



STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

2016/2017

CONTENTS

	PAGES
STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES	2
NARRATIVE STATEMENT	3 - 8
ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT	9 - 18
CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
EXPLANATION OF CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	19
STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT IN RESERVES	20
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT	21
BALANCE SHEET	22
CASH FLOW STATEMENT	23
NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24 - 37
OTHER NOTES	38 - 68
SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
COLLECTION FUND	69
NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND	70 - 73
GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	74 - 76
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT AND CERTIFICATE	77 - 79

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required to:

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

The Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities

The Director of Finance is responsible for the preparation of the Council'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 Director of Finance has:

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

The Director of Finance has also:

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

The Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Three Rivers District Council as at 31 March 2017 and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2017.

Signed
Joanne Wagstaffe CPFA
Director of Finance

Date: 26 September 2017

Date: 26 September 2017

Signed
Councillor Sarah Nelmes
Chairman of Audit Committee

NARRATIVE STATEMENT

1. Introduction

The purpose of this Narrative Statement is to offer interested parties an easily understandable guide to the most significant matters reported in the Statement of Accounts.

2. The Core Financial Statements

The accounts that follow this narrative statement contain four core financial statements:

- Statement of Movements in Reserves
- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement

For a definition of each statement see the Explanation Of Core Financial Statements.

3. Changes to the Statement of Accounts

Accounting Policies

The Financial Statements have been prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). In addition, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy produces a Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting which reflects the statutory requirements and has been followed in preparing the financial statements.

There were no major changes to accounting policies in the year.

The Council is required to prepare 'group accounts' where there are significant interests in other organisations. A review has been carried out and it has been determined that the preparation of group accounts is not required.

Changes in Functions

The Council shares its Revenues and Benefits, Finance, Human Resources and ICT functions with Watford Borough Council. From 1 April 2014, the Councils adopted a lead authority model for the Finance and Revenues and Benefits Services and a new arrangement for a shared procurement service.

4. Contingent Assets and Liabilities

Note 33 to the Core Financial Statements gives details of contingent assets and liabilities. No exceptional or unusual items of income or expenditure have occurred. No material events affecting the accounts occurred after the end of the year up to 26 September 2017

5. Revenue Activities

Revenue Out-turn 2016/17

For accounting purposes, the Council distinguishes between 'revenue' and 'capital' activities. Capital activities are dealt with below. Revenue activities are included in the Comprehensive

NARRATIVE STATEMENT

Income and Expenditure Statement and cover the day to day income and expenditure involved in providing services to the public. The Council holds a General Fund Balance, shown in the Statement of Movement in Reserves and on the Balance Sheet, which is available to support revenue expenditure and to which surpluses are added and from which any deficits are met.

The net cost of revenue activities is met by central government grant, a share of non-domestic rates (business rates) and by the council tax charge made to residents. This is set each February prior to the start of the financial year and takes into account the General Fund Balance and detailed estimates of income and expenditure. A comparison of outturn figures to budgets, therefore, often provides a better indication of financial stewardship than comparison to the prior year.

It was estimated that there would be a surplus for the year of £0.005m. The actual outturn showed a deficit of £302k, a variance in the year of £307k.

The major variances are as follows:-

- Increase in government grant (£0.557m)
- Additional planning income (£0.187m)
- Increase in garden waste income (£0.125m)
- Increase in ICT modernisation costs £0.224m
- Increase in service ICT costs £0.288m
- Increase in cost of homelessness £0.250m
- Provision for contract liability £0.300m
- Increase in housing benefits payments £0.148m

NARRATIVE STATEMENT

The table below compares the original budget for the year against the out-turn:

Income & Expenditure Account	2016/17	
	Original Net Budget £000	Net Outturn £000
Policy & Scrutiny Committee		
Leisure Wellbeing & Health	2,339	2,292
Sustainable Development, Planning & Transportation	1,649	1,692
General Public Services & Community Safety	2,257	1,943
Policy & Resources	4,530	5,590
Net Cost of District Services	10,775	11,517
Pensions Adjustment	732	577
Parish Precepts	1,670	1,670
Net Interest Income to General Fund	-283	-186
Other Income	0	-1,054
Net District Operating Expenditure	12,895	12,524
Contributions to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	-60	5,043
Adjustments Under Statute	-1,053	-3,047
(Contribution from Balances)/Surplus/(Deficit) for year	5	302
Amount To Be Met From Government Grant And Local Tax Payers	11,787	14,822
Demanded From Collection Fund	-7,608	-7,608
Collection Fund Transfer of (Surplus)/Deficit	0	16
Revenue Support Grant	-874	-874
Redistributed NNDR	-1,826	-1,826
Non - Specific grants	-764	-2,319
Business Rate Growth	-700	-1,893
Grant to Parish Councils	35	35
Other Income	-50	-51
Total	-11,787	-14,520
Balance in Hand at 1 April	-4,727	-4,396
(Surplus)/Deficit For Year	-5	302
Balance in Hand at 31 March	-4,732	-4,094

NARRATIVE STATEMENT

Future Revenue Expenditure & its Funding

The Council ensures that its strategic, service and financial planning is closely linked so that resources are properly allocated to its priorities. The Council's aims and objectives are included within its Strategic Plan. This is based on the themes 'safety and wellbeing', 'clean and green', 'economic opportunities' and 'customer service' derived from the Community Strategy developed with the Council's partners. The Strategic Plan is supported by individual Service Plans. There is a performance management framework which measures how the Council is performing against these plans.

The Medium-Term Three-Year Financial Plan is continually updated by regular budget monitoring. The plan assumes reductions in government grant over the next three years. Following an increase of 3.15% in the average council tax charge for 2016/17, the Council budgeted for increases of 1.98% in subsequent years. The levels of council tax and government grant are critical to the Council's future revenue streams.

Because of a change in accounting treatment in 2013/14, Government Grant has been partially replaced by retention of the Business Rates the Council collects. This change creates additional uncertainty in funding, as it places the emphasis on the Council to generate additional income by encouraging business regeneration. This means that the Council's share of any surplus or deficit on Business Rate collection, falls on the General Fund and, potentially the Council Tax payers in the following year.

6. Capital Activities

Capital Out-turn 2016/17

Capital expenditure is incurred on assets that benefit the community over a number of years. Capital expenditure for 2016/17 is shown below:

	Original Budget £000	Actual Out-turn £000	Variance (Under) / Over Spend £000
Leisure Facilities	2,809	987	-1,822
Asset Management	678	773	95
South Oxhey Redevelopment	2,060	4,004	1,944
Waste Collection & Recycling	1,367	416	-951
Footpaths, Cycle Paths, Roads and Car Parks	302	295	-7
Private Sector Housing	500	397	-103
Provision of Temporary Accommodation	335	349	14
Information & Communication Technology	455	534	79
Other	210	167	-43
Total	8,716	7,922	-794

NARRATIVE STATEMENT

The Council planned to complete capital schemes valued at £8.716m in 2016/17. The Council completed and funded £7.922m worth of capital work, £7.453m of which was funded from capital receipts and the remainder was funded from government grants and contributions from third parties. The creation of assets adds to their value and reduces cash holdings. Their funding reduces the value of usable reserves and increases the value of unusable reserves in the bottom half of the balance sheet.

The variance mainly relates to schemes that have been rephased to future years including

- New sailing facility at the Aquadrome
- Waste Services depot
- A new community hub at Leavesden Country Park
- Replacement of waste & recycling vehicles

Future Capital Expenditure and its Funding

The Council plans to spend £21.579m on capital schemes in 2017/18. Of this £7.276m is to be funded from capital receipts, £3.026m from government grants, contributions from third parties and £11.277m from internal borrowing.

Borrowing Facilities and Capital Borrowing

The Council has no agreed plans to borrow in the medium term and will finance capital expenditure from existing resources. The current agreed capital programme indicates that the Council will remain debt free for the immediate future, although it has operational short-term borrowing facilities up to £10m. All historic capital expenditure has been fully funded and therefore there is no capital financing requirement.

The Council applies the 'Prudential Code for Capital Finance'. The Code is designed to ensure that all external borrowing is within prudent and sustainable levels, that capital expenditure plans are affordable, that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good practice and that the Council is accountable by providing a clear and transparent framework. The Council takes into account all sources of future income and the potential calls on the use of that income.

7. Pensions

The Council has disclosed its full liabilities to the Hertfordshire Pension Fund. The Income and Expenditure Account includes the charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with International Accounting Standard 19. The Statement of Movement in Reserves shows how this is adjusted for in the General Fund for the actual amount paid to the Fund in the year (i.e. the amount met from council tax). The balance sheet shows a net liability to the Fund at 31 March 2017 of £23.829m. This has decreased from £16.729m at 31 March 2016 and reflects actuarial changes. There are statutory arrangements for funding the deficit that protect the Council's financial position. Note 32 to the Core Statements of Account provides further information.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT

8. Conclusion

The Council's Overall Financial Position

The Council's medium-term financial planning has aimed to achieve tax increases at or below the rate of inflation, a balanced budget and a prudent level of balances. With the reductions in government grant and changes to business rates, however, this means that significant savings have had to be identified. The Council conducted a series of service reviews in 2016/17, to find the savings required in future years. Tight financial control is being exercised to ensure that the savings identified are achieved.

In the current financial climate, the Council monitors on a regular basis the financial and budgetary risks that it faces. At the date of issue of this Statement of Accounts, no significant impairment has been made to assets although provisions for bad debts have been increased to reflect the increased probability that debtors may default.

In the longer term the Council will also have to address the impact on the revenue account of reduced interest income as capital receipts are used to fund capital expenditure.

In the meantime, balances remain relatively healthy. The General Fund balance at 31 March 2017 was £4.094m. The Council held £20.408m at 31 March 2017 in capital receipts & grants and earmarked reserves for new capital expenditure.

The Council is constantly looking to improve its financial management and internal control. The Annual Governance Statement shows the steps the Council is taking to achieve this and to address the challenges brought about by changes to business rates, the local support to council tax and the introduction of benefit caps and universal credit.

.....
Joanne Wagstaffe CPFA
Director of Finance
26th September 2017

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

- 1 Three Rivers District Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for. 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.
- 2 In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.
- 3 Three Rivers District Council has 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'. It is also in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England & Wales) Regulations 2015.
- 4 This Governance Statement explains how the Council has maintained sound governance during the financial year 2016/17 and also how the Council meets the requirements of regulation 6(1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

- 5 The governance framework has been in place at the Council for the year ended 31 March 2017 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and statement of accounts. It comprises the systems and processes as well as the culture and values, by which the Council is directed and controlled and through which accounts to, engages with and leads the community.
- 6 The governance framework enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate and cost-effective services.
- 7 The system of internal control is a significant part of this framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. However, it cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and, therefore, can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.
- 8 The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

- 9 The key elements of the systems and processes that comprise the Council's governance arrangements, as per the CIPFA 'Delivering good governance in local government: Framework – Addendum' include the following:

General

- 10 Three Rivers District Council operates a Committee model of governance under the Local Government Act 2000 and Localism Act 2011.
- 11 The Constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures that are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to the local community. Some of these procedures are required by law, whilst others are adopted by the Council. The Constitution is reviewed annually and is available on the Council's website and intranet.
- 12 The Council has an approved Local Code of Governance, which sets out and describes its commitment to good governance and identifies the arrangements that have been and will continue to be made to ensure its ongoing effective implementation and application in all aspects of the Council's work. The Local Code of Governance is available on the Council's website and intranet.
- 13 The Council acknowledges its responsibility for internal control, and for ensuring that its systems maintain the integrity of accounting records and safeguard its assets. These systems provide reasonable assurance as to the reliability of financial information and to maintain proper control over the income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of the Council. However, no system of internal control can provide absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.
- 14 The Management Board is aware of the financial and other procedures and controls outlined in the Constitution, and senior officers are required to sign a declaration of compliance, in the form of a Management Assurance Statement, at the end of each year – this evidences, amongst other things, that their staff are aware of and consistently apply the requirements of the Constitution.
- 15 Elected Members as decision-makers have to declare conflicts of interest as and when they occur, as well as on an annual basis.

Strategic Aims and Objectives

- 16 The Council and the Policy and Resources Committee met regularly to set the strategic direction of the Council and together with the Audit Committee and the Service Committees, monitor service delivery.

The Council publishes its Corporate Plan annually, which sets out key service improvement priorities for the medium term, with targets for performance and deadlines for achievement. This has been informed by public consultation on a range of topics, particularly around priority setting, and a detailed analysis of the local context. Progress on the Plan is reported to the public.

- 17 The Council updates its Strategic Plan every February and the Council's key objectives for 2016-19 were as follows:

VISION:

The district should remain a prosperous, safe and healthy place where people want and are able, to live and work.

OUR OBJECTIVES:

Safety and well-being: We shall work with partners to make the district a safer and healthier place, providing a safe and healthier environment, and reducing health inequalities.

Clean and green: We want to maintain a high quality local environment and reduce the eco-footprint of the district.

Economic opportunities: We shall work in partnership to promote the economic prospects for all our communities.

Customer Service: We shall deliver services to a standard that meets the needs and expectations of all our customers and provides exemplary value for money.

- 18 The annual update of the Strategic Plan in February 2017 revised the Council's vision and corporate objectives covering the period 2017-20.

- 19 Underpinning these over arching priorities are a series of measurable (SMART) objectives so that every member of staff and our community can feel fully engaged in the process. The council also plays a major role in the Local Strategic Partnership, which is made up of key stakeholders from Herts Valleys NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, Hertfordshire Police Constabulary, Police and Crime Commissioner, Hertfordshire County Council, Parish Councils, Thrive Homes, Watford Community Housing Trust Voluntary and Business Sector.

Decision Making Structures

- 20 At an officer level, the senior management comprises the Chief Executive, shared Director of Finance, Director of Community and Environmental Services and Heads of Service. Financial control will primarily be the responsibility of a shared Director of Finance with neighbouring Watford Borough Council. This combined management comprises the Management Board who meet fortnightly to review and progress the key objectives of the council.

- 21 Overall financial control is monitored on a monthly basis by the Management Board and the Budget Panel. Budget preparation is influenced by the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy which forecasts budget pressures and available resources over a four year period. This MTFS is reported to members and the Budget Panel where variations to the strategy are approved. The Council has the ultimate responsibility for approving the annual budget. The final accounts at the end of a financial year are subject to formal approval by the Audit Committee.

Constitution

- 22 The Council has a written constitution which identifies community focus, service delivery arrangements, structures and processes, risk management, internal control arrangements and standards of conduct. This sets out how the council takes decisions, roles and responsibilities of members and officers, codes of conduct and procedure rules and also sets out the rights of citizens.
- 23 Copies of the Council's Constitution are available to all on the Council's website.
- 24 There are regular meetings of the full Council, Policy and Resources Committee and the other Service and Regulatory Committees. Meetings are open to the public and written reports are available to the public through the council's website. Information is only treated as confidential when it is necessary to do so for legal / commercial reasons in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 25 Councillors are assisted in their policy and decision-making roles by the advice of staff with suitable qualifications and experience, under the leadership of the Chief Executive. All reports requiring a decision from members include comments on financial, legal, equalities, sustainability, community safety (as relevant) and other appropriate issues such as potential risks to non achievement, all of which ensures that comprehensive advice is provided prior to decisions being taken.
- 26 The scrutiny function within a local authority provides a necessary check upon the role of Cabinet and is a key component of corporate governance. At Three Rivers it is co-ordinated through the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 27 The Council's protocols and procedures are reviewed and updated on a regular basis for standing orders, financial regulations, a scheme of delegation and supporting procedure notes/ manuals clearly defining how decisions are taken and the process and controls required to manage risks. Compliance with established policies, procedures, laws and regulations is achieved through a combination of training events, written policy and procedural documentation, authorisation procedures, managerial supervision, review by internal and external audit and use of the disciplinary procedure where appropriate.

- 28 Codes of Conduct defining the standards of behaviour for members, staff, our partners and the community have been developed and communicated and are available on the Council's website.
- 29 The Solicitor to the Council is the Council's Monitoring Officer and duties include: maintaining the council's Constitution; reporting on any potential or actual illegality or maladministration; and giving advice to the Leader and councillors on the Constitution or issues of maladministration, financial impropriety or probity.
- 30 The Shared Director of Finance is the statutory Chief Finance Officer. Duties include: overall responsibility for financial administration; reporting on any actual or potential instances of illegality in expenditure, including unlawful loss or deficiency or illegal items of account; and giving advice to the council on financial planning.

Data Quality and Risk Management

- 31 The Council has a performance management framework linked to the Council's Strategic Plan. The framework is based on the collection and interpretation of data in the form of performance indicators. The Council is committed to using accurate data to inform its decisions and has prepared a Data Quality Strategy to achieve this. The Council's committees report the Council's achievements against targets set for improvements.
- 32 The governance framework is dependent upon the underlying system of internal control which is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. The Council's approach to risk management is governed by its Risk Management Strategy which is updated annually. All of the Council's key objectives, including those in the Strategic Plan have been cascaded into service plans, and the barriers to their achievement (i.e. the risks) have been identified, assessed and managed through service plans. Risks have been identified and assessed for their impact and likelihood. Where they require managing, a risk treatment plan has been prepared which identifies the controls that exist to minimise the risk together with any further action that is required. Risks associated with the Council's partners are considered and risk management is embedded throughout the Council.
- 33 Business continuity and emergency planning are other key aspects within the corporate governance framework and again falls within the remit of the Risk Management corporate group.

Shared Services with Watford Borough Council

- 34 Three Rivers District Council has been a leading authority in developing a shared service for revenues, benefits, ICT, financial services, and human resources with Watford Borough Council. Both councils also share the statutory post of Chief Financial Officer - the Shared Director of Finance.

- 35 From April 2014, the Governance arrangements for shared services changed to a lead authority model. Three Rivers District Council are responsible for providing financial services and revenues and benefits, whilst Watford Borough Council are responsible for the provision of ICT and human resources. An executive board of senior management from both councils are responsible for these services. The role of the Board covers:-

Monitoring performance and dealing with complaints from either authority

Resolving conflicts between competing interests amongst the authorities

Reviewing the governance arrangements

Dealing with matters referred up to it by the Operations Board

Having overall supervision of the Shared Service

Receiving annual reports on each service within the shared service.

Community Engagement

- 36 The Council has established clear channels of communication with all sections of the community and other stakeholders. It provides citizens and business with information about the council and its spending through a leaflet that is distributed with council tax and business rate bills and the publication of a summary of its key financial information.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

- 37 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 councillors, the officers who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Annual Report of the Head of Assurance for the Shared Internal Audit Service and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates. Members receive half-yearly reports and corrective action has been detailed and monitored where necessary. The monthly budget monitoring system incorporated an update on financial and budgetary risks, a quantitative evaluation of fee income and the position on reserves and balances.

The Council

- 38 All Councillors meet together as the Council. At these meetings, Councillors decide the Council's overall policies and set the budget each year. The Council also hold debates on issues which affect the district generally. The Leader of the Council can make an oral report on relevant district matters. Members of the public may, on notice, put written questions to the Council.

- 39 The full Council comprises 39 Members and met four times during 2016/17. In addition there was a meeting of Annual Council and one Extraordinary meeting of full Council in the year.

The Policy and Resources Committee

- 40 The Policy and Resources Committee sets and co-ordinates all policy for itself and the service and other committees which have been delegated by Council. It reviews and scrutinises the policies made or proposed to be made by the Council and recommends appropriately to the Council:
- whether any new policies are required;
 - whether any existing policies are no longer required;
 - whether any changes are required to any existing policies;
 - whether any action is required to make the policies more effective.

- 41 Policy and Resources Committee met nine times during 2016/17.

The Service Committees

- 42 The Council has three Service Committees:
- Leisure, Wellbeing and Health
 - Sustainable Development, Planning and Transport
 - General Public Services and Community Safety
- 43 The functions of the Service Committees are:
- To make all decisions in respect of their areas of responsibility provided these are within their allocated budgets and agreed policies;
 - To consider any matter referred to them by the Council or the Policy and Resources Committee and recommend or report to the Council or the Policy and Resources Committee accordingly;
 - To review performance against the previous year's plans of the services within their remit;
 - To determine and annual Work Plan;
 - To liaise and seek views of the local community and other interested parties in relation to the above matters;
 - To consider any submitted Community or Councillor Calls for Action.

Regulatory Committees

- 44 The Council has three regulatory committees, Planning; Licensing; Regulatory Services.

Member Allowances

- 45 Members Allowances were reviewed in 2016 by an Independent Remuneration Panel. The report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel was approved by the full Council in December 2016. The Panel did recommend increases in the allowances.

46 The Independent Remuneration Panel sits on an annual basis.

Senior Management

47 There are three Council officers who have statutory appointments - the Chief Executive's role as the Head of Paid Service, the Director of Finance's role as the Section 151 Officer and the solicitor for the Council as the Monitoring Officer.

48 Management Board comprises the Chief Executive, the Director of Community and Environmental Services, the Director of Finance and selected Heads of Service.

49 The Council keeps residents and stakeholders informed of its progress through 'Three Rivers Times' published three times a year.

Procurement

50 The Council aims to use its resources efficiently, effectively and economically.

51 The Council's Procurement Strategy and associated policies and procedures provide guidance and advice to Members and officers to ensure that Procurement is carried out in an effective and ethical manner. This documentation includes Contract Procedure Rules and a Contract Management Toolkit. These documents are regularly reviewed to reflect changes in local requirements and EU policy and legislation.

The Audit Committee

52 The Audit Committee comprised seven members and met four times during 2016/17.

53 The role of Audit Committee is to:

- Approve (but not direct) internal audit's strategy, plan and performance.
- Review summary internal audit reports and the main issues arising, and seek assurance that action has been taken where necessary.
- Consider the reports of external audit and inspection agencies.
- Consider the effectiveness of the authority's risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements. Seek assurances that action is being taken on risk related issues identified by auditors and inspectors.
- Be satisfied that the authority's assurance statements, including the Statement on Internal Control, properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it.
- Ensure that there are effective relationships between external and internal audit, inspection agencies and other relevant bodies, and that the value of the audit process is actively promoted.
- Review the external auditor's opinion and reports to Members, and monitor management action in response to the issues raised by external audit.
- Approve the statutory Statement of Accounts.

Internal Audit

- 54 Internal Audit is an assurance function that provides an independent and objective opinion to the Council on its control environment - this comprises the systems of governance, internal control and risk management - by evaluating its effectiveness in achieving the organisation's objectives.
- 55 The internal audit function is carried out, by the Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS), a local internal audit partnership hosted by Hertfordshire County Council. This provides greater independence and resilience and a positive step in improving governance. Internal Audit carry out a programme of reviews during the year which are based upon a risk assessment including fraud risk. The audit plan is approved by Audit Committee in March of the preceding year. As part of these audits, any failures to comply with legislation, council policy and practice or best practice guidance issued by a relevant body is identified and reported. Circulation of reports to senior officers, reports to the Audit Committee and follow-up procedures ensure action is taken on priority improvements. Progress on implementing internal audit recommendations is reported in quarterly reviews to Audit Committee and to the Management Board.
- 56 In line with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, an Annual Assurance Statement and Internal Audit Report was compiled and presented to the Audit Committee (at its meeting in July 2017), which:
- included an opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control environment
 - disclosed any qualifications to that opinion, together with any reasons for the qualification
 - drew attention to any issues which are judged particularly relevant to the preparation of the annual Governance Statement.
- 57 The SIAS Head of Assurance Annual Report is a key source document for the Council's Annual Governance Statement. For 2016/17 this Report includes the following statements:
- In our opinion the corporate governance and risk management framework substantially complies with the best practice guidance on corporate governance issued by CIPFA/SOLACE. This conclusion is based on the work undertaken by the Council and reported in its Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17.
 - A substantial assurance opinion is given on the adequacy and effectiveness of financial systems and a moderate assurance opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of non financial systems in the internal control environment. There are no qualifications to this assurance.

The Council's External Auditors

- 58 External auditors, Ernst & Young, provide an external review function through the audit of the annual accounts, assessment of value for money, certification of grant claims and the periodic inspection of services such as revenues and benefits. The Annual Audit and Inspection Letter is circulated to all Members and formally reported to Cabinet and the Audit Committee.
- 59 The Annual Audit Letter 2015/16 was presented to the Audit Committee in December 2016 and the main conclusions for the year were:
- The 2015/16 accounts give a true and fair view of the Council's financial affairs and of the income and expenditure recorded by the Council; and
 - The Council made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2016.
- 60 The Local Government contract for the Council was awarded to EY (Ernst Young) following re-tendering by the Audit Commission ahead of its abolition in March 2015. The contract is effective from 1 April 2015 and covers a period of two years which was subsequently extended by a year to cover 2017/18.

SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 61 The 'normal' running of Council business has and can be controlled through the governance framework detailed in this report. No new significant governance issues were identified in 2016/17. Appendix 2 details the two outstanding matters brought forward from 2015/16 and shows the latest management actions to resolve the issues.

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

- 62 We propose to take steps over the coming financial year to address the above matters to further enhance our governance arrangements. We will also monitor the implementation of any audit recommendations that arise during the course of the year.

Signed
Leader of the Council

Date: 26 September 2017

Signed
Chief Executive

Date: 26 September 2017

EXPLANATION OF CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Movement in Reserves (Pages 20)

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 (unusable 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 Balance for Council tax setting. The net (increase)/ decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to, or from, earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Page 21)

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting policies, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Councils 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 (Page 22)

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the balance sheet date 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 are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council maybe used to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use. The second category of reserves is those that the Council is not able to use to provide services (non useable reserves). This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

Cash Flow Statement (Page 23)

The cash flow statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses the 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 finance activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Council.

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

Restated 2015/16	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked Reserves £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Council Reserves £000
Balance at 1 April 2015	(6,944)	(9,905)	(9,089)	(10)	(25,948)	(41,416)	(67,364)
Movement in Reserves during 2015/16							
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and (Income) (CI&E)	477				477	(6,694)	(6,217)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 9)	168		1,171	(588)	751	(908)	(157)
Transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves (Note 35c)	1,903	(510)		(1,393)			
(Increase)/ Decrease in 2015-16	2,548	(510)	1,171	(1,981)	1,228	(7,602)	(6,374)
Balance as at 31 March 2016	(4,396)	(10,415)	(7,918)	(1,991)	(24,720)	(49,018)	(73,738)

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked Reserves £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Council Reserves £000
Balance at 1 April 2016	(4,396)	(10,415)	(7,918)	(1,991)	(24,720)	(49,018)	(73,738)
Movement in Reserves during 2016/17							
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and (Income) (CI&E)	(1,000)				(1,000)	3,110	2,110
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 8)	(4,015)		5,260	(28)	1,217	(1,217)	0
Transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves (Note 34c)	5,317	(5,317)			0	0	0
(Increase)/ Decrease in 2016-17	302	(5,317)	5,260	(28)	217	1,893	2,110
Balance as at 31 March 2017	(4,094)	(15,732)	(2,658)	(2,019)	(24,503)	(47,125)	(71,628)

General Fund Balances

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

Capital Receipts Reserve

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

Capital Grants Unapplied

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

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Restated 2015/16				2016/17		
GROSS EXPENDITURE	GROSS INCOME	NET EXPENDITURE		GROSS EXPENDITURE	GROSS INCOME	NET EXPENDITURE
£000	£000	£000	Note	£000	£000	£000
			Services			
5,306	(1,189)	4,117	Leisure Wellbeing & Health	4,911	(1,190)	3,721
4,764	(1,838)	2,926	Sustainable Development, Planning & Transportation	4,537	(1,911)	2,626
5,809	(1,778)	4,031	General Public Services & Community Safety	4,969	(2,293)	2,676
30,792	(27,570)	3,222	Policy & Resources	33,127	(26,874)	6,253
46,671	(32,375)	14,296	Cost of Services	47,544	(32,268)	15,276
			Other Operating (Income)/Expenditure			
		1,587	Parish Council Precepts			1,670
		153	(Gain)/Loss on Disposal of Non-current Assets			0
		809	Other (Income)/Expenditure			(194)
		(305)	Unattached Capital Receipts			(2,654)
			Financing & Investment (Income)/Expenditure			
		0	Interest Payable and Similar Charges			0
		625	Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability/(Asset)			577
		(212)	Interest Receivable and Similar Income			(186)
		850	Income and Expenditure in Relation to Investment Properties			192
		(498)	Investment Properties- Changes in their Fair Value	21a		(175)
			Taxation and Non-Specific Grant (Income)			
		(7,341)	Council Tax Income			(7,719)
		(2,698)	Non-domestic Rates Income and Expenditure			(3,719)
		(2,976)	Non-ringfenced Government Grants	10		(3,244)
		(3,813)	Capital Grants & Contributions	10		(824)
		477	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	9		(1,000)
		(2,344)	(Surplus)/Deficit on Revaluation of PPE assets			(2,893)
		(4,350)	Remeasurement of the Net Defined Liability/(Asset)	32		6,003
		(6,694)	Other Comprehensive (Income) & Expenditure			3,110
		(6,217)	Total Comprehensive (Income) & Expenditure			2,110

BALANCE SHEET

31 March 2016			Note	31 March 2017	
£000	£000			£000	£000
		Property, Plant and Equipment:			
48,507		Land and Buildings	19	51,651	
5,729		Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	19	5,754	
845		Infrastructure Assets	19	707	
47		Community Assets	19	195	
1,516		Assets under Construction	19	5,764	
206		Heritage Assets	20	206	
8,630		Investment Properties	21	8,805	
1,595		Long Term Debtors	23	1,595	
	67,075	Long Term Assets			74,677
100		Assets Held For Sale	24	103	
26		Inventories	25	27	
6,464		Short Term Debtors	26	8,681	
24,569		Short Term Investments	36	20,037	
1,834		Cash and Cash Equivalents	27	1,648	
	32,993	Current Assets			30,496
(6,373)		Short Term Creditors	29	(7,598)	
0		Short Term Borrowing	27	0	
	(6,373)	Current Liabilities			(7,598)
(1,185)		Long-term Creditors	30	(1,141)	
(2,043)		Provisions	31	(977)	
(16,729)		Liability related to Defined Benefit Pension Scheme	32	(23,829)	
	(19,957)	Long Term Liabilities			(25,947)
	73,738	Net Assets			71,628
(4,396)		General Fund Balance	34d	(4,094)	
(7,918)		Capital Receipts Reserve	34b	(2,658)	
(1,991)		Capital Grants Unapplied	34e	(2,019)	
(10,415)		Earmarked Reserves	34c	(15,732)	
	(24,720)	Usable Reserves			(24,503)
(32,930)		Capital Adjustment Account	35b	(37,983)	
(1,466)		Deferred Capital Receipts	35c	(1,466)	
1,361		Collection Fund Adjustment Account	35d	3,726	
(32,779)		Revaluation Reserve	35e	(35,331)	
67		Accumulated Absences Reserve	35f	100	
16,729		Pensions Reserve	35g	23,829	
	(49,018)	Unusable Reserves			(47,125)
	(73,738)	Total Reserves			(71,628)

Signed

Joanne Wagstaffe CPFA
Director of Finance

Date: 26 September 2017

Signed

Councillor Sarah Nelmes
Chairman of Audit Committee

Date: 26 September 2017

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

2015/16			Note	2016/17	
£000	£000			£000	£000
(477)		Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	CIES	1,000	
5,212		Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements	28a	5,430	
(2,945)		Adjustments for items that are included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	28a	(2,721)	
	1,790	Net cash flows from Operating Activities			3,709
(3,688)		Investing Activities	28b	207	
1,801		Financing Activities	28c	(4,102)	
	(97)	Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			(186)
	1,931	Cash and Cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			1,834
	1,834	Cash and Cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	27		1,648

1 Accounting Policies

1.01 General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2016/17 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2017. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, which require these to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2015/16, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) (and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the 2003 Act). The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

1.02 Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

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

1.03 Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management. The Council has no overdraft facility.

1.04 Exceptional Items

When items of income and expense are material, their nature and amount is disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the notes to the accounts, depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the Council's financial performance.

1.05 Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period. There are no PPA in this set of accounts.

1.06 Charges to Revenue for Long Term Assets

Services, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding Long Term Assets during the year:-

- depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service
- revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off
- amortisation of intangible long term assets attributable to the service

The Council is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. These entries are adjusted through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

1.07 Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

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

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date, or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. They are charged on an accruals basis to Non-Distributed Costs in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the point when the Council can not withdraw the termination of the employment offer.

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

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Post Employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Hertfordshire County Council. The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and annual pension payments), earned as employees who worked for the Council. The schemes arrangements are summarised as follows:-

The Local Government Pension Scheme

- the Local Government Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme;
- the liabilities of Hertfordshire County Council Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method — i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc, and projections of projected earnings for current employees;
- liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 3.6%-3.8% (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds);
- the assets of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their bid value as required by International Accounting Standard (IAS)19. Full details of the assets held by the Fund are disclosed as part of the Pension scheme disclosure.

The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into seven components:-

- current service cost — the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year — allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked and reported in the Net Cost of Service line;
- 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 Service 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 the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- 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 the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- gains or 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 or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non-Distributed Costs
- 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 — credited to the Comprehensive income and expenditure - Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure line and reversed through the Movement in Reserves to the Pensions Reserve;

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- contributions paid to the Herts County Council pension fund — cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

Discretionary Benefits

The Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff 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.

1.08 Events After the Balance Sheet Date

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

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

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

1.09 Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. The Council currently has no long term external debt.

Financial Assets - Loans and Receivables

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

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

However, the Council has made a number of loans to voluntary organisations at less than market

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

rates (soft loans). When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (debited to the appropriate service) for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal. Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the voluntary organisations, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet.

Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year — the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to, or from, the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of an asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

1.10 Government Grants and Contributions

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

- the Council will comply with the conditions of the payment,
- the grants or contributions will be received.

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

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried 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-ringfenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has 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. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

1.11 Intangible Assets

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

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

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

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

Where there is intangible asset expenditure of an immaterial nature, the Council's policy is that these be capitalised and then written off in-year.

1.12 Inventories and Long Term Contracts

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

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

1.13 Investment Property

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

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

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

1.14 Leases

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

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

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

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

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

Lease payments are apportioned between:-

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

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

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

Operating Leases

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

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

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

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:-

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

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

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

Operating Leases

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

1.15 Overheads and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to service segments in accordance with the Council's arrangements for accountability and financial performance. Thus, income and expenditure allocated to services reflects their consumption of overheads and support costs as determined in the Council's apportionment policy.

1.16 Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

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

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:-

- the purchase price,
- any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

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

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

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless the donation has been made conditionally. Until conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in the Donated Assets Account. Where gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

It should be noted that at present the Council has no donated assets.

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

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction — depreciated historical cost
- all other assets — fair value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (Existing Use Value — EUV)

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

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

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year end, but as a minimum every five years. In addition, should current valuations of a similar class of assets suggest material differences in valuations, the entire class to which the asset belongs would be revalued. The current valuers have undertaken a market review of individual asset types within the council portfolio at year end to identify any material changes to the fair value of assets. 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 a loss previously charged to a service.

When decreases in value are identified:-

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

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

Impairment

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

When impairment losses are identified:-

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

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

Depreciation

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:-

Buildings	straight-line allocation over the useful life of the asset as estimated by the valuer- up to 60 years
Vehicles	straight-line over the estimated life of the asset- up to 7 years
Plant, furniture and equipment	straight-line over the estimated life of the asset- up to 25 years
Infrastructure	straight-line over the estimated life of the asset- up to 20 years
Finance Leases	straight-line over the term of the lease

Depreciation commences in the year following acquisition.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately, in order to ensure the depreciation charge is realistic.

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

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any losses previously recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

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

Assets that are to be scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale and are written out of the fixed asset register.

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

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts.

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

1.17 Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are held with the objective of increasing knowledge, understanding and the appreciation of the Council's history and local area. Heritage Assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the Council's accounting policies on property, plant and equipment. However, some of the measurement rules have been simplified in relation to heritage assets as detailed below.

The Heritage Assets are relatively static and acquisitions, donations and disposals are rare. Where acquisitions do occur, they are initially recognised at cost and donations are recognised at valuation ascertained by insurance officers, museum curators or external valuers. Proceeds from the disposal of Heritage Assets are accounted for in accordance with the Council's general policies relating to the disposals of property, plant and equipment. The Council has a rolling programme of major repair and restoration of its heritage assets and therefore the assets are deemed to have indefinite lives and the Council does not consider it necessary to charge depreciation.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Council's collection of Heritage Assets, which includes works of art, musical equipment, and civic regalia, are reported at insurance valuations, which are based on market values, internal or external valuations. These insurance valuations are reviewed and updated on an annual basis. The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment or where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's general policy on impairment.

1.18 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. 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 as an expense to the appropriate service line of the Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from another party (e.g. from an insurance claim), this is only recognised as income for the relevant service if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the Council settles the obligation.

The level of provisions are reviewed annually by the Council.

Contingent Liabilities

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

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

Contingent Assets

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

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

1.19 Reserves

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

Certain reserves (unusable reserves) are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council — these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

1.20 Revenue Expenditure Funded From Capital Under Statute

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Council has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of council tax.

1.21 Value Added Tax

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

1.22 Jointly Controlled Operations and Jointly Controlled Assets

Jointly controlled operations are activities undertaken by the Council in conjunction with other organisations, that involve the use of assets and resources of the Council and organisations without the establishment of a separate legal entity.

The Council recognises the assets and liabilities it controls on the Council's balance sheet. Expenditure incurred by the Council and income it earns from the operation is included in the Council's CI&E.

Jointly controlled assets are items of property, plant or equipment that are jointly controlled by the Council and other organisations. The assets being used to obtain benefit to the Council and organisations. The arrangement does not involve the formation of a legal entity.

The Council accounts for only its share of jointly controlled assets, liabilities and expenses incurred in respect of its interest in the arrangement.

An agreement exists between Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, St Albans City & District Council, Three Rivers District Council and Watford Borough Council to constitute a West Herts Crematorium Joint Committee under the Local Government Act 2000.

The Joint Committee has one member from each of the constituent Councils. Councillor David Major represents the Council on the Joint Committee. The Council's Director of Finance is the Treasurer to the Joint Committee. Watford Borough Council provide the Clerk.

1.23 Fair Value

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

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

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

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

The Council uses appropriate valuation techniques for each circumstance, maximising the use of relevant known data and minimising the use of estimates or unknowns. This takes into account the three levels of categories for inputs to valuations for fair value assets:

- * Level 1 – quoted prices,
- * Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly,
- * Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 Accounting Standards that Have Been Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted

The Council is required to disclose information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued, but has not yet been adopted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17.

For 2016-17 the following accounting standard changes that need to be reported relate to:

- Amendment to the reporting of pension fund scheme transaction costs.

The Council does not anticipate that the changes above will have a material impact on the financial information provided its financial statements. The Code requires implementation from 1 April 2017 and there is therefore no impact on the Statement of Accounts for 2016-17

3 Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Council has to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgement in the Statements of Accounts is the level of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the Council has planned to make savings to compensate for reductions in funding. These savings will result predominantly from efficiencies and not reduced level of services, so the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision. The Council has entered into a shared service arrangement with Watford Borough Council for ICT, HR, Finance and Revenues & Benefits services. This working arrangement and future related changes will not reduce the level of service provided by the Council. Therefore the council believe that it is not necessary to impair any non current assets in light of this arrangement.

4 Prior Period Adjustments

Expenditure on services and income relating to or derived from those services is classified in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Local Authority Accounting in the UK. The 2016/17 Code requires that authorities present expenditure and income on services on the basis of its reportable segments.

These reportable segments are based on the authority's internal management reporting structure. This is a change from the previous requirement to present expenditure and income in accordance with the Service Expenditure Code of Practice (SERCOP). This note shows how the 2015/16 net expenditure and income has been restated:

	Leisure Wellbeing & Health	Sustainable Development, Planning & Transportation	General Public Services & Community Safety	Policy & Resources	Total
GROSS EXPENDITURE	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Central Services to the Public:					
Local Taxation Collection				1,012	1,012
Other Services to the Public	346	357		852	1,555
Cultural and Related Services:					
Leisure Services	3,743				3,743
Environmental and Regulatory Services:					
Environmental Health	1,044		614		1,658
Other Environmental Services	176	14			190
Waste Collection and Disposal	(3)		4,340		4,337
Planning and Economic Development		1,994			1,994
Highways and Transport Services		817	855		1,672
Housing Services		1,582		26,500	28,082
Corporate and Democratic Core				1,973	1,973
Central Support Services				223	223
Non-distributed Costs				232	232
Total Gross Expenditure	5,306	4,764	5,809	30,792	46,671

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Leisure Wellbeing & Health	Sustainable Development, Planning & Transportation	General Public Services & Community Safety	Policy & Resources	Total
GROSS INCOME	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Central Services to the Public:					
Local Taxation Collection				(277)	(277)
Other Services to the Public	(27)	(119)		(1,315)	(1,461)
Cultural and Related Services:					
Leisure Services	(724)				(724)
Environmental and Regulatory Services:					
Environmental Health	(279)		(102)		(381)
Other Environmental Services	(159)	(11)			(170)
Waste Collection and Disposal			(1,654)		(1,654)
Planning and Economic Development		(1,184)			(1,184)
Highways and Transport Services		(323)	(22)		(345)
Housing Services		(201)		(25,758)	(25,959)
Corporate and Democratic Core					0
Central Support Services				(220)	(220)
Non-distributed Costs					0
Total Gross Income	(1,189)	(1,838)	(1,778)	(27,570)	(32,375)

	Leisure Wellbeing & Health	Sustainable Development, Planning & Transportation	General Public Services & Community Safety	Policy & Resources	Total
NET EXPENDITURE	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Central Services to the Public:					
Local Taxation Collection	0	0	0	735	735
Other Services to the Public	319	238	0	(463)	94
Cultural and Related Services:					
Leisure Services	3,019	0	0	0	3,019
Environmental and Regulatory Services:					
Environmental Health	765	0	512	0	1,277
Other Environmental Services	17	3	0	0	20
Waste Collection and Disposal	(3)	0	2,686	0	2,683
Planning and Economic Development	0	810	0	0	810
Highways and Transport Services	0	494	833	0	1,327
Housing Services	0	1,381	0	742	2,123
Corporate and Democratic Core	0	0	0	1,973	1,973
Central Support Services	0	0	0	3	3
Non-distributed Costs	0	0	0	232	232
Total Net Expenditure (Net Cost of Services)	4,117	2,926	4,031	3,222	14,296

5 Events After the Balance Sheet Date

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

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

Events taking place after the date of approval are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6 Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Uncertainty

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

The Items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2017 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	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to the individual assets. The current economic climate makes it possible that the Council will be unable to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing in to doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.	If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls.
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in the retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The effects of these individual assumptions can have a major impact on the pension liability calculation. During 2016/17, The Council's actuaries advised that the net pensions liability had decreased by £6,003k as a result of estimates and assumptions being updated.
Arrears	At 31 March 2017, the Council had gross short term debtors totalling £6,269k A review of significant balances suggested a provision of (£2,577k) was appropriate. However, in the current economic climate it is not certain that such an allowance would be sufficient. See Note 27.	If collection rates were to deteriorate an increasing level of doubtful debts would require an additional amount to be set aside as a bad debt provision or additional bad debt write offs.
Non Domestic Rates Appeals provision	The provision for NDR Appeals includes an assessment of the appeals lodged to 31st March 2017 and an estimate of the appeals not yet lodged.	If NDR appeals were to significantly increase, the provision would have to be reassessed and increased. The increased liability would be shared between the Council, Central Government and County Council.
Fair Value Estimations	<p>When the fair values of Investment Properties, Surplus Assets and Assets Held for Sale cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (ie Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using the following valuation techniques:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For Level 2 inputs, quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets at the balance sheet date; 2. For level 3 inputs, valuations based on; - Most recent valuations adjusted to current valuation by the use of indexation and impairment review. <p>Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible, judgment is required in establishing fair values. These judgments typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. Changes in assumptions used could affect the fair value of The Council's assets and liabilities. Where Level 1 inputs are not available, the authority employs RICS qualified valuers to identify the most appropriate valuation techniques to determine fair value. All valuations are carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The Council's valuation experts work closely with finance officers reporting directly to the chief financial officer on a regular basis regarding all valuation matters.</p>	<p>The Council uses combination of indexation techniques, beacon valuations and discounted cash flow (DCF) models to measure the fair value of its Investment Properties, Surplus Assets and Assets Held for Sale under IFRS13 depending on which technique it considers most appropriate. The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement include management assumptions regarding rent growth, occupancy levels, floor area repairs backlogs, beacon classifications and others. Significant changes in any of the unobservable inputs would result in a significantly lower or higher fair value measurement for these assets.</p>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7 Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This is a new statement introduced to the published accounts for the first time in 2016/17 adopting new reporting and disclosure requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice. Its introduction follows a formal consultation and review conducted by CIPFA and CIPFA/LASAAC in 2015, the outcomes of which were published in a document called "Understanding Local Authority Financial Statements" (previously How to Tell the Story).

The objective of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis is to demonstrate to Council Tax and rent payers how the funding available to the Council (that is funding from government grants, rents, Council Tax and Business Rates) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's services. Income and expenditure, accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices, is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	Restated 2015-16		
	Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund Balances	Adjustments between funding and accounting basis (Note 7a)	Net Expenditure in the CIES
	£000	£000	£000
Leisure Wellbeing & Health	2,865	1,252	4,117
Sustainable Development, Planning & Transportation	1,956	970	2,926
General Public Services & Community Safety	3,263	768	4,031
Policy & Resources	1,769	1,453	3,222
Net Cost of Services	9,853	4,443	14,296
Other Income and Expenditure	(9,208)	(4,611)	(13,819)
Transfer (From) \ To Reserves	1,903		
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	2,548	(168)	477
Opening General Fund Balance	(6,944)		
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	2,548		
Closing General Fund Balance	(4,396)		

	2016-17		
	Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund Balances	Adjustments between funding and accounting basis (Note 7b)	Net Expenditure in the CIES
	£000	£000	£000
Leisure Wellbeing & Health	2,292	1,429	3,721
Sustainable Development, Planning & Transportation	1,692	934	2,626
General Public Services & Community Safety	1,943	733	2,676
Policy & Resources	5,590	663	6,253
Net Cost of Services	11,517	3,759	15,276
Other Income and Expenditure	(16,532)	256	(16,276)
Transfer (From) \ To Reserves	5,317		
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	302	4,015	(1,000)
Opening General Fund Balance	(4,396)		
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	302		
Closing General Fund Balance	(4,094)		

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

7a	2015/16 Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pension Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Leisure Wellbeing & Health	1,093	154	5	1,252
	Sustainable Development, Planning & Transportation	820	149	2	971
	General Public Services & Community Safety	578	182	7	767
	Policy & Resources	1,017	431	5	1,453
	Net Cost of Services	3,508	916	19	4,443
	Other income and expenditure from the funding analysis				(4,611)
	Difference between General Fund (surplus) \deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (surplus)\deficit				(168)

7b	2016/17 Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £000	Net Change for the Pension Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Leisure Wellbeing & Health	1,201	122	106	1,429
	Sustainable Development, Planning & Transportation	810	105	19	934
	General Public Services & Community Safety	582	146	5	733
	Policy & Resources	788	341	(466)	663
	Net Cost of Services	3,381	714	(336)	3,759
	Other income and expenditure from the funding analysis				256
	Difference between General Fund (surplus) \deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (surplus)\deficit				4,015

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8 Adjustments between Accounting Basis & Funding Basis under Regulations

2015/16	Note	General Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account and Revaluation Reserve:					
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	19a	(2,213)			2,213
Revaluation Losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	35b	498			(498)
Amortisation of intangible assets	16	(128)			128
Capital grants & contributions applied		157		1,352	(1,509)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	22	(1,171)			1,171
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:					
Capital grants & contributions unapplied credited to the CIES					
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:					
Lease Mitigation	34c	(1)			
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credit as part of the gain/(loss) on disposal to the CIES	34b				
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure			3,056		(3,056)
Cont. from Capital Receipts Reserve to fin. payments to Govt Capital Rec. Pool					
Proceeds from sale of long-term assets					
Unattached capital receipts		3,822	(1,885)	(1,937)	
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	35f				
Adjustments primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:					
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credit part of the Gain / Loss on disposal to CIES	35c	(269)			269
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:					
Amounts by which CTax and NNDR income credited to the CIES is different from that calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	35d	861			(861)
Adjustments primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Reserve:					
Amount by which officers remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is diff from remuneration chargeable in year in accordance with statutory req.	35f	(20)			20
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:					
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in year	35g	1,616			(1,616)
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CI&E	35g	(2,832)			2,832
Other adjustments to General Fund Balances		(152)		(3)	(1)
Total Adjustments		168	1,171	(588)	(908)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2016/17	Note	General Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account and Revaluation Reserve:					
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	19a	(2,430)			2,430
Revaluation Losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	35b	175			(175)
Amortisation of intangible assets	16	(61)			61
Capital grants & contributions applied				469	(469)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	22	(891)			891
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:					
Capital grants & contributions unapplied credited to the CIES		(32)		32	
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:					
Lease Mitigation	34c				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credit as part of the gain/(loss) on disposal to the CIES	34b				
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure			7,453		(7,453)
Cont. from Capital Receipts Reserve to fin. payments to Govt Capital Rec. Pool					
Proceeds from sale of long-term assets			(360)		
Unattached capital receipts		2,721	(1,832)	(529)	
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	35f				
Adjustments primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:					
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credit part of the Gain / Loss on disposal to CIES	35c				
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:					
Amounts by which CTax and NNDR income credited to the CIES is different from that calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	35d	(2,365)			2,365
Adjustments primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Reserve:					
Amount by which officers remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is diff from remuneration chargeable in year in accordance with statutory req.	35f	(35)			35
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:					
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in year	35g	1,474			(1,474)
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CI&E	35g	(2,571)			2,571
Total Adjustments		(4,015)	5,261	(28)	(1,218)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9 Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

The council's expenditure and income by nature is analysed as follows:

2015/16		2016/17
Total £000		Total £000
(9,039)	Fees and Charges	(9,983)
(217)	Interest and Investment Income	(361)
(7,341)	Income From Council Tax	(7,719)
(35,692)	Govt Grants & Contributions (incl RSG & NNDR)	(33,283)
0	Gains / Losses on Long Term Assets	(2,655)
0	Non Ringfenced Government Grants	0
(333)	Support Service Recharge	(328)
(52,622)	Total Income	(54,329)
13,946	Employee Expenses	13,950
33,269	Other Service Expenditure	33,750
3,512	Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	3,382
4	Interest Payments	0
1,587	Precepts & Levies	1,670
156	Gains / Losses on Fixed Assets	0
625	Pensions Adjustments	577
0	Capital Receipts to Government Pool	
53,099	Total Expenditure	53,329
477	(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services (I&E)	(1,000)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10 Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2016/17.

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
	Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	
0	Community Housing Fund	(7)
(9)	Council Tax New Burdens Grant	(6)
0	Council Tax Support Grant	0
0	High Street Innovation Fund	0
(1,474)	New Homes Bonus	(1,968)
0	NNDR Redistributed	0
(128)	Other	(131)
(1,493)	Revenue Support Grant	(874)
(3,753)	S106 contributions / Community Infrastructure Levy	(859)
68	Grant to parish Council	35
0	Section 31 grant	(258)
(6,789)		(4,068)
	Credited to Services	
(20)	Air Quality Exercise	0
(16)	Community Development	0
(16)	Community Sports Network	(3)
(374)	Housing & Council Tax Benefit Administration Grant	(334)
(6)	Countrywide Stewardship	0
(8)	Herts County Council - Green Waste	0
(89)	Housing And Regeneration Initiative	0
(25,286)	Housing Benefits - DWP	(24,499)
(37)	Individual Electoral Registration	(68)
(11)	Local Area Assessment	0
(27)	New Burdens	(16)
(96)	NNDR - Cost of Collection Grant	(95)
(62)	Other	(82)
0	Parish Elections	(13)
0	Police & Crime Commissioner	(91)
(84)	Safer & Stronger Communities	(89)
0	Public Health	(3)
(90)	Parliamentary Elections	0
0	Referendums	(53)
(26,221)		(25,346)
(33,010)	Total	(29,414)

The Council has received a number of grants and contributions that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies to be returned to the giver. The balances at the year end are as follows:-

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
	Current liabilities-	
0	Grant Receipts in Advance (Capital Grants)	0
	Long term liabilities-	
(1,185)	Grant Receipts in Advance (Capital Grants) Section 106	(1,141)
(1,185)	Total	(1,141)

11 Joint Operations

The Council is party to the West Herts Crematorium Joint Committee under the Local Government Act 2000, as disclosed at note 16.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

12 External Audit Costs

The Council has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and statutory inspections by Ernst & Young 2015/16 and 2016/17.

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
46	Fees payable to the external auditors with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year.	63
8	Fees payable for other services provided by external auditors during the year.	12
54	Total	75

13 Members' Allowances

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 provide for the circumstances in which allowances are payable to members and the maximum amounts payable in respect of certain allowances.

The total of Members' Allowances paid in the year was £252,750 (£252,750 in 2015/16).

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
0	Salaries	0
251	Allowances	253
2	Expenses (travel & subsistence)	3
253	Total	256

Further information on Members' Allowances can be obtained from the Council's Democratic Services section.

14 Officers' Remuneration

The Council is required to disclose the number of employees in the accounting period whose remuneration fell in each bracket of a scale in multiples of £5,000, starting with £50,000. For completeness, the Council has included the senior officers remuneration (excluding pensions) from the second table of this note, in the first table of this note, detailed below:-

2015/16 No. of Employees	Remuneration Band	2016/17 No. of Employees
7	£50,000 - £54,999	9
4	£55,000 - £59,999	5
3	£60,000 - £64,999	2
3	£65,000 - £69,999	3
1	£70,000 - £74,999	1
0	£75,000 - £79,999	1
0	£80,000 - £84,999	0
2	£85,000 - £89,999	1
0	£90,000 - £94,999	1
0	£95,000 - £99,999	0
0	£100,000 - £104,999	0
0	£105,000 - £109,999	0
0	£110,000 - £114,999	0
0	£115,000 - £119,999	0
1	£120,000 - £124,999	1
0	£125,000 - £129,999	0
0	£130,000 - £134,999	0
0	£135,000 - £139,999	0
21		24

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Director of Finance is a shared post with Watford Borough Council. Three Rivers District Council as the lead authority, picks up the costs of this post which are recharged to Watford Borough Council on a 50:50 basis.

The following tables provide additional detail for senior officers' remuneration where salary for the establishment post falls between £50,000 and £150,000.

2015/16	Salary including fees & allowances £	Expenses Allowances £	Compensation for loss of office £	Pension Contribution £	Total Remuneration £
Post					
Chief Executive	121,515	0	0	19,018	140,534
Director of Finance (Shared post with WBC)	89,767	0	0	14,452	104,219
Director of Community & Environmental Services	85,215	0	0	13,520	98,735
Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer)	51,848	0	0	8,348	60,196
	348,346	0	0	55,338	403,684

2016/17	Salary including fees & allowances £	Expenses Allowances £	Compensation for loss of office £	Pension Contribution £	Total Remuneration £
Post					
Chief Executive	122,126	0	0	19,463	141,588
Director of Finance (Shared post with WBC)	90,665	0	0	14,597	105,262
Director of Community & Environmental Services	88,946	0	0	14,121	103,067
Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer)	52,367	0	0	8,431	60,798
	354,104	0	0	56,612	410,715

There were no bonuses given during either period.

15 Termination Benefits

The Council terminated the contracts of 4 employees in 2016/17, incurring liabilities of £73,572 (£29,475 2015/16). Of this total, £73,572 (£29,475 2015/16) was payable in the form of compensation for loss of office and no payments (£nil 2015/16) were made for enhanced pension benefits as part of the Council's rationalisation of Services.

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

2015/16			2016/17		
Total number of comp redundancies	Total number of other departures	Total cost £ of exit packages	Cost Band		
			Total number of comp redundancies	Total number of other departures	Total cost £ of exit packages
1	0	5,475	0	1	4,433
0	1	24,000	0	3	69,139
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	29,475	0	4	73,572

The total cost of £73,572 in the table above is for exit packages that have been charged to the Council's CIES in the current year.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

16 Related Party Transactions

This disclosure note has been prepared using specific declarations obtained in respect of related party transactions from Members and Senior Officers. The Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties - bodies and individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council.

Central Government

Central Government has effective control over the general operations of the Council - it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates. It provides a substantial part of the funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (for example- Council tax bills and Housing Benefits).

Details of grant funding transactions with government departments and agencies are set out in Note 8 to the Core Financial Statements. The Council also paid precepts to Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Police Authority and Parish Council's with which details can be found in the Collection Fund Accounts.

Members and Senior Officers

Information gathered through declarations provided by both members and officers alike has been tabulated below:

Name	Role		Name of Entity	Details
	Three Riv. DC	Entity		
David Major	Councillor	Representative	West Herts Crematorium	An agreement existing between neighbouring authorities (Hertsmere, St Albans, Dacorum, Three Rivers and Watford) to constitute a Joint Committee under the Local Government Act 2000. In 2016/17, Three Rivers received a contribution of £50,000 (2015/16 £50,000).
Jo Wagstaffe	Director of Finance	Treasurer		

Hertfordshire Pension Fund

The details of the transactions with the Council's pension fund are provided in Note 31 to the Core Financial Statements.

17 Partnership Working

From April 2009 to March 2014, Three Rivers District Council and Watford Borough Council had been participating in shared services, provided by a Joint Shared Services Committee. From April 2014, the Governance arrangements changed with the Council being the lead authority for the provision of Revenue & Benefits and Finance Services.

The table below shows the net expenditure of the 5 shared services (4 when Tax and Benefits are considered as one) and the charge to each authority of which Three Rivers District Council's share was £2.675 in 2016/17 (£2.481m 2015/16).

2015/16	Services	2016/17		
		Provided by TRDC £000	Provided by WBC £000	Total Net Cost £000
1,551	Local Tax Collection	1,522	0	1,522
1,750	Housing Benefits	1,805	0	1,805
1,100	Finance	1,292	0	1,292
650	HR	0	668	668
1,159	ICT	0	1,434	1,434
6,211	Net Cost of Services / Operating Expenditure	4,619	2,102	6,721
(2,481)	Paid by Three Rivers District Council	(1,887)	(787)	(2,674)
(3,730)	Paid by Watford Borough Council	(2,732)	(1,315)	(4,047)
0	(Surplus) / Deficit for the year	0	0	0

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

18 Intangible Assets

Intangible non-current assets are non-financial assets which do not have a physical substance but are identified and controlled by the Council through legal rights, e.g. IT software, which brings benefits to the Council for more than one year.

31 Mar 16 £000		31 Mar 17 £000
67	Expenditure on Software Licences	61
(67)	Written out in year of Acquisition	(61)
0	Total	0

During 2016/17, all capital expenditure recorded in this category (£61k) was written off in year (£128k 2015/16).

19 Property, Plant and Equipment

a) Movement of Property, Plant and Equipment

2015/16	Assets under Constructio n £000	Comm- unity Assets £000	Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equip- ment £000	Infra-structure Assets £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2015	0	47	41,969	9,681	1,652	53,349
Additions	1,048	0	550	1,513	1	3,112
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	4,964	0	0	4,964
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the provisions of services	0	0	(2,621)	0	0	(2,621)
Derecognition - Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified	468	0	4,661	0	0	5,129
Assets reclassified (to) / from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	0	157	0	0	157
At 31 March 2016	1,516	47	49,680	11,194	1,653	64,090
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment						
At 1 April 2015	0	0	(378)	(4,315)	(540)	(5,233)
Depreciation Charge	0	0	(795)	(1,150)	(268)	(2,213)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation written out to the surplus / deficit on the provision of services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment losses / (reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment losses / (reversals) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition - Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2016	0	0	(1,173)	(5,465)	(808)	(7,446)
Balance Sheet Value at 31 March 2016	1,516	47	48,507	5,729	845	56,644
Balance Sheet Value at 1 April 2015	0	47	41,591	5,366	1,112	48,116

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2016/17	Assets under Const- ruction £000	Comm- unity Assets £000	Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equip- ment £000	Infra-structure Assets £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2016	1,516	47	49,680	11,194	1,653	64,090
Additions	4,248	45	1,182	1,382	110	6,967
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	2,850	0	0	2,850
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the provisions of services	0	0	(189)	0	0	(189)
Derecognition - Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified	0	103	(103)	0	0	0
Assets reclass'ed (to) / from HfSale	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2017	5,764	195	53,420	12,576	1,763	73,718
Accumulated Depn. & Imp'ment						
At 1 April 2016	0	0	(1,173)	(5,465)	(808)	(7,446)
Depreciation Charge	0	0	(825)	(1,357)	(248)	(2,430)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	229	0	0	229
Depreciation written out to the surplus / deficit on the provision of services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment losses / (reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment losses / (reversals) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition - Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2017	0	0	(1,769)	(6,822)	(1,056)	(9,647)
Balance Sheet at 31 March 2017	5,764	195	51,651	5,754	707	64,071
Balance Sheet at 1 April 2016	1,516	47	48,507	5,729	845	56,644

b) Revaluations

The Council carried out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every five years. Wilks, Head & Eve LLP undertook valuations on behalf of the Council in 2016/17 in relation to Operational and Investment Properties and the basis of valuations is in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. All assets have been valued individually, with the final statements of account reconciled to the valuation certificates. The basis of valuing individual classes of assets owned by the Council is detailed in the Statement of Accounting Policies at Note 1.

The following table illustrates the scope of the revaluation work undertaken and demonstrates the Council's rolling revaluation programme. The Council undertakes an impairment review at the year end and any asset which has had a material gain or loss in value during the year is adjusted. Therefore, the Council believes that the prior year valuations are still appropriate.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 Mar 16 Total £000		Comm- unity Assets £000	Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equip- ment £000	Infra- structure £000	31 Mar 17 Total £000
12,894	Carried at historical cost	195	0	12,576	1,763	14,534
	Valued at current value as at:					
	31 March 2017		6,587			6,587
10,184	31 March 2016	0	10,184	0	0	10,184
15,323	31 March 2015	0	15,323	0	0	15,323
19,769	31 March 2014	0	19,769	0	0	19,769
1,557	31 March 2013	0	1,557	0	0	1,557
59,727	Total Cost or Valuation	195	53,420	12,576	1,763	67,954

c) Information About Depreciation Methodologies

Depreciation has been provided for all assets with a finite useful life. The basis for depreciating assets is detailed in the Statement of Accounting Policies at Note 1. Depreciation commences in the year following acquisition. Freehold land, Investment Properties, Community Assets and Heritage Assets are not depreciated. On all other assets where depreciation has been provided, assets have been depreciated on the following periods:-

Buildings	Straight-line allocation over the useful life of the asset as estimated by the valuer- up to 60 years
Vehicles	Straight-line over the estimated life of the asset- up to 7 years
Plant and Equipment	Straight-line over the estimated life of the asset- up to 25 years
Infrastructure	Straight-line over the estimated life of the asset- up to 20 years
Finance Leases	Straight-line over the term of the lease

20 Heritage Assets

The Council's Heritage Assets are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuations which are based on market values. These insurance values are reviewed and updated as part of the rolling 5 year programme. The Council has a rolling programme of repair and restoration of its heritage assets and regularly reviews the conditions of its assets. The Council keeps a register of all its Heritage Assets and records the nature, condition and location of each asset.

2015/16	Musical Instrument £000	Works of Art £000	Civic Regalia £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2015	150	41	15	206
Additions				
Disposals				
Additions	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0	0
Revaluations	0	0	0	0
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0			
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in Surplus/Deficit on the Provision for Depreciation	0			
At 31 March 2016	150	41	15	206

2016/17	Musical Instrument £000	Works of Art £000	Civic Regalia £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2016	150	41	15	206
Additions	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0	0
Revaluations	0	0	0	0
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0		
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in Surplus/Deficit on the Provision for Depreciation	0			
At 31 March 2017	150	41	15	206

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

21 Investment Properties and Surplus Assets

Information on Assets Held

a) Movement of Investment Properties and Surplus Assets

2015/16	Investm't Properties £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total £000
At 1 April 2015	13,262	0	13,262
Additions	0	0	0
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the provisions of services	498	0	498
Derecognition - Disposals	0	0	0
Derecognition - Other	0	0	0
Assets reclassified	(468)	0	(468)
Other movements in cost or valuation	(4,662)	0	(4,662)
At 31 March 2016	8,630	0	8,630
Balance Sheet Value at 31 March 2016	8,630	0	8,630
Balance Sheet Value at 1 April 2015	13,262	0	13,262

2016/17	Investm't Properties £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total £000
At 1 April 2016	8,630	0	8,630
Additions	0	0	0
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the provisions of services	175	0	175
Derecognition - Disposals	0	0	0
Derecognition - Other	0	0	0
Assets reclassified (AuC)	0	0	0
Assets reclassified (Land&Buildings)	0	0	0
At 31 March 2017	8,805	0	8,805
Balance Sheet Value at 31 March 2017	8,805	0	8,805
Balance Sheet Value at 1 April 2016	8,630	0	8,630

Fair Value Hierarchy

All the Council's investment property portfolio has been assessed as Level 3 for valuation purposes (see Note 1 for explanation of fair value levels).

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

The fair value of investment property has been measured using the Investment Method of Valuation. The valuers have used a desktop valuation relying on data provided by Wilks, Head & Eve LLP, the Council's managing agents. Valuations have taken account of the following factors: existing lease terms and rentals taken from the tenancy schedule, independent research into market evidence including Market rentals and yields, and then adjusted to reflect the nature of each business tenancy or void and the covenant strength for existing tenants.

Highest and Best Use of Investment Properties

In estimating the fair value of the Authority's investment properties, the highest and best use of the properties is deemed to be their current use.

Valuers

The investment property portfolio has been valued at 31 March 2016 in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution for Chartered Surveyors. The assets were valued by Wilks, Head & Eve LLP, the Council's valuing agents.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

b) Accounted for in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

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.

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
(214)	Rental income from Investment Property	(243)
1,065	Direct operating expenses arising from Investment property	438
851	Net (gain) / loss	195

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.

22 Capital Expenditure, Financing and Commitments

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

31 Mar 16 £000		31 Mar 17 £000
0	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	0
	Capital Investment	
3,112	Property, Plant and Equipment	6,967
128	Intangible Assets	61
0	Investment Property	0
1,171	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	894
4,411		7,922
	Sources of Finance	
(3,056)	Capital Receipts	(7,453)
(1,355)	Government Grants and Other Contributions	(469)
0	Sums set aside from revenue;	
0	* Direct revenue contributions	0
(4,411)	* MRP/ loans fund principal	0
		(7,922)
0	Closing Capital Financing Requirement	0

At 31 March 2017 the Council had entered into contractual commitments valued at £498,265 (31 March 2016: £474,876) in respect of its capital schemes.

23 Debtors - Long Term

Long-term debtors are debtors which fall due after a period of at least one year and are analysed as follows:

31 Mar 16 £000		Net Movement in year £000	31 Mar 17 £000
3	Mortgages	(1)	2
1,553	Rent to Mortgage	1	1,554
23	Finance Leases as Lessor	0	23
16	Charges Registered to Properties	0	16
1,595	Total	0	1,595

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

24 Assets Held For Sale

Assets Held For Sale are those being actively marketed where there is an expectation that they will be sold within one year of the balance sheet date. They are shown within Current Assets in the Balance Sheet.

31 Mar 16 £000		31 Mar 17 £000
	Cost or valuation	
229	Balance at 1 April	100
0	Revaluation losses	0
0	Revaluation gains	3
	Impairment losses	
(129)	Assets sold / disposals	0
	Other movements	
100	Balance at 31 March	103

25 Inventories

The following inventories were held as at 31 March 2017:

31 Mar 16 £000		31 Mar 17 £000
4	Watersmeet Bar Stock	2
22	Fuel Stock	25
26	Total	27

26 Debtors - Short Term

An analysis of debtors falling due within one year is shown below:

31 Mar 16 £000		31 Mar 17 £000
397	Central Government Bodies	3,714
2,758	Local Authorities	0
0	NHS Bodies	0
0	Public Corporations	0
5,767	Other Entities and Individuals	6,678
267	Payments in Advance	56
9,189		10,448
(2,725)	Less: Provision for Bad Debts / Impairment	(1,767)
6,464	Total	8,681

27 Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

31 Mar 16 £000		31 Mar 17 £000
	Current Assets	
2	Cash held by the Authority	2
1,832	Bank Current Accounts	1,646
0	Short-term Deposits with Building Societies	0
1,834		1,648
	Current Liabilities	
0	Bank overdrafts	0
1,834	Total	1,648

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

28 Cash Flow Statement- Operating, Investing and Financing Activities

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

2015/16			2016/17	
£000	£000		£000	£000
49		Note 28a- Operation Activities		
0		Interest received	36	
	49	Interest paid	0	36
		Depreciation	2,430	
2,212		Impairment and downward valuations	189	
2,621		Amortisation	61	
128		Increase/(decrease) in impairment of bad debts	0	
0		Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1,245	
(6,710)		(Increase)/decrease in debtors	1,831	
8,272		(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(2)	
(5)		Movement in pensions liability	743	
(374)		Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus/deficit on the provision of services	(1,067)	
(932)	5,212			5,430
(1,616)		Proceeds from sale of property, plant, equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(2,192)	
(1,329)		Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	(529)	
	(2,945)			(2,721)
	2,316			2,745
		Note 28b- Investing Activities		
(3,112)		Purchase of property, plant, equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(6,970)	
(43,900)		Purchase of ST and LT investments	(45,500)	
1,899		Proceeds from the sale of property, plant, equipment, investment property and intangible assets	0	
40,100		Proceeds from ST and LT investments	50,000	
1,325	(3,688)	Other receipts from investing activities	2,677	207
		Note 28c- Financing Activities		
0		Other receipts from financing activities	0	
1,801		Other payments for financing activities	(4,102)	
0	1,801	Repayments of ST and LT borrowing	0	(4,102)

29 Creditors - Short Term

An analysis of creditors falling due within one year is shown below:

31 Mar 16		31 Mar 17
£000		£000
(2,033)	Central Government Bodies	(299)
(1,899)	Other Local Authorities	(1,503)
0	NHS Bodies	0
0	Public Corporations and Trading Funds	0
(1,814)	Other Entities and Individuals	(4,230)
(627)	Receipts in Advance	(1,566)
(6,373)	Total	(7,598)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30 Creditors - Long Term

An analysis of creditors falling due after one year is shown below:

31 Mar 16 £000		31 Mar 17 £000
(1,185)	Section 106 Contributions receipts in advance	(1,141)
(1,185)	Total	(1,141)

31 Provisions

Provisions are accumulated funds held where the Council has an obligation which is likely to lead to a payment but the exact amount and timing of the payment is unknown.

31 Mar 16 £000		Change £000	Used £000	Unused Reversal £000	Unwinding Discounting £000	31 Mar 17 £000
0	Insurance Provision	0	0	0	0	0
(104)	Land Charges	17	0	0	0	(87)
(1,939)	NDR Appeals Provision	558	492	0	0	(890)
(2,043)	Total	575	492	0	0	(977)

Municipal Mutual Insurance

Under Three Rivers District Council's agreement with its previous insurer Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI), the Council is exposed to the possibility of having to repay all or part of its claims already settled, or to be settled, by MMI.

Land Charges

The Council is a defendant in proceedings brought by a group of property Search Companies for refunds of fees paid to the Council to access land charges data. It is possible that additional claimants may come forward to submit claims for refunds, but none have been initiated as present. The Council believes the provision of £87k is prudent.

NDR Appeals

The NNDR Appeals provision has arisen because of the change to the NNDR regime where the Council is now liable for any National Non Domestic Rates that are not collected. All business premises can appeal their valuation, set by the Valuation Office, which is used for setting the level of rates payable. Until the appeal is heard and decided a provision is estimated to cover the likely outcome.

32 Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

Participation in Pension Scheme

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

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme administered locally by Hertfordshire County Council. This is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets. The pension scheme is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the Pensions Committee of HCC. Policy is determined in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. The investment managers of the fund are appointed by the Investment sub-committee of HCC and consist of the fifteen Investment Fund Managers.

Transactions relating to Retirement Benefits

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

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&ES)	
	Costs of Service	
	<i>Service cost comprising:</i>	
2,207	current service cost	1,994
0	past service cost	0
0	(gain)/loss- effects from settlement	0
	<i>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure</i>	
625	Net Interest Expense	577
2,832	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,571
	Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the CI&ES	
	<i>Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:</i>	
0	Changes in demographic assumptions.	(1,086)
1,106	Return on plan assets	(10,445)
0	Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	0
(4,456)	Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	16,471
(1,000)	Other	1,063
(4,350)	Total remeasurement recognised in Other CI&ES	6,003
(1,518)	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the CI&ES	8,574
	Movement in Reserves Statement	
	Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(8,574)
1,518		
1,616	Employers' contributions payable to the scheme	1,474
1,616	Actual amount charged against the General Fund Bal for pensions in the year	1,474

Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

The amount included in the Balance Sheet arising from the Council's obligation in respect of its defined benefit plans is as follows:

2015/16 £000		Net Movement in year £000	2016/17 £000
(87,127)	Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(18,479)	(105,606)
70,398	Fair value of plan assets	11,379	81,777
(16,729)	Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	(7,100)	(23,829)

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

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
70,034	Opening fair value of scheme assets at 1 April	70,398
2,160	Interest income	2,368
	<i>Remeasurement gain/(loss):</i>	
(1,106)	Return on plan assets	10,445
1,616	Contributions from employer	1,474
563	Contributions from employees into the scheme	537
(2,869)	Benefits paid	(3,445)
0	Other	0
70,398	Closing fair value of scheme assets at 31 March	81,777

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
(89,897)	Opening Balance at 1 April	(87,127)
(2,207)	Current service costs	(1,994)
(2,785)	Interest cost	(2,945)
(563)	Contributions by scheme participants	(537)
	Remeasurement (gains) and losses:	
0	Actuarial gains and losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	1,086
4,456	Actuarial gains and losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(16,471)
1,000	Other	(1,063)
0	Past service costs	0
0	Losses/(gains) on curtailments	0
2,869	Benefits paid	3,445
(87,127)	Closing Balance at 31 March	(105,606)

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised

2015/16 Quoted active market £000	2015/16 Quoted non- active market £000	2015/16 Total £000		2016/17 Quoted active market £000	2016/17 Quoted non- active market £000	2016/17 Total £000
2,237.7	0.0	2,237.7	Cash and cash equivalents	2,698.8	0.0	2,698.8
			<i>Equity instruments: by industry type</i>			
5,718.9	0.0	5,718.9	Consumer	6,376.0	0.0	6,376.0
5,217.6	0.0	5,217.6	Manufacturing	6,119.4	0.0	6,119.4
1,223.2	0.0	1,223.2	Energy and Utilities	1,473.5	0.0	1,473.5
5,349.6	0.0	5,349.6	Financial Institutions	5,476.2	0.0	5,476.2
932.1	0.0	932.1	Health and Care	1,107.3	0.0	1,107.3
3,329.4	0.0	3,329.4	Information Technology	4,459.0	0.0	4,459.0
162.3	0.0	162.3	Other	275.4	0.0	275.4
24,170.8	0.0	24,170.8	Sub-total equity & cash/cash equiv.	27,985.6	0.0	27,985.6
			<i>Bonds: by sector</i>			
0.0	0.0	0.0	Corporate Bonds (inv. grade)	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	UK Government	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Sub-total bonds	0.0	0.0	0.0
			<i>Property: by type</i>			
0.0	3,144.1	3,144.1	UK Property	0.0	2,646.2	2,646.2
0.0	1,837.6	1,837.6	Overseas Property	0.0	3,064.6	3,064.6
0.0	4,981.7	4,981.7	Sub-total property	0.0	5,710.8	5,710.8
			<i>Private Equity: by type</i>			
0.0	3,021.7	3,021.7	All	0.0	3,775.5	3,775.5
0.0	3,021.7	3,021.7	Sub-total private equity	0.0	3,775.5	3,775.5
			<i>Other Investment Funds:</i>			
14,290.3	0.0	14,290.3	Equities	17,134.7	0.0	17,134.7
19,276.2	0.0	19,276.2	Bonds	22,526.7	0.0	22,526.7
332.5	0.0	332.5	Commodities	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	90.4	90.4	Infrastructure	0.0	185.6	185.6
287.3	4,205.8	4,493.1	Other	315.7	4,305.0	4,620.7
34,186.3	4,296.2	38,482.5	Sub-total other investment funds	39,977.1	4,490.6	44,467.7
			<i>Derivatives:</i>			
0.0	(258.6)	(258.6)	Foreign exchange	0.0	(162.6)	(162.6)
0.0	(258.6)	(258.6)	Sub-total derivatives	0.0	(162.6)	(162.6)
58,357.1	12,041.0	70,398.1	Total Assets	67,962.7	13,814.3	81,777.0

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

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

The Local Government Pension Scheme has been assessed by Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2016.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

31 Mar 16		31 Mar 17
1.5%	Total Returns from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017	18.10%
Mortality Assumptions		
	Longevity at 65 for current pensioners	
22.3	• Men	22.5
24.5	• Women	24.9
	Longevity at 65 for future pensioners	
24.3	• Men	24.1
26.7	• Women	26.7
-	Rate of inflation	
3.6%	Rate of increase in salaries	2.5%
2.1%	Rate of increase in pensions	2.4%
3.4%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.5%

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

Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme

	2016/17 £000
Longevity (increase in 1 year)	3 - 5 %
Rate of increase in salaries (increase by 0.5%)	1,396
Rate of increase in pensions (increase by 0.5%)	8,149
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (decrease by 0.5%)	9,683
	19,228

Information about the Defined benefit obligation

	Liability Split	Weighted Average Duration
Active members	40.0%	22.6
Deferred members	20.2%	21.2
Pensioner members	39.8%	11.0
Total	100.0%	16.7

Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis, and the next triennial review is due to be based on 31 March 2016 data. The fund liability may go up or down based on this review, and a sensitivity analysis is set out within this note under "impact on the defined benefit obligation in the scheme". The total value of contributions expected to be made by the Council in 2017/18 is £1.652m.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

33 Contingent Assets and Liabilities

Contingent Assets - VAT Shelter Agreement with Thrive Homes Ltd

The Council used a VAT structure scheme when its housing stock was transferred to Thrive Homes Limited (THL). The scheme involves the Council contracting with THL for them to deliver works on which they can recover VAT. Both THL and the Council gain by this arrangement.

The recovery of VAT on major works will amount to an estimated £12.3m, of which the first £2.3m was paid to the Council. The Council will then receive 50% of the remaining £10m. The disbursement of this sum is dependent on the THL work programme. During 2016/17, £0.252m (2015/16: £0.335m) was received leaving a contingent asset of approximately £2.399m (2015/16: £2.651m) receivable in future years.

34 Usable Reserves

a) Movement in Reserves

Details of the movements relating to individual usable reserves are shown below:

Balance at 31 Mar 15 £000	Net Movement in Year £000	Balance at 31 Mar 16 £000	Reserve	Net Movement in Year £000	Balance at 31 Mar 17 £000	Further Detail Note
(6,944)	2,548	(4,396)	General Fund Balance	302	(4,094)	34d
(9,089)	1,171	(7,918)	Capital Receipts Reserve	5,260	(2,658)	34b
(10)	(1,981)	(1,991)	Capital Grants Unapplied	(28)	(2,019)	33e
(9,905)	(510)	(10,415)	Earmarked Reserves	(5,317)	(15,732)	34c
(25,948)	1,228	(24,720)	Total net worth	217	(24,503)	

b) Capital Receipts Reserve

The Usable Capital Receipts Reserve holds capital receipts from the sale of assets which have been received and have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure. The balance on the Reserve is held to fund future years' expenditure in the approved Capital Budget.

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
(9,089)	Balance brought forward at 1 April	(7,918)
	Received in year	
(364)	Proceeds from sale of long-term assets	(361)
0	Transferred from Reserve for Future Capital Expenditure	0
(881)	Shares in preserved Right to Buy (Unattached Capital Receipts)	(1,101)
(335)	VAT Shelter compensation (Unattached Capital Receipts)	(251)
0	Other Receipts (Unattached Capital Receipts)	(448)
0	Transferred from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve (Mortgages)	0
(1,580)		(2,161)
	Applied in year	
912	Transferred to Capital Adjustment Account to finance new capital expenditure	7,453
2,144	Applied to Capital Adjustment Account to finance new capital expenditure	0
(305)	Advances re-paid	(32)
0	Paid to DCLG Pool	0
2,751		7,421
(7,918)	Balance carried forward at 31 March	(2,658)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

c) Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Funding earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure in 2016/17.

For each reserve established the Council identifies:

- The reason/purpose of the reserve
- How and when the reserve can be used
- Procedures for the management and control of the reserve
- A process and timescale for review to ensure continuing relevance and adequacy.

Reserve	Purpose
S106 Agreements & Commuted Sums	Receipts generated from development agreements to provide community infrastructure
Community Infrastructure Levy	Funding from developers undertaking new building projects, to be used on infrastructure needed as a result of development.
Future Capital Expenditure	To fund key capital projects.
New Homes Bonus Reserve	Government Grant received in respect of new homes built to support community infrastructure
Leavesden Hospital Open Space	To maintain Open Space.
Environmental Maintenance Plant	To support improvement and purchase of environmental plant.
Economic Impact	To fund key future projects.
High Street Innovation Fund	To support the regeneration of High Streets.
NNDR Collection Fund	To fund fluctuations due to timing differences in the collection fund

Balance at 01-Apr-15 £000	Appropriations to Reserve £000	Appropriations from Reserve £000	Balance at 31-Mar-16 £000		Appropriations to Reserve £000	Appropriations from Reserve £000	Balance at 31-Mar-17 £000
(3,995)	(33)	2,279	(1,749)	Section 106 Commuted Sums	0	0	(1,748)
0	(42)	0	(42)	Community Infrastructure Levy	(751)	39	(754)
(3,067)	0	0	(3,067)	Future Capital Expenditure	0	0	(3,067)
(1,761)	(784)	0	(2,545)	New Homes Bonus	(997)	0	(3,542)
(890)	0	70	(820)	Leavesden Hospital Open Space	0	60	(760)
(92)	0	0	(92)	Environmental Maintenance Plant	0	0	(92)
0	(2,000)	0	(2,000)	Economic Impact	0	0	(2,000)
(100)	0	0	(100)	High Street Innovation Fund	0	0	(100)
				NNDR Collection Fund	(3,669)	0	(3,669)
(9,905)	(2,859)	2,349	(10,415)	Total at 31 March	(5,417)	99	(15,732)

d) General Fund

The General Fund is the resources available to meet future running costs. The unallocated accumulated balances on the General Fund are set out below:

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
(6,944)	Balance brought forward at 1 April	(4,396)
645	Net increase/(decrease) before transfers to earmarked reserves	(5,015)
1,903	Transfer (to)/from earmarked reserves	5,317
(4,396)	Balance carried forward at 31 March	(4,094)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

e) Capital Grant Unapplied

The Capital Grant Unapplied Reserve is the resources available to meet future grant funded projects. The unallocated resources held are set out below:

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
(10)	Balance brought forward at 1 April	(1,991)
(1,393)	Section 106- grants held for future use (transfers from earmarked reserves)	
(612)	Section 106- grants held for future use (new in year)	(53)
21	Section 106- grants applied (to CAA)	469
0	Section 106- grants applied	32
1,328	Grants applied	0
(1,325)	Grants received	(476)
(1,991)	Balance carried forward at 31 March	(2,019)

35 Unusable Reserves

a) Movement in Reserves

Details of the movements relating to individual unusable reserves are shown below:

Balance at 31 Mar 15 £000	Net Move- ment in Year £000	Balance at 31 Mar 16 £000	Reserve	Net Move- ment in Year £000	Balance at 31 Mar 17 £000	Further Detail Note
(37,984)	5,054	(32,930)	Capital Adjustment Account	(5,053)	(37,983)	35b
(1,735)	269	(1,466)	Deferred Capital Receipts	0	(1,466)	35c
2,222	(861)	1,361	Collection Fund Adjustment Acct	2,365	3,726	35d
(23,829)	(8,950)	(32,778)	Revaluation Reserve	(2,553)	(35,331)	35e
47	20	67	Accumulated Absences Reserve	33	100	35f
19,863	(3,134)	16,729	Pensions Reserve	7,100	23,829	35g
(41,416)	(7,602)	(49,017)	TOTAL	1,892	(47,125)	

b) Capital Adjustment Account

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

The Account contains accumulated gains/losses on Investment Properties.

The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on PPE before 1 April 2007, the date the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The MiRS provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
(37,985)	Balance brought forward at 1 April	(32,930)
(157)	Other	0
(38,142)		(32,930)
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited/credited to CI&ES	
2,212	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	2,430
128	Amortisation of Intangible Assets	61
2,621	Revaluation (gains) / losses on PPE	189
1,171	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	891
0	Amounts of non-current assets w/o on disposal/sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&ES	0
(554)	Adjusting amounts w/o of the Revaluation Reserve	(528)
5,578	Net w/o amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	3,043
	Capital financing applied in the year:	
(3,056)	Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(7,453)
(1,329)	From Capital Grants Unapplied	(397)
(23)	From S106 Capital Grants receipts in advance	(72)
(4,408)		(7,922)
	Other Movements:	
(498)	Mvmnt in Market value of Investment Properties debited/credited to the CI&ES	(175)
0	Transferred in from Deferred Capital Receipts	0
4,540	Other Movements	1
(32,930)	Balance carried forward at 31 March	(37,983)

c) Deferred Capital Receipts

The Deferred Capital receipts Reserve 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 Authority does not treat these gains as usable for financing new capital expenditure until they are backed by capital receipts. When the deferred cash settlement eventually takes place, amounts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

Deferred Capital Receipts represent capital receipts from the sale of assets that will be repaid to the Council by instalments over an agreed number of years, shown as Long Term Debtors. The debtors have arisen from mortgage advances to Housing Associations and under Right To Buy, equity interest in the rent to mortgage scheme and Finance leases where the Council is the Lessor. See Notes 21b and 22 for details.

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
(1,736)	Balance brought forward at 1 April	(1,466)
0	Revaluation of Assets Held for Sale (Other CIES)	0
129	Disposal of Assets Held for Sale	0
0	Revaluation of Rent to Mortgage Properties	0
154	Disposal of Rent to Mortgage Properties	0
0	Transferred to Capital Receipts Reserve (Mortgages)	0
1	Finance Lease Mitigation	0
(14)	Charges Registered to Properties (Other CIES)	0
0	Transferred to Capital Adjustment Account	0
(1,466)	Balance carried forward at 31 March	(1,466)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

d) Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences 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 and business rates payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund. For further details see the Collection Fund Notes within the supplementary financial statements.

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
2,221	Balance brought forward at 1 April	1,361
(860)	Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates income credited to CI&E Statement is different from council tax and non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	2,365
1,361	Balance carried forward at 31 March	3,726

e) Revaluation Reserve

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

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost
- used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation
- 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.

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
(23,829)	Balance brought forward at 1 April	(32,779)
(7,618)	Upward Revaluation of assets	(3,914)
2,655	Downward Revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of service	835
(4,963)	Surplus/Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(3,079)
554	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	527
(4,541)	Other movements	0
(3,987)	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	527
(32,779)	Balance carried forward at 31 March	(35,331)

f) Accumulated Absences Reserve

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

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
46	Balance brought forward at 1 April	67
(46)	Settlement of accrual made at the end of preceding year	(67)
67	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	100
67	Balance carried forward at 31 March	100

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

g) Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the CI&ES as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liability recognised to reflect inflation, charging 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 pension for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and 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.

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
19,863	Balance brought forward at 1 April	16,729
(4,350)	Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	6,003
2,832	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited/(credited) to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES	2,571
(1,616)	Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in year	(1,474)
16,729	Balance carried forward at 31 March	23,829

36 Disclosure of Nature and Extent of Risk Arising from Financial Instruments

Financial Instruments - Balances

The Balance Sheet includes the following financial instruments:-

Non-current 31 Mar 16 £000	Current 31 Mar 16 £000		Non-current 31 Mar 17 £000	Current 31 Mar 17 £000
	24,569	Investments Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss		20,037
1,595	6,464	Debtors Loans and receivables	1,595	
	1,834	Financial assets carried at contract amount		8,681
		Cash and Cash Equivalents		1,648
0	0	Borrowing Financial liabilities at amortised cost	0	
		Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss		0
0		Other long-term Liabilities PFI and Finance Leases	0	
(1,185)	(6,373)	Creditors Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(1,141)	
		Financial liabilities carried at contract amount		(7,598)
410	26,494	Total	454	22,768
26,904			23,222	

Fair Value

Long term debtors comprise mortgages and finance leases. Short term creditors and debtors arise from charges to and from the Council for goods and services, and short term investments are those made in cash for less than twelve months. These instruments are carried on the balance sheet at amortised cost, which represents their fair value. The Council is debt free and has no long term borrowings.

Key Risks

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 requiring to renew a financial instrument at disadvantageous interest rates or term
- **Market risk** the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates movements

Overall procedures for managing risk

The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets, and are structured to implement suitable controls to minimise these risks. The procedures for risk management are set out through a legal framework in the *Local Government Act 2003* and associated regulations. These require the Council to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code, the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services 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 CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice
- by the adoption of a Treasury Policy Statement and treasury management clauses within its financial regulations/standing orders/constitution
- by approving annually in advance prudential and treasury indicators for the following three years limiting:
 - the Council's overall borrowing
 - its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable rates
 - its maximum and minimum exposures to the maturity structure of its debt
 - its 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 annual meeting where the Council agrees its budget and sets the council tax, or before the start of the year to which they relate. These items are reported with the annual treasury management strategy which outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the Council's financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is also reported after each year, as is a mid-year update.

The annual treasury management strategy which incorporates the prudential indicators was approved by Council on 23 February 2016 and is available on the Council website. The key issues within the strategy were:-

- the Authorised Limit for 2016/17 was set at £12m (£9m 2015/16). This is the maximum limit of external borrowings or other long term liabilities
- the Operational Boundary 2016/17 was expected to be £10m (£7m 2015/16). This is the expected level of debt and other long term liabilities during the year

These policies are implemented by a central treasury team. The Council maintains written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies (Treasury Management Practices – TMPs) covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk, and the investment of surplus cash. 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.

This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, in accordance with the Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poors Credit Ratings Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also considers maximum amounts and time limits in respect of each financial institution. Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they meet the minimum requirements of the investment criteria outlined above. Details of the Investment Strategy for 2016/17, which was approved by the Council on 23 February 2016, can be found on the Council's website.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Council's deposits, but there was no evidence at the 31 March 2017 that this was likely to crystallise.

No breaches of the Council's counterparty criteria occurred during the reporting period and the Council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits.

Customers for goods and services are assessed, taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors, and individual credit limits are set where appropriate.

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 and investment strategy reports), as well as through a comprehensive cash flow management system, as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when needed.

The Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets to cover any day to day cash flow need. The Council has no longer term borrowing requirements. 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

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

The Council does not generally allow credit for its trade debtors, such that £0.436 million of the £6.678 million balance is past its due date for payment. The past due amount can be analysed by age as follows:

31 Mar 16 £000		31 Mar 17 £000
35	Less than 3 months	347
36	More than 3 months, less than 6 months	33
4	More than 6 months, less than 1 year	17
45	More than 1 year	39
120	Total	436

Refinancing and Maturity risk

The approved treasury limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits placed on investments of greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Council's approved treasury and investment strategies address the main risks and the central treasury team address the operational risks within the approved parameters. This includes 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 provide stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer term cash flow needs.

The Council maintains a significant investment portfolio and currently has no long-term debt outstanding. The longer-term risk to the Council relates to managing the exposure to replacing its investments as they mature.

The maturity analysis of the Council's investments at 31 March 2017 is as follows:-

31 Mar 16 £000		31 Mar 17 £000
24,569	Less than 1 year	20,037
24,569	Total	20,037

Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

The Council's cash investments are exposed to interest rate movements. For instance, a rise in variable and fixed interest rates would have the effect of increasing the income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together the Council's prudential and treasury indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. From this Strategy a treasury indicator is set which provides maximum limits for fixed and variable interest rate exposure. The central treasury team will monitor market and forecast interest rates within the year to adjust exposures appropriately. For instance during periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate investments may be taken for longer periods to secure better long term returns.

If all interest rates had been 1% higher (with all other variables held constant) the financial effect would be:

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
227	Increase in interest receivable on investments with consequential change in Income and Expenditure Account	223

The approximate impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above but with the movements being reversed.

Price Risk

The Council has no shareholdings that might expose it to this kind of risk.

Foreign Exchange Risk

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

COLLECTION FUND

This account reflects the statutory requirement for the Council, as the billing authority, to establish and maintain a separate fund for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates).

2015/16			Note	2016/17		
£000	£000			NDR	Ctax	Total
		Income				
-56,111		Council Tax Payers	CF1		(58,420)	
-28,408		Business Rate Payers		(27,866)		
0		Deferrals		0		
	-84,519	Total Income		(27,866)	(58,420)	(86,286)
		Expenditure				
		Council Tax				
54,856		Precepts and Demands	CF3		57,381	
		Bad and Doubtful Debts				
742		Increase/(Dec.) in Prov. (inc write offs)			(268)	
		Business Rates				
14,112		Shares to Preceptors and the Council	CF4	14,616		
14,113		Central Government Share	CF4	14,616		
47		Transitional Protection Payment		68		
		Bad and Doubtful Debts and Appeals				
-951		Increase/(Dec.) in Prov. (inc write offs)		(2,670)		
96		Cost of Collection		95		
		Contributions towards previous year's surplus				
82		Council Tax	CF6		452	
-1,022		Business Rates		7,330		
	82,075	Total Expenditure		34,055	57,565	91,620
	-2,444	(Increase) / Decrease in Collection Fund Balance		6,189	(855)	5,334
	5,296	Fund Balance - (Surplus) / Deficit at 1 April		3,674	(820)	2,852
	2,852	Fund Balance - (Surplus) / Deficit at 31 March	CF5	9,863	(1,675)	8,188

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

CF1 Council Tax Payers

The charge for council tax is based on the total number of dwellings in each of eight bands at 1 April 1991 valuations. This is adjusted for dwellings where discounts or exemptions apply and is converted into an "equivalent number of Band D dwellings" where bands below Band D will pay proportionately less than dwellings in higher bands. A further adjustment is made for losses on collection and contributions in lieu of tax in respect of certain government properties. The table below sets out the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2016/17.

2015/16		2016/17				
Equivalent Number of Band D Dwellings		Total Number of Dwellings in Band	Discounts, Exemptions & Disabled Relief	Total Chargeable Dwellings	Conversion Fraction (Proportion)	Equivalent Number of Band D Dwellings
1.11	A (Disabled Relief)	0	2	2	5/9	1
322.83	A	839	(351)	488	6/9	325
710.90	B	2,021	(1,043)	978	7/9	761
3,943.90	C	6,304	(1,738)	4,566	8/9	4,059
7,989.59	D	9,864	(1,880)	7,984	9/9	7,984
8,037.75	E	7,393	(764)	6,629	11/9	8,102
5,485.55	F	4,215	(303)	3,912	13/9	5,651
7,795.10	G	5,038	(324)	4,714	15/9	7,856
2,818.30	H	1,480	(50)	1,430	18/9	2,861
37,105.03		37,154	(6,450)	30,704		37,600
-371.05	Less: Allowance for losses on collection					(376)
182.08	Add: Contributions in lieu of tax					143
36,916.06	Tax Base for Calculation of Council Tax					37,367
844.55	Add: Adjustment for changes during the year for successful appeals against valuation bandings, new properties, demolitions, disabled persons' relief and empty properties					636
37,760.61	Council Tax Base for the Year					38,004

Each year, the Council needs to collect enough money from local residents to cover the cost of the services it provides which is not funded by government grants and charges for services. It also collects charges for Hertfordshire County Council and the Hertfordshire Police. The total is divided by the tax base for the purposes of calculating the council tax to arrive at an average Band D tax per dwelling. The Council set an average council tax charge for Band D dwellings of £1,537.21 (£1,485.96 for 2015/16).

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
(56,111)	Gross Council Tax Charge	(58,420)
(56,111)	Income from Council Tax Payers	(58,420)

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

CF2 Business Rate Payers

In line with the Local Government Act 2003, from 1 April 2005, all business premises are subject to a tax known as National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR). The tax is calculated using local rateable values which are then multiplied by a uniform rate.

The relevant rateable value and multiplier data is shown below:

2015/16		2016/17
68743807.00	Total Non-domestic Rateable Value at 31 March	67,430,357.00
49.3	National Non-domestic Rate Multiplier - Standard	49.70
48.0	Business	48.40

Small Business Rate Relief came into effect on 1 April 2005. It is generally available to ratepayers who have only one business property with a rateable value of less than £18,000.

Until 31 March 2013, the Council was responsible for collecting the total amount of NNDR payable, less certain reliefs and other deductions, and paying this into a national pool managed by central government who then re-distributed the pool back to local authorities based on a standard amount per head of the local adult population.

From 1 April 2013, the Hertfordshire County Council share, the District share and the Central Government share (after allowable deductions) are paid direct from the Collection Fund.

CF3 Precepts And Demands - Council Tax

The breakdown of precepts and demands on the Collection Fund are detailed below:

2015/16 £000	Council Tax	2016/17 £000
42,125	Precepts: Hertfordshire County Council	44,341
5,457	Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)	5,493
7,274	Demand: Three Rivers District Council	7,548
54,856	Total	57,382

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

CF4 Shares - Business Rates

2015/16 £000	Business Rates	2016/17 £000
2,822	Hertfordshire County Council	2,923
11,290	Three Rivers District Council	11,693
14,113	Central Government	14,616
28,225	Total	29,232

CF5 Distribution of Balances

Based on the precepts and demands made in 2016/17, balances relating to the collection fund have been apportioned between the local authorities and central government, and are reflected on their balance sheets as follows:-

2015/16 Total £000	Council Tax	Herts County Council £000	Herts PCC £000	Three Rivers DC £000	2016/17 Total £000
3,243	Gross Arrears	2,161	264	366	2,791
(688)	Less: Prepayments & Credits	(671)	(82)	(114)	(867)
2,556	Net Arrears	1,490	182	252	1,924
(2,544)	Provision for Doubtful Debts	(1,602)	(195)	(271)	(2,068)
(821)	Collection Fund Balance	(1,297)	(158)	(220)	(1,675)

Total 2015/16 £000	Business Rates	Herts County Council £000	Three Rivers DC £000	Central Government £000	2016/17 Total £000
1,152	Gross Arrears	70	281	352	703
(623)	Less: Prepayments & Credits	(84)	(336)	(420)	(840)
529	Net Arrears	(14)	(55)	(68)	(137)
(960)	Provision for Doubtful Debts	(68)	(271)	(339)	(678)
(4,848)	Provision for Appeals	(222)	(889)	(1,112)	(2,223)
3,674	Collection Fund Balance	986	3,945	4,932	9,863

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

Surpluses/Deficits on the Council Tax element of the Collection Fund balance are distributed/recovered in the subsequent year as an adjustment to the Council Tax charge calculation.

The District and County Council shares of Surpluses/Deficits on the Business Rates element of the Collection Fund balance are also distributed/recovered in the subsequent year as an adjustment to the Business rate calculation, but variations are mitigated by use of a Levy or Safety-Net payment to/from Central Government.

CF6 Collection Fund Surpluses and Deficits

The Council Tax surplus that was generated up to 31 March 2016 was distributed to Herfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Three Rivers District Council during 2016/17. The distribution was made in proportion to the value of the respective precepts and demands made by the bodies on the Collection Fund. The amounts are shown below

2015/16 Total £000	Council Tax	Herts County Council £000	Herts PCC £000	Three Rivers DC £000	2016/17 Total £000
82	Surplus Distribution	(347)	(45)	(60)	(452)

The Council Tax surplus of £1,675k at 31 March 2017 will be distributed in subsequent financial years.

The Business Rates deficit at 31 March 2017 will be recovered in subsequent financial years from the Council, Central Government and Herfordshire County Council in proportion to the value of the respective shares of the Business Rates Retention Scheme.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Accounting Period

The period of time covered by the accounts, normally a period of 12 months commencing on 1 April. The end of the accounting period is the Balance Sheet date.

Accruals

Sums included in the final accounts of the Council to cover income or expenditure attributable to the accounting period for which payment has not been received/made in the financial year. Local authorities accrue for both revenue and capital expenditure.

Amortisation

The term used to refer to the charging of the value of a transaction or asset (usually related to intangible Long Term Assets) to the Income and Expenditure Account over a period of time, reflecting the value to the Council; similar to the depreciation charge for tangible Long Term Assets.

Billing Authority

A local authority responsible for collecting Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates.

Capital Expenditure

Spending which produces or enhances an asset, like land, buildings, roads, vehicles, plant and machinery, and intangible assets such as computer software. Definitions are set out in Section 40 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Any expenditure which does not fall within the definition must be charged to a revenue account.

Capital Receipts

The proceeds from the sale of Long Term Assets such as land and buildings. Capital receipts can be used to repay any outstanding debt on Long Term Assets or to finance new capital expenditure, within rules set down by government. Capital receipts cannot, however, be used to finance revenue expenditure.

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

The professional accountancy body concerned with local authorities and the public sector.

Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code)

The annual Code of Practice, produced by CIPFA, which specifies the principles and practices of accounting required to give a 'true and fair' view of the financial position and transactions of a Local Authority.

Collection Fund

The Collection Fund is a statutory fund set up under the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. It includes the transactions of the charging/billing Authority in relation to Non-Domestic Rates and Council Tax, and illustrates the way in which the fund balance is distributed to preceptors and the General Fund.

Contingent Assets/Liabilities

Potential gains and losses for which a future event will establish whether a liability/asset exists and for which it is inappropriate to set up a debtor or provision in the accounts.

Depreciation

The measure of the wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful life of a Long Term Asset.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Earmarked Reserves

These are funds set aside for a specific purpose, or a particular service, or type of expenditure.

Finance Lease

Arrangement whereby the lessee is treated as the owner of the leased asset, and is required to include such assets within Long Term Assets on the balance sheet.

Financial Reporting Standard (FRS)

A statement of accounting practice issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

Group Accounts

Group Accounts are prepared using consistent accounting policies which will require authorities to align their financial statements more closely with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Three Rivers District Council has not used acquisitions or mergers accounting methodologies following consideration of the level of involvement with companies, voluntary organisations and other public bodies to determine if there is a requirement to undertake group accounts. There are no subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures.

Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are held with the objective of increasing knowledge, understanding and the appreciation of the Council's history and local area.

IFRS

International Financial Reporting Standards.

Investment Property

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

Investments

Deposits with approved institutions.

Infrastructure Assets

Expenditure on works of construction or improvement but which have no tangible value, such as construction of, or improvement to, highways.

Long Term Assets – Tangible

Tangible assets (i.e. land and buildings) that yield benefits to the Council and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

Long Term Assets – Intangible

Assets which are of benefit to the organisation, but have no physical presence such as software licences.

Long Term Debtors

Amounts due to the Council more than one year after the Balance Sheet date.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

Under the arrangements for uniform business rates, which came into effect on 1 April 1990, the Council collected Non-Domestic Rates for its area based on local rateable values (set by DCLG), multiplied by nationally set rates. The total amount, less certain reliefs and deductions, was paid to a central pool managed by the Government, which in turn, paid back to Authorities their share of the pool based on a standard amount per head of the local adult population.

New arrangements for the distribution of NNDR came into force on 1 April 2013.

Operational Assets

Long Term Assets held by the Council and used or consumed in the delivery of its services.

Operating Lease

An arrangement whereby the risks and rewards of ownership of the leased asset remain with the leasing company.

Pension Fund

An employees' pension fund maintained by an authority, or a group of authorities, in order primarily to make pension payments on retirement of participants. It is financed from contributions from the employing authority, the employee and investment income.

Precept

The amount by which a Precepting Authority (e.g. a County Council) requires from a Billing Authority (e.g. a District Council) to meet its expenditure requirements.

Profit on the Sale of Long Term Assets

The book value of an asset sold is compared to the net proceeds to calculate the profit or loss on the transaction.

Provisions

Sums set aside to meet future expenditure where a specific liability is known to exist but cannot be measured accurately.

Revenue Expenditure Funded From Capital Under Statute

Capital expenditure which is allowable by statute to be funded from capital resources but which does not fall within the Code of Practice definition of Long Term Assets. Examples include grants and similar advances made to other parties to finance capital investment.

Revenue Support Grant

This funding is a Government Grant provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), which is based on the Government's assessment as to what should be spent on local services. The amount provided by the DCLG is fixed at the beginning of each financial year.

Surplus Assets

Long Term Assets held by an organisation but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services, or held as an investment.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT AND CERTIFICATE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Opinion on the Authority's financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Three Rivers District Council for the year ended 31 March 2017 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The financial statements comprise the:

- Authority Movement in Reserves Statement,
- Authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement,
- Authority Balance Sheet,
- Authority Cash Flow Statement,
- the Collection Fund and the related notes CF1 to CF6,
- and the related notes 1 to 36 to the Authority accounts.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17.

This report is made solely to the members of Three Rivers District Council, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities set out on page 2, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Authority's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Chief Financial Officer; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Statement of Accounts 2016/17 to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Three Rivers District Council as at 31 March 2017 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT AND CERTIFICATE

Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information given in the Statement of Accounts 2016/17 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- in our opinion the annual governance statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information forthcoming from the audit or our knowledge of the Council;
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects

Conclusion on Three Rivers District Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

Authority's responsibilities

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Auditor's responsibilities

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements.

We report if significant matters have come to our attention which prevent us from concluding that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT AND CERTIFICATE

Scope of the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in November 2016, as to whether Three Rivers District Council had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criterion as that necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether Three Rivers District Council put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2017.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether, in all significant respects, Three Rivers District Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance issued by the C&AG in November 2016, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, Three Rivers District Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2017.

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts of Three Rivers District Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.



Andrew Brittain (senior statutory auditor)
for and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP, Appointed Auditor
Reading
24 September 2017

The maintenance and integrity of the Three Rivers District Council web site is the responsibility of the directors; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the web site.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.