurance and Related Service Engagements	November 2019	
ISA (UK) 200 – Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK)	January 2020	
ISA (UK) 220 – Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements	November 2019	
ISA (UK) 230 – Audit Documentation	January 2020	
ISA (UK) 240 – The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements	January 2020	
ISA (UK) 250 Section A – Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements	November 2019	
ISA (UK) 250 Section B – The Auditor’s Statutory Right and Duty to Report to Regulators of Public Interest Entities and Regulators of Other Entities in the Financial Sector	November 2019	

Appendix 1: Revised Auditor Standards and application guidance continued

	Date of revision	Application to 2020/21 Audits
ISA (UK) 260 – Communication With Those Charged With Governance	January 2020	
ISA (UK) 315 – Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement Through Understanding of the Entity and Its Environment	July 2020	
ISA (UK) 500 – Audit Evidence	January 2020	
ISA (UK) 540 – Auditing Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosures	December 2018	
ISA (UK) 570 – Going Concern	September 2019	
ISA (UK) 580 – Written Representations	January 2020	
ISA (UK) 600 – Special considerations – Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)	November 2019	
ISA (UK) 620 – Using the Work of an Auditor’s Expert	November 2019	
ISA (UK) 700 – Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements	January 2020	

Appendix 1: Revised Auditor Standards and application guidance continued

	Date of revision	Application to 2020/21 Audits
ISA (UK) 701 – Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor’s Report	January 2020	
ISA (UK) 720 – The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information	November 2019	
Practice Note 10: Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Bodies in the United Kingdom	December 2020	



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Agenda Item 8



Audit Committee	Wednesday, 29 September 2021	Matter for Information
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Report Title: **Internal Audit Update Report (Q1 2021/22)**

Report Author(s): **Comie Campbell (Head of Finance/Acting Section 151 Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	To give an update on Internal Audit's progress at delivering the 2021/22 audit plan.
Report Summary:	The report gives a Moderate Level of assurance by Internal audit for Community Safety and the Volunteer Programme for the Council's systems of internal control.
Recommendation(s):	That the progress made in delivering the 2021/22 audit plan be noted.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	Comie Campbell (Head of Finance/ Acting S151 Officer) (0116) 257 2713 comie.campbell@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Mark Watkins (Head of Internal Audit, CW Audit) 07926 252619 forename.surname@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Corporate Objectives:	Providing Excellent Services (CO3)
Vision and Values:	"A Stronger Borough Together" (Vision) Accountability (V1)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Key Supplier / Partnership Failure (CR2) Reputation Damage (CR4) Effective Utilisation of Assets / Buildings (CR5) Regulatory Governance (CR6) Increased Fraud (CR10)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.

Chief Finance Officer:	As the author, the report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	None.
Appendices:	1. Internal Audit Progress Report Q1 2021/22

1. Information

- 1.1 The Internal Audit Progress Report attached at **Appendix 1** provides an overall summary of the work undertaken to date relating to the audit plan.
- 1.2 The activities to be reviewed throughout the financial year are listed in Table 4 of the Progress Report. The quarter in which the work is to be started is shown along with the current progress status. Internal Audit then provides an opinion on the level of assurance that is given once the work has been completed.
- 1.3 Internal Audit progress reports are presented to every meeting of the Audit Committee so Members can be kept up to date with Internal Audit work and findings.
- 1.4 Under the Local Government Act 1972, section 151 and the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011(as amended), the Council has a responsibility to maintain an adequate and effective Internal Audit function. At Oadby and Wigston Borough Council this responsibility is delivered by CW Audit Services.
- 1.5 In responding to this requirement, the Internal Audit service works to best practice as set out in the 2006 Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the UK which is published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Internal Audit Progress Report

September 2021



cw audit
internal audit services

Bringing public value to life

1. Introduction

This report summarises the work of Internal Audit for the period to the end of August 2021. The purpose of the report is to update the Audit Committee on progress made in delivering the 2021/22 audit plan. We have made good progress towards delivering the plan and we do not anticipate any difficulties in delivering our full programme of work. Section 4 provides a summary of the current status of all audits included on the 2021/22 plan.

2. Reviews completed since April 2021

Review	Key issues	Level of assurance
IT Audit – transition to in-house ICT service	<p>The Council is currently undertaking a major project to bring ICT support services in-house by January 2022. CW Audit are providing expert support and advice to this project and have thus far provided comment and guidance in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA).• Ensure a Risk and Issues Log is maintained for the project.• Suggested inclusions/improvements to the Project Plan, Project Initiation Document (PID) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with East Staffordshire Council (who are providing support to the project).	N/A

Review	Key issues	Level of assurance				
Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree the 2021/22 delivery plan after assessing the extent to which priorities have been delivered independently by partners during the period where no agreed plan was in place. • Ensure that delayed delivery of priorities/actions from the 2020/21 year and the first five months of the 2021/22 year are addressed by the end of the 2021/22 year. • Reproduce lost monitoring information results and reports from the 2020/21 year and catch up on lack of monitoring information thus far in the 2021/22 year. 	Moderate				
System control objective		Level of Assurance				
		Full	Significant	Moderate	Limited	No
There is an up to date Community Safety Partnership Strategy and Plan in place which has been approved and is readily available.				✓		
The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to contribute towards the delivery of Community Safety Partnership Strategy and Plan in cooperation with other partners.		✓				
There is an active CSP Board in place that incorporates representatives from each of the partner organisations.			✓			
Accurate and timely budget and performance information is provided managers and members.				✓		

Review	Key issues	Level of assurance				
Volunteer Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and amend Volunteering Policy to reflect current plans to extend volunteer programme and to add further guidance on a number of areas highlighted by the audit. Re-launch the volunteer programme, including reinstatement of the dedicated volunteering web page. Obtain signed volunteer and confidentiality agreements from existing volunteers and complete relevant induction training. Introduce formal review process with volunteers. 	Moderate				
System control objective		Level of Assurance				
		Full	Significant	Moderate	Limited	No
The Volunteering, Vision and Aims Policy meets the Council's requirements and effective arrangements are in place to ensure that it is delivered as planned.				✓		
There is a formal process in place to appoint and train volunteers in all aspects of their role.				✓		
The work of volunteers is subject to appropriate governance, oversight and review.				✓		
There are appropriate financial probity controls applied for instances where volunteers purchase items on behalf of residents they are supporting.			✓			

3. Recommendation tracking

We provide a system for tracking the implementation of agreed Internal Audit recommendations as a management assurance tool for the Council and this Committee. Managers are responsible for updating actions taken and other key information directly on the system. The first table below represents the status of agreed actions due to be implemented by 31/08/21 for all recommendations raised since 1st April 2019. The second table outlines the age of the outstanding recommendations (based on the original date due for implementation). The status shown is as advised by the relevant manager/Head of Service and does not imply that Internal Audit has verified the status in all cases.

Summary	1 Critical	2 High	3 Medium	4 Low	Total
Due by 31/08/21	-	22	93	33	148
Implemented / Closed	-	22	84	32	138
Still to be completed	-	0	9	1	10

Time overdue for actions o/s or not complete	1 Critical	2 High	3 Medium	4 Low	Total
Less than 3 months	-	0	4	0	4
3 – 6 months	-	0	2	1	0
Greater than 6 months	-	0	3	0	1
Total	-	0	9	1	10

We normally provide additional information on overdue 'high risk' issues, but there are none to report on this occasion. There are three 'medium risk' issues outstanding for more than 6 months, which are included in more detail in the following table. The Committee will be advised in future progress reports if our follow up work finds that any such cases are not in fact fully implemented.

'Medium risk' issues overdue for more than six months from original implementation date

Review	Recommendation	Risk	Original target date	Revised target date	Current status
IT Application Security	A formal policy on the management and security of corporate IT applications should be documented and approved.	3	30 Sept 20	30 April 21	This was work originally allocated to Steria, but now being dealt with as part of the project to bring ICT services in-house.
IT Application Security	Define the different access levels for each application in the new IT application security Policy.	3	30 Sept 20	30 April 21	As above.
Housing Rents	Undertake an in-depth review of the processes for recovering rent arrears, with specific attention paid to the rising level of current tenant arrears caused by the roll-out of Universal Credit and the need to strengthen former tenant arrears recovery performance.	3	30 Nov 20	31 March 21	Ongoing service improvement programme for the housing function is initially focussing on repairs and maintenance, with rent collection policy to follow.

4. 2021/22 Internal audit plan

Review	Scheduled	Status	Level of assurance
Performance Management	Quarter 1 / 2	Fieldwork complete	
Risk Management	Quarter 3		
Emergency Planning	Quarter 1 / 2	Fieldwork complete	
Financial Management & Reporting	Quarter 4		
Creditors	Quarter 4		
Debtors	Quarter 4		
Treasury Management	Quarter 4		
IT Audit – Transition to In-House ICT	Quarter 1 / 2	Ongoing advice & support	N/A
Payroll & Expenses	Quarter 3 / 4		
Agency Workers	Quarter 3 / 4	Scope agreed	
Council Tax	Quarter 3		
Business Rates	Quarter 3		
Benefits / Council Tax Support	Quarter 3		
Community Safety	Quarter 2	Final report	Moderate
Business Restart Grants (Covid-19)	Quarter 2	Fieldwork complete	
Volunteer Programme	Quarter 1	Final report	Moderate
Taxi Licensing	Quarter 1 / 2	In progress	
Selective Licensing	Quarter 1 / 2	In progress	
Housing Repairs & Maintenance	Quarter 1 / 2	In progress	