

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST MARCH 2020

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

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NARRATIVE REPORT BY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

The Council is statutorily required to produce annual accounts, and this document sets out the Council's Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2020. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended by The Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus)(Amendment) Regulations 2020) require me, as the Council's responsible financial officer, to certify that they 'present a true and fair view of the financial position of the authority'. The Council is then formally required to approve and publish the Statement of Accounts, in respect of 2019/20 by no later than 30th November. This function is delegated at Fylde Council to the Audit and Standards Committee. Following approval, the Statement of Accounts must be signed and dated by the member presiding at the meeting at which approval is given. For 2019/20 the publication date has been amended from the previous deadline of 1st July due to the additional workload that Councils have experienced due to the Covid-19 measures, including the processing of grants to local businesses under the government funded Small Business and Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grant Support schemes.

The accounts are audited by the Council's External Auditors, Deloitte LLP, who also review whether the Authority has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources and issue a conclusion on this, as part of their report to those charged with governance, to the Council's Audit and Standards Committee at the conclusion of the audit.

In my role as Chief Financial Officer and the Council's statutory Section 151 Officer, I am required to prepare a narrative report to accompany the Statement of Accounts. This narrative report is prepared in a style that aims to enable readers to understand and interpret the accounting statements. By producing this report, I aim to give electors, local residents, Council Members, partners, stakeholders and other interested parties confidence that public money which has been received and spent, has been properly accounted for and that the financial standing of the Council is secure.

The format of the Statement of Accounts is heavily prescribed and follows the requirements as set out by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee (LASAAC) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 (the Code), and the Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities 2019/20 (SeRCOP), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Prior to the period for the exercise of public rights, which for the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts must commence on or before the first working day of September 2020, a local authority in England is required to publish the unaudited Statement of Accounts. This means that the unaudited Statement of Accounts must be published on or before 31st August 2020. Following completion of the audit process the Regulations require that for 2019/20 local authorities in England publish their audited Statement of Accounts by 30th November 2020.

The purpose of this report is to assist the readers' interpretation of the accounts and to provide an overall summary of the Council's financial performance for 2019/20, to explain the Council's financial position as at 31st March 2020, and to give a summary insight into what the financial future holds for the Council.

2. PROFILE OF THE BOROUGH

Fylde Borough consists of the seaside towns of Lytham and St Anne's-on-Sea, the market town of Kirkham and a rural hinterland with numerous small picturesque villages. St Anne's-on-Sea is a traditional seaside resort with a Victorian pier, quality accommodation and fine floral displays, a gentler and more peaceful tourism destination than Blackpool. 'Leafy' Lytham is a desirable location for residents and visitors with a number of high value properties, an attractive Victorian shopping centre, a grade one listed hall in pleasant surroundings and an expansive seafront Green with the iconic white Windmill facing out to the sea. Kirkham is a traditional market town surrounded by beautiful countryside with strong links to neighbouring Wesham, Treales, Roseacre, Wrea Green and Freckleton.

The rural hinterland provides a contrasting lifestyle and tourism experience with countryside pursuits such as walking, cycling, horse riding and boating, complemented with high quality, award winning, eating establishments and accommodation, all mixed into a vast farming community. The rich heritage within the towns and villages has helped to make the Fylde countryside a destination in its own right.

Fylde's population of around 79,000 live in approximately 35,000 households over a geographical area of 166 square kilometres. The population is forecast to rise to 84,000 by 2035.

Fylde is one of the safest areas of the country when compared with its 'family' group of local authorities based on population and demographics. The borough has been a popular retirement destination for many years, resulting in a higher than average percentage of the population being over 60 years of age.

Economic Profile

Fylde has a diverse economy that is centred on manufacturing, the energy sector, aeronautics, farming and tourism industries. There are two regionally significant employers in BAE Systems at Warton and the Westinghouse nuclear processing plant at Springfields. Other major employers include the public sector through the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Land Registry, financial services organisations and the many hotels, cafes, restaurants and leisure facilities reflecting the tourism aspect of the local economy.

In October 2011, the government created a single Lancashire Enterprise Zone that covers two separate sites, one of which is located around the BAE Systems manufacturing facility and runway at Warton in the Council's area. Within these sites financial incentives and a simplified planning system are designed to encourage businesses and create employment. The zone is operated by BAE Systems and Lancashire County Council (with strategic oversight being provided by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership). The enterprise zone is focussed on high-end manufacturing that is related to the military aeronautic industry, and as such is designed to complement existing production at the BAE Systems facility.

In the 2015 Budget, the Chancellor announced that a further Enterprise Zone would be established at Blackpool Airport and adjoining land, which straddles the border between Fylde and Blackpool Council areas. This Enterprise Zone came into being in April 2016 with a focus on the energy, manufacturing, service industries (insurance / financial) and aviation business development. The Council is represented on the Enterprise Zone Programme Board along with Blackpool Council and private sector partners. A specialist energy college within the enterprise zone was completed and opened during 2017/18, forming part of the Blackpool & the Fylde College. Enterprise Zones are designated by Government for a period of 25 years.

Political and Organisational Structure

The Borough is divided into 21 wards each represented by one or more elected councillors. The Council holds 'all out' elections every four years with the last election being held in May 2019 at which a Conservative majority was returned for the fifth consecutive election. Fylde is a two-tier district council with Lancashire County Council being responsible for delivering the upper tier authority functions.

The Council has operated a committee system of governance since May 2015 after a change of governance from a Cabinet system was mandated through a referendum triggered by a petition. The Council Leader belongs to the Conservative majority group. Further details of the political and organisational structure of the Council are set out in the Annual Governance Statement which can be found towards the end of this document.

3. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The Council has established and embedded sound financial management practices, the cornerstone of which is a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The strategy is updated and reported to Members on a regular basis, with the latest update being approved at the Council meeting of 4th March 2020. In that report I concluded, having taken account of the major items of expenditure and income and their sensitivity to change, together with the risks detailed in the report, that the finances of the Council are robust.

The purpose of the MTFS is detailed within that document, together with details of: the Vision for the Borough; the Council's Strategic Planning and Performance Management Framework; the Council's Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan; Savings and Growth proposals; Reserves and Balances provision; details of the Council's Capital Programme; key areas of financial risk facing the Council; and a five year financial forecast for the Council. One key aim of the MTFS is to ensure that the resources available to the Council are aligned with the priorities set out within the Council's approved Corporate Plan. Both the MTFS and the Corporate Plan can be found on the Council's website at www.fylde.gov.uk.

4. CHANGES INTRODUCED BY THE CODE OF PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTING 2019/20 (THE CODE)

For 2019/20 'The Code' has introduced a number of accounting changes:

- Amendments to IAS 40 Investment Property: Transfers of Investment Property.
- Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2014-2016 Cycle.
- IFRIC 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration.
- IFRIC 23 Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments.
- Amendments to IFRS 9 Financial Instruments: Prepayment Features with Negative Compensation.

Not all of the above are relevant to Fylde Council and the changes have not had a material impact on the information provided in the financial statements.

5. THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2019/20 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31st March 2020. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended by The Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus)(Amendment) Regulations 2020), those Regulations requiring the accounts 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 2019/20 (the Code) and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2019/20 (SeRCOP), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments. Full details of the accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of the Statements of Accounts are set out in Note 1 to the accounts on page 36.

The Authority has no material interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and jointly controlled entities that require it to prepare group accounts.

The Core Financial Statements contained within the accounts and the purpose of each is set out below: -

- Expenditure and Funding Analysis – this shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, council tax and business rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the council's Programme Committees.
- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this consists of two sections: the first section showing entries for income and expenditure arising from day to day operational services and the second section showing the increase or decrease to net worth as a movement in fair value of assets.
- Movement in Reserves Statement – this is a summary of the movement in year on the different reserves held by the Authority analysed into 'usable reserves' (those which can be applied to fund expenditure) and un-usable reserves (those which cannot be used to fund expenditure).
- Balance Sheet – this sets out the Council's assets and liabilities as at 31st March 2020 and how these are funded (by reserves, borrowing, provisions and other balances).
- Cash Flow Statement – this summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.
- Notes to the Core Financial Statements – these assist in the interpretation of the accounts by comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Additional statements accompanying the accounts:

- Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts – this identifies the officer who is responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs.

- Risk Management Policy Statement - this outlines the Council's approach to the management of risk.
- Collection Fund - this was established to maintain a separate fund for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and non-domestic rates, as a requirement for all billing authorities under the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
- Glossary – an explanation of some of the key technical terms used in these accounts.

In line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2018/19 the Annual Governance Statement is included within the Statement of Accounts.

6. THE COUNCIL'S SPENDING

The Council effectively has two types of expenditure:

- **Revenue expenditure** – this is essentially the day to day costs incurred by the Council in providing services, including for example, employee costs, premises running costs, transport related costs and supplies and services.
- **Capital expenditure** – this is essentially one-off major items of expenditure relating to the purchase of new assets or expenditure which materially improves the working life of existing assets.

At the Annual Budget Setting Council meeting, the Council plans and approves how much it is going to spend in the coming year and reflects these spending plans as budgets. It calculates how much money needs to be raised from Council Tax having allowed for income and government grants and determines how much it can raise from existing resources, contributions from outside sources or borrowing to fund its capital expenditure.

6.1 REVENUE EXPENDITURE

This part of the report deals with the revenue outturn position for the Council for the financial year ended 31st March 2020.

Net Budget Requirement

On the 4th March 2020, the Council approved a Revised Revenue Budget net requirement of £10.472m for 2019/20.

Subsequent to the revised Revenue Budget for 2019/20 being approved, the Council meeting of 18th March 2020 approved the transfer into the M55 Link Road Reserve of current and future Business Rate growth receipts arising from the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone to a maximum sum of £1m. To date the Business Rate growth receipts relating to the Enterprise Zone total £0.308m. In accordance with the Council decision this sum has been transferred into the M55 Link Road Reserve.

Throughout 2019/20, in response to the uncertainty surrounding the nature and level of current and future income streams as a consequence of changes in national funding arrangements, there has been close control of expenditure. Officers with budget holder responsibility were instructed to remain prudent and minimise expenditure commitments and maximise efficiencies and savings wherever possible. That instruction remains in place and has resulted in the generation of in-year savings throughout the majority of 2019/20.

Additionally, in the weeks following the setting of the budget for 2020/21, and the revised budget for 2019/20, the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak became increasingly apparent. The national 'lock-down' that was implemented in late March is expected to have a major impact on the Councils financial position for 2020/21, although a range of national funding measures have also been introduced that will assist in off-setting some of those negative financial effects. Due to the timing of the commencement of the lock-down (24th March 2020) the effects of that situation for the 2019/20 financial year have been limited.

The financial impact of the lockdown measures, in terms of reduced levels of income and the cost of providing financial assistance to specific local businesses, is being carefully monitored and will be reported within the updated Financial Forecast during 2020/21 as appropriate.

The outturn position for 2019/20 is a net requirement of £9.748m resulting in a favourable variance (before financing and slippage) of £0.724m.

Financing

In relation to financing, the outturn position for 2019/20 was net financing received during the year of £12.212m compared to a budget of £11.612m, resulting in a favourable variance of £0.600m.

Together with the favourable variance on the net budget requirement of £0.724m therefore the additional surplus of resources for the year is a total sum of £1.324m compared to the latest estimate before taking account of slippage and further transfers to reserves.

The underlying favourable outturn position after accounting for slippage of £0.345m into 2020/21 is therefore reduced from £1.324m to £0.979m.

During the year the Government announced further funding intended to meet any local financial consequences arising from the UK departure from the European Union, the allocation for Fylde Council being in the sum of £0.035m. The Finance and Democracy Committee of July 2020 approved the transfer of this funding into the EU Exit Funding Reserve to provide funding for any such financial impacts of 'Brexit' as and when they arise.

In September 2019 the Finance and Democracy Committee approved a contribution from Fylde Council to the funding for the Greater Lancashire Plan in the sum of £0.020m, to be met initially from the Funding Volatility Reserve, and ultimately from increased Business Rates income. The Finance and Democracy Committee of July 2020 approved the transfer of £0.020 of the favourable revenue outturn variance into the Funding Volatility Reserve to meet the contribution from Fylde Council in respect of the Greater Lancashire Plan.

As a Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Billing Authority, Fylde Council is required by legislation to collect council tax and business rates within the borough on behalf of central government, Town and Parish Councils and major preceptors (being Lancashire County Council, and the Fire and Police Authorities), and to account for that income through a 'Collection Fund'. Under the Collection Fund accounting arrangements any surplus or deficit on the fund each year, which occur as a result of actual income being higher or lower than that budgeted for, is split between the Government and the other precepting bodies in proportion to their shares.

For Council Tax only, there was a surplus on the fund as at 31st March 2020 of £861k. This will be shared between Fylde Council, the County Council, the Police Authority and the Fire & Rescue Authority in 2020/21 & 2021/22. Fylde Council's share of the surplus is £111k.

For Non-Domestic Rates only, there was a surplus on the fund as at 31st March 2020 of £3.869m. The surplus will be shared between Central Government, Fylde Council, the County Council and the Fire & Rescue Authority in 2020/21 & 2021/22. Fylde Council's share of the surplus is £2.120m.

A proportion of the Collection Fund surplus arises as a result of the reduction in the provision for outstanding Business Rate appeals against the Valuation Office assessment of the Rateable Value of business properties. The total value of the Provision for Appeals has reduced from £4.865m in 2018/19 to £2.599m for 2019/20 with Fylde Council's share of this being £1.455m (2018/19 £1.946m). It is anticipated that this revised level of provision is sufficient to meet the full cost of the outstanding appeals currently lodged and any future appeals under the new 'Check, Challenge and Appeal' system.

The Council joined the Lancashire Business Rate Pool with effect from 1st April 2017 in order to benefit from a reduced government levy on business rate growth which resulted in a higher level of retained Business Rates. Full details of the pool and its benefits to the council for 2019/20 are set out within a note to the Collection Fund.

Further to this the bid by Lancashire councils to be selected as one of the '75% Business Rate Retention Pilot' schemes for 2019/20 was successful.

Under the previous pooling arrangements business rate income raised in Fylde was first split with 50% going to the government and the rest being shared between Fylde Council (40%), LCC (9%) and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (1%). For 2019/20 under the new pilot scheme this initial split changed to 25% government and 75% local preceptors, with Fylde's initial share increasing from 40% to 56%, prior to the application of a tariff. This has increased the reward possible from growth of business rate income but has also meant that there is a greater risk of adverse consequences if income declines.

The government had previously announced a reform to the Business Rates system due to be implemented for all authorities in 2020/21 as part of a Fair Funding Review into overall funding arrangements for Local Government. This was delayed from 2019/20 as a consequence of uncertainties surrounding the departure of

the United Kingdom from the European Union, and again in 2020/21 due to the Covid-19 situation. This Review and the reform to the Business Rates system is now expected to take place during 2021/22 with implementation anticipated from 2022/23. The financial forecast approved by Budget Council in March 2020 assumes a reduced level of business rate income from 2021/22 onwards at a level that is closer to the existing baseline level. This will be reviewed as part of the next Financial Forecast update and future estimates of business rate income will be updated as necessary.

The Collection Fund accounting processes mean that there are significant timing differences between when a deficit or surplus on the Collection Fund occurs and when the relevant payments or receipts are made to or from the relevant parties to the Collection Fund.

A Summary of the outturn position and the transfers to reserves described above are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – General Fund Revenue Outturn Position and Transfers to Reserves 2019/20

	Budget	Actual	Variance	
	£m	£m	£m	
Net expenditure for the year	10.472	9.748	(0.724)	(Fav)
Financing for the year	(11.612)	(12.212)	(0.600)	(Fav)
Surplus of resources for the year	(1.140)	(2.464)	(1.324)	(Fav)
Less :				
Budgeted transfer to Capital Investment Reserve	0.832	0.832	-	
Budgeted transfer to M55 Link Road Reserve	0.308	0.308	-	
Balance - further transfers to reserves	-	(1.324)	(1.324)	(Fav)
<u>Analysis of further transfers to reserves:</u>				
Required transfer to GF revenue balances re slippage	-	(0.345)	(0.345)	(Fav)
Further transfer to Capital Investment Reserve	-	(0.924)	(0.924)	(Fav)
Transfer to Funding Volatility Reserve	-	(0.020)	(0.020)	(Fav)
Transfer of Government Grant to EU Exit Reserve	-	(0.035)	(0.035)	(Fav)
Total further transfers to reserves	-	(1.324)	(1.324)	(Fav)

Full details and further analysis of expenditure, income and budget variances is set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Outturn Report reported to the Finance and Democracy Committee on 28th July 2020. A copy of the report can be found on the Council's website at www.fylde.gov.uk.

Cost of Services 2019/20

The 2019/20 Gross Cost of General Fund Services, excluding internal support service recharges, is analysed by service area in Table 2 below:

Table 2 – Gross Cost of General Fund Services 2019/20

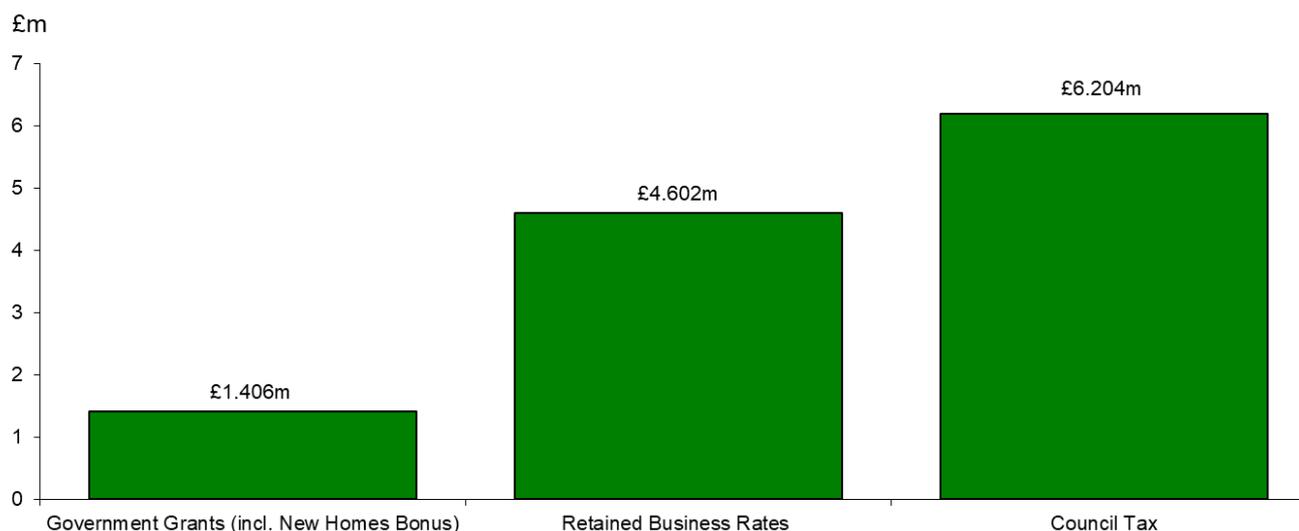
	Outturn
	£'m
Service:	
Refuse Collection	2.825
Street Cleaning	0.998
Other Environmental Health	1.096
Development Control, Building Control and Local Plans	1.713
Tourism and Leisure	2.907
Housing	0.773
Housing Benefits	17.362
Local Tax Collection	0.843
Economic Development and Regeneration	0.255
Other	6.939
Gross Expenditure Totals	35.711
Income and Grants:	
Other Government Grants (incl Housing Benefit Subsidy Grant)	(16.283)
Other Grants and Contributions	(2.864)
Other Income, Fees and Charges etc.	(6.816)
Income and Grants Totals	(25.963)
Net Expenditure for the Year	9.748

(as per Table 1)

6.2 INCOME

The Council finances its net operating expenditure from Council Tax, General Government Grants and, under revised arrangements since 2013/14, the local share of Business Rates. The contribution made by each is shown in the following graph: –

Source of Funding 2019/20



Council Tax

Fylde Borough Council charged an average Band D Council Tax of £206.60 for 2019/20 (excluding Town and Parish precepts), which was a £4.99 increase from the 2018/19 average Band D charge for a Band D property. This represented an increase of 2.48% which was within the Central Government capping limit for 2019/20. Individual year-on-year changes within the Borough varied due to the impact of Town and Parish Council precepts and the liability for Special Expense charges in Lytham and St Annes. The actual in-year rate of collection in 2019/20 was 96.8%. The in-year collection rates for 2018/19 and 2017/18 were 97.1% and 96.8% respectively. Ultimately the Council collects in the region of 99% of Council Tax. In 2019/20 the Council retained £6.204m of Council Tax income.

Government Grants and Non-Domestic Rates

Income from government grants received in 2019/20, including New Homes Bonus, totalled £1.406m. The Council's share of local business rate income for 2019/20, including grant support for national discount schemes and the surplus/deficit from the previous year, totalled £4.602m.

6.3 CAPITAL

In 2019/20 total capital expenditure was £12.168m as compared to a revised total programme of £14.299m. After adjusting for slippage of £2.129m this leaves a net underspend for the year of £2k. An analysis of how the money was spent, and financed, is shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Capital Expenditure and Sources of Financing 2019/20

Expenditure by Scheme:		£'000	£'000
Finance & Democracy Committee:			
Accommodation Project – Phase 8 – Car Park		30	
	sub-total		30
Tourism & Leisure Committee:			
Fairhaven Lake and Gardens		252	
Fairhaven Adventure Golf		14	
Staining Playing Fields Development Scheme		186	
Ashton Gardens Play Area		18	
Ashton Gardens Nursery Improvements		30	
Weeton Village Hall		7	
Fylde Sand Dunes Improvement Scheme		6	
	sub-total		513
Operational Management Committee:			
Replacement Vehicles		368	
Public Transport Improvements		31	
Fairhaven & Church Scar Coast Protection Scheme		9,112	
Fairhaven & Church Scar Public Realm Works		195	
	sub-total		9,706
Environment, Health & Housing Committee:			
Disabled Facilities Grants Programme		1,207	
Housing Needs Grants		2	
Church Road Methodist Church, St Annes		275	
Affordable Warmth Scheme		8	
Cemetery and Crematorium – Infrastructure Works		192	
	sub-total		1,684
Planning Committee:			
St Annes Regeneration Scheme		118	
M55 Link Road – Design Fees		20	
St Annes Pier - Coastal Revival Fund		19	
Tree Planting		27	
Future High Street Fund: Kirkham		51	
	sub-total		235
Total Expenditure			12,168
Financing:		£'000	£'000
Grants & Contributions		10,895	
Internal Borrowing		54	
Capital Receipts		163	
Revenue Contribution		82	
Capital Investment Reserve		974	
Total Financing			12,168

7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT

The Council is bound by the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, and it is required to comply with both these Codes through regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

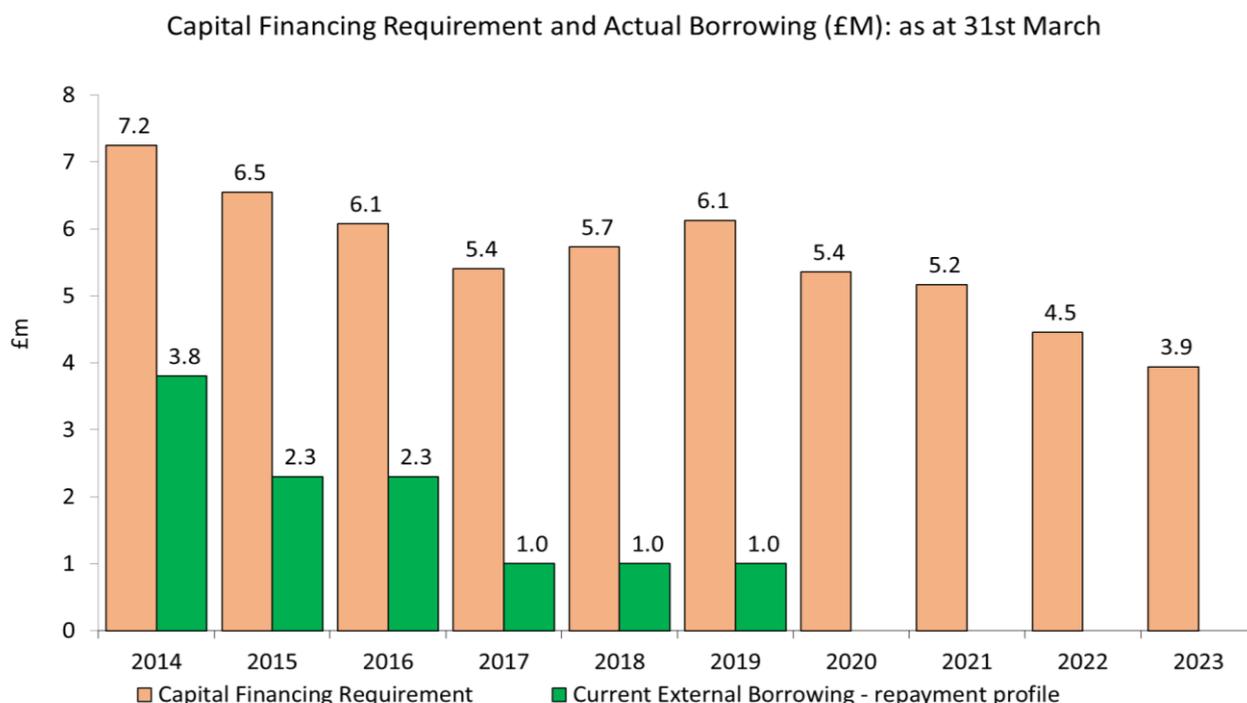
The Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 to 2021/22 have been agreed by the Council. Performance is monitored and reported during the year. For 2019/20 the Council has complied with all agreed internal procedures and the Prudential Indicators set for borrowing have been managed within the limits set.

The security of investments is the Council's main investment objective. This is achieved by adhering to the Treasury Management Strategy, as approved by Council on 5th March 2019. The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.

A key Prudential Indicator for every Council is the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR is the amount that the Council needs to borrow in order to fund its capital expenditure requirements: it is in effect the Council's underlying need to borrow. The CFR for Fylde Borough Council for the year ended 31st March 2020 was £5.4m. The Council can borrow money from either the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) (an agency of HM Treasury), from banks, building societies, or from other public bodies. During 2019/20 the Council repaid its only external borrowing of £1m to the PWLB. The Council now has no external borrowing. The interest paid in respect of the Council's external debt in 2019/20 was £28k (£39k in 2018/19).

The Authorised Limit for External Debt is a further key Prudential Indicator that controls the overall level of borrowing and is a statutory limit set by the Council that must not be breached. The Council's authorised limit for external debt for 2019/20 was £6.0m. The Council's actual total debt at 31st March 2020 was nil as a result of the use of internal borrowing (cash balances used to meet the CFR in place of external borrowing). This has the effect of also lowering the overall treasury risk by reducing both external debt and temporary investments.

The chart below shows forecast external borrowing and the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) from 2014 to 2023.



During the year, cash sums managed internally by the Council have been invested for periods of up to twelve months with approved banks, money market funds, and other Local Authorities. The Council held an average cash balance of £26.8m of internally managed funds during 2019/20. The overall performance was a gross return of 0.78%, compared with a benchmark return of 0.53%. Interest earned was £207k compared to a revised budget of £182k. The level of interest from investments was in excess of the revised budget as the actual level of external investments was higher than was anticipated due to the Council benefitting from a more favourable cash-flow position than was forecast.

Economic Background

The UK's progress negotiating its exit from the European Union, together with its future trading arrangements, dominated much of the economic stage during 2019/20 and is expected to continue to be a major influence on the economy in the near future.

Towards the end of 2019/20 the Covid-19 crisis has caused a major downturn in both the domestic and global economy, the long-term effects of which are yet to be fully understood. For the UK this is exacerbated by the consequences of Brexit and internationally by the pre-existing downturn in global activity.

Inflation was running below target at 1.5% in March 2020 but fell to 0.8% in April due to reduced retail and economic activity as a consequence of the Covid-19 'lock-down' situation. Slower global growth should reduce the prospect of externally driven inflation pressures.

Interest rate forecast: During a special meeting of the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee on 10th March 2020, the Bank of England decided to cut the interest from 0.75% to 0.25% to counter the "economic shock" resulting from the coronavirus outbreak.

The subsequent global outbreak of coronavirus led the UK government to take further steps to ameliorate the economic impact by reducing the base rate for the second time in a single month from 0.25% to 0.1%, warning that the pandemic will result in a "sharp and large" economic shock.

Investment yields remain low due to the UK and global economic outlooks.

Pension Fund

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the council offers retirement benefits for officers who contribute into the pension scheme. Although not required to be paid until employees retire, the pension fund is committed to making the payments and the council is required to disclose the authority's liability at the time that employees earn their future entitlement. The scheme is funded, however, meaning that both the authority and employees pay contributions into the fund calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with scheme assets.

During 2017/18 the Council made a lump sum £2.547m pre-payment of employer pension contributions in respect of 2018/19 and 2019/20. The Council did this to secure a discount from the pension fund which outweighed the equivalent investment income that could be generated from investing the money elsewhere. The prepayment for this final year has been charged directly against the net Pension Liability in 2019/20. The net liability on the pension fund as shown on the balance sheet was therefore reduced by £1.274m to £24.277m as at 31st March 2020. As a result of these transactions it is recognised that there was an imbalance between the net pension liability and the pension reserve totals in the first two years. This imbalance has been removed in 2019/20.

The council's share of the pension fund deficit has fluctuated widely over the past few years, with a significant impact being the financial assumptions made by the scheme actuary, Mercer Ltd. This has a substantial impact on the net worth of the authority as recorded in the Balance Sheet. Statutory arrangements for funding the pension fund mean that the deficit will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees as assessed periodically by the pension fund actuary. The next full revaluation will be undertaken in 2022. Full details of the scheme history and assumptions used by the actuary are included in note 41 to the accounts.

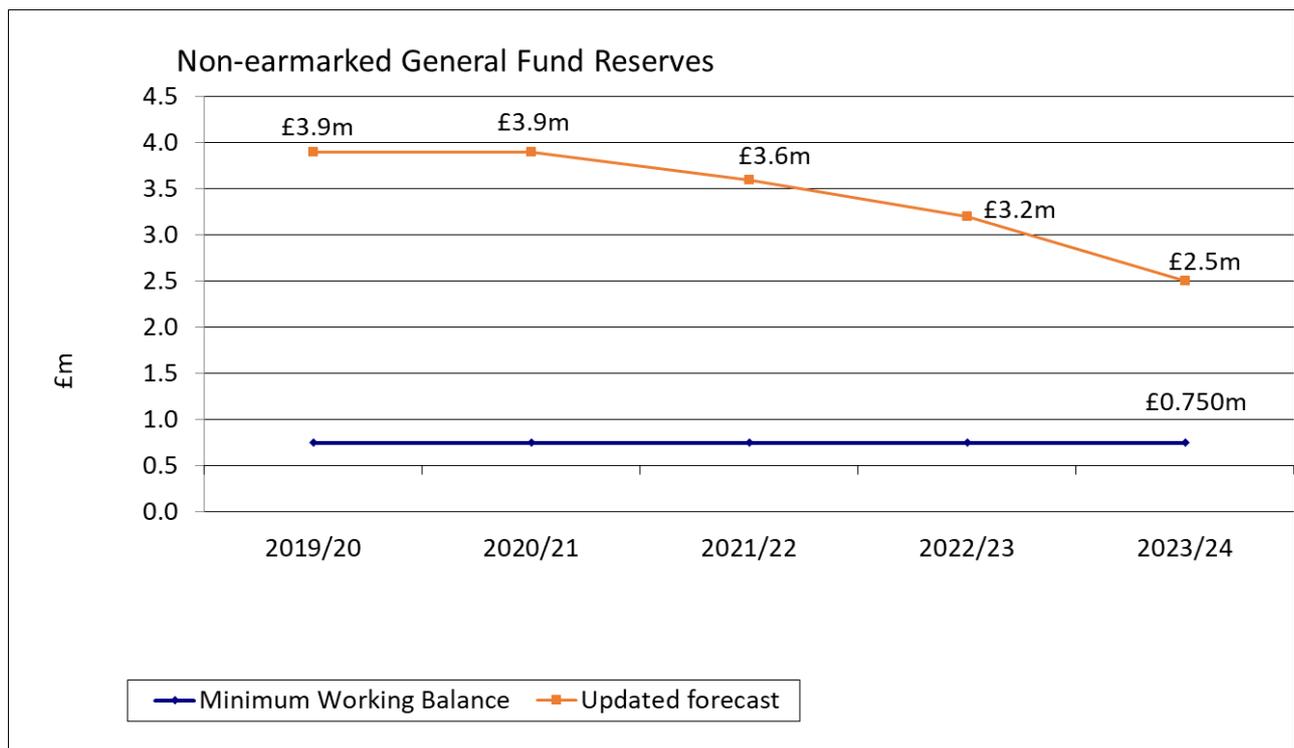
8. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POSITION

The favourable revenue outturn represents a further improvement to the overall financial position of the Council which will be reflected in future updates to the Financial Forecast during 2020/21. It allows for a further contribution to be made to the Capital Investment Reserve in the sum of £0.924m which will provide additional financing resources for future capital projects – which in turn reduces the need for the Council to borrow.

Through continued focus on the importance of financial stability, the Council has delivered a savings programme over several years and has continued to reduce senior management costs and other overheads. Ongoing modernisation work and business improvement will continue to make Council services more efficient, save money and maintain high quality frontline services to customers. This work has yielded ongoing savings to help improve the Council's financial position over that period. For Fylde Council to continue to successfully meet the new challenges that it faces it is vital that this approach is re-doubled and that all reasonable opportunities for further cost-reduction measures and for the generation of additional income are considered. Prudent financial management in previous years has provided a level of reserves which allows the necessary time to determine how this council can best respond to the increased challenges.

The following graph sets out the estimated general fund balances of the Council as reported to Budget Council in March 2020. The balance at 31st March 2020 will increase temporarily by £0.345m in order to fund items of revenue slipped from 2019/20 into 2020/21. The forecast reduction in reserves from 2021/22 onwards reflects the uncertainty of central government funding allocations to Local Authorities pending the delayed Fair Funding Review into Local Government financing arrangements. Despite the potential reductions shown below, the forecast level of General Fund Reserves remains significantly above the minimum working balance £0.75m throughout the forecast period.

Reserves & Balances



In addition to the non-earmarked General Fund Reserve shown in the graph above the Council also has a number of ear-marked revenue reserves, set-aside for specific purposes. The total of these ear-marked reserves at 31st March 2020 is £11.961m. Full details of these reserves are shown at Note 8 to these accounts.

The current Capital Programme for the Council is fully funded. Furthermore, in order to provide a resource for future additions to the Capital Programme the Council has created a Capital Investment Reserve. Following favourable outturn positions in recent years it has been possible to transfer resources into that reserve which have provided funding for numerous capital schemes. The consequence of Member decisions to limit capital

scheme growth in recent years is a reduced overall requirement to borrow which in turn results in a reduction in borrowing costs.

The national 'lock-down' that was implemented in late March 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic is expected to have a major impact on the Councils financial position for 2020/21, although a range of national funding measures have also been introduced that will assist in off-setting some of those negative financial effects.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Medium Term Financial Strategy sets out the Council's revenue budget allocations, the programme for capital investment, efficiency targets and forecasts for the five year period covered by the Strategy. The key influences on this strategy include:

- The continuing reduction in central government funding for local government;
- The consequent spending constraints resulting from reduced resources in the medium term;
- Ensuring a robust and sustainable budget through the prudent use of reserves and balances and ensuring externally funded projects are facilitated;
- Developing new ways of delivering services using modernisation techniques to achieve higher levels of customer satisfaction, efficiency, value for money, strategic partnerships, service commissioning, and enterprise;
- The need to continuously review and maintain existing assets to a quality standard.

The MTFFS looks at the current year and ahead over the next four years to identify the resources likely to be required by the Council to finance service priorities and to meet spending pressures. It aims to:

- Ensure the sustainability of the Council's budget;
- Facilitate pro-active strategic management of the budget to ensure service investments and dis-investments flow from the Council's corporate and service planning frameworks;
- Be responsive to a changing and uncertain financial climate in which existing funding streams cease and new opportunities arise; and,
- Demonstrate clearly to stakeholders, both internal and external, what the Council's plans are for the use of its resources.

Links to other Enabling Strategies

The Medium Term Financial Strategy is one of the Council's enabling strategies aimed at improving transparency and accountability in the way the Council delivers services and functions. Each enabling strategy is reviewed annually as part of the planning cycle and taken together drive innovation and efficiency to achieve continuous improvement. The other enabling strategies are:

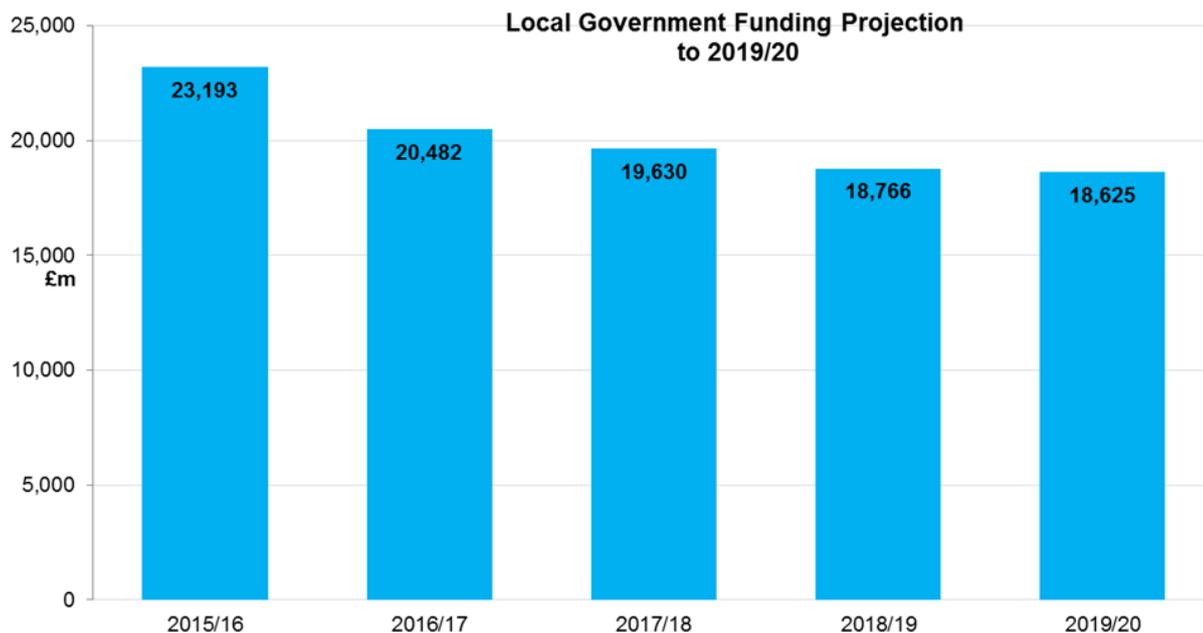
- ICT Strategy;
- Procurement Strategy;
- Communication Strategy;
- Asset Management Plan & Capital Strategy, and
- Transformation Strategy

The MTFFS takes account of the resources the Council requires to deliver the strategies. Where resources are limited the Council's overall objectives will be the same but the pace of achievement may be adjusted. This factor may become more significant as reductions in public sector funding are further revised and take greater effect.

The Longer-Term Outlook and the Vision for the Borough

To provide a general context of the financial position of the public sector in recent years, the scale of the overall reduction in central government funding to local authorities is set out in the following chart which shows funding allocations for the period 2015/16 to 2019/20:

Total local government funding levels over the period from 2015/16 to 2019/20



In July 2020 the government confirmed that the 2020 Spending Review will be finalised in the autumn and will cover the years 2021/22 to 2023/24 for revenue expenditure. Given the negative impact Covid-19 has had on the economy and the overall macroeconomic picture both nationally and internationally, in his announcement the Chancellor was clear there will need to be “tough choices” as part of the Spending Review. Any changes to future government funding arrangements and estimates will be reflected in later updates to the Council’s Financial Forecast as they become known.

Although it is clear that further challenges lie ahead in the later years of the current update to the forecast, the finances of the Council remain robust and the reserves and balances are at healthy levels as compared to earlier periods. Furthermore Fylde Council has a past record of taking actions in order to meet and overcome those challenges; the introduction of a chargeable green waste collection service from 2017/18 being a recent example of such action, as was the decision to join a Business Rates pool from 2017/18 and a ‘75% Business Rate Retention Pilot’ scheme for 2019/20, the latter of which further increased the total of retained business rates for the borough.

There are two Enterprise Zones located within the borough: the Lancashire Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Enterprise Zone at Warton and the Blackpool Airport Corridor Enterprise Zone which straddles the boundary with Blackpool Council. The Warton Enterprise Zone has been in place since 2012. The Blackpool Airport Corridor Enterprise Zone, which is targeted at the energy, aviation, food and drink manufacturing sectors, has been in place since 2016. There is a further enterprise zone at Hillhouse which is entirely within Wyre Borough which was approved at the same time as the Blackpool Airport EZ. Fylde council is working in partnership with Blackpool and Wyre Councils through a joint Economic Prosperity Board to oversee the Enterprise Zones and to achieve the ambitions for the sites.

Enterprise Zones are helping to attract more investment into the borough, bringing jobs and businesses, delivering long-term, sustainable growth based on cutting-edge technology and enterprise. The Blackpool Airport Corridor Enterprise Zone Masterplan outlines the aspirations for the site including the generation of 3,000 new jobs, securing in excess of £300m of private sector investment and with over 180 new businesses locating to the site.

Fylde Council will continue to seek other such opportunities to maintain a robust financial position in the face of a challenging and changing financial environment. This approach will ensure that the Council continues to achieve and sustain a balanced budget position on an ongoing basis and is able to deliver the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.

Managing Risks and Uncertainties

The Council recognises that effective risk management is integral to the Council’s corporate governance arrangements. The council’s Corporate Risk Management Group meets quarterly to review the Council’s

strategic risks as identified on the Council's Strategic Risk Register and identify any new risks that may prevent the Council from achieving its long-term corporate objectives.

The national 'lock-down' that was implemented in late March is expected to have an impact on the Council's financial position for 2020/21, although a range of national funding measures have also been introduced that will assist in off-setting some of those negative financial effects. The financial impact of the lockdown measures, in terms of reduced levels of income and the cost of providing financial assistance to specific local businesses, is being carefully monitored and will be reported within the updated Financial Forecast during 2020/21 as appropriate.

The Council has developed a methodology which provides a structured process for the identification, evaluation and management of risk at strategic and operational levels. The Audit and Standards Committee approve any changes to the Risk Strategy and monitor actions designed to alleviate or ameliorate risks on a regular basis.

In January 2019, the Council adopted a new Risk Management system called GRACE. This system will give managers the platform to help identify, record, manage and ultimately reduce/remove risks from their areas of responsibility.

The note on Contingent Liabilities (note 42 to this Statement of Accounts) outlines a number of potential future risks that may arise but which have not yet materialised.

9. ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND CULTURE

Fylde Council is currently performing well. The Council enjoys high levels of employee and resident satisfaction (see Residents Survey summary table below) which are measured every year, and a robust Medium Term Financial Strategy and budget that currently requires no service reductions or redundancies over the next four years. The Council has also embarked on a culture change programme aimed at delivering continuous improvement.

The culture change at Fylde has been driven by the need to transform the Council from a traditional bureaucratic local authority to a modern efficient organisation. The Council was in a poor financial position in 2007/08 with general reserves forecast to fall below the £0.5m recommended lowest limit with further pressure on reserves if the Council continued to operate in the way that it was doing. The Council has reduced the number of direct employees by almost 50% in the last 10 years, general fund reserves are in excess of £3.9m with a further £12 million currently held within earmarked reserves.

Key to transforming the Council has been employee engagement that has secured ownership of change and improvement. Competencies were developed in consultation with employees and have been placed at the core of behaviour across the Council. Every process, strategy and policy has been influenced by the competencies in order to embed the behaviours required to transform traditional public sector attitudes that had been developed over many years. The approach has been underpinned by a communication strategy that is reviewed regularly to ensure that every possible means of informing and supporting employees to demonstrate the required behaviours is in place.

The culture change programme has been delivered through 'leadership from everywhere' in the organisation, developing advocates through the 'Ambassadors' programme, mentoring, coaching, employee workshops, 'open door' policy, leadership by example, management by walkabout, and team working across the organisation. Simple mantras have made it easy for everyone to understand how they can make a difference such as; 'more from less' and 'treat people how you would like to be treated'. These have been demonstrated and reinforced through the online employee newsletter, the Chief Executive's weekly Five Points, at Team Briefs and Team Talks.

The Corporate Plan

The Council defines its key objectives through its Corporate Plan which outlines the key actions, targets and outcomes for the Authority and the wider community. The Plan is developed through consultation and feedback with stakeholders based on the key strategic responsibilities of the Council.

A new Corporate Plan covering the period 2020 to 2024 has been developed and has been presented to each of the programme committees of the Council. A review of the 2016/20 Corporate Plan during 2019/20 considered each action within the plan and any that were deemed to not have been completed were incorporated into the new 2020/24 Corporate Plan.

There are 4 key themes set out in the new Corporate Plan, these being:

Economy;
Environment;
Efficiency; and
Tourism

The 2020/24 Corporate Plan is scheduled to be presented to the October 2020 meeting of the Council, along with a review and closure of the 2016/20 plan.

The new Corporate Plan is accessible on the Council website at: [Corporate Plan 2020-24](#).

Key Activities and Achievements During 2019/20

The borough again hosted a wide variety of tourism and leisure events including the hugely successful Lytham Festival on Lytham Green. This week-long event attracted over 80,000 visitors to the town in July 2019 to enjoy music and entertainment, providing a huge economic boost to the area whilst cementing Fylde's place on the UK events map. Altogether there were around 250 events of all shapes and sizes in Fylde during 2019/20.

In August 2019 Fylde Council held the ninth annual Lytham Wartime Weekend on Lytham Green, attracting around 40,000 visitors in total over the weekend.

St Annes beach was awarded the 'Seaside Award' from Keep Britain Tidy for the 5th year in a row. The bathing waters were also classified as 'good', meaning residents and visitors can enjoy the beaches knowing they are clean and safe.

The Men's Senior Golf tournament took place at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club during the year, the event being won by German golfer Bernhard Langer.

The reintroduction of Sand Yachting events continued with mini yachts using the wide-open sandy beach in St Annes. These are plans for a bigger and brighter future for this activity in the borough.

Following a hugely successful first season for the new Splash water attraction facility on the Promenade Gardens in 2019, further improvements are scheduled including ornamental perimeter fencing to aid site security and new toilet facilities.

The Parks & Coastal Services team successfully delivered a large-scale sand dune project to lower and stabilise the sand dunes along Clifton Drive North. Dune reprofiling and stabilisation works started in late February. The project was undertaken by staff from Fylde Council and the Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

During the year Ashton Gardens in St Annes saw the introduction of new play equipment and a refurbishment programme of the adjacent operational depot with new surfacing and buildings.

The exterior works and landscaping of the Town Hall and grounds were completed early in the year, those being the final phases of the renovation project for the site that has taken several years to complete.

Work progressed ahead of schedule and within budget throughout the financial year on the £22m Coast Defence project at Lytham and Fairhaven which has enhanced flood prevention and transformed the coastline in that area.

A resident satisfaction survey is carried out each year and the results, as set out in the table below, show high levels of customer satisfaction with the Council's performance.

The Resident Survey Results 2012 to 2019

QUESTIONS (Percentages figures are the percentage satisfied, good and excellent)	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	Overall 2012-19 Average	2008/09 LGA Place Survey
Number of responses	467	431	610	136	461	608	829	1,583	5,125	1,224
How would you rate the refuse collection service at Fylde	97%	94%	90%	92%	97%	94%	95%	93%	94%	76%
How would you rate the household recycling service at Fylde	92%	89%	86%	87%	93%	92%	93%	91%	90%	78%
How would you rate the parks and open spaces in Fylde	95%	96%	93%	98%	95%	94%	94%	93%	95%	68%
How would you rate the cleanliness of the streets in Fylde	79%	78%	73%	83%	85%	83%	83%	81%	81%	65%
How would you rate the planning service at Fylde*	72%	68%	60%	79%	69%	63%	70%	71%	69%	52%
How would you rate the customer service at Fylde*	90%	87%	74%	89%	89%	89%	88%	90%	87%	n/a
Overall, I would rate the Fylde as a place to visit	98%	97%	95%	90%	97%	97%	97%	95%	96%	n/a
Overall, I would rate Fylde as a place to live	96%	95%	94%	99%	97%	97%	97%	95%	96%	87%
How would you rate the value for money I receive from Fylde Council	81%	78%	70%	82%	84%	85%	85%	81%	81%	63%
Overall and taking everything into account, how would you rate Fylde Council	90%	86%	76%	87%	92%	90%	90%	88%	87%	n/a

*Only includes percentage of the respondents that **have used** the service

10. OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

The favourable outturn position for revenue allows for a further contribution to be made to the Capital Investment Reserve in the sum of £0.924m which will provide additional financing resources for future capital projects. This additional contribution is beneficial Council's overall financial position and thus is to be welcomed.

The Council's overall financial strength shows improvement from the position as presented to the Budget Council meeting in March 2020 as a result of the favourable outturn position. The Financial Forecast continues to show a budgeted surplus for 2020/21 and a relatively balanced budget position thereafter, based on current estimates of future financing.

A significant factor in the financial forecast is the estimated reduction in the level of retained business rates from 2021/22 onwards arising from the government's stated intention of further reform to the business rates retention mechanism from that year. The government had previously announced a "full reset" and reform to the Business Rates system due to be implemented for all authorities in 2020/21 as part of a general Fair Funding Review for Local Government. This review was delayed from 2019/20 as a consequence of uncertainties surrounding the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union, and again in 2020/21 due to the Covid-19 situation. The review and the reform to the Business Rates system is now expected to take place during 2021/22 with implementation anticipated from 2022/23. It is widely anticipated that the review will look to re-balance public funding in such a way that may be detrimental to district councils, although details of the review and its outcome are yet to emerge. When details of the reforms and the impact on future retained business rate income become known the financial forecast will be updated accordingly.

The national 'lock-down' that was implemented in late March is expected to have a major impact on the Councils financial position for 2020/21, although a range of national funding measures have also been introduced that will assist in off-setting some of those negative financial effects. The financial impact of the lockdown measures, in terms of reduced levels of income and the cost of providing financial assistance to specific local businesses, is being carefully monitored and will be reported within the updated Financial Forecast during 2020/21 as appropriate.

Whilst challenges remain, and will no doubt continue to be present given the reduction in central government funding for future years, prudent financial management has provided a relatively stable financial environment which allows the necessary time to determine how this Council can best respond to the challenges it faces.

Section 8 of this narrative report provides information regarding the current and forecast level of revenue reserves. Although there will doubtless be further challenges to be addressed in the future the current financial position of the Council, and specifically the level of revenue reserves, is healthy. The future revenue position of the Council is relatively stable with a projected surplus in 2020/21 and a generally balanced budget position thereafter, based upon current estimates of future central government financing.

The creation of a Capital Investment Reserve, into which revenue surpluses have been transferred for a number of years, has meant that a significant number of capital schemes have been delivered without the requirement for external financing. The reduced requirement to borrow in turn results in a reduction in borrowing costs and thus contributes to an improved overall revenue position. During 2019/20 the Council repaid its only external debt of £1m to the PWLB and now has no external borrowing.

The Council has not required any temporary borrowing to support its cashflow during 2019/20. Nor does it anticipate any cashflow concerns in future years through careful management of cashflow and investment decision-making.

Cashflow forecasts are prepared and reviewed regularly throughout the financial year by senior finance officers. The forecast is revised as required to reflect changes in actual cash movements, transaction timing changes and to include new cash movements. The monthly cash flow forecast is used as the basis for determining the level of cash that is available for external investment to thereby generate additional revenue income. In order to ensure that excessive funds are not invested externally and consequently causing potential liquidity issues for the Council it is day-to-day practice to leave a minimum cash balance of £0.5m within the Council's current bank account. In addition to this, short term liquid deposits of at least £6m are maintained on call or available within a week's notice. Monies will not be placed on fixed term deposit when such an action would reduce cash balances below this level. It is expected that such practices will provide sufficient liquidity of funds at all times. However, if necessary short-term borrowing is available from the Money Market as and when required.

The key financial risks that the Council is currently facing can be summarised as:

- Reduced levels of amenity and other income for 2020/21 as a result of the national 'lock-down' that was implemented in late March 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- the risk of lower than projected income resulting from retained Business Rates in future years;
- reduced levels of future central government funding arising from the Fair Funding Review;
- reduced level of grant for Housing Benefit Administration with the expansion of Universal Credit to replace Housing Benefits; and
- the risk that borrowing cost assumptions may require amendment in the light of changes to the economic environment.

Full details of the above are set out within the MTFs reports presented to the Budget Council on 5th March 2019 and 4th March 2020.

In preparation for the known future financial challenges the Council has, in recent years, undertaken a review of potential means of responding to those circumstances. Consequently a number of important decisions have already been made with regard to income generation and expenditure reduction that will have a positive effect on the financial forecast for future years, demonstrating a responsiveness to the current financial challenges which is essential for the Council to be able to maintain a robust financial position and deliver its key corporate objectives.

Council and Committee reports are accessible on the Council website at:

<https://fylde.cmis.uk.com/fylde/Committees.aspx>

At a strategic level, activity and resources are focused on the delivery of the key objectives of the Council as set out within the Council's approved Corporate Plan. Given the level of reserves that has been generated in recent years the small budget deficits currently estimated in the final years of the forecast appear to be at manageable levels. However, in an uncertain financial environment the position can change in unexpected ways. It is important that the Council continues to operate in a sound and prudent manner in order to maintain a stable financial position and to explore further means by which the financial position can be further strengthened, whilst continuing to provide high quality services to residents and to deliver the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.

In June 2016 the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union, commonly referred to as 'Brexit'. In March 2017 the government acted to confirm the effective date of the exit from the European Union to be March 2019. However, parliament was unable to determine an agreed form of departure and that deadline was not met. The political impasse led eventually to an early general election that was then held on 12th December 2019, in which the Conservative party won a large majority. Subsequently, the newly confirmed Prime Minister declared that the United Kingdom would leave the European Union in early 2020. The withdrawal agreement came into force on 31st January 2020 and the United Kingdom's 47-year long membership of the European Union came to an end. As part of the withdrawal agreement a transitional period was also negotiated up until 31st December 2020, during which the existing regulations continue to apply.

Both Brexit and the impact of Covid-19 are expected to exert a significant influence on the UK economy in the near future. These factors have the potential to affect the following areas of the Council's financial statements:

- Asset valuations, such as those over property, may be more difficult to estimate and may be more volatile where the view of market participants may have changed; and
- Defined benefit pension valuations are inherently very sensitive to the selection of an appropriate discount rate. Actuarial views around discount rates and other assumptions may be impacted in the future.

CONCLUSION

Prudent financial management has provided a level of reserves which allows the necessary time to determine how this Council can best respond to future financial challenges, including the outcome of the Fair Funding Review into the future of Local government funding arrangements. Officers and Members will be continuously monitoring all areas of concern through established budget forecasting and setting procedures and will work to ensure that the Council's Revenue Budget remains robust and sustainable.

The Council has a track record of making savings as dictated by resource availability. I am therefore confident that the Council will continue to maintain a balanced budget position in the medium term.

This is the Statement of Accounts upon which the auditor should enter his certificate and opinion and has been prepared under the Local Government Finance Act 1982.

Signed



P. O'Donoghue, ACMA, CGMA
Chief Financial Officer, Section 151 Officer

Date: 31st July 2020

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority 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 Authority, that officer is the Chief Financial Officer.
- 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 Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts (which includes the financial statements) in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ('the Code').

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

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

The Chief Financial Officer's Certification

I certify that the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority at 31st March 2020 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

P. O'Donoghue, ACMA, CGMA
Chief Financial Officer, Section 151 Officer

Date: 31st July 2020

CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Introduction to the Core Financial Statements

Set out below is a brief explanation of the Core Financial Statements which are presented on the following pages:

- **The Expenditure and Funding Analysis (Page 29)**

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

- **The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Page 30)**

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

- **The Movement in Reserves Statement (Page 31)**

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

- **The Balance Sheet (Page 32)**

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the authority. The net assets of the authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the authority. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the authority may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves is those that the authority is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line '*Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations*'.

- **The Cash Flow Statement (Page 33)**

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

- **The Collection Fund (Page 87)**

The Collection Fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and distribution to local authorities and the Government of council tax and non-domestic rates.

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2018/19			2019/20			
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Notes	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Programme Committees</u>						
3,964	(1,646)	2,318		3,860	(1,448)	2,412
5,584	(2,361)	3,223		6,495	(2,332)	4,163
2,384	(1,844)	540		2,164	(2,027)	137
1,791	(830)	961		1,444	(907)	537
23,745	(19,666)	4,079		22,098	(17,557)	4,541
37,468	(26,347)	11,121		36,061	(24,271)	11,790
Cost of Services						
1,135	-	1,135	9	1,034	(162)	872
861	(586)	275	10	716	(885)	(169)
3,600	(26,126)	(22,526)	11	1,747	(24,240)	(22,493)
43,064	(53,059)		12	39,558	(49,558)	
	(9,995)					(10,000)
	278		13			(2,137)
	(1,149)		41			(3,889)
	(871)					(6,026)
	(10,866)					(16,026)

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

Note	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves (Note 26)	Unusable Reserves (Note 27)	Total Authority Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Current Year							
Balance at 31st March 2019	3,927	10,817	-	2,285	17,029	7,896	24,925
Movement in Reserves during 2019/20							
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	6,026	16,026
Adjustments between accounting basis and Funding under Regulations	7 (8,511)	-	-	(2,117)	(10,628)	10,628	-
Net Increase/(Decrease) before transfers to Earmarked Reserves	1,489	-	-	(2,117)	(628)	16,654	16,026
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	8 (1,144)	1,144	-	-	-	-	-
Increase/(Decrease) in 2019/20	345	1,144	-	(2,117)	(628)	16,654	16,026
Balance at 31st March 2020	4,272	11,961	-	168	16,401	24,550	40,951
Comparative Year							
Movement in Reserves during 2018/19							
Balance at 31st March 2018	3,685	9,645	63	791	14,184	(125)	14,059
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	9,995	-	-	-	9,995	871	10,866
Adjustments between accounting basis and Funding under Regulations	7 (8,581)	-	(63)	1,494	(7,150)	7,150	-
Net Increase/(Decrease) before transfers to Earmarked Reserves	1,414	-	(63)	1,494	2,845	8,021	10,866
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	8 (1,172)	1,172	-	-	-	-	-
Increase/(Decrease) in 2018/19	242	1,172	(63)	1,494	2,845	8,021	10,866
Balance at 31st March 2019	3,927	10,817	-	2,285	17,029	7,896	24,925

BALANCE SHEET

Balance As at 31 st March 2019 £'000		Notes	Balance As at 31 st March 2020 £'000
33,015	Property, Plant and Equipment	13	44,095
3,788	Heritage Assets	14	3,788
3,194	Investment Properties	15	3,501
-	Intangible assets	16	-
2	Long Term Debtors	18	-
39,999	Long Term Assets		51,384
12,025	Short Term Investments	17	12,047
550	Assets held for sale	19	550
84	Inventories	20	84
3,218	Short Term Debtors	21	3,891
7,787	Cash and Cash equivalents	22	11,406
23,664	Current Assets		27,978
(1,012)	Short Term Borrowing	17	(-)
(7,354)	Short Term Creditors	23	(8,087)
(1,946)	Provisions	24	(1,455)
(36)	Provision for Accumulated Absences	27	(42)
(10,348)	Current Liabilities		(9,584)
(3,141)	Long Term Creditors	25	(4,550)
(-)	Long Term Borrowing	17	(-)
(25,249)	Liability related to Defined Benefit Pension Scheme	41	(24,277)
(28,390)	Long Term Liabilities		(28,827)
24,925	NET ASSETS		40,951
17,029	Usable Reserves	26	16,401
7,896	Unusable Reserves	27	24,550
24,925	TOTAL RESERVES		40,951

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

2018/19 £'000		Notes	2019/20 £'000
9,995	Net Surplus / (Deficit) on the Provision of Services		10,000
6,939	Adjustments for non-cash movements	28	4,028
(14,540)	Adjust for movements relating to investing and financing activities	28	(8,941)
2,394	Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		5,087
3,064	Investing Activities	29	(1,454)
(135)	Financing Activities	30	(14)
5,323	Net Increase or (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents		3,619
2,464	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		7,787
7,787	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the reporting period	22	11,406

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 (the Code) and the accounting policies set out at Note 1. The notes that follow set out supplementary information to assist readers of the accounts.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2019/20 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31st March 2020. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which those Regulations require the accounts 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 2019/20 (the Code) and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2019/20 (SeRCOP), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

b) 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 Authority transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Authority.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Authority 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 Authority.
- 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 are 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.

c) Acquisitions and Discontinued Operations

Where, and if, appropriate, income and expenditure directly relating to acquisitions or discontinued operations is shown separately on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement under the appropriate heading.

d) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than 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 Authority's cash management.

e) Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

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

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Authority'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.

f) Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

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

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

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

g) Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

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

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

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

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

h) Employee Benefits

(i) Benefits Payable During Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled wholly 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 Authority. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday

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 is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in which the holiday absence occurs.

(ii) Termination Benefits

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

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

(iii) Post-employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Lancashire County Council. The scheme provides defined benefits to members, earned as employees worked for the Council.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the Lancashire County Council scheme attributable to the Authority 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 real discount rate of 2.4% (2018/19 2.4%), based on the indicative rate of return on an AA corporate bonds.
- The assets of the pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value.
 - Quoted securities – current bid price;
 - Unquoted securities – professional estimate;
 - Unitised securities – current bid price; and
 - Property – market value.
- The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into the following components:

Service cost comprising:

- 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.
- Past service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs.
- Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the Authority – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

Re-measurements comprising:

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

- Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

Contributions made to the Lancashire County Council Pension Fund:

- cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

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

Discretionary Benefits

The Authority 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.

i) Events after the Reporting Period

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

j) Financial Instruments

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

(i) Financial Liabilities

A financial liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the Council and can be represented by a contractual obligation to deliver cash or financial assets or an obligation to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that is potentially unfavourable to the Council.

The majority of the Council's financial liabilities held during the year are measured at amortised cost and comprised:

- Long-term loan from the Public Works Loans Board; and
- Trade payables for goods and services received.

(ii) Financial Assets

A financial asset is a right to a future economic benefits controlled by the Council that is represented by cash, equity instruments or a contractual right to receive cash or other financial assets or a right to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that is potentially favourable to the Council. The financial assets held by the Council during the year are accounted for under two classifications:

- Amortised cost (where cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest and the Council's business model is to collect those cash flow) comprising:
 - cash in hand;
 - bank current and deposit accounts;
 - fixed term deposits with banks;
 - loans to other local authorities; and
 - trade receivables for goods and services provided.
- Fair value through profit and loss (all financial assets) comprising:
 - money market funds.

Financial assets held at amortised cost are shown net of a loss allowance reflecting the statistical likelihood that the borrower or debtor will be unable to meet their contractual commitments to the Council.

k) Foreign Currency Translation

Where the authority has entered into a transaction denominated in a foreign currency, the transaction is converted into sterling at the exchange rate applicable on the date the transaction was effective. Where amounts in foreign currency are outstanding at the year-end, they are reconverted at the spot exchange rate at 31 March. Resulting gains or losses are recognised in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

l) 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 Authority when there is reasonable assurance that:

- The Authority will comply with the conditions attached to the payments, and
- 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 in the form of 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.

m) Heritage Assets

Heritage assets are defined as assets which have historical, artistic or cultural qualities and that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

The introduction of FRS 30 and subsequently FRS 102 Heritage Assets has resulted in the requirement for this standard to be included within the council's accounting policies from 2011/12. Prior to 2011/12 the Code did not require heritage assets to be reported separately. These will have previously been reported as part of Community Assets in the balance sheet.

There is no IFRS that deals with tangible heritage assets. Authorities are therefore required to account for tangible heritage assets in accordance with FRS 102.

Accounting for Heritage Assets in 2019/20

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

Heritage assets should normally be included in the balance sheet at their current value. Where it is not practical to obtain a valuation at a reasonable cost heritage assets should be valued at cost.

Where the Council has information on the cost or value of a heritage asset that value has been used in compilation of the 2019/20 balance sheet. Where this information is not available and the historical cost information cannot easily be obtained the asset can be excluded from the balance sheet.

Valuations may be made by any method that is appropriate. There is no requirement for valuations to be carried out or certified by external valuers nor is there any prescribed minimum period between valuations. However where heritage assets are valued at their current value that value has to be reviewed with sufficient frequency to ensure the valuation is up to date.

Depreciation is not required on heritage assets with indefinite lives. However where there is evidence of physical deterioration to a heritage asset or doubts arise to its authenticity the value of the asset has to be reviewed.

The Authority's collections of heritage assets are as follows.

- **Art Collection**
 - The art collection comprises approximately 200 paintings of a wide range of subjects most of which have been donated or bequeathed to the Council and a number of which are by local artists and depict scenes from around the local area. Prominent amongst the collection is a painting by Johann Heinrich Fuseli, R.A. entitled 'Vision of Catherine of Aragon'. This work is of significant merit and is periodically loaned to public galleries in order that it may be widely viewed.
 - The valuation will be regularly reviewed with a professional revaluation of the collection being obtained at intervals of not more than 5 years. A professional valuation was obtained during 2017/18.
 - Public access to the collection is afforded by exhibition in a local gallery space and the loan of the more significant components to local, national and international galleries.
 - Donations are recognised at valuation with valuations provided by the external valuers.
- **Memorials & Monuments**
 - The Council owns a range of memorials and monuments situated within the borough including a number of war memorials.
 - The Authority does not consider that reliable cost or valuation information can be obtained for all except one of the items within this category of heritage assets. This is because of the unique nature of the assets held and lack of comparable market values. Consequently the Authority recognises these assets on the balance sheet at a nominal value. The single item for which a value is included in the balance sheet is a memorial sculpture which is valued for insurance purposes in the sum of £80,000, the estimated replacement cost. This insurance valuation will be regularly reviewed and the value updated as necessary.
 - The Authority does not intend to extend the range of this class of assets.
 - Public access is afforded by the location of the items in prominent and accessible locations within the borough.
- **Sculptures / Ivories**
 - The Council owns a range of sculptures including a collection of Japanese ivory figurines all of which have been donated or bequeathed.
 - These valuations will be regularly reviewed with a professional revaluation of the collection being obtained at intervals of not more than 5 years. A professional valuation was obtained during 2017/18.

- Public access to the collection is afforded by exhibition in a local gallery space and loan of the more significant components to local galleries upon request.
- Donations are recognised at valuation with valuations provided by the external valuers.
- **Trophies & Other Items**
 - The Council owns a number of trophies of a sporting heritage and other miscellaneous items of a ceremonial nature.
 - These valuations will be regularly reviewed with a professional revaluation of the collection being obtained at intervals of not more than 5 years. A professional valuation was obtained during 2017/18.
 - Public access to these items is limited to the display of the items at civic events.
- **Civic Regalia**
 - The Council owns a variety of chains, pendants and badges which together with the ceremonial mace comprise the civic regalia.
 - These valuations will be regularly reviewed with a professional revaluation of the collection being obtained at intervals of not more than 5 years. A professional valuation was obtained during 2017/18.
 - Public access to these items is limited to the display of the items at civic events and occasionally as components of an exhibition.

Heritage Assets – General

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment for heritage assets, e.g. where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise as to its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Authority's general policies on impairment – see accounting policy on page 45.

n) Intangible Assets

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the Authority 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 Authority.

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 Authority 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 Authority'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 Authority can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible asset held by the Authority meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised on a straight line basis 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.

o) Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Authority has no material interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and jointly controlled entities that require it to prepare group accounts.

p) Inventories and Long Term Contracts

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories is assigned using the FIFO costing formula.

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.

q) 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 for the delivery of the Council's services or is held for sale.

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

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

r) Joint Operations

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

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

s) 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 Authority 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. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability.

Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are treated as revenue transactions and 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.

t) Overheads and Support Services

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

u) Property, Plant and Equipment

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

(i) Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Authority; that the cost of the item can be measured reliably; and that the cost exceeds the 'de minimis' threshold of £10,000. 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.

(ii) Measurement

Non-Current Assets are valued on the basis recommended by CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy) and in accordance with the Statements of Asset Valuation Principles and Guidance Notes issued by the RICS (The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors). Non-Current Assets are classified into the groupings required by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

All valuations have been undertaken in accordance with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Appraisal and Valuation Standards by our in house surveyor. The values have been arrived at by having regard to market evidence and the Surveyor's knowledge and experience of the properties involved.

Definitions of each of the valuation methodologies used are:

Market Value - *"The estimated amount for which an asset should exchange on the date of valuation between a willing buyer and a willing seller in an arm's length transaction after proper marketing wherein the parties had each acted knowledgeably, prudently and without compulsion".*

Depreciated Replacement Cost - *"The current cost of replacing an asset with its modern equivalent asset less deductions for the physical deterioration and all relevant forms of obsolescence and optimisation."*

Existing Use Value - *"The estimated amount for which a property should exchange on the date of valuation between a willing buyer and a willing seller in an arm's length transaction, after proper marketing wherein the parties had acted knowledgeably, prudently and without compulsion, assuming that the buyer is granted vacant possession of all parts of the property required by the business and disregarding potential alternative uses and any other characteristics of the property that would cause its Market Value to differ from that needed to replace the remaining service potential at least cost".*

Operational properties have been valued on the basis of Existing Use Value, unless they are Specialised, in which case they have been valued on the basis of Depreciated Replacement Cost. All Depreciated Replacement Cost valuations are subject to the prospect and viability of the continued occupation and use of the properties concerned.

Non-operational properties have been valued on the basis of Market Value. In the case of the **Community assets** they have been valued on either Existing Use Value or Market Value.

Heritage Assets

Valuation methodologies in respect of heritage assets are outlined in note m on Heritage Assets above.

Revaluations of Non-Current Assets included in the balance sheet at current value are planned at intervals of not more than five years. Investment properties are reviewed every year to consider that the value of the assets are fairly reflected in the Balance Sheet. In addition material changes in asset values are recorded as they occur.

(iii) Impairment

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

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

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

(iv) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment with a finite useful life. Useful life is estimated at the time of acquisition or revaluation. 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:

- dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer;
- vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the asset; and
- infrastructure – straight-line allocation as advised by a suitable qualified officer.

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

Newly acquired assets are depreciated fully in the year of acquisition, although assets in the course of construction are not depreciated until they are brought into use, thereafter an equal charge to revenue is made over the useful life of all assets.

Depreciation is not required on heritage assets with indefinite lives. However where there is evidence of physical deterioration to a heritage asset or doubts arise to its authenticity the value of the asset has to be reviewed.

(v) Componentisation

The Code requires that each part of an item of Property, Plant and Equipment with a cost that is significant in relation to the total cost of the item is depreciated separately. The Council will use the value of an individual asset relative to the overall asset portfolio to assess whether an asset is material. Any building element below 1% of the value of the portfolio is not therefore viewed as material. In terms of significance,

the CIPFA advice is that they are not looking for more than 3 to 4 components in addition to the “host” asset. The Council will therefore adopt a de minimis cost equating to 20% of the asset value.

(vi) **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.

Assets Held for Sale, are where the:

- Asset is immediately available for sale;
- Sale is highly probable;
- Asset is actively marketed; and
- Sale is expected to be completed within 12 months.

The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale, they are reclassified back to non-current assets and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as held for sale; adjusted 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 abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale.

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (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. A proportion of receipts relating to housing disposals (75% for dwellings, 50% for land and other assets, net of statutory deductions and allowances) is payable to the Government. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment [or set aside to reduce the Authority’s underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement)]. Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

v) Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

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

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

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

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from another party (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 authority settles the obligation.

Contingent Liabilities

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

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

Contingent Assets

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

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

w) Reserves

The Authority sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance. 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 so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

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

The Council operates a number of different reserves, the purpose of each is laid out in note 8 on pages 55 to 56.

x) Revenue Expenditure Funded by 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 Authority 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.

y) Value Added Tax (VAT)

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

z) Fair Value Measurement

The Council measures some of its non-financial assets, such as surplus assets and investment properties, and some of its financial instruments, such as equity share holdings, 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 – inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date. A quoted market price in an active market provides the most reliable evidence of fair value and is used without adjustment to measure fair value whenever available, with limited exceptions. If an entity holds a position in a single asset or liability and the asset or liability is traded in an active market, the fair value of the asset or liability is measured within Level 1 as the product of the quoted price for the individual asset or liability and the quantity held by the entity, even if the market's normal daily trading volume is not sufficient to absorb the quantity held and placing orders to sell the position in a single transaction might affect the quoted price.
- Level 2 – inputs are inputs other than quoted market prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 2 inputs include:
 - quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets,
 - quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active,
 - inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, for example,
 - interest rates and yield curves observable at commonly quoted intervals,
 - implied volatilities,
 - credit spreads,
 - inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means ('market-corroborated inputs').
- Level 3 – inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. Unobservable inputs are used to measure fair value to the extent that relevant observable inputs are not available, thereby allowing for situations in which there is little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability at the measurement date. An entity develops unobservable inputs using the best information available in the circumstances, which might include the entity's own data, taking into account all information about market participant assumptions that is reasonably available.

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

The Codes of Practice on Local Council Accounting in the United Kingdom for 2019/20 and 2020/21 have introduced several changes in accounting policies which will be required from 1st April 2020. If these had been adopted retrospectively for the financial year 2019/20 there would be no material changes within the financial statements.

The additional disclosures that require consideration for the 2019/20 financial statements in respect of accounting changes that are introduced in the 2020/21 Code relate to:

- a) Amendments to IAS 28 Investment in Associates and Joint Ventures.
- b) Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2015-2017 Cycle.
- c) Amendments to IFRS 19 Employee Benefits: Plan Amendment, Curtailment or Settlement.

Not all of the above are relevant to Fylde Council and it is anticipated that the amendments will not have a material impact on the information provided in the financial statements.

3 CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1 (pages 36 to 48), the Authority has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future event. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- The Authority continues to face significant financial uncertainty in future years and in turn the Authority has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Authority might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.

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

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

There are three items in the Authority's Balance Sheet for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year, namely the liability related to the defined benefit Pension Scheme, the future of the Lancashire Business Rates Pool and the provision for NNDR Appeals.

Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgments relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries and pensions are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.

The effects on the net pensions liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.1% per annum increase in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension liability of £1.483m (2018/19 £1.517m). Also, a one year addition to the members' life expectancy would result in an increase in the pension liability of £2.556m (2018/19 £1.892m).

The Council joined the Lancashire Business Rate Pool with effect from 1st April 2017 in order to benefit from a higher level of retained Business Rates. As part of the December 2018 Local Government Settlement announcement the bid by Lancashire councils to be selected as one of the '75% Business Rate Retention Pilot' schemes for 2019/20 was confirmed as being successful. Under the previous pooling arrangements business rate income raised in Fylde was first split with 50% going to the government and the rest being shared between Fylde Council (40%), LCC (9%) and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (1%). From 2019/20 under the new pilot scheme this initial split will change to 25% government and 75% local preceptors. This increases the reward possible from growth of business rate income, but there is also a greater risk of adverse consequences if income declines.

The government had previously announced a reform to the Business Rates system due to be implemented for all authorities in 2020/21. This was first delayed until 2021/22, following the completion of the planned 'Fair Funding' review. However, the Covid-19 situation has led to a further delay to that proposed implementation date to 2022/23. Currently the forecast assumes a reduced level of business rate income from 2021/22 onwards at a level that is closer to the current baseline level. This will be reviewed as part of the next Financial Forecast update and future estimates of business rate income may be amended.

With regards NNDR Appeals, as a consequence of the revised arrangements in respect of business rates, which came into effect from 2013/14, local authorities became liable for a share of the cost of the settlement of appeals in respect of the valuation of properties by Valuation Office Agency (VOA), that being the body which determines business rates liability. For 2019/20 the total value of the Provision for Appeals has been decreased to £2.599m from £4.865m in 2018/19 with Fylde Council's share of this being £1.455m (2018/19 £1.946m). It is anticipated that this revised level of provision is sufficient to meet the full cost of the outstanding appeals currently lodged and any future appeals under the new check challenge and appeal system. If the cost of appeals from 2019/20 onwards is less than the amounts set-aside in the provision for this purpose it may be possible to release further sums from the Provision for Appeals and consequently the Council's business rates income in that year would increase accordingly. This judgement is based upon information held on outstanding appeals and after having taken specialist advice.

5 EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Chief Financial Officer on 31st July 2020. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31st March 2020, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information. There are no post balance sheet events.

6 NOTE TO THE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2019/20:

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	(Note 6a) £'000	(Note 6b) £'000	(Note 6c) £'000	£'000
Programme Committees				
Tourism and Leisure	583	93	-	676
Operational Management	755	226	2	983
Environment, Health and Housing	59	88	1	148
Planning	-	88	1	89
Finance and Democracy	79	508	2	589
Net Cost of Services	1,476	1,003	6	2,485
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(9,385)	640	(2,251)	(10,996)
Difference between General Fund surplus/deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services (Note 7)	(7,909)	1,643	(2,245)	(8,511)

Comparatives for 2018/19:

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	(Note 6a) £'000	(Note 6b) £'000	(Note 6c) £'000	£'000
<u>Programme Committees</u>				
Tourism and Leisure	477	49	-	526
Operational Management	776	121	1	898
Environment, Health and Housing	102	48	1	151
Planning	-	43	1	44
Finance and Democracy	74	1,007	-	1,081
Net Cost of Services	1,429	1,268	3	2,700
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(12,273)	630	362	(11,281)
Difference between General Fund surplus/deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services (Note 7)	(10,844)	1,898	365	(8,581)

6a) Adjustments for Capital Purposes

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

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

6b) Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

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

- For *services* this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.

For *Financing and investment income and expenditure* – the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

6c) Other Differences

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

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

7 ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement recognised by the Authority in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Authority to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

The following sets out a description of the reserves that the adjustments are made against:

General Fund Balance

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

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.

2019/20	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserve
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:				
1. Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
• Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets.	1,476	-	-	(1,476)
• Movement in market value of Investment Properties.	(307)	-	-	307
• Amortisation of Intangible Assets.	-	-	-	-
• Capital grants and contributions applied.	(631)	-	-	631
• Movement in Donated Assets Account.	-	-	-	-
• Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute.	1,747	-	-	(1,747)
• Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.	1	-	-	(1)
2. Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
• Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment.	(829)	-	-	829
• Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund (Direct Revenue Contributions)	(1,056)	-	-	1,056
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:				
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.	(8,147)	-	8,147	-
Applications of grants and capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.	-	-	(10,264)	10,264
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.	(163)	163	-	-
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure.	-	(163)	-	163
Adjustments primarily involving the Pension Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.	3,022	-	-	(3,022)
Employer's pension's contributions and direct payments to the pensioner's payable in the year.	(1,379)	-	-	1,379
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:				
Amounts by which council tax income and non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	(2,251)	-	-	2,251
Adjustments primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accrual basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	6	-	-	(6)
Total Adjustments.	(8,511)	-	(2,117)	10,628

Comparatives for 2018/19	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserve
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:				
1. Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
• Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets.	1,430	-	-	(1,430)
• Movement in market value of Investment Properties.	(39)	-	-	39
• Amortisation of Intangible Assets.	-	-	-	-
• Capital grants and contributions applied.	(1,918)	-	-	1,918
• Movement in Donated Assets Account.	-	-	-	-
• Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute.	3,600	-	-	(3,600)
• Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.	283	-	-	(283)
2. Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
• Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment.	(666)	-	-	666
• Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund (Direct Revenue Contributions)	(910)	-	-	910
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:				
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.	(12,491)	-	12,491	-
Applications of grants and capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.	-	-	(10,997)	10,997
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.	(132)	132	-	-
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure.	-	(195)	-	195
Adjustments primarily involving the Pension Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.	3,276	-	-	(3,276)
Employer's pension's contributions and direct payments to the pensioner's payable in the year.	(1,378)	-	-	1,378
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:				
Amounts by which council tax income and non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	362	-	-	(362)
Adjustments primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accrual basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	2	-	-	(2)
Total Adjustments.	(8,581)	(63)	1,494	7,150

8 MOVEMENTS IN EARMARKED RESERVES

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure in 2019/20.

	Balance at 1 st April 2018	Transfer In 2018/19	Transfer Out 2018/19	Balance at 31 st March 2019	Transfer In 2019/20	Transfer Out 2019/20	Balance at 31 st March 2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Name of Reserve							
IT Reserve	40	-	-	40	-	-	40
Performance Reward Grant Reserve	38	-	(11)	27	-	-	27
MMI Insurance Reserve	80	-	-	80	-	-	80
Capital Investment Reserve	3,220	1,928	(763)	4,385	1,755	(974)	5,166
Community Right to Bid/Challenge Reserve	46	-	-	46	-	-	46
Funding Volatility Reserve	5,221	-	-	5,221	20	-	5,241
M55 Link Road Reserve	1,000	-	-	1,000	308	-	1,308
EU Exit Funding Reserve	-	18	-	18	35	-	53
Total Earmarked Reserves	9,645	1,946	(774)	10,817	2,118	(974)	11,961

Purpose of Earmarked Reserves

Reserves are those sums set aside for purposes falling outside the definition of provisions. Reserves include earmarked reserves set aside for specific policy purposes and balances which represent resources set aside for purposes such as general contingencies and cash flow management.

The Council operates a number of different earmarked reserves, the purpose of each is summarised below:-

- **IT Reserve (formerly Replacement Systems Reserve)** – This is a voluntary set-aside established for the funding of new IT initiatives and the development of IT systems.
- **Performance Reward Grant Reserve** – Created in 2009/10, this is a voluntary set-aside of performance reward grant (PRG). Although Fylde Council is the Accountable Body for the Fylde PRG, the Fylde Local Strategic Partnership are the appointed decision making body in relation to the allocation of the PRG.
- **MMI Insurance Reserve** – Created in 2011/12, this is a voluntary set-aside to cover the Council's maximum exposure in relation to the potential clawback of previously paid claims under the scheme of arrangement with the Council's previous Insurer, Municipal Mutual Insurance.
- **Capital Investment Reserve** – Created in 2012/13, this is a voluntary set-aside of funds to help finance future capital expenditure.
- **Community Right to Bid/Challenge Reserve** – Created in 2012/13, this is a voluntary set-aside of funds to finance expenditure linked to the award of Community Right to Bid and Community Right to Challenge grant received by the Council during 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15.

- **Funding Volatility Reserve** – Created in 2013/14, this is a voluntary set-aside established to provide a degree of protection to the Council's finances against future volatility in central government funding allocations.
- **M55 Link Road Reserve** – Created in 2016/17, this is a voluntary set-aside of funds to finance a contribution towards the construction of a link road between the M55 and St Annes together with a number of public and private sector partners.
- **EU Exit Funding Reserve** – Created in 2018/19, this is a voluntary set-aside of government grant received to be used to enhance capacity and capability in making preparations for exiting the European Union.

9 OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Town and Parish Council Precepts	957	999
IAS19 Administration Expenses	27	35
(Gains)/Losses on the disposal of non-current assets	151	(162)
Total	1,135	872

10 FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Interest payable and similar charges	39	28
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	603	605
Interest Receivable and similar Income	(140)	(207)
Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair values (see note 15)	(227)	(595)
Total	275	(169)

11 TAXATION AND NON-SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Council Tax Income	(6,973)	(7,284)
Non-Domestic Rates income and expenditure	(2,200)	(4,718)
Non-Ringfenced Government Grants (see Note 36)	(2,544)	(3,460)
Capital Grants and Contributions	(10,809)	(7,031)
Total	(22,526)	(22,493)

12 EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ANALYSED BY NATURE

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

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Expenditure/Income		
Expenditure:		
Employee benefits expenses	10,747	10,895
Other services expenses	26,140	24,413
Support service recharges	8,617	9,102
Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	5,029	3,223
Interest payments	39	28
Precepts and levies	958	999
(Gain)/Loss on the disposal of assets	151	(162)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	51,681	48,498
Income:		
Fees, charges and other service income	(8,291)	(8,725)
Support service recharges	(8,617)	(9,102)
Interest and investment income	(140)	(207)
Income from Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates etc.	(10,317)	(14,056)
Grants and contributions	(34,311)	(26,408)
TOTAL INCOME	(61,676)	(58,498)
(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES	(9,995)	(10,000)

13 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Movements on Balances

2019/20	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community	Infra-Structure	Assets under Construction	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation						
at 1 st April 2019	14,122	9,327	5,812	-	12,226	41,487
Additions	30	385	660	-	9,322	10,397
Revaluations to the Revaluation Reserve	2,137	-	-	-	-	2,137
Derecognition - disposals	-	(1,790)	-	-	-	(1,790)
Impairment (losses) / reversals	(12)	-	(248)	-	-	(260)
Other movements in cost or valuation	(1,977)	(88)	(456)	-	-	(2,521)
At 31st March 2020	14,300	7,834	5,768	-	21,548	49,450
Accumulated Depreciation						
at 1 st April 2019	(2,308)	(5,708)	(456)	-	-	(8,472)
Depreciation Charge	(242)	(951)	-	-	-	(1,193)
Derecognition - disposals	-	1,789	-	-	-	1,789
Other movements in cost or valuation	1,977	88	456	-	-	2,521
At 31st March 2020	(573)	(4,782)	-	-	-	(5,355)
Net Book Value of Assets						
At 31 st March 2020	13,727	3,052	5,768	-	21,548	44,095
At 31 st March 2019	11,814	3,619	5,356	-	12,226	33,015

Comparatives for 2018/19	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community	Infra-Structure	Assets under Construction	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation						
at 1 st April 2018	15,603	9,810	5,822	-	3,002	34,237
Additions	478	1,604	173	-	9,224	11,479
Revaluations to the Revaluation Reserve	(1,556)	-	(183)	-	-	(1,739)
Derecognition - disposals	(254)	(2,087)	-	-	-	(2,341)
Impairment (losses) / reversals	(149)	-	-	-	-	(149)
Other movements in cost or valuation	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31st March 2019	14,122	9,327	5,812	-	12,226	41,487
Accumulated Depreciation						
at 1 st April 2018	(3,259)	(7,004)	(456)	-	-	(10,719)
Depreciation Charge	(510)	(762)	-	-	-	(1,272)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	1,461	-	-	-	-	1,461
Derecognition - disposals	-	2,058	-	-	-	2,058
At 31st March 2019	(2,308)	(5,708)	(456)	-	-	(8,472)
Net Book Value of Assets						
At 31 st March 2019	11,814	3,619	5,356	-	12,226	33,015
At 31 st March 2018	12,344	2,806	5,366	-	3,002	23,518

Depreciation Methodologies

Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis on all fixed and intangible assets with a finite useful life. Newly acquired assets are depreciated fully in the year of acquisition in line with the SORP. Asset lives range between 15-50 years for operational buildings and 3-10 years for vehicles, plant and equipment.

Depreciation is not required on heritage assets with indefinite lives. However where there is evidence of physical deterioration to a heritage asset or doubts arise to its authenticity the value of the asset has to be reviewed.

There has been no change during the period in either the estimate of useful lives or the estimate of any residual values.

Assets Under Construction

This relates to the Coast Protection Scheme at Fairhaven and Church Scar and Fairhaven Adventure Golf.

Capital Commitments

Capital projects often take several years to complete. This means that the Authority is often committed to capital expenditure in later years arising from programmed works at the balance sheet date whereby all or part of the capital work has yet to be undertaken. The estimated value of capital expenditure committed at 31st March 2020 to be paid from 2020/21 onwards is £17.685m and relates to numerous schemes within the approved Capital Programme.

Revaluations

The Authority carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every five years. The assets were valued by external valuation experts Jacobs Ltd and were subsequently reviewed by the Council's Estates and Asset Manager who is a registered valuer and has appropriate experience and expertise in this type of valuation work. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Valuations of vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are based on depreciated historic cost. For assets valued at Depreciated Replacement Cost a review of the build costs is also completed to ensure there is no material change in value. For specialised operational assets the current value in existing use is interpreted as the present value of the asset's remaining service potential, which can be assumed to be at least equal to the cost of replacing that service potential.

The following statement shows the progress of the Authority's rolling programme for the revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment including additions and disposals.

Valuation methodologies in respect of heritage assets are outlined in note m of the Accounting Policies section of these accounts.

	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community	Infra-Structure	Assets under Construction	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Carried at Historical Cost	-	3,052	5,768	-	21,548	30,368
Valued at fair value as at:						
31 st March 2020	4,757	-	-	-	-	4,757
31 st March 2019	6,712	-	-	-	-	6,712
31 st March 2018	142	-	-	-	-	142
31 st March 2017	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 st March 2016	2,116	-	-	-	-	2,116
Total Cost or Valuation	13,727	3,052	5,768	-	21,548	44,095

14 HERITAGE ASSETS

Reconciliation of the Carrying Value of Heritage Assets held by the Authority:

	Art Collection	Memorials & Monuments	Sculptures / Ivories	Trophies & Other Items	Civic Regalia	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation						
at 1 st April 2018	3,072	80	188	73	375	3,788
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses / (reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Book Value of Assets at 31st March 2019	3,072	80	188	73	375	3,788
Cost or Valuation						
at 1 st April 2019	3,072	80	188	73	375	3,788
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses / (reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Book Value of Assets at 31st March 2020	3,072	80	188	73	375	3,788

Information on the Council's collection of heritage assets and the accounting policies adopted in respect of heritage assets is shown in note m of the Accounting Policies section of the Statement of Accounts.

15 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

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

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Rental Income from Investment Property	(407)	(371)
Direct operating expenses arising from investment	219	83
	(188)	(288)
Changes in Fair Value of Investment Properties	(39)	(307)
Net (Gain) / Loss	(227)	(595)

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

The following table summarises the movement in the fair value of investment properties over the year.

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Balance at start of year	3,155	3,194
Net gains /(losses) from fair value adjustments	39	307
Reclassification of Assets	-	-
Balance at end of year	3,194	3,501

Fair Value Hierarchy

All the Council's investment property portfolio has been assessed as Level 3 for valuation purposes (see pages 47-48 for explanation of fair value levels).

Transfers between Levels of the Fair Value Hierarchy

There were no transfers between Levels 1 and 2 during the year.

Valuation Techniques used to determine Level 3 Fair Values for Investment Properties

Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. Unobservable inputs are used to measure fair value to the extent that relevant observable inputs are not available, thereby allowing for situations in which there is little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability at the measurement date. An entity develops unobservable inputs using the best information available in the circumstances, which includes the entity's own data, taking into account all information about market participant assumptions that is reasonably available. The approach has been developed using the authority's own data requiring it to factor in assumptions such as the duration and timing of cash inflows and outflows, rent growth, occupancy levels, bad debt levels, maintenance costs etc.

Changes in the Valuation Technique

There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for investment properties.

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.

Valuer

The investment property portfolio has been valued at 31st March 2020 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 external valuation experts Jacobs Ltd and were subsequently reviewed by the Council's Estates and Asset Manager who is a registered valuer and has appropriate experience and expertise in this type of valuation work.

16 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Intangible assets comprise the software licences for the main Authority systems, and other new e-government systems. The policy adopted is to depreciate over a 3 to 5 year useful life.

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Balance at start of year		
• Gross carrying amounts	547	547
• Accumulated amortisation	(547)	(547)
Net carrying amount at 1st April	-	-
Disposals:		
• Gross carrying amount		(42)
• Accumulated Amortisation	-	42
Net carrying amount at 31st March	-	-
Comprising:		
• Gross carrying amounts	547	505
• Accumulated amortisation	(547)	(505)
	-	-

17 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Financial Instrument - Balances

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

	Long Term		Current	
	31/03/19	31/03/20	31/03/19	31/03/20
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Financial Assets				
Investments				
At amortised cost				
Loans and Receivables - Principal	-	-	12,000	12,000
Loans and Receivables – Accrued Interest	-	-	25	47
Total Investments	-	-	12,025	12,047
Cash and Cash Equivalents				
At amortised cost				
Loans and Receivables – Cash (Including bank accounts)	-	-	7,782	11,403
Accrued Interest	-	-	5	3
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	-	-	7,787	11,406
Debtors				
At amortised cost				
	2	-	349	352
Total included in Debtors	2	-	349	352
Debtors that are not financial instruments	-	-	2,869	3,539
Total included in Debtors	2	-	3,218	3,891

	Long Term		Current	
	31/03/19	31/03/20	31/03/19	31/03/20
	£'000	£'000		£'000
<u>Financial Liabilities</u>				
Borrowing				
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost - Loans (Principal sum borrowed)	-	-	(1,000)	-
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost - Loans (Accrued Interest)	-	-	(12)	-
Total Borrowing	-	-	(1,012)	-
Creditors				
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(3,141)	(4,550)	(3,303)	(2,559)
Total included in Creditors	(3,141)	(4,550)	(3,303)	(2,559)
Creditors that are not financial instruments	-	-	(4,051)	(5,528)
Total Creditors	(3,141)	(4,550)	(7,354)	(8,087)

(b). Financial Instrument – Fair Values

Financial Instruments, except those classified at amortised cost, are carried in the Balance Sheet at fair value. For most assets, including shares in money market funds and other pooled funds, the fair value is taken from the market price. The fair values of other instruments have been estimated by calculating the present value of the remaining contractual cash flows at 31st March 2020.

Financial instruments classified at amortised cost are carried in the Balance Sheet at fair value. Their values have been estimated by calculating the net present value of the remaining contractual cash flows at the 31st March 2020 using the following methods and assumptions.

- Loans borrowed by the Council have been valued by discounting the contractual cash flows over the whole life of the instrument at the appropriate market rate for local authority loans.
- The fair value of investments have been discounted at the market rate for the similar instruments with similar remaining terms to maturity on the 31 March 2020.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised for any financial instrument.
- The fair value of short-term instruments, including creditors and debtors, is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount given the low and stable interest rate environment.

Fair values are shown in the table below, split by their level in the fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1 – fair value is only derived from quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 – fair value is calculated from inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the assets or liability, e.g. interest rates or yields for similar instruments
- Level 3 – fair value is determined using unobservable inputs e.g. non-market data such as cash flow forecasts or estimated creditworthiness

Fair Value Level	31/03/19		31/03/20	
	Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Financial Assets held at amortised cost:

Cash & Cash Equivalents	2	7,787	7,787	11,406	11,406
Short-Term Investments - Loans to Local Authorities	2	12,025	12,025	12,047	12,047
Long-Term Debtors		2	2	-	-
Short-Term Debtors		349	349	352	352
Total Financial Assets		20,163	20,163	23,805	23,805

Financial Liabilities held at amortised cost:

Long-term PWLB Loans	2	-	-	-	-
Short-term Creditors		3,303	3,303	2,559	2,559
Long-term Creditors		3,141	3,141	4,550	4,550
Borrowing repayable within 12 months		1,012	1,031	-	-
Total Financial Liabilities		7,456	7,475	7,109	7,109

The fair value of short-term liabilities and assets including trade debtors and receivables is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount.

The fair value of financial liabilities held at amortised cost is higher than their balance sheet carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the current rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date.

(c). Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and expenditure Statement in relation to Financial Instruments consists of the following:

	2019/20			
	Financial Liabilities	Financial Assets		
	Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Amortised Cost	Fair Value through Profit & Loss	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Interest income	-	177	-	177
Dividend income	-	-	30	30
Interest and Investment Income	-	177	30	207
Expense				
Interest expense	(28)	-	-	(28)
Interest payable and similar charges	(28)	-	-	(28)

	Comparatives for 2018/19			Total
	Financial Liabilities	Financial Assets		
	Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Amortised Cost	Fair Value through Profit & Loss	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Interest income	-	111	-	111
Dividend income	-	-	29	29
Interest and Investment Income	-	111	29	140
Expense				
Interest expense	(39)	-	-	(39)
Interest payable and similar charges	(39)	-	-	(39)

18 LONG TERM DEBTORS

These relate to amounts owing to the Council which are being repaid over various periods longer than one year.

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Parish Council Interest Free Loan	2	-

19 ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

All assets held for sale are anticipated to be disposed of in a period of less than one year.

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Balance outstanding at start of year	550	550
Revaluation losses	-	-
Impairment losses	-	-
Assets Sold	-	-
Balance outstanding at year end	550	550

20 INVENTORIES

The Council only holds an inventory of consumable materials, no other types of inventories are held.

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Balance at start of the year	76	84
Purchases	262	251
Recognised as an expense in the year	(259)	(249)
Written (off)/on balances	5	(2)
Balance outstanding at year end	84	84

21 SHORT-TERM DEBTORS

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Central Government Bodies	499	1,524
Other Local Authorities	1,095	464
NHS Bodies	0	0
Other entities and individuals	1,624	1,903
Total	3,218	3,891

The main reasons for the increase in the value of Short-Term Debtors are:

- Within Central Government Bodies Housing Benefits Subsidy – In 2018/19 the amount owed to the Department of Work and Pensions was £0.106m, which is contained within the short-term creditors, whereas in 2019/20 the amount outstanding due to the Council is £0.778m.
- Within Other Local Authorities there has been a large reduction in the preceptors share of Council Tax net debtors £0.408m in 2019/20 and £1.037m in 2018/19.
- Within Other Entities In 2019/20 there are some Capital Grants due to the Council £0.326m compared to £0.027m in 2018/19.

22 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Cash held by the Authority	1	1
Bank Current Accounts	7,786	11,405
Term Deposits	-	-
Total	7,787	11,406

23 SHORT-TERM CREDITORS

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Central Government Bodies	2,499	3,655
Other Local Authorities	960	1,334
Public Corporations and Trading Funds	6	621
Other entities and individuals	3,889	2,477
Total	7,354	8,087

The main reasons for the overall increase in the value of Short-Term Creditors are:

- Due to Covid-19, the Government made the decision to pay in advance the 2020/21 Section 31 Grant income for Business Rates of £1.600m.
- Affordable Housing Scheme – the completion creditor £0.460m had been accrued in 2018/19.
- S106 money repayable within one year has reduced to £0.678m in 2019/20 (£1.090m 2018/19).

24 PROVISIONS

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
<u>NDR Appeals</u>		
Balance at 1 st April	1,463	1,946
Additional/(Reduction) in provisions made in year	483	(491)
Balance at 31st March	1,946	1,455

NDR Appeals Provision

Due to the localisation of Business Rates, which became effective from the 1st April 2013, the Council has set aside a provision for any potential liabilities as a result of business rate payers' appeals against rateable valuations. The Council is responsible for a 56% share of this liability along with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (25%), Lancashire County Council (17.5%) and the Lancashire Fire Authority (1.5%). As at 31st March 2020, the total value of the Provision for Appeals was reduced to £2.599m from £4.865m in 2019/20 with Fylde Council's share of this being £1.455m (2018/19 £1.946m).

25 LONG-TERM CREDITORS

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Section 106 Agreements	3,141	4,550
Total	3,141	4,550

Section 106 Agreements are for the fulfilment of obligations under certain Planning Application Approvals. The amounts held under Long-Term Creditors represents cash received to fund expenditure commitments that are expected to be incurred against these Agreements after more than 12 months from the Balance Sheet date.

26 USABLE RESERVES

Movements in the Authority's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement on page 31.

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
General Fund Balance	3,927	4,272
Earmarked General Fund Reserves	10,817	11,961
Capital Receipts Reserve	-	-
Capital Grants Unapplied	2,285	168
Total Usable Reserves	17,029	16,401

27 UNUSABLE RESERVES

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Revaluation Reserve	9,189	11,213
Capital Adjustment Account	25,245	35,383
Pensions Reserve	(26,523)	(24,277)
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	21	2,273
Accumulated Absences Account	(36)	(42)
Total Unusable Reserves	7,896	24,550

Further details of each of these reserves and accounts are set out on the following pages:

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1st April	11,468	9,189
Upward Revaluation of assets	383	2,156
Downward Revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services	(661)	(19)
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services	(278)	2,137
Difference between fair value depreciation and historic cost depreciation	(445)	(113)
Revaluation adjustments transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	(1,519)	-
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	(37)	-
Amounts written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	(2,001)	(113)
Balance as at 31st March	9,189	11,213

Capital Adjustment Account

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

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Authority. The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1st April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

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

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1st April	13,831	25,245
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
• Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(1,420)	(1,453)
• Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	-	-
• Amortisation of Intangible Assets	-	-
• Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss in disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(246)	(1)
• Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(3,599)	(1,747)
• De-minimis Capital Expenditure	(9)	(24)
	(5,274)	(3,225)
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	1,964	113
Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	(3,310)	(3,112)
Capital Financing applied in the year		
• Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	195	163
• De-minimis Capital Receipts	-	-
• Capital Grants and Contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	3,476	631
• Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	9,438	10,264
• Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	666	829
• Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	910	1,056
	14,685	12,943
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	39	307
Balance as at 31st March	25,245	35,383

Pensions Reserve

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

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1st April	(25,774)	(26,523)
Re-measurements of the net defined benefit liability/asset	1,149	3,889
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,898)	(1,643)
Balance as at 31st March	(26,523)	(24,277)

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of council tax income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it falls due from council tax payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1st April	383	21
Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(362)	2,252
Balance as at 31st March	21	2,273

Accumulated Absences Account

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

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1st April	(33)	(36)
Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	33	36
Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(36)	(42)
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(3)	(6)
Balance as at 31st March	(36)	(42)

28 CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Interest Received	(140)	(207)
Interest Paid	39	28
Total	(101)	(179)

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

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Depreciation	1,271	1,193
Impairment	149	260
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(883)	1,773
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	2,509	(1,324)
Decrease/(Increase) in Inventories	(8)	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Provision for Appeals and Accumulated Absences	486	(485)
Movement in Pension Liability	3,171	2,917
Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	244	(306)
Total	6,939	4,028

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

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(132)	(163)
Capital Grants included in the net surplus/deficit on the provision of services	(14,408)	(8,778)
Total	(14,540)	(8,941)

29 CASH FLOW STATEMENT – INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(11,479)	(10,397)
Purchase of Short Term Investments	-	-
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	132	163
Other receipts from investing activities	14,411	8,780
Net cash flows from investing activities	3,064	(1,454)

30 CASH FLOW STATEMENT – FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Other receipts from financing activities	(135)	998
Repayments of short-term and long-term borrowing	-	(1,012)
Net cash flows from financing activities	(135)	(14)

31 TRADING OPERATIONS

The Council operates one trading activity which is for Grounds Maintenance, providing services to external clients within and outside of the borough. The financial results are as follows:

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Turnover	(754)	(736)
Expenditure	701	677
Net (Surplus) / Deficit on trading operations for the year	(53)	(59)

The Grounds Maintenance trading operations are incorporated into the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. In 2019/20, the Grounds Maintenance operations generated a surplus of £59,492 compared with a surplus of £52,683 in 2018/19. In addition to the surpluses shown above, these activities also benefit the Council by providing a positive contribution to corporate support service and service management costs..

32 AGENCY SERVICES

The Council acts as agent for Lancashire County Council in respect of Highways work in the urban core and also street lighting, gully cleansing and special maintenance.

A summary of the Off-Street Civil Parking Enforcement Parking Accounts, as required by Section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, is shown below:

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Income (Penalty Charge Notice only)	(49)	(42)
Expenditure	84	87
(Surplus) Deficit	35	45

33 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

The Authority paid the following amounts to members of the Council during the year:

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Allowances	247	247
Expenses	3	15
Total	250	262

34 OFFICERS REMUNERATION AND TERMINATION BENEFITS

The following table sets out the remuneration of Senior Officers whose salary was £50,000 or more (excluding employer's pension contributions):

Title of Post		Remuneration	Expense Allowances	Compensation for Loss of office (Redundancy Payment)	Total Remuneration excl. pension contributions	Pension contributions (Incl. strain/ Augmented costs)	Total Remuneration incl. pension contributions
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	2019/20	102	-	-	102	15	117
	2018/19	100	-	-	100	15	115
Director – Resources	2019/20	82	-	-	82	12	94
	2018/19	71	-	-	71	11	82
Director – Development Services	2019/20	71	-	-	71	11	82
	2018/19	70	-	-	70	11	81
Chief Financial Officer	2019/20	67	-	-	67	10	77
	2018/19	66	-	-	66	10	76

The remuneration shown in the table above includes payments for services performed in relation to local District Council by-elections held during 2019/20.

In addition to the above Senior Officers, other employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions) were as follows:

Remuneration Bands		2018/19	2019/20
		No.	No.
Main Bands:			
	£50,000 - £54,999	1	-
	£55,000 - £59,999	-	1
	Total	1	1

Exit Packages

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

Exit Package Cost band (incl. special payments)	Number of Compulsory Redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages by each band	
	2018/19 No.	2019/20 No.	2018/19 No.	2019/20 No.	2018/19 No.	2019/20 No.	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
£0 – £20,000	-	1	1	-	1	1	20	19
£20,001 - £40,000	-	-	1	1	1	1	30	40
£40,001 - £60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£60,001 - £80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£80,001 - £100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£100,001 - £150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	1	2	1	2	2		
Total cost included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement							50	59

In 2019/20 the authority terminated the contracts of 2 employees, incurring costs of £58,533 (£49,965 in 2018/19).

35 EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The Authority has incurred the following costs in relation to external audit and inspection:

	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
Fees payable to external auditor with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year (2019/20 fees includes £5,000 Variation Fee for 2018/19)	37	42
Rebate received from Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA)	-	(4)
Fees payable to external auditor for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	10	10
Fees payable to the Cabinet Office in respect of the National Fraud Initiative	2	-
Total	49	48

36 GRANT INCOME

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2019/20:

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
Revenue Support Grant (net of LCTS adjustment)	(47)	-
New Homes Bonus (net of payment to Town and Parish Council's)	(1,284)	(1,343)
Small Business Rate Relief Grant	(1,148)	(2,054)
Transition Grant	-	-
Other	(65)	(64)
Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute Capital Grants and Contributions	(3,113)	(1,721)
	(11,296)	(7,057)
Total	(16,953)	(12,239)
Credited to Services		
Housing & Council Tax Benefits	(18,310)	(16,102)
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	(113)	(111)
Other	(148)	(45)
	(18,571)	(16,258)
Total	(35,524)	(28,497)

37 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

(a) Central Government

The UK 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, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants, and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties.

(b) Members of the Council

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. Each Councillor has agreed to be bound by a code of conduct, requiring them to disclose certain personal interests on a register, which is available for public inspection at the Town Hall, Lytham St Annes. These declarations are also accessible on the Council website.

There is one transaction to disclose in relation to 2019/20 relating to a payment of £345 to Councillor Raymond Thomas for the provision of photographic services to the Council.

Declarations of 'Disclosable Pecuniary Interest' that any Member holds are accessible on the Council website.

The Council makes a number of Member appointments to outside bodies each year. In relation to the 2019/20 financial year these are detailed in the Council report of 22nd May 2019 which is available on the Council's website.

The Council made a financial contribution to numerous partner organisations during 2019/20, most notably:

- Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau;
- Age UK Lancashire;
- Face to Face; and
- Lancashire Domestic Violence Fund.

(c) Senior Council Officers

Members of the Council's Management Team may exert influence control over the Council's financial and operating policies. In the furtherance of transparency each member of the Management Team has submitted information regarding outside bodies with which they have an association. Any such associations are shown below:

- Director of Resources: Peer officer for the Local Government Association (which involves either delivering training and/or corporate support to other councils) and Schools Advisor (as part of the INSPIRA Group).

(d) Partnership working

During 2019/20 the Council continued to work both formally and informally in partnership with neighbouring authorities. The main partnership operations were as follows:

Lancashire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flood Prevention• Fylde Coast Duty to Co-operate (Planning)
Blackpool Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Payroll services• Human Resources• Health & Safety• Recruitment and Selection• Organisational Development• Occupational Health• Legal support for Blackpool Council Planning Committee• Revenues & Benefits Services• Deputy Monitoring Officer• Coastal Programme Board• Mayor's Attendants• Economic Prosperity Board• Grounds Maintenance - Blackpool Coastal Housing• CCTV System Maintenance• Bathing Water Quality management• Property surveying/maintenance• Fylde Coast Duty to Co-operate Forum (Planning)• Fylde Sand Dunes Project
Lancaster City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rough Sleeper Initiative – Rapid Rehousing
Wyre Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coastal Programme Board• Economic Prosperity Board• CCTV Monitoring Service• Bathing Water Quality management• Health and Wellbeing Partnership• Rough Sleeper Initiative – Rapid Rehousing• Fylde Coast Duty to Co-operate Forum (Planning)
Preston City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial and Treasury Management Support• Corporate Fraud Service• Shared Head of Internal Audit• Parliamentary Elections - Electoral Registration Officer

(e) Other Public Bodies

Precepts were raised for Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner, Lancashire Combined Fire Authority, and local Town and Parish Councils within the Fylde area. Details of these are contained within the Collection Fund statements.

(f) Associated Companies and Joint Venture Partners

Fylde Council has no associated companies or joint venture partners.

(g) Lowther Trust

A Trust board was formed in 2009/10 consisting of 7 Trustees, one being an elected member of Fylde Council. The remaining Trustees were appointed from interested members of the public following an

open application process. Prior to this the Council was the sole Trustee and provided all management and administration resources. From April 2012 a new arrangement between the Council and the Trust saw the transfer of responsibility for all day-to-day management to the Trust with the Council meeting an agreed level of deficit funding over the subsequent five-year period.

(h) Lytham Institute

The Lytham Institute building had been included within the Council's inventory of assets for many years and had until recently been part-occupied under a user agreement by Lancashire County Council for the provision of a library service. The library service ceased to be operated from the building in recent years, and ultimately moved elsewhere. During 2019/20 Lancashire County Council gave notice under the user agreement.

Following legal advice in 2019 that the property was held by the council as a charitable trustee, the Council registered the Lytham Institute as a charitable trust. The council's intention is to work with the local community to discuss how best to shape the governance and future management of the trust to fulfil its charitable objectives. This work commenced during 2019/20 but progress was affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. Therefore, for the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts the property has remained within the inventory of assets of Fylde Council, at a nominal valuation due to the restrictions for its use that the charitable trust status imposes.

(i) Other Partnerships

During most of 2019/20 the Council had an arrangement with the charity Refurb, working as a bulky waste collector, to deliver our chargeable bulky waste collection service. Unfortunately, this arrangement ceased in late March 2019 as the organisation was unable to continue trading due to the Covid-19 lockdown situation. The options for the future delivery of the service will be reviewed during 2020/21.

38 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

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

The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

Capital Financing Requirement	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	5,727	6,128
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment	11,488	10,421
Investment Properties	-	-
Intangible Assets	-	-
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	3,599	1,747
Sources of Finance		
Capital Receipts	(195)	(163)
Government Grants and Other Contributions	(12,915)	(10,895)
Sums set aside from Revenue	-	-
Direct Revenue Contributions	(910)	(1,056)
MRP/Loans Fund Principal	(666)	(829)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	6,128	5,353
Explanation of Movements in Year		
Increase/(Decrease) in underlying need to borrowing (unsupported by government financial assistance)	401	(775)
Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	401	(775)

39 LEASES

Authority as Lessor

Operating Leases

The Council acts as lessor in respect of land and property owned by it and leased to tenants. The value of the income from rents associated with these agreements, and included within the Council's Income and Expenditure account, is as follows:

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Land and Property Leases	407	371

The capital value held within the balance sheet at 31st March 2020 in respect of land and property generating leasehold income is £3.501m (2018/19 £3.194m). The accumulated depreciation charge applicable to these assets reflected in the 2019/20 financial statements is nil.

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

	31 st March 2019	31 st March 2020
	£'000	£'000
Not Later than one year	294	340
Later than one year but not later than 5 years	777	910
Later than 5 years	6,282	6,196
	7,353	7,446

40 IMPAIRMENT LOSSES

An impairment review during the course of the year identified reductions in the value of the following Council's Non-Current Assets. A summary of these impairments is shown below:

	31 st March 2019	31 st March 2020
	£'000	£'000
Public Conveniences	-	12
Lytham Institute Building	-	248
Snowdon Road Depot	149	-
	149	260

41 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

Participation in Pension Schemes

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

The authority participates in two post-employment schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by Lancashire County Council – this is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Authority and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.

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

Transactions relating to Post-employment Benefits

The cost of retirement benefits are recognised 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 required against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

Local Government Pension Scheme	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
<u>Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</u>		
Cost of Services:		
Service Cost, comprising:		
- Current Service Cost	1,705	1,993
- Past Service Cost	941	389
Other Operating Expenditure		
- Administration expenses	27	35
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		
- Net interest expense	603	605
Total Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	3,276	3,022
Other Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
- Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	(5,593)	(333)
- Actuarial (gains) and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	4,444	(3,556)
Total Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,149)	(3,889)
<u>Movement in Reserves Statement</u>		
- Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post-employment benefit in accordance with the Code	(1,898)	(1,643)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:		
- Employers' contributions payable to scheme	1,378	1,379

Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Present Value of the defined benefit obligation	(94,850)	(93,598)
Fair Value of plan assets	69,601	69,321
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	(25,249)	(24,277)

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

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	64,456	69,601
Interest income	1,649	1,644
Re-measurement gain/(loss):		
- The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	5,593	333
Administration expenses	(27)	(35)
Contribution from employer	1,378	1,379
Contributions from employees into the scheme	350	379
Benefits paid	(2,525)	(2,706)
Lump sum pre-payment	(1,273)	(1,274)
Closing fair value of scheme assets	69,601	69,321

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

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Opening Balance at 1 st April	87,683	94,850
Current service cost	1,705	1,993
Past service cost	941	389
Interest cost	2,252	2,249
Contributions from scheme participants	350	379
Re-measurement gain/(loss):		
- Actuarial Experience (gains) and losses	-	1,120
- Actuarial (gains) and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	4,444	(1,483)
- Actuarial (gains) and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	-	(3,193)
Benefits paid	(2,525)	(2,706)
Closing Balance at 31st March	94,850	93,598

Scheme History

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Present Value of the defined benefit obligation	(76,219)	(89,266)	(87,683)	(94,850)	(93,598)
Fair Value of plan assets	52,914	60,654	64,456	69,601	69,321
Surplus/(Deficit) in the Scheme	(23,305)	(28,612)	(23,227)	(25,249)	(24,277)

During 2017/18 the Council made a £2.547m lump sum pre-payment of employer pension contributions in respect of 2018/19 and 2019/20, as detailed in the Narrative Report. The net liability on the pension fund as shown above has therefore been reduced by £1.274m to £24.277m to reflect that element of the pre-payment relating to 2019/20, and this is the figure shown on the balance sheet.

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

Fair value of scheme assets	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Cash:		
• Cash and Cash Equivalents	0	0
• Cash Accounts	355	1,941
• Net current assets	48	(1,178)
Sub-total cash	403	763
Equity instruments:		
By industry type		
• Consumer	-	-
• Manufacturing	-	-
• Energy and utilities	-	-
• Financial institutions	-	-
• Health and Care	-	-
• Information Technology	-	-
• Miscellaneous/Unclassified Total	-	-
Sub-total equity	-	-
Bonds:		
• Corporate	817	1,733
• Government	2,447	-
• Overseas	-	-
Sub-total bonds	3,264	1,733
Property:		
• Retail	1,676	69
• Commercial	4,812	901
• Residential	-	-
Sub-total property	6,488	970
Private Equity:		
• UK	-	-
• Overseas	5,349	5,546
Sub-total private equity	5,349	5,546
Other Investment Funds:		
• Infrastructure	9,839	9,566
• Credit Funds	4,941	10,953
• Pooled Fixed Income	7,571	3,674
• Emerging Markets ETF	-	-
• Indirect Property Funds	1,066	4,922
• UK Pooled Equity Funds	-	-
• Overseas Pooled Equity Funds	30,680	31,194
Sub-total other investment funds	54,097	60,309
Total Assets	69,601	69,321

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The Pension Fund liabilities has been assessed by Mercers Ltd, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the pension fund being based on the last valuation of the Scheme as at 31st March 2019. The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	31 st March 2019	31 st March 2020
	£'000	£'000
Mortality assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
- Men	22.8 years	22.3 years
- Women	25.5 years	25.0 years
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners (aged 65 in 20 years' time) :		
- Men	25.1 years	23.8 years
- Women	28.2 years	26.8 years
Rate of CPI inflation	2.2	2.1
Rate of increase in salaries	3.7**	3.6
Rate of increase in pensions	2.3	2.2
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.4	2.4

** An adjustment has been made for short term pay restraint in line with the most recent actuarial valuation.

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed 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.

	Approximate increase (decrease) in Employee Liabilities
	£'000
Changes in assumptions at 31st March 2020	
0.1%p.a. increase in discount rate	(1,483)
0.1%p.a. increase in inflation	1,507
0.1%p.a. increase in pay growth	179
1 year increase in life expectancy	2,556

Impact on the Authority's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The County Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100%. The maximum deficit recovery period for the Fund has been set at 13 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed on 31st March 2022.

The scheme will need to take account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Services Act 2013. Under the Act, the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and the other main existing public service schemes may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31st March 2014 (or service after 31st March 2015 for other main existing public service pension schemes in England and Wales). The Act provides for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework, to establish new career average revalued earnings schemes to pay pensions and other benefits to certain public servants.

The Actuary anticipates that the Authority will pay £1.286m contributions to the scheme in 2020/21.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 16 years, 2019/20 (16 years, 2018/19).

Contingent Liabilities:

- **Impact of Covid-19 'Lockdown' Measures** - The national 'lock-down' that was implemented in late March is expected to have a major impact on the Councils financial position for 2020/21, although a range of national funding measures have also been introduced that will assist in off-setting some of those negative financial effects. The financial impact of the lockdown measures, in terms of reduced levels of income and the cost of providing financial assistance to specific local businesses, is being carefully monitored and will be reported within the updated Financial Forecast during 2020/21 as appropriate.
- **Insurance Claims** – As at 31st March 2020, the Council has outstanding insurance claims against it with a reserve amount of £197,941 (18/19, £281,958). However, the Council's liability is limited to the excess on the insurance policy, with the maximum amount payable by the Council on these claims being £5,554 (18/19, £10,563) for revenue items. No adjustments have been made within the Accounts for these revenue items as, at the balance sheet date, it was not known if the claims were or will be successful.
- **Section 106 (s106) Agreements** - S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 allows a local planning authority to enter in to a legally binding agreement or planning obligation with a landowner in association with the granting of planning permission. The obligation is termed a S106 Agreement and S106 monies received by the Council are used to support the provision of services and infrastructure such as highways, recreational facilities, education, health and affordable housing, which is necessary as part of the development or to mitigate its impact. Such agreements or obligations may lay down conditions that monies must be spent by a specified date and on specified items. If these conditions are not met the monies may have to be returned to the developer and in some cases interest may also be payable. The Council has a number of S106 agreements. The balance of monies held as long-term creditors in respect of those agreements (i.e. those that have more than 12 months to run) is £4.550m, as detailed in Note 25 to this Statement of Accounts. These accounts have been prepared on the basis that no monies are returnable at the balance sheet date as it is the Council's intention to spend the money as required under the agreements rather than repaying it to developers.
- **Accountable Body Status** - The Authority has been appointed Accountable Body status for a number of schemes and projects that are either wholly or partly funded by central government and related agencies. Accountable Bodies have to operate within prescribed regulations giving potential rights for grant to be clawed back if specific output targets are not met by the partner organisations. The total value of the uncompleted projects for which the Council was acting as accountable body as at 31st March 2020 is below £100k. These accounts have been prepared on the basis that none of the grants involved will either be clawed back or withheld as it is the Council's intention to spend the money as required to deliver the projects.
- **Planning Appeals** – There continues to be scope for tension between the need to increase housing supply, as identified by central government, and the aspirations of some local communities. Planning applications for significant housing development which are refused by the Council can generate appeals. The number of potential appeals and the cost of defending them, which may also include the award of costs against the Council on occasion, cannot accurately be assessed in advance. Any costs incurred beyond the budgeted level will be dealt with via updates to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. It is anticipated that any necessary additional financial resources in respect of planning appeals would be identified from within existing approved budgets and consequently there would be no impact on the Council's overall budget requirement.
- **Sand Yachting Club, St Annes** - The Council is in dispute with the tenant of the Sand Yachting Club in St Annes over an alleged breach of covenant. Currently the case is stayed under Practice Direction 55D. An agreement has been reached in principle with the sub-tenant and a without prejudice offer to settle has been made to tenant. Whilst efforts are continuing to seek a mutually acceptable solution it is likely that legal costs may be incurred during 2020/21.
- **Business Rates (National Non-Domestic Rates-NNDR) Appeals** - The Council has made a provision for NNDR Appeals based upon its best estimates of the actual liability as at the year-end in known appeals. It is not possible to quantify appeals that have not yet been lodged with the Valuation Office so there is a risk to the Council that national and local appeals may have a future

impact on the accounts. The total value of the Provision for Appeals has been decreased to £2.599m from £4.865m in 2019/20 with Fylde Council's share of this being £1.455m (2018/19 £1.946m). It is anticipated that this level of provision is sufficient to meet the full cost of outstanding appeals.

- **St Annes Neighbourhood Plan** - A statutory challenge was received against the making of the St Annes Neighbourhood Plan. The Council successfully resisted the challenge in the High Court and Court of Appeal on a preliminary point concerning the timing of the challenge. Permission has been granted to the maker of the challenge to appeal to the Supreme Court. The appeal is expected to be heard in the spring of 2021. If the appeal is successful the Council will incur further legal costs and may also have to meet the cost of holding a second local referendum on the St Annes Neighbourhood Plan.

Contingent Assets:

- **Housing Stock Transfer - Right to Buy (RTB) Sharing Arrangements** - Following the transfer of housing stock from the Council, New Fylde Housing (now Progress Housing Group) has agreed to share RTB receipts, calculated according to the formula as set out in the transfer agreement of 2nd October 2000. This arrangement will terminate at the end of the financial year 2029/30, on 31st March 2030. The amount the Council receives in any given year is dependent on prevailing market conditions. During 2019/20 the Council received capital receipts in respect of RTB sales in the sum of £36k (2018/19, £27k). Receipts of this nature in future years are expected to be at an average of £25k per annum but will vary from year-to-year.

43 NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(i) Key Risks

The Council complies with the CIPFA Code of Practice on the Treasury Management and Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, both revised in December 2017.

In line with the Treasury Management Code, the Council approves a Treasury Management Strategy before the commencement of each financial year. The Strategy sets out the parameters for the management of risks associated with financial instruments. The Council also produces Treasury Management Practices specifying the practical arrangements to be followed to manage these risks.

The Treasury Management Strategy includes an Investment Strategy in compliance with the Communities and Local Government Guidance on Local Government Investments. This Guidance emphasises the priority is to be given to security and liquidity, rather than yield. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy and its Treasury Management Practices seek to achieve a suitable balance between risk and return or cost.

The main risks covered are:

- **Credit risk:** The possibility that other counterparty to a financial asset will fail to meet its contractual obligations, causing a loss to the Council.
- **Liquidity risk:** The possibility that the Council might not have the cash available to make contracted payments on time.
- **Market risk:** The possibility that an unplanned financial loss will materialise because of changes in market variables such as interest rates or equity prices.

ii) Credit Risk

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

The 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 Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poors Ratings Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum amount and time to be invested with a financial institution located within each category. The full investment strategy for 2019/20 was approved by Council on the 5 March 2019 and is available on the Council's website.

The key areas of the Investment Strategy are that the minimum criteria for investment counterparties include:

- Credit ratings of a minimum Long Term A-
- UK or EU Member Banks domiciled in a country with a minimum sovereign rating of A-
- Limits on investments in certain sectors (e.g. Money Market Funds, Building Societies, foreign countries).

Amounts Arising from Expected Credit Losses

The Council's short term investments have been assessed the expected credit loss is not material therefore no allowances have been made.

The table below summarises the credit risk exposures of the Council's treasury investment portfolio by credit rating and remaining time to maturity:

Credit Rating	Long Term 31/03/20	Short Term 31/03/20	Long Term 31/03/19	Short Term 31/03/19
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
A+	-	-	-	2,004
Aa3 – Rated Local Authorities	-	2,008	-	-
Unrated Local Authorities	-	10,039	-	10,021
Total Investments	-	12,047	-	12,025

At 31 March 2020, there were no loss allowances related to treasury investments.

Credit Risk Debtors

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk from trade debtors. Only trade debtors meeting the definition of a financial asset are included.

	As at 31 st March 2020	Historical experience of default	Adjustment for market conditions at 31/03/20	Estimated maximum exposure to default	Estimated maximum exposure At 31/03/19
	£'000	%	%	£'000	£'000
	a	b	c	a * c	
Debtors	412	20.06%	20.06%	83	90

The Council does not generally allow credit for its trade debtors. Of the £0.412m (£0.453m 2018/19) outstanding for debtors, £0.269m (£0.317m 2018/19) is overdue. The overdue but not impaired amount (impaired amount £0.060m 2019/20) can be analysed by age as follows:

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Less than three months	133	190
Three months to one year	51	10
More than one year	29	9
	213	209

(iii) 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 requirements, and access to the Public Works Loan Board and money markets for longer term funds. The Council is required to provide a balanced budget through the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Less than one year	4,315	2,559
Between one and two years	52	-
Between two and five years	1,115	1,009
Between five and ten years	427	739
More than ten years	1,547	2,802
	<u>7,456</u>	<u>7,109</u>

Amounts payable relating to statutory debts, e.g. council tax, non-domestic rates are not included in the analysis above as they are outside the scope of the Financial Instrument provisions.

The maturity analysis of financial assets is as follows:

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Less than one year	20,161	23,805
Between one and two years	2	-
Between two and three years	-	-
More than three years	-	-
	<u>20,163</u>	<u>23,805</u>

(iv) Market risk

(a) Interest rate risk – The Council has limited exposure to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Borrowings are not carried at “Fair Value” on the balance sheet, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement. However, changes in interest receivable on investments will be posted to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and affect the General Fund Balance.

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

	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000
Increase in interest receivable on investments	227	266
Impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account	<u>227</u>	<u>266</u>
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings liabilities (no impact on Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement)	(10)	-

The Council's short-term borrowing is at fixed rates.

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

(b) Price risk – The Council, excluding the pension fund, does not generally invest in instruments with this type of risk, e.g. equity shares or marketable bonds.

(c) Foreign exchange risk – The Council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies. It therefore has no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

44 LANCASHIRE BUSINESS RATES POOLING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 this Council was part of the Lancashire Business Rates Pool. In a Business Rate Pool, tariffs, top-ups, levies and safety nets are combined. This can result in a significantly lower levy rate or even a zero levy rate meaning that more or all of the business rate growth can be retained within the pool area instead of being payable to the Government.

The Lancashire Business Rates Pool, which included most but not all of the local authorities in Lancashire, was designated by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and originally operated with allocations on the basis of the 50% business rates retention scheme.

In 2019/20 we successfully submitted a bid along with 15 other authorities in Lancashire to become a 75% Business Rate Pilot Pool. This meant that 75% of collected rates were retained in Lancashire rather than 50%.

A comparison of the business rates income allocations in 2018/19 and 2019/20 are shown in the table below:

	2018/19	2019/20
District Authorities	40%	56%
Lancashire County Council	9%	17.5%
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	1%	1.5%
Local Share	50%	75%
Central Government	50%	25%
Total	100%	100%
Unitary Authorities	49%	73.5%

Lancashire Business Rates Pilot Pool Members 2019/20	Authority Type	Tariffs and Top-Ups in Respect of 2019/20 £	Total Growth above Baseline Under 75% Scheme £	Additional Retained Growth above that under the 50% Scheme £
Blackburn with Darwen Unitary Authority	Top-Up	-27,209,155	6,290,545	2,096,849
Blackpool Unitary Authority	Top-Up	-27,136,666	965,342	321,780
Burnley Borough Council	Tariff	8,389,841	3,894,421	1,112,691
Chorley Borough Council	Tariff	10,116,103	2,888,454	825,273
Fylde Borough Council	Tariff	11,921,669	3,971,482	1,134,710
Hyndburn Borough Council	Tariff	5,350,206	644,806	184,230
Pendle Borough Council	Tariff	5,125,168	2,363,324	675,236
Preston Borough Council	Tariff	27,181,715	1,627,197	464,913
Ribble Valley Borough Council	Tariff	6,364,376	2,331,874	666,250
Rossendale Borough Council	Tariff	4,595,868	1,820,769	520,220
South Ribble Borough Council	Tariff	15,149,823	4,667,725	1,333,636
West Lancashire Borough Council	Tariff	13,287,104	2,905,817	830,233
Wyre Borough Council	Tariff	10,760,888	2,011,984	574,853
Lancashire County Council	Top-Up	-164,645,542	9,362,315	4,448,284
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	Top-Up	-17,656,850	957,163	311,393
Central Government	-	118,405,452	-	-
Total		0	46,703,218	15,500,551

In 2019/20 the governance arrangements for the pilot pool were approved such that any retained growth above that which would have been received under the previous 50% scheme was to be split on the following basis:

- Risk Resilience Reserve: The first 5% of any additional growth was to be used to create a new risk resilience reserve to mitigate against any extra loss arising from being a pilot member.
- Strategic Economic Growth and Financial Sustainability Fund: A further 25% of the additional growth was to be set aside to create a Lancashire wide fund to be used to target strategic economic growth and improve financial sustainability and allocated based on unanimous decisions of the Pilot Pool Governing Body after the closure of the financial year.

The position on the Pilot Pool for 2019/20, based upon the final submitted NNDR3 returns, is detailed below:

Lancashire Business Rates Pilot Pool Members 2019/20	Additional Retained Growth above that under the 50% Scheme £	5% Due to Risk Resilience Reserve £	25% Due to Strategic Economic Growth and Financial Sustainability Fund £
Blackburn with Darwen Unitary Authority	2,096,849	104,842	524,212
Blackpool Unitary Authority	321,780	16,089	80,445
Burnley Borough Council	1,112,691	55,635	278,173
Chorley Borough Council	825,273	41,264	206,318
Fylde Borough Council	1,134,710	56,736	283,678
Hyndburn Borough Council	184,230	9,212	46,058
Pendle Borough Council	675,236	33,762	168,809
Preston Borough Council	464,913	23,246	116,228
Ribble Valley Borough Council	666,250	33,313	166,563
Rossendale Borough Council	520,220	26,011	130,055
South Ribble Borough Council	1,333,636	66,682	333,409
West Lancashire Borough Council	830,233	41,512	207,558
Wyre Borough Council	574,853	28,743	143,713
Lancashire County Council	4,448,284	222,414	1,112,071
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	311,393	15,570	77,848
Total	15,500,551	775,028	3,875,138

During the year an advance request for use of the Strategic Economic Growth and Financial Sustainability Fund was considered and agreed by the Governing Body in respect of expenditure to be incurred by Lancashire County Council in the creation of the Greater Lancashire Plan. This was to be capped at £400,000.

At a later point in the year, and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic financial pressures, it was decided by the Governing Body that the expenditure on the Great Lancashire Plan would instead only be funded up to the £50,000 that had been defrayed at that point. It was also agreed that all authorities would retain any remaining balance on the Strategic Economic Growth and Financial Sustainability Fund to help them meet their own financial resilience pressures under the pandemic.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding for the Pilot Pool, the Risk Resilience Reserve would be retained by each Pool member, unless it was evidenced at the end of the financial year through the completion of the NNDR3 returns that such funds were needed.

The outturn position showed that the Risk Resilience Reserve was not needed and that the only payment due to the Strategic Economic Growth and Financial Sustainability Fund was the £50,000 in total towards the Greater Lancashire Plan. The overall position is shown in the table below:

Lancashire Business Rates Pilot Pool Members 2019/20	Total Growth above Baseline Under 75% Scheme £	Actual Payments Due to the Strategic Economic Growth and Financial Sustainability Fund £	Net Business Rates Growth Above the Baseline Retained by Local Authority £
Blackburn with Darwen Unitary Authority	6,290,545	6,764	6,283,781
Blackpool Unitary Authority	965,342	1,038	964,304
Burnley Borough Council	3,894,421	3,589	3,890,832
Chorley Borough Council	2,888,454	2,662	2,885,792
Fylde Borough Council	3,971,482	3,660	3,967,822
Hyndburn Borough Council	644,806	594	644,212
Pendle Borough Council	2,363,324	2,178	2,361,146
Preston Borough Council	1,627,197	1,500	1,625,697
Ribble Valley Borough Council	2,331,874	2,149	2,329,725
Rossendale Borough Council	1,820,769	1,678	1,819,091
South Ribble Borough Council	4,667,725	4,302	4,663,423
West Lancashire Borough Council	2,905,817	2,678	2,903,139
Wyre Borough Council	2,011,984	1,854	2,010,130
Lancashire County Council	9,362,315	14,349	9,347,966
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	957,163	1,005	956,158
Total	46,703,218	50,000	46,653,218

As part of the pool arrangements, one authority must be designated as lead authority, which in the case of the Lancashire Business Rates Pilot Pool is Ribble Valley Borough Council. As part of this arrangement a fee of £30,000 is payable, charged equally to all members of the pool by Ribble Valley Borough Council in their role as lead.

COLLECTION FUND

2018/19			Notes	2019/20		
Council Tax	Business Rates	Total		Council Tax	Business Rates	Total
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>INCOME:-</u>						
(53,626)	-	(53,626)		(57,045)	-	(57,045)
-	(26,771)	(26,771)		-	(26,834)	(26,834)
-	-	-		-	-	-
(53,626)	(26,771)	(80,397)		(57,045)	(26,834)	(83,879)
<u>EXPENDITURE:-</u>						
Apportionment of Previous Years Surplus/(Deficit)						
-	400	400		-	(361)	(361)
(186)	72	(114)		(43)	(65)	(108)
(25)	-	(25)		(6)	-	(6)
(10)	8	(2)		(2)	(7)	(9)
(35)	320	285		(8)	(289)	(297)
Precepts, Demands and Shares						
-	12,491	12,491		-	6,239	6,239
6,956	9,993	16,949		7,211	13,975	21,186
38,525	2,248	40,773		40,489	4,367	44,856
5,279	-	5,279		6,057	-	6,057
2,007	250	2,257		2,089	374	2,463
Charges to Collection Fund						
577	258	835		297	117	414
155	(132)	23		334	172	506
-	1,209	1,209		-	(2,266)	(2,266)
-	113	113		-	111	111
-	419	419		-	87	87
Disregarded Amounts						
-	25	25		-	26	26
-	57	57		-	56	56
53,243	27,731	80,974		56,418	22,536	78,954
(383)	960	577	(Surplus)/Deficit arising during the Year	(627)	(4,298)	(4,925)
149	(531)	(382)	(Surplus)/Deficit brought forward at 1 st April	(234)	429	195
(234)	429	195	(Surplus)/Deficit carried forward at 31st March	(861)	(3,869)	(4,730)

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

1) ALLOCATION OF COLLECTION FUND BALANCES

2018/19		2019/20		
		Council Tax	Business Rates	Total
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
	Allocation of Collection Fund Balances			
142	Fylde Council	(111)	(2,120)	(2,231)
214	Central Government	-	(1,040)	(1,040)
(130)	Lancashire County Council	(624)	(652)	(1,276)
(26)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	(94)	-	(94)
(5)	Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	(32)	(57)	(89)
195		(861)	(3,869)	(4,730)

2) COUNCIL TAX BASE

The Council Tax base for 2019/20 was calculated as follows:-

Property Band	Chargeable Dwellings	Band Multiplier	Relevant Amount
Additional Band (Disabled)	13	5/9	7
Band A	4,090	6/9	2,727
Band B	4,596	7/9	3,575
Band C	7,250	8/9	6,444
Band D	6,111	9/9	6,111
Band E	4,413	11/9	5,394
Band F	2,375	13/9	3,431
Band G	1,435	15/9	2,392
Band H	110	18/9	220
Other Adjustments	145	-	145
Total Relevant Amount			30,446
Multiplied by: Estimated Collection Rate			98.25%
			29,913
Add: Other Adjustments			155
Council Tax Base			30,068

A Band D Council Tax was set at £1,779.33, split £1,346.59 for Lancashire County Council, £161.81 for Fylde Council, £201.45 for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and £69.48 for Lancashire Combined Fire Authority. Council Tax-payers in St Annes and Lytham also paid a Special Expenses charge at Band D of £75.92 whilst Parish and Town Councils agreed additional Council Tax charges of between £18.08 and £92.49 at Band D level.

3) TOWN AND PARISH PRECEPTS

	2018/19	2019/20
	£	£
Bryning-with-Warton	99,481	105,575
Elswick	31,170	29,382
Freckleton	103,590	103,749
Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton	5,185	5,700
Kirkham	207,273	214,299
Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck	10,794	11,514
Medlar-with-Wesham	61,865	64,000
Newton-with-Clifton	55,163	65,495
Ribby-with-Wrea	54,073	57,632
Singleton	19,443	19,462
Staining	61,373	62,366
St.Annes	207,965	217,537
Treales, Roseacre and Wharles	11,060	11,061
Weeton-with-Preese	16,504	18,000
Westby-with-Plumpton	12,800	13,271
	<u>957,739</u>	<u>999,043</u>

4) NON-DOMESTIC RATE (NDR)

	2018/19	2019/20
NDR Rateable Value as at 31 st March	£66,924,141	£66,982,217
NDR Multiplier	0.493	0.504
NDR Multiplier (Small Business)	0.480	0.491



Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

Executive Summary

Based on the work carried out, which has been reviewed by the Audit and Standards Committee, we are satisfied that the Governance Framework is generally effective. We propose over the coming year to address the matters contained in the statement below to further enhance our governance arrangements and to prepare for change. We are satisfied that these actions will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

Signed on behalf of Fylde Borough Council

Councillor K Buckley
Leader of the Council 2020/21

Allan Oldfield
Chief Executive

Councillor S Fazackerley
Leader of the Council 2019/20

Governance Issues

As a result of the assessment of the effectiveness of governance within the Council, the Corporate Governance Group has identified that a sound system of governance exists within the Authority.

During 2020/21, the Corporate Governance Group recommends that governance work should focus on the following:

Area Requiring Action	Senior Responsible Officer	Completion Date
<p>Implement actions contained within the Member/Officer Relations Action Plan:</p> <p>(following the LGA review undertaken in 2019/20) namely:</p> <p>Review the Member Induction Pack</p> <p>Deliver training and support for all Chairmen, including the Mayor, covering procedural best practice as well as managing behaviours</p> <p>Consider revised Code of Conduct drafted by the Local Government Association and bring forward a report for consideration by the Audit and Standards Committee/Council</p>	<p>Lyndsey Lacey-Simone (Member Services)</p> <p>Tracy Manning (Director of Resources)</p> <p>Tracy Manning (Director of Resources)</p>	<p>30th April 2020 (Completed)</p> <p>31 March 2021</p> <p>31 March 2021</p>
<p>Sign-off of revised Risk Management Strategy</p> <p>Continue to embed Project, Partnership, Operational risks using GRACE</p> <p>Delivery of risk management training</p>	<p>Dawn Highton (Shared Head of Internal Audit)</p> <p>All managers</p> <p>Dawn Highton (Shared Head of Internal Audit)</p>	<p>23 July 2020</p> <p>31 March 2021</p> <p>31st October 2020</p>
<p>Cyber security – education awareness for service users (employees and elected members)</p>	<p>Ross McKelvie (IT Manager)</p> <p>Lyndsey Lacey-Simone (Member Services)</p>	<p>30th September 2020</p>
<p>Review Code of Corporate Governance (Local Code)</p>	<p>Tracy Manning</p>	<p>31st October 2020</p>
<p>Procurement Strategy and associated policies review</p>	<p>Ben McCabe (Procurement Officer)</p>	<p>30 November 2020</p>
<p>Project Management Framework – Compliance Guidance for Managers</p>	<p>Alex Scrivens (Corporate Services)</p>	<p>31st December 2020</p>
<p>GDPR – updating of key policies and procedures in relation to GDPR and the provision of support and awareness raising</p>	<p>Ian Curtis (DPO) and Ben McCabe (Deputy DPO)</p>	<p>31 December 2020</p>

to assist managers in meeting their compliance obligations		
<p>Actions recommended by Planning Advisory Service</p> <p>Provide briefings on the Complaints Procedure and provide conflict resolution and customer care training for officers involved in complaint handling</p> <p>Consider a Planning Peer Review to provide a targeted review of the Planning Service</p>	<p>Alex Scrivens (Corporate Team)</p> <p>Paul Walker (Director of Development Services)</p>	<p>28th February 2021</p> <p>31st December 2020</p>
Raise awareness of probity policies through team briefs (on-going throughout the year)	Tracy Manning in consultation with the Corporate Governance Group	31 st March 2021
Core Competencies Review 'Fylde 2024' initiative	Kirstine Riding (Housing Manager)	31 March 2021
<p>Actions as a result of COVID 19:</p> <p>To consider the longer-term implications of agile working with a view to re-setting the culture and behaviours of the council</p>	Alex Scrivens (Corporate Team)	31 st March 2021

Scope of responsibility

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

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

In 2007, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) published best practice guidance, 'Delivering Corporate Governance in Local Government Framework' to assist authorities in reviewing their governance arrangements. This Council subsequently approved and adopted a code of corporate governance, which was consistent with these principles. This guidance was subsequently updated in 2016 to define seven new core principles which should underpin the governance arrangements for all public bodies.

The seven core principles are:



Principle A: Integrity and values

- Staying true to our strong ethical values and standards of conduct
- Respecting the rule of law
- Creating a culture where statutory officers and other key post holders are able to fulfil their responsibilities
- Ensuring fraud, corruption and abuse of position are dealt with effectively
- Ensuring a safe environment to raise concerns and learning from our mistakes



Principle D: Making a difference

- Having a clear vision and strategy setting out our intended outcome for citizens and service users



Principle E: Capability

- Clear roles and responsibilities for council leadership
- Maintaining a development programme that allows councillors and officers to gain the skills and knowledge they need to perform well in their roles
- Evaluating councillor and officers' performance
- Regular oversight of performance, compliments and complaints to enable results (outcomes) to be measured and enable learning



Principle B: Openness and engagement

- Keeping relevant information open to the public and continuing their involvement
- Consultation feedback from the public is used to support service and budget decision
- Providing clear rationale for decision making - being explicit about risk, impact and benefits
- Constructively challenging what we do and the decisions made



Principle F: Managing risk and performance

- Ensuring that effective risk management and performance systems are in place, and that these are integrated in our business systems / service units
- Having well developed assurance arrangements in place - including any commercial activities
- Having an effective Audit & Standards Committee
- Effective counter fraud commitments in place



Principle C: Working together

- Having a clear vision and strategy to achieve intended outcomes - making the best use of resources and providing value for money
- Being clear about expectations - working effectively together within the resources available
- Developing constructive relationships with stakeholders
- Having strong priority planning and performance management processes in place
- Taking an active and planned approach to consult with the public
- Regularly consult with employees and their representatives



Principle G: Transparency & accountability

- Having rigorous and transparent decision making processes in place
- Maintaining an effective scrutiny process
- Publishing up to date and good quality information on our activities and decisions
- Maintaining an effective internal and external audit function

Each local authority is required to conduct a review at least once a year on the effectiveness of the system of internal control and include a statement on such a review within its published Statement of Accounts. This annual governance statement is the culmination of this work and provides commentary on the 2019/20 municipal year.

The purpose of the governance framework

This statement is an acknowledgment on the part of the Council that is incumbent on all the stakeholders who play a part regarding the organisation of the Council to ensure that there is a sound governance framework underpinning the work of the organisation.

The governance framework comprises systems and processes for the direction and control of the Authority and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. It enables the Authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.

The governance framework has been in place at the Fylde Borough Council for the municipal year ended 31 March 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and statement of accounts.

The governance environment

Principles

In 2017, the Council adopted a code of corporate governance ("the Code") and recognises that effective governance is achieved through the core principles enshrined in it as outlined above. This framework establishes that the authority should ensure to keep under review the effectiveness of their governance arrangements and whether standards are being attained.

The Council's corporate governance environment comprises a multitude of systems and processes designed to regulate, monitor and control the various activities of the Authority in its pursuit of its vision and objectives. The following describes the key elements:

Constitution

The Council's constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. The constitution also identifies the principal obligations and functions of the Council.

The constitution and its appendices clearly explain how the different elements of the Council interact and work together. It sets out procedure rules to which members and officers must adhere, codes of conduct and protocols.

The constitution builds on model constitutions and guidance produced by the government.

The Monitoring Officer has a standing obligation to keep the operation of the constitution under review and recommend any changes to help better achieve its objectives. More substantive changes are undertaken at three-yearly intervals and this review was completed in 2019/20 with changes being considered and approved by the Council.

Political structure

The Council operates a committee system, following a referendum held in May 2014, which resulted in a vote in favour of the Council moving from an executive form of governance to a committee system.

The Council, meeting as a body, is responsible under the constitution and the Local Government Act 2000 for setting the policy framework and the budget for the authority. It also exercises certain other functions that are reserved to it.

As a result of the change in governance system, the Council now operates a committee system with decision-making delegated to the Council's committees. There is a mechanism in place for decisions to be referred to the Council. The Council's committees comprise Finance and Democracy, Tourism and Leisure, Environment Health and Housing, Operational Management, Planning, Licensing, Public Protection and a combined Audit and Standards Committees. There is also a cross-party Member Development Steering Group which considers and recommends personal development and general training opportunities for elected members together with the well-being of elected members in the wider context. These various member groups have met several times each throughout the course of the year

to discharge the business of the Council. A joint committee is also established with Blackpool and Wyre Councils to discharge economic development functions, within the context of the Council's overall policy framework.

The Council is engaged in other partnerships and these arrangements are subject to review on an on-going basis, for example, the Council's partnership with the Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau.

Although no longer a constituent member of the Lancashire Combined Authority or the Shadow Combined Authority throughout the course of the year, the council remains committed to working with all the Lancashire authorities to establish alternative options for working together on strategic regional initiatives. At the latter end of the municipal year discussions began to take place on the prospect of the two-tier local government system in Lancashire being replaced by unitary governance and the council has kept a watching brief on these developments.

Meetings of the committees are open to the public, except where personal or confidential matters may be disclosed. Public platform allows members of the public to make a point or raise a question during Programme Committee meetings, Council together with the Planning Committee. Members of the Council who are not members of the respective committees can ask questions at committee meetings. This helps ensure robust accountability of decisions. Members of the public also have the facility to ask a question at Council meetings by pre-registering to do so. These arrangements have proved effective throughout the year with members of the public taking the opportunity to use these various means of communication.

The Council has no scrutiny committee/committees in place; however, the committee system provides opportunity for scrutiny of its processes and policies and there is the ability to refer items to the council for reconsideration.

All the Council's work is aligned to its corporate priorities through its committee system. All reports identify how they align to one of the five priorities: value for money; clean and green, vibrant economy, great place to live and great place to visit. Work began on reviewing the corporate priorities and plan during the year.

The Council's Audit and Standards Committee deals with conduct, ethics, propriety and declarations of interest. It also oversees and determines complaints made against members under the Code of Conduct. The Council has access to a number of 'independent persons' who assist in upholding high standards. These individuals have worked closely with the Monitoring Officer throughout the year to ensure that high standards of behaviour are maintained. The council agreed several good practice measures with respect to its standards framework during the year to strengthen arrangements.

The Audit and Standards Committee is a point of reference for the Monitoring Officer who investigates or arranges for the investigation of any allegations of misconduct in accordance with agreed procedures and statutory regulations. The Monitoring Officer has reported to the Audit and Standards Committee during the year.

The monitoring and performance of the Council's assurance and governance framework is also led by the Council's Audit and Standards Committee. The committee has the responsibility to ensure that the monitoring and probity of the Council's governance framework is undertaken to the highest standard and in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidelines.

Decisions on planning, licensing and other regulatory or quasi-judicial matters are taken by committees of the Council in accordance with the principles of fairness and natural justice and, where applicable, article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Such committees always have access to legal and other professional advice.

All out local elections were held in May 2019, with no change in political leadership of the council as a result.

Officer structure

The authority implements its priorities, objectives and decisions through officers, partnerships and other bodies. Officers can also make some decisions on behalf of the authority under the Scheme of Delegation.

The Chief Executive

The Chief Executive is designated as the Head of the Authority's Paid Service. As such, legislation and the constitution make him responsible for the corporate and overall strategic management of the Authority. He is responsible for establishing a framework for management direction, style and standards and for monitoring the performance of the organisation.

Monitoring Officer

The Council has designated its Director of Resources as Monitoring Officer. The Monitoring Officer must ensure compliance with established policies, procedures, laws and regulations. She must report to the full Council or one of the Council's Committees as appropriate if she considers that any proposal, decision or omission would give rise to

unlawfulness or maladministration. Such a report will have the effect of stopping the proposal or decision being implemented until the report has been considered. No such reports have arisen during the 2019/20 financial year. Blackpool Council's Monitoring Officer acts as Deputy Monitoring Officer for the Council, supporting the Monitoring Officer in her role. There are reciprocal arrangements for investigating standards matters across both these Council's Monitoring Officers. The Head of Governance also supports ethical framework arrangements.

Chief Financial Officer

The Council has designated the Chief Financial Officer as the officer responsible for the proper administration of its financial affairs in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. The principal responsibilities of this officer include financial management, reporting and monitoring financial information, ensuring compliance with financial codes of practice including the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Regular reports have been made to the Council's Finance and Democracy, and other Committees as appropriate, throughout the course of the year.

Both statutory officers referred to above have unfettered access to information, to the Chief Executive and to councillors so they can discharge their responsibilities effectively. The functions of these officers and their roles are clearly set out in the Council's Constitution. In particular, the role of the Chief Financial Officer accords with the principles set out in the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer. A protocol establishes the nature and role of the Monitoring Officer.

Management Team

Two directors report to the Chief Executive and form the authority's management team together with six Heads of Service for the authority, one of whom is the Section 151 Officer. The Management Team assists the Chief Executive with the strategic and overall management of the organisation. The Constitution makes it responsible for overseeing and co-ordinating the management, performance and strategic priorities of the authority within the agreed policy framework and budget. Each member of the management team takes lead responsibility for major elements of the authority's business.

The Management Team collectively and individually are responsible for securing the economic, effective and efficient use of resources as required by the duty of best value. Powers delegated to each member of Management Team, together with other officers, are documented in the constitution.

Head of Governance

Internal Audit

The Council maintains an independent Internal Audit Service, which operates within the principles set out within the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). These standards were set by several internal audit standard setters who established a series of standards known as PSIAS and adopted with effect from 1 April 2013.

Corporate Governance Group

A Corporate Governance Group has been established to co-ordinate the receipt and actioning of reports from the various sources of audit and inspection. The group also is responsible to the Audit and Standards Committee and Management Team and to compile, maintain and monitor the Code.

Operational

The Corporate Plan establishes Fylde Council's corporate priorities and reflects the Council's principal statutory obligations. Performance against the plan is supported by a performance management system and performance information is reviewed by the various committees of the council during the year.

The financial management of the Authority is conducted in accordance with the Financial Regulations set out in Appendix 4 of the Constitution. The Council has in place a Medium-Term Financial Strategy, updated annually, to support the aims of the Corporate Plan.

The Council ensures continuous improvement in the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of services through the annual service and financial planning process. All services are reviewed annually through the service planning process to ensure that they meet the needs of customers and that performance targets for quality improvements are set and monitored. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy includes targets for efficiency savings where appropriate, to be met across all service areas.

Annual budgets are set by the Council in the context of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, and each budget is allocated to a named budget holder. The responsibilities of budget holders in financial management are clearly set out within Financial Regulations.

A robust process of financial monitoring is in place. Budgets are regularly reviewed; the regularity and depth of attention is linked to the risks associated with each budget area. The financial position of the Council is reported on a regular

basis to the Management Team, to the Council's Committees, and to full Council. Closer monitoring and appropriate action are taken where there is an indication of a likely variance against budget.

In 2016, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) updated its best practice guidance on delivering good governance. As a result, during the year, the council adopted of Code of Corporate Governance which outlined several behaviours and actions which underpinned the supporting principles. This document should be read in parallel with that evidential baseline.

The Council's has adopted a Corporate Risk Management Strategy, which incorporates the identification and management of existing risks to the achievement of corporate objectives in accordance with recognised standards of control assurance. A Corporate Risk Register is in place and is monitored and reviewed, combined with action planning for risks identified. Appropriate employees have been trained in the assessment, management and monitoring of risks. A corporate Risk Management Group (RMG) has been established to assist with the management of strategic risks.

The Authority's Risk Management Policy requires that officers understand and accept their responsibility for risk and for implementing appropriate controls to mitigate those risks. To this end, service managers have identified their respective operational risks and have recorded these on GRACE.

Internal Audit has provided its annual report to provide an independent and objective opinion on the effectiveness and operation of the internal control framework noting control levels to be moderate. Whilst some reports have been issued during the year with limited assurance, steps are being taken to address the issues arising.

The Council has an objective and professional relationship with government agencies and statutory inspectors. During the year, an action plan was developed in response to the findings of the Local Government Association on its review of member-officer relations.

The Council was inspected by the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office (an on-site inspection) in February of 2020, and as a result our systems were noted to be satisfactory and there were no adverse comments.

The Planning Advisory Service has also assisted the council with an investigation of a complaint during the year with respect to the Planning Service, and likewise reported on its findings.

During the autumn of 2019, the council was the subject of an investigation by the Marine Management Organisation into its sand winning operations with the outcome of this investigation due to be concluded in 20/21.

Council services are delivered by trained and experienced people. Posts have a detailed job description and person specification and training needs are identified through the Personal Development Appraisal Scheme. In addition, the Council has comprehensive policies and procedures in place, which provide the framework for the operation of its services and ensure that its actions and decisions are undertaken within the framework of effective internal control. The authority also has a set of core competencies which outline the expected behaviours of employees.

The Authority has a zero-tolerance policy towards fraud and corruption. The Council's Whistleblowing Policy provides the opportunity for anyone to report their concerns confidentially and enable these to be investigated impartially. The council has a shared Corporate Fraud Team with Preston City Council and regular reporting was instigated during the year on the service reporting on the outcomes of its work to elected members.

The Authority is committed to working in partnership with public private and voluntary sector organisations where this will enhance its ability to achieve its identified aims.

COVID 19

On 3 March 2020 the first meeting was held of the Lancashire Resilience Forum to agree a Lancashire-wide response to the emerging health crisis. This resulted in the Lancashire Resilience Forum establishing a command structure for Lancashire for the crisis which has several themes including intelligence and advice, warning and informing, test and trace, adult social care, logistics, death management, business continuity, human aspects, educations and early years and faith. The Council's senior managers played a lead role within each respective area ensuring that a local response was put in place.

This involved mobilising the council's workforce to begin to move from 'business as usual activity' to emerging new priorities such as the humanitarian response through the establishment of a Community Hub through to a system of administering grants to the business community. Whilst the financial year was nearing an end by the time this work was instigated, much was achieved by year-end including the establishment of a Community Hub, which was established to support those on the NHS shielding list and the vulnerable.

The council provided sound leadership during the crisis with the ability to move resources around to ensure that it had the capacity to respond. Teams whose usual work had ceased were moved into new areas of activity, with much achieved through agile working. For example, a dedicated call centre for the Community Hub was operated remotely by staff working from home with the necessary IT solutions put into place to enable this. This was operated not only in usual business hours, but also during the evenings and weekends.

The council was also particularly fleet of foot, by in mid-March, having agreed an approach to how decision-making would take place during the crisis. At the Special Council meeting delegated powers were given to the Chief Executive, Directors and Heads of Service to take decisions, in consultation with leading members, during the crisis. This meant that the council was able to respond to issues far in advance of the eventual enabling legislation introduced by Central Government with followed several weeks later.

Review of effectiveness

The Council supplements the mandatory external audit judgements by assessing itself against the good practice elsewhere. This, together with the Council's own performance management framework, provides the evidence needed to ensure a culture of continuous performance improvement. The Council also conducts satisfaction surveys of both residents and employees to use as a further gauge to measure success.

Inherent within the review of internal control arrangements is the need to assess the extent of compliance with statutory requirements and the Authority's rules and regulations, which includes not only its Financial and Contract Procedure Rules but also its Scheme of Delegation, and Codes of Conduct. In addition, the Head of Internal Audit is required to, in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, to produce an annual report to provide an overall opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the authority's framework of control, risk management and governance to evaluate the effectiveness. Whilst some reports have been issued during the year with limited assurance, steps are being taken to address the issues arising.

Fylde Borough Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The Corporate Governance Group, which comprises the Monitoring Officer and Director of Resources, Section 151 Officer, Head of Governance and the Head of Internal Audit, has been given the responsibility to annually review the corporate governance framework and to report to Audit and Standards Committee on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Code and the extent of compliance with it and its work is referenced above.

During 2019/20, the Audit and Standards Committee kept under review how issues identified in the previous annual governance statement had been resolved. Two actions remain outstanding due to the interruption caused to business due to the COVID 19 pandemic and as a result have been translated into this year's action plan.

The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the Directors and the respective Heads of Service within the Authority who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Head of Internal Audit's annual report, and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

The Group also receives assurance statements on an annual basis covering each of the Council's service heads which asks the managers to evaluate compliance with key corporate procedures. The Corporate Governance Group reviews these statements made by the respective Service Heads taken together with external assurance sources such as the external auditor's Annual Audit Letter and its ISA 260 report to those charged with governance...

Internal Audit has carried out an annual programme of reviews as approved by the Audit and Standards Committee. The managers of the services and functions reviewed have each agreed actions and priorities arising from the review and the achievement of those actions is monitored on an ongoing basis by the Authority's Internal Audit service.

The Strategic Risk Management Group meets regularly to review achievement of control measures in relation to strategic risks identified in the annual risk identification exercise. In addition, Internal Audit carries out an annual review of the risk management framework in accordance with the terms of the Risk Management Policy.

We have considered the implications of the result of the review of the effectiveness of the governance framework and system of internal control, and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is set out in the priorities on page 3 of this statement.

GLOSSARY OF ACCOUNTING TERMS

This Glossary of Terms is designed to aid interpretation of the Council's Statement of Accounts.

- **Accounting Policies**
These specify how transactions and other events should be reflected in financial statements.
- **Accruals**
The concept that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as cash is received or paid. The Local Government Pension Scheme Actuary reassesses the rate of employer contributions to the pension fund every three years.
- **Actuary**
An actuary is an expert on pension scheme assets and liabilities.
- **Actuarial Gains and Losses**
Changes in the actuarial deficits or surpluses over time arising from either or both of i) differences between the actual events as they have turned out and the assumptions that were made as at the date of the earlier actuarial valuation (known as experience gains and losses), and ii) changes in the actuarial assumptions.
- **Amortisation**
An annual charge to the revenue account that spreads the cost of an asset over a period of time.
- **Appropriation**
A contribution to or from a financial reserve.
- **Balances (Or Reserves)**
These represent accumulated funds available to the authority. Some balances (reserves) may be earmarked for specific purposes for funding future defined initiatives or meeting identified risks or liabilities. There are a number of unusable reserves which are for technical purposes, it is not possible to utilise these to provide services.
- **Budget**
A statement of the Council's spending plans for revenue and capital expenditure over a specified period of time.
- **Capital Expenditure**
Expenditure on the acquisition and/or improvement of an existing Non-Current Asset which adds to, and not merely maintains, its value. Expenditure that does not fall within the definition must be charged to a revenue account.
- **Capital Receipts**
Proceeds from the sale of capital assets which can only be used to repay the original loan or to finance new capital expenditure. Any receipts which have not yet been utilised as described are referred to as 'capital receipts unapplied'.
- **CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting)**
CIPFA is the professional institute for accountants working in the public services. CIPFA publishes the Code, which defines proper accounting practice for local authorities.
- **Collection Fund**
The Collection Fund is a separate statutory fund which billing authorities have to maintain. It shows the transactions in relation to non-domestic rates, any residual Community Charge and the Council Tax, and illustrates the way in which these have been distributed to precepting authorities and the General Fund.
- **Community Assets**
Assets that the local authority intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life and that may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples of community assets are parks and historic buildings.

- **Consistency**
This is a concept that the accounting treatment of like items, within an accounting period and from one period to the next, is the same.
- **Contingency**
This is a condition which exists at the balance sheet date, where the outcome will be confirmed only on the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events. Contingent assets and contingent liabilities should not be recognised in the accounting statements but be disclosed by way of notes.
- **Corporate and Democratic Core**
The corporate and democratic core comprises all activities which local authorities engage in specifically because they are elected, multi-purpose authorities. The cost of these activities are thus over and above those which would be incurred by a series of independent, single purpose, nominated bodies managing the same services. There is, therefore, no logical basis for apportioning these costs to services.
- **Council Tax**
This is a banded property tax which is levied on domestic properties throughout the country. The banding is based on estimated property values as at 1st April 1991. The level of tax is set annually by each local authority for the properties in its area.
- **Creditors**
Amounts owed by the Council for work done, services rendered or goods received for which payment has not been made by the balance sheet date.
- **Current Assets**
Current assets are items that can be readily converted into cash.
- **Current Liabilities**
Amounts which will become payable or could be called in within the next accounting period.
- **Current Service Cost (Pensions)**
The increase in the pension liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year.
- **Curtailement**
For a defined benefit scheme, an event that reduces the expected years of future service of present employees or reduces for a number of employees the accrual of defined benefits for some or all of their future service. Curtailments include termination of employees' services earlier than expected and termination of, or amendment to the terms of, a defined benefits scheme so that some or all future service by current employees will no longer qualify for benefits or will qualify only for reduced benefits.
- **Debtors**
Amounts owed to the Council for work carried out, services rendered or goods provided by the Council for which income has not been received by the balance sheet date.
- **Debt Redemption**
This is where a debt is repaid early.
- **Deferred Credits**
These represent capital income to be received in the future, when disposals have taken place, and deferred payments have been agreed.
- **Defined Benefit Scheme**
A pension or other retirement benefits scheme other than a defined contribution scheme, where the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme.
- **Depreciation**
This is the measure of the cost or revalued amount of the benefits of the Non-Current Asset that have been consumed during the period.
- **Direct Revenue Financing**
Resources provided from an authority's revenue budget to finance the cost of capital projects.

- **Discontinued Operations**
An operation should be classified as discontinued when the activities related to the operation have ceased permanently and the termination has a material effect on the nature and focus of the authority's operations and represents a material reduction in its provision of services.
- **Emoluments**
All sums paid to or receivable by an employee and sums due by way of expenses allowances (as far as those sums are chargeable to UK income tax) and the money value of any other benefits received other than in cash. Pension contributions payable by either employer or employee are excluded.
- **Estimation Techniques**
The methods adopted to arrive at estimated monetary amounts, corresponding to the measurement bases selected for assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes to reserves.
- **Events after the Balance Sheet Date**
These are events, favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the balance sheet date and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue.
- **Exceptional Items**
Material items which derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the authority and which need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their size or incidence to give fair presentation of the accounts.
- **Expected Rate of Return on Pensions Assets**
For a funded defined benefit scheme, the average rate of return, including both income and changes in fair value but net of scheme expenses, expected over the remaining life of the related obligation on the actual assets held by the scheme.
- **Fair Value**
Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's-length transaction.
- **Financial Instruments**
A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another. The term 'financial instrument' covers both financial assets and financial liabilities and includes both the most straightforward financial assets and liabilities such as trade receivables (debtors) and trade payables (creditors) and the most complex ones such as derivatives and embedded derivatives.
- **Finance Lease**
This is a lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a Non-Current Asset to the lessee. Such a transfer of risks and rewards may be presumed to occur if at the inception of the lease the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any initial payment, amounts to substantially all of the fair value of the leased asset.
- **Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs)**
FRSs are statements which deal with accounting issues of fundamental importance and general application. They are applicable to all published accounts and compliance is mandatory. The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in UK applies FRSs to Councils accounts as appropriate.
- **Financial Year**
The Council's financial year runs from the 1st April to 31st March.
- **General Fund**
This is the main revenue account of the Council covering day to day spending on services other than the provision of housing. Credited to the fund are charges made by the authority, specific Government and other grants and receipts from the Collection Fund.
- **Going Concern**
The concept that the authority will remain in operational existence for the foreseeable future, in particular that the revenue accounts and balance sheet assume no intention to curtail significantly the scale of operations.

- **Government Grants**
Assistance by Government and inter-Government agencies and similar bodies, whether local, national or international, in the form of cash or transfers of assets to an authority in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the authority.
- **Heritage Assets**
Heritage assets are defined as assets which have historical, artistic or cultural qualities and that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.
- **Historic Cost**
The cost of an asset at the time it was bought.
- **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**
The HRA is an account which includes the expenditure and income arising from the direct provision of housing by the Council.
- **Impairment**
This is a reduction in the value of a Non-Current Asset below its carrying amount on the balance sheet.
- **Infrastructure Assets**
Non-Current Assets that are inalienable, expenditure on which is recoverable only by continued use of the asset created. Examples of infrastructure assets are highways and footpaths.
- **Intangible Assets**
These are non-financial Non-Current Assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled by the entity through custody or legal rights. Examples are purchased software licences.
- **Inventories**
The amount of unused or unconsumed stocks bought but not used at the end of the accounting period, held in expectation of future use. E.g. goods or other assets purchased for resale, consumable stores, raw materials and components purchased for incorporation into products for sale, products and services in intermediate stages of completion, long term contract balances and finished goods.
- **Investments - Non Pension Fund**
A long-term investment is an investment that is intended to be held for use on a continuing basis in the activities of the authority. Investments should be so classified only where an intention to hold the investment for the long term can clearly be demonstrated or where there are restrictions as to the investor's ability to dispose of the investment. Investments, other than those in relation to the pensions fund, that do not meet the above criteria should be classified as current assets.
- **Investment Properties**
This represents an interest in land and/or buildings in respect of which construction work and development have been completed, and which is held for its investment potential, with any rental income being negotiated at arm's length.
- **Leasing**
Leasing is a method of utilising assets where a rental charge is paid for a specified period of time, instead of outright purchase.
- **Liquid Resources**
Current asset investments that are readily disposable by the authority without disrupting its business and are either readily convertible to known amounts of cash at or close to the carrying amount, or traded in an active market.
- **Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA)**
Government initiative whereby demanding performance targets are set to deliver improvements for local people through partnerships with district Councils and other organisations.
- **Materiality**
The concept that any omission from or inaccuracy in the statement of accounts should not be so large as to affect the understanding of those statements by the reader.

- **Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)**
The minimum amount (as laid down in Statute) that the Council must charge to the accounts each year in order to meet the costs of repaying amounts borrowed.
- **Non Domestic Rates (NDR)**
NDR is a tax levied on business properties and sometimes known as Business Rates. This tax is set nationally by the Government. Sums based on rateable values are collected by billing authorities and shared between major preceptors, central government, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the billing authority.
- **Net Book Value**
The amount at which Non-Current Assets are included in the balance sheet i.e. their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amount provided for depreciation.
- **Net Current Replacement Cost**
This is the cost of replacing or recreating the particular asset in its existing condition and in its existing use, i.e. the cost of its replacement or of the nearest equivalent asset, adjusted to reflect the current condition of the existing asset.
- **Net Debt**
The authority's borrowings less cash and liquid resources. Where cash and liquid resources exceed borrowings, reference should be to net funds rather than net debt.
- **Net Realisable Value**
The open market value of the asset in its existing use (or market value in the case of non-operational assets), less the expenses to be incurred in realising the asset.
- **Non-cash Adjustments**
Changes in debtors' and creditors' balances over the year
- **Non-Current Assets**
Assets that yield benefits to the Council and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.
- **Non-distributable Costs**
These are costs that cannot be specifically applied to a service or services and are held centrally, comprising certain pension costs and the costs of unused shares of IT facilities and other assets.
- **Non-Operational Assets**
Non-Current Assets held by a local authority but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services or for the service or strategic objectives of the authority. Examples of non-operational assets are investment properties and assets that are surplus to requirements, pending sale or redevelopment.
- **Operating Leases**
An operating lease is a lease other than a finance lease. This is a method of financing assets which allows the Council to use, but not own an asset. A third party purchases the asset on behalf of the Council, who then pay the lessor an annual rental over the life of the asset. Expenditure financed by operating leasing does not count against capital allocations.
- **Operational Assets**
Non-Current Assets held and occupied, used or consumed by the local authority in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility. Examples include Council dwellings, other land and buildings, vehicles, plant, equipment, infrastructure assets and community assets.
- **Past Service Cost**
For a defined benefit scheme, the increase in the present value of the scheme liabilities related to employee service in prior periods arising in the current period as a result of the introduction of, or improvements to, retirement benefits.
- **Post Balance Sheet Events**
These are events, both favourable and unfavourable, which occur between the balance sheet date and the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the responsible financial officer.

- **Precept**
This is a charge levied by one Council which is collected on its behalf by another by adding the precept to its own Council Tax and paying over the appropriate cash collected.
- **Principal**
The amount of money borrowed, not including interest charges.
- **Principal Repayment of Debt**
Repayment of a loan, not including interest charges.
- **Prior Year Adjustments**
Prior year adjustments are material adjustments, arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. A fundamental error is one that is of such significance as to destroy the validity of the financial statements. They do not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.
- **Projected Unit Method**
An accrued benefits valuation method in which the scheme liabilities make allowance for projected earnings. An accrued benefits valuation method is a valuation method in which the scheme liabilities at the valuation date relate to:
 - the benefits for pensioners and deferred pensioners (i.e. individuals who have ceased to be active members but are entitled to benefits payable at a later date) and their dependants, allowing where appropriate for future increases;
 - the accrued benefits for members in service on the valuation date; and
 - The accrued benefits are the benefits for service up to a given point in time, whether vested rights or not.
- **Provision**
These are monies set aside for liabilities or losses which are likely or certain to be incurred but the exact amount and dates are not currently known.
- **Prudence**
The concept that revenue is not anticipated but is recognised only when realisation in cash is reasonably certain. Conversely, provisions should be made for all known liabilities.
- **Prudential Code for Capital Finance**
This Code was introduced from 1st April 2004. The basic principle of the Code is that local authorities will be free to invest so long as their capital spending plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Code sets out indicators that the authority must use and factors that they must take into account to demonstrate that they have fulfilled this objective.
- **Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)**
A government agency which provides longer-term loans to local authorities at interest rates only slightly higher than those at which the government itself can borrow.
- **Related Parties**
Two or more parties are related parties when at any time during the financial period:
 - one party has direct or indirect control of the other party; or
 - the parties are subject to common control from the same source; or
 - one party has influence over the financial and operational policies of the other party to an extent that the other party might be inhibited from pursuing at all times its own separate interest; or
 - the parties, in entering a transaction, are subject to influence from the same source to such an extent that one of the parties to the transaction has subordinated its own separate interests
- **Related Party Transactions**
A related party transaction is the transfer of assets or liabilities or the performance of services by, to or for a related party irrespective of whether a charge is made.
- **Reserves**
Amounts set aside in one year's accounts which can be spent in later years. Reserves are often earmarked for specific purposes, including the financing of future capital expenditure, replacement or renewals and the funding of future defined Council initiatives.

- **Residual Amount**
The amount an asset can be sold for, less the cost of selling it.
- **Retirement Benefits**
All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by employees that are payable after the completion of employment. Retirement benefits do not include termination benefits payable as a result of either (i) an employer's decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date or (ii) an employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits, because these are not given in exchange for services rendered by the employee.
- **Revenue Expenditure**
This is money spent on the day-to-day running costs of providing services. It is usually of a constantly recurring nature and produces no permanent asset.
- **Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute**
A new term introduced in 2008/09 accounts. Expenditure that is not capital in accordance with UK GAAP is allowed by statute to be funded from capital resources and hence such expenditure would have no impact on council tax in the year that it was incurred.
- **Revenue Support Grant (RSG)**
This is a general grant received from Central Government to contribute towards the cost of providing services. It is based on the Government's assessment of how much an authority needs to spend in order to provide a standard level of service.
- **Scheme Liabilities**
The liabilities of a defined benefit scheme for outgoings due after the valuation date. Scheme liabilities measured using the projected unit method, reflect the benefits that the employer is committed to provide for service up to the valuation date.
- **Service Reporting Code of Practice (SeRCOP)**
A code of practice prepared to provide accounting guidance on financial reporting to stakeholders which is designed to enhance the comparability of local authority financial information. The code represents proper accounting practice for the purpose of best value reporting.
- **Settlement**
An irrevocable action that relieves the employer (or the defined benefit scheme) of the primary responsibility for a pension obligation and eliminates significant risks relating to the obligation and the assets used to effect the settlement. Settlements include:
 - a lump-sum cash payment to scheme members in exchange for their rights to receive specified pension benefits
 - the purchase of an irrevocable annuity contract sufficient to cover vested benefits, and
 - the transfer of scheme assets and liabilities relating to a group of employees leaving the scheme.
- **Specific Grants**
Government grants for a particular service.
- **Statement of Recommended Practice – (SORP)**
This is the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.
- **Tangible Non-Current Assets**
Assets which have a physical form e.g. buildings, equipment.
- **The 'Code'**
The 'Code' incorporates guidance in line with IFRS, IPSAS and UK GAAP Accounting Standards. It sets out the proper accounting practice to be adopted for the Statement of Accounts to ensure they 'present fairly' the financial position of the Council. The Code has statutory status via the provision of the Local Government Act 2003.

- **Total Cost**
The total cost of a service or activity includes all costs which relate to the provision of the service (directly or bought in) or to the undertaking of the activity. Gross total cost includes employee costs, expenditure relating to premises and transport, supplies and services, third party payments, support services and capital charges. This includes an appropriate share of all support services and overheads which need to be apportioned.
- **Total Net Worth**
The total net value of resources available to or owned by the Council.
- **Unapportionable Central Overheads**
Overheads for which no user now benefits and that are not apportioned to services.
- **Useful Life**
The period over which the local authority will derive benefits from the use of a Non-Current Asset.