



Isle of Wight Council

Statement of Accounts

2023-24

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Narrative report

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 the council is required to prepare a narrative report in respect of each financial year. The narrative report must include comment by the council on its financial performance and economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources over the financial year.

The narrative report has been produced as a separate document and can be downloaded from the following web link: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/council-and-councillors/transparency-our-data/our-finances/our-accounts/>

Annual Governance Statement

In order to evaluate good governance in practice, there is also a statutory requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 for every local council to prepare and publish an annual governance statement. This provides members of the public with an open assessment of how effective the council's governance arrangements are considered to be against a code of corporate governance entitled "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (2016)". This document is published by CIPFA/SOLACE as recognised national lead bodies for public services. The code takes into account the characteristics of good governance set out above and translates them into specific core activities.

The annual governance statement has also been produced as a separate document and can be downloaded from the following web link: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/council-and-councillors/transparency-our-data/our-finances/our-accounts/>

THE STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The council's responsibilities

The council is required to:

- make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this council, that officer is the Director of Finance and Section 151 officer.
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient, and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- approve the statement of accounts.

The Director of Finance and Section 151 officer's responsibilities

The Director of Finance and Section 151 officer is responsible for the preparation of the council's statement of accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code).

In preparing this statement of accounts, the Director of Finance and Section 151 officer has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently.
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- complied with the local authority code.

The Director of Finance and Section 151 officer has also:

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

I certify that the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Isle of Wight Council at the 31 March 2024 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.



Chris Ward
Director of Finance and Section 151 officer

Date: 19 February 2025

Approval of Accounts

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, I certify that the Statement of Accounts was approved by the Audit & Governance Committee on 19 February 2025 (through delegated authority)



Chair of Audit & Governance Committee

Dated: 19 February 2025



EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

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 services. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This analysis is a note to accounts rather than a principal statement.

2022-23 RESTATED			Portfolio reporting structure (Continuing services)	2023-24		
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund Balance	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis (see note 7A)	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund Balance	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis (see note 7A)	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
60,982	3,726	64,708	Adult Social Care & Public Health	64,332	(53)	64,279
39,621	13,073	52,694	Children's Services & Corporate Functions	49,010	4,141	53,151
4,439	-79	4,360	Deputy Leader – Housing & Finance	7,307	944	8,251
3,860	5,685	9,545	Economy, Regeneration, Culture & Leisure	2,463	1,554	4,017
8,076	11,003	19,079	Leader – Transport, Infrastructure & Strategic Oversight	14,402	10,468	24,870
4,372	2,021	6,393	Climate Change, Biosphere & Waste	6,446	1,984	8,430
527	982	1,509	Planning, Coastal Protection & Flooding	1,220	510	1,730
7,034	1,881	8,915	Regulatory Services, Community Protection & ICT	6,940	746	7,686
1,778	0	1,778	Strategic Finance, Corporate Resources & Transformational Change	1,558	0	1,558
130,689	38,292	168,981	Net cost of continuing services	153,678	20,294	173,972
(131,302)	(27,892)	(159,194)	Other Income and Expenditure	(152,137)	(27,014)	(179,151)
(613)	10,400	9,787	(Surplus)/deficit on provision of services	1,541	(6,720)	(5,179)
125,082			Opening General Fund balance	125,695		
613			Less/add Surplus or (deficit) on General Fund balance in year	(1,541)		
125,695			Closing General Fund Balance at 31 March	124,154		

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from council tax and other revenue resources. Authorities raise income to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory requirements; 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.

2022-23 RESTATED				2023-24		
Gross Expenditure (see note 8)	Gross Income (see note 8)	Net expenditure	Portfolio reporting structure (Continuing operations)	Gross Expenditure (see note 8)	Gross Income (see note 8)	Net Expenditure
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
104,436	(39,728)	64,708	Adult Social Care & Public Health	108,170	(43,891)	64,279
169,783	(117,090)	52,693	Children's Services & Corporate Functions	175,175	(122,024)	53,151
45,811	(41,450)	4,361	Deputy Leader – Housing & Finance	48,207	(39,956)	8,251
17,645	(8,101)	9,544	Economy, Regeneration, Culture & Leisure	11,454	(7,437)	4,017
35,340	(16,261)	19,079	Leader – Transport, Infrastructure & Strategic Oversight	37,054	(12,184)	24,870
8,782	(2,389)	6,393	Climate Change, Biosphere & Waste	10,168	(1,738)	8,430
4,547	(3,038)	1,509	Planning, Coastal Protection & Flooding	4,224	(2,494)	1,730
11,943	(3,028)	8,915	Regulatory Services, Community Protection & ICT	11,008	(3,322)	7,686
0	1,778	1,778	Strategic Finance, Corporate Resources & Transformational Change	(435)	1,993	1,558
398,287	(229,307)	168,980	Net cost of continuing services	405,025	(231,053)	173,972
5,896	0	5,896	Other operating expenditure (note 11)	7,485	0	7,485
45,272	(19,363)	25,909	Financing & investment income & expenditure (note 12)	45,247	(33,724)	11,523
0	(190,998)	(190,998)	Taxation & non-specific grant income (note 13)	0	(198,160)	(198,160)
449,455	(439,668)	9,787	Deficit/(surplus) on provision of services	457,757	(462,937)	(5,180)
		(17,195)	Surplus on revaluation of non-current assets (note 28)			(35,688)
		4,633	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses on non-current assets charged to the revaluation reserve (note 28)			3,988
		(217,353)	Actuarial (gains)/losses on pension assets/liabilities (note 28)			28,362
		(229,915)	Other comprehensive income & expenditure			(3,338)
		(220,128)	Total comprehensive income & expenditure			(8,518)

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be used to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'. The statement shows how the movements in the year of the council'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 movements in the year following those adjustments.

	General fund balance £000	Capital receipts reserve £000	Capital grants unapplied £000	Total usable reserves £000	Unusable reserves £000	Total council reserves £000
Balance at 1 April 2022 brought forward	125,082	1,937	5,783	132,802	(59,914)	72,888
Movement in reserves during 2022-23:						
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	(9,787)	0	0	(9,787)	229,915	220,128
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Notes 7A & 9)	10,400	(67)	606	10,939	(10,939)	0
Increase/decrease in 2022-23	613	(67)	606	1,152	218,976	220,128
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	125,695	1,870	6,389	133,954	159,062	293,015

General Fund analysed between:	Balance brought forward	Movement in Year	Balance carried forward
	£000	£000	£000
Earmarked Reserves (see note 10)	113,024	(358)	112,666
Reserve for general purposes (see note 27)	12,057	971	13,029
Total at 31 March 2023	125,082	613	125,695

	General fund balance £000	Capital receipts reserve £000	Capital grants unapplied £000	Total usable reserves £000	Unusable reserves £000	Total council reserves £000
<u>Balance at 1 April 2023 brought forward</u>	125,695	1,870	6,388	133,953	159,062	293,015
Movement in reserves during 2023-24:						
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	5,180	0	0	5,180	3,338	8,518
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Notes 7A & 9)	(6,721)	(211)	(52)	(6,984)	6,984	0
Increase/decrease in 2023-24	(1,541)	(211)	(52)	(1,804)	10,322	8,518
Balance at 31 March 2024 carried forward	124,154	1,659	6,336	132,149	169,384	301,533

General Fund analysed between:	Balance brought forward	Movement in Year	Balance carried forward
	£000	£000	£000
Earmarked Reserves (see note 10)	112,666	(1,713)	110,953
Reserve for general purposes (see note 27)	13,029	172	13,201
Total at 31 March 2024	125,695	(1,541)	124,154

BALANCE SHEET

The balance sheet shows the value as at the balance sheet date of the assets and liabilities held by the council. The net assets of the council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the council may 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 may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves is those that the council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the revaluation reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the movement in reserves statement line 'adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations.

31 March 2023			31 March 2024
£000		Note	£000
523,093	Property, plant & equipment	14	553,929
1,297	Heritage assets	15	1,415
34,750	Investment property	16	36,200
192	Intangible assets	17	112
5,264	Long term debtors	21	5,041
564,596	Long term assets		596,697
0	Short-term investments	18	5,025
5,036	Assets held for sale	24	3,421
79	Inventories	20	99
36,525	Short term debtors	21	38,426
49,699	Cash and cash equivalents	23	21,706
91,339	Current assets		68,677
(42,744)	Short term borrowing	18	(36,477)
(56,647)	Short term creditors	25	(48,305)
(3,534)	Short term provisions	26	(5,193)
(102,925)	Current liabilities		(89,975)
(87,699)	Long term creditors	18	(82,416)
(1,354)	Long term provisions	26	(1,358)
(156,552)	Long term borrowing	18	(146,414)
(3,519)	Other long term liabilities	28	(30,452)
(394)	Donated assets account	15	(394)
(10,477)	Capital grants receipts in advance	39	(12,830)
(259,995)	Long term liabilities		(273,864)
293,015	Net liabilities		301,535
133,954	Usable reserves	27	132,150
159,061	Unusable reserves	28	169,385
293,015	Total reserves		301,535

Signed:



Date: 19 February 2025

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

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

2022-23		2023-24
£000		£000
(9,787)	Net surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services	5,180
30,985	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements (note 30)	9,557
(25,446)	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities (note 30)	(18,993)
(4,248)	Net cash flows from operating activities	(4,256)
33,902	Investing activities (note 31)	(3,463)
(1,423)	Financing activities (note 32)	(20,275)
28,231	Net increase or decrease in cash & cash equivalents	(27,994)
21,468	Cash & cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	49,699
49,699	Cash & cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (note 23)	21,705

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

1.1 General principles

The statement of accounts summarises the council's transactions for the 2023-24 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2024. The council is required to prepare an annual statement of accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 which those regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023-24, 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.

The accounts have been reviewed so that only statutory disclosures are included.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis, under the assumption that the council will continue in existence for the foreseeable future.

Unless otherwise stated, the convention used in this document is to round amounts to the nearest thousand pounds. Credit balances are shown with parentheses.

1.2 Accruals of income and expenditure

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

- Revenue from the contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the balance sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the balance sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

1.3 Cash and cash equivalents

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

In the balance sheet and cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the council's cash management.

1.4 Prior period adjustments, changes in accounting policies and estimates and errors

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

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

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

1.5 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 can be no accumulated gains in the revaluation reserve against which the losses can be written off.
- amortisation of intangible assets attributable to the service.

The council is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the council in accordance with statutory guidance.

The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to have regard to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (the MRP Guidance) most recently issued in 2018.

The council has adopted the following principles for the charging of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP):

- The broad aim of the MRP Guidance is to ensure that debt is repaid over a period that is either reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits, or, in the case of borrowing supported by Government Revenue Support Grant, reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of that grant.
- The MRP Guidance requires the Council to approve an Annual MRP Statement each year and recommends a number of options for calculating a prudent amount of MRP. The statement incorporates options recommended in the Guidance as well as locally determined prudent methods.
- The council has adopted the annuity method for capital expenditure. This method will ensure the repayment of the debt better reflects the consumption of these assets financed. MRP will be determined by charging the expenditure over the expected useful life of the relevant asset. This being equal to the principal repayment on an annuity with an annual interest rate equal to the relevant PWLB rate for the year of expenditure, starting in the year after the asset becomes operational. MRP on purchases of freehold land will be charged over 40 years. MRP on expenditure not related to fixed assets but which has been capitalised by regulation or direction will be charged over 20 years.
- For finance leases and the Highways PFI contract, the MRP charge will be equal to the repayment of the liability in year.

- The duty to make MRP extends to investment properties where their acquisition has been partially or fully funded by an increase in borrowing or credit arrangements. For all historical Investment Properties, MRP will be provided from 2024/25 to fully provide for the historic financed element of any purchases using the annuity method with an annual interest rate equal to the PWLB rate at start of financial year, up to a maximum period of 50 years. Upon sale of a property, the capital receipt received will be used to repay any outstanding debt; where there is a shortfall, MRP will be charged for the difference.
- For investment properties with a holding period of greater than 50 years; MRP will be provided on an annuity method over the life of asset.
- For capital expenditure loans to third parties the income received has an interest and principal element. No MRP will be charged on these loans unless the loan is deemed to be impaired in line with IFRS 9.

Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by the contribution in the general fund balance by way of an adjusting transaction with the capital adjustment account in the movement in reserves statement for the difference between the two.

1.6 Accounting for Council Tax and Business Rates

Billing authorities act as agents, collecting council tax and business rates (non-domestic rates) on behalf of the major preceptors (including government for business rates) and, as principals, collecting council tax and business rates for themselves. Billing authorities are required by statute to maintain a separate fund (the Collection Fund) for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and business rates. Under the legislative framework for the Collection Fund, billing authorities, major preceptors and central government share proportionally the risks and rewards that the amount of council tax and business rates collected could be less or more than predicted.

The council tax and business rate income included in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is the council's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax and business rates that must be included in the council's general fund. Therefore, the difference between the income included in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the general fund is taken to the collection fund adjustment account and included as a reconciling item in the movement in reserves statement.

The balance sheet includes the council's share of the end of year balances in respect of council tax and business rates relating to arrears, impairment allowances for doubtful debts, overpayments, prepayment and appeals.

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the statutory arrangements will not be made (fixed or determinable amounts), the asset is written down and a charge made to the collection fund. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows.

1.7 Employee benefits

1.7.1 Benefits payable during employment

Short-term employee benefits are those expected 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, bonus and non-monetary benefits (e.g. cars) for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the end of the year-end which employees can carry

forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rate 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 the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

1.7.2 Termination benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. They are charged on an accrual's basis to the appropriate service or, where applicable, to the non-distributed costs line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement at the earlier of when the council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the council recognises costs for a restructuring.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the general fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the council to the pension fund or the 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 paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at year-end.

1.7.3 Post-employment benefits

Employees of the council are members of three separate pension schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme administered by the Isle of Wight Council.
- The Teachers' Pension Scheme administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE).
- The National Health Service (NHS) pension scheme

The local government, teachers' and NHS schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees who have worked for the council.

However, the arrangements for the teachers' and NHS schemes mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the council. These schemes are therefore accounted for as if they were defined contributions schemes and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the balance sheet. The Childrens Services & Corporate Functions service line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to Teachers' Pensions in the year. The Adult Social Care & Public Health services line is charged in respect of the employers' contributions to the NHS pension scheme.

1.7.4 The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the Isle of Wight Council pension fund attributable to the council are included in the balance sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates etc., and projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate derived from a corporate bond yield curve constructed from yields on high quality bonds and recognising the weighted average term of the benefit obligation for the employer at the IAS19 valuation date. The corporate bond yield curve is constructed based on the constituents of the iBoxx

£ Corporates AA index and using the UBS delta curve fitting methodology.

- The assets of the Isle of Wight Council Pension Fund attributed to the council are included in the balance sheet at their fair value:
 - quoted securities – current bid price
 - unquoted securities – professional estimate
 - unitised securities – current bid price
 - property – market value

The change in the net 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 resources line of the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.
 - net interest on the defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the financing and investment income and expenditure line of the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. This is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined liability (asset) at the beginning of the period, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Remeasurements comprising:
 - the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset). This is 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 paid to the Isle of Wight Council pension fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

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

1.7.5 Discretionary benefits

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

1.8 Events after the reporting period

Events after the balance sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the statement of accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

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

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the statement of accounts.

1.9 Financial instruments

1.9.1 Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the balance sheet when the council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

For most of the borrowings that the council has, this means that the amount presented in the balance sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest); and interest charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

1.9.2 Financial assets

Financial assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cashflow characteristics. There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss (FVPL), and
- fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

The council's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flow. Financial assets are therefore classified at amortised cost.

1.9.3 Financial assets measured at amortised cost

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

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

1.9.4 Expected credit loss model

The council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the council.

Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses. Where risk has increased significantly since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month expected losses.

The council has one significant loan to a renewable energy business operating locally. Lifetime expected losses are assessed based on a credit scoring matrix taking financial statements, market conditions and other relevant factors into consideration. The impairment allowance is reviewed at each year-end to take account of any changes in relevant factors.

1.10 Government grants and contributions

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

- the council will comply with the conditions 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 account. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the capital adjustment account. Amounts in the capital grants unapplied reserve are transferred to the capital adjustment account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

1.11 Business Improvement District

A Business Improvement District (BID) scheme applies across the whole of the council's area. The scheme is funded by a BID levy paid by business ratepayers. The council acts as agent under the scheme and does not account for income received and expenditure incurred within the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. The council is reimbursed for the cost of collection from the BID levy.

1.12. Heritage assets

The council's heritage service holds historic items in perpetuity for their contribution to knowledge and culture, facilitating enjoyment and education. Many items have been donated to the service to ensure their long term care and preservation. Others have been obtained using grant sources and have conditions governing their acquisition, care, and display.

Heritage assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the council's accounting policies on property, plant, and equipment. Where the council does not have information on asset value, no attempt has been made to estimate the value of heritage assets. This is due to the number and uniqueness of items retained and the associated costs and time required to undertake valuations. Where it is not practical, the measurement rules are relaxed for heritage assets detailed below. The council's collection of heritage assets is accounted for as follows:

Social History Collection

The social history collection currently contains 11,500 items (or groups of items) recorded on a museum catalogue system called Modes. The council considers that obtaining valuations for this collection would involve a disproportionate cost in comparison to the benefits to the users of the council's financial statements. Many of the items within the collection are unique or irreplaceable resulting in a lack of comparable markets: consequentially the council does not recognise the assets on the balance sheet.

Within the Social History Collection there is a collection of civic regalia (Local Government Collection) that was valued by Christies in 1993 and is deemed to be on a historic cost basis. Civic regalia within the local government collection are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value; hence the council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation. The use of historic cost does provide a limitation when determining the current value of these assets.

The Social History Collection also contains 400 artworks, paintings, prints and watercolours (Art Collection). The Art Collection includes 112 watercolour sketches by Thomas Rowlandson and his circle, purchased from the Longleat Estate with grant funding in 2002. These artworks were re-valued in 2019 by Christies. The assets within the art collection are deemed to have

indeterminate lives and a high residual value; hence the council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation. Acquisitions are made by purchase or donation. Acquisitions are recognised at cost and revalued where there is sufficient evidence of market value such as insurance values. Donations are recognised at cost with reference to appropriate commercial markets for the paintings, using information from auction houses or other professional valuers.

Archaeology Collection

The archaeology collection comprises two major groups of material: collections on deposit or loan by various organisations, and collections largely acquired after 1981 from excavations and by other means. The collection of treasures comprises 90 items and has been valued by British Museum Treasure Committee and is deemed to be on a historic cost basis. The remaining collection currently comprises circa 48,000 items in total which are not valued as the council considers that obtaining valuations for the collection would involve a disproportionate cost in comparison to the benefits to the users of the council's financial statements. Acquisitions are made by purchase or donations. Acquisitions and donations for treasures are recognised at cost with reference to appropriate commercial markets using information from auction houses or other professional valuers.

The use of historic cost does provide a limitation when determining the current value of these assets. If the current value of these assets were available, the balance sheet values are likely to be substantially different.

Geology

The geology collection currently comprises approximately 30,000 geological specimens and the collection contains over 220 type, figured and cited specimens, notably the specimens of three dinosaurs, Neovenator, Eotyrannus and Yaverlandia. The council considers that obtaining valuations for the collection exhibited within the Dinosaur Isle Museum and stored at the museum store would involve a disproportionate cost in comparison to the benefits to the users of the council's financial statements. The council considers that, due to the lack of any comparable market, it is not possible to provide either cost or valuation information for these assets. Consequentially the council does not recognise the assets on the balance sheet. The exception to this rule will be items purchased or acquired with grants or accepted in lieu of tax. In this case where an expressed value is known these will be included.

Record Office collection

This collection is held within the Isle of Wight Records Office and associated out stores. The council does have local council records and some items that have been gifted to the council, but a significant percentage of the most valuable and most used material is not in the council's ownership. The collection also includes a collection of local books. The Record Office material is not being valued on the same basis as other collections, to do so would be disproportionate for the cost and time taken. Consequentially the council does not recognise the assets on the balance sheet.

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 council's general policies on impairments. The council will dispose of heritage assets in line with approved heritage service policies. The proceeds of such items are accounted for in accordance with the council's general provisions relating to the disposal of property, plant, and equipment. Disposal proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes of financial statements and

are accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts.

The Isle of Wight Heritage Service maintains acquisition and disposal policies and procedures for museum collections.

1.13. Intangible assets

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

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

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

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

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an impact on the general fund balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the general fund balance in the movement in reserves statement and posted to the capital adjustment account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the capital receipts reserve.

1.14 Inventories

Inventories are included in the balance sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories is assigned using the first in first out costing formula.

1.15 Investment property

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

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the

price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use. Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at 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.

1.16 Interests in companies and other entities

An assessment of the council's interests has been carried out during the year in accordance with the Code of Practice to determine the group relationships that exist. Inclusion in the group is dependent upon the extent of the council's control over the entity demonstrated through ownership, such as a shareholding in an entity or representation on an entity's board of directors. The council has no material interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates, and joint ventures and that would require it to prepare group accounts.

1.17 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 council 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 council 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.
- its expenses, including its share of any expenses incurred jointly.

1.18 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. One of the key tests for classification of finance leases is that lease payments are substantially all of the current value of the asset. The council has defined substantial as being where lease payments are at least 70% of the current value of the asset. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

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

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

1.18.1 The council as lessee

Finance leases

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

Lease payments are apportioned between:

- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant, or equipment – applied to write down the lease liability, and
- a finance charge (debited to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement).

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

The council is not required to raise council tax to cover depreciation or revaluation and impairment losses arising on leased assets. Instead, a prudent annual contribution is made from revenue funds towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory requirements. Depreciation and revaluation and impairment losses are therefore substituted by a revenue contribution in the general fund balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the capital adjustment account in the movement in reserves statement for the difference between the two.

Operating leases

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

1.18.2 The council as lessor

Finance leases

The council has reviewed current lease arrangements and has concluded that currently there are no finance leases as lessor to be recognised in the accounts.

Operating leases

Where the council grants an operating lease over a property or item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the balance sheet. Rental income is credited to the other operating expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure

statement.

1.19 Overheads and support services

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

1.20 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.

1.20.1 Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant or equipment is capitalised on an accrual's basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred. A de-minimis threshold applies where expenditure meets the capital criteria, but the amount does not exceed £10,000. The council can decide to set aside this threshold, if appropriate, for such items as the purchase of land required to be identified as an asset to the council or where the item of expenditure is part of a capital project where the total amount exceeds the de-minimis.

1.20.2 Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

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

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

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the taxation and non-specific grant income line of the comprehensive income and expenditure statement unless the donation has been made conditionally. Until conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in the donated assets account. Where gains are credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, they are reversed out of the general fund balance to the capital adjustment account in the movement in reserves statement.

Assets are carried in the balance sheet using the following measurement bases:

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical

cost.

- vehicles, plant, and equipment - depreciated historical cost.
- school buildings – current value, but because of their specialist nature, are measured at depreciated replacement cost which is used as an estimate of current value.
- surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at the highest and best use from a market participant’s perspective.
- shared ownership – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).
- all other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

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

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

Assets included in the balance sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. A valuation is completed where capital expenditure exceeds £50,000 in year for land and building assets. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the revaluation reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the revaluation reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).
- where there is no balance in the revaluation reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

The revaluation reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the capital adjustment account.

1.20.3 Impairment

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

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

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the revaluation reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains)
- where there is no balance in the revaluation reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

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

1.20.4 Depreciation

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Buildings – straight-line allocation over the remaining useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer. Depreciation is calculated on the opening book value as additions over £50,000 are subject to revaluation in year. Additions in year and valuations in year depreciate from the start of the subsequent financial year.
- Vehicles, plant and equipment – opening cost value and additions in year over straight-line allocation as advised by a suitably qualified officer.
- Infrastructure – opening cost value and additions in year over straight-line allocation as advised by a suitably 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, and this is determined at the point of valuation and is estimated by the valuer.

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

Depreciation is not charged on property, plant, and equipment in the year of disposal.

1.20.5 Disposals and non-current assets held for sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an asset held for sale. The asset is revalued at the point of reclassification and then carried at fair value. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value, 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 to 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 previous valuation basis 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 net book value of the asset in the balance sheet (whether property, plant, 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 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. Receipts are required to be credited to the capital receipts reserve and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the reserve from the general fund balance in the movement in reserves statement.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge to 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.

1.21 Private finance initiative (PFI) and similar contracts

PFI and similar contracts are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available the property, plant and equipment needed to provide the service passes to the PFI contractor. As the council is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI schemes and as ownership of the property, plant and equipment will pass to the council at the end of the contract for no additional charge, the council carries the assets used under the contracts on the balance sheet as part of property, plant, and equipment.

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

Non-current assets recognised on the balance sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as property, plant and equipment owned by the council.

The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year (unitary charge) are analysed into six elements:

- fair value of the services received during the year – debited to the relevant service in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.
- finance cost – an interest charge on the outstanding balance sheet liability, debited to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.
- contingent rentals – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.
- payment towards liability – applied to write down the balance sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write-downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease).
- payment towards the excess of capital investment over planned capital investment specified in the contract - excess of capital investment is credited to deferred income on the balance sheet and credited to the relevant service in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.
- lifecycle replacement costs – the council charges lifecycle costs as incurred, and these are recognised as additions to property, plant and equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out.

1.22 Fair value measurement of non-financial assets

The council's accounting policy for fair value measurement of financial assets is set out in note 1.9.2. The council also measures some of its non-financial assets such as surplus assets and investment properties at fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is the price that would be received if the asset was to be sold 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 using the same assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act 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 valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the council's financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

- Level 1 – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the council can access at the measurable date.
- Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The fair value for surplus properties, investment properties and assets held for sale has been based on the market approach using current market conditions, recent sales prices, and other relevant information for similar assets in the council's area. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold and the level of observable inputs are significant, leading to properties being categorised at level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

1.23 Provisions, contingent liabilities, and contingent assets

1.23.1 Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. For instance, the council may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement in the year that the council becomes aware of the obligation

and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

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

Provisions are analysed between short and long-term for the purpose of balance sheet categorisation.

1.23.2 Contingent liabilities

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

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but are disclosed in a note to the accounts.

1.23.3 Contingent assets

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

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

1.24 Reserves

The council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the general fund balance in the movement in reserves statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year against the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. The reserve is then appropriated back into the general fund balance in the movement in reserves statement so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

Certain reserves are maintained to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, retirement, and employee benefits and which do not represent usable resources for the council. These reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

1.25 Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions, but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset, has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement in the year. Where

the council has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the movement in reserves statement from the general fund balance to the capital adjustment account then reverses out the amounts charged so there is no impact on the level of council tax.

1.26 Accounting for Schools

There are currently five types of schools within the council's area:

- Community schools
- Voluntary Controlled schools
- Voluntary Aided schools
- Foundation/Trust schools
- Academy schools

The council's expenditure on schools is funded by grant monies provided by the Department for Education through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The schools budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on a council-wide basis and for the individual schools' budget, which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school. A deduction is made from the council's DSG by central government as a recoupment in respect of the conversion of maintained schools into academies. DSG is paid specifically to finance the schools' budget and is consequently credited to the children's services, education and skills line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. With the exception of academy schools therefore, school's income and expenditure, including voluntary aided and foundation schools, is recognised in the council's comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

With regard to non-current assets, the council recognises property, plant and equipment relating to voluntary controlled schools on the balance sheet as control of the school is held by the council. Property, plant, and equipment in voluntary aided schools are recognised on the balance sheet where legal ownership rests with the council and this is currently limited to playing field land where relevant. Property, plant and equipment in foundation, trust and academy schools are not recognised on the balance sheet where control has been transferred to the relevant governing body.

1.27 VAT

VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). VAT receivable is excluded from income.

1.28 Re-classifiable transactions under IAS 1 (Presentation of Financial Statements)

The council does not have any transactions in 2023-24 that are re-classifiable to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services under the requirements of IAS 1. All of the amounts in other comprehensive income and expenditure are not re-classifiable in the surplus or deficit on the provision of services.

1.29 Going Concern

These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis assuming that that the Authority will continue in operational existence for 12 months from the date the accounts are approved.

The provisions in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice of Local Authority Accounting 2023-24 and the Financial Reporting Council's Practice Note 10 in respect of going concern reporting requirements reflect the economic and statutory environment in which local authorities

operate. These provisions confirm that, as authorities cannot be created or dissolved without statutory prescription, they must prepare their financial statements on a going concern basis of accounting. Local authorities carry out functions essential to the local community and are themselves revenue-raising bodies (with limits on their revenue-raising powers arising only at the discretion of central government). If an authority were in financial difficulty, the prospects are thus that alternative arrangements might be made by central government either for the continuation of the services it provides or for assistance with the recovery of a deficit over more than one financial year and indeed, correspondence from MHCLG during Covid-19 is supportive of this approach. As a result of this, it would not therefore be appropriate for local authority financial statements to be provided on anything other than a going concern basis. Accounts drawn up under the Code therefore assume that a local authority's services will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

The Council set its budget for 2024-25 at its Full Council meeting on 28 February 2024 which provided for the full financial impact of the extra-ordinary inflation and associated demand related cost pressures experienced over the past 2 years and extending into 2024-25 and the ongoing impact of the Covid Pandemic in the current year and its expected ongoing legacy over the next 2 years.

The Council agreed a council tax increase of 4.99% (2% of which is raised specifically to be passported to Adult Social Care). The Council also agreed to provide additional funding of £6.3 million for Adult Social Care and £5m million to Childrens Services to ensure that the financial position of these services remains robust both in the short and medium term.

The budget for 2024-25 includes the identification of savings of £2.75m necessary to offset the extraordinary costs of inflation and demand related pressures that have not been met by additional government funding. The pressures are particularly being experienced in social care (£11.3m described above) but also a further £8.2m of unavoidable costs across all other council services were identified. Of the £2.75m savings, 83% are delivered through efficiencies and income generation and 17% achieved through service reductions.

In addition to the £2.75m of savings required, a withdrawal of £1.2m from Reserves is required to balance the budget.

Looking ahead to 2027/28 it is forecast that the Council will have a 3 Year Deficit of £3m (£1m per annum) and assuming:

- The continuation of additional "Island Funding" of £4m in total
- Budget Savings in 2024/25 of £2.75m
- Assumed Council Tax increases of 4.99% per annum, representing 2.99% for general purposes and 2% for Adult Social Care in 2024/25 and an equivalent 4.99% for all future years of the forecast.
- Adoption of a 100% Council Tax premium for second homes amounting to £4.2m from April 2025.

The combination of these factors has substantially improved the Council's future forecast financial position and mitigated the scale of the future Budget Deficit upon which savings are based.

Based on these assumptions, the Council is forecast to achieve a "structurally balanced" Budget in 2025/26.

As previously described in the Going Concern Assessment a Covid Contingency was established to provide for additional costs and loss of income for the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic and the expected legacy impact in the medium term. The Contingency currently stands at £5m. It is estimated that this will fund a further two years of the estimated legacy impact on Adult Social Care at which point it is estimated that this pressure will have unwound from the system.

The latest revenue budget monitoring position (Quarter one 2024-25) indicates a potential net in-year pressure of £3m (1.3% of budget) after the support from the Covid Contingency of £2.1m for Adult Social Care as described above. This will continue to be mitigated as the financial year progresses. It is estimated that any residual remaining pressure at year end can be funded from the council's revenue contingency budget (circa £4m remaining) and if required from the £1m carried forward from 2023-24 year end to reserves. Any pressures that are expected to be of an ongoing nature will be incorporated into the 2025-26 budget process which is underway.

The minimum level of general reserves was increased in 2023-24 from £7 million to £8 million. Reserves in 2024-25 are estimated to be maintained at circa £12. million (including the £1m carried forward from 2023-24 year end) over the period to 2027-28, therefore providing headroom of circa £4million over this period.

The Council has also recently increased its revenue annual corporate contingency to £4 million per annum to provide for further increased resilience.

A Transformation Reserve with a current uncommitted balance of circa £3m also remains in place as the Council's primary vehicle for funding Spend to Save and Spend to avoid Cost Initiatives and Feasibility Studies.

The Council has also undertaken cashflow forecasting for the foreseeable future period. Our projections for the revenue budget show that the Council has sufficient liquidity over the period to the end of March 2026 when supplemented by assumed short-term borrowing indirectly linked to the capital programme.

The Council does have a significant capital programme for the same period and through to the end of March 2026 and there was always an intent to borrow, either from other local authorities or from the PWLB, as sources of funds for this programme. When taken into the cashflow forecast this situation does not change and PWLB borrowing will be required. With the impact of Covid-19 in mind we continue to focus on reviewing the timing and extent of the capital programme but are of the view that PWLB loans will be available.

Considering all of the above the Council considers it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

See Full Council Budget Report (Item 6) at the following link:

<https://iow.moderngov.co.uk/ielistDocuments.aspx?CId=172&MIId=1438&Ver=4>

2. Accounting standards that have been issued but have not yet been adopted

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25 (the Code) has introduced changes in accounting policies which will need to be adopted by the council in the 2024-25 financial statements. The Code requires implementation from 1 April 2024 and there is no impact on the 2023-24 statement of accounts.

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

Accounting changes that are introduced by the 2024-25 code was confirmed in May 2024.

The Council has reviewed the Code and note identified any new or significantly amended accounting standards that have been issued but not yet implemented with the exception of IFRS16 Leases.

IFRS16 Leases

The Council will adopt IFRS16 Leases from the 1 April 2024, which will therefore impact the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts. The aim of the accounting standard is to recognise all leased in assets (known as right of use assets) on the balance sheet unless an exemption can be applied (for example, short life low value).

This effectively removes the distinction between finance leases and operating leases, so operating leases will be brought on to the balance sheet. Bringing these leases on to the balance sheet will also increase the Capital Financing Requirement and annual Minimum Revenue Provision recorded in the accounts (although the actual amounts charged to the revenue budget will not be impacted).

The council currently has £4.7million of operating leases across property, housing and schools. The council undertook a detailed review over the years building up to the accounting standard change, which will be refreshed on implementation during 2024/25.

The highways PFI arrangement is also in the scope of the standard change and the impact will involve remeasuring PFI liabilities on transition and annually thereafter. The council has engaged with its professional advisors in ensuring this remeasurement is carefully undertaken and the implications for prudential indicators, borrowing limits and minimum revenue provision are fully considered.

3. Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

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

- **Future funding of the council.**

The financial year 2022-23 was the originally intended date for the Local Government Funding Reform to coincide with the Comprehensive Spending review, however, this has been delayed once again and will now not take place until at least 2025/26 and is dependent upon the approach taken by the new Government. Funding reform covers the following:

- The “Fair Funding Review”, (to determine a new formula methodology which will set each Local Authority’s baseline funding level and creating “winners and losers”)
- The Retained Business Rates system which involves the removal of all existing growth to date (amounting to £10 million) and re-distributing that growth nationally according to relative need (rather than where it was generated)

The previous Government have added to the original £1m allocated in 2023-24 in respect of the costs of the physical separation from the mainland and has provided a total of £4m in 2024-25. Further engagement will be sought with the new Government during 2024/25 to inform the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2025-26.

The council’s latest future forecast (as presented in February 2024) has been estimated in the context of the uncertainty of the funding reforms outlined above and for the 3-year period 2025-26 to 2027-28 it is estimated that the budget deficit will be £3 million. This requires the Council to make incremental budget savings of £1.0 million per annum for each of those years. The forecast deficit is predicated on an assumed Council Tax increase of 5% for each year, representing 3% for general purposes and 2% for Adult Social Care.

There are a large number of other significant variables such as elevated levels of inflation and other unavoidable cost pressures that may arise, particularly in care services and the level of successful business rate appeals arising from the revaluation in 2023-24 and taking these risks together the forecast deficit has the potential to vary by between +/£5 million which when spread over 3 years would vary the annual savings requirements by +/£1.67 million per annum.

However, the council has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the council might be impaired as a result of the need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.

- **Asset classifications**

The council has made judgements on whether assets are classified as investment property or property, plant and equipment. These judgements are based on the principal reason for the council holding the asset. If the asset is used in the delivery of services by the council or to fulfil a corporate objective then they are deemed to be property, plant and equipment assets. If assets are held solely for rental income or capital appreciation, then this would indicate that the asset is an investment property. The classification determines the valuation method to be used.

- **Lease classifications**

The council has made judgements on whether its lease arrangements are operating leases or finance leases. These judgements are based on a series of tests designed to assess whether the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee. The results of the tests are taken as a whole, and a decision has been made on classification. The accounting treatment for operating and finance leases is currently significantly different (see accounting policy on leases) and could have a significant effect on the accounts.

- **Contractual arrangements**

The council has made judgements on whether its contractual arrangements contain embedded leases (i.e. arrangements that are not legally leases but take the form of payments in return for the use of specific assets). The judgement made for these concerns the amount of use considered to be significant and recognised as a lease arrangement.

- **PFI schemes**

The council has made judgements relating to the control of services provided under the Highways PFI contract. It has determined that the council controls these services and also to control the residual value of the assets at the end of the contracts. The accounting policies for PFI schemes and similar contracts have been applied to the arrangements and the assets are recognised as property, plant and equipment on the council's balance sheet in line with IFRIC 12 (service concession arrangements). The waste management contract which commenced in November 2015 has been judged as falling outside the definition of a service concession and so has not been accounted for under the accounting policy applying to PFI schemes and similar contracts.

- **School Land and Buildings**

The council has made judgements on whether the control of school land and buildings not owned by the council remain as property, plant and equipment. The council has decided that voluntary controlled schools will remain as property, plant and equipment as control of a school is held by the council. Voluntary aided schools will be recognised as property, plant and equipment where legal ownership rests with the council and currently this is limited to playing field land where relevant. Foundation, Trust, and Academy schools are not recognised as property, plant and equipment where control has been transferred to the relevant governing body.

- **Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)**

The council has made judgements on the application of a 'prudent amount' definition in the setting aside of sums for the repayment of debt (MRP). The council has judged that the accounting policy for charging the MRP can be interpreted so that the calculation considers all of the assets of the council in totality and considers them in the context of the maturity profile of the council's debt. As a result, the annuity method has been adopted as the most appropriate method for the setting aside of its MRP.

- **Investment properties**

Investment properties have been assessed using the identifiable criteria under the international accounting standards and are being held for rental income or for capital appreciation. Properties have been assessed using these criteria, which is subject to interpretation to determine if there is an operational reason for holding the property such as regeneration.

4. Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for the revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The key judgements and estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Property, plant and equipment	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the council will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets. The carrying value of property, plant and equipment at 31 March 2024 is £553.929 million.	If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the asset falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £0.241 million for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.
Local Government Pension Scheme – Pensions Liability	The estimation of the net liability to pay retirement benefits depends on a number of complex judgements. In particular these judgements relate to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes to the age at which retirement benefits can be taken, mortality rates and the expected returns on pension fund assets. The council engages an actuary to provide expert advice about the assumptions to be applied and the sensitivity of the results. The carrying value of the Local Government Pension Scheme at 31 March 2024 is a deficit of £30.452 million.	The impact on the net pensions liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured in approximate terms. For example, a 0.1% decrease in the real discount rate would result in an increase of £10 million in the pension fund deficit. A one-year increase in member life expectancy would result in an increase of approximately £23 million. In practice the actual cost of a one-year increase in life expectancy will depend on the structure of the revised assumption (ie if the improvements to survival rates predominantly apply at younger or older ages). A 0.1% increase in the salary increase rate would result in an increase of 0% to the employer liability for which the approximate monetary value would be £0.365 million. A 1% increase in the pension increase rate would result in an increase of 2% to the employer liability for which the approximate monetary value would be £10.616 million.
Allowance for impairment of short-term debtors	The council has made impairment allowances of £18.017 million for the non-collection of outstanding debts at 31 March 2024. This includes an allowance of £12.279 million for council tax and business rate arrears representing the council's share of the allowance. The allowance for all other debt (including housing benefit overpayments) is calculated on a sliding scale of percentages applied to the outstanding amounts based on an age profile, historical levels and the nature of the debts. In the current economic climate it is not certain whether these allowances will be sufficient. If collection rates were to deteriorate, then an increase in the amount of the impairment allowance would be required.	For collection fund arrears, variances between estimated and actual write-offs will have an impact on the surplus or deficit on the collection fund. For the remaining sundry debts (including housing benefit overpayments), a 2.5% increase in the percentage applied would require an adjustment to the allowance of £0.138 million which would be attributable to the general fund.
Insurance provision	The services of a claims handling company is used to process claims made against the council. As significant claims can often take	The insurance provision is being maintained at a level considered to be prudent in view of the information currently available. The impact of a

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
	<p>many years to be settled, outcomes cannot always be predicted with any great level of certainty. A provision for outstanding insurance liabilities at 31 March 2024 has been based on information contained within the council's in-house claims recording database and also an estimate of the amount liable to 'clawback' in respect of claims against policies taken out with the Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) prior to 1 April 1993. MMI went into 'run-off' in September 1992 and subsequently established a scheme of arrangement whereby claims paid since January 1994 will be subject to a total or partial 'clawback' in the event of insolvency. In November 2012, the directors of MMI triggered the company's scheme of arrangement following a Supreme Court judgement in March 2012 relating to mesothelioma claims. Under this scheme, Ernst & Young have taken over management of MMI's business, with the power to levy on scheme creditors in order to achieve a solvent run-off.</p>	<p>significant claim paid from the provision would require a reassessment of the adequacy of the Provision and additional contributions may need to be made from the general fund if the provision was found to be insufficient to absorb such a claim. With regard to the MMI scheme, in future only 75% of claim amounts will be paid out and so the 25% shortfall will need to be self-funded by the council. In addition, it is possible that there will be further costs resulting from 'incurred but not reported' claims, although it is not possible to quantify the potential amounts.</p> <p>The potential liability relating to the MMI solvency position is based on a current assessment of the impact of industrial disease type claims. Should the solvency position deteriorate further, the council could face further calls on the amount in the provision.</p>
<p>Accumulated absences account</p>	<p>An accrual in respect of non-schools staff annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March 2024 has been based on 100% of staff. The accrual in respect of schools staff is calculated by using a formula which is based on the school holiday year. Differences between years can arise as a result of the dates of the Easter holidays. The carrying value at 31 March 2024 is £4.053 million.</p>	<p>Both current assets and unusable reserves on the balance sheet would be under or overstated if the estimate was proved not to be robust. The net worth on the balance sheet would therefore be under or overstated. The comprehensive income & expenditure statement is charged or credited with the movement between the prior and current year balance sheet figures. However, the entries in the comprehensive income & expenditure statement are reversed out through the movement in reserves statement, so that there is no impact on the general fund balance.</p>
<p>Business rate appeals</p>	<p>Since the introduction of the business rates retention scheme on 1 April 2013, local authorities are required to make a provision for refunding ratepayers who will successfully appeal against the rateable value of their properties on the rating list. This will include amounts relating to business rates prior to 1 April 2013. A list of outstanding appeals on the 2010 valuation list has been provided by the valuation office (VAO) and the services of rating experts have been engaged to determine potential success rates and a range of possible outcomes by analysing historical data. This information has been used to estimate the likely rateable value reductions on successful appeals and the level of backdating applicable. For the 2017 valuation list, the services of the rating experts have also been engaged to assess the potential liability that takes account of appeals lodged, settled and also of appeals yet to be submitted. The total amount recognised as a provision in the council's balance sheet (£4.130 million) is therefore the council's share</p>	<p>The collection fund statement shows how the appeals provision impacts on the business rate deficit at 31 March 2024. The council's share of all business rate balances for 2023-24 is 49%. The provision has been recognised as a short-term liability as there is insufficient information to enable the estimation of the level of appeals likely to be awaiting settlement at 31 March 2024. If the outcome of appeals is different than the amount estimated, then this will have an impact in a future year on both the business rates surplus or deficit in the collection fund and the business rates income receivable by the council.</p>

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
	(49%) of the estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the potential obligation from appeals up to 31 March 2024 on both the 2010 and 2017 valuation lists.	
Highways PFI contract	PFI and similar arrangements have been considered to have an implied finance lease within the agreement. In assessing the lease applicable to the Highways PFI scheme, the council has estimated the implied interest rate within the leases to calculate the interest and principal payments. In addition, the future RPI increases within the contract have been estimated as remaining constant throughout the period of the contract. The inflation rate used in the calculation is based on RPIx and is 12.61% for year 11 of the contract (2023-24) and estimated as being 2.5% per year for the remainder of the contract.	The impact of a 0.10% variation in the assumed interest rates used in calculating future service charges and lifecycle replacement costs would result in an increase or reduction of £0.265 million to the total cost of the scheme over the remaining life of the contract.
Investment Property	The Council's valuers use valuation techniques to determine the fair value of investment property. This involves developing estimates and assumptions consistent with how market participants would price the property. The valuers base their assumptions on observable data as far as possible, but this is not always available. In that case, the valuers use the best information available and their own judgement.	Estimated fair values may differ from the actual prices that could be achieved in an arm's length transaction at the reporting date. If the value of the Council's investment properties were to reduce by 10% this would lead to a reduction in value of £3.620 million.

Land and buildings material valuation uncertainty

There is a period of general uncertainty in relation to many economic factors impacting property markets such as global inflation pressures, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the UK leaving the EU, and the COVID-19 pandemic. This can impact the probability of the value coinciding with the price achieved (in the case of a sale) reducing. It is recommended by the valuers that continued valuation review is undertaken.

As at the valuation date, for the avoidance of doubt, however, our report is not reported as being subject to 'material valuation uncertainty' as defined by VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Valuation – Global Standards.

This note is being included to ensure transparency around the market context in which the valuation opinion was prepared.

Investment Property Market Conditions: UK Economy

The outlook for the UK economy is still uncertain, having slipped into a technical recession in the last three months of 2023. The data suggests, while inflationary pressures are slowly coming under control, interest rates are to remain at current levels until the second half of the year.

UK transaction volumes are down by over 50% in almost all sectors of the market and commercial real estate values have fallen between 25% and 50% on average since their peak in 2022. This has brought loan-to-value ratios into sharp focus with some lenders entering into consensual sales with borrowers where breaches cannot be remedied.

The near-term outlook for real estate lending markets indicates there is a refinancing funding gap, that cannot be bridged without a further equity injection from the borrower. We now see larger balance sheet lenders calling for revaluations and it is expected that this will precipitate further forced sales that may impact values further. We expect this trend to continue, with lenders taking a cautionary approach to new lending and focusing on rightsizing their existing loan books.

Nevertheless, as at the valuation date there are still transactions proceeding which provides an adequate quantum of market evidence upon which to base opinions of value. Accordingly, and for the avoidance of doubt, our valuation is not reported as being subject to 'material valuation uncertainty' as defined by VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Valuation – Global Standards.

This note is being included to ensure transparency around the market context in which the valuation opinion was prepared.

5. Material items of income and expense

5.1. Disposal or derecognition losses

During 2023-24, the council has recognised a net loss of £1.432 million in relation to the disposal or derecognition of property, plant and equipment. This has been charged to the other operating expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and then reversed through the movement in reserves statement. There is therefore no impact on the amount to be raised through the council tax. The carrying value of property, plant and equipment in the balance sheet has been reduced by £1.432 million as a result of disposals or derecognition. The principal loss (£0.511 million) relates to the removal of temporary buildings at the former Yarmouth Primary school.

5.2 Pension assets/liabilities

The actuarial valuation of the Council's pension scheme liabilities shown on the Balance Sheet has increased from £3.563 million at 31 March 2023 to £30.503 million at 31 March 2024.

This is principally due to IAS19 requirements to account for asset ceiling considerations in relation to the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan. The calculation was undertaken by the Council's professional pension advisors.

The individual factors which contribute to this decrease in liability are credited or charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and then reversed through the movement in reserves statement with the result that there is no impact on the amount to be raised through local taxation.

The notes to the Pension Reserve in note 28 and note 47 defined benefit pensions schemes give further details of the impact on the council's finances.

6. Events after the reporting period

The statement of accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Finance and Section 151 officer on 27 September 2024. 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 31 March 2024, 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 non-adjusting events after the Balance Sheet date.

7A. Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2022-23 (restated – see note 51)

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts (Continuing services)	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note 7A.1) £000	Net change for Pension Adjustments (Note 7A.2) £000	Other Differences (Note 7A.3) £000	Total Adjustments £000
Adult Social Care & Public Health	187	3,385	154	3,726
Children's Services & Corporate Functions	3,947	8,632	496	13,075
Deputy Leader – Housing & Finance	289	(407)	39	(79)
Economy, Regeneration, Culture & Leisure	4,676	966	43	5,685
Leader – Transport, Infrastructure & Strategic Oversight	10,357	614	31	11,002
Climate Change, Biosphere & Waste	1,805	205	10	2,020
Planning, Coastal Protection & Flooding	618	342	22	982
Regulatory Services, Community Protection & ICT	772	1,062	47	1,881
Strategic Finance, Corporate Resources & Transformational Change	0	0	0	0
Net Cost of Services	22,651	14,799	842	38,292
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(24,237)	5,607	(9,262)	(27,892)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(1,586)	20,406	(8,420)	10,400

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2023-24

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts (Continuing services)	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note 7A.1) £000	Net change for Pension Adjustments (Note 7A.2) £000	Other Differences (Note 7A.3) £000	Total Adjustments £000
Adult Social Care & Public Health	246	(257)	(42)	(53)
Children's Services & Corporate Functions	4,758	(700)	83	4,141
Deputy Leader – Housing & Finance	1,320	(365)	(11)	944
Economy, Regeneration, Culture & Leisure	1,618	(54)	(10)	1,554
Leader – Transport, Infrastructure & Strategic Oversight	10,530	(54)	(8)	10,468
Climate Change, Biosphere & Waste	2,004	(17)	(3)	1,984
Planning, Coastal Protection & Flooding	546	(30)	(6)	510
Regulatory Services, Community Protection & ICT	834	(76)	(12)	746
Strategic Finance, Corporate Resources & Transformational Change	0	0	0	0
Net Cost of Services	21,856	(1,553)	(9)	20,294
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(29,592)	131	2,447	(27,014)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(7,736)	(1,422)	2,438	(6,720)

Note 7A.1: Adjustments for Capital Purposes

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

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

and expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

Note 7A.2: Net Change for the Pension Adjustments

This represents the net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income:

- **For services** this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the council as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
- For **Financing and investment income and expenditure** – the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

Note 7A.3: Other Differences

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

- 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 business rates 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.

7B. Segmental Income

External income (excluding government grants) received on a segmental basis is analysed below:

Portfolio reporting structure (Continuing services)	2022-23 (Restated – see note 51) Income from Services £000s	2023-24 Income from Services £000s
Adult Social Care & Public Health	(23,669)	(24,947)
Children's Services & Corporate Functions	(8,436)	(8,522)
Deputy Leader – Housing & Finance	(6,348)	(4,356)
Economy, Regeneration, Culture & Leisure	(5,136)	(5,994)
Leader – Transport, Infrastructure & Strategic Oversight	(10,747)	(8,226)
Climate Change, Biosphere & Waste	(2,389)	(1,725)
Planning, Coastal Protection & Flooding	(2,486)	(1,568)
Regulatory Services, Community Protection & ICT	(2,893)	(3,242)
Strategic Finance, Corporate Resources & Transformational Change	1,778	1,816
Total income analysed on a segmental basis	(60,326)	(56,764)

8. Expenditure and Income analysed by nature

The council's expenditure and income is analysed as below and shows the accounting expenditure and income in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from council tax and other revenue resources.

Expenditure /Income	2022-23 £000s	2023-24 £000s
Expenditure		
Employee benefit expenses	154,836	145,719
Other services expenses	220,975	237,545
Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	22,476	21,761
Financing and investment expenditure	45,272	45,247
Precepts and levies	5,356	6,052
Gain or loss on the disposal of assets	540	1,433
Total expenditure	449,455	457,757
Income		
Fees, charges and other service income (see note 7B)	(60,325)	(56,765)
Financing and investment income	(19,363)	(33,724)
Income from council tax and business rates	(115,303)	(121,021)
Government grants and contributions	(244,677)	(251,427)
Total income	(439,668)	(462,937)
Deficit/(surplus) on the provision of services	9,787	(5,180)

9. Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations

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

2023-24 Adjustments	General fund balance £000	Capital receipts reserve £000	Capital grants unapplied £000	Movement in unusable reserves £000
Adjustments primarily involving the capital adjustment account:				
Reversal of items debited or credited to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement:				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets and current assets held for sale	(19,105)	-	-	(19,105)
Revaluation losses/gains on Property, Plant & Equipment	(2,557)	-	-	(2,557)
Movements in the market value of investment properties	1,450	-	-	1,450
Amortisation of intangible assets	(98)	-	-	(98)
Capital grants and contributions applied	15,419	-	-	15,419

2023-24 Adjustments	General fund balance £000	Capital receipts reserve £000	Capital grants unapplied £000	Movement in unusable reserves £000
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(5,882)	-	-	(5,882)
Capitalised interest	60	-	-	60
Amounts of non-current assets and current assets held for sale written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement	(1,433)	(15)	-	(1,448)
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement:				
Provision for the financing of capital investment (minimum revenue provision - MRP)	11,239	-	-	11,239
Capital expenditure charged against the General fund	5,085	-	-	5,085
Adjustments primarily involving the capital grants unapplied account:				
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement	3,558	-	(3,558)	-
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the capital adjustment account	-	-	3,610	3,610
Adjustments primarily involving the capital receipts reserve				
Capital loans repaid	-	-	-	-
Use of the capital receipts reserves to finance new capital expenditure	-	236	-	236
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve for repayment of debt	-	-	-	-
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	-	(10)	-	(10)
Adjustments primarily involving the pensions reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement (see Note 28)	(16,927)	-	-	(16,927)
Employers' pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners in the year	18,356	-	-	18,356
Capitalised pension costs	(7)	-	-	(7)
Adjustments primarily involving the collection fund adjustment account:				
Amount by which council tax income credited to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	1,782	-	-	1,782
Amount by which non-domestic rate income credited to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement is different from non-domestic rate income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(1,643)	-	-	(1,643)
Adjustments primarily involving the accumulated absences account:				

2023-24 Adjustments	General fund balance £000	Capital receipts reserve £000	Capital grants unapplied £000	Movement in unusable reserves £000
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	9	-	-	9
Adjustment primarily involving the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment				
Dedicated Schools Grant in-year deficit	(2,586)			(2,586)
Total adjustments	6,720	211	52	6,983

2022-23 Adjustments (comparative year)	General fund balance £000	Capital receipts reserve £000	Capital grants unapplied £000	Movement in unusable reserves £000
Adjustments primarily involving the capital adjustment account:				
Reversal of items debited or credited to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement:				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets and current assets held for sale	(18,639)	-	-	(18,639)
Revaluation losses/gains on Property, Plant & Equipment	(3,667)	-	-	(3,667)
Movements in the market value of investment properties	(6,600)	-	-	(6,600)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(171)	-	-	(171)
Capital grants and contributions applied	21,563	-	-	21,563
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(7,126)	-	-	(7,126)
Capitalised interest	34	-	-	34
Amounts of non-current assets and current assets held for sale written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement	(540)	(607)	-	(1,147)
Transfer of fire assets	-	-	-	-
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement:				
Provision for the financing of capital investment (minimum revenue provision - MRP)	10,693	-	-	10,693
Capital expenditure charged against the General fund	2,852	-	-	2,852
Adjustments primarily involving the capital grants unapplied account:				
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement	3,187	-	(3,187)	-
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the capital adjustment account	-	-	2,581	2,581
Adjustments primarily involving the capital receipts reserve				
Capital loans repaid	-	-	-	-

2022-23 Adjustments (comparative year)	General fund balance £000	Capital receipts reserve £000	Capital grants unapplied £000	Movement in unusable reserves £000
Use of the capital receipts reserves to finance new capital expenditure	-	593	-	593
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve for repayment of debt	-	82	-	82
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash				
Adjustments primarily involving the pensions reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement	(36,894)	-	-	(36,894)
Employers' pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners in the year	16,491	-	-	16,491
Capitalised pension costs	(4)	-	-	(4)
Adjustments primarily involving the collection fund adjustment account:				
Amount by which council tax income credited to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(369)	-	-	(369)
Amount by which non-domestic rate income credited to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement is different from non-domestic rate income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	7,293	-	-	7,293
Adjustments primarily involving the accumulated absences account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(842)	-	-	(842)
Adjustment primarily involving the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment				
Dedicated Schools Grant in-year deficit	2,338	-	-	2,338
Total adjustments	(10,401)	68	(606)	(10,939)

10. Transfers to/from earmarked reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the general fund balance in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts transferred from earmarked reserves to meet general fund expenditure in 2023-24.

General Fund:	Balance at 1 April 2022 £000	Transfer out 2022-23 £000	Transfer in 2022-23 £000	Balance at 31 March 2023 £000	Transfer out 2023-24 £000	Transfer in 2023-24 £000	Balance at 31 March 2024 £000
Revenue carry-forward reserve	17,769	(17,769)	13,032	13,032	(13,032)	9,448	9,448
Balances held by schools under scheme of delegation	2,132	(192)	1,146	3,086	(285)	1,373	4,174

Repairs & renewal funds	1,948	(21)	3	1,930	(39)	0	1,891
Earmarked reserves – services	40,650	(25,309)	23,219	38,560	(17,117)	20,720	42,163
Insurance & risk funds	6,057	-	-	6,057	0	0	6,056
Capital resources reserve	28,529	(6,646)	10,061	31,944	(5,740)	4,485	30,689
Transformation reserve	5,151	(641)	1,091	5,601	(1,828)	163	3,936
Highways PFI contract cashflow reserve	6,735	(2,565)	3,869	8,039	(1,298)	1,648	8,389
Section 106 contributions reserve	2,549	(342)	580	2,787	(216)	90	2,661
Public Health earmarked reserve	1,504	(368)	495	1,631	(655)	570	1,546
Totals at 31 March	113,024	(53,853)	53,496	112,667	(40,210)	38,497	110,953

The revenue carry-forward reserve provides the finance for slipped expenditure to be carried forward into the next financial year.

School balances represent cumulative underspends set aside by delegated budget holders under schemes for financing schools. The law requires that these underspends are carried forward for future use by the school concerned.

The repairs and renewals fund provides a contingency to meet significant items of unforeseen expenditure relating to equipment renewal.

The council maintains a number of earmarked reserves for specific purposes at levels required to meet known future or potential commitments. The balance at 31 March 2024 includes:

Insurance and risk funds provide the means to take categories of insurance risk in-house in the future and to meet various contingencies. These funds also recognise that the council faces a number of non-insurable risks that fall outside the scope of normal insurance cover including litigation, contract disputes and natural disasters. Rather than provide for these individually, with subsequent volatility within the revenue budget, the non-insurable risk element within these reserves currently provides for these potential liabilities.

The Capital resources reserve has been accumulated from revenue contributions to be used as a source of finance for future capital expenditure.

The Transformation reserve is the council's primary vehicle for funding initiatives such as spend to save, spend to avoid and feasibility studies.

The Highways PFI contract cashflow reserve results from an excess of funding over the unitary charge during the early years of the contract period. This excess has been earmarked in a specific reserve and the sums invested to provide funding for costs in the years of the contract when the costs will exceed the funding in line with the agreed scheme profile.

The Section 106 contributions are held as reserves where there are no conditions requiring repayment in the event of stipulations not being met. Section 106 contributions are also held as creditors where such conditions exist.

The Public Health earmarked reserve has been created from underspent Public Health

budgets in previous years and provides funding for on-going projects.

DSG reserve restatement

The Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, SI 2020 No 1212 requires that where a local authority has a deficit in respect of its schools budget for the financial year beginning on 1st April 2020, the deficit must be shown as an unusable reserve, rather than a deficit earmarked reserve. The carry forward deficit balances at 31 March 2024 is therefore classified as unusable reserves and included in note 28.

11. Other operating expenditure

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
5,195	Parish & Town Council precepts	5,890
161	Levies	162
540	(Gains)/losses on the disposal of non-current assets and current assets held for sale	1,433
5,896	Total	7,485

A levy of £0.117 million (£0.117 million in 2022-23) was paid to the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority and £0.045 million (£0.044 million in 2022-23) was paid as a flood defence levy to the Environment Agency.

12. Financing and investment income & expenditure

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
14,995	Interest payable and similar charges	16,017
5,607	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	131
(724)	Interest receivable and similar income	(2,193)
5,612	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	(2,432)
447	Impairment of financial instruments	0
25,937	Total	11,523

13. Taxation and non-specific grant incomes

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000	
98,596	Council tax income (notes CF2 to CF4 to the collection fund)	105,252	
16,966	Business rates income (note CF5a to the collection fund)	15,769	
115,302	Total income from local taxation		121,021

57,638	Non-ringfenced government grants	63,949	
17,798	Capital grants & contributions	13,190	
75,696	Total grant income (see note 39)		77,139
190,998	Total		198,160

14. Property, plant & equipment

Movements on balances in 2023-24	Shared ownership £000	Other land & buildings £000	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment £000	Infrastructure assets* £000	Community assets £000	Surplus assets £000	Assets under construction £000	Total property, plant & equipment £000	PFI assets included in property, plant & equipment £000
Cost or valuation									
At 1 April 2023	4,872	309,832	36,922		535	10,702	47,297	410,160	195,734
Additions	-	2,457	1,818		-	-	12,339	16,614	1,018
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	28,468	-		-	-	-	28,468	-
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(2,885)	-		-	-	-	(2,885)	-
Derecognition	-	(916)	(4,940)		-	-	(85)	(5,941)	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from held for sale	-	(1,314)	-		-	2,930	-	1,616	-
Other movements	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
Reclassification	-	784	-		-	-	(814)	(30)	-
At 31 March 2024	4,872	336,426	33,800	-	535	13,632	58,737	448,002	196,752

Accumulated depreciation & impairment 2023-24	Shared ownership £000	Other land & buildings £000	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment £000	Infrastructure assets * £000	Community assets £000	Surplus assets £000	Assets under construction £000	Total property, plant & equipment £000	PFI assets included in property, plant & equipment £000
At 1 April 2023	-	(8,880)	(18,188)	-	(494)	-	-	(27,562)	(84,931)
Depreciation charge	-	(6,395)	(2,709)	-	-	(6)	-	(9,110)	(9,221)
Depreciation written out to the revaluation reserve	-	3,100	-	-	-	-	-	3,100	-
Depreciation written out to the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	-	758	-	-	-	-	-	758	-
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition	-	40	4,483	-	-	-	-	4,523	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from held for sale	-	15	-	-	-	(15)	-	-	-
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	-	(11,362)	(16,414)	-	(494)	(21)	-	(28,291)	(94,152)
Net book value at 31 March 2024	4,872	325,064	17,386	-	41	13,611	58,737	419,711	102,600
Net book value at 31 March 2023	4,872	300,952	18,734	-	41	10,702	47,297	382,598	110,803

* Note 1 - Infrastructure assets

Infrastructure assets have been removed from Note 14 Property, Plant & Equipment in line with CIPFA's guidance (CIPFA Bulletin 12 Accounting for Infrastructure Assets - Temporary Solution). This bulletin adopts CIPFA's Code and recommends that the gross and accumulated depreciation split is not appropriate for infrastructure assets based on the assumption that the carrying amount of a replaced or restored infrastructure asset is derecognised at a zero amount where expenditure has occurred to renew or replace any part of an infrastructure asset. Therefore,

a separate movement on infrastructure assets has been included beneath the 2021/22 note, along with a reconciliation with the entries in the balance sheet.

The Council has determined in Accordance with Regulation 30M of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance & Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 that the carrying amounts to be derecognised for infrastructure assets when there is replacement expenditure is nil.

Infrastructure Assets - In Year Movement	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Net Book Value (Modified Historic Cost) At 1 April	147,303	140,496
Additions	2,984	4,117
Derecognition	-	-
Depreciation	(10,638)	(10,426)
Impairment	(27)	-
Other movements in cost	873	30
At 31 March	140,495	134,217

The following note provides a reconciliation between the Property, Plant & Equipment note versus the entry on the Balance Sheet for PPE.

	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Infrastructure Assets	140,495	134,216
Other PPE Assets	382,598	419,713
PPE Assets per Balance Sheet	523,093	553,929

Movements on balances in 2022-23 (comparative year)	Shared ownership £000	Other land & buildings £000	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment £000	Infrastructure assets * £000	Community assets £000	Surplus assets £000	Assets under construction £000	Total property, plant & equipment £000	PFI assets included in property, plant & equipment £000
Cost or valuation									
At 1 April 2022	3,989	286,989	46,723	-	535	7,763	51,196	397,195	194,519
Additions	0	11,524	1,367	-	0	0	6,144	19,035	1,357
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	925	7,118	27	-	-	2,977	-	11,047	-
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(3,930)	-	-	-	263	-	(3,667)	-
Derecognition	-	(272)	(11,652)	-	-	-	-	(11,924)	(249)

Assets reclassified (to)/from held for sale	(43)	(311)	-	-	-	(300)	-	(654)	-
Other movements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reclassification	-	8,714	457	-	-	-	(10,043)	(872)	107
At 31 March 2023	4,871	309,832	36,922	-	535	10,703	47,297	410,160	195,734

Accumulated depreciation & impairment in 2022-23 (comparative year)	Shared ownership £000	other land & buildings £000	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment £000	Infrastructure assets * £000	Community assets £000	Surplus assets £000	Assets under construction £000	Total property, plant & equipment £000	PFI assets included in property, plant & equipment £000
At 1 April 2022	-	(5,834)	(26,962)	-	(494)	(29)	-	(33,319)	(75,737)
Depreciation charge	-	(5,792)	(2,691)	-	-	(7)	-	(8,490)	(9,413)
Depreciation written out to the revaluation reserve	-	2,199	-	-	-	8	-	2,207	-
Depreciation written out to the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	-	488	-	-	-	28	-	516	-
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(27)
Derecognition	-	35	11,464	-	-	-	-	11,499	246
Assets reclassified (to)/from held for sale	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	25	-
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	-	(8,879)	(18,189)	-	(494)	-	-	(27,562)	(84,931)

Net book value at 31 March 2023	4,871	300,953	18,733	0	41	10,703	47,297	382,598	110,803
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Net book value at 31 March 2022	3,989	281,156	19,760	0	41	7,734	51,197	363,877	118,782
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Depreciation

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

- Other land and buildings – straight-line allocation over the life of the property as estimated by the valuer (between 5 and 999 years. Based on depreciated value, 80% of properties fall within the 50 to 65 years range).
- Vehicles, plant, furniture, and equipment - straight-line allocation over the life of each class of assets in the balance sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer (between 3 and 60 years)
- Infrastructure - straight-line allocation over estimated life of the asset (between 5 and 120 years).

Capital commitments

At 31 March 2024, the council's principal commitments relate to:

- Waste contract £12.4 million (over remaining life of 25 year contract)
- Ryde Cultural Centre £1.7 million
- Venture Quays Development £2.2 million
- Sandown Town Hall £2.2 million
- Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure £1.6 million

Similar commitments at 31 March 2023 were £20.8 million.

Effects of changes in estimates

There have been no material changes to the council's accounting estimates for property, plant and equipment during 2023-24.

Revaluations

The council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all property, plant and equipment required to be measured at current value is revalued at least every five years. The effective date of these valuations is 31 March as valuations are based on inspection of assets in the last quarter of the financial year. An assessment is undertaken between the inspection date and balance sheet date to ensure that there have been no material changes.

The valuation of land and property was undertaken by Phillip Smith BSc (Hons), MRICS, IRRV (Hons), RICS Registered Valuer of Wilks Head & Eve LLP. These valuations 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.

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the values are:

- Where there is no active market for land and buildings assets are valued on a depreciated replacement cost basis.

- Investment properties, assets held for sale and surplus assets are valued at highest and best use to determine fair value.
- Assets held for sale are valued at the lower of carrying value or net sale proceeds at reclassification.
- Vehicles, plant and equipment, community assets, infrastructure assets and assets under construction are valued on acquisition value referred to as historic cost.
- All other assets are valued on existing use value basis.

Fair value for investment properties, surplus properties and assets held for sale have been measured using significant observable inputs, being level 2 on the fair value hierarchy.

Valuation profile	Shared ownership £000	Other land & buildings £000	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment £000	Infrastructure assets £000	Community assets £000	Surplus assets £000	Assets under construction £000	Total property, plant & equipment £000
Carried at historical cost	-	382	17,386	134,209	41	426	58,615	211,059
Valued at current as at:								
31 March 2024	-	77,099	-	-	-	-	-	77,099
31 March 2023	4,872	70,409	-	-	-	9,116	123	84,520
31 March 2022	-	98,814	-	-	-	3,780	-	102,594
31 March 2021	-	48,398	-	-	-	13	-	48,411
31 March 2020	-	23,641	-	8	-	275	-	23,924
31 March 2019	-	6,320	-	-	-	-	-	6,320
Total	4,872	325,063	17,386	134,217	41	13,610	58,738	553,927

15. Heritage assets

Reconciliation of the carrying value of heritage assets held by the council:

Cost or valuation	Local government collection £000s	Art collection £000s	Archaeology treasure £000s	Total assets £000s
31 March 2022	136	1,104	57	1,297
1 April 2022	136	1,104	57	1,297
Revaluations	-	-	1	1
31 March 2023	136	1,104	58	1,298
1 April 2023	136	1,104	58	1,298
Revaluations	-	117	-	117
31 March 2024	136	1,221	58	1,415

Analysed between cost/valuation and acquired/donated for each year:-

Cost or valuation	Local government collection £000s	Art collection £000s	Archaeology treasure £000s	Total assets £000s
Cost	136	262	-	398
Valuation	-	959	58	1,017
31 March 2024	136	1,221	58	1,415

Acquired	-	965	56	1,021
Donated	136	256	2	394
31 March 2024	136	1,221	58	1,415

Cost or valuation	Local government collection £000s	Art collection £000s	Archaeology treasure £000s	Total assets £000s
Cost	136	262	0	398
Valuation	0	842	58	900
31 March 2023	136	1,104	58	1,298

Acquired	0	848	56	904
Donated	136	256	2	394
31 March 2023	136	1,104	58	1,298

16. 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:

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
(1,778)	Rental income from investment properties	(1,816)
790	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	834
(988)	Net gain	(982)

There are no restrictions on the council's ability to realise the value inherent in its investment property or on the council's right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The council has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or repairs, maintenance or enhancement. The following table summarises the movement in the fair value of investment properties over the year:

	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Balance at 1 April	41,350	34,750
Disposals	-	-
Net gain / (loss) from fair value adjustments	(6,600)	1,450
Balance at 31 March	34,750	36,200

Fair value hierarchy

Details of the council's investment properties and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2024 and the comparative year are as follows:

Recurring fair value measurement using:	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (level 1) £000s	Other significant observable inputs (level 2) £000s	Significant unobservable inputs (level 3) £000s	Fair value as at 31 March 2024 £000s
Commercial properties	-	36,200	-	36,200
Total at 31 March 2024	-	36,200	-	36,200

Recurring fair value measurement using: (Previous year comparative figures)	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (level 1) £000s	Other significant observable inputs (level 2) £000s	Significant unobservable inputs (level 3) £000s	Fair value as at 31 March 2023 £000s
Commercial properties	-	34,750	-	34,750
Total at 31 March 2023	-	34,750	-	34,750

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 2 fair values for investment properties

Significant observable inputs - Level 2

The fair value for commercial and other investment properties has been based on the market approach using current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant information for similar assets in the local authority area. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold and the level of observable inputs are significant, leading to the properties being categorised at Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Highest and best use of investment properties

In estimating the fair value of the council's investment properties, the highest and best use of the properties is their current use.

Changes in valuation techniques

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

Valuation process for investment properties

The fair value of the council's investment properties is measured annually at each reporting date. Off-island commercial property valuations were undertaken by Robert Baldwin MRICS of Avison Young.

Market Conditions: UK Economy

The investment properties valuer has provided the following explanatory note:

The outlook for the UK economy is still uncertain, having slipped into a technical recession in the last three months of 2023. The data suggests, while inflationary pressures are slowly coming under control, interest rates are to remain at current levels until the second half of the year.

UK transaction volumes are down by over 50% in almost all sectors of the market and commercial real estate values have fallen between 25% and 50% on average since their peak in 2022. This has brought loan-to-value ratios into sharp focus with some lenders entering into consensual sales with borrowers where breaches cannot be remedied.

The near-term outlook for real estate lending markets indicates there is a refinancing funding gap, that cannot be bridged without a further equity injection from the borrower. We now see larger balance sheet lenders calling for revaluations and it is expected that this will precipitate further forced sales that may impact values further. We expect this trend to continue, with lenders taking a cautionary approach to new lending and focusing on rightsizing their existing loan books.

Nevertheless, as at the valuation date there are still transactions proceeding which provides an adequate quantum of market evidence upon which to base opinions of value. Accordingly, and for the avoidance of doubt, our valuation is not reported as being subject to 'material valuation uncertainty' as defined by VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Valuation – Global Standards.

This explanatory note has been included to ensure transparency and to provide further insight as to the market context under which the valuation opinion was prepared. In recognition of the potential for market conditions to move rapidly in response to changes in the economy we highlight the importance of the valuation date.

17. Intangible assets

The council accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular information and communications technology system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of property, plant and equipment. Software development costs are recognised as part of the hardware item of property, plant and equipment. The intangible assets include both purchased licenses and internally generated software.

All software is given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the council.

The carrying value of intangible assets at 31 March 2024 is £0.112 million (£0.192 million at 31 March 2023). The figures at 31 March 2024 comprise internally generated assets of £0.000 million (£0.018 million at 31 March 2023) and purchased assets of £0.112 million (£0.173 million at 31 March 2023).

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. The amortisation of £0.098 million was charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement in 2023-24, of which £0.095 million was charged to the ICT service within the Resources service line.

The council does not revalue its software assets and holds these at historic cost less

accumulated amortisation with annual reviews for impairment. Software licenses are not transferable so obtaining a current value is not possible.

At 31 March 2024 there are no contractual commitments for the acquisition of intangible assets.

18. Financial instruments

Classifications

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a 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.

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 are potentially unfavourable to the council.

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

- long-term loans from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)
- a lender option/borrower option (LOBO) loan
- short-term loans from other local authorities
- overdraft facilities with Lloyds Bank plc
- finance leases
- private finance initiative (PFI) contract
- trade payables for goods and services received.

Financial assets

A financial asset is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the council that is represented by cash or other instruments of a contractual right to receive cash or another financial asset. The financial assets held by the council during the year are held under the following classification:

Loans and receivables (financial assets that have fixed or determinable payments and are not quoted in an active market) comprising:

- cash in hand.
- bank current and deposit accounts.
- fixed term deposits with banks and building societies.
- loans to other local authorities.
- loans made to the Isle of Wight Council Pension Fund for cash flow purposes.
- loans made for service purposes.
- lease receivables.
- trade receivables for goods and services delivered.

The following categories of financial instrument are carried in the balance sheet at amortised cost:

	Non-current		Current	
	31 March 2023	31 March 2024	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial assets				
Short-term Investments	-	-	-	5,025
Cash equivalents	-	-	27,068	19,080
Total investments	0	0	27,068	24,105
Debtors				
Long-term debtors	5,427	5,204	-	-
Short-term debtors and cash	-	-	34,643	34,825
Total debtors	5,427	5,204	34,643	34,825
Financial liabilities				
Borrowings	(156,552)	(146,414)	(42,744)	(36,477)
Total borrowings	(156,552)	(146,414)	(42,744)	(36,477)
Other long-term liabilities & creditors				
PFI and finance lease liabilities	(87,578)	(82,296)	(5,125)	(5,495)
Other financial liabilities	(121)	(123)	(12,910)	(22,590)
Total other long-term liabilities & creditors	(87,699)	(82,419)	(18,035)	(28,085)

Income, expense, gains and losses

	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Interest expense from financial liabilities measures at amortised cost	(14,995)	(16,017)
Total expense in surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(14,995)	(16,017)
Interest income from financial assets: loans and receivables	752	2,193
Total expense in surplus or deficit on the provision of services	752	2,193
Net loss for the year	(14,243)	(13,824)

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

- estimated ranges of interest rates at 31 March 2024 of 4.81% to 5.42% for loans from the PWLB, based on new lending rates for equivalent loans at that date.
- no early repayment or impairment is recognised.
- where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, carrying amount is assumed to approximate fair value.
- the fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

Liabilities	31 March 2023		31 March 2024	
	Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial liabilities	217,331	196,933	210,976	192,548
Long-term creditors	87,699	115,686	82,419	110,896

- The carrying value of the council's portfolio of PWLB loans is £157.445 million. The fair value has been calculated as £138.981 million and this measures the economic effect of the terms agreed with the PWLB compared with the terms that would be offered for market transactions undertaken at the balance sheet date. The difference between the carrying value and the fair value measures the additional interest that the council will pay over the remaining terms of the loans under the agreements with the PWLB, against what would be paid if the loans were at prevailing market rates. However, the council has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than from the markets. If the council were to seek to avoid the projected loss by repaying the loans to the PWLB, the PWLB would raise a penalty charge for early redemption and charge a premium for the additional interest that would not be paid. The fair value of PWLB loans has been calculated by discounting the contractual cash flows at the market rate for local authority loans of the same remaining term. This represents level 2 on the valuation hierarchy being inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the liability e.g. interest rates or yields for similar instruments.
- A Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) loan amounting to £5.000 million was repaid during the 2023/24 financial year, and no LOBO loans are outstanding at March 2024.
- The fair value of long-term creditors is more than the carrying amount due to fair value being calculated on discounted contractual cash flows at the AA bond yield of the same remaining term. This represents level 2 on the valuation hierarchy being inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the liability e.g. interest rates or yields for similar instruments.

Assets	31 March 2023		31 March 2024	
	Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Short-term investments, debtors, cash and cash equivalents	61,711	61,711	58,930	58,930
Long-term debtors	5,427	5,427	5,204	5,204

- The fair value of short-term loans and receivables is equal to their carrying value but can be higher as the council's investments can include a number of temporary loans where the interest rate receivable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the balance sheet date.
- The fair value of long-term debtors is equal to the carrying value as this is a fair approximation of their value. The carrying value shown above is before the reduction relating to an impairment allowance.

Other long-term liabilities

The liability relating to the defined benefit pension schemes (Local Government Pension is £30.452 million (£3.519 million in 2022-23)).

19. Nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments

The council's activities expose it to a variety of risks:

- credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the council.
- liquidity risk – the possibility that the council might not have the funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.
- market risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements.

The council's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. The procedures for risk management are set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and the associated regulations. These require the council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and the Investment Guidance issued through the Act. Overall, these procedures require the council to manage risk in the following ways:

- by formally adopting the requirements of the Code of Practice.
- by approving annually in advance prudential indicators for the following three years limiting:
 - the council's overall borrowing
 - its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable rates
 - the maturity structure of its debt
 - its maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond one year.
- by approving an investment strategy for the forthcoming year setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with the government guidance.

These are required to be reported and approved at or before the council's annual council tax setting budget meeting. These items are reported with the annual treasury management strategy which outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the council's financial instrument exposure.

These policies are implemented by a central treasury team. The council maintains written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash through treasury management practices (TMPs). These TMPs are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed regularly.

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 banks and financial institutions unless they meet the minimum requirements of the investment criteria outlined above. The annual investment strategy also imposes a maximum sum to be invested with financial institution located within each category.

The credit criteria in respect of financial assets held by the council are as detailed below:

- rating of A2 or better
- stable credit rating outlook

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

The council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments with banks of £19.080 million cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of non-recovery applies to all council's deposits, but there was no evidence as at the 31 March 2024 that this was likely to crystallise.

The council's short-term investments are with other local authorities. These investments have been assessed and it has been concluded that the expected credit loss is not material therefore no allowances have been made.

The impairment loss allowance on short-term debtors is calculated on a sliding scale of percentages applied to the outstanding amounts based on age profile, historical levels and nature of the debts. Following the COVID-19 pandemic then cost of living crisis these percentages have been revised to reflect the greater risk of debtor default and the impairment loss allowance has consequently increased. The value of debtors written-off in 2023-24 (excluding local taxation debtors) was £0.167 million (£0.129 million in 2022-23). The amount of local taxation debtors written-off in both years is shown in the Collection Fund Statement. The impairment on long-term debtors is based on a credit scoring matrix taking financial statements, market conditions and other relevant factors into account. Details of the amounts outstanding at 31 March, the impairment allowances and resulting balances after the impairment allowances are shown in note 21.

The other short-term debtors figure in note 21 includes £2.643 million of deferred payments at 31 March 2024 (£2.342 million at 31 March 2023) made in respect of care fees for clients in residential or nursing homes. No impairment allowance has been applied as legislation allows the council to place a legal charge or to register an interest on the client's property and so consequently the debt is covered by the value of the property.

The council's exposure to credit risk is managed in accordance with its annual treasury management strategy which for 2023-24 was approved by the council in March 2023. Amongst other controls, the strategy sets out the arrangements for managing credit risk (i.e. the risks of borrowers defaulting). The main controls used are:

- Using credit ratings to assess the credit standing of borrowers.
- Defining a list of borrowers to which the council considers it secure to lend (the lending list).
- Defining limits to its exposure to any one institution or group of institutions.
- Defining time limits as to how long the council will lend to particular institutions.
- Considering advice from external treasury management advisors.

In ordinary circumstances, these controls once set are sufficient to manage any credit risk. However due to the uncertainty on the global economic situation, it has been necessary to monitor these controls more closely, including the following:

Credit ratings and outlook for each borrower are continuously monitored and reviewed on a daily basis:

- The lending list is reviewed as a result of credit ratings analysis and other intelligence information, including external treasury management advisor's information.
- Borrowers' limits are changed in accordance with those reviews (in 2023-24 lending limits were revised throughout the year, depending on interest rates, security and external treasury management advisors' recommendations).
- During the year, the council placed most of its surplus funds in instant access/call accounts with banks, to take advantage of higher interest rates.
- The strategy for treasury management activity is reviewed by the section 151 officer and other senior finance officers on a monthly basis. Appropriate actions have been taken as a result of those reviews.

The council's treasury management strategy approved on 18 March 2024 is located on the council's website www.iow.gov.uk

No credit limits were exceeded during the reporting period and the council does not expect any losses from any of its counterparties in relation to deposits. The amount shown as the exposure due to default and non-collectability is covered by the impairment allowance.

The council does not generally allow credit for customers, such that £8.410 million is due for payment at 31 March 2024 (£7.848 million at 31 March 2023) from invoices raised through the council's accounts receivable system. This amount due can be analysed by age as follows:

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
Less than two months	2,083	2,361
Two to four months	488	833
Four months to one year	1,927	1,706
More than one year	3,350	3,510
Total	7,848	8,410

Liquidity risk

The council has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements occur, the council has ready access to borrowings from the money market and the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, the risk is that the council will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The council sets limits on the proportion of its fixed rate borrowing during specified periods. The strategy is to ensure the careful planning of new loans taken out and (where it is economic to do so) making early repayments.

With the exception of temporary loans with other local authorities and money held on behalf of various trust, amenity and safekeeping funds, the remainder of the council's borrowing consists of fixed rate PWLB debt. The PWLB allows debt to be rescheduled prior to maturity, although this may necessitate paying a premium to PWLB. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities for external borrowing is as follows:

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
Less than one year	42,744	36,477
Between one and two years	10,138	11,226
Between two and five years	43,101	44,513
Between five and ten years	42,580	41,275
Between ten and fifteen years	33,667	26,667
Between fifteen and twenty years	16,867	14,667
Between twenty and twenty five years	7,867	5,733
More than twenty five years	2,333	2,333
Total external borrowing	199,297	182,891
Of which, Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	168,189	156,552

The council has long-term liabilities arising from the highways PFI scheme and the acquisition of vehicles under finance leases.

The most significant long-term liability relates to the highways PFI scheme, £87.564 million at 31 March 2024 (£92.357 million at 31 March 2023). As the additional costs of this scheme, over and above the council's existing budgetary provision for highways management, is met through government funding (PFI credits), there is no significant risk that the council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments to the PFI contractor.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities for deferred liabilities is as follows:

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
Less than one year	5,004	5,367
Between one and two years	5,318	5,518
Between two and five years	17,415	18,271
Between five and ten years	27,771	26,898
More than ten years	36,849	31,510
Total	92,357	87,564

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

Market risk

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

- borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services will rise.
- borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liability borrowing will fall.
- investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services will rise.
- investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Borrowings are not carried at fair value, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the surplus or deficit on the provision of services or other comprehensive income and expenditure. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services and affect the general fund balance. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in other comprehensive income and expenditure.

The council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The annual treasury management strategy draws together the council’s prudential indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. From this strategy, a prudential indicator is set which provides minimum and maximum limits for fixed and variable rate exposure. There is an active strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the setting of the annual budget and market and forecast interest rates are monitored within the year to allow any adverse changes to be accommodated by adjusting exposures appropriately. The analysis will also advise whether new borrowing taken out is fixed or variable. During periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate loans will be repaid early to limit exposure to losses. The risk of loss is ameliorated by the fact that a proportion of government grants payable on financing costs will normally move with prevailing interest rates or the council’s cost of borrowing and provide compensation for a proportion of any higher costs.

According to this assessment strategy, at 31 March 2024, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would have been an increase in investment income of £0.367 million. The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above, but with the movements being reversed. The majority of external borrowing is at fixed rates through the PWLB, but the impact of a 1% increase in temporary borrowing rates would have been an increase in interest payable of £0.241 million. The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above, but with the movements being reversed. The actual amount of temporary loan interest paid in 2023-24 is £6.419 million. Therefore, an increase or decrease in general interest rates would have had a minimal impact on the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. However, such a change would increase or decrease the fair value of fixed rate borrowing liabilities.

Price risk - The council has no equity shares or shareholdings. It therefore has no exposure to loss arising from movements in share prices.

Foreign exchange risk - The council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies and therefore has no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

20. Inventories

Inventories comprise stocks held for resale at 31 March 2024 with a value of £0.099 million (£0.079 million at 31 March 2023).

21. Debtors

The council’s short-term debtors are as follows:

	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Trade receivables	20,869	21,013

Less: impairment allowance	(3,671)	(4,325)
Trade receivables (net of impairment allowance)	17,198	16,688
Local taxpayers	13,838	17,166
Less: impairment allowance	(9,714)	(12,279)
Local taxpayers (net of impairment allowance)	4,124	4,887
Housing benefit overpayments	1,858	1,789
Less: impairment allowance	(1,475)	(1,413)
Housing benefit overpayments (net of impairment allowance)	383	376
Prepayments and accrued income	10,192	12,203
Other debtors	4,627	4,272
Total short-term debtors (net of impairment allowance)	36,524	38,426

The total debtor balance is further analysed between financial instruments and non-financial instruments as follows:

	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Financial instruments	22,479	21,486
Non-financial instruments	14,045	16,940
Total debtors (net of impairment allowance)	36,524	38,426

The council's long-term debtors are as follows:

	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Capital loans to renewable energy businesses	1,146	1,207
Less: impairment allowance	(163)	(163)
Capital loans net of impairment allowance	983	1,044
Other loans	4,281	3,997
Total long-term debtors (net of impairment allowance)	5,264	5,041

The lifetime expected impairment has been assessed based on a credit scoring matrix taking financial statements, market conditions and other relevant factors into consideration. The impairment allowance will be reviewed annually and reversed or increased in accordance with any change in the impairment risk as indicated by the credit scoring matrix.

22. Debtors for local taxation

The net debtor balance on local taxation (council tax and business rates) after the impairment allowance can be analysed by age as follows:

	Council tax		Business rates	
	£000s		£000s	
	31 March 2023	31 March 2024	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
Less than one year	4,932	5,907	1,318	1,256
Between one and two years	3,125	3,469	379	826

Between two and five years	4,590	5,747	530	1,208
More than five years	2,212	2,932	147	245
Total due	14,859	18,055	2,374	3,535
Less: share attributed to Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire	(1,654)	-1,989	-	
Less: share attributed to Hampshire and IOW Fire Service	(529)	-630	(24)	-35
Less: share attributed to Central Government	-		(1,187)	-1,770
Council's share before impairment allowance	12,676	15,436	1,163	1,730
Council's share of impairment allowance	(9,019)	-10,871	(696)	-1,408
Net debtor balance after impairment allowance	3,657	4,565	467	322

The impairment allowance is calculated on a sliding scale of percentages applied to the outstanding amounts based on an age profile of the debts.

23. Cash and cash equivalents

	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Cash held by the council	7,018	7,601
Short-term deposits with banks	27,068	19,080
Bank current accounts	15,613	(4,975)
Total	49,699	21,706

24. Assets held for sale

Assets are reclassified from property, plant and equipment as assets held for sale where a sale is highly probable, the asset is being actively marketed, the sale is likely to be completed within one year from classification and the decision to sell is unlikely to be withdrawn.

Valuation of assets in this class are the lower of carrying value prior to reclassification and net proceeds. The CIPFA Code of Practice requires impairments to be charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement even if there is a retained balance on the revaluation reserve relating to the asset. Revaluation reserve balances are written-out upon disposal of the asset.

All of the assets held for sale meet the criteria for classification as current assets in both 2022-23 and 2023-24.

	Current	
	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Balance at 1 April	5,826	5,036
Assets newly qualified as held for sale: Property, Plant & Equipment	(59)	2,458
Assets declassified as held for sale: Property, Plant & Equipment	0	(4,073)

Assets sold	(731)	0
Balance at 31 March	5,036	3,421

25. Creditors

	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Trade creditors	23,710	12,063
Central government – Business rates	4,849	4,787
Local taxpayers	3,918	4,151
Other tax and social security payable	2,857	1,691
Highways PFI finance lease liability (short-term)	5,004	5,367
BEIS business grants receipts in advance	0	0
Other receipts in advance	10,698	13,308
Other creditors	5,611	6,939
Total	56,647	48,306

The total creditor balance is further analysed between financial instruments and non-financial instruments as follows:

	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Financial instruments	28,523	17,615
Non-financial instruments	28,124	30,691
Total	56,647	48,306

26. Provisions

	Outstanding Insurance Claims £000	Outstanding Legal Cases £000	Business Rates appeals £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 April 2023	1,700	0	3,187	4,887
Additional provision made in 2023-24	722	0	2,463	3,185
Amounts used in 2023-24	(1)	0	(1,520)	(1,521)
Amounts reversed in 2023-24	0	0	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2024	2,421	0	4,130	6,551

Analysis of provisions between short and long term:

	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Short-term provisions	3,534	5,193
Long-term provisions	1,354	1,358
Balance at 31 March	4,888	6,551

Outstanding insurance claims

The Insurance Provision at 31 March 2024 is based on an estimate of potential liabilities arising from outstanding claims. Of the total at 31 March 2024, £1.063 million relates to public and employers' liability following an assessment of the council's claims register to establish the likely exposure. The provision also includes an estimate of the liability arising from the scheme of arrangement established by Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) (who were the council's insurers until 1992) in respect of the potential total or partial 'clawback' of claims paid since January 1994. In November 2012 the directors of MMI triggered the company's scheme of arrangement following a Supreme Court judgement relating to mesothelioma claims. Of the total insurance provision of £2.421 million, £1.358 million relates to the potential MMI clawback. This potential clawback has been categorised as a long-term liability.

Business rates appeals

This provision relates to the council's share of an estimate of the potential value of refunds which will be due to ratepayers following a successful appeal against a rateable value on both the 2010 and 2017 valuation lists. It includes amounts which may be backdated to 1 April 2010. Under the business rate retention scheme applicable to 2023-24, the council has retained 49% of business rates income and the same proportion applies to balance sheet values at 31 March 2024.

Analysis of provisions between short and long term

It is expected that the costs relating to short-term liabilities will be incurred in 2024-25.

27. Usable reserves

Usable reserves are those which the council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use.

	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
General fund balance	13,029	13,201
Capital receipts reserve	1,870	1,659
Capital grants unapplied	6,388	6,336
Earmarked reserves (see note 10)	112,666	110,954
Total usable reserves	133,953	132,150

The movements on the council's usable reserves are detailed in the movement in the reserves statement.

28. Unusable reserves

	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Revaluation reserve	156,858	185,532
Capital adjustment account	13,360	24,397
Pensions reserve	(3,563)	(30,503)
Deferred capital receipts	90	80
Collection fund adjustment account	385	524
Accumulated absences account	(4,062)	(4,053)
Dedicated Schools Grant adjustment account	(4,007)	(6,593)
Total unusable reserves	159,061	169,384

Revaluation reserve

The revaluation reserve contains the gains made by the council arising from increases in the value of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

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

The reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the capital adjustment account.

2022-23 £000	Revaluation reserve		2023-24 £000
147,757	Balance at 1 April		156,858
17,195	Upward revaluation of assets	35,688	
(4,633)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the surplus/ deficit on the provision of services	(3,988)	
12,562	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services		31,700
(2,808)	Difference between current depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(2,944)	
(653)	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	(82)	
(3,461)	Amount written off to the capital adjustment account		(3,026)
156,858	Balance at 31 March		185,532

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 current figures to a historical cost basis). The account is credited with the amounts set aside by the council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

The account contains accumulated gains and losses on investment properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the council.

The account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on property, plant and equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the revaluation reserve was created to hold such gains.

Note 9 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the account, apart from those involving the revaluation reserve.

2022-23 £000		Capital adjustment account	2023-24 £000	
	8,941	Balance at 1 April		13,360
		Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement:		
(18,639)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charges for depreciation and impairment of assets 	(19,105)	
(3,667)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revaluation (losses)/reversals on property, plant & equipment 	(2,557)	
(171)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amortisation of intangible assets 	(98)	
(7,126)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute 	(5,882)	
34		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capitalised interest 	60	
0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impairment allowance for long-term debts 	0	
(1,156)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amounts of assets written-off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement 	(1,448)	
(82)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital loans repaid 	0	
	(30,807)			(29,030)
	3,462	Adjusting amounts written out of the revaluation reserve		3,026
	(18,404)	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year		(12,644)
		Capital financing applied in the year:		
593		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of capital receipts reserve to finance new capital expenditure 	236	
82		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of capital receipts reserve for repayment of debt 	0	

21,563		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital grants and contributions credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement that have been applied to capital financing 	15,419	
2,581		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of grants to capital financing from the capital grants unapplied account 	3,610	
10,693		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the general fund 	11,239	
2,852		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital expenditure charged against the general fund 	5,085	
	38,364			35,589
	(6,600)	Movement in the market value of investment properties debited or credited to the comprehensive income & expenditure statement		1,450
	0	Other movements		0
	13,360	Balance at 31 March		24,395

Pension reserve

The pensions reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The council accounts for post-employment benefits in the 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 to be financed as the council 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 council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

2022-23	Pension reserve		2023-24
£000			£000
200,509	Balance at 1 April		3,563
(217,353)	Actuarial (gains) and losses on pensions assets and liabilities		28,362
36,894	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		16,927
(16,491)	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year		(18,356)
4	Capitalised pension - movement		7
3,563	Balance at 31 March		30,503

Collection fund adjustment account

The collection fund adjustment account manages the differences arising from the recognition of council tax and non-domestic rate income in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement as it falls due from local taxpayers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the general fund from the collection fund.

2022-23	Collection fund adjustment account	2023-24
£000		£000
6,799	Balance at 1 April	(385)
369	Amount by which council tax income credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements (note CF4 to the collection fund)	(1,782)
(7,553)	Amount by which non-domestic rate income credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is different from non-domestic rate income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements (note CF5b to the collection fund)	1,643
(385)	Balance at 31 March	(524)

Accumulated absences account

The accumulated absences account absorbs the difference that would otherwise arise on the general fund balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year, e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the general fund is neutralised by transfers to or from the account. The balance at 31 March 2024 is £4.053 million (£4.062 million at 31 March 2023).

Dedicated Schools Grant adjustment account

The Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, SI 2020 No 1212 requires that where a local authority has a deficit in respect of its schools budget for the financial year beginning after 1st April 2020, the deficit must be shown as an unusable reserve, rather than a deficit earmarked reserve.

Dedicated Schools Grant adjustment account		2023-24
		£000
	Balance at 1 April	4,007
	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statutory provisions (in-year Schools Budget Deficit)	2,586
	Balance at 31 March	6,593

29. Cash flow statement – operating activities (interest)

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2022-23		2023-24
£000		£000
19,363	Interest received	33,724
(45,272)	Interest paid	(45,247)

30. Cash flow statement – operating activities

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

2022-23		2023-24	
£000		£000	£000
18,639	Depreciation	19,105	
3,667	Impairment and downward valuations (reversed)	2,557	
171	Amortisation	98	
0	Movement in contract assets, liabilities and costs (IFRS15)	0	
(14,598)	Increase/decrease in creditors	(11,329)	
(3,928)	Increase/decrease in debtors	(1,125)	
(14)	Increase/decrease in inventories	(20)	
20,401	Movement in pension liability	(1,429)	
1,156	Carrying amount for non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	1,448	
5,491	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	252	
30,985	Adjustments to net deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements		9,557
	Adjustment for items in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities:		
(697)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(15)	
(24,749)	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	(18,978)	
(25,446)	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		(18,993)

31. Cash flow statement – investing activities

2022-23		2023-24
£000		£000
(23,239)	Purchase of property, plant & equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(21,525)
-	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	(5,000)
(34)	Other payments for investing activities	(60)
607	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	25
40,500	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	0
16,068	Other receipts from investing activities	23,097
33,902	Net cash flows from investing activities	(3,463)

32. Cash flow statement – financing activities

2022-23		2023-24
£000		£000
25,000	Cash receipts of short and long-term borrowing	25,000

-	Other receipts for financing activities	0
(4,803)	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-balance sheet PFI contracts	(5,087)
(27,640)	Repayments of short and long-term borrowing	(41,637)
6,020	Billing authority - council tax and business rate adjustments	1,449
(1,423)	Net cash flows from financing activities	(20,275)

33. Agency services

The council, as billing authority, acts as an agent for the government in collecting business rates. The council received an allowance from the government for the cost of collection of £0.276 million in 2023-24 (£0.278 million in 2022-23).

As part of the response to the restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequently the cost-of-living crisis, the government introduced a range of grants to support local businesses and individuals. Where the eligibility criteria is specified by the government, the council is deemed to have acted as an agent in administering these grants. During 2023-24 there was a further £0.177 million of other Covid-19 related payments made where the council were acting as an agent and these were also funded by the government. The majority of grants in this area related to government energy bill support schemes. The income and expenditure relating to these grants and payments have been excluded from the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, although any debtor or creditor position between the council and the government is included in the Balance Sheet.

The council received £0.012 million in new burdens funding to assist with the cost of administering the energy support grant schemes.

34. Members' allowances

The council paid the following amounts to members of the council during the year:

	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Basic allowance & special responsibility allowances	487	519
Employers' national insurance & pension contributions paid on behalf of members	24	26
Travelling & subsistence allowance and reimbursements	26	25
Co-opted members	2	2
Total	539	572

35. Officers' remuneration

The remuneration paid to the council's senior employees is as follows:

Post	Year	Salary	Returning officer fees (elections)	Remuneration excluding pension contributions	Employers' contribution to pension fund	Remuneration including pension contribution
		£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive from 04.04.2022 (note i)	2023-24 2022-23	144,862 138,797	0 0	144,862 138,797	34,043 32,617	178,905 171,414
Chief Executive to 03.04.2022 (note i)	2023-24 2022-23	0 1,150	0 0	0 1,150	0 270	0 1,420
Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Strategy Officer to 03.04.2022 (note ii)	2023-24 2022-23	0 916	0 0	0 916	0 215	0 1,131
Director of Corporate Services (1) (note iii)	2023-24 2022-23	46,297 44,444	0 0	46,297 44,444	0 0	46,297 44,444
Director of Corporate Services (2) (note iii)	2023-24 2022-23	64,184 60,655	0 0	64,184 60,655	15,083 14,254	79,267 74,909
Director of Community Services (note iv)	2023-24 2022-23	113,915 109,628	0 0	113,915 109,628	26,770 25,763	140,685 135,391
Director of Regeneration (note iv)	2023-24 2022-23	60,115 117,850	0 0	60,115 117,850	11,987 27,695	72,102 145,545
Director of Adult Social Services	2023-24 2022-23	118,185 111,733	0 0	118,185 111,733	27,774 26,257	145,959 137,990
Director of Childrens Services from 01.02.2024 (note v)	2023-24 2022-23	19,698 0	0 0	19,698 0	4,629 0	24,326 0
Monitoring Officer	2023-24 2022-23	95,097 89,912	0 0	95,097 89,912	22,348 21,129	117,445 111,041

Notes to officers' remuneration

Note (i)	The post holder for Chief Executive changed in 2022-23, with the previous post holder leaving on 03.04.2022, being replaced by the new post holder starting on 04.04.2022.
Note (ii)	The post of Assistant Chief Executive & Director became vacant on the 03.04.2022, when the existing postholder moved to the post of Chief Executive and was subsequently deleted.
Note (iii)	The post of Director of Corporate Services became a shared role on the 01.04.2022.
Note (iv)	The posts of Director of Neighbourhoods and Director of Regeneration were combined to create the Director of Community Services from 01.10.2023 with the Director of Regeneration role being deleted.
Note (v)	The partnership arrangement with Hampshire County Council for the provision of Childrens Services functions ceased on the 31.01.2024 whereby the Isle of Wight Council appointed a directly employed Director of Childrens Services from 01.02.2024.

Other notes relating to senior employees:

Note (vi)	The post of Director of Children's Services was filled under a strategic partnership with Hampshire County Council until this arrangement came to an end 31.01.2024. The remuneration details are disclosed in full by Hampshire County Council. The amount recharged to the Isle of Wight Council relating to this post up until the arrangement ceased for 2023-24 is £38,620 (£51,171 in 2022-23).
Note (vii)	The post of Director of Finance and Section 151 officer is filled under a strategic partnership with Portsmouth City Council. The remuneration details are disclosed in full by Portsmouth City Council. The amount recharged to the Isle of Wight Council relating to this post for 2023-24 is £78,000 (£60,000 in 2022-23).
Note (viii)	The post of Director of Public Health is filled under a strategic partnership with Hampshire County Council. The remuneration details are disclosed by the Hampshire County Council. The amount recharged to the Isle of Wight Council for 2023-24 is £49,771 (£38,502 in 2022-23).

The council's other employees (including teachers) receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions but including termination payments where applicable) were paid the following amounts:

Remuneration band	2022-23				2023-24			
	School based employees			Total number of employees	School based employees			Total number of employees
	Voluntary Aided & Foundation schools	Other schools	All other council employees		Voluntary Aided & Foundation schools	Other schools	All other council employees	
£50,000 to £54,999	2	19	17	38	17	22	32	71
£55,000 to £59,999	11	8	16	35	14	8	22	44
£60,000 to £64,999	13	10	10	33	6	7	11	24
£65,000 to £69,999	3	3	6	12	5	6	11	22
£70,000 to £74,999	2	7	8	17	2	5	6	13
£75,000 to £79,999	0	6	9	15	2	1	7	10
£80,000 to £84,999	2	3	0	5	1	5	3	9
£85,000 to £89,999	1	1	0	2	2	3	0	5
£90,000 to £94,999	0	0	5	5	0	3	2	5
£95,000 to £99,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
£100,000 to £104,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£105,000 to £109,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£110,000 to £114,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£115,000 to £119,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£120,000 to £124,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£125,000 to £129,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£130,000 to £134,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£135,000 to £139,999	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
£140,000 to £144,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
£145,000 to £149,999	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
£150,000 to £154,999	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Totals	34	57	72	163	51	60	97	208

36. Termination benefits

The council terminated the contracts of a number of employees in 2023-24, incurring liabilities of £0.638 million. (£0.110 million in 2022-23).

The total costs in the table below represents exit packages that have been agreed, accrued for and charged to the council's comprehensive income and expenditure statement in the respective years. The cost of exit packages includes redundancy pay, payment in lieu of notice or holiday, the accrued costs of added years (pension strain), and other departure costs. The numbers and costs include schools-based teaching staff.

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

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23 £	2023-24 £
£0 to £20,000	7	6	7	10	14	16	109,648	114,849
£20,001 to £40,000	0	2	0	2	0	4	0	114,020
£40,001 to £60,000	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	47,329
£60,001 to £80,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£80,001 to £100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£100,001 to £150,000	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	361,505
Total	7	8	7	16	14	24	109,648	637,704

The total of termination payments made during 2023-24 has been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The total cost of exit packages excludes £0.018 million relating to former members of staff who left the council in a previous year.

37. External audit costs

The council incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the statement of accounts, certification of grant claims and statutory inspections by the council's external auditors.

	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year (Ernst & Young LLP)	171	343
Fees payable to the appointed auditor for certification of housing benefit subsidy grant claim and return for the year (KPMG)	8	8
Additional fees payable to the appointed auditor for certification of housing benefit subsidy grant claim and return for the year (KPMG) paid in 2023-24 relating to 2022-23	13	18
Total of fees payable to the appointed auditors	192	369

38. Dedicated schools grant

The council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG is ring-fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined in The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on a council-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget, which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable are as follows:

Deployment of dedicated schools grant 2023-24	Central expenditure £000	Individual schools budget £000	Total £000
Final DSG for 2023-24 before academy and high needs recoupment			114,131
Academy and high needs figure recouped for 2023-24			25,671
Total DSG after academy and high needs recoupment for 2023-24			88,460
Plus: Brought forward from 2022-23			2,338
Less: Carry-forward to 2024-25 agreed in advance			
Agreed initial budget distribution in 2023-24	20,997	69,801	90,798
In-year adjustments	2,587	43	2,630
Final budget distribution for 2023-24	23,584	69,844	93,428
Less: Actual central expenditure	23,797		23,797
Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools		69,879	69,879
Plus: Local authority contribution for 2023-24	0	0	0
In-year Carry forward to 2024-25	(213)	(35)	(248)
Plus: Carry-forward to 2024-25 agreed in advance			0
Carry-forward to 2024-25			0
DSG Unusable at the end of 2022-23			(6,345)
Addition to DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2023-24			(248)
Total of DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2023-24			(6,593)
Net DSG position at the end of 2023-24			(6,593)

The final DSG for 2023-24 includes academy and high needs funding. The recoupment figure for high needs is derived from commissioned places data during 2023-24 and academy recoupment is derived from the main school funding formula that was submitted to the DfE. The final allocation for the 2023-24 early years block will be made in July 2024 using the January 2024 census figures and any adjustments to be treated as an 'in year adjustment' for 2024-25.

Deployment of dedicated schools grant 2022-23	Central expenditure £000	Individual schools budget £000	Total £000
Final DSG for 2022-23 before academy and high needs recoupment			107,942
Academy and high needs figure recouped for 2022-23			23,728
Total DSG after academy and high needs recoupment for 2022-23			84,214
Plus: Brought forward from 2021-22			0
Less: Carry-forward to 2023-24 agreed in advance			0
Agreed initial budget distribution in 2022-23	17,025	67,189	84,214
In-year adjustments	5,080	(126)	4,954
Final budget distribution for 2022-23	22,105	67,064	89,168
Less: Actual central expenditure	19,701		19,701
Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools		67,129	67,129
Plus: Local authority contribution for 2022-23	0	0	0
In-year Carry forward to 2023-24	2,403	(65)	2,338
Plus: Carry-forward to 2023-24 agreed in advance			0
Carry-forward to 2023-24			2,338
DSG Unusable at the end of 2022-23			(6,345)
Addition to DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2022-23			0
Total of DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2022-23			(6,345)
Net DSG position at the end of 2022-23			(4,007)

The Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, SI 2020 No 1212 requires that where a local authority has a deficit in respect of its schools budget for the financial year beginning after 1st April 2020, the deficit must be shown as an unusable reserve, rather than a deficit earmarked reserve. The carry forward deficit balances at each year end are therefore classified as unusable reserves and included in note 28.

39. Grant income

The council credited the following grants and contributions to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement:

Credited to taxation and non-specific grant income	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Revenue grants:		
Revenue Support grant	(4,757)	(4,357)
Business rates top-up grant	(11,695)	(12,029)
New Homes bonus	(534)	(148)

Small business rate relief scheme s.31 grant	(3,509)	(3,336)
Business rates expanded retail discount and nursery relief s.31 grant	(354)	(39)
Other business rate relief schemes s31 grant	(5,926)	(8,962)
Extended rights to free travel	(360)	(376)
Housing Benefit administration	(425)	(413)
Council tax support administration	(170)	0
Local Reform/Community Voices	(110)	(110)
Supporting Families (core grant)	(444)	(444)
Highways PFI grant	(19,428)	(19,428)
Social care in prisons grant	(148)	(222)
Independent Living Fund grant	(149)	0
Staying Put grant	(96)	(96)
Adult Social Care grant	(7,101)	(11,450)
School Improvement Monitoring/Brokering	(72)	0
Virtual School grant	(30)	(30)
Income guarantee s.31 grant (council tax)	0	0
Income guarantee s.31 grant (business rates)	0	0
NDR Levy Surplus	(259)	(259)
Lower Tier Services Grant	(198)	0
Services Grant	(2,132)	(2,251)
Capital grants:		
Department for Education grants	(7,636)	(4,299)
Department for Transport grants	(4,794)	(2,452)
Department for Health and Social Care grants	(534)	(358)
Other capital grants & contributions	(4,834)	(6,081)
Total	(75,695)	(77,140)

Credited to services	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Dedicated schools grant	(89,168)	(91,090)
Sixth form funding grant	(3,752)	(4,005)
Rent allowance & rent rebates subsidy	(31,331)	(31,406)
Public health grant	(7,935)	(8,194)
Pupil premium grant	(4,390)	(4,625)
COVID-19 grants	(1,378)	(3,224)
Improved Better Care Fund grant	(6,180)	(6,180)
Other revenue grants	(17,894)	(19,776)

Revenue expenditure funded by capital under statute (REFCUS):		
Disabled facilities grant	(1,738)	(2,112)
Department for Education REFCUS grants	(216)	(461)
Other REFCUS grants	(4,998)	(3,214)
Total	(168,980)	(174,287)

The revenue grants listed above have been included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Covid-19 and cost of living crisis related grants received from the Government where the council is deemed to be acting as an agent due to the eligibility being specified by the Government amount to a further £0.177 million. The income and related expenditure have been excluded from the Income and Expenditure Statement.

The council has received a number of grants, contributions and donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the money or property to be returned to the giver. The balances at year-end are included within current or long-term liabilities in the balance sheet and are as follows:

Capital grants & contributions receipts in advance	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Department for Education grants (DfE)	(3,172)	(2,344)
Department for Transport grants (DfT)	(4,853)	(7,878)
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy grants (BEIS)	(69)	(4)
Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG)	(2,041)	(1,960)
Other grants & contributions	(342)	(644)
Total	(10,477)	(12,830)

Revenue grants & contributions receipts in advance	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Energy Bills Support	(609)	(170)
Business rates s.31 grants (MHCLG)	0	0
Other Grants	(2,231)	(2,608)
Section 106 contributions	(1,801)	(1,336)
Total	(4,641)	(4,114)

40. Related parties 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.

Central Government

Central government has significant influence over the general operations of the Authority – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the council operates, provides a significant element of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the council has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are detailed in note 39.

Members and their family

Members of the council have direct control over the council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2023-24 is shown in note 34.

During 2023-24, payments to the value of £20.115 million were made to organisations where members or their families had declared an interest or employment including £13.081 million to educational facilities, £4.656 million to parish and town councils and £0.816 million to the NHS with whom the council transacts as part of its day-to-day business. The remaining £1.562 million included payments of £0.527 million to Visit Isle of Wight which related to the levy income collected by the council on their behalf.

Full details of elected members' declarations of interests can be found on the council's website: <http://www.iow.gov.uk>.

Officers

During 2023-24 the Director of Children's Services was provided by Hampshire County Council as part of the strategic partnership arrangement that was approved in July 2013. This arrangement ceased on 31 January 2024 whereby a directly employed Director of Children's Services was appointed.

The Director of Finance and S151 officer is provided by Portsmouth City Council under a partnership arrangement approved in April 2016. This officer is also a council appointed Director of Access 4/20 Management Ltd and holds various Directorships as part of his role at Portsmouth City Council.

The Director of Public Health is provided by Hampshire County Council as part of a partnership agreement from April 2018.

Further details of these arrangements are shown in note 35.

The Licensing & Coroner Services Manager in Community Services is a council appointed Director of Pan Management CIC.

The Director of Corporate Services is a council appointed Director of Access 4/20 Management Limited and Sandy Lane (Oxford) Management Limited.

The Director of Community Services is a council appointed Director of IWight Homes Limited and Branstone Management Company Limited.

The Strategic Head of Property Assets is a council appointed Director of Access 4/20 Limited

Other Public Bodies [subject to common control by central government]

The council has a pooled budget arrangement under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Clinical Integrated Care Board (ICB) for the Better Care Fund (BCF). The council is the host for the pooled budget and although the intention is to support better integration, the current arrangement does not provide for the sharing of any financial risk. There is no joint decision-making body and the decisions do not need to be taken with the unanimous consent of the partners. Consequently, this arrangement has not been accounted for as a joint operation under IFRS11 and the receipt of income by the council

from the ICB and the subsequent reimbursement of cash by the council to the ICB has been netted out of the 2023-24 financial statements.

The council also had a strategic partnership agreement in place with Hampshire County Council for the provision of Childrens Services but the arrangement ceased on 31 January 2024 whereby a directly employed Director of Childrens Services was appointed. Throughout the period the council remained accountable for the provision of these services and the associated budgets. Payments of £1.646 million were made to Hampshire County Council in 2023-24 under this strategic partnership agreement up until it ceased.

The Isle of Wight Council administers the Isle of Wight Council Pension fund which includes admitted bodies as detailed in the Isle of Wight Council Pension Fund accounts. The council charged the fund £0.576 million for expenses incurred in administering the funds.

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Authority

Grants to other bodies of £3.039 million were made by the council during 2023-24. However, none of these grants were for material amounts and the allocation of such funding does not constitute effective influence over the financial and operating policies of those organisations.

The council holds a 2% shareholding in Cowes Yacht Haven which is the trading subsidiary of the Cowes Town Waterfront Trust Ltd. This does not give the council significant control or influence over the financial or operating decisions of the charity.

The council is a minority shareholder in Perpetuus Tidal Energy Centre Limited and with no significant control or influence. This is the subject of a more detailed disclosure in the group accounts note 41.

The council holds a £1 share in Pan Management Company which is a limited liability community interest company. The council has one director's position on the board. The Council made a loan to the company during 2019-20. The council had no significant control or influence over the financial or operating decisions of the company during the 2023-24 financial year.

The council also holds shares in Access 4/20 Management Ltd and Sandy Lane (Oxford) Management Ltd, both companies limited by guarantee to manage the estate and service charges related to two commercial investment properties that the council purchased in 2018-19. This is the subject of a more detailed disclosure in the group accounts note 41.

In December 2019 the council established a wholly owned subsidiary – IWight Homes Ltd with 1 Director appointed from the council's senior management team. The council will have complete control over the strategic and operational decisions of the subsidiary, and this is the subject of a more detail disclosure in the group accounts note 41.

41. Group accounts

The council had previously invested £1 million over 2 years under a loan agreement repayable after 9 years, in a joint venture company known as Perpetuus Tidal Energy Centre Ltd, holding 15% of the ordinary shares in the company with rights to dividends and a position on the board. In September 2020, the council agreed to authorise PTEC to raise funds required to renew consenting licences by selling up to two thirds of the council's shareholding in the company. In addition, the council's original loan term was extended for 5 years, is now repayable alongside

the other loan which capitalised the company and the council released its position on the PTEC Board. Although this means that the council will be foregoing its ability to 'direct' the work of the company and the benefit of any future dividends from its shares, the council recognised that there is no likelihood of any dividend should the project fail at this juncture. These changes were also made in the spirit of the original intent for PTEC to create jobs and investment and put the Isle of Wight at the forefront of the renewable energy agenda.

The council has also formed a limited liability partnership (PSP Isle of Wight LLP which trades as IWight Developments) with Public Sector PLC Facilitating to maximise opportunities from the council's land and property portfolio on the island and generate capital receipts or revenue income. The council holds 50% shares in the partnership and has a right to 50% of the profits. Under accounting regulations this is categorised as a joint venture for which the council would need to prepare group accounts but following limited activity the company was dissolved in February 2023.

As part of the council's ownership of 4 commercial properties, the council also holds shares in Access 4/20 Management Ltd and Sandy Lane (Oxford) Management Ltd, both companies limited by guarantee set up to management the common estates and service charges for those properties. Access 4/20 Management Ltd is 100% owned by the council and therefore under accounting regulations, it is categorised as a subsidiary. The council holds 1 of 4 shares in Sandy Lane (Oxford) Management Ltd and this is therefore categorised as a joint venture. In both cases, the council would need to prepare group accounts, however this has not been necessary on materiality grounds in 2023-24 but will be considered each year and if appropriate they will be consolidated in the council's statement of accounts.

In December 2019 the council registered a limited liability company called IWight Homes Ltd as a wholly owned subsidiary of the council with 1 director appointed from the council's senior management team. No transactions have been undertaken in the 2023-24 financial year. As a wholly owned subsidiary, consolidation into the council's accounts would be required if transactions are considered to be material.

In February 2023 the council registered a limited liability company called Branstone Management Company Limited with 1 director appointed from the council's senior management team. The council holds 1 of 2 shares and this is therefore categorised as a joint venture. The company is yet to produce any accounts and when it does the council will consider materiality in deciding whether to consolidate group accounts.

There are no other entities where the council's interest is such that it would give rise to the requirement to prepare group accounts. This position is reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

42. Capital expenditure and capital financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below (including the value of assets acquired under finance leases and PFI contracts), together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the council, the expenditure results in an increase in the capital financing requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the council that has yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second Isle of Wight Council Statement of Accounts – 2023/24

part of this note.

	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Balance brought forward	403,951	394,756
Adjustment to opening balance (aborted capital projects)	0	0
Adjusted opening balance	403,951	394,756
Capital investment:		
Property, plant and equipment	20,663	19,713
Intangible assets	23	34
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	7,126	5,882
Highways PFI assets brought onto balance sheet	1,357	1,018
Finance lease assets brought onto balance sheet	0	0
Sources of finance:		
Capital receipts	(675)	(236)
Government grants and other contributions	(24,144)	(19,029)
Sums set-aside from revenue:		
Revenue contributions to capital	(2,852)	(5,085)
Statutory charge to revenue	(10,693)	(11,239)
Closing capital financing requirement	394,756	385,814
Explanation of movements in year		
Increase/(reduction) in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	(10,551)	(9,960)
Assets acquired under PFI contracts	1,357	1,018
Assets acquired under finance leases	0	0
Increase/decrease in capital financing requirement	(9,194)	(8,942)

43. Leases

Council as lessee

The council has acquired vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment assets under finance leases. The rentals payable under these arrangements in 2023-24 were £0.126 million (£0.140 million in 2022-23), charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure account as £0.029 million finance costs (charged to interest payable) and £0.112 million relating to the write-down of obligations to the lessor (charged as part of the appropriation to the capital adjustment account in the movement in reserves statement). Finance lease rentals extending beyond the primary lease period are treated as contingent rent, as the future use of the asset at the inception of the lease agreement is unknown.

Carrying amount of assets	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Balance at 1 April	434	319
Additions	0	0
Depreciation	(115)	(116)
Balance at 31 March	319	203

Liability	Minimum lease payments		Present value of minimum lease payments	
	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Not later than one year	140	140	119	126
Later than one year and not later than five years	246	105	225	99
Later than 5 years	0	0	0	0
	386	246	344	225
Less: future finance charges	(42)	(20)	0	0
Total	344	225	344	225

Included in:	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Current borrowings	119	126
Non-current borrowings	225	99
Total	344	225

The fair value for the present value of minimum lease payments has been measured using significant observable inputs, being level 2 on the fair value hierarchy. The fair value at 31 March 2024 is £0.229 million based on discount contractual cash flows at the AA bond yield of the same remaining term.

Operating leases – Council as lessee

The council has the right to use vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment assets financed under the terms of operating leases. The rentals payable under these arrangements in 2023-24 were £1.283 million (£1.431 million in 2022-23), charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. In addition to vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment, these leases also include properties for homelessness accommodation which are leased for durations of between three and five years from private landlords. The council receives income towards the costs of these operating leases from housing benefits and other contributions. Such contributions credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement in 2023-24 amounted to £0.064 million (£0.166 million in 2022-23).

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

Leases expiring	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Not later than one year	973	904
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,220	1,388
Later than five years	2,587	2,471
Total	5,780	4,763

The expenditure charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Minimum lease payments	1,326	1,287
Contingent rents	105	(4)
Total	1,431	1,283
Sub-lease income receivable	(166)	(64)
Total	1,265	1,219

Operating leases - Council as lessor

The council has leased out property to third parties under the terms of operating leases. The rentals received under the arrangements in 2023-24 was £3.380 million (£3.138 million in 2022-23), credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. Lease agreements on a weekly, monthly and annual basis are excluded from minimum lease payments.

The council leases out property and equipment under operating leases for the following purposes: -

- For rental income received and capital appreciation from commercial property
- For the provision of community services, such as sports facilities, tourism services and community centres
- For economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses
- For housing purposes through a shared ownership scheme.

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

	Minimum lease payments	
	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Not later than one year	2,675	2,211
Later than one year and not later than five years	5,788	5,244
Later than five years	19,453	21,067
Total	27,916	28,522

The minimum lease payments do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place

after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2023-24 £0.069 million in contingent rents were received by the council (2022-23 £0.001 million).

44. Private finance initiatives and similar contracts

Highways PFI

The Highways PFI contract commenced on 1 April 2013 and is a 25-year project. This project involves the comprehensive upgrade of the Island's road, footway and cycleway network, together with associated assets, over a 7-year Core Investment Period and then maintaining them over the remaining life of the contract. The PFI is financed through a government grant and the council also makes an annual contribution. The contract is with Island Roads Services Ltd, comprised of VINCI Concessions and Meridiam Investments, and the sub-contract is with Ringway Island Roads Ltd.

Within the highways PFI contract, the council has acquired non-current assets under a finance lease agreement. The rentals payable under these arrangements in 2023-24 were £13.176 million (£13.275 million in 2022-23) charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement as £8.196 million finance costs (charged to interest payable) and £4.983 million relating to the write-down of obligations to the lessor which has been charged as part of the appropriation to the capital adjustment account in the movement in reserve statement. The fair value of services is calculated as £12.330 million (£11.728 million in 2022-23) and is charged to the Leader - Transport, Infrastructure & Strategic Oversight service line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. Government grant of £19.428 million (£19.428 million in 2022-23) has been credited to taxation and non-specific grant income in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

The operator has the right to use highway assets defined as the project network. These include roads, footways, bridges and street lighting. The net book value of these assets at 31 March 2024 is £102.575 million and these are classified as service concession assets. The operator will hand back the project network in the condition defined by the council at expiry of contract.

As part of the services element of the contract, the operator will operate and maintain the project network, which includes maintenance on network to defined performance standards, street cleansing, grass cutting, winter maintenance and CCTV monitoring. A mechanism exists within the contract for the council to share in any efficiency gains and certain income generating activities undertaken by the service provider.

Within the provisions of the contract the council will notify the operator if it wishes to retender for the provision of services and/or transfer all its rights, title and interest in assets back to the council. Termination options are defined as voluntary termination by the council, service provider default, termination by the service provider, termination for corrupt gifts and fraud, or following a force majeure event. A compensation mechanism exists within the contract to deal with the various termination scenarios, and this is based on the SOPC4 (standardisation of PFI contracts) wording.

The following values of assets are held under finance leases by the council, accounted for as part of property, plant and equipment:

	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Value at 1 April	118,781	110,803

Additions	1,357	993
Reclassifications	107	0
Revaluation gains	0	0
Depreciation	(9,412)	(9,221)
Impairment	(27)	0
Derecognition and disposals	(3)	0
Total assets at 31 March	110,803	102,575

The movement in the finance rental at 31 March accounted for as short and long-term liabilities are as follows:

	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Value at 1 April	96,805	92,357
Finance additions	292	190
Finance charge	8,535	8,193
Finance lease rental	(13,275)	(13,176)
Finance lease outstanding at 31 March	92,357	87,564

The finance lease outstanding of £87.564 million has been apportioned into short and long-term liabilities on the basis of the age profile of the repayment of liability shown below.

Outstanding obligations to make payments under the Highways PFI scheme at 31 March 2024, separated into repayments of liability, interest, service charges, lifecycle replacement costs and contingent rental using the current rate of RPI assumed in the contract are as follows:

	Repayment of liability £000	Interest £000	Service charges £000	Lifecycle replacement costs £000	Contingent rental £000	Total £000
Not later than 1 year	5,367	7,668	13,027	1,009	2,420	29,491
Payable within 2 to 5 years	23,789	25,618	55,245	9,351	9,535	123,538
Payable within 6 to 10 years	26,898	20,322	73,265	43,344	3,399	167,227
Payable within 11 to 15 years	31,510	6,746	59,631	43,095	4,471	145,453
Payable within 16 to 20 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	87,564	60,353	201,168	96,800	19,825	465,709

The fair value for the repayment of liability has been measured using significant observable inputs, being level 2 on the fair value hierarchy. The fair value at 31 March 2024 is £110.544 million based on discount contractual cash flows at the AA bond yield of the same remaining term.

45. Revaluation losses

During 2023-24, the council has recognised revaluation losses of £0.083 million in relation to property, plant and equipment.

Asset valuations are based upon a number of factors such as the condition of buildings, likely useful life and income generation estimates from the use of land-based assets. The recoverable amount of these assets has been reduced to their current value as estimated by a professional valuer. This is based on current value in existing use to the council where there is an active market. Where there is no active market for assets, such as schools, the valuation is based on depreciated replacement cost. As there were no balances of revaluation gains in the revaluation reserve for assets values reduced when revalued, the resultant revaluation losses have been charged to the appropriate service line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and reversed out through the movement in reserves statement.

46. Pension schemes accounted for as defined contribution schemes

Teachers employed by the authority are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by the Department for Education. The scheme provides teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement, and the authority contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The scheme is technically a defined benefit scheme. However, the scheme is unfunded, and the Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. The council is not able to identify its share of underlying financial position and performance of the scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this statement of accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2023-24, the council paid £7.144 million to teachers' pensions in respect of teachers' retirement benefits. The employers' contribution rate was 23.68% of pensionable pay (2022-23 £6.826 million with a contribution rate of 23.68%). There were no contributions remaining payable at year-end.

The council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. These benefits are accounted for on a defined benefit basis and detailed in note 47.

Public health staff who had access to the NHS Pension Scheme at the point of transfer to the council from the primary care trusts (PCTs) on 1 April 2013 retained access to that scheme. The NHS pension scheme is an unfunded, defined benefit scheme that covers NHS employers and is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. In the NHS, the scheme is accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The council is not able to identify its share of underlying financial position and performance of the scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this statement of accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2023-24, the council paid £0.031 million (2022-23 £0.030 million) to NHS pensions in respect of retirement benefits, representing 16.88% of pensionable pay.

47. Defined benefit pension schemes

Participation in pension schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the council makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the council has a commitment to make the payments that needs

to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The authority participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme which is administered by the council and is a funded defined benefit scheme, meaning that the council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.

Transactions relating to post-employment benefits

The cost of retirement benefits is 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 made against the council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the general fund via the movement in reserves statement. The transactions below 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 £000	
	2022-23	2023-24
Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement		
Cost of services:		
Current service cost	(31,025)	(15,520)
Past service costs (including curtailments)	(262)	(1,276)
Gain/loss from settlements	0	0
Financing and investment income and expenditure		
Interest cost on defined benefit liability	(22,440)	(28,396)
Interest income on plan assets	16,833	28,265
Movement on top-up grant repayable (to)/from Government	-	-
Total post-employment benefit charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(36,894)	(16,927)
Other post-employment benefit charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement		
Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:		
Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	(44,116)	31,080
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	5,784	3,756
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	302,638	33,241
Other experience gains and losses	(46,953)	(21,254)
Total post-employment benefit charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	180,459	29,896
Movement in reserves statement:		
Reversal of net charges made to the surplus or deficit for the provision of services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	20,403	(1,429)
Movement on top-up grant repayable to/(from) Government		

Actual amount charged against the general fund balance for pensions in the year:		
Employers' contributions payable to the scheme (including unfunded benefits)	16,491	18,356
Retirement benefits payable to pensioners (net of member contributions)	-	-

Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	
	2022-23	2023-24
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(599,692)	(608,537)
Fair value of plan assets	596,173	578,085
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	(3,519)	(30,452)

Reconciliation of fair value of the scheme assets:

	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	
	2022-23	2023-24
Opening fair value of scheme assets	624,302	596,173
Interest income	16,833	28,265
Re-measurement gains/loss:		
Return on plan assets excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	(44,116)	31,080
Contributions by employer	15,104	16,772
Contributions from plan participants	4,038	4,345
Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits paid	1,387	1,584
Benefits paid	(19,988)	(23,365)
Unfunded benefits paid	(1,387)	(1,584)
Asset ceiling adjustments	-	(75,185)
Other Experience	-	-
Closing fair value of scheme assets	596,173	578,085

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities (defined benefit obligation)

	Funded liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000	
	2022-23	2023-24
Opening balance at 1 April	(824,771)	(599,692)
Current service cost	(31,025)	(15,520)

Interest cost	(22,440)	(28,396)
Contributions by scheme participants	(4,038)	(4,345)
Re-measurement gains/loss:		
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	5,784	3,756
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	302,638	33,241
Other experience gains/loss	(46,953)	(21,254)
Past service costs (including curtailments)	(262)	(1,276)
Benefits paid	19,988	23,365
Unfunded benefits paid	1,387	1,584
Closing fair value of scheme liabilities	(599,692)	(608,537)

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

	Fair value of scheme assets					
	2022-23		2023-24			
	Quoted prices	Percentage of total assets	Quoted prices	Unquoted prices	TOTAL	Percentage of total assets
£000	%	£000	£000	£000	%	
In active markets						
Equity securities:						
Consumer	0.0	0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
Energy & Utilities	0.0	0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
Financial Institutions	0.0	0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
Health & Care	0.0	0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
Information Technology	0.0	0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
Other	0.0	0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
Real Estate	32,119.7	5%	30,356.1	0.0	30,356.1	5%
Investment Funds & Unit Trusts:						
Equities	337,253.3	57%	446,056.7	0.0	446,056.7	68%
Bonds	120,826.1	20%	96,561.0	0.0	96,561.0	15%
Other	105,973.9	18%	0.0	69,932.7	69,932.7	10%
Cash and cash equivalents	0	0%	0.0	10,363.4	10,363.4	2%
Total assets	596,173.0	100%	572,974	80,296	653,270	100%

Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on the 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. Pension fund liabilities have been assessed by Hymans

Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Local Government Scheme being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2023.

The significant assumptions used the actuary have been:

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2022-23	2023-24
Mortality assumptions: (age 65 for Local Government Scheme):		
Longevity for current pensioners (years):		
Men	21.5	22.1
Women	24.2	25.1
Longevity for future pensioners (years):		
Men	22.2	22.3
Women	25.7	25.1
Pension increase rate (CPI)	3.0%	2.8%
Market derived RPI	3.2%	2.8%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0%	3.8%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.8%	4.9%
Commutation assumptions:		
Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum – pre April 2008 service	50%	50%
Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum – post April 2008 service	50%	50%
Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum	-	-

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analysis below has 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 woman. 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.

Local Government Pension Scheme	Impact on the defined benefit obligation in the scheme	
	Approximate % increase to employer liability	Approximate monetary amount
Change in assumptions at 31 March 2023		
	%	£000
0.1% decrease in real discount rate	2	10,781
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4	23,341

0.1% increase in the salary increase rate	0	365
0.1% increase in the pension increase rate	2	10,616

A one-year increase in life expectancy would approximately increase the Employer's Defined Benefit Obligation by between 3% to 5%. In practice the actual cost of a one-year increase in life expectancy will depend on the structure of the revised assumption (i.e. if improvements to survival rates predominately apply at younger or older ages).

Impact on the council's cash flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% of the next 20 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed on 31 March 2025.

The scheme will need to take account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Services Act 2013. Under the Act, the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and the other main existing public service schemes may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014. 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 total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the council in the year to 31 March 2025 is £16.282 million.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is shown below:

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	Liability Split	
	£000	%
Active members	193,233	32.9%
Deferred members	117,863	20.0%
Pensioner members	276,966	47.1%
Total	588,062	100.0%

Further details relating to the Isle of Wight Council Pension Fund are contained within the Pension Fund section of these accounts.

48. Contingent liabilities

Former council housing stock

The council has indemnified the South Wight Housing Association (now part of the Southern Housing Group) in respect of the cost of any defects that would have led to a reduction in the transfer valuation of the former South Wight Borough council housing stock in 1990, had a full survey been made on an individual property basis. The potential liability has not been quantified, but there is a diminishing probability of a claim against the council due to the time elapsed since the transfer.

49. Contingent asset

Bluebell Meadows

Under the terms of the development agreement between the council and Barratt Homes relating to residential land at Newport, Pan Estate (Bluebell Meadows) a guaranteed minimum payment of £4.7m at the end of the development was agreed in 2011. This calculation was based upon building costs and number of units built and is dependent on Barratts completing this development. Subsequent to this agreement the council and Barratt Homes are in discussions to transfer a number of units on this development in lieu of the guaranteed minimum payment.

The guaranteed minimum payment has not been recognised on the balance sheet as completion of the development is not wholly within the control of the council.

50. Trust funds and other balances

The council administers a number of trust funds and balances on behalf of others which are not included in the balance sheet. These include cash held in safekeeping for children in care and amenity funds set up to provide facilities at particular establishments from the proceeds of fund raising and bequests. The main trust funds are as follows:

- The Brenda James Trust Fund, which was established with the object of the advancement of music education on the Isle of Wight for the benefit of pupils and young musicians, has a balance of £0.023 million at 31 March 2024 (£0.031 million on 31 March 2023).
- The charity of Tom Woolgar, which was established in 1929 to give relief to the poor and aged in the Borough of Newport, has a balance of £0.081 million at 31 March 2024 (£0.075 million on 31 March 2023). This fund is administered by Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council.

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
Trust Funds etc	106	104
Cash in Safekeeping	0	0
Amenity Funds	31	26
Total	137	130

51. Reclassification restatement

Segmental Reporting in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (and associated changes)

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (the Code). The Code's segmental reporting requirements for the comprehensive income and expenditure statement requires that the cost of services be presented in a manner consistent with how the council manages and monitors financial performance locally. For the Isle of Wight Council financial performance is managed, monitored and reported by portfolio responsibilities. During 2022/23 there were some changes to these portfolio responsibilities to the extent that valid comparisons with the prior year figures

cannot be made.

In accordance with the requirements of IAS1 Presentation of Financial Statements, the 2022-23 comparators in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement have been restated on the revised portfolio reporting basis.

Previous portfolio reporting structure (as reported in the 2022-23 Statement of Accounts)	2022-23 Net Expenditure £000s	Revised portfolio reporting structure	2022-23 Net Expenditure £000s
Adult Social Care & Public Health	64,708	Adult Social Care & Public Health	64,708
Children's Services, Education & Lifelong Skills	41,897	Children's Services & Corporate Functions	52,693
Digital Transformation, Housing, Homelessness & Poverty	10,744	Deputy Leader – Housing & Finance	4,361
Climate Change, Environment, Heritage, HR, Legal & Democratic Services	9,493	Economy, Regeneration, Culture & Leisure	9,544
Infrastructure, Highways PFI & Transport	20,209	Leader – Transport, Infrastructure & Strategic Oversight	19,079
Leader & Strategic Partnerships	(1,130)	Climate Change, Biosphere & Waste	6,393
Planning & Enforcement	839	Planning, Coastal Protection & Flooding	1,509
Community Protection, Regulatory & Waste	6,811	Regulatory Services, Community Protection & ICT	8,915
Levelling Up, Regeneration, Business Development & Tourism	7,123	Strategic Finance, Corporate Resources & Transformational Change	1,778
Strategic Finance, Transformation Change & Corporate Resources	8,286		
Net cost of continuing services	168,980	Net cost of continuing services	168,980

The 2022-23 comparative figures in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the associated note 7A have also been restated. These figures are contained within the restated Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement above.

The Segmental Income note 7B has been restated as follows:

Previous portfolio reporting structure (as reported in the 2022-23 Statement of Accounts)	2022-23 Income from Services £000s	Revised portfolio reporting structure	2022-23 Income from Services £000s
Adult Social Care & Public Health	(23,669)	Adult Social Care & Public Health	(23,669)
Children's Services, Education & Lifelong Skills	(6,390)	Children's Services & Corporate Functions	(8,436)
Digital Transformation, Housing, Homelessness & Poverty	(1,437)	Deputy Leader – Housing & Finance	(6,348)
Climate Change, Environment, Heritage, HR, Legal & Democratic Services	(2,822)	Economy, Regeneration, Culture & Leisure	(5,136)
Infrastructure, Highways PFI & Transport	(10,741)	Leader – Transport, Infrastructure & Strategic Oversight	(10,747)
Leader & Strategic Partnerships	(6)	Climate Change, Biosphere & Waste	(2,389)

Planning & Enforcement	(2,044)	Planning, Coastal Protection & Flooding	(2,486)
Community Protection, Regulatory & Waste	(4,581)	Regulatory Services, Community Protection & ICT	(2,893)
Levelling Up, Regeneration, Business Development & Tourism	(3,931)	Strategic Finance, Corporate Resources & Transformational Change	1,778
Strategic Finance, Transformation Change & Corporate Resources	(4,705)		
Total income analysed on a segmental basis	(60,326)	Total income analysed on a segmental basis	(60,326)

There are no implications for the general fund or any other reserves arising from the revised portfolio changes. The balance sheet and cash flow statement are also unaffected.

52. Authorisation of accounts for issue

The Director of Finance and Section 151 officer authorised the draft financial statements for issue on 27 September 2024 and then re-authorised them following completion of the audit on 19 February 2025.

THE COLLECTION FUND

The Collection fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation of billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers of council tax and business rates and the distribution to the precepting bodies and central government.

The council has a statutory requirement to operate a collection fund as a separate account to the general fund. The purpose of the collection fund is to separately identify the income and expenditure relating to council tax and business rates. The administrative costs associated with the collection process are charged to the general fund.

The CIPFA code of practice stipulates that a collection fund income and expenditure account is included in the council's accounts. The collection fund balance sheet is incorporated into the council's balance sheet but shows only the council's proportionate share of the relevant balances.

Collection Fund 2023-24	Business Rates	Council Tax	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Income			
Council Tax receivable (note CF3)		(125,448)	(125,448)
Business rates receivable (note CF1)	(35,227)		(35,227)
Total income	(35,227)	(125,448)	(160,675)
Apportionment of Previous Year Deficit (based on January 2023 estimate)			
Central Government	(167)		(167)
Isle of Wight Council	(164)	(729)	(893)
Police & Crime Commissioner		(92)	(92)
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority	(3)	(28)	(31)
	(334)	(849)	(1,183)
Precepts, Demands and Shares:			
Central Government (note CF1)	16,779		16,779
Isle of Wight Council (notes CF1 & CF3)	16,444	104,199	120,643
Police & Crime Commissioner (note CF3)		13,601	13,601
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority	336	4,350	4,686
	33,558	122,150	155,708
Charges to the Collection Fund:			
Write-offs of uncollectable amounts	5	(93)	(89)
Net (decrease)/increase in Bad Debt Allowance	1,447	2,332	3,779
Net increase in Provision for appeals (note CF6)	1,923		1,923
Cost of Collection	276		276
Renewable energy projects	581		581
Transitional Relief	0		0
Council tax section 13A discretionary relief		(176)	(176)
Council tax section 13A covid19 discretionary relief		1	1
	4,232	2,063	6,295
(Surplus)/Deficit arising during the year	2,229	(2,084)	145
(Surplus)/Deficit brought forward at 1 April	(1,921)	737	(1,184)
(Surplus)/Deficit carried forward at 31 March (notes CF4 & CF5a)	308	(1,347)	(1,039)
(Surplus)/Deficit allocated to:			
Isle of Wight Council	151	(1,148)	(998)
Central Government	154		154
Police and Crime Commissioner		(150)	(150)
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority	3	(48)	(45)
Total	308	(1,346)	(1,039)

Collection Fund 2022-23 (comparative year)	Business Rates	Council Tax	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Income			
Council Tax receivable (note CF3)		(118,028)	(118,028)
Business rates receivable (note CF1)	(32,269)		(32,269)
Total income	(32,269)	(118,028)	(150,297)
Apportionment of Previous Year Surplus (based on January 2021 estimate)			
Central Government	(6,982)		(6,982)
Isle of Wight Council	(6,842)	497	(6,345)
Police & Crime Commissioner		65	65
Fire Authority	(140)	21	(119)
	(13,964)	583	(13,381)
Precepts, Demands and Shares:			
Central Government (note CF1)	16,122		16,122
Isle of Wight Council (notes CF1 & CF3)	15,799	98,475	114,274
Police & Crime Commissioner (note CF3)		12,740	12,740
Fire Authority	322	4,064	4,386
	32,243	115,279	147,522
Charges to the Collection Fund:			
Write-offs of uncollectable amounts	25	144	169
Net (decrease)/increase in Bad Debt Allowance	(29)	2,623	2,594
Net increase in Provision for appeals (note CF6)	(1,642)		(1,642)
Cost of Collection	278		278
Renewable Energy Products	474		474
Transitional Relief	36		36
Council Tax Section 13A discretionary relief		(169)	(169)
	(858)	2,598	1,740
(Surplus)/Deficit arising during the year	(14,848)	432	(14,416)
(Surplus)/Deficit brought forward at 1 April	12,927	306	13,233
(Surplus)/Deficit carried forward at 31 March (notes CF4 & CF5a)	(1,921)	738	(1,183)
Allocated to:			
Isle of Wight Council	(941)	634	(307)
Central Government	(961)		(961)
Police and Crime Commissioner		80	80
Fire Authority	(19)	24	5
Total	(1,921)	738	(1,183)

Notes to the collection fund

CF1. Business Rates

The council collects business rates for its area based on rateable values provided by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) multiplied by a uniform business rate set nationally by central government.

The administration of business rates changed in 2013-14 following the introduction of the business rates retention scheme which aims to give councils a greater incentive to grow businesses, but also increases the financial risk due to volatility and non-collection. Instead of paying business rates to the central pool, local authorities retain a proportion of the total collectable rate due. For 2022-23 the Isle of Wight Council's share was 49%, 50% was paid to central government and the remaining 1% paid to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority as preceptors. For 2023-24 these allocations have remained the same as they were in 2022-23.

Business rates income since 2017-18 has been based on the 2017 valuation list which superseded the 2010 valuation list on 1 April 2017. The total of business rates payable for 2023-24 was estimated before the start of the financial year as £33.559 million (£32.243 million in 2022-23). This is shared between the council (£16.444 million), the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority (£0.336 million) and central government (£16.779 million) and charged to the collection fund in year.

When the scheme was introduced, central government set a baseline level for each authority identifying the expected level of retained business rates and a top-up or tariff amount to ensure that all authorities receive their baseline amounts. Tariffs due from authorities payable to central government are used to finance the top-ups to those authorities who did not achieve their targeted baseline funding. The Isle of Wight Council received a top-up grant of £12.029 million in 2023-24 (£11.695 million in 2022-23) which is credited to the general fund (see note 39).

The business rates collection fund now has a deficit for 2023-24 compared to the surplus to 2022-23. This is primarily as a result of a large multinational business successfully appealing its Rateable Value (2017 Ratings) and receiving a refund as a direct result. Secondly the Council has now set up a new provision in respect of businesses on the Island successfully appealing their new 2023 Rateable Value and receiving a reduction.

The reliefs effectively reduce the net amount the council can collect from businesses. The total income from business ratepayers that was collectable in 2023-24 was £32.513 million (£32.541 million in 2022-23). As the precept amounts cannot be changed the result is minimal decrease of £0.028m. For 2023-24 (£20.963m) there was a reduction in Section 31 grants compared to 2022-23 (£21.273m) indicating that the Government believes businesses require less support following reduced COVID risk and improved economic certainty.

In addition to the management of business rates, authorities are required to finance appeals made in respect of rateable values as defined by the VOA. As such, authorities are required to make a provision in respect of outstanding appeals at 31 March 2024. In addition to appeals made on the 2017 valuation list, there are also outstanding appeals on the 2010 valuation list. A successful appeal on the 2010 valuation list is likely to result in a backdated adjustment for any overpayment due. The total provision charged to the collection fund at 31 March 2024 is £8.427 million (£6.505 million at 31 March 2023). This amount is included in short-term

provisions in the balance sheet (note CF6).

The total business rate rateable value at 31 March 2024 is £117.127 million (£111.759 million at 31 March 2023). The business rate multiplier for 2023-24 was frozen at the 2022-23 level and is 51.2p (51.2p in 2022-23). A reduced multiplier of 49.9p (49.9p in 2022-23) is applicable where there is eligibility for small business rate relief.

The gross yield for the year is £56.189 million (£53.541 million in 2022-23) and the net yield was £35.227 million (£32.269 million in 2022-23). Several nationally defined adjustments and reliefs contribute towards this reduction as shown below:-

	2022-23		2023-24	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Gross Business rate yield at 31 March		53,541		56,189
Less:-				
Mandatory/discretionary relief granted	(9,823)		(10,831)	
Empty rate relief	(1,529)		(1,245)	
Small Business Rate relief	(9,920)		(8,870)	
Interest on refunds	0		(17)	
		(21,272)		(20,963)
Net Business rate yield at 31 March		32,269		35,226

CF2. Council tax

Council tax derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties, which have been classified into nine valuations bands (A to H). Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required to be taken from the collection fund by the council for the forthcoming year and dividing this by the council tax base, which is the equivalent number of Band D properties.

The council tax base for 2023-24 was 54,087.4 (53,879.9 in 2022-23). The increase in the tax base is principally due to an anticipated reduction in the number of local council tax support scheme discounts arising due to the diminished impact of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The following details the number of properties in each valuation band of the tax base:

Band	Relevant Proportion	Chargeable dwellings (net of council tax support scheme)	Band D equivalents	Chargeable dwellings (net of council tax support scheme)	Band D equivalents
		2022-23		2023-24	
Band A (disabled)	5/9	7.0	4.0	7.0	4.1
Band A	6/9	6,689.0	4,460.0	6,748.0	4,498.3
Band B	7/9	13,886.0	10,800.0	13,992.0	10,882.1
Band C	8/9	14,662.0	13,033.0	14,774.0	13,132.5
Band D	9/9	11,681.2	11,680.7	11,726.0	11,726.1

Band E	11/9	6,494.0	7,937.0	6,547.0	8,001.8
Band F	13/9	2,978.0	4,302.0	2,997.0	4,329.5
Band G	15/9	1,422.0	2,369.0	1,426.0	2,376.5
Band H	18/9	113.0	226.0	120.0	240.5
Total		57,932.2	54,811.7	58,337.0	55,191.4
Less reduction for bad debts & valuation changes			(931.8)		(1,104.0)
Council tax base			53,879.9		54,087.4
Council tax per band D property (£)			1,731.15		1,817.61
Isle of Wight Council: Council tax precept (£000)			93,274		98,310

CF3. Precepts made on the fund (Council tax)

	2022-23		2023-24	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Isle of Wight Council: Council tax requirement (note CF2)	93,274		98,309	
Parish & Town Council precepts	5,201		5,890	
Isle of Wight Council precept (including Parish & Town Councils)		98,475		104,199
Share of estimated collection fund surplus/(deficit) at 31 March in previous year		497		(729)
Isle of Wight Council: budget requirement		98,972		103,470
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority: Council tax requirement	4,064		4,350	
Share of estimated collection fund surplus/(deficit) at 31 March in previous year	21		(28)	
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority: budget requirement		4,085		4,322
Police & Crime Commissioner: Council tax requirement	12,740		13,601	
Share of estimated collection fund surplus/(deficit) at 31 March in previous year	65		(92)	
Police & Crime Commissioner: budget requirement		12,805		13,509
Total precepts and shares of estimated collection fund surplus/(deficit) at 31 March in previous year		115,862		121,301

Council Tax income analysis

	2022-23	2023-24
	£000	£000
Council Tax gross debit	142,695	151,913
Discounts	(11,976)	(12,717)
Exemptions	(2,514)	(2,867)
Council Tax Support	(10,177)	(10,881)
Council Tax income	118,028	125,448

Council Tax surplus/(deficit) analysis

	2022-23		2023-24	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Net debit (actual)	118,028		125,448	
Less: Net debit (estimated)	115,862		121,300	
Increase/(reduction) in net debit		2,166		4,148
Contribution to allowance for bad debts		(2,767)		(2,237)
Council tax section 13A discretionary relief		169		173
Collection Fund surplus/(deficit) brought forward		(306)		(737)
Council Tax deficit carried forward		(738)		1,347

CF4. Reconciliation with Isle of Wight Council's note 13 to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and note 28 Collection Fund adjustment account (Council tax)

2022-23 (comparative year)	Isle of Wight Council £000	Hampshire & IOW Fire & Rescue £000	Police & Crime Commissioner £000	Total £000
Demand/Precept	98,972	4,085	12,805	115,862
Share of 2021-22 in-year deficit (note 28)	(369)	(15)	(47)	(431)
Total (note 13)	98,603	4,070	12,758	115,431

Share of deficit carried forward at 31 March 2023	(633)	(24)	(80)	(737)
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2023-24	Isle of Wight Council £000	Hampshire & IOW Fire & Rescue £000	Police & Crime Commissioner £000	Total £000
Demand/Precept	103,470	4,322	13,509	121,301
Share of 2023-24 in-year deficit (note 28)	1,782	72	230	2,084
Total (note 13)	105,252	4,394	13,739	123,385

Share of deficit carried forward at 31 March 2024	1,148	49	150	1,347
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CF5a. Reconciliation with Isle of Wight Council's note 13 to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement (Business Rates)

2022-23 (comparative year)	Isle of Wight Council		Hampshire & IOW Fire & Rescue		Central Government		Total	
	£000		£000		£000		£000	
Estimate of 2022-23 business rates income at 31 January 2022		15,799		322		16,122		32,243
Add: share of deficit at 31 March 2022 (estimated at 31 January 2022)		(6,842)		(140)		(6,982)		(13,964)
Share of actual deficit at 31 March 2022	6,594		(131)		6,463		12,926	
Share of 2022-23 deficit carried forward at 31 March 2023	941		19		961		1,921	
Share of 2022-23 in-year deficit		7,535		(112)		7,424		14,847
Renewable energy rates retained		474		0		0		474
Total Business rate income (note 13)		16,966		70		16,564		33,600

2023-24	Isle of Wight Council		Hampshire & IOW Fire & Rescue		Central Government		Total	
	£000		£000		£000		£000	
Estimate of 2023-24 business rates income at 31 January 2023		16,443		336		16,779		33,558
Add: share of deficit at 31 March 2023 (estimated at 31 January 2023)		(164)		(3)		(167)		(334)
Share of actual surplus at 31 March 2023	(941)		(19)		(960)		(1,920)	
Share of 2023-24 deficit carried forward at 31 March 2024	(151)		(3)		(154)		(308)	
Share of 2023-24 in-year deficit		(1,092)		(22)		(1,114)		(2,228)
Renewable energy rates retained		581		0		0		581
Total Business rate income (note 13)		15,768		311		15,498		31,577

CF5b. Reconciliation with Isle of Wight Council's note 28 Collection Fund adjustment account (Business rates)

The figure shown in note 28 Collection fund adjustment account is the amount by which business rate income credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is different from business rate income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements. The business rates income from specified renewable energy projects is retained by the council, as permitted by regulations.

	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000
Share of deficit/(surplus) brought forward at 1 April reversed in year	6,594	(941)
Renewable energy rates retained brought forward at 1 April reversed in year	(58)	(77)
Share of (deficit)/surplus at 31 March	941	(151)
Renewable energy rates retained at 31 March (difference between estimate and actual)	76	30
Total (note 28)	7,553	(1,139)

CF6. Appeals provision (business rates)

	2022-23				2023-24			
	Collection fund		Isle of Wight Council share		Collection fund		Isle of Wight Council share	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance brought forward		(8,148)		(3,992)		(6,504)		(3,187)
Charged to provision	1,898		930		3,165		1,551	
Transfer (to)/from provision	(384)		(188)		(5,088)		(2,493)	
Released back to Collection Fund	129		63		0		0	
Net (increase)/decrease in provision		1,643		805		(1,923)		(942)
Balance carried forward		(6,505)		(3,187)		(8,427)		(4,129)

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL PENSION FUND

2022-23 £000	FUND ACCOUNT	Notes	2023-24 £000
	Dealings with members, employers and others directly involved in the fund		
23,271	Contributions	7	24,577
2,143	Transfers in from other pension funds	8	1,947
28	Other income	9	17
25,442			26,541
(25,324)	Benefits	10	(27,870)
(2,953)	Payments to and on account of leavers	11	(718)
(28,277)			(28,588)
(2,835)			(2,047)
(5,999)	Management expenses	12	(7,065)
	Returns on investments		
16,055	Investment income	13	24,767
23	Taxes on income	14	3
(44,441)	Profit and (losses) on disposal of investments and changes in the value of investments	17A	68,681
-	- Interest payable	16	-
(28,363)	Net returns on investments		93,451
(37,197)	Net increase/(decrease) in the net assets available for benefits during the year		84,339
728,320	Opening Net Assets of the Scheme		691,123
691,123	Closing Net Assets of the Scheme		775,462

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL PENSION FUND

2023 £000	NET ASSETS STATEMENT AS AT 31 MARCH	Notes	2024 £000
676,161	Investment assets	17	715,431
9,187	Cash deposits	17	42,188
685,348			757,619
	- Investment liabilities	17	-
	- Short-term borrowings	19A	-
134	Long-term assets	23	145
6,171	Current assets	24	18,297
(530)	Current liabilities	25	(599)
691,123	Net assets of the fund available to fund benefits at the period end		775,462

The fund's financial statements do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the period end. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is disclosed at note 22.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL PENSION FUND

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND

The Isle of Wight Council Pension Fund (“the fund”) is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and is administered by Isle of Wight Council (“the council”). The council is the reporting entity for this pension fund.

The following description of the fund is a summary. For more detail, reference should be made to the Isle of Wight Council Pension Fund Annual Report 2023-24 and the underlying statutory powers underpinning the scheme, namely the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations.

a) General

The fund is governed by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. The fund is administered in accordance with the following secondary legislation:

- the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- the Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 (as amended)
- the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016.

It is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme administered by Isle of Wight Council to provide pensions and other benefits for pensionable employees of Isle of Wight Council, and a range of other scheduled and admitted bodies on the Isle of Wight. Teachers and police officers are not included as they come within other national pension schemes.

The fund is overseen by the Isle of Wight Pension Fund Committee (“the committee”), which is a committee of Isle of Wight Council.

b) Membership

Membership of the LGPS is voluntary and employees are free to choose whether to join the scheme, remain in the scheme or make their own personal arrangements outside the scheme.

Organisations participating in the Isle of Wight Council Pension Fund include:

- Scheduled bodies, which are local authorities and similar bodies whose staff are automatically entitled to be members of the fund.
- Admitted bodies, which are other organisations that participate in the fund under the terms of an admission agreement between the fund and the employer. Admitted bodies include voluntary, charitable and similar not-for-profit organisations or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following outsourcing to the private sector.

The scheduled bodies of the fund with active members at 31 March 2024 are:

Bembridge Parish Council	Northwood Parish Council
Cowes Town Council	Northwood Primary Academy
Cowes Enterprise College, an Ormiston Academy	Ryde Academy
Fishbourne Parish Council	Ryde Town Council
Gurnard Parish Council	Sandown Town Council

Isle of Wight College
Island Free School
Lanesend Primary Academy
Newport and Carisbrooke
Community Council

Shanklin Town Council
St Blasius Primary Academy
St Francis Academy
Wootton Bridge Parish Council

The admitted bodies of the fund with active members at 31 March 2024 are:

Barnados 2021	Southern Housing Group
CleanTEC	Southern Vectis
Cowes Harbour Commissioners	Sovereign Housing Group
Island Roads Limited	St Catherines School
Keys Group (Formerly Accomplish Group Ltd)	Top Mops Ltd
	Ventnor Botanic Gardens

The membership of the scheme is shown below:

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Administering Authority	Scheduled Bodies	Admitted Bodies	Total
Number of employers with active members	1	18	11	30
Number of contributors (Active members)	3,756	622	72	4,450
Number of frozen refunds ¹	712	98	3	813
Number of deferred pensioners ²	5,825	718	122	6,665
Number of pensioners/ widows/dependant pensioners	5,483	427	223	6,133
	15,776	1,865	420	18,061

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Administering Authority	Scheduled Bodies	Admitted Bodies	Total
Number of employers with active members	1	18	12	31
Number of contributors (Active members)	3,763	615	80	4,458
Number of frozen refunds ¹	736	96	4	836
Number of deferred pensioners ²	5,639	665	128	6,432
Number of pensioners/ widows/dependant pensioners	4,937	399	214	5,550
	15,075	1,775	426	17,276

¹ Frozen refunds are former employees who do not have any pension entitlement apart from a return of the contributions paid into the Fund during their employment but have not yet claimed the refund.

² A deferred pensioner is a former employee who has accrued pension rights within the Fund but has not yet reached retirement age to enable them to access their benefits or transferred their accrued rights to another Fund/provider.

c) Funding

Benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. Contributions are made by active members of the fund in accordance with the LGPS Regulations 2013.

The pay bands and rates applicable for the year ended 31 March 2024 are detailed below.

Range (Actual pensionable pay)	Contribution rate
Up to £16,500	5.50%
More than £16,501 and up to £25,900	5.80%
More than £25,901 and up to £42,100	6.50%
More than £42,101 and up to £53,300	6.80%
More than £53,201 and up to £74,700	8.50%
More than £74,701 and up to £105,900	9.90%
More than £105,901 and up to £124,800	10.50%
More than £124,801 and up to £187,200	11.40%
More than £187,201	12.50%

Employers' contributions which are set based on triennial actuarial funding valuations. The last such valuation was at 31 March 2022. The current and future employer contribution rates as determined by that valuation are detailed in note 21.

d) Benefits

Prior to 1 April 2014, pension benefits under the LGPS were based on final pensionable pay and length of pensionable service, summarised below.

	Service pre 1 April 2008	Service post 31 March 2008
Pension	Each year worked is worth 1/80 x final pensionable salary	Each year worked is worth 1/60 x final pensionable salary
Lump Sum	Automatic lump sum of 3 x salary. In addition, part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.	No automatic lump sum. Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.

From 1 April 2014, the scheme became a career average scheme, whereby members accrue benefits based on their pensionable pay in that year at an accrual rate of 1/49th. Accrued pension is increased annually in line with the Consumer Prices Index.

A range of other benefits are also provided including early retirement, disability pensions and death benefits. as explained on the LGPS website – see www.lgpsmember.org. For more details, please refer to the Pension Fund website: <http://www.isleofwightpensionfund.org/>

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The Statement of Accounts summarises the fund’s transactions for the 2023-24 financial year and its position at 31 March 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023-24* which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

The accounts report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. They do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits, valued on an International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 basis, is disclosed at note 22 of these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. Isle of Wight Council remains satisfied the LGPS that it administers continues to be a going concern, with detailed consideration of the period up to the twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts.

The Pension Fund’s latest actuarial valuation, as at 31 March 2022, showed it to be 102% funded – an increase from the position 3 years prior of 95%. The March 2024 indicative funding level provided by the actuaries showed that the fund was 136% funded. Investment markets continued to be affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine which commenced in February 2022 and was still ongoing throughout the year. The increase in inflation and interest rates have also had an impact on the investment returns.

The vast majority of employers in the pension scheme (98% of the Fund by active membership, are scheduled bodies excluding Further and Higher Education employers) have secure public sector funding, and therefore there should be no doubt in their ability to continue to make their pension contributions.

Following the latest actuarial valuation and schedule of employer contribution payments, the Pension Fund has reviewed its cashflow forecast and is confident in its ability to meet its ongoing

obligations to pay pensions from its cash balance. In the unlikely event that investments need to be sold, 84.8% (88.8% in 2022-23) of the Fund's investments can be converted into cash within 3 months.

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Fund account – revenue recognition

a) Contribution income

Normal contributions, both from the members and from the employer, are accounted for on an accruals basis as follows:

- Employees contribution rates are set in accordance with LGPS regulations, using common percentage rates for all schemes which rise according to pensionable pay.
- Employer contributions are set at the percentage rate recommended by the fund actuary for the period to which they relate.

Employer deficit funding contributions are accounted for on the basis advised by the fund actuary in the rates and adjustment certificate issued to the relevant employing body.

Additional employers' contributions in respect of ill-health and early retirements are accounted for in the year the event arose. Any amount due in year but unpaid will be classed as a current financial asset. Amounts not due until future years are classed as long-term financial assets.

b) Transfers to and from other schemes

Transfer values represent the amounts received and paid during the year for members who have either joined or left the fund during the financial year and are calculated in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (see notes 8 and 11).

Individual transfers in/out are accounted for when paid or received, which is normally when the member liability is accepted or discharged.

Transfers in from members wishing to use the proceeds of their additional voluntary contributions (see below) to purchase scheme benefits are accounted for on a receipts basis and are included in Transfers In (see note 8).

Bulk (group) transfers are accounted for in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.

c) Investment income

i) Interest income

Interest income is recognised in the fund accounts as it accrues, using the effective interest rate of the financial instrument as at the date of acquisition or origination.

ii) Dividend income

Dividend income is recognised on the date the shares are quoted ex-dividend. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

iii) Distributions from pooled funds

Distributions from pooled funds are recognised at the date of issue. Any amount not

received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

iv) Movement in the value of investments

Changes in the value of investments (including investment properties) are recognised as income and comprise all realised and unrealised profits/losses during the year.

Fund account – expense items

d) Benefits payable

Pensions and lump-sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the end of the financial year. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the net assets statement as current liabilities, providing that payment has been approved.

e) Taxation

The fund is a registered public service scheme under section 1(1) of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004 and as such is exempt from UK income tax on interest received and from capital gains tax on the proceeds of investments sold. Income from overseas investments suffers from withholding tax in the country of origin unless exemption is permitted. Irrecoverable tax is accounted for as a fund expense as it arises.

f) Management expenses

The fund discloses its pension fund management expenses in accordance with the CIPFA guidance *Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Costs (2016)*, as shown below. All items of expenditure are charged to the fund on an accruals basis as follows:

Administrative expenses

All staff costs relating to the pension's administration team are charged direct to the fund. Council recharges for management, accommodation and other overhead costs are also accounted for as administrative expenses of the fund.

Oversight and governance costs

All costs associated with governance and oversight are separately identified, apportioned to this activity and charged as expenses to the fund.

Investment management expenses

Investment fees are charged directly to the fund as part of management expenses and are not included in, or netted off from, the reported return on investments. Where fees are netted off returns by investment managers, these expenses are grossed up to increase the change in market value of investments.

Fees charged by external investment managers and custodians are set out in the respective mandates governing their appointments. Broadly, these are based on the market value of the investments under their management and therefore increase or reduce as the value of these investments change.

Where an investment manager's fee note has not been received by the year-end date, an estimate based on the market value of their mandate as at the end of the year is used for inclusion in the fund account. In 2023-24 no fees are based on such estimates (2022-23: nil)

The cost of obtaining investment advice from external consultants is included in investment management charges.

A proportion of the time spent by officers on investment management is also charged to the fund.

g) VAT

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

Net assets statement

h) Financial assets

All investment assets are included in the financial statements on a fair value basis as at the reporting date. A financial asset is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. Any amounts due or payable in respect of trades entered into, but not yet complete, at 31 March each year as accounted for as financial instruments held at amortised and reflected in the reconciliation of movements in investments in Note 17A.

Any gains or losses on investment sales arising from changes in the fair value of the asset are recognised in the fund account.

The values of investments as shown in the net assets statement have been determined at fair value in accordance with the requirements of the Code and IFRS13 (see Note 18). For the purposes of disclosing levels of fair value hierarchy, the fund has adopted the classification guidelines recommended in *Practical Guidance on Investment Disclosures* (PRAG/Investment Association, 2016).

i) Foreign currency transactions

Dividends, interest and purchases and sales of investments in foreign currencies have been accounted for at the spot market rates at the date of transaction. End-of-year spot market exchange rates are used to value cash balances held in foreign currency bank accounts, overseas investments and purchases and sales outstanding at the end of the reporting period.

j) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits and includes amounts held by the fund's external managers.

All cash balances are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to minimal risk of changes in value.

k) Financial liabilities

A financial liability is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the fund becomes legally responsible for that liability. The fund recognises financial liabilities relating to investment trading at fair value and any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the liability between contract date, the year-end date and the eventual settlement date are recognised in the fund account as part of the change in value of investments.

Other financial liabilities classed as amortised cost are carried in the net asset statement at the value of the outstanding principal at 31 March each year. Any interest due not yet paid is accounted for on an accruals basis and included in administration costs.

l) Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS 19 and relevant actuarial standards.

As permitted under the Code, the fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the net assets statement (note 22).

m) Additional Voluntary Contributions

The fund provides an additional voluntary contributions (AVC) scheme for its members, the assets of which are invested separately from those of the pension fund. The fund has

appointed Prudential Life and Pensions as its AVC provider. AVCs are paid to the AVC provider by employers and are specifically for providing additional benefits for individual contributors.

Each AVC contributor receives an annual statement showing the amount held in their accounts and the movements in the year.

AVCs are not included in the accounts in accordance with section 4(1)(b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment Funds) Regulations 2016 but are disclosed for information in note 26.

n) Accruals of expenditure and income

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

- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the balance sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure based on 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.

o) Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

A contingent liability arises where an event prior to the year-end has created a possible financial obligation whose existence will only be confirmed or otherwise by future events. Contingent liabilities can also arise in circumstances where a provision would be made, except that it is not possible at the Balance Sheet date to measure the value of the financial obligation reliably.

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place giving rise to a possible asset, whose existence will only be confirmed or otherwise by future events.

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the net asset statement but disclosed by way of a narrative in the notes (see note 28).

4. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Pension fund liability

The pension fund liability is calculated every three years by the appointed actuary, with annual updates in the intervening years. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines.

This estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions which are agreed with the actuary and have been summarised in note 22.

These actuarial revaluations are used to set future contribution rates and underpin the fund's most significant investment management policies, for example in terms of the balance struck

between longer term investment growth and short-term yield/growth.

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

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported. Estimates and assumptions take account of historical experience, current trends and future expectations, however actual outcomes could differ from the assumption and estimates made.

The items in the net assets statement at 31 March 2024 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment within the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits (Note 22)	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, salary increases, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the fund with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	For instance: A 0.1% decrease in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension fund surplus of £12m. A 0.1% increase in assumed earnings inflation would cause the surplus to be unchanged. A 0.1% increase in assumed price inflation/pension increases would decrease the surplus by approximately £11m. A one-year increase in assumed life expectancy would decrease the surplus by approximately £27m.
Pooled Property Funds (Note 18)	Valuation techniques are used to determine the carrying amount of pooled property funds. Where possible these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible management uses the best available data.	Changes in the valuation assumptions used, together with significant changes in rental growth, vacancy levels or the discount rate could affect the fair value of property-based investments.
Private Debt (Note 18)	These investments are valued at fair value in accordance with <i>International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines</i> (December 2018), based on the fund manager valuations as at the end of the reporting period. These Investments are not publicly listed and as such there	Private Debt investments are valued at £25.8m in the financial statements. There is a risk that this investment may be over or understated in the accounts.

is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.

Infrastructure (Note 18) These investments are valued at fair value in accordance with *International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines* (December 2018), based on the fund manager valuations as at the end of the reporting period. Investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.

Infrastructure investments are valued at £25.4m in the financial statements. There is a risk that this investment may be over or understated in the accounts.

6. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

These are events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- those that provide additional information about conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period (adjusting events) and
- those that relate to events occurring after the reporting period (non-adjusting events)

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the financial statements.

There are no post balance sheet events recorded prior to the authorised for issue date and any events that occurred after this date have not been recognised in the statement of accounts.

7. CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE

By category:

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
4,774	Employees' normal contributions	5,040
6	Employees' additional contributions	7
4,780		5,047
17,766	Employers' normal contributions	18,842
159	Employers' deficit recovery contributions	490
566	Employers' augmentation contributions	198
18,491		19,530
23,271		24,577

By type of employer:

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
19,391	Administering authority	21,107
2,546	Scheduled bodies	2,653
1,334	Admitted bodies	817
23,271		24,577

8. TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER PENSION FUNDS

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
-	Group transfers	-
2,143	Individual transfers	1,947
2,143		1,947

9. OTHER INCOME

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
24	Miscellaneous income	16
4	Contribution Equivalent Premiums	1
28		17

10. BENEFITS PAYABLE

By category:

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
21,096	Pensions	23,300
3,470	Commutation and lump sum retirement benefits	3,844
758	Lump sum death benefits	726
25,324		27,870

By type of employer:

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
22,002	Administering authority	24,424
1,619	Scheduled bodies	1,893
1,703	Admitted bodies	1,553
25,324		27,870

11. PAYMENTS TO AND ON ACCOUNT OF LEAVERS

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
159	Refund to members leaving service	130
-	Group transfers	-
2,794	Individual transfers	588
2,953		718

12. MANAGEMENT EXPENSES

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
861	Administrative costs	850
4,534	Investment management expenses	5,337
604	Oversight and governance costs	878
5,999		7,065

12A. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT EXPENSES

2023-24	Total £'000	Management Fees £'000	Performance Related Fees £'000	Transaction Fees £'000
Bonds	437	133		304
Pooled Investments *	2,277	1,187		1,090
Pooled Property Investr	753	440		313
Private Debt	585	185	326	74
Infrastructure	1,281	1,283		(2)
	5,333	3,228	326	1,779
Custody Fees	4			
Total	5,337			

* Included £2.2m charged to the pension fund by ACCESS regional asset pool (£2.5m in 2022-23).

2022-23	Total £'000	Management Fees £'000	Performance Related Fees £'000	Transaction Fees £'000
Bonds	434	179	-	255
Pooled Investments *	2,548	1,361	-	1,187
Pooled Property Investr	588	489	-	99
Private Debt	463	246	173	44
Infrastructure	484	557	-	(73)
	4,517	2,832	173	1,512
Custody Fees	17			
Total	4,534			

13. INVESTMENT INCOME

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
	Income from pooled investment vehicles:	
2,048	- ACCESS Global Equity	2,442
2,152	- ACCESS UK Equity	2,843
2,128	- ACCESS Diversified Growth	1,974
-	- ACCESS Core Bond	4,955
1,686	- Property	1,806
3,685	- Bonds	3,696
2,120	- Private Debt	2,960
1,874	- Infrastructure	3,511
362	- Interest on cash deposits	580
-	- Other	-
16,055		24,767

14. TAXATION

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
(23)	Withholding tax - equities	(3)
(23)		(3)

15. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
27	Payable in respect of external audit	74
27		74

16. INTEREST PAYABLE

2022-23 £000		2023-24 £000
-	Interest on short term borrowing	-
-		-

17. INVESTMENTS

Market value 31 March 2023 £000		Market value 31 March 2024 £000
	Investment assets	
	Pooled Investment Vehicles	
98,342	Pooled UK Equity	108,739
285,604	Pooled Global Equity	351,488
110,824	Pooled Fixed Income unit trusts	111,902
103,858	Pooled Diversified Growth Fund	56,920
598,628		629,049
	Other Investments	
37,133	Pooled Property Investments	35,163
26,111	Private Debt	25,842
14,277	Infrastructure	25,363
77,521		86,368
9,187	Cash deposits	42,188
12	Recoverable withholding tax	14
9,199		42,202
685,348	Total investment assets	757,619

17A. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN INVESTMENTS

	Market value 01/04/23	Purchases during year	Sales during year	Change in Mkt value	Mkt Value 31/03/24
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Pooled Investment Vehicles	598,628	120,403	(162,238)	72,256	629,049
Pooled Property Investments	37,133	1,592	(780)	(2,782)	35,163
Private Debt	26,111	5,987	(6,004)	(252)	25,842
Infrastructure	14,277	13,015	(1,637)	(292)	25,363
	676,149	140,997	(170,659)	68,930	715,417
Cash deposits	9,187			(249)	42,188
Recoverable withholding tax	12				14
Net investment assets	685,348			68,681	757,619

	Market value 01/04/22	Purchases during year	Sales during year	Change in Mkt value	Mkt Value 31/03/23
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Pooled Investment Vehicles	633,779	106,203	(103,125)	(38,229)	598,628
Pooled Property Investments	44,453	1,466	(612)	(8,174)	37,133
Private Debt	23,605	4,709	(3,982)	1,779	26,111
Infrastructure	7,949	7,104	(1,181)	405	14,277
	709,786	119,482	(108,900)	(44,219)	676,149
Cash deposits	14,003			(222)	9,187
Recoverable withholding tax	-			-	12
Net investment assets	723,789			(44,441)	685,348

17B. INVESTMENTS ANALYSED BY FUND MANAGER

Market value 31 March 2023			Market value 31 March 2024	
£000	%		£000	%
Investments Managed by ACCESS pool:				
147,399	21.8%	ACCESS – Global Equities - Newton	182,340	25.5%
138,205	20.4%	UBS Life Climate Aware World Equity Fund	169,148	23.6%
	0.0%	ACCESS - Core Bond (Royal London)	111,902	15.6%
98,342	14.5%	ACCESS - UK Equities - Liontrust (Blackrock)	108,739	15.2%
103,858	15.4%	ACCESS - Diversified Growth - Baillie Gifford	56,920	8.0%
487,804	72.1%		629,049	87.9%
Investments Managed outside ACCESS pool:				
110,824	16.4%	Schroder Investment Management – Bonds	-	0.0%
37,133	5.5%	Schroder Investment Management – Property	35,163	4.9%
26,111	3.9%	Goldman Sachs - Private Debt	25,842	3.6%
14,277	2.1%	Partners Investment - Infrastructure	25,363	3.6%
188,345	27.9%		86,368	12.1%
676,149	100.0%		715,417	100.0%
12	0.0%	Recoverable withholding tax	14	0.0%
676,161	100.0%		715,431	100.0%

The following investments represent more than 5% of the total net assets of the fund

Market value 31 March 2023			Market value 31 March 2024	
£000	%		£000	%
147,399	21.33%	ACCESS – Overseas Equities - Newton	182,340	23.56%
138,205	20.00%	UBS Life Climate Aware World Equity Fund	169,148	21.86%
-	0.00%	ACCESS - Core Bond (Royal London)	111,902	14.46%
98,342	14.23%	ACCESS - UK Equities - Blackrock	108,738	14.05%
103,858	15.03%	ACCESS - Diversified Growth - Baillie Gifford	56,920	7.36%
37,133	5.37%	Schroder UK Property Fund	35,163	4.54%
110,824	16.04%	Schroder Institutional Sterling Broad Market X Account	-	0.00%

17C. STOCK

The fund's investment strategy sets the parameters for its stock-lending programme.

Prior to joining the ACCESS pool, the fund did not undertake stock lending.

Since transitioning to the pool, the fund participates in a collateralised stock lending programme undertaken for each of the sub-funds by the pool's custodian, Northern Trust.

During the year the average value of the fund's share of the quoted equities on loan was £9.6m (2022-23: £7.5m).

These equities continue to be recognised in the fund's financial statements. No liabilities are associated with the loaned assets.

All income earned by lending securities is accumulated in the sub-fund and is reported in the

value of investments.

18. FAIR VALUE – BASIS OF VALUATION

All investments are held at fair value in accordance with the requirements of the Code and IFRS13. The valuation bases are set out below. All assets have been valued using fair value techniques based on the characteristics of each instrument, with the overall objective of maximising the use of market-based information. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year.

Description of Asset	Valuation Hierarchy	Basis of Valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Market quoted investments	Level 1	Published bid market price ruling on the final day of the accounting period	Not required	Not Required
Exchange traded pooled investments	Level 1	Closing bid value on published exchanges	Not required	Not Required
Pooled investments – overseas unit trusts and property funds	Level 2	Closing bid price where bid and offer prices are published. Closing single price where single price published	NAV- based pricing set on a forward pricing basis	Not Required
Private Debt	Level 3	The valuation is taken from the audited 31 December 2023 Goldman Sachs report, rolled forward to end of 31 March 2024 The quarterly valuation is calculated in accordance with the fair value assessment described in Accounting Standards Codification 820 (“Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures”)	Management's cash flow projections, estimates of growth expectations and profitability; profit margin expectations; gross domestic product; inflation; interest rates; discount rates; tax rates; Earnings Before Interest, Taxes,	Valuations could be affected by material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the Pension Funds reporting date by changes to expected cash flows, fair value adjustments,

		and in accordance with US GAAP. The Fund monitors audited year end to unaudited quarterly valuations to check the consistency of the unaudited and audited information. To date, the audited accounts for Goldman Sachs Asset Management Private Credit Funds have been given unqualified opinions without any identified exceptions.	Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) and adjustments to current prices for similar assets, valuation techniques.	discount factors used, EBITDA and recent transaction prices.
Infrastructure	Level 3	Fair values as per International Private equity and venture capital guidelines (2012)	valuation of underlying investments, assets and companies; Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) multiples	Valuations could be affected by changes in market conditions; industry specific conditions; differences in estimation techniques used in valuations.

Sensitivity of assets valued at Level 3

The Fund has determined that the valuation methods described above are likely to be accurate to within the following ranges and has set out below the consequent potential impact on the

closing value of investments held at 31 March 2024.

	Potential variation in fair value	Value at 31 March 2024 £'000	Potential value on increase £'000	Potential value on decrease £'000
Private Debt	+ / - 10%	25,842	28,426	23,258
Infrastructure	+ / - 10%	25,363	27,899	22,827
Total		51,205	56,325	46,085

18A. FAIR VALUE HEIRARCHY

Asset and liability valuations have been classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values. Transfers between levels are recognised in the year in which they occur.

Level 1

Assets and liabilities at Level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Products classified as Level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted bonds and unit trusts.

Level 2

Assets and liabilities at Level 2 are those where quoted market prices are not available; for example, where an instrument is traded in a market that is not considered to be active, or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value based on observable data.

Level 3

Assets and liabilities at Level 3 are those where at least one input that could have a significant impact on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data.

The following table provides an analysis of the assets and liabilities of the pension fund grouped into Levels 1 to 3, based on the level at which the fair value is observable:

31 March 2023					31 March 2024			
Quoted Market Price Level 1 £000	Using Observable Inputs Level 2 £000	With Significant Unobservable Inputs Level 3 £000	Total £000		Quoted Market Price Level 1 £000	Using Observable Inputs Level 2 £000	With Significant Unobservable Inputs Level 3 £000	Total £000
598,628	37,133	40,388	676,149	Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	629,049	35,163	51,205	715,417
-	-	-	-	Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	-	-	-	-
598,628	37,133	40,388	676,149	Net investment assets	629,049	35,163	51,205	715,417

18B. RECONCILIATION OF FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS WITH LEVEL 3

	Private Debt £'000	Infrastruct ure £'000	Total £'000
Value at 1 April 2023	26,111	14,277	40,388
Purchases	5,987	13,015	19,002
Sales	(6,004)	(1,637)	(7,641)
Unrealised Gains and Losses *	107	(292)	(185)
Realised Gains and Losses *	(359)	-	(359)
Value at 31 March 2024	25,842	25,363	51,205

	Private Debt £'000	Infrastruct ure £'000	Total £'000
Value at 1 April 2022	23,605	7,949	31,554
Purchases	4,709	7,104	11,813
Sales	(3,982)	(1,181)	(5,163)
Unrealised Gains and Losses *	(383)	405	22
Realised Gains and Losses *	2,162	-	2,162
Value at 31 March 2023	26,111	14,277	40,388

* Unrealised and realised gains and losses are recognised in the changes in value of investments line of the fund account.

Investment into the initial Infrastructure fund commenced in July 2021, and the initial investment into a second Infrastructure fund commenced March 2024.

19. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

19A. CLASSIFICATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The following table analyses the carrying amounts of financial instruments by category and the net assets statement heading. No financial instruments were reclassified during the accounting period.

31 March 2023				31 March 2024		
Fair value through profit and loss £000	Assets at amortised costs £000	Liabilities at amortised cost £000		Fair value through profit and loss £000	Assets at amortised costs £000	Liabilities at amortised cost £000
			Financial assets			
635,761	-	-	Pooled investment vehicles	664,212	-	-
26,111	-	-	Private Debt	25,842	-	-
14,277	-	-	Infrastructure	25,363	-	-
-	14,619	-	Cash	-	59,653	-
12	-	-	Other investment balances	14	-	-
-	5	-	Debtors	-	3	-
676,161	14,624	-		715,431	59,656	-
			Financial liabilities			
-	-	(314)	Creditors	-	-	(311)
-	-	-	Borrowings	-	-	-
-	-	(314)		-	-	(311)
676,161	14,624	(314)		715,431	59,656	(311)

20. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Risk and risk management

The fund's primary long-term risk is that its assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e., promised benefits payable to members). Therefore, the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the fund and to maximise the opportunity for gains across the whole fund portfolio. The fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (price risk, currency risk, and interest rate risk) and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet the fund's forecast cash flows. The council manages these investment risks as part of its overall pension fund risk management programme.

Responsibility for the fund's risk management strategy rests with the pension fund committee. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the pension fund's operations. Policies are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in activity and in market conditions.

Because the fund adopts a long-term investment strategy, the high-level risks described below will not alter significantly during the year unless there are significant strategic or tactical changes in the portfolio.

a) Market risk

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity and commodity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities, particularly through its equity holdings. The level of risk exposure depends on market conditions, expectations of future price and yield movements and the asset mix.

The objective of the fund's risk management strategy is to identify, manage and control market risk exposure within acceptable parameters, while optimising investment return.

In general, excessive volatility in market risk is managed through the diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical and industry sectors and individual securities. To mitigate market risk, the pension fund and its investment advisors undertake appropriate monitoring of market conditions and benchmark analysis.

The fund's investments are managed on behalf of the fund by the appointed investment managers. Each investment manager is required to invest the assets managed by them in accordance with the terms of their investment guidelines or pooled fund prospectus. The committee has determined that the investment management structure is appropriate and is in accordance with its investment strategy. The committee regularly monitors each investment manager, and both considers and takes advice on the nature of the investments made as well as the associated risks.

Other price risk

Other price risk represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign exchange risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or by factors affecting all such instruments in the market.

All investments present a risk of loss of capital, the maximum risk being determined by the fair value of the financial instruments. The investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification. The selection of securities and other financial instruments is monitored to ensure it is within limits specified in the fund investment strategy.

Other price risk - sensitivity analysis

In consultation with its investment advisors, the fund has determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for 2023-24 assuming that all other variables, in particular foreign exchange rates and interest rates, remain the same.

Had the market price of the fund investments increased/decreased in line with the percentages below, the change in the net assets available to pay benefits in the market price would have been as follows (the prior year comparator is shown below).

	Value as at 31 March 2024 £000	Volatility of return %	Value on increase £000	Value on decrease £000
Bonds	-	0.00%	-	-
Pooled Investment vehicles:				
UK Equities	108,739	1.00%	112,110	105,368
Global Equities	182,340	5.80%	192,916	171,764
Diversified Growth Fund	56,920	2.00%	58,058	55,782
Core Bonds	111,902	1.00%	113,021	110,783
UBS Climate Aware	169,148	5.70%	178,789	159,507
Pooled Property Investments	35,163	2.80%	36,148	34,178
Private Debt	25,842	3.10%	26,643	25,041
Infrastructure	25,363	17.70%	28,711	22,015
Cash & Cash Equivalents	42,188	0.00%	42,188	42,188
Amounts Receivable for Sales				
Investment Income due				
Recoverable withholding tax	14	0.00%	14	14
Total	757,619		788,598	726,640

	Value as at 31 March 2023 £000	Volatility of return %	Value on increase £000	Value on decrease £000
Bonds	110,824	6.90%	118,471	103,177
Pooled Investment vehicles:				
UK Equities	98,342	1.20%	99,522	97,162
Global Equities	147,399	2.40%	150,937	143,861
Diversified Growth Fund	103,858	4.10%	108,116	99,600
UBS Climate Aware	138,205	2.70%	141,937	134,473
Pooled Property Investments	37,133	11.20%	41,292	32,974
Private Debt ¹	26,111	6.00%	27,678	24,544
Infrastructure	14,277	13.60%	16,219	12,335
Cash & Cash Equivalents	9,187	0.00%	9,187	9,187
Recoverable withholding tax	12	0.00%	12	12
Total	685,348		713,371	657,325

b) Interest rate risk

The fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. These investments are subject to interest rate risks, which represent the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

Interest rate risk - sensitivity analysis

The fund recognises that interest rates can vary and can affect both income to the fund and the carrying value of fund assets, both of which affect the value of the net assets available to pay benefits.

The fund does not directly hold any fixed interest securities; hence a change in interest rates will not impact on the fair value of assets.

Changes in interest rates do not impact on the fair value of cash balances, but they will impact on the interest income earned.

c) Currency risk

Currency risk represents the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The fund is exposed to currency risk on any cash balances and investment assets not denominated in UK sterling. For a sterling-based investor, when sterling weakens, the sterling value of foreign currency denominated investments rises. As sterling strengthens, the sterling value of foreign currency denominated investment falls.

The following table summarises the fund's currency exposure as at 31 March 2024, and as at the previous period end:

	Asset value as at 31 March 2024 £000	Asset value as at 31 March 2023 £000
Private Debt	25,842	26,111
Infrastructure	25,363	14,277
Investment Income	6,472	3,994
	57,677	44,382

Currency risk – sensitivity analysis

Following analysis of historical data, the fund considers the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange movements to not exceed be 3.73% (2022-23: 6.62%). This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant.

A 3.73% strengthening/weakening of the pound against the various currencies in which the fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets available to pay benefits as follows:

	Value as at 31 March 2024 £000	Value on increase +3.73% £000	Value on decrease -3.73% £000
Private Debt	25,842	26,997	24,687
Infrastructure	25,363	26,309	24,417
Investment income due	6,472	6,713	6,231
	57,677	60,019	55,335
	Value as at 31 March 2023 £000	Value on increase +6.62% £000	Value on decrease -6.62% £000
Private Debt	26,111	27,840	24,382
Infrastructure	14,277	15,222	13,332
Investment income due	3,994	4,258	3,730
	44,382	47,320	41,444

d) Credit Risk

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a financial transaction will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the fund to incur a financial loss. Assets potentially affected by this risk are investment assets, cash deposits and third-party loans. The selection of high-quality counterparties, brokers, custodian and investment managers minimises credit risk and the market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit risk.

The fund does not hold any fixed interest securities directly, hence has limited credit risk through its underlying investments in bonds.

Another source of credit risk is the cash balances held to meet operational requirements or by the managers at their discretion. Internally held cash is managed on the fund's behalf by the council's treasury management team in line with the council's Treasury Management Strategy which sets out the permitted counterparties and limits. The fund invests such internally held cash in diversified money market funds, as well as with a UK Bank.

The fund is exposed to counterparty risk in its operational activities through securities lending, via the ACCESS pool. This risk is managed through the pool's custodian bank holding non-cash collateral as security, at the typical market rate of 102% of stock lent, or 105% for cross-currency, to allow for foreign exchange exposure.

The fund does not have any foreign exchange contracts, hence is not subject to credit risk in relation to the counterparties of the contracts.

Credit risk may also occur if an employing body not supported by central government does not pay contributions promptly, or defaults on its obligations. The pension fund has not experienced any actual defaults in recent years. All contributions due at 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2023 (£0.51m and £0.45m respectively) were received in the first month of the financial year.

e) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The pension fund therefore takes steps to ensure that it has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments. The fund maintains a cash balance to meet working requirements, which is supported by an available credit line from the Isle of Wight Council. Note 27 includes details of borrowing from the council for this purpose. Management prepares periodic cash flow forecasts to understand and manage the timing of the fund's cash flows. The appropriate strategic level of cash balances to be held forms part of the fund's investment strategy.

A substantial portion of the fund's investments consist of readily realisable securities, in particular equities and fixed income investments, even though they are held in pooled funds. However, the main liability of the fund is the benefits payable, which fall due over a long period and the investment strategy reflects the long-term nature of these liabilities. The fund is able to manage the liquidity risk that arises from its investments in less liquid asset classes such as property which are subject to longer redemption periods and cannot be considered as liquid as the other investments.

All financial liabilities at 31 March 2024 are due within one year.

f) Refinancing risk

The key risk is that the pension fund will need to replenish a significant proportion of its financial instruments at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The pension fund does not have any financial instruments that have a refinancing risk as part of its investment strategy.

21. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

In accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, the fund's actuary undertakes a funding valuation every three years for the purpose of setting employer contribution rates for the forthcoming triennial period. The last such valuation took place as at 31 March 2022 and the next valuation will take place as at 31 March 2025.

Description of Funding Policy

The funding policy is set out in the Administering Authority's Funding Strategy Statement (FSS), dated February 2023. In summary, the funding strategy objectives are as follows:

- to take a prudent long-term view to secure the regulatory requirement for long-term solvency, with sufficient funds to pay benefits to members and their dependants.
- to use a balanced investment strategy to minimise long-term cash contributions from employers and meet the regulatory requirement for long-term cost efficiency.
- where appropriate, ensure stable employer contribution rates.
- reflect different employers' characteristics to set their contribution rates, using a transparent funding strategy.
- use reasonable measures to reduce the risk of an employer defaulting on its pension

obligations.

The FSS sets out how the Administering Authority seeks to balance the conflicting aims of securing the solvency of the Fund and keeping employer contributions stable. For employers whose covenant was considered by the Administering Authority to be sufficiently strong, contributions have been stabilised to have a sufficiently high likelihood of achieving the funding target over 20 years. Asset-liability modelling has been carried out which demonstrate that if these contribution rates are paid and future contribution changes are constrained as set out in the FSS, there is at least an 75% likelihood that the Fund will achieve the funding target over 20 years.

Funding Position as at the last formal funding valuation

The most recent actuarial valuation carried out under Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 was as at 31 March 2022. This valuation revealed that the Fund's assets, which at 31 March 2022 were valued at £728 million (2019: £596 million), were sufficient to meet 102% of the liabilities (2019: 95%) (i.e. the present value of promised retirement benefits) accrued up to that date. The resulting surplus at the 2022 valuation was £15 million (2019: deficit £32 million).

Each employer had contribution requirements set at the valuation, with the aim of achieving full funding within a time horizon and probability measure as per the FSS. Individual employers' contributions for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026 were set in accordance with the Fund's funding policy as set out in its FSS.

Minimum Total Contribution Rates expressed as a percentage of pensionable pay are as set out below: -

Employer Name	Minimum Contributions for the Year Ending 31 March		
	2024 % of pay	2025 % of pay	2026 % of pay
Isle of Wight Council	23.5	23.5	23.5
Barnardos	23.5	23.5	23.5
Caterlink	23.5	23.5	23.5
CleanTEC	23.5	23.5	23.5
Cowes Enterprise College, an Ormiston Academy *	23.5	23.5	23.5
Cowes Harbour Commissioners	32.8	32.8	32.8
The Island Free School	19.6	19.6	19.6
Island Roads	Nil	Nil	Nil
Isle of Wight College	22.1	22.1	22.1
Keys Group (Formerly Accomplish Ltd)	23.5	23.5	23.5
Lanesend Academy	21.1	21.1	21.1
Northwood Academy *	23.5	23.5	23.5
RM Ltd (ceased)	23.5	23.5	23.5
Ryde Academy, Academies Enterprise Trust *	23.5	23.5	23.5
Solutions 4 Health (ceased)	23.5	23.5	23.5
Southern Vectis (Wightbus)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Southern Housing Group	32.8	32.8	32.8
Sovereign Housing Group	31.7	31.7	31.7
St Blasius Academy *	23.5	23.5	23.5
St Catherine's School Ltd	25.4	25.4	25.4
St Francis Academy *	23.5	23.5	23.5
Top Mops	21.5	21.5	21.5
Ventnor Botanical Gardens	Nil	Nil	Nil

in addition, certain employers make a lump sum contribution

Employer Name	Minimum Contributions for		
	2024 Lump Sum	2025 Lump Sum	2026 Lump Sum
Cowes Harbour Commissioners	20	20	20
Southern Housing Group	150	150	150
Sovereign Housing Group	18	18	18

* Academies within the fund were asked whether they wished to pool with the administering authority for contribution rate purposes only. Five of the academies in operation at the time of the 2022 valuation opted to pool, and the pooled rates are shown above.

Town, Parish and Community Councils are included in the Isle of Wight Council "pool" for valuation purposes; hence they pay the same rate as the Isle of Wight Council.

Employers that have joined the fund since the last valuation have opted to pay the administering authority's contribution rate. This will be reviewed at the next valuation, 31 March 2025.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions and Method used to value the liabilities.

Full details of the methods and assumptions used are described in the 2022 valuation report.

Method

The liabilities were assessed using an accrued benefits method which takes into account pensionable membership up to the valuation date and makes an allowance for expected future salary growth to retirement or expected earlier date of leaving pensionable membership.

Assumptions

A market-related approach was taken to valuing the liabilities, for consistency with the valuation of the Fund assets at their market value.

The key financial assumptions adopted for the 2022 valuation were as follows:

Financial Assumptions	31 March 2022 % p.a. Nominal
Discount rate (Investment returns)	3.7%
Salary Increases	3.7%
Price inflation/Pension Increases	2.7%

(Explanatory note: The pay increases shown above are for the purposes of the actuarial valuation only and not a reflection of what actual pay rises will be in the short-term. The assumptions are consistent with other assumptions used in the actuarial valuation and reflect longer term trends.)

The key demographic assumption was the allowance made for longevity. The life expectancy assumptions are based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the Continuous Mortality Investigation (CMI) 2021 model, with a 0% weighting of 2021 (and 2020) data, standard smoothing (Sk7), initial adjustment of 0.25% and a long-term rate of 1.5% p.a.

Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are as follows:

	Males	Females
Current Pensioners	21.9 years	24.5 years
Future Pensioners *	22.5 years	25.9 years

* based on members aged 45 at the valuation date.

Copies of the 2022 valuation report and the Funding Strategy Statement are available on the Isle of Wight Pension Fund website www.isleofwightpension.org.

Experience over the period since 31 March 2022

Markets continued to be disrupted by the ongoing war in Ukraine as well as inflationary pressures, both of which impacted on investment returns achieved by the Fund's assets. High levels of inflation in the UK (compared to recent experience), have resulted in a higher-than-expected LGPS benefit increase of 10.1% in April 2023 and 6.7% in April 2024. However, asset performance has improved towards the end of 2023 and into 2024 and inflation has begun to return towards historical levels and the Bank of England's target (2%pa). There has been a significant shift in the wider economic environment since 2022, resulting in generally higher expected future investment returns and a reduction in the value placed on the Fund's liabilities. Overall, the funding position is likely to be stronger than at the previous formal valuation at 31 March 2022.

The next actuarial valuation will be carried out as at 31 March 2025. The Funding Strategy Statement will also be reviewed as part of the triennial funding valuation exercise.

22. ACTUARIAL PRESENT VALUE OF PROMISED RETIREMENT BENEFITS

In addition to the triennial funding valuation, the fund's actuary also undertakes a valuation of the pension fund liabilities, on an IAS 19 basis, every year using the same base data as the funding valuation rolled forward to the current financial year but taking account of changes in membership numbers and updating assumptions to the current year. This valuation is not carried out on the same basis as that used for setting fund contribution rates and the fund accounts do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future.

In order to assess the value of the benefits on this basis, the actuary has updated the actuarial assumptions (set out below) from those used for funding purposes (see Note 21). The actuary has also used valued ill health and death benefits in line with IAS 19.

Present value of promised retirement benefits

Year ended	31 March 2024 £m	31 March 2023 £m
Active members	222	207
Deferred members	135	137
Pensioners	310	318
Net Liability	667	662

The promised retirement benefits at 31 March 2024 have been projected using a roll forward approximation from the latest formal funding valuation as at 31 March 2022. The approximation

involved in the roll forward model means that the split of benefits between the three classes of member may not be reliable. However, the actuary is satisfied that the total figure is a reasonable estimate of the actuarial present value of benefit promises.

The above figures include both vested and non-vested benefits, although the latter is assumed to have a negligible value. The actuary has not made any allowance for unfunded benefits. It should be noted the above figures are appropriate for the Administering Authority only for preparation of the pension fund accounts. They should not be used for any other purpose (i.e., comparing against liability measures on a funding basis or a cessation basis).

Assumptions

The assumptions used are those adopted for the Administering Authority's IAS19 report and are different as at 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2023. The actuary estimates that the impact of the change in financial assumptions to 31 March 2024 is to decrease the actuarial present value by £35m. The actuary estimates that the impact of the change in demographic and longevity assumptions is to decrease the actuarial present value by £5m.

Financial assumptions

Year ended	31 March 2024 % p.a.	31 March 2023 % p.a.
Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2.75%	2.95%
Salary Increase Rate	3.75%	3.95%
Discount Rate	4.85%	4.75%

(Explanatory note: The pay increases shown above are for the purposes of the actuarial valuation only and are not a reflection of what actual pay rises will be in the short-term. The assumptions are consistent with other assumptions used in the actuarial valuation and reflect longer term trends.)

Demographic assumptions

The longevity assumptions have changed since the previous IAS26 disclosure for the Fund.

Life expectancy is based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2022 model, with a 25% weighting of 2022, 0% weighting of 2021 (and 2020) data, standard smoothing (Sk7), initial adjustment of 0.25% and a long-term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a.

Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are summarised below:

	Males	Females
Current Pensioners	21.4 years	24.1 years
Future Pensioners *	22.0 years	25.4 years

* Future pensioners are assumed to be aged 45 at the most recent formal valuation date, 31 March 2022

All other demographic assumptions are unchanged from last year and as per the latest funding valuation of the Fund.

Sensitivity Analysis

CIPFA guidance requires the disclosure of the sensitivity of the results to the methods and assumptions used. The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the liabilities are set out below:

change in assumption at 31 March 2024	Approximate % increase to promised retirement benefits	Approximate monetary amount (£m)
0.1% p.a. decrease in the discount rate	2%	12
1-year increase in member life expectancy	4%	27
0.1% p.a. increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	0
0.1% p.a. increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2%	11

23. LONG TERM ASSETS

31 March 2023 £000		31 March 2024 £000
	Debtors	
30	Contributions due - employers	32
104	Reimbursement of annual tax allowances	113
134		145

24. CURRENT ASSETS

31 March 2023 £000		31 March 2024 £000
	Debtors	
93	Contributions due - employees	102
365	Contributions due - employers	405
458		507
13	Taxation	43
5	Sundry debtors	3
263	Payments in advance	279
5,432	Cash balances	17,465
6,171		18,297

25. CURRENT LIABILITIES

31 March 2023 £000		31 March 2024 £000
	Creditors	
239	Taxation	288
272	Accruals	291
19	Sundry creditors	20
530		599

26. ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS (AVCS)

Market value 31 March 2023 £000		Market value 31 March 2024 £000
982	Prudential life and pensions	1,087

AVC contributions of £236 thousand were paid directly to Prudential Life and Pensions during the year (2022-23: £194 thousand).

AVC amounts are not included in the pension fund accounts in accordance with Regulation 4(1)(b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016.

27. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Isle of Wight Council

The Isle of Wight Council Pension Fund is administered by Isle of Wight Council. Consequently, there is a strong relationship between the council and the pension fund.

During the reporting period, the council incurred costs of £0.576m (2022-23: £0.539m) in relation to the administration of the fund and was subsequently reimbursed by the fund for these expenses. The council is also the single largest employer of members of the pension fund and contributed £16.8m in 2023-24 (2022-23: £15.3m) to the fund. All monies owing to the fund, except for deferred balances in respect of pension strain costs totalling £0.05m (2023: £0.04m), were paid during the year.

During the year, the pension fund had the facility to borrow funds from the council to support its working cash flow requirements; interest would be charged on these borrowings at the broker local authority interest rate relevant to the amount and duration of the borrowing at the time it was made. During 2023-24 the pension fund did not take advantage of this facility so the balance due to the council at 31 March 2024 is Nil (2022-23: Nil) and no interest (2022-23 Nil) was payable on the borrowings in the year.

Governance

There are no voting members of the Isle of Wight Pension Fund Committee who are in receipt of pension benefits from, or who are active members of the Isle of Wight Council Pension Fund.

Each member of the Isle of Wight Pension Fund Committee is required to declare their interests at each meeting.

Council members named in the Pension Fund Annual Report formed the Isle of Wight Pension Fund Committee as trustees at 31 March 2024.

27A. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the fund are members of the Isle of Wight Pension Fund Committee, the Director of Finance and S151 Officer, and the Pension Fund Manager.

Total remuneration payable to key management personnel is set out below:

Year ended 31 March 2023 £000		Year ended 31 March 2024 £000
72	Short-term benefits	76
15	Post-employment benefits	16
-	- Other long-term benefits	-
-	- Termination benefits	-
-	- Share-based payments	-
87		92

28. CONTINGENT ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

Contribution Equivalent Premiums

At 31 March 2024 there was a contingent liability relating to Contribution Equivalent Premiums (CEPs) amounting to £0.008m (2022/23: £0.008m) payable by the Pension Fund. These sums do not form part of the net assets of the fund.

Class Action

In October 2018 a decision was made to join a Class Action against BHP Billiton which seeks to recover some of the loss in share value suffered because of BHP Billiton's alleged failure to disclose material information and its alleged misleading and deceptive conduct. It is estimated that there is a possible benefit to the Pension Fund of £0.005m (2023: £0.006m). This case is still ongoing. The sums do not form part of the net assets of the fund.

Employer Guaranteed Bonds

One admitted body employer in the Isle of Wight Pension Fund holds a guaranteed bond to guard against the possibility of being unable to meet their pension obligations. This bond is drawn in favour of the pension fund and payment will only be triggered in the event of an employer default. No such default has occurred during 2023-24 (2022-23 Nil).

Committed Investments not yet paid

As at then of the financial year the Pension Fund had committed to investing into two Private Debt funds and an Infrastructure fund which are calling the capital in instalments. The value of these instalments will depend on the investments the funds are making at the time. The balance that has been committed but not paid as at the 31 March 2024 is as per the table below:

	Private Debt			Infrastructure			
	Goldman Sachs		Pantheon	Partners		JP Morgan	
	\$'000	£'000	£'000	€'000	£'000	\$'000	£'000
Total amount Committed	39,300	31,126	65,000	41,000	35,028	88,000	69,697
Total Invested	34,545	27,360	-	25,625	21,892	-	-
Balance committed but not yet paid	4,755	3,766	65,000	15,375	13,136	88,000	69,697

	31 March 2023			
	Private Debt		Infrastructure	
	Goldman Sachs		Partners	
	\$'000	£'000	€'000	£'000
Total amount Committed	39,300	31,837	41,000	36,095
Total Invested	33,169	26,871	14,965	13,175
Balance committed but not yet paid	6,131	4,966	26,035	22,920

The committed balances do not form part of the net assets of the fund. The initial investment into the JP Morgan Infrastructure fund was called as at 01 April 2024. The initial instalment in the Pantheon Private Debt fund had not been called as at 31 March 2024, but the investment into the fund had been agreed.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accounting policies

The principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices that specify how the effect of transactions and other events are to be reflected in the financial statements.

Accruals concept

Income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is paid or received.

Amortisation

An accounting technique of recognising a cost or item of income in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement over a period of years rather than when the initial payment is made. Its purpose is to charge/credit the cost/income over the accounting periods that gain benefit for the respective item.

Capital charge

A charge to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of non-current assets used in the provision of services (e.g. depreciation).

Capital expenditure

Expenditure that is incurred to create or add value to a non-current asset.

Capitalised pension cost

An additional amount payable by a service to the pension fund where an employee who is below pensionable age has taken early retirement following redundancy without any actuarial reduction being made to their pension. Minimum age limits apply, and granting is at the discretion of the employer. Under statute and local arrangement, the amounts payable to the pension fund can be spread over a period not exceeding five years.

Capital receipt

The proceeds from the sale of capital asset which, subject to various limitations, can be used to finance capital expenditure, be invested, or repay outstanding debt on assets originally financed through borrowing.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature within 24 hours from the date of acquisition.

Collection fund

A fund administered by the council which records receipts from council tax and non-domestic rates, and payments to the precepting bodies (Isle of Wight Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Central Government).

Community assets

Assets that the council intends to hold indefinitely, and which may have some restrictions on their disposal. E.g. parks and historic buildings.

Consistency concept

This concept requires that there should be a consistent method of accounting treatment of like

items within each accounting period and from one accounting period to the next.

Council tax

A banded property tax that is levied on domestic properties. The banding is based on property values at as 1991.

Credit risk

The possibility that one party to a financial instrument will fail to meet their contractual obligation, causing a loss to the other party.

Creditor

An amount owed by the council for work done, goods received, or services rendered, but for which no payment has been made.

Current assets

Asset expected to be realised within twelve months after the reporting period (including cash or cash equivalents).

Debtors

An amount owed to the council for work done, goods supplied, or services rendered, but for which no payment has been received.

Defined benefit scheme

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

Defined contribution scheme

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

Depreciation

The measure of the deterioration, consumption or other reduction in a non-current asset either as a result of its use, ageing or obsolescence.

Depreciated replacement cost

A valuation measure where insufficient market-based evidence of current value is available because an asset is specialised and/or rarely sold.

Earmarked Reserves

The council holds a number of reserves earmarked to be used to meet specific, known or predicted future expenditure.

External Audit

The independent examination of the activities and accounts of local authorities to ensure the accounts have been prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and proper practices and to ensure that the authority has made proper arrangements to secure value for money for its use of resources.

Fair value

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.

Finance lease

An agreement that transfers all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset. The payments usually cover the full cost of the asset together with a return for the cost of finance. Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases are recognised on the balance sheet at the commencement of the lease and are matched by a liability for the obligation.

Financial instrument

A contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another. The term covers both financial assets and financial liabilities and includes both the most straightforward financial assets such as trade receivables (debtors) and trade payables (creditors) and the most complex ones such as derivatives.

Financial Regulations

These are the written code of procedures approved by the council, intended to provide a framework for proper financial management. Financial regulations usually set out rules on accounting, audit, administrative and budgeting procedures.

General fund

The total services of the council except for the Collection Fund, the Isle of Wight Council Pension Fund and the Fire-fighters' Pension Fund.

Heritage Asset

A tangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

Impairment

A reduction in the value of a non-current asset below its carrying amount on the balance sheet.

Infrastructure Asset

A category of property, plant and equipment which generally cannot be sold and from which benefit can be obtained only by continued use of the asset created. Examples are highways, footpaths, bridges and coast protection facilities.

Intangible Asset

Assets that do not have a physical substance but are identified and controlled by the entity through custody or legal rights. Examples of intangible assets are patents and software licences.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

These are defined accounting standards that must be applied by all reporting entities to all financial statements in order to provide a true and fair view of the entity's financial position. The standards provide a method of comparison with financial statements of other entities.

Investment property

Property (land or a building, or part of a building, or both) held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both.

Materiality

An item is material if its omission, non-disclosure or misstatement in the financial statements could be expected to lead to a distorted view given by the financial statements.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

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

Net book value

The amount at which assets are included in the balance sheet i.e. their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amount provided for depreciation and impairment.

Business rates (non-domestic rates)

A levy on business properties based on a government determined rate in the pound (multiplier) which is applied to a rateable value of the property. Local authorities collect the sums due and retain a proportion of the sums received, with the remaining proportions shared between precepting bodies.

Non-current assets

An asset held by the authority for a period greater than one year and is not expected to be disposed of within one year.

Operating lease

An agreement in which the council derives the use of an asset in exchange for rental payments, although the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset are not substantially transferred to the council.

Precepts

The amount levied by another body, such as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Central Government that is collected by the council on their behalf.

Private finance initiative (PFI)

A contract in which the private sector is responsible for supplying services that are linked to the provision of a major asset which previously had been provided by the council. The council will pay for the provision of this service, which is linked to availability, performance and levels of usage.

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 for more than one financial year.

Provisions

Amounts charged to revenue during the year for costs with uncertain timing, although a reliable estimate of the cost involved can be made.

Prudence concept

This concept requires that revenue is not anticipated until realisation can be assessed. Provision is made for all known liabilities whether the amount is certain or can only be estimated in the light of the information available.

Prudential Code

The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Code) is a professional code that sets out a framework for self-regulation of capital spending. In effect, this allows councils to invest in capital projects which best meet their service delivery objectives as long as they are affordable, prudent and sustainable, subject to government reserve powers to restrict borrowing for national economic reasons.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

A government agency which provides loans to authorities at favourable rates.

Reserves

Specific amounts can be set-aside as earmarked reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Certain reserves are maintained to manage the accounting process for non-current assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources.

Remuneration

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 cash. Pension contributions payable by either the employer or employee are excluded.

Revenue expenditure

The cost of running local authority services within the financial year, for example staffing costs, supplies and transport.

Revenue support grant (RSG)

This a government grant paid to the council to finance general expenditure. 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.

Specific government grants

These are designed to aid particular services and may be revenue or capital in nature. They may have specified conditions attached to them which determine that they can only be used to fund expenditure which is incurred in pursuit of defined objectives (known as ring-fenced grants).



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

Disclaimer of Opinion

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of Isle of Wight Council ('the Council') for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements comprise the:

- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement,
- Movement in Reserves Statement,
- Balance Sheet,
- Cash Flow Statement
- the related notes 1 to 52 including material accounting policy information and including the Expenditure and Funding Analysis.
- Collection Fund and the related notes CF1 to CF6

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

We do not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements of the Council. Because of the significance of the matter described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Basis for disclaimer of opinion

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (Statutory Instrument 2024/907) which came into force on 30 September 2024 required any outstanding accountability statements for years ended 31 March 2015 to 31 March 2023 to be approved not later than 13 December 2024 and the accountability statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 to be approved not later than 28 February 2025 ('the backstop date').

The audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 for the Council was not completed for the reasons set out in the disclaimer of opinion on those financial statements dated 10 December 2024.

Due to the disclaimer of opinion on the prior year, delays in receiving draft financial statements and associated audit evidence and the limited time between the backstop dates we did not have the required resources available to complete the detailed audit procedures that would be needed to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to issue an unmodified audit report on the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Therefore, we are disclaiming our opinion on the financial statements.

Matters on which we report by exception

Notwithstanding our disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements we have nothing to report in respect of whether the annual governance statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information forthcoming from the audit, performed subject to the pervasive limitation described above, or our knowledge of the Council.

We report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and

Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)

- we are not satisfied that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Responsibility of the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts set out on page 5, the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts 2023-24, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, 2023/24, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for such internal control as the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council either intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit of the Council's financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and to issue an auditor's report.

However, because of the matter described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these financial statements.

We are independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and the Code of Audit Practice 2024 and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice 2024, having regard to the guidance on the specified reporting criteria issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024, as to whether Isle of Wight Council had proper arrangements for financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined these criteria as those necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether Isle of Wight Council put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024.

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

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.


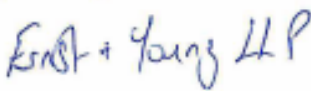
Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until the NAO, as group auditor, has confirmed that no further assurances will be required from us as component auditors of Isle of Wight Council.

Until we have completed these procedures, we are unable to certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of Isle of Wight Council, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 85 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Council and the Council members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Kevin Suter (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
Southampton
19 February 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL ON THE PENSION FUND'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the Pension Fund ("the Fund") financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended). The pension fund financial statements comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes 1 to 28.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

In our opinion the pension fund financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Fund during the year ended 31 March 2024 and the amount and disposition at that date of the its assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2024; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report below. We are independent of the Council as administering authority for the Pension Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and the Comptroller and Auditor General's AGN01, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of 12 months from when the Fund's financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the authority's ability to continue as a going concern.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts 2023-24, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer is responsible for the other information contained within the Statement of Accounts 2023-24.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended);
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended);
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended);
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended); or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended).

We have nothing to report in these respects

Responsibility of the Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page 5, the Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts, which includes the pension fund financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer is also responsible for such internal control as the Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Administering Authority either intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with the Director of Finance & S151 Officer.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Fund and determined that the most significant are the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended), and The Public Service Pensions Act 2013.
- We understood how the Fund is complying with those frameworks by making enquiries of the management. We corroborated this through our reading of the Pension Fund Committee minutes, through enquiry of employees to confirm Pension policies, and through the inspection of other information.
- Based on this understanding, we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved making enquiries of the management for their awareness of any non-compliance of laws or regulations, and review of minutes.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Fund's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by considering the key risks impacting the financial statements and documenting the controls that the Fund has established to address risks identified, or that otherwise seek to prevent, deter or detect fraud.
- In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any identified significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. These procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error.
- As part of our work on journals we also:
 - Undertook a review of reconciliations to the fund manager, custodian and valuer reports and investigated any reconciling differences;
 - Re-performed the detailed investment note using the reports we have acquired directly from the custodian, valuer or fund managers; and
 - Checked the reconciliation of holdings included in the Net Assets Statement back to the source reports.
- The Fund is required to comply with The Local Government Pensions Scheme regulations, other legislation relevant to the governance and administration of the Local Government Pension Scheme and requirements imposed by the Pension Regulator in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme. As such, we have considered the experience and expertise of the engagement team, to ensure that the team had an appropriate understanding of the relevant pensions regulations to assess the control environment and consider compliance of the Fund with these regulations as part of our audit procedures.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of Isle of Wight Council, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 85 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Isle of Wight Council and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Kevin Suter
Ernst & Young LLP

Kevin Suter (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
Southampton
19 February 2025

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S STATEMENT TO THE MEMBERS OF ISLE OF WIGHT
COUNCIL ON THE PENSION FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****Opinion**

We have examined the pension fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes.

In our opinion, the pension fund financial statements are consistent with the full annual statement of accounts of Isle of Wight Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 and comply with applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.


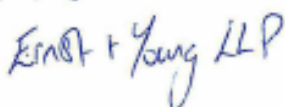
Respective responsibilities of the Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer and the auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the pension fund's financial statements in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the pension fund financial statements within the pension fund annual report with the pension fund financial statements in the statement of accounts of Isle of Wight Council, and its compliance with applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

We also read the other information contained in the pension fund annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the pension fund financial statements. The other information consists of Foreword; Scheme management and advisers, Risk Management, Summary of Governance & Training Arrangements, Pension Board Annual Report, Terms of Reference Pension Fund Committee, Terms of Reference Pension Board, Financial Summary, Investment and Funding Information, Investment Policy and Performance Report, ACCESS Pool Annual Report, Investment Pooling including supplemental reporting, Summary of Pension Administration Overview, Administration costs and KPI's, Actuarial Statement 2023-24, Internal Audit Report, Summary of Freedom of Information Requests.

We conducted our work in accordance with Auditor Guidance Note 07 – Auditor Reporting, issued by the National Audit Office. Our report on the administering authority's full annual statement of accounts describes the basis of our opinion on those financial statements.

Kevin Suter (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
Southampton
19 February 2025