



LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

2024 - 2025

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INTRODUCTION TO THE ACCOUNTS

The Statement of Accounts for the year 2024/25 is set out on pages 34 to 37.

The purpose of the published Statement of Accounts is to give electors, local taxpayers, service users, elected members, employees, and other interested parties clear information about the Council's finances. It should answer such questions as:

- What did the Council's services cost in the year of account?
- Where did the money come from?
- What were the Council's assets and liabilities at the year-end?

Narrative Report

The narrative report provides a general introduction to the Accounts that focuses on explaining the more significant features of the Council's financial activities during the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. It includes a review of non-financial performance indicators and an assessment of future financial and economic developments that could affect the Council. Together these statements provide evidence of the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Council's use of resources over the financial year.

Statement of Responsibilities

The Statement of responsibilities for the statements of accounts details the financial responsibilities of the Council and the Executive Director of Resources.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the accounting cost of providing services throughout the year in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with 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.

Movement in Reserves Statement

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the Council. Reserves are analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'. The Statement shows how the movements in year 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 and movement in the year following those adjustments.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category is usable reserves of money that the Council may use to provide services, subject

INTRODUCTION TO THE ACCOUNTS

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 cannot use to fund the provision of services. This category includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example, the Revaluation Reserve); where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

Cash Flow Statement

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 the recipients of services provided by the Council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Council's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Council.

Notes to the Accounts

The Notes to the Accounts summarise significant accounting policies, further information, and detail of entries in the prime Statements named above and other explanatory information.

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Pension Fund Accounts

The Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Pension Fund Account shows the operation of the Pension Fund run by the Council for its own Fire-fighter employees.

Lincolnshire Pension Fund

The Lincolnshire Pension Fund shows the operation of the Fund run by the Council for its own employees and employees of the seven District, City and Borough Councils in Lincolnshire along with other scheduled and admitted bodies.

Audit Opinion

The Audit Opinions contain the External Auditor's report and opinion and covers the Council's Financial Statements, Lincolnshire County Council Pension Fund and the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Pension Fund.

Annual Governance Statement

The Annual Governance Statement identifies the systems that the Council has in place to ensure that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Introduction

Welcome to Lincolnshire County Council's Statement of Accounts for the financial year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. This Narrative Report to the accounts summarises key financial information, reviews performance in the year and explains any significant areas of risk and opportunity for us. It then looks forward to the future to give a flavour of what to expect in 2025/26 and beyond.

The accounts themselves, which follow this Narrative Report, provide information about the Council's financial performance during 2024/25 and about our financial position as of 31st March 2025. The Statement of Accounts are prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 and the main elements of the accounts are shown in the table of contents on pages 2 to 3. This means that almost all the information reported in these accounts follows generally accepted accounting principles and provides a consistent basis upon which to compare 2024/25 with 2023/24.

Throughout the financial year the Council reports, both internally to its leadership team and externally in the public domain, on actual financial performance compared with the annual budget. A summary of this is included in both this Narrative Report and within the accounts.

Background Information

Lincolnshire County Council is an 'upper tier' local government body, within a two-tier system, situated within the East Midlands. The Council has responsibility for the provision of services within Lincolnshire, which despite having a relatively low population of around 775,000, is geographically the second largest County in the U.K.

The services that Lincolnshire County Council provides are within,

- Education
- Children's Social Care
- Adult Care and Community Wellbeing
- Highways
- Economic Development
- Libraries
- Heritage Sites
- Fire and Rescue
- Emergency Planning

NARRATIVE REPORT

Due to the impact of real term funding reductions for services and an increase in demand for many of the statutory services, many Local Authorities across the U.K, including Lincolnshire County Council, are having to consider the real possibility of making reductions to other services in order to protect budgets, as much as possible, for the statutory services they have a duty to provide. This results in the council needing to make complex decisions around additional income generation and cost efficiencies whilst balancing the quality of services offered and of course, value for money.

We have seventy elected members and operate a "Leader and Executive" model of decision making. The Executive makes the decisions that deliver the budget and policy framework of the Council and there are several committees which scrutinise decisions made by the Executive and hold members of the Executive to account.

Our vision is "working for a better future" and we have a ten-year Corporate Plan that was introduced in 2020 and was refreshed in 2023. This plan set out four key priorities for us to work on. These are that in the coming years, people and communities will have.

- High aspirations
- The opportunity to enjoy life to the full
- Thriving environments
- Good value council services

We operated a delivery model to deliver services through Directorates in 2024/25, and we take a "One Council" approach which means that related services across the Council join to achieve our objectives. During the year services were divided between the four Executive Directors, the Chief Fire Officer and the Chief Executive. They had overall responsibility for delivering strategies and plans within their areas. The areas are.

- Children's Services
- Adult Care and Community Wellbeing
- Place
- Fire and Rescue
- Resources and Corporate Services.

In addition to this, the Council is also the administering authority for the Local Government Pension Scheme in Lincolnshire.

Council services were delivered to Lincolnshire's residents, businesses and visitors by our staff, our partners and by our commissioned suppliers. To both support and ensure the delivery of high-quality services, the Council have relevant policies in place for areas such as staffing, training, governance and procurement.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Key financial information and performance 2024/25

Budget Book and Review of Financial Performance

Detailed financial planning for the 2024/25 financial year took place during Autumn 2023 at which point both the uncertain economic environment and unprecedented demand for many of the council services continued to contribute towards a significant financial risk for the council. In recognising the level of increased financial risk, and against a backdrop of Government Funding for the 2024/25 year only, impacting the council's ability to forecast the long-term financial picture as accurately as it could if actual funding was secured for several years, the council took the decision to increase council tax by 4.99% in 2024/25, the maximum level available. This was inclusive of 2% for the adult social care precept. We also saw growth of 1.20% in the collective taxbase set by the Lincolnshire District Council's in 2024/25. This increased the level of resources by £22.7m, effectively increasing the spending power of the organisation at a time when the cost base was increasing significantly.

Delivering our corporate strategy and prioritising our resources needed to be planned for despite this uncertain and volatile environment and as in previous years, the Council's use of resources was both reported to and closely monitored and scrutinised by the Executive committee on a quarterly basis. The Council's use of resources has been managed as efficiently and effectively as possible, despite the volatile environment we were faced with and we have been able to navigate our way through another challenging year, whilst still delivering key priorities and providing value for money.

The main areas that have led to increased pressure on the Council's finances can be categorised as either economic or service-based pressures.

Some of the economic-based cost pressures during 2024/25 were as follows.

- Pay inflation and increased National Insurance costs
- Increase in the National Living Wage
- Demographic growth in and around Lincolnshire
- Wider inflationary pressures on utilities and other costs

Some of the service-based cost pressures during 2024/25 were as follows.

- An increase in the number of children in care and children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- An increase in the number of adults requiring social care services
- An increase in the demand for Adult Specialities across Mental Health and Learning Disability services.
- An increase in Educational Transport costs, both due to an increase in demand for the service and in the impact of inflation on the running costs of providing the service.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Despite the level of economic uncertainty and the increased demand for many of the council's services, the Council achieved an underspend in 2024/25 of £9.628m. This reflects the sound financial management across the Council which is enabled by the provision of both high quality and well-run services.

The Review of Financial performance for 2024/25, presented to the Executive Committee on 8 July 2025, states that the Council's carry forward process determines how the residual £9.851m outturn underspend is utilised. There are a series of adjustments to note which are made in line with the Council's financial regulations, in addition to a series of adjustments proposed which seek to ensure the most appropriate use of the residual carry forward after financial regulation adjustments have been applied.

For detailed explanation and narrative on the position above both in terms of the budgeted and actual outturn position, a copy of the Budget Book for 2024/25 and the quarterly Financial Performance Reports to the Executive Committee can be accessed by following the links below.

[Budget Book 2024/25](#)

[Lincolnshire County Council Committee meeting minutes - Executive](#)

NARRATIVE REPORT

The table below shows the outturn position for each Council directorate. The outturn position varies from the total net expenditure in our comprehensive income and expenditure statement due to the different accounting basis on which these financial accounts are prepared.

Revenue Budget Outturn Position 2024/25 and 2023/24 (£'000s)

| Council Directorate | Revised Budget 2024/25 £'000 | Actual Net Expenditure 2024/25 £'000 | Year End Variance 2024/25 £'000 | Year End Variance 2024/25 % | | Actual Net Expenditure 2023/24 £'000 | Increase / (Decrease) in Actual Net Expenditure £'000 | Increase/ (Decrease) in Net Expenditure % |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Children's Services | 123,522 | 123,487 | (35) | (0.0) | | 103,084 | 20,403 | 19.8 |
| Adult Care and Community Wellbeing | 211,433 | 210,673 | (759) | (0.4) | | 185,291 | 25,382 | 13.7 |
| Place | 144,440 | 148,230 | 3,790 | 2.6 | | 131,785 | 16,445 | 12.5 |
| Fire & Rescue | 26,477 | 26,477 | 0 | 0.0 | | 24,556 | 1,921 | 7.8 |
| Resources | 84,060 | 81,495 | (2,565) | (3.1) | | 77,378 | 4,117 | 5.3 |
| Corporate services | 3,050 | 2,977 | (73) | (2.4) | | 2,831 | 146 | 5.2 |
| Service Total | 592,982 | 593,340 | 358 | 0.1 | | 524,926 | 68,414 | 13.0 |
| Other Budgets | 99,795 | 92,299 | (7,496) | (7.5) | | 96,943 | (4,644) | (4.8) |
| Total Net Expenditure (Excluding Schools) | 692,777 | 685,639 | (7,138) | (1.0) | | 621,869 | 63,770 | 10.3 |
| Use of Reserves | (36,455) | (36,455) | 0 | 0.0 | | (37,931) | (1,476) | (3.9) |
| Funding | (652,483) | (655,196) | (2,713) | 0.4 | | (608,416) | 46,780 | 7.7 |
| Total Funding including use of Reserves | (688,938) | (691,651) | (2,713) | 0.4 | | (646,347) | (45,304) | 7.0 |
| Total Outturn (Excluding Schools) | 3,839 | (6,012) | (9,851) | (256.6) | | (24,478) | 18,466 | (75.4) |
| Schools | 12,553 | 14,974 | 2,421 | 19.3 | | | | |
| Transfer from Schools Reserves | (16,393) | (16,393) | 0 | 0.0 | | | | |
| Total Schools Outturn | (3,839) | (1,419) | 2,421 | 63.1 | | (1,126) | (293) | 26.0 |
| Total Outturn (Including Schools) | - | (7,431) | (7,431) | 0.0 | | (25,604) | 18,173 | (71.0) |

NARRATIVE REPORT

Sources of Funding

Our services are funded by various sources of income. The most significant of these are:

- Council Tax
- Business Rates
- Government Grants
- Fees and Charges for Services
- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

The DSG is a specific grant, and the conditions of grant make clear that it can only be spent on the Schools Budget, and not on other aspects of local government expenditure. (See Note 37 on page 116).

Our expenditure during the year is also supported by drawing down agreed amounts from our useable reserves (See Note 12 on page 54). These reserves are cash-backed and are available to the council to finance its activities in future years and are made up of.

- Capital Grants Unapplied – This reserve holds capital grants where all grant conditions have been met but are yet to be used on capital expenditure due to be spent in future years.
- Earmarked Reserves – This reserve is used for specific planned future spend for policy purposes or to cover contingencies.
- General Fund – This is a statutory fund to hold the balance of useable reserves that are not earmarked for specific future expenditure.

The level of usable reserves, the spending plans of the authority and other sources of funding will determine how much council tax needs to be raised in future years.

The movement in reserves statement (MIRS) (See Note 11 on page 51) analyses the changes in each of the authority's reserves from year to year. It should be clear to see what has caused the movement in each reserve.

In total, funding in 2024/25 amounted to £1,488.661m, an increase of £163.4m on the £1,325.213m total funding for 2023/24. This includes the use of reserves which amounted to £45.417m in 2024/25, an increase of £33.900m on £12.327m in 2023/24.

The following table and pie charts show the amounts and proportion received from each main source of funding in both 2023/24 and 2024/25.

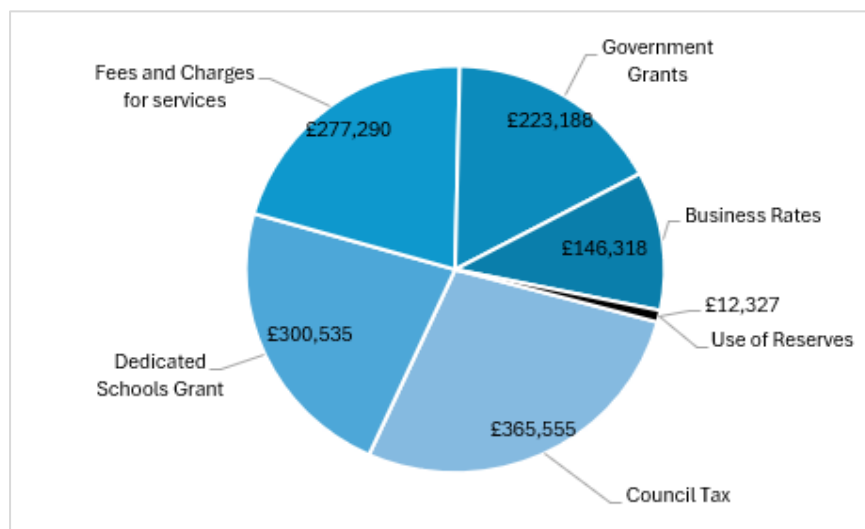
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Sources of Income Analysis 2023/24 & 2024/25 (£'000s)

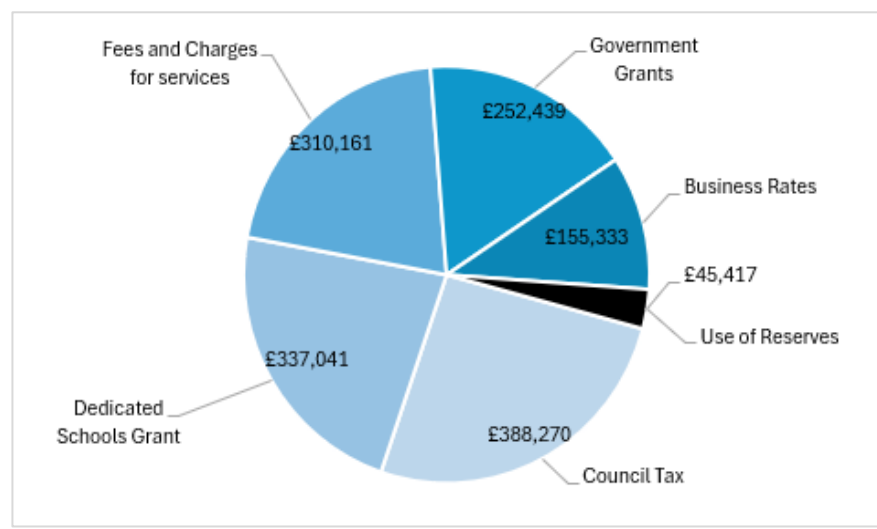
| Source of Income | 2023/24 £'000 | % of Total Income 2023/24 | 2024/25 £'000 | % of Total Income 2024/25 | Increase in funding £'000 | Increase in funding % |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Council Tax | 365,555 | 27.6 | 388,270 | 26.1 | 22,715 | 6.2 |
| Business Rates | 146,318 | 11.0 | 155,333 | 10.4 | 9,015 | 6.2 |
| Fees and Charges for services | 277,290 | 20.9 | 310,161 | 20.8 | 32,871 | 11.9 |
| Government Grants | 223,188 | 16.8 | 252,439 | 17.0 | 29,251 | 13.1 |
| Dedicated Schools Grant | 300,535 | 22.7 | 337,041 | 22.6 | 36,506 | 12.1 |
| Use of Reserves | 12,327 | 0.9 | 45,417 | 3.1 | 33,090 | 268.4 |
| Total Income | 1,325,213 | 100.0 | 1,488,661 | 100.00 | 163,448 | 12.3 |

The table shows that the proportion of each source of Income for both 2023/24 and 2024/25, as a % to total income, has remained fairly static with the three largest sources of income being Council Tax, Fees and Charges for services and the Dedicated Schools Grant. These three sources of funding account for 69.5% of the Council's total funding for 2024/25 (71.2% 2023/24). The use of reserves did increase from £12.327m in 2023/24 to £45.417m in 2024/25 but was £36.236m less than the budgeted use of reserves for 2024/25 of £81.653m due in part to the 2024/25 underspend.

Sources of Income Analysis 2023/24 - £1,325,213 (£'000)



Sources of Income Analysis 2024/25 - £1,488,661 (£'000)



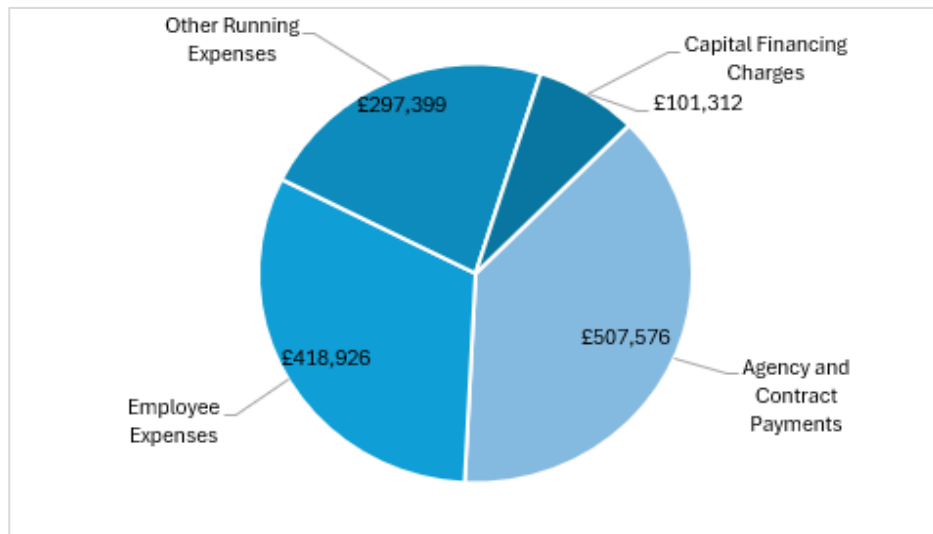
NARRATIVE REPORT

Expenditure

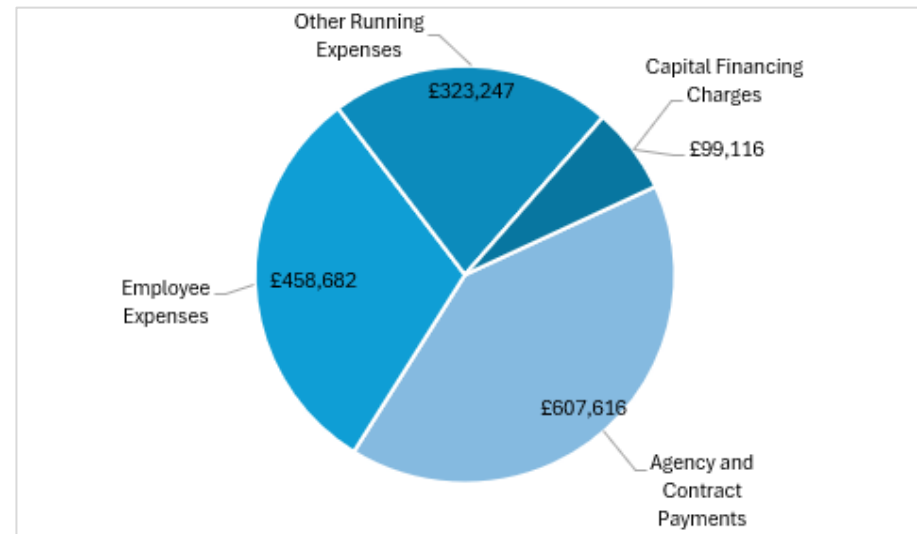
The Council's finance procedure rules require that both income and expenditure are monitored and compared with the approved budget throughout the financial year, and that a report be submitted to the Executive on the overall position every three months, providing a detailed description of any significant variances. Three quarterly updates were provided to the Executive during 2024/25, providing an update of the overall forecast position in addition to any corrective action being taken.

The Council's annual revenue spending on providing public services is set out in the charts on the following pages and analyses expenditure both by type of expenditure and by type of service provided.

Gross Expenditure Subjective Analysis 2023/24 - £1,325,213 (£'000)



Gross Expenditure Subjective Analysis 2024/25 - £1,488,661 (£'000)



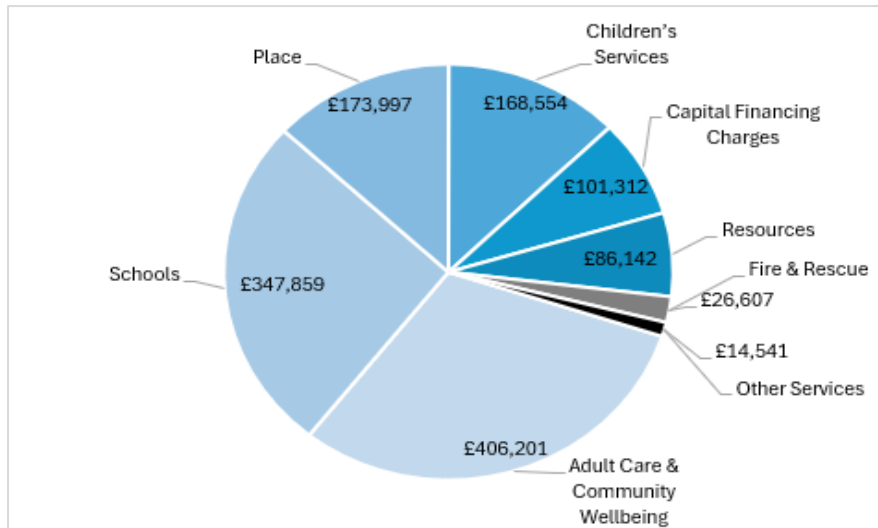
The subjective analysis of the council's total expenditure for the year shows how the Council uses its financial resources on different types of expenditure and shows that we rely on both our own employees and on contractors to deliver services to the community.

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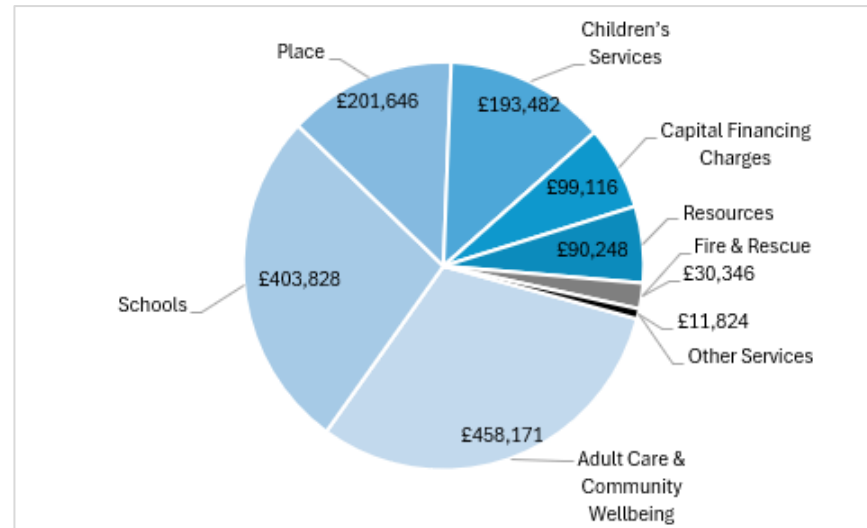
Total Expenditure Analysis by Service Area 2023/24 & 2024/25 (£'000s)

| Service Area | 2023/24 £'000 | % of Total Expenditure 2023/24 | 2024/25 £'000 | % of Total Expenditure 2024/25 | Increase/(Decrease) In expenditure £'000 | Increase/(Decrease) In expenditure £ |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Adult Care & Community Wellbeing | 406,201 | 30.7 | 458,171 | 30.8 | 51,970 | 12.8 |
| Schools | 347,859 | 26.3 | 403,828 | 27.1 | 55,969 | 16.1 |
| Place | 173,997 | 13.1 | 201,646 | 13.5 | 27,649 | 15.9 |
| Children's Services | 168,554 | 12.7 | 193,482 | 13.0 | 24,928 | 14.8 |
| Capital Financing Charges | 101,312 | 7.6 | 99,116 | 6.7 | (2,196) | (2.2) |
| Resources | 86,142 | 6.5 | 90,248 | 6.1 | 4,106 | 4.8 |
| Fire & Rescue | 26,607 | 2.0 | 30,346 | 2.0 | 3,739 | 14.1 |
| Other Services | 14,541 | 1.1 | 11,824 | 0.8 | (2,717) | (18.7) |
| Total Expenditure | 1,325,213 | 100.0 | 1,488,661 | 100.0 | 163,448 | 12.3 |

Gross Expenditure Service Analysis 2023/24 - £1,325,213 (£'000)



Gross Expenditure Service Analysis 2024/25 - £1,488,661 (£'000)



The Gross Expenditure by Service pie chart and table above analyse total gross revenue expenditure by service Area. This has been compared to 2023/24 and the increase or decrease in the level of expenditure, per service area, has been calculated.

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Total gross expenditure has increased by £163.448m, or 12.3%, since 2023/24. There are two service areas, Adult Care & Community Wellbeing and Schools, that account for over half of the Council's revenue expenditure. 57.9% of total expenditure was used for these two service areas in 2024/25 compared with 56.9% in 2023/24. Both areas continued to see an increase in demand for their services during 2024/25, and this trend is expected to continue into 2025/26 and beyond. The Executive Review of Financial Performance Report for 2024/25 presented to the committee on 8 July 2025 stated that,

“Growth in demand within the Adult Care & Community Wellbeing service area has been a significant challenge in 2024/25, specifically within mental health community supported living and long and short-term care. Community supported living overspend of £3.2m was driven by a significant increase in client numbers, with 94 new clients compared to 25 planned with the 24/25 budget. Long term residential saw further increased number of clients – 27 new at an overspend of £0.408m. Numbers of clients within short term care were also above planned, with 16 clients received into service, exceeding the budget by £0.705m. Demand into 2025/26 and beyond forecasts demand increases to continue. There is a significant risk that demand goes beyond the medium term financial plan (MTFP) forecast.

There are several demand-led and volatile areas within the High Needs Block which have overspent. One of those areas relates to top up and targeted funding to mainstream schools for Lincolnshire children and young people with Education and Health Care (EHC) plans which has overspent by £5.352m (or 14.1%), a slight increase to the position reported in quarter 3 (£5.220m). This is due, once again, to increased demand. Lincolnshire's EHC plan rate was 5.2% of the school population in 2024, which was 10% higher than national and 32% higher than the regional average. The EHC plan growth rate increased by 9% from the prior year, adding further pressure to the system. Lincolnshire's Inclusive Ambition is to ensure that the majority of children with SEND can fulfil their potential in mainstream settings.

Non-Maintained Schools placements and independent mainstream placements have overspent by £5.410m (or 22.2%), a decrease of £0.198m from that previously reported. The spend in this area includes the provision of block arrangements with providers to help secure specialist education placements at a competitive price. The overspend is due to increased demand for those pupils with more complex needs where mainstream schools cannot meet need. This is compounded by Lincolnshire special schools being at capacity and the unfavourable external market conditions. At the end of March 2025 there were 756 children in specialist education placements costing £29.809m. The average cost of a specialist education placement during 2024/25 was £1,207 per week.

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Investment in Assets

Our revenue budget, as detailed above, is used to fund all day to day running costs of the Council. Alongside this we also spend money on longer term assets such as roads, buildings, vehicles, equipment and IT systems, and plans for this are within the Capital Programme. Investment in longer term assets helps us to maintain our service delivery, but it also supports innovation and growth in the wider community for example by improving the County's road infrastructure or by investing in economic development initiatives.

The table below shows, in summary format by Service Delivery Area, our gross spending plans for capital in the year, as well as our actual gross expenditure performance against those plans. The table also shows how the capital investment was funded.

Capital Gross Programme Outturn Position 2024/25 and 2023/24 (£'000s)

| Service Area | Investment Budget 2024/25 £'000 | Investment Actuals 2024/25 £'000 | Investment Variance 2024/25 £'000 | Year End Variance 2024/25 % | Investment Actuals 2023/24 £'000 | Increase/ (Decrease) In Investment £'000 | Increase/ (Decrease) in Investment % |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Adult Care & Community Wellbeing | 9,865 | 9,818 | (47) | (0.5) | 9,105 | 713 | 7.8 |
| Children's Services | 40,183 | 39,389 | (794) | (2.0) | 39,048 | 341 | 0.9 |
| Place | 169,402 | 151,279 | (18,123) | (10.7) | 137,894 | 13,385 | 9.7 |
| Fire & Rescue | 3,832 | 3,024 | (808) | (21.1) | 2,283 | 741 | 32.5 |
| Resources & Corporate | 20,079 | 16,147 | (3,932) | (19.6) | 9,108 | 7,039 | 77.3 |
| Development Capital Contingency | 4,145 | - | (4,145) | (100.0) | - | - | - |
| Total Capital Investment | 247,506 | 219,657 | (27,849) | (12.7) | 197,438 | 22,219 | 11.3 |
| Capital Grants and Contributions received in the year | (127,686) | (127,388) | 298 | (0.2) | (114,403) | (12,985) | 11.3 |
| Revenue Contributions | (22,930) | (22,930) | - | - | (37,783) | 14,853 | (39.3) |
| Borrowing | (70,547) | (44,650) | 25,897 | (58.0) | (40,390) | (4,260) | 10.5 |
| Use of Capital Grants Unapplied | (29,335) | (29,335) | - | - | (31,501) | 2,166 | (6.8) |
| Use of Revenue Grant Reserves | (229) | (229) | - | - | - | (229) | - |
| Use of Earmarked Reserves | (23,014) | (23,014) | - | - | (5,876) | (17,138) | 291.7 |
| Transfer to Capital Grants Unapplied | 31,235 | 31,235 | - | - | 38,310 | (7,075) | (18.5) |
| Capital Receipts | (5,000) | (3,346) | 1,654 | (49.4) | (5,794) | 2,448 | (42.3) |
| Total Capital Funding | (247,506) | (219,657) | 27,849 | (12.7) | (197,437) | (22,220) | 11.3 |

Our overall net variance on the capital programme in 2024/25 was an underspend of £27.551m (£22.352m in 2023/24), with the overall gross position being an underspend of £27.849m (£20.864m in 2023/24). The main reasons for the differences between planned and actual capital

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spending are explained in the "Review of Financial Performance 2024/25" report to the Executive on 8 July 2025 but the most significant differences are explained below the table. All overspends and underspends on the capital programme are carried forward to the next financial year.

In contrast with the revenue budget, capital investment is predominantly planned over a multi-year period and therefore variances within the capital programme often reflect timing of expenditure, rather than an underlying variance.

The major capital projects which have been progressed during the 2024/25 year are:

- Investment within children's homes
- New builds, expansion and remodelling work in other Lincolnshire special schools through the Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy, which will deliver over additional special school places and access to all complex needs provision upon completion of the strategy.
- Significant investment within the wider highways network.
- Continuing construction of the Grantham Southern Relief Road scheme.
- Completing construction of the Spalding Western Relief Road (section 5) scheme.
- A programme of works to address condition issues of school buildings.

The most significant underspends during 2024/25 were in the Place, Fire & Rescue and Resources Directorates. More detailed information on these and other areas of underspend can be found in the quarterly Financial Performance Reports to the Executive Committee for 2024/25. These can be accessed by following the link below.

[Lincolnshire County Council Committee meeting minutes - Executive](#)

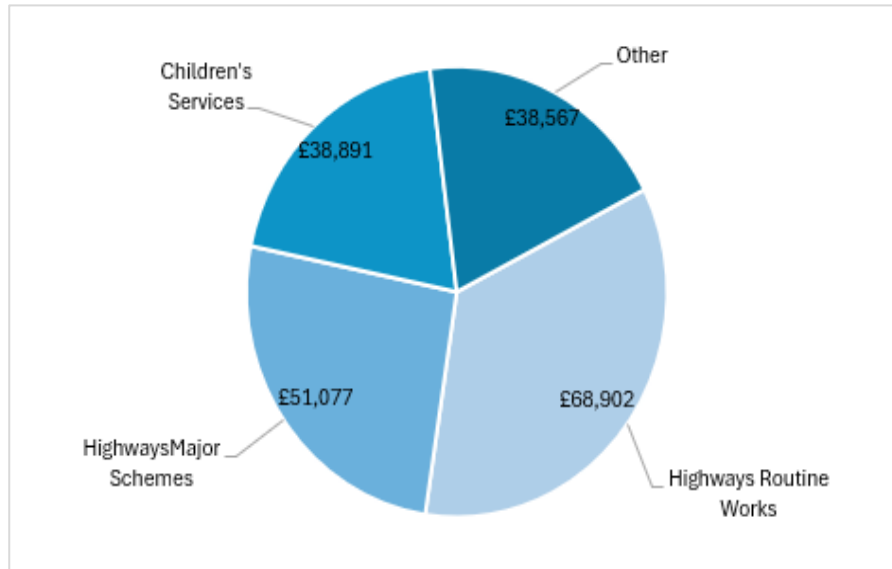
For 2024/25 we set aside £4.145m in a new Developments Capital Contingency Fund for any schemes that emerged during the financial year, and to mitigate against any financial risk that arose within schemes already committed to. The budgeted amount remained unspent at the end of 2024/25 and will be carried forward into 2025/26 to fund emerging capital priorities in the new financial year.

Our total Capital Investment in the year was £27.849m less than the 2024/25 budgeted capital investment which resulted in us borrowing £25.897m less than was previously budgeted for. In fact, our capital borrowing only increased by £4.260m, or by 10.5%, since 2023/24 despite our total capital investment increasing by £22.219m.

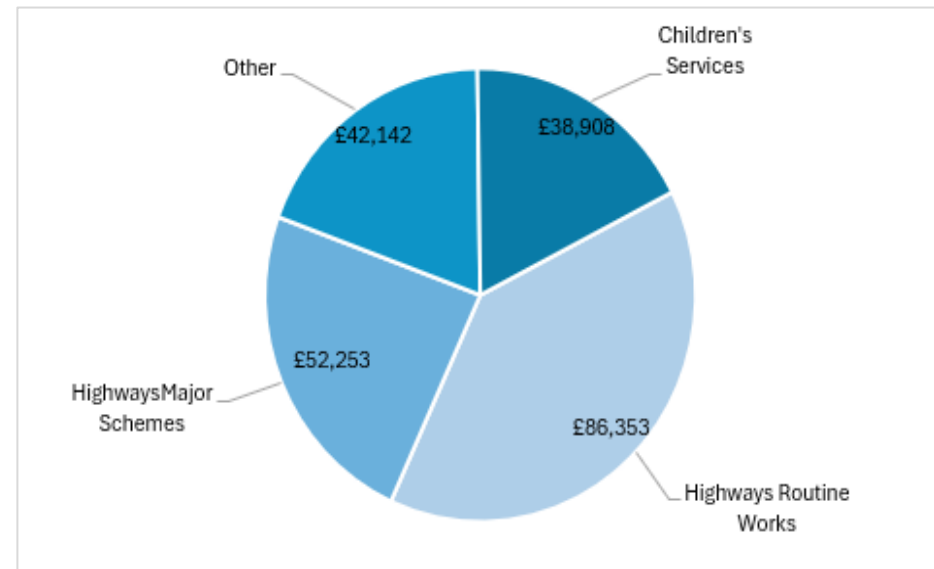
NARRATIVE REPORT

The pie chart below shows the major areas of capital investment during 2023/24 and 2024/25. Total investment on these major projects was £219.657m in 2024/25, an increase of £22.220m (or 11.3%) on the level of investment made in 2023/24.

Gross Investment on major projects 2023/24 - £197,437 (£'000)



Gross Investments on major projects 2024/25 - £219,657 (£'000)



The five largest gross investments made on major projects were as follows,

- Lincolnshire Secure Unit £11.792m
- SEND Reorganisation £9.154m
- Grantham Southern Relief Road £11.778m
- A16 Levelling Up Fund £9.965m
- Spalding Western Relief Road £9.013m

These account for £51.702m or 23.5% of the total gross investment on major projects for 2024/25, with routine highways works accounting for a further £86.353m or 39.3% of the total gross investment.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Assets and Liabilities

As stated in the introduction to the accounts on page 4 the Balance Sheet shows the value of our assets and liabilities at the year end. These are matched by the level of reserves held. Our assets are what we own, and our liabilities are what we owe. These are shown in more detail on the Balance Sheet on page 36. The table below shows an extract from the Balance Sheet with key figures in it, and an explanation of these key figures is set out below the table.

| 31 March 2024 £'000 | Summary Balance Sheet | 31 March 2025 £'000 | Increase/ (Decrease) £'000 | Increase/ (Decrease) % |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1,867,009 | Long Term Assets | 1,998,780 | 131,771 | 7.1 |
| 355,879 | Current Assets | 321,715 | (34,164) | (9.6) |
| 2,222,888 | Total Assets | 2,320,495 | 97,907 | 4.4 |
| | | | | |
| (256,266) | Current Liabilities | (288,394) | (32,128) | 12.5 |
| (734,413) | Long Term Liabilities | (702,903) | 31,510 | (4.3) |
| (990,679) | Total Liabilities | (991,297) | (618) | (0.1) |
| 1,232,208 | NET ASSETS | 1,329,199 | 96,990 | 7.9 |
| | | | | |
| 318,218 | Usable Reserves | 274,659 | (43,559) | (13.7) |
| 913,990 | Unusable Reserves | 1,054,539 | 140,549 | 15.5 |
| 1,232,208 | TOTAL RESERVES | 1,329,199 | 96,990 | 7.9 |

The table above shows that Total Liabilities have remained static over the last year, decreasing by just 0.1% but that Total Assets have increased by 4.4%.

| 1 March 2024 £'000 | Balance Sheet Summary – Total Assets | 31 March 2025 £'000 | Increase/ (Decrease) £'000 | Increase/ (Decrease) % |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1,863,762 | Property Plant & Equipment (including Investment and Heritage Assets) | 1,994,231 | 130,469 | 7.0 |
| 243,732 | Long and Short-Term Investments | 221,547 | (22,185) | (9.1) |
| 113,326 | Long and Short-Term Debtors | 102,405 | (10,921) | (9.6) |
| 880 | Assets held for sale | 1,110 | 230 | 26.1 |
| 1,188 | Inventories | 1,203 | 15 | 1.3 |
| 2,222,888 | Total Assets | 2,320,495 | 97,907 | 4.4 |

This table shows an analysis of Total Assets which have increased by £97.907m, or 4.4%, since 31 March 2024. The majority of this increase relates to the value of Property Plant & Equipment assets which have increased by £130.469m, a 7% increase since last year. This is due to both the revaluation of land and buildings in the year, which amounted to £41.956m and the remainder relates to asset additions and disposals. This figure was also

NARRATIVE REPORT

impacted by the adoption of the new leasing accounting standard, IFRS16, which sees operating leases, that satisfy certain criteria, being recognised for the first time on the balance sheet as assets, rather than as a revenue expense through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure account. These IFRS16 assets increased the Property, Plant & Equipment assets on the balance sheet, at 31 March 2025, by £18.504m.

Performance review

We have a ten-year Corporate Plan that started in 2020, and was refreshed in 2023, the link for which is below. This year we have been working to the 2024/25 business plan derived from that Corporate Plan. The Council sets its business plan annually, and this is supported by the annual revenue budget and capital programme.

The Council's Corporate Plan sets out our priorities for local residents and communities.

As stated on page 7, our four ambitions are to,

- Support High Aspirations
- Enable Everyone to Enjoy Life to the Full
- Create Thriving Environments and
- Provide Good Value Council Services.

A report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management board, on 27 February 2025, confirmed that as at quarter 3 of 2024/25 all four of the Council's ambitions are progressing as planned.

Once the full year performance outcomes have been finalised, these will be updated in this Narrative Report, and published in the final, audited Statement of Accounts.

Performance is monitored throughout the year and is reported to the Council's Executive quarterly, after being scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

[Corporate plan – Our vision: Working for a better future - Lincolnshire County Council](#)

NARRATIVE REPORT

Subsidiary Companies

The council had three wholly owned subsidiary companies at the start of 2024/25. The Council maintained shareholdings in other organisations but as a minor shareholder. The three wholly owned subsidiary companies are:

Transport Connect Limited (TCL). This is a passenger transport company incorporated in 2016. The Council has a nominated Director and shareholder representative who is the Chair of the Board of Directors. The Head of Transport attends all board meetings. Accountancy and HR services are independent of LCC. An Annual Update report was presented to Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee in October 2023.

EMPSN Infrastructure Limited. This company owns and manages the communications infrastructure which delivers the Council's wide area network. The Council has currently appointed two directors to represent LCC on the board. The LCC Directors role is to undertake duties as set out in the Companies Act as well as oversight to strategic and operational running of the company including delivering value for money to members. Monthly reports were provided to the portfolio holder throughout the year.

Legal Services Lincolnshire (Trading) Ltd. In 2020 the Council approved the creation of a company to provide legal services to other public bodies to which the Council would not otherwise be able to provide services. The company has received a licence from the Solicitor's Regulation Authority and began trading from January 2024 as Lincolnshire Public Law.

The Code of Practice requires Councils to consider the need to prepare accounts on a group basis. This assessment has been carried out and the result is that these accounts have been prepared on the single entity basis as the subsidiary companies' financial performance and position is not material in the context of the Council's accounts.

Other Matters

During the year four schools transferred out of the Council's control to academy status.

There were also two major non-adjusting events after the reporting period. The first is that Reform UK won the May 2025 local election, securing an overall majority and entering into administration on the authority for the first time. Secondly, as a result of this change in political leadership, a new corporate plan is currently being developed to replace the existing corporate plan, that was introduced in 2019, setting out the council's priorities.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Governance and Risk

Good governance for us means achieving the outcomes we intend, while acting in the public interest at all times. We have a governance framework which ensures that our business is carried out in a legal and proper way, and we review this framework every year to see if improvements need to be made to any aspects of it.

The Council's Annual Governance Statement is included within this Statement of Accounts and starts on page 220. The Head of Internal Audit concluded that, for the year ended 31 March 2025,

" Taking into consideration the content of this report, the contribution from statutory officers and the external reports shared, we are satisfied that the Council's corporate governance arrangements in place for 2024/25 were fit for purpose in accordance with the CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance Framework 2016 and as a result, deem the governance arrangements to be adequate."

The Strategic Risk Register is regularly reviewed, and risks are being effectively managed. As per the latest Audit Committee minutes, of 24 March 2025 there are fifteen risks included, six assessed as having limited assurance. The link to the annual strategic risk register can be found below.

[Audit Committee Strategic Risk Register Update](#)

The Annual Governance Statement confirms this year that no significant governance issues have been identified but there are some areas of governance improvements. These can be seen in full on page 233 within the Annual Governance Statement. They include:

Improvements from 2023/24

Two areas were identified for improvement in the 2023/24 effectiveness review. The 2024/25 review identified that sufficient work has been undertaken to address the concerns. An update on the work to improve these areas is outlined below:

1. There has been a systematic assurance programme implemented to gain independent assurance on the internal control environment operating across maintained schools. Their associated risk profile is now visible with appropriate engagement to provide assurance on their internal control processes.

NARRATIVE REPORT

2. A programme to provide independent assurance around IT investments, project delivery and adequacy of governance arrangements has been developed and is fully supported across the council. Adequate engagement levels have been evidenced. As the programme is finalised, outcomes will be shared with officers and the Audit Committee.

Improvements from 2024/25

The review of the governance arrangements across the council has not resulted in any areas for improvement being identified.

The Council's Audit Committee's role is to oversee and promote good governance, ensure accountability, and review the ways things are done. It provides an assurance role to the Council by examining areas such as audit, risk management, internal control, counter fraud, and financial accountability.

Financial Resilience

A further iteration of the local authority Financial Resilience Index was published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) during the year. This is a measure of councils' ability to withstand unexpected financial shocks.

This version of the index used data from the 2023/24 financial year and once again showed a relatively positive picture for us.

| Financial Resilience Index | 31 March 2021 % | 31 March 2022 % | 31 March 2023 % | Increase/Decrease or No Change in Relative Risk since 31 March 2023 | 31 March 2024 % |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Level Of Reserves | 52.3 | 50.4 | 42.1 | Decreased Risk | 36.4 |
| Change In Reserves | 33.2 | 43.0 | 2.6 | Decreased Risk | (15.3) |
| Interest Payable / Net Revenue Expenditure | 4.2 | 3.8 | 4.3 | Decreased Risk | 4.1 |
| Social Care Ratio | 65.1 | 66.2 | 69.0 | No Change | 72.4 |
| Fees & Charges to Service Expenditure Ratio | 6.3 | 5.1 | 6.7 | Increased Risk | 4.8 |
| Council Tax Requirement / Net Revenue Expenditure | 69.6 | 66.8 | 68.2 | Decreased Risk | 66.6 |
| Growth Above Baseline | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | No Change | 3.0 |
| | 31 March 2021 £'000 | 31 March 2022 £'000 | 31 March 2023 £'000 | | 31 March 2023/24 £'000 |
| Gross External Debt | 497,052 | 485,187 | 475,962 | | 464,818 |

NARRATIVE REPORT

There was just one indicator where our relative risk (compared to other similar councils) had increased since the 2022/23 report.

We are deemed as having a higher relative risk, compared with other Councils, for

- Fees & Charges to Service Expenditure ratio - which has increased from 6.7% to 4.8% (The higher the ratio, the lower the risk).

Per the table on Page 12, Fees and Charges for both 2023/24 and 2024/25 accounted for around 21% of our total income, which increased from just 17.6% in 2022/23. In order to improve our perceived risk, the council would need to generate additional fees and charges income, making them less reliant on other forms of income such as government grants.

Overall, we do not believe that these indicator results represent a threat to our financial resilience, as our overall level of reserves remains relatively high, and our risk is shown as reduced for three other indicators, and unchanged for two indicators.

The Council remains generally in a sound financial position relative to many other councils over the short term. This is because of continued sound financial management and adequate earmarked reserves to support the continued volatility of funding, emerging cost pressures and demand on our services. The Council constantly monitors its longer-term financial position, and our Medium-Term Financial Strategy includes a Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which forecasts our financial position over four years to March 2029. Inflationary, and other cost increases in the capital programmes, may impact on how much can be delivered or the speed of delivery. Future years of the plan consider known cost pressures, planned savings and use of reserves to produce a balanced budget. The MTFP predicts a budget shortfall and modest use of reserves over the period of the MTFP.

Review of 2024/2025 and Future Plans

Annual Budget for 2024/25

Lincolnshire County Council set a one-year detailed budget for 2024/25 which was aligned to the one-year financial settlement from the government. The budget was devised within the context of continuing uncertainty about longer term government funding, growing cost pressures from demand led services such as adult and children's social care, and home to school transport. To add to these pressures, we must consider the additional challenges associated with a large geographical and rural coastal county with expansive road networks and an ageing population placing greater demands on these services.

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Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2028/29

The MTFP, approved by Full Council in February 2025, set out an uncertain and challenging outlook with potential savings gaps rising from £25.4m in 2026/27 to £55.6m in 2028/29. This uncertainty was due to factors including the Spending Review, national funding availability for Local Government, the fairer funding review being undertaken by Government around distribution of funding, and demand-based challenges within the council's expenditure, particularly around working age adults.

Efficiency Savings work undertaken during 2024/25

Due to the savings gaps identified as part of the MTFP, Officers have been working on a fundamental review of the council's finances to identify recurring annual savings at a minimum level of £25m.

This includes but is not limited to,

- Deep dive reviews down to Head of Service level assessing potential impacts of reducing revenue expenditure across ranges from 5-25%,
- Supporting contract reviews in main areas of council expenditure,
- An assessment of the future capital programme in order to reduce the council's exposure to future borrowing costs,
- A review of the council's Procurement Card and cash usage to ensure value for money on low value transactions,
- Continued refinement of financial processes following the insourcing of transactional services from Serco in April 2024.

This efficiency savings work will continue into 2025/26 and beyond, to ensure the Council remains financially sustainable.

The Government Spending Review - June 2025

The impact of the recent Government spending review on the council's future funding position was inconclusive. In order to understand the funding, we will receive over the next few years, the council will have to wait for the fairer funding review that is due to be completed later this year. As a result of this continued uncertainty, the existing reviews outlined above may need to be supplemented by further targeted efficiency activity, including with support from external bodies. These reviews may fall under the remit of the Chief Executive, as Head of Paid Service in relation to staffing matters, or the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Resources, as S.151 Officer responsible for financial administration and affairs of the council. If any such reviews are undertaken, future financial updates to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and the Executive will be the mechanism used to report back on their development scope and findings.

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Outturn for 2024/25

As stated previously, on page 9, despite the financial pressures and uncertainty, the Council underspent in 2024/25 by £9.851m within its general fund budgets with a further £2.420m overspend within school budgets funded by use of school reserves.

General Fund

In respect of the Council's general fund budget, the outturn position is positive and not least because of the scale of cost pressures that had emerged during the financial year which the Council has been able to mitigate and generate an overall underspend. Not every local authority is in this position. The outturn position means the Council can fully focus on delivering against the budget limits set for 2025/26 in addition to forward financial planning as it starts to prepare the foundations for its 2026/27 budget which will be impacted by external factors including the national spending review, the Autumn Budget, Local Government funding reform and economic factors.

Dedicated Schools Grant

As stated previously, the school budget was overspent by £2.420m. This overspend was reduced from a 16.918m overspend through the use of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserves that had been built up over the last few years. However, there is only £0.234m remaining in this reserve at the end of 2024/25 and the demand for school-based services, particularly around SEND, is look to increase during 2025/26 and beyond.

The Department for Education (DfE) recognises the challenges within the SEND system, as an increasing number of Local Authorities are incurring or increasing deficits on their overall DSG. A white paper is planned for Autumn 2025 on the Government's intended approach to SEND reforms with £760m set aside nationally to support changes. Currently, if a Local Authority ends a financial year with a DSG deficit, it must carry it forward and manage it within future DSG budgets (separate from the General Fund). The current Statutory Override is in place until March 2026 whereby DSG deficits are held in a separate reserve, however the Government are still to set out future plans for the Statutory Override. Authorities with a significant DSG deficit must submit a DSG management plan to the DfE.

Economic Climate

Throughout 2024/25, the UK rate of inflation has remained reasonably stable ranging from 3.2% at the start of the year to 2.6% in March 2025, and with an average rate of 2.4% over 2024/25. Inflation did fall to below 2% in October 2024 when it dipped to 1.7% but returned to 2.3% the following

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month. In addition to this, the bank base rate, and the associated cost of borrowing, decreased from 5.25% in April 2024 to 4.5% at the end of 2024/25.

The UK economy and the impact of inflation could negatively affect the Council's ability to continue to deliver services into the future which could impact on vulnerable members of our communities, and this risk (described as "Increased costs and demand, outstripping the funding available threatening financial sustainability") is included in the Council's strategic risk register per the Audit Committee minutes of 24 March 2025.

We have determined that the risk of financial resilience is well managed because the Council is in a relatively strong financial position at 31 March 2025. This is evidenced by an adequate level of general reserves (£24.200m), as well as a Financial Volatility earmarked reserve (£46.922m) which will support us in transitioning towards a lower base budget over the medium term. We have a healthy level of short-term investments, shown in the Balance Sheet on page 36, which support our cash flow liquidity requirements. We were able to set a balanced budget for 2024/25, and we have a good track record of achieving savings when required. Our view on the Council's overall financial resilience is shown in the section on page 23.

Devolution

A deal was agreed with the government in 2024 that then allowed the formation of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA). The government articulated that the formation of this Mayoral strategic authority is the route to future investment in Greater Lincolnshire as well as increased control in local decision making. All three constituent councils sit on the GLCCA with voting rights. These are Lincolnshire County Council, North-East Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council.

We have already received £20m for capital projects, in 2024/25, with a number of projects already underway and will be receiving a 30-year investment fund worth £720m to level-up the whole of Greater Lincolnshire,

You can find out about the work of the GLCCA by following the link. [Greater Lincolnshire CCA](#)

Local Government Reorganisation

In early January 2025, Lincolnshire County Council together with both North Lincolnshire and North-East Lincolnshire councils responded to a government call for local government reorganisation (LGR). This was an expression of interest and not a detailed proposal.

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Towards the end of 2024, the government set out its intention for widespread reorganisation to get rid of 'two-tier' council systems and made recommendations as to the size and structure of unitary authorities. This was based on the belief that merging district and county councils in shire counties, would allow the councils affected to make greater efficiency savings, whilst reducing organisational complexity and would give communities a unified voice.

Councils were invited to come forward by 10 January 2025 to be considered for the first phase. In Greater Lincolnshire this would mean fewer councils, instead of having a county council, two unitary councils, and seven district councils.

The leaders are keen to work with government officials to progress opportunities, recognising that currently Greater Lincolnshire doesn't meet the criteria for the priority LGR programme, but that the early adoption of devolution should not delay more efficient arrangements for local government.

The then Leader of Lincolnshire County Council, Cllr Martin Hill, said:

"The government is asking councils to come forward that want to be part of the priority programme for LGR and devolution. The request is aimed at those areas that do not have a strategic authority or that need reorganisation to enable devolution. Greater Lincolnshire's devolution deal is already confirmed with the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority due to be formed imminently. And although we don't meet the criteria for the priority programme, we don't feel our devolution deal should be a barrier to seeking reorganisation, in fact we are well placed to fast-track reorganisation for Greater Lincolnshire."

In February 2025, the leaders of all ten greater Lincolnshire councils met and agreed to work together on proposals for what local government reorganisation could look like for our county after the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, Jim McMahon, wrote to all council leaders in two-tier areas and small neighbouring unitary authorities to invite them to develop these unitary proposals.

The invitation gave guidance for developing these proposals, including the expected population of each new authority area and that consideration should be given to existing district boundaries and reducing disruption to vital care services. It also set out the timeline; interim plans should be submitted by 21 March 2025, and more detailed proposals are expected by 28 November 2025.

Greater Lincolnshire's ten council leaders committed to work together to explore all options and formed plans that are in the best interest of the people of Lincolnshire. These were submitted to the Government by the 21 March 2025 deadline.

The councils will continue to work together over the next few months to ensure they have their final proposals in place for November 2025.

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Lincolnshire Pension Fund

The Lincolnshire Pension Fund is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme. It is a contributory defined benefits scheme which provides pensions, and other benefits, to eligible employees of Lincolnshire County Council, the district councils in Lincolnshire and a range of other bodies (including Academy Schools and Internal Drainage Boards) within the county. Its purpose is to ensure that benefits are paid to entitled members when they are due.

At 31 March 2025 the Fund had 268 contributing employer organisations and just under 82,500 members. This is made up of 26,465 active contributing members, 25,846 deferred members (who are no longer contributing to the scheme but will be entitled to a pension when they retire) and 30,173 pensioners.

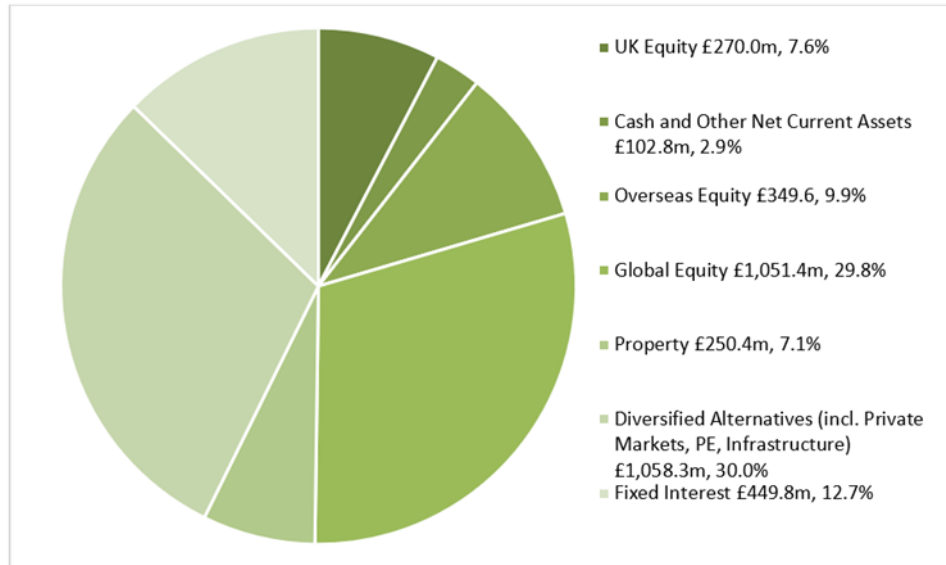
Further details on the Fund can be found at Note 1 to the Pension Fund Accounts (page 165-167) and in the Pension Fund Annual Report.

Financial Highlights

There are two core financial statements within the Pension Fund Statement of Accounts, these provide a summary of financial activity during the year and the financial position at the end of the year. These statements can be found on page 164. These statements are supported by a set of disclosure notes which provide more detail on the Fund's financial transactions and net assets.

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Investment Assets



The following pie chart sets out the assets held by the Pension Fund as at 31 March 2025.

During the year to 31 March 2025 the Fund investment assets have increased in value by £159.6m to £3,532m. The overall investment return for the year was 3.88%, this was slightly behind the Fund's specific benchmark return of 6.08%.

As at 31 March 2024 the Fund had 55.7% of assets invested with Border to Coast in six sub-funds: UK equities, global equities, overseas equities, investment grade credit, multi-asset credit and global property. Further details on the Fund's investments assets can be found at Note 12C of the Pension Fund Accounts and Pension Fund Annual Report.

In year Income and Expenditure

The table below sets out the income and expenditure incurred by the Fund during 2024/25

| 31 March 2024 £'000 | Income and Expenditure incurred by the Pension Fund | 31 March 2025 £'000 |
|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| (164,373) | Contributions (including Transfers In) | (177,827) |
| 127,325 | Benefits (Including Transfers Out) | 146,169 |
| (37,048) | Net (additions) / withdrawals from dealings with Fund members | (31,658) |
| 13,426 | Management Expenses | 14,196 |
| (317,873) | Return on Investments | (139,256) |
| (341,495) | Net (Increase) / Decrease in Net Assets available to pay benefits | (156,718) |

NARRATIVE REPORT

During 2024/25 the Fund was cashflow positive, with contributions received exceeding benefits paid. 80% of contributions received by the Fund came from employers (see Pension Fund Note 6 for further details). Benefits payable have increased from 2023/24 as the number of pensioners has increased, and pensions saw an uplift of 6.7% from April 2024.

The return on investments reflects the growth seen by the Fund in 2024/25. The majority of this, £109.8m came from the change in value of investments, small gains were made on foreign exchange contracts (£12.2m) and the Fund received £17.3m of income from investments.

The Fund saw a small increase in management expenses. This is mainly due to the increasing value of assets held by the Fund.

Funding Arrangements

In line with 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 valuation took place as at 31 March 2022. The results for the Fund at this date was a funding level of 101% (i.e. the value of assets was slightly more than the amount required to pay the benefits which had been accrued at this date), and the Fund had a small surplus of £18m. The Fund's actuary reassesses the position at the end of each financial year.

During 2024/25 both the value of assets and liabilities are estimated to have increased by similar amounts, so the funding level is estimated to be similar to that calculated at the last formal valuation. Further information is set out in Pension Fund Note 17.

Performance and Outcomes

The Pension Fund's overarching objectives are:

- **Governance:**
To act with integrity and be accountable to stakeholders for decisions, ensuring that they are robust, well based and undertaken by people who have the appropriate knowledge and expertise.
- **Investments and Funding:**
To maximise returns from investments within reasonable risk parameters and with clear investment decisions based on a prudent long term funding priorities, given the preference to keep employer contribution rates reasonably stable where appropriate; and
- **Administration and Communications:**

NARRATIVE REPORT

In partnership with West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF), to deliver an effective and efficient Pensions Administration service to all stakeholders, to ensure that the Fund receives all income due and payments are made to the right people at the right time, and to provide clear, appropriate and timely communication and support to all stakeholders.

To ensure the Pension Fund is achieving its overarching objectives:

- The pensions administration service, provided by WYPF in a shared service, is monitored and reported to the Pensions Committee and Board on a quarterly basis. During 2024/25 there have been no areas of concern arising in this area.
- Employer compliance with regulations (paying member contributions and submitting member data) is reported to senior pension fund officers monthly, and to the Pensions Committee and Board annually. Where employers fall short of expected standards, the Fund actively manages this through assistance and education.
- Investment performance of the assets held by the Fund is also report and monitored by the Pensions Committee on a quarterly basis. There have been no concerns regarding manager performance during 2024/25.

Governance and Risk

Governance and risk management is an integral element of managing the Pension Fund. The Fund's governance and risk arrangements include:

- Publishing a Governance Compliance Statement. This details how the Pension Fund is governed and sets out where it complies with best practice guidance as published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
- Managing Fund investments in accordance with the published Investment Strategy Statement (ISS); and
- Maintaining a Pension Fund specific risk register which identifies the major risks associated with managing the Fund. This is reviewed by the Pensions Committee and Board annually, any new or changed risks are reported at each quarterly meeting of the Committee and Board.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Council's Responsibilities are to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of Lincolnshire County Council's and Lincolnshire Pension Fund's 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 Chief Finance Officer.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient, and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Statements of Accounts for Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Pension Fund were signed by Councillor Mr D East (Chair of Audit Committee) on 23rd January 2026.

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts for Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Pension Fund 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 the Statement of Accounts, the Chief Finance Officer has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent; and
- complied with the Local Authority Code.

The Chief Finance 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.
- certified that the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31st March 2025 and of its expenditure and income for the year ended on that date.

The Statements of Accounts for Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Pension Fund were signed by Michelle Grady, CPFA (Chief Finance Officer) on 23rd January 2026.

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025

| 2023/24 | | | Directorate | Note | 2024/25 | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|--|------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Gross Expenditure | Gross Income | Net Expenditure | | | Gross Expenditure | Gross Income | Net Expenditure |
| £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| 413,973 | (228,492) | 185,481 | Adult Care and Community Wellbeing | | 466,573 | (256,154) | 210,419 |
| 169,761 | (65,510) | 104,251 | Children's Services | | 194,469 | (69,995) | 124,474 |
| 2,793 | (61) | 2,732 | Corporate Services | | 2,903 | (56) | 2,847 |
| 27,691 | (2,051) | 25,640 | Fire & Rescue and Community Safety | | 30,223 | (3,869) | 26,354 |
| 247,170 | (42,211) | 204,959 | Place | | 277,290 | (54,219) | 223,071 |
| 89,952 | (13,566) | 76,386 | Resources | | 90,537 | (8,753) | 81,784 |
| 521 | (1,342) | (821) | Other Budgets | | (310) | (1,507) | (1,817) |
| 377,659 | (351,570) | 26,089 | Schools Budgets | | 441,524 | (393,562) | 47,962 |
| 1,329,520 | (704,803) | 624,717 | Cost of Services | | 1,503,209 | (788,115) | 715,094 |
| 11,620 | 0 | 11,620 | Other Operating Expenditure | (6) | 21,128 | 0 | 21,128 |
| 23,124 | (16,888) | 6,236 | Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure | (7) | 22,627 | (16,446) | 6,181 |
| 0 | (705,176) | (705,176) | Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income | (8) | 0 | (771,397) | (771,397) |
| 1,364,264 | (1,426,867) | (62,605) | (Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services | | 1,546,964 | (1,575,958) | (28,989) |
| | | (79,680) | (Surplus)/Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment Assets | (13) | | | (78,425) |
| | | 12 | (Surplus)/Deficit from Investments in Equity Instruments designated at Fair Value Through Other Comprehensive Income | | | | 13 |
| | | 24,264 | Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability/(Asset) | (13) | | | 10,367 |
| | | (36) | Other Recognisable (Gains)/ Losses | | | | 42 |
| | | (55,440) | Other Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure | | | | (68,003) |
| | | (118,045) | Total Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure | | | | (96,992) |

Brackets have been used in the above table to represent income or surpluses.

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025

| | | Usable Reserves | | | | | Unusable Reserves (Note 13) | Total Council Reserves |
|--|------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| | | General Fund Balance | Schools Reserves | Earmarked GF Reserves (Note 14) | Capital Grants/Deposits Unapplied | Total Usable Reserves (Note 12) | | |
| 2024/25 | Note | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Balance as at 1 April 2024 | | 16,400 | 29,329 | 196,406 | 76,082 | 318,216 | 913,990 | 1,232,204 |
| Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure | | 28,989 | 0 | (42) | 0 | 28,947 | 68,045 | 96,992 |
| Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations | (11) | (66,603) | 0 | (7,800) | 1,900 | (72,503) | 72,503 | 0 |
| Contribution to/(from) Earmarked Reserves | | 45,417 | (16,133) | (29,284) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Year 2024/25 | | 7,800 | (16,133) | (37,126) | 1,900 | (43,556) | 140,548 | 96,992 |
| Balance as at 31 March 2025 | | 24,200 | 13,196 | 159,280 | 77,982 | 274,660 | 1,054,539 | 1,329,199 |

| | | Usable Reserves | | | | | Unusable Reserves (Note 13) | Total Council Reserves |
|--|------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| | | General Fund Balance | Schools Reserves | Earmarked GF Reserves (Note 14) | Capital Grants/Deposits Unapplied | Total Usable Reserves (Note 12) | | |
| 2023/24 | Note | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Balance as at 1 April 2023 | | 16,400 | 29,148 | 208,971 | 69,273 | 323,791 | 790,368 | 1,114,159 |
| Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure | | 62,605 | 0 | 36 | 0 | 62,641 | 55,404 | 118,045 |
| Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations | (11) | (75,025) | 0 | 0 | 6,809 | (68,216) | 68,216 | 0 |
| Contribution to/(from) Earmarked Reserves | | 12,420 | 181 | (12,601) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Year 2023/24 | | (0) | 181 | (12,565) | 6,809 | (5,575) | 123,620 | 118,045 |
| Balance as at 31 March 2024 | | 16,400 | 29,329 | 196,406 | 76,082 | 318,216 | 913,990 | 1,232,204 |

N.B. It is the Council's policy to fully utilise all capital receipts to finance capital in the year they are received and so does not have a balance in the Capital Receipts Reserve.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

| 31 March 2024 | | | 31 March 2025 |
|---------------|-------------------------------|------|---------------|
| £'000 | | Note | £'000 |
| 1,679,340 | Property, Plant and Equipment | (15) | 1,813,886 |
| 68,669 | Heritage Assets | (16) | 69,544 |
| 113,782 | Investment Property | (17) | 108,596 |
| 1,971 | Intangible Assets | (18) | 2,205 |
| 1,105 | Long Term Investments | (19) | 974 |
| 2,142 | Long Term Debtors | (20) | 3,575 |
| 1,867,009 | Long Term Assets | | 1,998,780 |
| 242,627 | Short Term Investments | (19) | 220,573 |
| 880 | Assets Held for Sale | (21) | 1,110 |
| 1,188 | Inventories | | 1,203 |
| 111,184 | Short Term Debtors | (20) | 98,830 |
| 355,879 | Current Assets | | 321,716 |
| (93,236) | Cash and Cash Equivalents | (22) | (108,318) |
| (12,072) | Short Term Borrowing | (19) | (9,941) |
| (147,362) | Short Term Creditors | (23) | (165,573) |
| (3,597) | Short Term Provisions | (24) | (4,562) |
| (256,266) | Current Liabilities | | (288,394) |
| (7,056) | Long Term Creditors | (23) | (9,858) |
| (7,209) | Long Term Provisions | (24) | (4,652) |
| (450,054) | Long Term Borrowing | (19) | (443,463) |
| (270,094) | Other Long-Term Liabilities | (25) | (244,930) |
| (734,413) | Long Term Liabilities | | (702,903) |
| 1,232,208 | Net Assets | | 1,329,199 |
| 318,218 | Usable Reserves | (12) | 274,660 |
| 913,990 | Unusable Reserves | (13) | 1,054,539 |
| 1,232,208 | Total Reserves | | 1,329,199 |

CASH FLOW STATEMENT AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| £'000 | | £'000 |
| (62,605) | Net (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services | (28,989) |
| (102,706) | Depreciation | (112,911) |
| (8,325) | Impairment and downward valuations | (11,230) |
| (1,264) | Amortisation | 6,196 |
| (34,974) | Increase/(decrease) in Creditors | (6,461) |
| 13,000 | (Increase)/decrease in Debtors | (12,760) |
| 175 | (Increase)/decrease in Inventories | 15 |
| 29,081 | Movement in Pension Liability | 38,673 |
| (12,597) | Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised | (21,274) |
| (4,099) | Other non-cash items charged to the Net SDPS | (11,781) |
| (121,709) | Adjustments to net SDPS for non-cash movements | (131,533) |
| 97,101 | Capital Grants credited to SDPS | 113,219 |
| 5,729 | Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets | 3,308 |
| 1,747 | Other non-cash items | 1,631 |
| 104,577 | Adjustments to net SDPS for investing and financing activities | 118,158 |
| (79,737) | Net cash flow from Operating Activities | (42,364) |
| 167,832 | Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets | 190,369 |
| 1,240,966 | Purchase of short-term and long-term investments | 1,621,385 |
| 542 | Other payments for investing activities | 677 |
| (5,729) | Proceeds from sale of property, plant equipment, investment property and intangible assets | (3,308) |
| (1,243,940) | Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments | (1,643,569) |
| (95,192) | Capital Grants Received (Government) | (110,833) |
| 288 | Increase/(decrease) in impairment for bad debts | (546) |
| (2,289) | Other receipts from investing activities | (2,308) |
| 62,478 | Net cash flow from Investing Activities | 51,867 |
| (11,041) | Cash receipts of short and long-term borrowing | (19,777) |
| 762 | Cash payments reducing outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-Balance-Sheet PFI Contracts | (3,142) |
| 21,532 | Repayments of short and long-term borrowing | 28,499 |
| 11,253 | Net cash flow from Financing Activities | 5,580 |
| (6,005) | Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents | 15,082 |
| (99,242) | Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 April | (93,236) |
| (93,236) | Cash and cash equivalents as at 31 March | (108,318) |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Due to rounding figures to the nearest £000, some figures shown within the following notes may slightly differ when compared to the main Financial Statements or other Notes to the Accounts. The difference in rounding would not be in excess of £5,000 in any single case.

NOTE 1. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED

The Council is required to disclose information relating to the impact of changes in accounting standards on the financial statements as a result of new standards that have been issued but are not yet required to be adopted.

In the 2024/25 accounts, the County Council is required to disclose the following changes to Accounting Standards which may have an impact on the County Council's accounts in 2025/26. The following standards are likely to be effective for local authorities for the 2025/26 financial year:

IAS 21 The effects of changes in Foreign Exchange Rate

IAS 21 prescribes how to include foreign currency transactions and foreign operations in the financial statements of an entity and how to translate financial statements into a presentation currency. The Council does not have any foreign operations and is unaffected by these amendments.

IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts

IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts establishes the principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of Insurance contracts. Its objective is to ensure an entity provides relevant information that faithfully represents those contracts to give users of financial statements a basis to assess the effect that insurance contracts have on the entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows. The Council does not issue insurance contracts and is unaffected by these amendments.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 2. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 41, 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 include:

Government Funding

There is a high degree of uncertainty and risk regarding future levels of funding for local government. The Government's upcoming changes indicate that Lincolnshire may be judged as having more resources than it needs, which could have implications for future grant funding levels. The Council has determined that this uncertainty is not immediate enough to clearly indicate which Council assets might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.

Classification of Leases

The Council has updated the accounting policy for leases to reflect the adoption of IFRS 16 accounting standard for our 2024/25 accounts. We have examined our lease and lease type arrangements where the Council is a lessee and any which are not exempt have been added onto the Council's balance sheet. Lease liabilities have been initially measured using the Council's incremental borrowing rate as at the transition date of 1st April 2024.

PFI Contract- Focus Education Lincolnshire

The Council has one PFI contract for the construction and provision of seven schools. The accounting policy for Service Concessions and Similar Arrangements has been applied to account for this contract and the Council consider these assets and liability should be recognised within the Council's Balance Sheet. Further information about this PFI contract can be found in Note 26.

Energy from Waste Plant

The Council has built an Energy from Waste Plant which is operated through a contract with a third party. Elements of this contract meet the definition of a service concession arrangement however as the Council has purchased the related assets outright, these assets on shown within our Balance Sheet.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 3. ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The Statement of Accounts contain a number of estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council, about the future or where there is a degree of uncertainty about outcomes. Estimates made take into account: historical experience, current trends, and relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates included in the Statement of Accounts.

The Council's Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025 contains the following entries, for which there is a significant risk of material adjustments in the forthcoming financial year:

| Item | Uncertainties | Effect if actual results differ from assumptions |
|----------|--|--|
| Pensions | <p>The Council's accounts contain an estimate of the future liability to pay pensions on the retirement of employees. This liability is estimated by the Council's actuary who applies a number of assumptions relating to: salary projections, retirement ages, changes in mortality rates and expected rates of return on pension assets and the discount rates used.</p> <p>Formal actuarial valuations are carried out every three years, where the assets and liabilities are calculated on a detailed basis, using individual member data for cash contribution setting purposes. The last formal valuation for the Firefighters Pension Schemes was on 31 March 2024 and the last formal valuation of the Local Government Pension Scheme was on 31 March 2022.</p> <p>The valuation of pension assets and liabilities result from assumptions that in effect estimate investment returns and future demographic factors many years into the future, which means that there is inevitably a great deal of uncertainty inherent with such projections.</p> | <p>Changes to the actuaries' assumptions may materially affect the value of the pension fund liability, however, these changes are difficult to predict as the assumptions interact in complex ways. For 2024/25 the Council's actuaries advised that the net pension liability decreased to £235.619m (2023/24 £263.925m). Details of the pension fund liabilities are set out in Note 29 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes.</p> <p>The data used as a basis for valuing the pension liabilities will be largely consistent with the data used last year as the roll forward approach has been taken. There may be a "step change" in the liability value when formal revaluations are next carried out.</p> <p>Part D of Note 29 Defined Benefit Pensions Schemes describes the methods of estimation and the principal assumptions used. Part e of this note describes the impacts that a change in assumptions would have on the valuation of the pension liability.</p> |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

| Item | Uncertainties | Effect if actual results differ from assumptions |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Property, Plant and Equipment - (PPE) | <p>Land and building assets carrying value and remaining useful life are assessed by the Council's Valuers. These valuations include an assessment of the condition and use of assets. Changes in local government funding and future restructuring of services by the Council may affect the use of existing assets and levels of spending to maintain these assets. This may lead to changes in asset values and asset lives in the future.</p> <p>During derecognition the value of the replacement is used as a proxy to index back to original cost. This will lead to changes in asset values, thereby affecting the depreciation charges in the future.</p> | <p>Changes to asset value and lives, will have an effect on the annual depreciation charge for use of assets charged to services in the CI&ES. The annual depreciation charge for PPE in 2024/25 is £112.911m (2023/24 was £102.705m). The asset life has an inverse effect with depreciation charge. The lower the asset life the higher the depreciation charge and the higher the asset life the lower the depreciation charge.</p> <p>The accounting policies in Note 41 and Note 15 Property, Plant and Equipment detail the current policy on valuation methods, the significant assumptions used in estimating the current value of PPE, asset lives, depreciation and derecognition applied by the Council.</p> <p>Land and Buildings are revalued on a five-year rolling programme, so approximately one fifth of properties are revalued in every year. If the valuations carried out in 2024/25 had resulted in values which were 1% different from the actual results, then the impact would have been a change to the total gross book value of those properties of £1.483m.</p> <p>If the remaining useful lives of all PPE assets were reduced by one year, then the depreciation charge for the year would have been £28.457m higher than the actual depreciation charge.</p> |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

| Item | Uncertainties | Effect if actual results differ from assumptions |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Fair Value Measurements | <p>When the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (e.g. Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using valuation techniques (e.g. discounted cashflow model or independent appraisal of company valuations).</p> <p>Where Level 1 input is not available, the Council employs relevant experts to identify the most appropriate valuation techniques to determine the fair value (for example the investment properties, the Council's Valuer).</p> <p>The Council has shareholdings in companies, and these are measured using Level 3 inputs due to lack of information in active markets. The fair value has been measured using the discounted cashflow - enterprise approach. This uses discount rates derived from the financial information available from these companies. Other assumptions used are based on most recent available financial statements of these companies and other information known at the time.</p> | <p>The Council uses market value and term and reversion approach to measure the fair value of some of its investment properties.</p> <p>The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement include assumptions regarding rent that any tenant/s is/are capable of meeting its/their obligations, and that there are no rent arrears or undisclosed breaches of covenant.</p> <p>Significant changes in the unobservable inputs would result in a significantly lower fair value measurement for the investment properties.</p> <p>Part D of Note 17 Investment Properties describes the significant assumptions used in estimating the current value of Investment properties.</p> <p>Part C of Note 19 Financial Instruments and the nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments describes the valuation techniques used for financial instruments in more detail. Part D of this note describes how expected credit losses are calculated, and the Council's exposure to credit risk in respect of financial assets. Other risks which could affect the future value of financial assets, are also set out in this section.</p> <p>Significant changes in the unobservable inputs would result in difference in the fair value of these shareholdings. However, this is not considered to be materially significant due to the current financial position of these companies and the level of the Council's interest in these companies.</p> |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 4. MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Council is required to disclose any material amounts of income or expenditure which are not disclosed on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in other supporting notes to the accounts.

There are no material items of income and expenditure to disclosure for 2024/25.

NOTE 5. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

Authorisation of Accounts for Issue

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by Michelle Grady, CPFA (Chief Finance Officer) on 23 January 2026.

Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes.

Events after the Reporting Period

In accordance with IAS 10 'Events after the Reporting Period' have been considered on the following basis:

- Events taking place after the date the Accounts were authorised for issue (23 January 2026) are not reflected in the Financial Statements or the notes.
- Events that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period 2024-25 are reflected in the figures in the Financial Statements and the notes, where the information has a material impact.

There were no material "adjusting" events arising after the reporting period and up to 23 January 2026, however there are two "non-adjusting" events to disclose. Firstly, Reform UK won the May 2025 local county council election, securing an overall majority and entering into administration of the authority for the first time. Secondly, as a result of this change in political leadership a new corporate plan is currently being developed to replace the existing corporate plan, that was introduced in 2019 setting out the council's priorities.

The original documents were signed by Michelle Grady, CPFA (Chief Finance Officer) on 23rd January 2026.

NOTE 6. OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|---|---------|
| £'000 | | £'000 |
| 716 | Precepts paid to non-principal authorities and levies | 562 |
| 10,904 | Gain or Loss on the disposal of non-current assets | 20,566 |
| 11,620 | Total | 21,128 |

NOTE 7. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|----------|--|----------|
| £'000 | | £'000 |
| 22,823 | Interest payable and similar charges | 23,586 |
| 1,517 | Net Interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset) | (6,746) |
| (1,472) | Changes on Investment Property valuations | 4,563 |
| (288) | Changes in Financial Instruments measured at amortised cost valuations | 546 |
| 544 | Expenditure on Investment Properties | 678 |
| 23,124 | Total Gross Expenditure | 22,627 |
| (14,599) | Interest receivable and similar income | (14,138) |
| (2,289) | Income from Investment Properties | (2,308) |
| (16,888) | Total Gross Income | (16,446) |
| 6,236 | Total | 6,181 |

NOTE 8. TAXATION AND NON-SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME

a) Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| £'000 | | £'000 |
| (365,535) | Council tax income | (388,705) |
| (119,281) | Business Rates - Districts | (125,283) |
| | Non-ring-fenced government grants: | |
| (56,394) | Adult Social Care Support Grant | (73,865) |
| (26,716) | Section 31 Grant - Business Rates | (30,389) |
| (23,392) | Revenue Support Grant | (26,414) |
| (8,134) | Rural Service Delivery Grant | (9,418) |
| (1,663) | Extended Rights to Free Travel | (1,927) |
| (850) | New Homes Bonus Grant | (952) |
| (4,508) | New Services Grant | (778) |
| (1,437) | Fire Pensions Section 31 Grant | 0 |
| (165) | Other Non Specific Grant | (446) |
| (123,259) | Total Non-ring-fenced Government Grants | (144,189) |
| | Capital Grants and Contributions: | |
| (38,132) | DfT Asset Protection Grant | (38,723) |
| 0 | Devolution Capital Grant | (18,900) |
| (4,609) | Lincolnshire Secure Unit | (11,777) |
| (4,587) | North Hykeham Relief Road | (6,310) |
| (62) | Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) | (5,620) |
| 0 | Pain /Gain Grant | (4,924) |
| (4,888) | DfE Schools Condition Capital Maintenance Grant | (4,843) |
| (14,603) | DfT Levelling Up Fund | (4,351) |
| (17,704) | Children's Special Provision Fund | (3,435) |
| (3,337) | DfT Integrated Transport Grant | (3,337) |
| (162) | Grantham Future High Street - InvestSK | (2,797) |
| 0 | Broadband | (1,781) |
| (98) | Lincoln Town Fund - CoL - Capital | (1,083) |
| (963) | Devolved Formula Grant | (940) |
| (1,356) | Community Infrastructure Levy Grant | (843) |
| (1,639) | DfE Basic Need Grant | 0 |
| (1,461) | Children's Early Years capital grant | 0 |
| (3,500) | Other Capital Grants and Contributions | (3,555) |
| (97,101) | Total Capital Grants and Contributions | (113,219) |
| (705,176) | Total | (771,397) |

Details of capital grants unapplied during the financial year and transferred to reserves can be found in the Movement on Reserves Statement and Note 12 Usable Reserves.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

b) Credited to Revenue Service Accounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| £'000 | | £'000 |
| (300,535) | Dedicated Schools Grant | (337,041) |
| (35,984) | Public Health Grant | (37,105) |
| (35,575) | Better Care Fund - Improved Element | (34,257) |
| 0 | Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund | (14,735) |
| (12,849) | Pupil Premium | (12,856) |
| (7,585) | Disabled Facilities Grant | (8,657) |
| (4,803) | Adult Care Discharge Grant | (8,005) |
| (6,237) | Asylum Seekers | (6,718) |
| (10,881) | Household Support Grant | (6,228) |
| (101) | Teachers' Pension Grant | (5,129) |
| 0 | Core Schools Budget Grant | (5,077) |
| (3,120) | Adult Safeguarding Learning | (4,172) |
| (2,128) | Teachers Pay Grant | (3,679) |
| (2,369) | Early Years Support Grant | (3,463) |
| (3,262) | Universal Infant Free School Meals | (3,204) |
| (2,699) | Troubled Families Grant | (2,975) |
| 0 | Holiday Activity Grant | (2,777) |
| (2,905) | Homes For Ukraine | (2,743) |
| (2,869) | EFA and Sport Grant | (2,622) |
| (2,660) | YPLA 16-19 Funding | (2,452) |
| (2,191) | YPLA 16-19 LR and Bursaries | (2,165) |
| 0 | Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Grant | (2,067) |
| (2,398) | Family Hubs Grant | (1,944) |
| (2,629) | Domestic Abuse | (1,515) |
| (2,750) | Pathfinder | (1,400) |
| (1,158) | The Private Finance Initiative | (1,158) |
| 0 | Tobacco Control / Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant | (1,066) |
| 0 | Fire Fighter Pension Grant | (1,060) |
| (1,059) | Fire New Burdens | (983) |
| (1,116) | Bus Service Operators Grant | (630) |
| (1,593) | Schools Recovery Premium Funding | (18) |
| (5,258) | Fair Cost of Care | 0 |
| (4,825) | Mainstream Schools Additional Grant | 0 |
| (18,874) | Other Revenue Grants | (22,857) |
| (480,412) | Total | (540,758) |

NOTE 9. EXPENDITURE 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 directorates, services and departments. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

| 2023/24 | | | Directorate | 2024/25 | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund | Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis | Net Expenditure in the CIES | | Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund | Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis | Net Expenditure in the CIES |
| £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| 185,291 | 191 | 185,482 | Adult Care and Community Wellbeing | 210,673 | (255) | 210,418 |
| 103,084 | 1,166 | 104,250 | Children's Services | 123,487 | 988 | 124,475 |
| 2,831 | (99) | 2,732 | Corporate Services | 2,977 | (130) | 2,847 |
| 24,556 | 1,084 | 25,640 | Fire & Rescue and Community Safety | 26,477 | (123) | 26,354 |
| 131,785 | 73,174 | 204,959 | Place | 148,230 | 74,840 | 223,070 |
| 77,378 | (992) | 76,386 | Resources | 81,534 | 250 | 81,784 |
| 96,945 | (97,765) | (820) | Other Budgets | 92,300 | (94,115) | (1,815) |
| (1,126) | 27,214 | 26,088 | Schools Budgets | 14,974 | 32,989 | 47,963 |
| 620,744 | 3,973 | 624,717 | Net Cost of Services | 700,652 | 14,444 | 715,094 |
| (608,324) | (78,999) | (687,323) | Other Income & Expenditure | (657,403) | (86,684) | (744,087) |
| 12,420 | (75,026) | (62,605) | (Surplus)/Deficit | 43,249 | (72,240) | (28,989) |
| (12,420) | | | Movement to/(from) Earmarked Reserves | (45,417) | | |
| 0 | | | (Surplus) or Deficit on General Fund Balance | (2,168) | | |
| 16,400 | | | Opening General Fund balance at 1 April 2024 | 16,400 | | |
| (62,605) | | | Plus Surplus or Less (Deficit) on General Fund in Year | 7,800 | | |
| (46,205) | | | Closing General Fund balance at 31 March 2025 | 24,200 | | |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

a) The below table shows the adjustments between funding and accounting basis included within the Expenditure and Funding Analysis:

| 2023/24 | | | | Directorate | 2024/25 | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Adjustments for Capital Purposes | Net change for the Pension Adjustments | Other Differences | Total Adjustments | | Adjustments for Capital Purposes | Net change for the Pension Adjustments | Other Differences | Total Adjustments |
| £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| 2,165 | (2,214) | 239 | 190 | Adult Care and Community Wellbeing | 2,227 | (2,434) | (47) | (255) |
| 3,880 | (3,126) | 412 | 1,166 | Children's Services | 5,254 | (4,272) | 5 | 988 |
| 0 | (113) | 15 | (98) | Corporate Services | 0 | (123) | (7) | (130) |
| 5,682 | (4,486) | (112) | 1,084 | Fire & Rescue and Community Safety | 5,049 | (5,185) | 12 | (123) |
| 75,091 | (1,725) | (191) | 73,175 | Place | 76,910 | (2,082) | 12 | 74,840 |
| (190) | (2,776) | 1,975 | (991) | Resources | 6,536 | (3,312) | (2,974) | 250 |
| 1,266 | (12,154) | (86,878) | (97,766) | Other Budgets | 311 | (10,205) | (84,221) | (94,115) |
| 33,280 | (4,004) | (2,062) | 27,214 | Schools Budgets | 39,850 | (4,314) | (2,547) | 32,989 |
| 121,174 | (30,598) | (86,603) | 3,973 | Net Cost of Services | 136,136 | (31,927) | (89,767) | 14,444 |
| 35,004 | (29,081) | (84,922) | (78,999) | Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis | (92,631) | (6,746) | 12,693 | (86,684) |
| 156,178 | (59,679) | (171,525) | (75,025) | Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and CI&ES Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services | 43,505 | (38,673) | (77,074) | (72,240) |

Adjustments for Capital Purposes

The column for adjustments for capital purposes 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

NOTES SUPPORTING THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

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.

Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

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

- For services this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the 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 CI&ES.

Other Differences

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

- For Financing and investment income and expenditure the other differences column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.

b) Included within the Net Chargeable Expenditure is income received from external customers. This income affects the General Fund balance and has been reported during the year.

| 2023/24 | | | | | 2024/25 | | | |
|------------------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|
| Fees and Charges | Rents | Sales | Total Customer and Client Receipts | | Fees and Charges | Rents | Sales | Total Customer and Client Receipts |
| £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| (62,640) | (35) | (2,089) | (64,766) | Directorate | (72,990) | (35) | (2,015) | (75,040) |
| (1,994) | (50) | (375) | (2,419) | Adult Care and Community Wellbeing | (2,386) | (72) | (316) | (2,774) |
| (2) | 0 | 0 | (2) | Children's Services | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| (12) | 0 | 0 | (12) | Corporate Services | (45) | 0 | 0 | (45) |
| (10,493) | (2,792) | (2,481) | (15,767) | Fire & Rescue and Community Safety | (11,306) | (2,602) | (2,193) | (16,100) |
| (1,432) | (2,788) | (250) | (4,470) | Place | (1,729) | (2,872) | (776) | (5,376) |
| (1) | 0 | 0 | (1) | Resources | 0 | 0 | (2) | (2) |
| (2,631) | (50) | (2,862) | (5,544) | Other Budgets | (3,855) | (54) | (3,244) | (7,153) |
| (79,205) | (5,715) | (8,057) | (92,979) | Schools Budgets | | | | |
| | | | | Total External Income Analysed | (92,309) | (5,634) | (8,546) | (106,489) |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

NOTE 10. EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ANALYSED BY NATURE

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

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Expenditure: | | |
| Employee benefits expenses | 391,687 | 420,309 |
| Other service expenses | 828,015 | 953,220 |
| Depreciation, amortisation and impairment | 111,591 | 124,161 |
| Interest payments | 22,823 | 23,587 |
| Precepts and Levies | 716 | 562 |
| (Gain)/Loss on the disposal of assets | 10,932 | 20,588 |
| Total expenditure | 1,365,764 | 1,542,427 |
| Income: | | |
| Fees, charges and other service income | (226,681) | (249,665) |
| Interest and investment income | (16,100) | (9,596) |
| Income from Council Tax, Non-domestic Rates | (484,816) | (513,989) |
| Government Grants and Contributions | (700,772) | (798,166) |
| Total income | (1,428,369) | (1,571,416) |
| (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services | (62,605) | (28,989) |

NOTE 11. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

This Note details the adjustments that are made to total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure to adjust proper accounting practice for statutory provisions to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

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

General Fund Balance

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

Capital Receipts Reserve

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

Capital Grants Unapplied

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

NOTES SUPPORTING THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

| | Usable | Reserves | Movements in Unusable Reserves £'000 |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| | General Fund Balance £'000 | Capital Grants Unapplied £'000 | |
| 2024/25 | | | |
| Adjustments to Revenue Resources: | | | |
| Amount by which income and expenditure included in the CIES are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements. | | | |
| Pension Costs (transferred to/(from) the Pension Reserve): | | | |
| Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES | 26,531 | 0 | (26,531) |
| Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year | (65,204) | 0 | 65,204 |
| Financial Instruments (transferred to/(from) the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account): | (38) | 0 | 38 |
| Council Tax and Business Rates (transferred to/(from) the Collection Fund Adjustment Account): | (774) | 0 | 774 |
| Holiday Pay (transferred to/(from) the Accumulated Absences Account): | 147 | 0 | (147) |
| Reversal of entries included in the SDPS in relation to Capital Expenditure (these items are charged to the CAA): | | | |
| Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets | 112,911 | 0 | (112,911) |
| Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment | 10,193 | 0 | (10,193) |
| Revaluation losses on Held for Sale Assets | (10) | 0 | 10 |
| Movements in the market value of Investment Properties | 4,552 | 0 | (4,552) |
| Amortisation of intangible assets | 1,057 | 0 | (1,057) |
| Capital grants and contributions applied | (81,984) | 0 | 81,984 |
| Capital Receipts applied | (3,308) | 0 | 3,308 |
| Income in relation of Donated Assets | (4,550) | 0 | 4,550 |
| Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (net of Grants and Contributions) | 11,945 | 0 | (11,945) |
| Amounts of Non-Current Assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES | 23,896 | 0 | (23,896) |
| Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources | 35,364 | 0 | (35,364) |
| Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources: | | | |
| Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transferred to/(from) the CAA): | (30,718) | 0 | 30,718 |
| Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund (transferred to/(from) the CAA): | (47,814) | 0 | 47,814 |
| Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources | (78,532) | 0 | 78,532 |
| Adjustments to Capital Resources: | | | |
| Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the CIES | (31,235) | 31,235 | 0 |
| Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the CAA | 0 | (29,335) | 29,335 |
| Total Adjustments to Capital Resources | (31,235) | 1,900 | 29,335 |
| Total Adjustments | (74,403) | 1,900 | 72,503 |

CIES = Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

CAA = Capital Adjustment Account

NOTES SUPPORTING THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

| | Usable Reserves | | Movements in Unusable Reserves £'000 |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| | General Fund Balance £'000 | Capital Grants Unapplied £'000 | |
| 2023/24 | | | |
| Adjustments to Revenue Resources: | | | |
| Amount by which income and expenditure included in the CIES are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements. | | | |
| Pension Costs (transferred to/(from) the Pension Reserve): | | | |
| Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES | 30,717 | 0 | (30,717) |
| Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year | (59,798) | 0 | 59,798 |
| Financial Instruments (transferred to/(from) the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account): | (38) | 0 | 38 |
| Council Tax and Business Rates (transferred to/(from) the Collection Fund Adjustment Account): | 339 | 0 | (339) |
| Holiday Pay (transferred to/(from) the Accumulated Absences Account): | 1,685 | 0 | (1,685) |
| Reversal of entries included in the SDPS in relation to Capital Expenditure (these items are charged to the CAA): | | | |
| Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets | 102,705 | 0 | (102,705) |
| Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment | 7,220 | 0 | (7,220) |
| Movements in the market value of Investment Properties | (1,501) | 0 | 1,501 |
| Amortisation of intangible assets | 1,666 | 0 | (1,666) |
| Capital grants and contributions applied | (58,791) | 0 | 58,791 |
| Capital Receipts applied | (5,729) | 0 | 5,729 |
| Income in relation of Donated Assets | 0 | | (0) |
| Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (net of Grants and Contributions) | 9,465 | 0 | (9,465) |
| Amounts of Non-Current Assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES | 16,662 | 0 | (16,662) |
| Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources | 44,603 | 0 | (44,603) |
| Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources: | | | |
| Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transferred to/(from) the CAA) | (35,872) | 0 | 35,872 |
| Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund (transferred to/(from) the CAA) | (45,446) | 0 | 45,446 |
| Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources | (81,318) | 0 | 81,318 |
| Adjustments to Capital Resources: | | | |
| Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the CIES | (38,310) | 38,310 | 0 |
| Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the CAA | 0 | (31,501) | 31,501 |
| Total Adjustments to Capital Resources | (38,310) | 6,809 | 31,501 |
| Total Adjustments | (75,025) | 6,809 | 68,216 |

CIES = Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

CAA = Capital Adjustment Account

NOTE 12. USABLE RESERVES

The Council's general revenue balances are held in the General Fund. The Council also maintains a number of specific 'earmarked' reserves for future expenditure on either policy purposes or to cover contingencies. When expenditure is financed from an earmarked reserve, it is charged to the relevant revenue service account in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then appropriated back to the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement, so that there is no net charge against Council Tax.

A review of capital deposits from developers was carried out in the year, and where such deposits are deemed as no longer potentially repayable, they have been reclassified from Long Term Creditors to Capital Deposits within Usable Reserves.

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|--------------------------|---------|
| £'000 | Usable Reserves | £'000 |
| 76,082 | Capital Grants Unapplied | 77,983 |
| 225,736 | Earmarked Reserves | 172,476 |
| 16,400 | General Fund | 24,200 |
| 318,218 | Total | 274,659 |

NOTE 13. UNUSABLE RESERVES

Certain reserves are held to maintain the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, and employee benefits. These accounts do not represent usable resources for the Council.

The following table summarises the Unusable Reserves held by the Council:

| 2023/24 | | | 2024/25 |
|-----------|--|-------|-----------|
| £'000 | Unusable Reserves | Note | £'000 |
| 411,881 | Revaluation Reserve | (13a) | 453,603 |
| 771,366 | Capital Adjustment Account | (13b) | 841,233 |
| (1,363) | Financial Instruments Adjustment Account | (13c) | (1,325) |
| 513 | Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve | (13d) | 500 |
| (263,925) | Pension Reserve | (13e) | (235,619) |
| 2,166 | Collection Fund Adjustment Account | (13f) | 2,940 |
| (6,648) | Accumulated Absences Account | (13g) | (6,795) |
| 913,990 | Total | | 1,054,537 |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

a) Revaluation Reserve

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

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost;
- Used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation; or
- Disposed of and the gains are realised.

The reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account (CAA).

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|----------|--|----------|
| £'000 | Revaluation Reserve | £'000 |
| 360,794 | Balance at 1 April | 411,881 |
| 84,139 | Upward revaluation of assets | 94,542 |
| (4,459) | Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services | (16,117) |
| 79,680 | Surplus/deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services | 78,425 |
| (22,318) | Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation | (25,548) |
| (6,275) | Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped | (11,155) |
| (28,593) | Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account | (36,703) |
| 411,881 | Balance at 31 March | 453,603 |

b) Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account (CAA) 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, impaired losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historic 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. Details of the source of all the transactions posted to the CAA, apart from those involving the

NOTES SUPPORTING THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

Revaluation Reserve are detailed in Note 11 Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulation.

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| £'000 | Capital Adjustment Account | £'000 |
| 701,650 | Balance at 1 April | 771,366 |
| | Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the CIES: | |
| (102,705) | Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets | (112,911) |
| (7,220) | Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment | (10,193) |
| 0 | Revaluation on Assets Held for Sale | 10 |
| (1,666) | Amortisation of intangible assets | (1,057) |
| (9,465) | Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (net of Grants and Contributions) | (11,945) |
| (16,662) | Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES | (23,896) |
| 28,593 | Adjusting amounts written out of the RR | 36,702 |
| (109,125) | Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year | (123,290) |
| | Capital financing applied in the year: | |
| 5,729 | Use of Capital Receipts to finance new capital expenditure | 3,308 |
| 58,791 | Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing | 81,984 |
| 31,501 | Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account | 29,335 |
| 35,872 | Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund | 30,718 |
| 45,446 | Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund | 47,814 |
| 177,339 | | 193,159 |
| 1,501 | Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the CIES | (4,552) |
| 0 | Movement in the Donated Assets Account credited to the CIES | 4,550 |
| 771,366 | Balance at 31 March | 841,233 |

c) Financial Instruments & Financial Assets Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions. The Council uses the account to manage premiums paid on the early redemption of loans. Premiums are debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when they are incurred but reversed out of the General Fund balance to the account in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Over time the expense is posted back to the General

NOTES SUPPORTING THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

Fund balance in accordance with statutory arrangements for spreading the burden on council tax.

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|--|---------|
| £'000 | Financial Instruments and Assets Adjustment Account | £'000 |
| (1,401) | Balance at 1 April | (1,363) |
| 38 | Proportion of premiums incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory requirements | 38 |
| (1,363) | Balance at 31 March | (1,325) |

d) Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve

The Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its investments that are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains lost, or
- Disposed of and the gains are realised.

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|--|---------|
| £'000 | Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve | £'000 |
| 525 | Balance at 1 April | 513 |
| (12) | Change in treatment of loss allowance | (13) |
| 513 | Balance at 31 March | 500 |

e) Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits on accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pay any pensions for which it is directly responsible.

In the table below, the credit balance on the Pension Reserve shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| £'000 | Pensions Reserve | £'000 |
| (268,742) | Balance at 1 April | (263,925) |
| (24,264) | Actuarial gains or losses on pensions assets and liabilities | (10,367) |
| (30,717) | Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the SDPS in the CIES | (26,531) |
| 59,798 | Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year | 65,204 |
| (263,925) | Balance at 31 March | (235,619) |

f) Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|---|---------|
| £'000 | Collection Fund Adjustment Account | £'000 |
| 2,505 | Balance at 1 April | 2,166 |
| (339) | Amount by which council tax income credited to the CIES is different from council tax and business rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements | 774 |
| 2,166 | Balance at 31 March | 2,940 |

g) Accumulated Absences Account

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

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|---|---------|
| £'000 | Accumulated Absences Account | £'000 |
| (4,963) | Balance at 1 April | (6,648) |
| 4,963 | Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year | 6,648 |
| (6,648) | Amounts accrued at the end of the current year | (6,745) |
| (1,685) | Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements | (147) |
| (6,648) | Balance at 31 March | (6,795) |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

NOTE 14. TRANSFER TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES

The note below sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund into Earmarked Reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from Earmarked Reserves to meet General Fund expenditure in 2024/25.

| Balance at 1 April 2023 | Additions in Year | Used in Year | Balance at 31 March 2024 | | Reallocated Balance at 1 April 2024 | Additions in Year | Used in Year | Balance at 31 March 2025 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| 16,028 | 2,417 | (2,165) | 16,280 | Balances from dedicated schools' budget | 16,280 | 13,890 | (28,670) | 1,500 |
| 13,120 | 12,994 | (13,065) | 13,049 | Balances for schools under a scheme of delegation | 13,049 | 23,717 | (25,070) | 11,696 |
| | | | | Other Earmarked Reserves: | | | | |
| 2,190 | 552 | (2,390) | 352 | Other Services | 1,899 | 1,666 | (1,899) | 1,666 |
| 10,359 | 10,886 | (10,452) | 10,793 | Reserves requiring Council approval in September | 9,446 | 8,185 | (9,446) | 8,185 |
| 6,775 | 0 | (1,400) | 5,375 | Insurance | 5,375 | 0 | 0 | 5,375 |
| 865 | 93 | (553) | 406 | Schools Sickness Insurance | 406 | 0 | (95) | 311 |
| 2,169 | 0 | (167) | 2,002 | Shared Services (Legal and Procurement) | 2,002 | 87 | 0 | 2,089 |
| 46,921 | 0 | 0 | 46,921 | Financial Volatility | 46,921 | 0 | 0 | 46,921 |
| 564 | 563 | (1,126) | 1 | CSSC Transformation including BW Rebuild & Development | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3,876 | 1,286 | (3,805) | 1,357 | Energy from Waste Lifecycles | 1,357 | 1,538 | (1,362) | 1,533 |
| 24,535 | 11,146 | (8,361) | 27,320 | Development Fund | 26,964 | 11,554 | (26,085) | 12,433 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Support to Businesses | 156 | 0 | 0 | 156 |
| 5,575 | 919 | (876) | 5,618 | Other Service Earmarked Reserves | 5,618 | 1,821 | (2,380) | 5,059 |
| 132,977 | 40,856 | (44,360) | 129,474 | Total of Other Earmarked Reserves | 129,474 | 62,458 | (95,007) | 96,924 |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

| Balance at 1 April 2023 | Additions in Year | Used in Year | Balance at 31 March 2024 | Revenue Grants and Contributions | Balance at 1 April 2024 | Additions in Year | Used in Year | Balance at 31 March 2025 |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | Unapplied Reserves | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| 8,134 | 6,854 | (7,971) | 7,017 | Schools | 7,017 | 4,408 | (7,038) | 4,387 |
| 11,595 | 5,126 | (2,071) | 14,650 | Children Services | 14,650 | 3,740 | (7,439) | 10,951 |
| 74,217 | 11,653 | (21,815) | 64,055 | Adult Care and Community Wellbeing | 64,055 | (8,600) | (6,510) | 48,945 |
| 8,972 | 193 | (757) | 8,408 | Place | 8,408 | 2,141 | (1,376) | 9,173 |
| 1,628 | 0 | (92) | 1,536 | Other Budgets | 1,536 | 0 | 0 | 1,536 |
| 212 | 0 | 0 | 212 | Resources | 212 | 0 | 0 | 212 |
| 384 | 0 | 0 | 384 | Fire and Rescue | 384 | 0 | (35) | 349 |
| 105,143 | 23,826 | (32,706) | 96,262 | Total of Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied Reserves | 96,262 | 1,689 | (22,398) | 75,553 |
| 238,120 | 64,682 | (77,066) | 225,736 | Total Reserves | 225,736 | 64,147 | (117,405) | 172,476 |

The balance held by schools under the scheme of delegation, represents the net underspending of school budget shares in 2024-25. It is earmarked for use by those schools as required by the Lincolnshire County Council Scheme for financing Schools approved by the Secretary of State for Education.

The Financial Volatility and the Financial Volatility - Budget Shortfall Reserves have been established to help the Council deal with the future uncertainties around Local Government funding.

The Development Fund has been created from revenue budget underspends and will be used to fund one-off costs required for e.g. developing new initiatives, investing to save future costs, dealing with backlog work, transforming the way we work in the future.

The Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied Reserves are used where the Council has received funding, but the expenditure has not yet taken place. The funding will be used for the schemes that it was awarded for in future accounting periods.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

NOTE 15. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

a) Movement on Non-Current Assets

| | Land and Buildings | Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment | Infrastructure (*1) | Surplus Assets | Assets Under Construction | Total | PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant and Equipment |
|--|-----------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Movement in Property, Plant and Equipment | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Cost or Valuation | | | | | | | |
| At 1 April 2024 | 670,131 | 130,573 | | 11,925 | 145,802 | 1,034,783 | 18,876 |
| Additions | 19,534 | 7,458 | 95,738 | 272 | 74,489 | 197,491 | 235 |
| Donations | 4,551 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,551 | 0 |
| Revaluation Increase to RR | 63,981 | 0 | 0 | 523 | 0 | 64,504 | 2,795 |
| Revaluation Decrease to RR | (17,207) | 0 | 0 | (126) | 0 | (17,333) | (125) |
| Revaluation Increase/(Decrease) to SDPS | (11,371) | 0 | 0 | 131 | 0 | (11,240) | 8 |
| Derecognition - Disposals | (14,680) | (6,503) | (39,037) | (1,195) | 0 | (61,415) | 0 |
| Derecognition to RR | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Derecognition to SDPS | (6,532) | (606) | 0 | 0 | 0 | (7,138) | 0 |
| Reclassified to/from Held for Sale | 0 | 0 | 0 | (770) | 0 | (770) | 0 |
| Reclassifications - Other | 21,881 | 647 | 72,353 | (1,354) | (93,573) | (46) | 0 |
| At 31 March 2025 | 730,288 | 131,569 | | 9,406 | 126,718 | 1,203,387 | 21,789 |
| Depreciation and Impairment | | | | | | | |
| At 1 April 2024 | (21,530) | (37,543) | | (401) | 0 | (97,288) | (755) |
| Depreciation Charge for 2024/25 | (38,060) | (11,525) | (63,175) | (151) | 0 | (112,911) | (668) |
| Depreciation written out on upward revaluation | 29,776 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29,776 | 645 |
| Depreciation written out on downward revaluation | 1,211 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1,216 | 0 |
| Depreciation written out to the SDPS | 1,013 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 0 | 1,047 | 0 |
| Derecognition - Disposals | 985 | 6,364 | 39,037 | 0 | 0 | 46,386 | 0 |
| Derecognition to SDPS | 330 | 99 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 429 | 0 |
| Reclassifications - Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| At 31 March 2025 | (26,275) | (42,605) | | (513) | 0 | (131,345) | (781) |
| Net Book Value at 31 March 2025 | 704,013 | 88,964 | 885,302 | 8,893 | 126,718 | 1,813,890 | 21,008 |
| Net Book Value at 1 April 2024 | 648,601 | 93,030 | 780,386 | 11,524 | 145,802 | 1,679,343 | 18,121 |

RR - Revaluation Reserve

SDPS - Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Service

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

| | Land and Buildings | Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment | Infrastructure (*1) | Surplus Assets | Assets Under Construction | Total | PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant and Equipment |
|--|-----------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Movement in Property, Plant and Equipment | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Cost or Valuation: | | | | | | | |
| At 1 April 2023 | 628,380 | 121,173 | | 12,188 | 100,882 | 862,623 | 19,173 |
| Additions | 8,360 | 14,257 | 89,909 | 5 | 58,981 | 171,512 | 206 |
| Donations | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revaluation Increase to RR | 50,479 | 0 | 0 | 1,757 | 0 | 52,236 | 273 |
| Revaluation Decrease to RR | (4,083) | 0 | 0 | (311) | 0 | (4,394) | (703) |
| Revaluation Increase/(Decrease) to SDPS | (7,628) | 0 | 0 | (697) | 0 | (8,325) | 0 |
| Derecognition - Disposals | (10,108) | (6,203) | (19,731) | (1,222) | 0 | (37,264) | (73) |
| Derecognition to RR | (63) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (63) | 0 |
| Derecognition to SDPS | (855) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (855) | 0 |
| Reclassified to/from Held for Sale | 0 | 0 | 0 | (205) | 0 | (205) | 0 |
| Reclassifications - Other | 5,649 | 1,346 | 6,174 | 410 | (14,061) | (482) | 0 |
| As at 31 March 2024 | 670,131 | 130,573 | | 11,925 | 145,802 | 1,034,783 | 18,876 |
| Depreciation and Impairment: | | | | | | | |
| At 1 April 2023 | (19,974) | (32,300) | | (387) | 0 | (52,661) | (733) |
| Depreciation Charge for 2023/24 | (33,840) | (11,183) | (57,545) | (137) | 0 | (102,705) | (579) |
| Depreciation written out on upward revaluation | 30,602 | 0 | 0 | 70 | 0 | 30,672 | 557 |
| Depreciation written out on downward revaluation | 17 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 21 | 0 |
| Depreciation written out to the SDPS | 1,088 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 1,105 | 0 |
| Derecognition - Disposals | 464 | 5,940 | 19,731 | 46 | 0 | 26,181 | 0 |
| Derecognition to SDPS | 99 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 99 | 0 |
| Reclassifications - Other | 14 | 0 | 0 | (14) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| As at 31 March 2024 | (21,530) | (37,543) | | (401) | 0 | (97,288) | (755) |
| Net Book Value as at 31 March 2024 | 648,601 | 93,030 | 780,386 | 11,524 | 145,802 | 1,679,343 | 18,121 |
| Net Book Value as at 1 April 2023 | 608,406 | 88,873 | 741,848 | 11,801 | 100,882 | 1,551,810 | 18,440 |

RR - Revaluation Reserve

SDPS - Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

(*1) In accordance with the temporary relief offered by “CIPFA Bulletin 12 – Accounting for Infrastructure Assets – Temporary Solution”, this note does not include disclosure of gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets because there are some deficits in the information on infrastructure assets which is held by the Council. This means that the gross cost and accumulated depreciation values held for infrastructure assets do not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements. The Council has chosen not to disclose this information as the information deficits mean that gross cost and accumulated depreciation are not measured accurately and would not provide the basis for the users of the financial statements to take economic or other decisions relating to infrastructure assets.

The Council splits expenditure on infrastructure assets each year into components, which are assigned appropriate useful economic lives, and are depreciated on a straight-line basis. The CIPFA Accounting Code of Practice requires that assets are derecognised at the point when they are replaced. The information held by the Council is not sufficient to directly link an existing infrastructure asset to a replacement infrastructure asset. Instead, when the useful economic life of a component has expired the Council derecognises the spent value from the gross cost value and the accumulated depreciation value, as this is believed to be a reasonable approximation for the timing of when an asset is likely to be replaced.

The complexities of recording the information that would be necessary to guarantee that the Council does not replace any part of the infrastructure network earlier or later than indicated by the useful economic life means that the Council is required to implement this temporary solution until a suitable long-term solution is found.

The Council has determined in accordance with Regulation 30M of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England/Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 that the carrying amounts to be derecognised for infrastructure assets when there is replacement expenditure is nil. As explained above, the Council derecognises infrastructure assets when the useful economic life of each asset has expired, as this is deemed to be a proxy for when the asset is replaced.

The Council’s Accounting Policies for Property, Plant & Equipment shown in Note 41 have been updated to clarify the treatment of Infrastructure Assets.

The below table shows the breakdown of the Property, Plant and Equipment line shown on the Balance Sheet between Infrastructure Assets and Other assets classified as Property, Plant and Equipment.

| Analysis of Property Plant and Equipment/ Infrastructure Assets | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Infrastructure Assets | 780,386 | 885,302 |
| Other Property, Plant and Equipment | 898,957 | 928,588 |
| Total | 1,679,343 | 1,813,890 |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

a) Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2025, the Council has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2025-26 and future years budgeted to cost £259.499m

| Detail | £'000 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| North Hykeham Relief Road | 153,849 |
| LFR Control Project | 2,712 |
| Lincoln Museum Redevelopment | 1,474 |
| Spratt Close, Horncastle | 1,453 |
| Microland - Boole Programme | 4,557 |
| Grantham Southern Relief Road | 29,158 |
| Lincolnshire Secure Children's Home | 61,207 |
| South Hykeham School | 987 |
| Lincoln St Francis | 1,180 |
| Gosberton House School | 2,922 |
| Total | 259,499 |

b) Valuations

The Council undertakes a five-year rolling programme of revaluations to ensure that land and buildings are measured at current value. All valuations are carried out by the Council's appointed Valuers - Kier Services. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Valuations are carried out as at 1 April.

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the current values are:

- Existing Use Value (EUV) has been used where there was sufficient evidence of market transactions for that use (e.g. office accommodation).
- Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) has been used where the asset is of a specialised nature, or where there is no evidence of market value or suitably comparable properties (e.g. Schools).

The following table shows a breakdown of carrying amount of non-current asset values, and the year in which they were last valued within the rolling programme:

| | Land and Buildings | Surplus Assets | Specialised Equipment |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Non-Current Assets valued as at: | Current Value | Fair Value | Current value |
| 01 April 2020 | 153,456 | 2,608 | |
| 01 April 2021 | 84,163 | 400 | |
| 01 April 2022 | 136,955 | 2,375 | 62,022 |
| 01 April 2023 | 186,204 | 1,202 | |
| 01 April 2024 | 143,235 | 2,309 | |
| Total Cost of Valuation | 704,013 | 8,894 | 62,022 |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

Vehicles, Furniture and Equipment, Specialist Equipment, Infrastructure and Community Assets are not subject to revaluation. They are reported at the cost of construction or purchase price, where this information is not available the assets are carried at a nominal amount (e.g. for some Community Assets).

| Non-Current Assets carried at depreciated historic cost | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|---|---------|-----------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment | 26,912 | 26,941 |
| Infrastructure | 781,577 | 885,302 |
| Assets Under Construction | 145,802 | 126,718 |
| Total Cost of Valuation | 954,291 | 1,038,962 |

NOTE 16. HERITAGE ASSETS

Heritage assets are defined as assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical, or environmental qualities that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

The assets held by the Council, which have been classed as Heritage Assets fall into three categories:

1) Windmills

The Council is responsible for four windmills: Alford five sail windmill, Burgh le Marsh windmill, Ellis Mill in Lincoln and Heckington windmill.

All four windmills are operational, open to the public on a managed basis and usually staffed by volunteers. Each windmill provides value to the cultural heritage of the County, preserving unusual or even unique features such as Heckington Mill, which is the only surviving eight sailed mill in the country.

Windmills will be valued at existing use value by the Council's Valuer and where there is insufficient market data, Depreciated Replacement Value is used as a proxy. These valuations will be included on the Council's rolling programme and will be valued every 5 years.

2) Historic Buildings

The Council owns various historic buildings, the most famous of which is Lincoln Castle. The Castle was constructed by William the Conqueror on the site of a pre-existing Roman fortress. The Castle is open to the public and guided tours are available to give an insight

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

into the history of Lincoln and Lincolnshire. Various cultural and entertainment events are also held at the Castle each year.

Also, the 12th century Temple Bruer Preceptory Tower, which was built to house the military order formed to guard the shrines of the Holy Land and protect pilgrims on the road. This site is managed by Heritage Lincolnshire on behalf of the Council.

Lincoln Castle and Temple Bruer will continue to be carried at historic cost. This is the capital expenditure on enhancements recognised since records began as the Council does not consider that a reliable valuation can be obtained for these assets. This is because of the nature of the assets held and the lack of comparable market values.

3) Collections

The Council owns and is responsible for more than three million items in its collections (held across libraries, museums, and archives). These include physical and digital collections from all periods of Lincolnshire's history. Collections include Fine Art Collection; the Tennyson Collection; Local Studies and Archive Collections; Lincolnshire Regiment; Militaria and Arms and Armour Collections; and Agriculture Collections.

Many items are unique and of high cultural significance on a national or international scale (for example the Tennyson collection, Bishops Rolls and Registers). Others are of local interest for Lincolnshire.

The collections are relatively static, acquisitions and donations rare. When they do occur, acquisitions will be measured at cost and donations will be recognised at a valuation determined in-house. Collections will be valued based on the insurance valuations held by the Council. Insurance valuations will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

The County's collections bring a wealth of enjoyment and education to those living in Lincolnshire and beyond. The County is legally obliged to protect significant elements of these collections but, importantly, their management and development ensures that the cultural heritage and life of the County are preserved for future generations and are available to the current generation.

The management and development of the collections is governed by the Council's Policy on Collection Management, which can be found on the Council's website in the Decision details area. "Collections Development Policy (Museums) 2022-25".

<http://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=350>.

Depreciation is not charged on Heritage Assets.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

Reconciliation of the carrying value of Heritage Assets held:

| | Windmills | Other Historic Buildings | Collections | Total |
|---|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Cost or Valuation | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Balance at 1 April 2023 | 4,786 | 24,567 | 38,000 | 67,353 |
| Additions - In House construction/Improvement | 151 | 22 | 0 | 173 |
| Revaluations recognised in the RR | 1,145 | 0 | 0 | 1,145 |
| At 31 March 2024 | 6,082 | 24,589 | 38,000 | 68,671 |
| Balance at 1 April 2024 | 6,082 | 24,589 | 38,000 | 68,671 |
| Additions - In House construction/Improvement | 52 | 563 | 0 | 615 |
| Revaluations recognised in the RR | 261 | 0 | 0 | 261 |
| At 31 March 2025 | 6,395 | 25,152 | 38,000 | 69,547 |

RR - Revaluation Reserve

Heritage assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluations gains and losses) in accordance with the Council's accounting policy on non-current assets - Property, Plant and Equipment. However, some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to Heritage Assets.

a) Additions to Heritage Assets

There have been additions of £0.02m to Alford Windmill, £0.01m to Heckington Windmill, £0.02 to Burgh-le-Marsh Windmill, £0.01 to Ellis Mill and £0.56m to Lincoln Castle.

b) Impairment and Disposals

These are accounted for in line with the Council's policy on non-current assets – Property, Plant and Equipment (accounting policy for Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment and Impairment of non-current assets). There have been no material disposals of Heritage Assets in 2024/25.

NOTE 17. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

An Investment Property is defined as a property that is solely held to earn rental income or for capital appreciation or both. 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.

For these purposes, the Council holds the County Farms estates and a small number of other general fund properties. The County Farms estate includes both freehold (owned by the Council) and leasehold (rented by the Council) properties.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

Investment Properties Income and Expenditure

| | County Farm Estates | | Other Properties | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Rental Income | (2,214) | (2,236) | (75) | (72) |
| Direct Operating Expenses | 524 | 658 | 18 | 19 |
| Net (Income)/Expenditure | (1,690) | (1,578) | (57) | (53) |

There are no restrictions on the Council's right to the remittance of income for its investment properties. Rental income received in relation to Investment Properties is credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and results in a gain for the General Fund Balance. The Council has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or repairs, maintenance, or enhancement.

Depreciation is not charged on Investment Properties.

Movement on Investment Properties

| | County Farm Estates | | Other Properties | | Total | |
|--|---------------------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Balance at 1 April | 113,166 | 112,073 | 1,702 | 1,709 | 114,868 | 113,782 |
| Additions - Acquisitions (Purchase and Construction) | 427 | 865 | 2 | 0 | 429 | 865 |
| Disposals | (3,016) | (1,499) | 0 | 0 | (3,016) | (1,499) |
| Net Gains/(Losses) from fair value adjustments | 1,496 | (4,795) | 5 | 243 | 1,501 | (4,552) |
| Balance at 31 March | 112,073 | 106,644 | 1,709 | 1,952 | 113,782 | 108,596 |

| Nature of asset holding | County Farm Estates | | Other Properties | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
| Owned Assets | 112,056 | 106,630 | 1,709 | 1,952 |
| Leased Assets | 17 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Balance at 31 March | 112,073 | 106,644 | 1,709 | 1,952 |

Initial Recognition

As with Property, Plant and Equipment, initial recognition is at the costs associated with the purchase.

Measurement after Recognition

Investment Properties will be measured 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 using the current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

information for similar assets in the local area. The fair value of Investment Property held under a lease is the lease interest in the asset.

Revaluation Gains and Losses and Disposal of Investment Properties.

A gain or loss arising from a change in the fair value of Investment Property shall be recognised in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are not permitted by statute to impact on the General Fund Balance therefore these gains or losses are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement on Reserves and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Revaluations

The Council revalue investment properties annually to ensure that they are carried at fair value. All valuations are carried out by the Council's appointed Valuers - Savills (L&P Ltd) for the County Farms Estate and Kier Services for other general fund Investment Properties. 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. Valuations are carried out as at 31 March each year to ensure all Investment Properties are carried at fair value at the Balance Sheet date.

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

The fair value measurement of the Council's Investment Properties is categorised as Level 2 on the fair value hierarchy. It uses the market value approach for the County Farms and the term and reversion approach for the other properties.

The market value approach takes into account the similar assets in the market, existing lease terms and rentals and market evidence, which comes from numerous sources. If there is more than one value available for the same property on different basis, the highest valuation figure is used. Included within the Fair Value Valuation Method on the County Farms assets, there are a number of 'Special Assumptions' that have been used, relating to the limitations and restrictions on sale. These assumptions apply to a proportion of the overall value and are unlikely to lead to a change in the estimated valuation.

The term and reversion approach takes into account the existence of an occupational lease, having regard to lease terms and conditions and assessing the Council's Valuer's opinion of the market rental value of each individual property, and then capitalising the market rent adopting a suitable yield, which again reflects the market evidence of property investment yields. This approach takes into account market circumstances and comparable market evidence.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

NOTE 18. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The Council accounts for its software and licences as intangible assets. The IT systems are accounted for as part of Property, Plant and Equipment, under the heading Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment. Intangible assets recognised by the Council include both purchased software and licences. The Council has no internally generated software during the year 2024/25.

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. The amortisation of £1.057m (£1.666m in 2023/24) was charged to revenue in 2024/25.

a) Movement on intangible assets:

| | Software | Software Licenses | Total |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Balance at 1 April 2024: | | | |
| Gross carrying amount | 12,020 | 2,522 | 14,542 |
| Accumulated amortisation | (10,146) | (2,425) | (12,571) |
| Net carrying amount at 1 April 2024 | 1,874 | 97 | 1,971 |
| Additions: | | | |
| Purchases | 1,399 | 0 | 1,399 |
| Other disposals | (4,954) | (2,408) | (7,362) |
| Amortisation for the period | (1,024) | (33) | (1,057) |
| Amortisation written out on disposal | 4,845 | 2,408 | 7,253 |
| Net carrying amount at 31 March 2025 | 2,140 | 64 | 2,204 |
| Comprising: | | | |
| Gross carrying amounts | 8,465 | 114 | 8,579 |
| Accumulated amortisation | (6,325) | (50) | (6,375) |
| Total | 2,140 | 64 | 2,204 |

b) Significant Capitalised Software

At 31 March 2025, the Council has not capitalised material items of software during 2024/25.

c) Capital Commitments

As at 1 April 2025, the Council hasn't entered into any contractual commitments for intangibles assets over £0.750m.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

d) Revaluation

The Council does not revalue its intangible assets; all assets are carried at cost. Annually an impairment review is undertaken to ensure that all intangible assets have an appropriate asset life and carrying value as at 31 March each year.

NOTE 19. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

a) Financial Instruments Balances

The following categories of financial instruments are disclosed in the Balance Sheet:

| | Long-Term | | Current | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Financial Liabilities | | | | |
| Borrowings: | | | | |
| Amortised Cost | 450,054 | 443,463 | 12,072 | 9,941 |
| Total Borrowings | 450,054 | 443,463 | 12,072 | 9,941 |
| PFI and Finance Lease Liabilities | 6,169 | 9,311 | 0 | 675 |
| Total PFI & Finance Lease Liabilities | 6,169 | 9,311 | 0 | 675 |
| Creditors & Other Long-Term Liabilities: | | | | |
| Amortised Cost | 7,056 | 9,858 | 116,221 | 134,869 |
| Total Creditors | 7,056 | 9,858 | 116,221 | 134,869 |

| | Long-Term | | Current | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Financial Assets | | | | |
| Investments: | | | | |
| Amortised Cost * (1) | 578 | 460 | 207,928 | 207,803 |
| Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income: | | | | |
| FVOCI - Designated Equity Instruments | 527 | 514 | 0 | 0 |
| Fair Value through Profit and Loss | 0 | 0 | 34,699 | 12,770 |
| Total Investments | 1,105 | 974 | 242,627 | 220,573 |
| Debtors: | | | | |
| Amortised Cost | 2,142 | 3,575 | 0 | 0 |
| Carried at Contract Amount | 0 | 0 | 61,784 | 47,927 |
| Total Debtors | 2,142 | 3,575 | 61,784 | 47,927 |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

*(1) No soft loans are included in the Amortised Cost balance in the above figures. No collateral or financial guarantees are held by the Council at 31 March 2025 or included in the above figures. No financial instruments included in the above figures have been reclassified or derecognised during the year and no defaults or breaches have occurred.

b) Financial Instruments Income, Expense, Gains or Losses

The Council's Financial Liabilities are all valued at amortised cost. There have been no gains or losses on derecognition or impairment losses during the year on the financial liabilities held by the Council.

There have been no other gains or losses on derecognition or impairment losses during the year on the financial assets held by the Council.

An overall loss on revaluation of equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income of £13k, there is no expected credit loss allowance for the year and a decrease (loss) in the fair value of debtors from a fall in impairment allowance of £545.5 occurred in 2024/25.

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments, including interest and fees paid and received on financial assets measured at other than fair value through profit and loss, are made up as follows:

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| (Gains) or Losses on: | | |
| Financial Assets at Amortised Cost | (317) | 546 |
| Financial Assets FVOCI - Designated Equity Instruments | 12 | 13 |
| Total Net Gains (-) or Losses | (304) | 559 |
| Interest Revenue: | | |
| Financial Assets at Amortised Cost | (6,059) | (4,053) |
| Total Interest Revenue | (6,059) | (4,053) |

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Interest Expense: | | |
| Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost | 17,668 | 17,509 |
| Total Interest Expense | 17,668 | 17,509 |
| Fee Expense: | | |
| Financial Assets or Liabilities not at Fair Value through Profit & Loss | 25 | 22 |
| Total Fee Expense | 25 | 22 |

c) Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

Financial assets classified as fair value through profit and loss or fair value through other comprehensive income are measured at fair value on a recurring basis and carried on the Balance Sheet at this fair value. All other financial liabilities and financial assets are classified as amortised cost, including long term debtors and creditors, and are carried on the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. The fair value of these instruments are calculated for disclosure purposes within this note.

The Council uses the most appropriate valuation techniques to measure the fair value of its financial liabilities and financial assets, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising unobservable inputs, using the following techniques:

- Instruments with quoted market prices – the market price.
- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis.
- Unobservable comparators – enterprise approach.

The inputs to the measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with the following level of hierarchy, (Level 1 being the most accurate measure of fair value derived directly by market participants):

- Level 1 - quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets at the Balance Sheet Date.
- Level 2 - comparators other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for that asset, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 - unobservable comparators for the asset.

Fair Value of Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value Through Profit and Loss - Measured Using Level 1 Inputs - Quoted Price in Active Market.

Details of these instruments are shown in the table below:

Financial assets held by the Council that fall into this category include Constant Net Asset Value and Low Volatility Net Asset Value Money Market Funds. These funds are pooled investment funds that invest in short-term assets that aim to offer returns in line with money market rates and preserve the value of investments. Units of the fund are bought and sold, and dividends paid in accordance with daily yields returned, set at the end of each day. The net asset value of these funds only vary by an insignificant amount due to changing values of the assets in the fund. The price of the fund (fair value) is quoted in an active market and generally equals the carrying amount of the units held. The fair value is carried on the Balance Sheet.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

| Level 1 - Fair Value Hierarchy Measurement: | 31 March 2024 | | 31 March 2025 | |
|---|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Carrying Amount | Fair Value | Carrying Amount | Fair Value |
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Money Market Funds | 34,578 | 34,578 | 61,875 | 61,875 |
| Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit and Loss | 34,578 | 34,578 | 61,875 | 61,875 |

Fair Value of Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value Through Other Comprehensive Income - Designated Equity Instruments - Measured Using Level 3 Inputs - Enterprise Approach Valuation Technique.

Financial assets held by the Council that fall into this category include small equity shareholdings in companies that are held for service benefit reasons. These include holdings in Investors in Lincoln (14,000 shares), Hoople Ltd (3 shares) and a company called ESPO Trading Ltd (100 shares). Shares in these companies are not traded in an active market and have no observable inputs. The fair value of these instruments are to be carried on the Balance Sheet and hence have been calculated using the enterprise approach (a discounted cash flow technique) as defined in IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement). The fair value calculation for ESPO Trading Ltd using this approach was found to be immaterial and hence not recognised. No dividends are received on these equity holdings.

Details of these instruments are shown in the table below:

| Level 3 - Fair Value Hierarchy Measurement: | 31 March 2024 | | 31 March 2025 | |
|---|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Carrying Amount | Fair Value | Carrying Amount | Fair Value |
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Investors in Lincoln | 14 | 287 | 14 | 380 |
| Hoople Ltd | 0 | 240 | 0 | 134 |
| Financial Assets Measured at FVOCI- Designated Equity | 14 | 527 | 14 | 514 |

The fair value calculations have been made based on an analysis of the assets and liabilities in the company's latest audited accounts. The variations in fair value by 5% are shown below:

| | Potential variation in fair value | Value as at 31 March 2025 | Potential value on increase | Potential value on decrease |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | (+/-) | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Investors in Lincoln | 5% | 380 | 399 | 360 |
| Hoople Ltd | 5% | 134 | 141 | 127 |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

Fair Value of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities Carried at Amortised Cost - Measured Using Level 2 Inputs -Other Significant Observable Inputs.

Except for those financial assets classified as fair value and shown on the Balance Sheet as such, all other financial liabilities and financial assets are classified at amortised cost, including long term debtors and creditors; and are carried on the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that take place over the remaining life of the instruments using the following assumptions:

- For loans from the PWLB, equivalent borrowing rates available from the PWLB at 31 March 2025 have been applied to provide the fair value under the PWLB debt redemption procedures.
- For non PWLB loans and long-term investments prevailing benchmark market rates have been used to provide the fair value.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised.
- Where an instrument has a maturity of less than 12 months (other than PWLB debt), or is a trade or other payable or receivable, the fair value is taken to be the principal outstanding or the billed amount.
- The fair value of trade and other payables and receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

| Financial Liabilities | 31 March 2024 | | 31 March 2025 | |
|---|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Carrying Amount | Fair Value | Carrying Amount | Fair Value |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Level 2 - Fair Value Hierarchy Measurement | | | | |
| PWLB Debt (Long Term > 12 Months) | 429,524 | 342,675 | 423,148 | 305,721 |
| Non PWLB Debt (Long Term > 12 Months) | 20,737 | 16,648 | 20,514 | 14,436 |
| PWLB Debt (Short Term < 12 Months) | 8,388 | 6,708 | 6,377 | 4,627 |
| Long-Term Creditors & Other Long-Term Liabilities | 7,056 | 7,056 | 9,858 | 9,858 |
| Short-Term Creditors & Other Short-Term Liabilities | 116,221 | 116,221 | 134,869 | 134,869 |
| Total Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost | 581,926 | 489,308 | 594,766 | 469,511 |

Where the fair value is less than the carrying amount, this is due to the Council's portfolio of loans including a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is lower than the rates available for similar loans in the market at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future gain based on economic conditions at the Balance Sheet date arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders below current market rates. Where the fair value is more than the carrying amount, the opposite is true. i.e. a number of fixed rate loans held in the Council's portfolio have interest rates payable above current market rates for similar loans.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

The fair value from 31 March 2024 to 31 March 2025 has fallen significantly reflecting the continued increase in market rates over this period. This highlights the fact that market interest rates are now generally higher than the fixed rates loans within the Council's portfolio.

The fair value of the PWLB Debt shown above is calculated using the PWLB New Borrowing Concessionary rates available at the 31 March 2025. However, if the Council were to repay any of this PWLB Debt early at this time, then the PWLB would calculate the Fair Value of this debt using a set of Early Redemption rates. The fair value calculated on this basis would be £351,004k, some £40,656k higher than the market fair value stated above. This represents the penalty charge by the PWLB of redeeming the loans early to cover the additional interest that would no longer be paid if that were the case.

| Financial Assets Level 2 - Fair Value Hierarchy Measurement | 31 March 2024 | | 31 March 2025 | |
|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | Carrying Amount | Fair Value | Carrying Amount | Fair Value |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Investments (Long Term > 12 Months) | 578 | 564 | 460 | 451 |
| Investments (Short Term < 12 Months) | 202,524 | 202,524 | 154,022 | 154,022 |
| Long-Term Debtors | 2,142 | 2,142 | 3,575 | 3,575 |
| Short-Term Debtors | 61,784 | 61,784 | 47,927 | 47,927 |
| Total Financial Assets at Amortised Cost | 267,028 | 267,014 | 205,984 | 205,975 |

The fair value is greater than the carrying amount, when the Council's portfolio of long-term investments includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate receivable is higher than the estimated rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date. This guarantee to receive interest above the current market rate increases the amount that the Council would receive if it agreed to early repayment of the loans and hence shows a notional future gain. Where estimated rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date are higher than the Council's long-term investments, the opposite is true.

At the Balance Sheet date, the Council's Long-Term Investments at fixed rates of interest were minimal (£460k) and all at rates lower than equivalent market rates, hence the fair value is lower than the carrying amount of the investments at 31 March 2025.

There has been no change to the valuation technique or the Hierarchy Level of these financial instruments during the year.

- d) Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments and How the Authority Manages Those Risks

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

Key Risks

The Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks, the key risks are:

- Credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council.
- Liquidity risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.
- Re-financing risk – the possibility that the Council might be required to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms.
- Market risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rate movements.

Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets and implementing restrictions to minimise these risks. The procedures for risk management are laid down in a legal framework set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and associated regulations. These require the Council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Investment Guidance issued through the Act. Overall, these procedures require the Council to manage risk in the following ways:

- by formally adopting the requirements of the Code of Practice.
- by approving annually in advance prudential indicators for the following three years limiting:
 - The Council's overall borrowing.
 - maximum and minimum exposures to the maturity structure of its debt.
 - its management of interest rate exposure.
 - maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond one year.
- by approving an investment strategy and a capital strategy for the forthcoming year, setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with Government Guidance.

These items are required to be reported and approved at or before the Council's Annual Council Tax setting budget; and are also reported as part of the Council's annual treasury management strategy and investment strategy, which outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the Council's treasury financial instrument exposure and its capital strategy, which outlines the same for the non-treasury financial instruments the Council makes, such as loans to third parties for service reasons. Actual performance is also reported quarterly to Councillors.

Treasury management policies are implemented by a central treasury management 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

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

surplus cash through its Treasury Management Practices (TMPs). These TMPs are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed regularly.

Risk related to non-treasury related investments is managed by setting appropriate Prudential Indicators limiting the amount of investment made to the amount of General Reserve the Council is prepared to lose, given default of a particular loan after an assessment of expected credit loss is made.

Expected Credit Loss

Calculation of expected credit losses held on all financial assets held at amortised cost is a way of assessing the credit risk for investments held and is a requirement under IFRS9. 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.

The Council recognises expected credit losses on either a 12 month, for when risk of default remains low and is not expected to increase, or on a lifetime basis, where risk of default is high or expected to increase significantly. Expected credit loss can be transferred between the two categories over the life of the investment given changes to its risk profile.

Where the counterparty for a financial asset is central government or a local authority, for which relevant statutory provision prevent default, then no loss allowance is required or recognised. The Council has set a de minimus limit of £25k, below which the expected credit loss is not recognised. The expected credit loss calculations on Group 1 and Group 2 portfolios at 31 March 2025 were below the de-minimus and therefore not recognised.

The Council has a portfolio of different types of loans measured at amortised cost. Where possible, losses have been assessed on these loans on a collective basis as the Council does not have reasonable and supportable information that is available without undue cost or effort to support the measurement of expected losses on an individual instrument basis.

The Council has grouped the loans into the following groups for assessing loss allowances:

| Type of Collective Investment Group | Risk Assessment | Expected Credit Loss Model | Assessment Criteria |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|---|
| Group 1 - Treasury Investments - Loans made to highly credit rated counterparties under the credit analysis followed within the Councils Investment Strategy. | Low Risk | 12 Months | Historical Default Table issued by Credit Rating Agencies to determine probability of default per credit rating and length of investment. |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

| | | | |
|---|--|----------|--|
| Group 2 - Loans to Third Parties for Service Reasons - Credit worthiness not the prime consideration. | High Risk (No Collateral) /Medium Risk (Collateral) | Lifetime | Assessed on Individual basis using external credit ratings, economic conditions, financial position and forecasts and history of default/extended credit terms. *(1) |
| Group 3 - Loans to Council owned Companies for Service Reasons - Credit worthiness not the prime consideration. | High Risk (No Collateral) / Medium Risk (Collateral) | Lifetime | Assessed on Individual basis using external credit ratings, economic conditions, financial position and forecasts and history of default/extended credit terms. |

*(1) Loans to companies in financial difficulties for service reasons will be deemed fifty percent credit impaired on origination which will be factored into the amortised cost of the loan. The impairment will be charged to the service upon recognition and amortised over the life of the loan to recognise the high risk of default on the loan. The level of impairment will continue to be assessed over the life of the loan and adjusted accordingly, as financial circumstances to the companies in question dictate. The expected credit loss on these loans will be made on the amortised cost of the loans after any impairment charged.

No change in risk assessment for any investment from 12 Month to Lifetime has been made during the year. No modifications of contractual cash flows have been made during the year which impacts credit losses. No investments have been impaired.

Credit Risk Exposure

The Council has the following exposure to credit risk from its Financial Assets:

i. Treasury Related Financial Instruments:

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. To minimise this risk, deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they meet the minimum requirements of the Council's investment criteria (based on independent credit rating assessments of institutions and countries, their credit watches and outlooks from credit rating agencies and their credit default spreads), as outlined in its investment strategy. A summary of the minimum requirements are outlined below:

| | |
|---|--|
| Minimum Acceptable Long-Term Credit Rating | Bank or Building Society: A Money Market Fund: AAA UK Government: Not Applicable |
| Minimum Acceptable Sovereign (Country) Credit Rating: (UK excepted) | AA- |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

The following analysis summarises the Council's treasury investments at the reporting date by the long-term credit rating and resulting probability of default % (using Fitch IBCA's scoring criteria), of the counterparties with whom its investments are made; and hence shows its potential exposure to credit risk at the reporting date.

| | Probability of Default % | Amount at 31 March 2024 | | Amount at 31 March 2025 | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| | | £'000 | % | £'000 | % |
| AAA Rated Counterparties | 0.036% | 34,578 | 14.59% | 61,875 | 28.66% |
| AA Rated Counterparties | 0.022% | 14,900 | 6.28% | 0 | 0.00% |
| A Rated Counterparties | 0.046% | 109,100 | 46.02% | 49,000 | 22.70% |
| BBB+ Rated Counterparties (*2) | 0.140% | 20,000 | 8.44% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Other Counterparties (*1) | 0.008% | 58,500 | 24.68% | 105,000 | 48.64% |
| Total Treasury Investments | | 237,078 | 100.00% | 215,875 | 100.00% |

(*1) Other Counterparties are predominantly investments with other Local Authorities (UK Government), who are not credit rated in their own right, however, represent low credit risk to the Council and are exempt from the Expected Credit Loss requirements.

(*2) At the time of making the investment, the financial institutions fully met the Council's minimum investment criteria. Exposure to Counterparties below the Council's minimum credit rating of BBB+ at the balance sheet date were due to a deterioration of credit rating after the initial investment.

No breaches of the Council's counterparty criteria occurred during the reporting period and the Council has not received nor expects any losses/defaults from the non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to its investments.

During the reporting period the Council held no collateral as security for its investments.

ii. Non-Treasury Related Financial Instruments:

Loans made to benefit service-related reasons are higher risk because credit worthiness and liquidity is not normally the prime consideration in making the loans.

Risk related to non-treasury related investments is managed by setting an appropriate Prudential Indicator limiting the amount of investment made to the amount of General Reserve the Council is prepared to lose, given the default of a particular loan, after an assessment of the worst case expected credit loss is made. The limit set is 10%.

The Council also has a policy for approval of loans to third parties that requires different level of approval depending on the size of loan required.

The Council's exposure to non-treasury related investments made are shown in the table below:

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

| | Risk Level | Amount at 31 March 2024 | | Amount at 31 March 2025 | |
|---|------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| | | £'000 | % | £'000 | % |
| Legal Services Lincs (Trading) Ltd | Medium | 10 | 1.66% | 10 | 2.07% |
| Loans to Academies - Government 3rd Party | Exempt | 592 | 98.34% | 472 | 97.93% |
| Total Non-Treasury Related Investments | | 602 | 100.00% | 482 | 100.00% |

iii. Trade Debt:

The Council does not generally allow credit for its customers. However, there is one exception to this where there is an agreed policy in relation to care home fees to allow credit with an attachment over property.

The overdue, but not impaired, amounts of the Council's customers at 31 March 2025 can be analysed by age as follows:

| Analysis of Debts by Age | Amount at 31 March 2024 | | Amount at 31 March 2025 | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| | £'000 | % | £'000 | % |
| Less than 3 months | 4,722 | 30.50% | 2,077 | 100.00% |
| 3 months to 1 year | 10,760 | 69.50% | 0 | 0.00% |
| More than 1 year | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Total Outstanding Debt | 15,482 | 100.00% | 2,077 | 100.00% |

4) Liquidity Risk

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

The Council manages its liquidity position through the risk management procedures above (the setting and approval of prudential indicators and the approval of the treasury and investment strategy reports), as well as through cash flow management procedures required by the Code of Practice.

5) Refinancing and Maturity Risk

The Council maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio. Long term risk to the Council relates to managing the exposure to replacing longer term financial instruments (debt and investments) as they mature.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

The approved prudential indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits for investments placed for greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Council's approved treasury and investment strategists address the main risks, and the central treasury team address the operational risks within the approved parameters. These include:

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

The maturity analysis of the Council's debt and investments at the reporting date are shown in the table below:

| | Approved Maximum Limit | Approved Maximum Limit | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Debt Outstanding - Financial Liabilities | % | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Less than one year | 25% | 115,533 | 12,072 | 9,941 |
| Between one and two years | 25% | 115,533 | 6,575 | 6,538 |
| Between two and five years | 50% | 231,067 | 26,435 | 31,254 |
| Between five and ten years | 75% | 346,600 | 18,502 | 19,122 |
| Between ten and fifteen years | 100% | 462,133 | 29,000 | 17,000 |
| Between fifteen and twenty-five years | 100% | 462,133 | 36,823 | 36,822 |
| Between twenty-five and thirty-five years | 100% | 462,133 | 185,726 | 195,726 |
| Between thirty-five and forty-five years | 100% | 462,133 | 132,000 | 137,000 |
| Maturing in more than forty-five years | 100% | 462,133 | 15,000 | 0 |
| Total | | | 462,133 | 453,403 |

| | Approved Maximum Limit | Approved Maximum Limit | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Investments Outstanding - Financial Assets | % | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Less than one year | 100% | 243,732 | 242,627 | 220,573 |
| Between one and two years | 16% | 40,000 | 35 | 0 |
| Between two and three years | 16% | 40,000 | 0 | 53 |
| Maturing in more than three years | 16% | 40,000 | 1,070 | 921 |
| Total | | | 243,732 | 221,547 |

All trade and other payables are due to be paid in less than one year. Trade debtors and creditors are not shown in the table above.

6) Market Risk

i. Interest Rate Risk

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

The Council is exposed 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 Provision of Services Account will rise.
- borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the borrowing liability will fall (no impact on revenue balances).
- investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services Account will rise; and
- investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall. (No impact on revenue balances however the Balance Sheet will be affected for those investments measured at fair value).

Borrowings and Loans measured at amortised cost are not carried at fair value on the Balance Sheet, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings or fixed rate amortised loans would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on 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 Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance.

Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price and measured at fair value will be reflected in the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

Based on the financial liabilities and assets as at the balance sheet date a one percent point movement in average interest rates would be equivalent to a £1.853m change in the Council's net interest charge in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. This calculation is based on a full year interest effect at a constant level of borrowing and investments as at the reporting date, a further breakdown is shown in the table below:

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

| | Amount at 31 March 2025 |
|--|----------------------------|
| Financial Impact of the Interest Rate Risk | £'000 |
| Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings | 0 |
| Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments | 1,853 |
| Impact on Income and Expenditure Account | 1,853 |

The impact on the fair value of the Council's long term fixed borrowings and long-term fixed investments from a one percentage point movement in average rates is shown below:

| | Fair Value 31 March 2025 | Fair Value 1% Higher | Fair Value 1% Lower |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| County Council | 330,674 | 292,113 | 379,272 |
| Schools | 392 | 382 | 401 |
| Total Long Term Fixed Borrowing: | 331,066 | 292,495 | 379,673 |
| Treasury Investments | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non-Treasury Investments | 451 | 440 | 464 |
| Total Long Term Fixed Investments: | 451 | 440 | 464 |

There is no impact on the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services or the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure account from the movement in fair value on borrowing and loans & receivables shown above. Fair values have been calculated using the same methodology/ assumptions as outlined on page 75 under "Fair Value of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities Carried at Amortised Cost".

ii. Price Risk

The Council, excluding the pension fund, as part of its treasury operations does not generally invest in equity shares or in property/multi asset funds classified as Fair Value through Profit and Loss, and is therefore not exposed to losses arising from movements in the price of shares.

The Council does however have a small equity holding of 14,000 shares (£1 par value) in a company called Investors in Lincoln, 100 shares (£1 par value) in a company called ESPO trading Ltd and 3 shares (£1 par value) in a company called Hoople Ltd. All these holdings are non-treasury investments held for Service benefit reasons. Whilst these holdings are generally illiquid, the Council is exposed to gains or losses arising from movements in the price of the shares.

As these shareholdings have arisen in the acquisition of specific interests, the Council is not in a position to limit its exposure to price movements by diversifying its portfolio. The shares are not actively traded in an open market and the values of holdings at year end are calculated using discounted cash flow techniques (enterprise method).

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

The shares have been designated as Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income, meaning that all movements in price will impact on gains and losses recognised in the Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve.

iii. Foreign Exchange Risk

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

NOTE 20. DEBTORS

Debtors are recognised in the accounts when the ordered goods or services have been delivered or rendered by the Council in the financial year, but the income has not yet been received.

Debtors are initially recognised and measured at fair value of the consideration payable in the accounts. Most debtors are considered to be contractual, and these are then subsequently measured at amortised cost.

If settlement is over a year this is accounted for as long-term debtor. When considering the amortised cost of long-term debtors, the Council has set a £50k de minimis limit. Below this amount, the carrying value of the long-term debtor will be used as a proxy for amortised cost.

For estimated manual debtors, a de minimis level of £25k for individual revenue items and £50k for capital items is set. All the figures in the tables below are shown net of impairment for doubtful debt.

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|--------------------------|---------|
| £'000 | Short Term Debtors | £'000 |
| 27,928 | Trade Receivables | 20,267 |
| 4,933 | Prepayments | 11,465 |
| 78,323 | Other Receivable Amounts | 67,098 |
| 111,184 | Total | 98,829 |

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|--------------------------|---------|
| £'000 | Long Term Debtors | £'000 |
| (138) | Trade Receivables | 4,810 |
| 2,163 | Prepayments | (2,690) |
| 118 | Other Receivable Amounts | 1,455 |
| 2,143 | Total | 3,575 |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

NOTE 21. ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

These are assets held by the Council which are planned to be disposed of. They meet the following criteria:

- the asset must be available for immediate sale in its present condition subject to terms that are usual and customary for sales of such assets.
- the sale must be highly probable (with management commitment to sell and active marketing of the asset initiated).
- it must be actively marketed for sale at a price that is reasonable in relation to its current fair value; and
- the sale should be expected to qualify for recognition as a completed sale within one year.

Depreciation is not charged on non-current assets held for sale.

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|---|---------|---------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Balance at 1 April | 2,005 | 880 |
| Assets newly classified as held for sale: | | |
| - Property, Plant and Equipment | 205 | 770 |
| - Revaluation Increase/(Decrease) to SDPS | 0 | 10 |
| Assets declassified as held for sale: | | |
| - Assets Sold | (1,330) | (550) |
| Balance at 31 March | 880 | 1,110 |

- a) Measurement. Non-Current Assets Held for Sale are revalued immediately before reclassification to Held for Sale and then measured at the lower of carrying value and fair value, less costs to sell (fair value here is the amount that would be paid for the asset in its highest and best use, e.g. market value).
- b) Disposal. Receipts from disposals are recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on provision of services. Amounts in excess of £10k are categorised as capital receipts and can then only be used for new capital investment or to repay the principal of any amounts borrowed. It is Council policy to utilise these receipts to fund the capital programme in the year they are received or to carry them forward to be used in future years. These receipts are transferred from the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

NOTE 22. 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 held for the purpose of meeting short term cash commitments rather than for investment or other purposes. The Council will classify these as follows:

- Instant Access Deposit Accounts or Overnight Bank Facilities set up for the purpose of meeting short term liquidity requirements and whose return (if any) does not make up the Average Yield Return on Investments, are to be classed as Cash Equivalents.
- Overnight Fixed Deposits, Deposit Based Bank Accounts and Net Asset Value Money Market Funds held for investment purposes for the returns offered, which make up the Councils Average Yield Return on its Investments, are to be classed as Short-Term Investments.

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Cash held by the authority | 311 | 289 |
| Bank current accounts | (93,547) | (108,607) |
| Total | (93,236) | (108,318) |

Bank Overdrafts are to be shown separately from Cash and Cash Equivalents where they are not an integral part of an Authority's cash management. Where a bank overdraft is assessed as part of the Council's cash management it will be included within Cash and Cash Equivalents.

The Councils Cash and Cash Equivalent Position is reflected in our Statements as an overdrawn position. This is an accounting position, reflected by operating an investment pooling arrangement for all bank accounts, including the Pension Fund, out of the County Fund Bank Account. The position is also affected by the timing of General Ledger Bank Postings at the year-end which are not reflected at bank until after 31st March due to payment timings. The actual bank position on the Councils Bank Accounts at 31st March 2025 was £738,102.01.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

NOTE 23. CREDITORS

Creditors are recorded where goods or services have been supplied to the Council by 31 March, but payment is not made until the following financial year.

Creditors are initially recognised and measured at fair value in the accounts. If payment is deferred to over a year, this is accounted for as a long-term creditor. When considering the amortised cost of long-term creditors, the Council has set a £50k de minimis limit. Below this amount, the carrying value of the long-term creditors will be used as a proxy for amortised cost.

For estimated manual creditors, a de minimis level of £25k for individual revenue items and £50k for capital items is set.

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| £'000 | Short Term Creditors | £'000 |
| (54,718) | Trade Payables | (63,675) |
| (92,644) | Other Payables | (101,898) |
| (147,362) | Total | (165,573) |

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|---------------------|---------|
| £'000 | Long Term Creditors | £'000 |
| (7,056) | Trade Payables | (9,858) |
| (7,056) | | (9,858) |

NOTE 24. PROVISIONS

The Council sets aside provisions for future expenses where:

- a past event has created a current obligation (legal or constructive) to transfer economic benefit.
- it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation; and
- a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The County Council's accounting policy on provisions includes a de-minimis of £250k.

Provisions are charged to the relevant revenue service account in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year the Council has an obligation. When the obligation is settled, the costs are charged to the provision set up in the Balance Sheet.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

When payments are eventually made, they are charged against the provision carried in the Balance Sheet.

Provisions contained within the Balance Sheet are split between current liabilities (those which are estimated to be settled within the next 12 months) and non-current liabilities (those which are estimated to be settled in a period greater than 12 months). Provisions are recognised and 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.

The below table shows an analysis of short and long-term provisions:

| | Balance at 1 April 2024 | Additional provisions made in year | Amounts used in year | Unused amounts reversed in year | Balance at 31 March 2025 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Short Term Provisions: | | | | | |
| - Insurance Claims | (1,690) | (2,292) | 326 | 0 | (3,656) |
| - Business Rates Appeals | (1,492) | 0 | 816 | 0 | (676) |
| - Voluntary Overtime | (415) | 0 | 185 | | (230) |
| | (3,597) | (2,292) | 1,327 | 0 | (4,562) |
| Long Term Provisions: | | | | | |
| - Insurance Claims | (7,209) | 0 | 1,288 | 1,269 | (4,652) |
| | (7,209) | 0 | 1,288 | 1,269 | (4,652) |
| Total | (10,806) | (2,292) | 2,615 | 1,269 | (9,214) |

The Insurance provision represents all known and anticipated claims under the excess clauses of the Council's external insurance policies. Material risks which are met by the Council under current insurance policies are shown below:

| Type of Insurance | Each Claim £'000 | Maximum for all such claims £'000 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Public and employer's liability | 500 | 4,500 |
| School property | 150 | 500 |
| Other property | 150 | 500 |

The Business Rates Appeal provision has been created because the County Council, under the current funding regime receives 10% of the business rates collected in Lincolnshire. Under this arrangement the County Council is liable for 10% of any provision for business rates appeals. The Voluntary Overtime Provision represents an estimate of Voluntary Overtime which could be taken into account for the determination of holiday pay.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

NOTE 25. OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| £'000 | | £'000 |
| (6,169) | Outstanding Liabilities on PFI and Finance Leases | (9,311) |
| (205,000) | Net Pension Liability - Fire Fighters Scheme | (184,200) |
| (58,925) | Net Pension Liability - Local Government Pension Scheme | (51,419) |
| (270,094) | | (244,930) |

NOTE 26. PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVES (PFI) AND SIMILAR CONTRACTS

The Council has one PFI scheme for the provision of seven separate schools across the County which is classified as a Service Concession Arrangement.

Service Concession Agreements are agreements to receive services where the responsibility for making available the Property, Plant and Equipment needed to provide the services passes to the contractor. As the Council is deemed to control the services that are provided under such schemes and as ownership of the assets will pass to the Council at the end of the contract for no additional charge, the Council carries these assets used under the contracts on the Balance Sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment.

Lincolnshire - Schools PFI Arrangement

a) Background.

On 27 September 2001 Lincolnshire County Council entered into a 31-year PFI contract with Focus Education (Lincolnshire), for the construction and provision of seven fully serviced school premises across the county. The school sites were completed, and became operational, on a phased basis, as shown in the following table:

| Buildings: Description | Occupied from |
|--|---------------|
| Sleaford St Botolph's County Primary | Sept 2002 |
| Sleaford Church Lane Primary | Jan 2003 |
| Claypole CE County Primary | Mar 2003 |
| The Fortuna Primary, Lincoln | Sept 2003 |
| Athena School (The Sincil School, Lincoln) | Mar 2006 |
| Greenfields Academy (was The Phoenix School, Grantham) | Sept 2003 |
| Woodlands Academy (was The Lady Jane Franklin School, Spilsby) | Sept 2003 |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

The contractor is required to provide the school facilities to the specified standard (including school buildings and educational equipment). The school must operate within the policies of the Local Education Authority. The school facilities must be available and ready for use as a school during term time and the school day is specified as 8am to 7pm.

The contract specifies minimum standards for the services to be provided by the contractor, with deductions from the fee payable being made if facilities are unavailable or performance is below the minimum standards.

The Council is required to pay compensation to the contractor if the contract is terminated early to cover: the senior debt, any redundancy costs incurred by the provider, and any future profit elements set out in the contractor's financial model.

The contract ends in 2032, at which time the school premises will transfer to the ownership of the Council at no further cost. The contract specifies the physical condition in which the premises must be transferred.

b) Property, Plant and Equipment Held under the PFI Contract.

The table below shows the fixed assets held by the Council, and the movement in their values during 2024-25. These assets are included in the fixed assets shown in Note 15 Property, Plant and Equipment.

| | Land & Buildings | | Furniture & Equipment | |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Balance at 1 April: | 18,368 | 18,044 | 71 | 75 |
| Additions | 179 | 187 | 27 | 48 |
| Revaluations | 127 | 3,323 | 0 | 0 |
| Depreciation | (558) | (645) | (23) | (24) |
| Disposals | (72) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Book Value at 31 March | 18,044 | 20,909 | 75 | 99 |

The original recognition of these assets is balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the assets. Assets recognised on the Balance Sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as Property, Plant and Equipment owned by the Council.

c) Liabilities Outstanding under the PFI Contract – Finance Lease Element.

The following table shows the outstanding liability on the PFI Finance Lease, and the movement during 2024/25:

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| £'000 | PFI Lease Liability | £'000 |
| 6,754 | Liability as at 01 April: | 5,999 |
| (755) | Principal Repayments | (577) |
| 5,999 | Liability as at 31 March | 5,422 |

d). PFI Contract Liabilities.

The amounts payable to the contractors each year are analysed into five 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 of 7.20% on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- payment towards liability – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the contractor; and
- lifecycle replacement costs – recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment on the Balance Sheet.

The following table shows a breakdown of the estimated contract costs over the remaining life of the PFI contract, split into the different elements of the total cost.

| | Principal Lease Repayments | Financing Costs (Interest) | Service Charges | Total Estimated Payments |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Payable in 2025/26 | 744 | 366 | 2,527 | 3,637 |
| Payable between 2026/27 and 2027/28 | 2,006 | 538 | 4,925 | 7,469 |
| Payable between 2028/29 and 2030/31 | 2,253 | 296 | 7,103 | 9,652 |
| Payable between 2031/32 and 2033/34 | 420 | 24 | 2,651 | 3,095 |
| Total Committed Liabilities as at 31 March 2025 | 5,423 | 1,224 | 17,206 | 23,853 |

e). School Assets.

On 1 August 2016, the Lady Jane Franklin School in Spilsby converted to Academy status. A lease has been agreed between the Council and the Academy to reflect the effects of conversion. This lease is accounted for in accordance with the Authority's Accounting Policies on Leases and Accounting for Schools. The figures shown in section d above, include

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

£1.019m of principal lease liability and £0.316m of interest liability that relate to the Lady Jane Franklin School.

On 1 March 2013, the Phoenix School in Grantham converted to Academy status. A lease has been agreed between the Council and the Academy to reflect the effects of conversion. This lease is accounted for in accordance with the Authority's Accounting Policies on Leases and Accounting for Schools. The figures shown in section d above, include £1.025m of principal lease liability and £0.319m of interest liability that relate to the Phoenix School.

On 11 November 2011, the school buildings belonging to St Botolph's County Primary School in Sleaford (a Voluntary Controlled School) were transferred to the Diocese Trust. This school has been accounted for in accordance with the Authority's Accounting Policy of School Assets. The figures shown in section d above, include £1.116m of principal lease liability and £0.347m of interest liability that relate to St Botolph's County Primary School.

NOTE 27. LEASES

Since 1 April 2024, the Council accounts for leases in accordance with the International Financing Reporting Standard (IFRS) 16 Leases. One of the main changes under the new accounting standard is the removal of the distinction between financing or operating leases for lessees, for non-exempt leases. All leases and lease arrangements are recognised on the lessee's balance sheet as right-of-use assets with corresponding lease liabilities. Leases for items of low value and leases which expire within 12 months are exempt from the new accounting treatment.

Council as Lessee

- i) Right-of-use assets

The below table shows the change in the value of right-of-use assets held under leases by the authority:

| | Land and Buildings | | Vehicles, Plant & Equipment | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Balance at 1 April: | 15,825 | 20,936 | 0 | 0 |
| Additions | 256 | 9,225 | 0 | 464 |
| Revaluations | 3,583 | 3,143 | 0 | 0 |
| Depreciation | 1,315 | (1,233) | 0 | (159) |
| Disposals | 0 | (1,411) | 0 | 0 |
| Reclassifications | (43) | 6,871 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Book Value at 31 March | 20,936 | 37,531 | 0 | 305 |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

ii) Maturity analysis of lease liabilities

The lease liabilities are due to be settled over the following time bands (measured at the discounted amounts of expected cash payments):

| | 2023/24 | | 2024/25 | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Minimum Lease Payments | Finance Lease Liabilities | Minimum Lease Payments | Finance Lease Liabilities |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Land and Buildings: | | | | |
| Not later than one year | 8 | 11 | 535 | 171 |
| Between one year and not later than five years | 40 | 56 | 1,898 | 478 |
| Later than five years | 123 | 224 | 1,821 | 606 |
| Total Committed Liabilities as at 31 March | 171 | 291 | 4,254 | 1,255 |

| | 2023/24 | | 2024/25 | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Minimum Lease Payments | Finance Lease Liabilities | Minimum Lease Payments | Finance Lease Liabilities |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Vehicles, Plant & Equipment: | | | | |
| Not later than one year | 0 | 0 | 149 | 10 |
| Between one year and not later than five years | 0 | 0 | 161 | 9 |
| Later than five years | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Total Committed Liabilities as at 31 March | 0 | 0 | 312 | 19 |

As at 31 March 2025, the Council is committed to making payments of £3.856m for the following low value items previously identified as operating leases:

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------|
| £'000 | | £'000 |
| 1,649 | Not later than one year | 833 |
| 3,487 | Between one year and five years | 1,255 |
| 2,993 | Later than five years | 1,768 |
| 8,129 | Total Committed Liabilities | 3,856 |

Council as Lessor

i) Finance Leases

The Council has granted a small number of long-term leases for Adult Care properties, a Children's Centre, and a Heritage site, which are accounted for as finance leases. Buildings leased at academy sites are also treated as finance leases. There are no significant lease payments and no debtors.

The Council does not acquire assets specifically for the purpose of letting under finance leases.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

The Council sub-lets County Farm holdings held under finance leases. At 31 March 2025 the minimum payments expected to be received under non-cancellable sub-leases was £12.543m.

ii) Operating Leases

The Council acts as landlord mainly for the County Farms estate and received income from tenants of £2.397m in 2024-25 (£2.214 in 2023-24). The Council also received rental income from other properties; where the value of the lease is material, the income amounted to £1.352m in 2024-25 (£1.390m in 2023-24).

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

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| £'000 | | £'000 |
| 2,908 | Not later than one year | 5,683 |
| 6,458 | Between one year and five years | 6,718 |
| 11,600 | Later than five years | 12,013 |
| 20,966 | Total future minimum lease payments | 24,414 |

NOTE 28. PENSION SCHEMES ACCOUNTED FOR AS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES

a) Teachers' Pension Scheme

Teachers employed by the Council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS), administered by the Department for Education. The Scheme provides teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement and the Council makes contributions towards the costs 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 the underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purpose of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2024-25 the County Council paid £19.087m (£18.200m, 2023/24) to the administrators of the TPS in respect of Employer's pension contributions. The Council's contribution rate to the teacher's pension fund is 28.68%. The Council is responsible for all pension payments relating to compensatory added years under the Council's early retirement policy.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

This includes payments for associated pension increases and mandatory compensation payments to fund the early release of benefits from the scheme. These unfunded benefits amounted to £4.230m in 2024-25, (£4.129m in 2023/24) and have an on-going liability to the Council.

b) National Health Service Pension Scheme (NHSPS)

The majority of staff that transferred to the Council from the Health Authority as part of Public Health and Children Services have remained in the National Health Service Pension Scheme (NHSPS).

The Scheme is technically a defined benefit scheme. However, the Scheme is unfunded and the Department for Health 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 the 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 2024-25 the Council paid £0.875m, (£0.805m in 2023/24) to the administrators of the NHS Pension Scheme in respect of employer contributions. This was made of £0.802m of employer's contributions to the scheme at a contribution rate of 14.38% together with a lump sum contribution of £0.073m in 2024-25, (£0.065m in 2023/24).

NOTE 29. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSIONS SCHEMES

Participation in Pension Schemes

The Council is required to auto-enrol all eligible employees to the local government pension scheme and 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.

I. Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The Local Government Pension Scheme is a funded defined benefits career average salary scheme. This means that the Council and employees pay contributions into the fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with investment assets. The Council paid employer's contributions of £52.269m (£47.380m in 2023-24) into the Lincolnshire Pension Fund in 2024-25, based on 24.1% of scheme employees' pensionable pay.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

Under the Council's early retirement policy, additional contributions of £0.182m (£0.114m in 2023-24) were made to the Pension Fund for the pre-funding of early retirements and unfunded benefits in respect of compensatory added years and associated pension increases amounted to £5.935m (£5.818m in 2023-24). Further information can be found on pages 98 to 99 and in the Council's Pension Fund Annual Report which is available on request.

Lincolnshire County Council's pension scheme is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of its Pension Committee. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pension Fund Regulations. The investment managers of the fund are appointed by the committee - See the list in the Pension Fund statements on page 182.

The principal risks to the authority of the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, and structural changes to the scheme (i.e. large-scale withdrawals from the scheme), changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge the General Fund the amounts required by statute as described in Note 41 Accounting Policies.

II. Fire-fighters' (Uniformed) Pension Scheme (FPS)

In 2024-25 the Council paid employer's contributions of £6.500m (£6.100m in 2023-24) to the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Pension Fund. here are currently three schemes: the 1992 and 2015 schemes, where the employer contribution rate is 21.7% and the 2006 scheme, where the contribution rate is 12%. A further £0.876m (£1.457m in 2023-24) was paid in respect of ill health retirements and £0.516m (£0.510m in 2023-24) in respect of injury benefits. Further information on the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Pension fund can be found on pages 161 to 163.

Transactions Relating to Post-Employment Benefits (IAS 19 Retirement Benefits accounting entries).

We recognise the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge we are required to make against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/ retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The unfunded FPS employer's contributions have been defined by the actuary as benefits expenditure reduced by employee contributions. These are gross contributions and have been adjusted by the Home Office government grant. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

a. Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet, Service Costs & Other Comprehensive Income (OCI) for the Local Government Pension Fund at 31 March 2025:

| 2023/24 | | | | 2024/25 | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|---|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Assets | Obligations | Net liability/ asset | | Assets | Obligations | Net liability/ asset |
| £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| | | | | | | |
| 1,563,722 | 0 | 1,563,722 | Fair value of employer assets | 1,748,212 | 0 | 1,748,212 |
| (136,250) | 0 | (136,250) | Impact of asset ceiling | (270,946) | 0 | (270,946) |
| 0 | (1,427,472) | (1,427,472) | Present value of funded liabilities | 0 | (1,477,266) | (1,477,266) |
| 0 | (63,042) | (63,042) | Present value of unfunded liabilities | 0 | (58,925) | (58,925) |
| 1,427,472 | (1,490,514) | (63,042) | Opening position as at 31 March | 1,477,266 | (1,536,191) | (58,925) |
| | | | Service cost: | | | |
| 0 | (33,160) | (33,160) | Current service cost | 0 | (35,508) | (35,508) |
| 0 | (563) | (563) | Past service costs (including curtailments) | 0 | (245) | (245) |
| 31,640 | (25,317) | 6,323 | Effect of settlements | 12,669 | (8,593) | 4,076 |
| 31,640 | (59,040) | (27,400) | Total Service Costs | 12,669 | (44,346) | (31,677) |
| | | | Net Interest: | | | |
| 79,218 | 0 | 79,218 | Interest income on planned assets | 91,636 | 0 | 91,636 |
| 0 | (71,035) | (71,035) | Interest cost on defined benefit obligation | 0 | (75,090) | (75,090) |
| (6,869) | 0 | (6,869) | Impact on asset ceiling | (14,142) | 0 | (14,142) |
| 72,349 | (71,035) | 1,314 | Total net Interest | 77,494 | (75,090) | 2,404 |
| 103,989 | (130,075) | (26,086) | Total defined benefit cost recognised in CIES | 90,163 | (119,436) | (29,273) |
| | | | Cash flows: | | | |
| 12,439 | (12,439) | 0 | Plan participants' contributions | 14,570 | (14,570) | 0 |
| 47,380 | 0 | 47,380 | Employer contributions | 52,269 | 0 | 52,269 |
| 5,818 | 0 | 5,818 | Contributions re unfunded benefits | 5,935 | 0 | 5,935 |
| (63,967) | 63,967 | 0 | Benefits paid | (71,808) | 71,808 | 0 |
| (5,818) | 5,818 | 0 | Unfunded benefits paid | (5,935) | 5,935 | 0 |
| (4,148) | 57,346 | 53,198 | Total Cash Flows | (4,969) | 63,173 | 58,204 |
| 1,527,313 | (1,563,243) | (35,930) | Expected closing position | 1,562,460 | (1,592,454) | (29,994) |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

| 2023/24 | | | | 2024/25 | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|---|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Assets | Obligations | Net liability/ asset | | Assets | Obligations | Net liability/ asset |
| £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| 0 | 22,108 | 22,108 | Remeasurements: | | | |
| 0 | 8,451 | 8,451 | Changes in demographic assumptions | 0 | 4,161 | 4,161 |
| 0 | (4,797) | (4,797) | Changes in financial assumptions | 0 | 216,463 | 216,463 |
| 79,070 | 0 | 79,070 | Other experience | 0 | 4,420 | 4,420 |
| (127,827) | 0 | (127,827) | Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest | (23,540) | 0 | (23,540) |
| (48,757) | 25,762 | (22,995) | Changes in asset ceiling | (222,929) | 0 | (222,929) |
| | | | Total remeasurements recognised in OCI | (246,469) | 225,044 | (21,425) |
| 1,748,212 | 0 | 1,748,212 | Fair value of employer assets | 1,822,412 | 0 | 1,822,412 |
| (270,946) | 0 | (270,946) | Impact of asset ceiling | (508,017) | 0 | (508,017) |
| 0 | (1,477,266) | (1,477,266) | Present value of funded liabilities | 0 | (1,314,395) | (1,314,395) |
| 0 | (58,925) | (58,925) | Present value of unfunded liabilities | 0 | (51,419) | (51,419) |
| 1,477,266 | (1,536,191) | (58,925) | Closing position as at 31 March | 1,314,395 | (1,365,814) | (51,419) |

The asset ceiling is the present value of any economic benefit available to the Council in the form of refunds or reduced future employer contributions. The asset ceiling determined by our Actuary has followed their interpretation of IFRIC14.

Their calculations assume:

- There is no prospect of the Council having an unconditional right to a refund of surplus on the basis that such a payment would be at the discretion of the Fund.
- The Council is a scheduled body and assumed to participate indefinitely.
- Primary contributions are considered to be a minimum funding requirement (MFR).
- The MFR exceeds the current cost of accrual and so the potential economic benefit from future contribution reductions is nil. The value of the asset ceiling is therefore nil.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

Analysis of the Remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income:

| | Year to 31/03/2024 | Year to 31/03/2025 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Remeasurement of the net assets/(defined benefit) | | |
| Return on Fund assets in excess of interest | 79,070 | (23,540) |
| Change in financial assumptions | 8,451 | 216,463 |
| Change in demographic assumptions | 22,108 | 4,161 |
| Changes in effect of asset ceiling | (127,827) | (222,929) |
| Experience gain/losses on defined benefit obligation | (4,797) | 4,420 |
| Remeasurement of the net assets/(defined liability) | (22,995) | (21,425) |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

b) Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet, Service Costs & Other Comprehensive Income (OCI) for the Fire-fighters

Pension Fund at 31 March 2025:

| 2023/24 | | | | 2024/25 | | |
|---------|-------------|----------------------|--|---------|-------------|----------------------|
| Assets | Obligations | Net liability /asset | | Assets | Obligations | Net liability /asset |
| £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| 0 | (188,000) | (188,000) | Present value of funded liabilities | 0 | (187,100) | (187,100) |
| 0 | (17,700) | (17,700) | Present value of unfunded liabilities | 0 | (17,900) | (17,900) |
| 0 | (205,700) | (205,700) | Opening position as at 31 March | 0 | (205,000) | (205,000) |
| | | | Service cost: | | | |
| 0 | (1,800) | (1,800) | Current service cost | 0 | (1,600) | (1,600) |
| 0 | (1,800) | (1,800) | Total Service Costs | 0 | (1,600) | (1,600) |
| | | | Net Interest: | | | |
| 0 | (9,700) | (9,700) | Interest cost on defined benefit obligation | 0 | (9,800) | (9,800) |
| 0 | (9,700) | (9,700) | Total net Interest | 0 | (9,800) | (9,800) |
| 0 | (11,500) | (11,500) | Total defined benefit cost recognised in CI&ES | 0 | (11,400) | (11,400) |
| | | | Cash flows: | | | |
| 1,600 | (1,600) | 0 | Plan participants' contributions | 1,600 | (1,600) | 0 |
| 6,100 | 0 | 6,100 | Employer contributions | 6,500 | 0 | 6,500 |
| 500 | 0 | 500 | Contributions in respect of injury benefits | 500 | 0 | 500 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | Transfers to/from other authorities | 200 | (200) | 0 |
| (7,700) | 7,700 | 0 | Benefits paid | (8,300) | 8,300 | 0 |
| (500) | 500 | 0 | Injury award expenditure | (500) | 500 | 0 |
| 0 | 6,600 | 6,600 | Total Cash Flows | 0 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| 0 | (210,600) | (210,600) | Expected closing position | 0 | (209,400) | (209,400) |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

| 2023/24 | | | | 2024/25 | | |
|---------|-------------|----------------------|--|---------|-------------|----------------------|
| Assets | Obligations | Net liability /asset | | Assets | Obligations | Net liability /asset |
| £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| 0 | (100) | (100) | Remeasurements: | | | |
| 0 | (10,600) | (10,600) | Changes in demographic assumptions | 0 | (3,100) | (3,100) |
| 0 | 5,100 | 5,100 | Changes in financial assumptions | 0 | (29,000) | (29,000) |
| | | | Other experience | 0 | 6,900 | 6,900 |
| 0 | (5,600) | (5,600) | Total remeasurements recognised in OCI | 0 | (25,200) | (25,200) |
| 0 | (187,100) | (187,100) | Present value of funded liabilities | 0 | (173,100) | (173,100) |
| 0 | (17,900) | (17,900) | Present value of unfunded liabilities | 0 | (11,100) | (11,100) |
| 0 | (205,000) | (205,000) | Closing position as at 31 March | 0 | (184,200) | (184,200) |

The current service cost shown in the table above includes the cost for both the non-injury benefits and injury benefits. This is split £1.300m for the non-injury benefits and £0.300m for the injury benefits. The interest cost shown in the table above includes the cost for both the non-injury benefits and injury benefits. This is split £8.900m for the non-injury benefits and £0.900m for the injury benefits.

Analysis of the present value of the defined obligation – Fire-fighters Scheme:

| 2023/24 | | | | 2024/25 | | |
|-----------------|---------|----------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| Liability Split | | Duration | | Liability Split | | Duration |
| £000 | % | | | £000 | % | |
| 75,000 | 40.09% | 24.6 | Members | 45,300 | 26.17% | 24.8 |
| 9,400 | 5.02% | 27.3 | Deferred Members | 9,700 | 5.60% | 25.4 |
| 102,700 | 54.89% | 12.6 | Pensioners | 118,100 | 68.23% | 12.1 |
| 187,100 | 100.00% | 18.2 | | 173,100 | 100.0% | |
| 7,500 | 41.90% | 24.6 | Contingent injuries | 4,500 | 40.54% | 24.8 |
| 10,400 | 58.10% | 12.1 | Injury pension liabilities | 6,600 | 59.46% | 10.4 |
| 17,900 | 100.00% | 17.3 | | 11,100 | 100.0% | |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

c) Pension Fund Assets Comprise.

The Local Government Pension schemes comprise the following assets:

| Asset Class | Fair value of scheme assets | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|------|
| | 2023/24 | | | | 2024/25 | | | |
| | Quoted prices in active markets | Quoted prices not in active markets | Total | | Quoted prices in active markets | Quoted prices not in active markets | Total | |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | % | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | % |
| Corporate Bonds: | | | | | | | | |
| - UK | 209,785 | 0 | 209,785 | 12% | 236,914 | 0 | 236,914 | 13% |
| Total Corporate Bonds | 209,785 | 0 | 209,785 | 12% | 236,914 | 0 | 236,914 | 13% |
| Equities: | | | | | | | | |
| - UK | 139,857 | 0 | 139,857 | 8% | 145,793 | 0 | 145,793 | 8% |
| - Overseas | 734,249 | 0 | 734,249 | 42% | 728,965 | 0 | 728,965 | 40% |
| Total Equities | 874,106 | 0 | 874,106 | 50% | 874,758 | 0 | 874,758 | 48% |
| Property: | | | | | | | | |
| - All | 87,411 | 34,964 | 122,375 | 7% | 91,121 | 29,159 | 120,279 | 7% |
| Total Property | 87,411 | 34,964 | 122,375 | 7% | 91,121 | 29,159 | 120,279 | 7% |
| Other: | | | | | | | | |
| - Hedge fund | 0 | 104,893 | 104,893 | 6% | 0 | 107,522 | 107,522 | 6% |
| - Private Equity | 0 | 122,375 | 122,375 | 7% | 0 | 125,746 | 125,746 | 7% |
| - Infrastructure | 0 | 69,928 | 69,928 | 4% | 0 | 91,121 | 91,121 | 5% |
| - Bonds / Credit - Diversified Income | 174,821 | 0 | 174,821 | 10% | 182,241 | 0 | 182,241 | 10% |
| - Private Debt | 0 | 17,482 | 17,482 | 1% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| - Other Diversified Alternatives | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0 | 29,159 | 29,159 | 2% |
| - Cash/Temporary Investments | 52,446 | 0 | 52,446 | 3% | 54,672 | 0 | 54,672 | 3% |
| Total Other | 227,268 | 314,678 | 541,946 | 31% | 236,913 | 353,548 | 590,461 | 32% |
| Total Assets | 1,398,570 | 349,642 | 1,748,212 | 100% | 1,439,706 | 382,707 | 1,822,412 | 100% |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

All scheme assets have quoted prices in active markets. The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current investment policy. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the Balance Sheet date. The estimated return on scheme assets in the year was 3.88% (10% in 2023-24).

d. Basis for estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and Discretionary Benefits liabilities have been assessed by Barnett Waddingham, (Fire Fighters Pension scheme was assessed by Hymans Robinson) both independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31st March 2022.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

| | Local Government Pension Scheme | | Fire-fighters' Pension Scheme | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|
| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
| Price Increases | 3.25% | 3.20% | 3.10% | 3.15% |
| Salary Increases | 3.95% | 3.90% | 3.10% | 3.15% |
| Pension Increases (CPI) | 2.95% | 2.90% | 2.80% | 2.80% |
| Discount Rate | 4.90% | 5.80% | 4.90% | 5.80% |

The table below shows the life expectancy of future and current pensioners and is based on the CMI 2023 (fire fighters) and CMI 2023 (LGPS) model assuming the current rate of improvement has peaked and will converge to a long-term rate of 1.25% p.a. Life expectancy is based on pensioners of 65 in the LGPS and 60 in the Fire-fighters' scheme.

| Life expectancy - Years | Local Government Pension Scheme | | Fire-fighters' Pension Scheme | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Current Pensioners | 19.5 | 22.7 | 25.6 | 28.5 |
| Future Pensioners | 20.8 | 24.1 | 27.7 | 30.5 |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

e. Sensitivity Analysis

The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonable possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice this is unlikely to occur and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimation in the sensitivity analysis has followed the accounting policies of 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 a previous period.

| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | +0.5% | +0.1% | 0.0% | -0.1% | -0.5% |
| Adjustment to discount rate: | | | | | |
| - Present value of total obligation | 1,275,149 | 1,346,823 | 1,365,814 | 1,385,261 | 1,467,904 |
| - Projected service cost | 21,965 | 25,539 | 26,506 | 27,504 | 31,842 |
| Adjustment to long term salary increases: | | | | | |
| - Present value of total obligation | 1,372,063 | 1,367,044 | 1,365,814 | 1,364,594 | 1,359,813 |
| - Project service cost | 26,506 | 26,506 | 26,506 | 26,506 | 26,506 |
| Adjustment to pension increases and deferred revaluation: | | | | | |
| - Present value of total obligation | 1,464,175 | 1,384,566 | 1,365,814 | 1,347,495 | 1,278,316 |
| - Project service cost | 32,054 | 27,545 | 26,506 | 25,499 | 21,773 |
| | | +1 year | None | -1 year | |
| Adjustment to life expectancy assumptions: | | | | | |
| - Present value of total obligation | | 1,419,978 | 1,365,814 | 1,314,055 | |
| - Projected Service cost | | 27,478 | 26,506 | 25,556 | |

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

Fire Fighters' Pension Scheme.

| | Approximate change to Employer Liability | Approximate monetary amount |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Change in assumptions - year ended 31 March 2025 | % | £000 |
| 0.5% decrease in Real Discount rate | 8.0% | 15,580 |
| 1 year increase in member life expectancy | 3.0% | 5,530 |
| 0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate | <1% | 180 |
| 0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate | 7.0% | 13,100 |

The Fire-fighters' pension arrangements have no assets to cover its liabilities

The principle demographic assumption is the longevity assumption for the LGPS (i.e. member life expectancy). For sensitivity purposes, it's estimated that a one-year increase in life expectancy would approximately increase the Employer's Defined Benefit obligation by around 3-5%. 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 predominantly apply at younger or older ages). There would be a similar increase in the Current Service costs of 3-5%.

Asset and Liability Matching (ALM) Strategy

The Council's pension committee has agreed to an asset and liability matching strategy (ALM) that matches, to the extent possible, the types of assets invested to the liabilities in the defined benefit obligation. The fund has matched assets to the pensions' obligations by investing long-term fixed interest securities and indexed linked gilt-edged investment with maturities that match the benefits payments as they fall due. This is balanced with a need to maintain the liquidity of the fund to ensure that it is able to make current payments. As is required by the pensions and investment regulations, the suitability of various types of investment have been considered, as has the need to diversify investments to reduce risk of being invested in too narrow a range. A large proportion of the assets relate to equities (47% of scheme assets) and Bonds (14%), absolute funds (23%). The scheme also invests in properties (7%), infrastructure (4%) and cash/temporary investments (3%) as a part of the diversification of the scheme's investments. The ALM strategy is monitored annually or more frequently if necessary.

Impact on the Authority's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant rate as possible. The Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 20 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. We are now working on the most recent triennial valuation. 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

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

March 2014. The Act provides for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework, to establish new career average revalued earnings scheme to pay pensions and other benefits.

f. Projected defined benefit cost for the period to 31 March 2026.

| | Local Government Pension | Fire Fighters' Pension Scheme |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Net (liability) /asset | £000 | £000 |
| Projected Current Service Cost | (28,092) | (1,400) |
| Interest cost on defined benefit obligation | (1,323) | (10,500) |
| Total included in Income and Expenditure | (29,415) | (11,900) |

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 20 years in 2024/25. The authority expects to pay £52.079m in contributions to the LGPS in 2025/26.

Pass through arrangements

Serco, Balfour Beatty, GLL and Platform were all 100% funded (i.e. they have assets that match the liabilities) at last formal valuation (March 2022), therefore the impact of these bodies being pooled with LCC is not considered to be material.

Virgin Media Ltd vs NTL Trustees

On 25 July 2024, the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal in the case of Virgin Media Limited v NTL Pension Trustees II Limited and others. The appeal was brought by Virgin Media Ltd against aspects of the High Court's ruling handed down in June 2023 relating to the validity of certain historical pension changes due to the lack of actuarial confirmation required by law. The Court of Appeal upheld the High Court's ruling. The ruling may have implications for other UK defined benefit plans. It is understood this would apply to the LGPS and HM Treasury is currently assessing the implications for all public service pension schemes. No further information is available at this stage.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

NOTE 30. FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Reconciliation of Liabilities Arising from Financing Activities:

| | 2023/24 | Financing cash flows | Non-cash changes | | 2024/25 |
|---|---------|----------------------|------------------|-------|---------|
| | £'000 | | Acquisitions | Other | £'000 |
| Long term borrowing | 450,054 | (6,591) | | | 443,463 |
| Short term borrowing | 12,072 | (2,131) | | | 9,941 |
| Lease liabilities | 170 | 3,719 | 0 | 0 | 3,889 |
| On Balance sheet PFI Liabilities | 5,999 | (577) | 0 | 0 | 5,422 |
| Total liabilities from financing activities | 468,295 | (5,580) | 0 | 0 | 462,715 |

| | 2022/23 | Financing cash flows | Non-cash changes | | 2023/24 |
|---|---------|----------------------|------------------|-------|---------|
| | £'000 | | Acquisitions | Other | £'000 |
| Long term borrowing | 458,447 | (8,393) | | | 450,054 |
| Short term borrowing | 14,170 | (2,098) | | | 12,072 |
| Lease liabilities | 178 | (7) | 0 | 0 | 170 |
| On Balance sheet PFI Liabilities | 6,754 | (755) | 0 | 0 | 5,999 |
| Total liabilities from financing activities | 479,548 | (11,253) | 0 | 0 | 468,295 |

NOTE 31. POOLED BUDGETS

Under Section 31 of the Health Act 1999 (superseded by Section 75 of the Health Act 2006), Lincolnshire County Council has entered into pooled budget arrangements.

The Council is the host Authority for the pooled budgets relating to: Proactive Care, Specialties including Learning Disabilities, Integrated Community Equipment Service, and Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services; and is responsible for their financial administration. Outside this Better Care Fund (BCF) Section 75 is a stand-alone Section 75 for Sexual Health.

a) Proactive Care

The Proactive S75's primary purpose is to support delivery of prevention and early intervention strategies and to secure the necessary shift from acute to community provision. Performance against the key national targets around Non-Elective Admissions (NEA) and Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOC) are crucial areas that the Board is responsible for reviewing.

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| £'000 | Proactive Care | £'000 |
| 66,304 | Gross Partnership Expenditure | 66,081 |
| (66,304) | Gross Partnership Income | (66,081) |
| 0 | (Surplus)/Deficit | 0 |
| 0 | Contribution from LCC | 45,000 |

b) Learning Disability

In 2001/02 Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups established a pooled budget Partnership Arrangement for the provision of Learning Disability services. This has now been extended to include LD Carers, Personal Health Budgets and Adult care section 256s.

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| £'000 | Learning Disability | £'000 |
| 109,973 | Gross Partnership Expenditure | 111,916 |
| (106,227) | Gross Partnership Income | (108,666) |
| 3,747 | (Surplus)/Deficit | 3,250 |
| 76,265 | Contribution from LCC | 75,947 |

This commissioning strategy aims to ensure that eligible Adults with Learning Disability, Autism and/or Mental Health needs receive appropriate care and support that enables them to feel safe and live independently. Services for Learning Disabilities are administered via a Section 75 agreement between the Council and NHS commissioners in Lincolnshire in addition to a small in-house element that sits outside the Section 75. The Mental Health

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

service is run on behalf of the Council by the Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust, also by way of a Section 75 agreement. Specialist Adult Services finished 2024/25 with an overspend of £0.724m for the year. The service has seen growth in Supported Living, Residential and Direct Payments costs from a combination of high-cost discharges from in-patient provision and school/college leavers requiring packages of care. Service user income has increased due to direct payment audit income being recovered which has helped offset some of the high-cost packages. A legal decision around the backdated payment due for an out of county S117 case has accounted for the service overspend.

c) Lincolnshire Community Equipment Service (LCES)

From 1st April 2015 LCC entered into a S75 agreement with the then 4 Lincs CCG for the provision of an integrated Community Equip service (ICES). This is a 46:54 shared responsibility budget between the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (now Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board) and there is a risk share agreement regarding any under or overspends in year.

| 2023/24 | Integrated Community | 2024/25 |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------|
| £'000 | Equipment Service | £'000 |
| 2,836 | Gross Partnership Expenditure | 4,028 |
| (6,881) | Gross Partnership Income | (6,881) |
| (4,045) | (Surplus)/Deficit | (2,853) |
| 2,836 | Contribution from LCC | 4,028 |

d) Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services

In 2012-13 Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups established a pooled budget Partnership Arrangement for the provision of Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service. The size of this pooled budget increased from 2016-17 following variations made which incorporated additional functions into the Section 75 Agreement.

The Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is designed to meet a wide range of mental health needs in children and young people. These include mild to moderate emotional well-being and mental health problems, as well as moderate, acute, and severe, complex and/or enduring mental health problems or disorders that are causing significant impairments in their lives including: anxiety, depression, trauma, eating disorders and self-harm.

The service also provides a 24-hour, 7 day a week Crisis & Home Treatment Service to provide crisis intervention for young people actively displaying suicidal ideation or following suicide attempts, severe symptoms of depression with suicidal ideation, life threatening harm to self, harm to others as a result of a mental health concern, acute psychotic symptoms, or presentation of anorexia with severe physical symptoms.

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A CAMHS Professional Advice Line is also available to help with uncertainty of whether to refer, or if help is needed on how to refer.

| 2023/24 | Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services | 2024/25 |
|----------|---|----------|
| £'000 | | £'000 |
| 17,071 | Gross Partnership Expenditure | 19,692 |
| (17,071) | Gross Partnership Income | (19,692) |
| 0 | (Surplus)/Deficit | 0 |
| 725 | Contribution from LCC | 725 |

The figures within the CAMHS are made up mostly from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health services but now also includes promoting Independence for Children and other services that work towards the delivery of Mental Health issues amongst children and the young. The funding was all fully utilised in 2024/25, which also includes the LCC contribution of £725k.

e) Sexual Health

During 2015/16 the County Council jointly procured a new contract with NHS England to provide sexual health treatment and prevention services around the county. The new contract commenced on 1st April 2016 and includes provision for HIV services which are the responsibility of NHS England as well as other treatment and preventative services which remain the responsibility of the County Council. Whilst County Council is responsible for the contract the funding is received from NHS England in respect of the HIV services. As such a S.75 agreement has been agreed between the County Council and NHS England.

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------|
| £'000 | Sexual Health | £'000 |
| 5,736 | Gross Partnership Expenditure | 6,329 |
| (5,708) | Gross Partnership Income | (6,329) |
| 27 | (Surplus)/Deficit | 0 |
| 0 | Contribution from LCC | 0 |

f) Wheelchair Service

The Wheelchair Service is part of a Section 75 agreement, and the staff required to manage the service, and all associated costs are entirely funded by the ICB.

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------|
| £'000 | Wheelchair Service | £'000 |
| 0 | Gross Partnership Expenditure | 2,577 |
| 0 | Gross Partnership Income | (2,800) |
| 0 | (Surplus)/Deficit | (223) |
| 0 | Contribution from LCC | 0 |

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 32. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

The Council paid the following amounts to Members of the Council during the year:

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| £'000 | | £'000 |
| 817 | Basic Allowances | 849 |
| 553 | Special Responsibility Allowances | 577 |
| 43 | Expenses | 37 |
| 1,413 | Total | 1,463 |

NOTE 33. OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

a) Officers' remuneration bandings

The table below shows the total number of staff employed by the Council whose actual remuneration exceeded £50,000 per annum, shown in £5,000 bands.

| 2023/24 | | Pay Band | 2024/25 | |
|--|--|---------------------|--|--|
| Number of Staff | | | Number of Staff | |
| Remuneration received (excl Staff receiving redundancy payments) | Staff who received redundancy payments | | Remuneration received (excl Staff receiving redundancy payments) | Staff who received redundancy payments |
| 2 | - | £150,000 - £154,999 | - | - |
| - | - | £145,000 - £149,999 | 1 | - |
| 1 | - | £135,000 - £139,999 | - | - |
| - | - | £130,000 - £134,999 | 1 | - |
| 1 | - | £125,000 - £129,999 | - | 1 |
| - | - | £120,000 - £124,999 | 3 | 1 |
| 2 | - | £115,000 - £119,999 | 2 | - |
| 2 | - | £110,000 - £114,999 | 7 | 1 |
| 8 | - | £105,000 - £109,999 | 6 | - |
| 6 | - | £100,000 - £104,999 | 7 | - |
| 8 | - | £95,000 - £99,999 | 6 | - |
| 8 | - | £90,000 - £94,999 | 15 | - |
| 18 | - | £85,000 - £89,999 | 11 | - |
| 12 | - | £80,000 - £84,999 | 42 | - |
| 54 | - | £75,000 - £79,999 | 49 | - |
| 43 | - | £70,000 - £74,999 | 46 | - |
| 80 | - | £65,000 - £69,999 | 76 | - |
| 108 | - | £60,000 - £64,999 | 96 | 1 |
| 178 | - | £55,000 - £59,999 | 214 | - |
| 267 | 2 | £50,000 - £54,999 | 355 | - |
| 798 | 2 | Total | 937 | 4 |

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Remuneration includes gross salary, expenses, monetary value of benefits in kind and termination payments for staff leaving during the year. In addition, the table also identifies the number of staff that left the Council receiving termination payments in the respective year. The table excludes all employees who are included within the Senior Officer Remuneration table under section b.

A breakdown of the numbers between schools and other services can be found in the following table:

| 2023/24 | | | | Pay Band | 2024/25 | | | |
|--|----------------|--|----------------|---------------------|--|----------------|--|----------------|
| Number of Staff | | | | | Number of Staff | | | |
| Remuneration received (excl those receiving redundancy payments) | | Staff who received redundancy payments | | | Remuneration received (excl those receiving redundancy payments) | | Staff who received redundancy payments | |
| Schools | Other Services | Schools | Other Services | | Schools | Other Services | Schools | Other Services |
| - | 2 | - | - | £150,000 - £154,999 | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | £145,000 - £149,999 | - | 1 | - | - |
| - | 1 | - | - | £135,000 - £139,999 | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | £130,000 - £134,999 | 1 | - | - | - |
| 1 | - | - | - | £125,000 - £129,999 | - | - | - | 1 |
| - | - | - | - | £120,000 - £124,999 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - |
| - | 2 | - | - | £115,000 - £119,999 | - | 2 | - | - |
| - | 2 | - | - | £110,000 - £114,999 | 1 | 6 | - | 1 |
| 4 | 4 | - | - | £105,000 - £109,999 | 1 | 5 | - | - |
| 1 | 5 | - | - | £100,000 - £104,999 | 2 | 5 | - | - |
| 2 | 6 | - | - | £95,000 - £99,999 | 3 | 3 | - | - |
| 2 | 6 | - | - | £90,000 - £94,999 | 4 | 11 | - | - |
| 7 | 11 | - | - | £85,000 - £89,999 | 2 | 9 | - | - |
| 8 | 4 | - | - | £80,000 - £84,999 | 14 | 28 | - | - |
| 15 | 39 | - | - | £75,000 - £79,999 | 16 | 33 | - | - |
| 18 | 25 | - | - | £70,000 - £74,999 | 24 | 22 | - | - |
| 36 | 44 | - | - | £65,000 - £69,999 | 20 | 56 | - | - |
| 33 | 75 | - | - | £60,000 - £64,999 | 30 | 66 | - | 1 |
| 51 | 127 | - | - | £55,000 - £59,999 | 54 | 160 | - | - |
| 110 | 157 | - | 2 | £50,000 - £54,999 | 121 | 234 | - | - |
| 288 | 510 | 0 | 2 | Total | 294 | 643 | 1 | 3 |

b) Senior Officers' Remuneration

The Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015 requires Local Authorities to disclose individual remuneration details for senior employees (determined as those who have responsibility for the management of the organisation and who direct or control the major activities of the Council).

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

| Job Title | Year | Salary | Employer's Pension Contribution | Total |
|--|---------|---------|---------------------------------|---------|
| | | £ | £ | £ |
| Chief Executive - Deborah Barnes | 2024/25 | 203,485 | 49,040 | 252,525 |
| | 2023/24 | 198,522 | 47,844 | 246,366 |
| Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director of Resources - Andrew Crookham | 2024/25 | 175,703 | 42,344 | 218,047 |
| | 2023/24 | 171,418 | 41,312 | 212,730 |
| Executive Director of Adult Care & Community Wellbeing - Martin Samuels | 2024/25 | 153,976 | 37,108 | 191,084 |
| | 2023/24 | 61,797 | 14,893 | 76,691 |
| Executive Director of Children's Services - Heather Sandy | 2024/25 | 156,342 | 44,839 | 201,181 |
| | 2023/24 | 158,863 | 37,619 | 196,481 |
| Executive Director - Place | 2024/25 | 146,990 | 35,425 | 182,415 |
| | 2023/24 | 146,318 | 35,263 | 181,581 |
| Chief Fire Officer | 2024/25 | 137,925 | 51,860 | 189,785 |
| | 2023/24 | 141,020 | 40,614 | 181,634 |
| Director of Public Health | 2024/25 | 131,033 | 18,843 | 149,875 |
| | 2023/24 | 122,419 | 17,604 | 140,023 |
| Assistant Director - Corporate Property | 2024/25 | 162,728 | 18,589 | 181,317 |
| | 2023/24 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Salary includes any bonuses, taxable expenses and compensation for loss of employment.

All Senior Officers are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) aside from the Director Public Health, who is a member of the National Health Service Pension Scheme (NHSPS), and the Chief Fire Officer, who is a member of the Fire Pension Scheme (FPS).

NOTE 34. EXIT PACKAGES

Redundancy, pension strain and other payments are presented in this note in the year that payment is made or accrued (at the point in time when an individual employee is committed to leave the Council). Provisions for redundancy, pension strain and other payments are not included within this note as they represent costs which are committed, but where specific individuals have not yet been identified.

The numbers of exit packages with total cost (redundancy, pension strain and other payments) per band and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the table below:

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

| 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 | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|--|---------|--|------------|
| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
| £0 - £20,000 | 6 | 28 | 12 | 17 | 18 | 45 | £85,232 | £286,955 |
| £20,001 - £40,000 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 8 | £125,398 | £280,053 |
| £40,001 - £60,000 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | £106,947 | £107,500 |
| £60,001 - £80,000 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | £75,420 | £195,760 |
| £80,001 - £100,000 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | £83,901 | £94,163 |
| £100,001 - £150,000 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | £208,265 | £118,551 |
| Total | 6 | 35 | 23 | 25 | 29 | 60 | £685,163 | £1,082,982 |

Details of the actual costs included within the Council's Income and Expenditure for redundancy, pension strain and other payments are set out in Note 35 Termination Benefits. The difference between the values reported in this note and those within Note 35 Termination Benefits arise due to provisions and any variances between year-end accruals and the actual payments made in the next financial year.

NOTE 35. TERMINATION BENEFITS

Employee termination benefits arise from the Council's obligation to pay redundancy costs to employees. These costs will be recognised in the Council's Financial Statements at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises the costs for a restructuring. For example, when there is a formal plan for redundancies (including the location, function and approximate number of employees affected; the termination benefits offered, and the time of implementation).

These items will be accrued in the Balance Sheet at year end and charged to the relevant service revenue account. If payments are likely to be payable in more than 12 months from the year end, then these costs will be discounted at the rate determined by reference to market yields.

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

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As a result of further reductions to local government funding the Council is undertaking a review and reshaping of services. In 2024-25 the Council has incurred liabilities of £0.977m (£0.680m in 2023-24) in relation to termination benefits.

- £0.796m for redundancy payments (£0.567m in 2023-24); and
- £0.182m for pension strain and additional pension awards (£0.114m in 2023-24).

Further information on termination benefits can be found in Note 34 on Exit Packages which details the number of exit packages and total cost over bands and Note 29 on Defined Benefit Pension Schemes which details the effect termination benefits have had on pensions in 2024-25.

NOTE 36. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The Council has incurred the following fees in relation to external audit and inspection work:

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|---|---------|---------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Fees payable to the Appointed Auditor for external audit services | 307 | 316 |
| Total | 307 | 316 |

NOTE 37. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

The Council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The Dedicated Schools Grant (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 2024. The Schools Budget included elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2024/25 are as follows:

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

| | Central Expenditure | Individual Schools Budget | Total |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Schools Budget funded by Dedicated Schools Grant | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Final DSG for 2024/25 before Academy and High Needs recoupment | | | 791,480 |
| Academy and High Needs Figure recouped for 2024/25 | | | (452,739) |
| Total DSG after Academy and High Needs recoupment for 2024/25 | | | 338,741 |
| Plus: Brought Forward from 2023/24 | | | 16,280 |
| Agreed Initial Budgeted Distribution in 2024/25 | 199,621 | 155,399 | 355,020 |
| In Year Adjustments | (27) | (1,423) | (1,450) |
| Final Budget Distribution for 2024/25 | 199,594 | 153,976 | 353,570 |
| less: Actual central expenditure | (197,844) | 0 | (197,844) |
| less: Actual ISB deployed to schools | 0 | (153,976) | (153,976) |
| In year carry forward 2025/26 | 1,750 | 0 | 1,750 |
| Carry forward to 2025/26 | 1,750 | 0 | 1,750 |
| DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2024/25 | | | 0 |
| Addition to DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2024/25 | | | 0 |
| Total of DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2024/25 | | | 0 |
| Net DSG position at the end of 2024/25 | | | 1,750 |

| | Central Expenditure | Individual Schools Budget | Total |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Schools Budget funded by Dedicated Schools Grant | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Final DSG for 2023/24 before Academy and High Needs recoupment | | | 725,151 |
| Academy and High Needs Figure Recouped for 2023/24 | | | (424,254) |
| Total DSG after Academy and High Needs Recoupment for 2023/24 | | | 300,897 |
| Plus: Brought Forward from 2022/23 | | | 16,023 |
| Agreed Initial Budgeted Distribution in 2023/24 | 164,195 | 152,723 | 316,918 |
| In Year Adjustments | 322 | (673) | (351) |
| Final Budget Distribution for 2023/24 | 164,517 | 152,050 | 316,567 |
| less: Actual central expenditure | (148,237) | 0 | (148,237) |
| less: Actual ISB deployed to schools | 0 | (152,050) | (152,050) |
| In year carry forward 2024/25 | 16,280 | 0 | 16,280 |
| Carry forward to 2024/25 | 16,280 | 0 | 16,280 |
| DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2023/24 | | | 0 |
| Addition to DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2023/24 | | | 0 |
| Total of DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2023/24 | | | 0 |
| Net DSG position at the end of 2023/24 | | | 16,280 |

The Individual Schools Budget includes school's contingency. For the purposes of the deployment of the grant, ISBs are deemed to be spent once allocated. School balances can be seen elsewhere in the Financial Statements in Note 14 Earmarked Reserves.

NOTE 38. RELATED PARTIES

The Council is required to disclose transactions with other bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or be controlled or influenced by it. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to make an informed assessment on how much the Council might have been restricted to operate independently or how it might have limited the other bodies' or individuals' ability to bargain freely.

Central Government

Central government has effective control over the general operations of the Council – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates; provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills). Further details of the grants received by the Council are set out in Note 8 Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Grant Income.

Councillors and Senior Officers

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total members' allowances paid in 2024-25 is shown in Note 32.

The Chief Executive and those reporting directly to her may also be able to influence Council policy. Therefore, accounting standards require the Council to disclose certain 'related party transactions' between County Councillors, Chief Officers and the Council. This information comes from the statutory registers of interest (maintained for members) and declarations of pecuniary interests (for Officers). Details of all transactions are recorded in the Register of Members' Interest, which are available for public inspection at County Offices on Newland, Lincoln, during normal office hours, or also on-line from the Council's website. All Council members and Chief Officers have been written to, advising them of their obligations and asking for any declarations of related party transactions to be disclosed within the Statement of Accounts.

During 2024-25 the following have been declared:

Councillors

15 Councillors have not returned a related party form this financial year, twelve of which had reached the end of their term, and either did not stand for re-election or were not re-elected. Information from other sources has been used for these Councillors.

39 Councillors have declared that either they or their immediate family members are Councillors or employees of one or more of the seven Lincolnshire District Councils. The seven District Councils are partner organisations of the County Council. We paid £25.452m to the District Councils and received income of £13.643m in 2024/25.

24 Councillors or their immediate family members have declared an interest in a total of 36 public bodies (e.g. schools, parish councils, NHS bodies, drainage boards). Of these 36 public bodies, we spent a total of £0.105m with 10 public bodies and received income of £0.035m from 7 public bodies in 2024/25.

25 Councillors or their immediate family members have declared an interest in a total of 82 charitable or voluntary bodies. Of these 82 charitable or voluntary bodies, we spent a total of £4.168m with 13 bodies and received income of £0.363m from 6 bodies in 2024/25.

31 Councillors or their immediate family members have declared an interest in a total of 50 private sector organisations.

Chief Officers

6 Chief Officers have declared related parties with the Council, none of these related parties have any transactions with the Authority this financial year.

Other Public Bodies

The Council has entered into Pooled Budget arrangements which are shown in Note 31 with Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) for Specialties including Learning Disabilities, Integrated Community Equipment, Proactive Care, Discharge Fund, and Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service, which are all included within a framework schedule to summarise and share the risk. Outside of this schedule there is also a pooled budget for Sexual Health.

The Council is the administrator of the Lincolnshire Pension Fund and has control of the fund within the overall statutory framework. During the financial year £0.381m was recharged from the Council to the pension fund for scheme administration and management. The pension fund earned a total interest of £4.582m on deposits managed within the Council's own cash, which the Council paid over to the pension fund.

Lincolnshire County Council makes payments to independent sector nursing homes for both the nursing care element and the personal care element of the accommodation charges. The nursing care element is the financial responsibility of the Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB).

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Council paid £7.167m (£6.019m in 2023/24) acting as an agent of the NHS Lincolnshire ICB in order to simplify the payment arrangements to the homes. The total amount paid is recovered from the ICB.

The Council acts as the Accountable Body for the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GL LEP). The GL LEP is a Company limited by guarantee and no financial transactions are made by GL LEP directly, as all transactions are made through the Accountable Body, whilst acting as an Agent. GL LEP does not enter into transactions in its own name, nor record any in GL LEP Company accounting records.

a. Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Council

The Council controls Transport Connect Ltd through its ownership of the Company which is limited by guarantee. The Council has provided a revolving credit facility of up to £500,000 at an interest rate of 2.25% over Bank of England base rate. The outstanding balance of this facility was nil at the 31 March 2025.

Transport Connect Ltd is a teckal company and as such at least 80% of its turnover has to come from the Council. The turnover for the year ending 31 March 2025 is £4.467m (2023-24: £4.459m), of which £4.435m :99% (2023-24: 99%) came from the Council.

The Council owns two other subsidiary companies: EMPSN and Legal Services Lincolnshire (Trading) Limited. Applications were made in March 2024 to dissolve the two companies previously owned by the Council; Lincolnshire Future Limited and Lincolnshire County Property Limited and these have since been removed from the companies register.

The Council controls Legal Services Lincolnshire (Trading) Ltd t/a Lincolnshire Public Law (LPL) through its ownership of the Company which is limited by guarantee. The Council has provided a revolving credit facility of up to £30,000 at an interest rate of 4.0% over Bank of England base rate to cover working capital for the initial operation period. The outstanding balance of this facility was £10,000 at the 31 March 2025.

b. Other Public Bodies

The Council owns a nominal share in Hoople Limited. Hoople Limited is a teckal company and is classed as a related party of the Council. The nature of the relationship between the Council and Hoople Limited is such that the conditions are not met for Hoople Limited to be treated as either a joint venture or an associate of the Council. The Council paid Hoople for the year ending 31 March 2025 £0.578m (2023-24 £1.074m) to Hoople, with no income transactions.

NOTE 39. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

The table below shows the financing of the £226.460m capital expenditure (including revenue expenditure financed from capital under statute and finance leases), together with the resources that have been used to finance it. The explanation of movement in year shows the change in the underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure.

Further information on the 2024/25 expenditure is provided in the Narrative Report, with details of the asset acquired.

In line with our policy on Minimum Revenue Provision, we have made a Voluntary Revenue Provision in 2024/25, which was funded by an underspend on capital financing charges. The total amount of Voluntary Revenue Provision made is £66.482m, of which £16.216m was made in 2024/25, £14.746m was made in 2023/24, £9.343m was made in 2022/23 and £26.177m was made in 2021/22.

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 |
|----------|--|-----------|
| £'000 | | £'000 |
| 677,273 | Opening Capital Financing Requirement | 681,859 |
| | Capital Investment: | |
| 171,684 | Property, Plant and Equipment | 198,130 |
| 429 | Investment Property | 865 |
| 348 | Intangible Assets | 1,352 |
| 26,766 | Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS) | 26,113 |
| | Sources of Finance: | |
| (5,729) | Capital Receipts | (3,308) |
| 0 | Use of Capital Receipts Reserve | 0 |
| (90,292) | Government Grants and Contributions | (111,319) |
| (17,302) | Government Grants and Contributions funding REFCUS | (14,169) |
| | Sums set aside from Revenue: | |
| (45,446) | Direct Revenue Contributions | (47,814) |
| (21,126) | Minimum Revenue Provision | (14,502) |
| (14,746) | Voluntary Revenue Provision | (16,216) |
| 681,859 | Closing Capital Financing Requirement | 700,991 |
| 4,585 | Movement in Year: | 19,133 |
| | Explanation of movement in year: | |
| 4,585 | Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance) | 24,273 |
| 0 | Assets acquired under finance leases | (5,140) |
| 4,585 | Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement | 19,133 |

NOTE 40. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

A contingent liability is where there is a possible obligation to transfer economic benefit resulting from a past event, but the possible obligation will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more events in the future. These events may not wholly be within the control of the Council. The Council discloses these obligations in the narrative notes to the accounts.

These amounts are not recorded in the Council's accounts because:

- it is not probable that an outflow of economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation; or
- The amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability at the year end.

The Council has set a de minimis level for disclosing Contingent Liabilities of £500k.

At 31 March 2025 the Council has the following material contingent liabilities:

Insurance

The Council obtained public and employer's liability insurance cover from the Independent Insurance Company between 1995 and 1998. The company went into liquidation to the extent that it will not be able to meet any current or future liabilities, meaning the Council is effectively not insured for this period. Previously it was expected that only the liabilities for employers' liability remained, due to a significant increase in disease related claims particularly relating to hearing loss. However, this has since changed because in the past few financial years we have received details of public liability claims for this period linked to historic abuse.

No claim is likely to exceed £500,000 individually for the period affected by Independent's period of insurance and whilst damages have been agreed on a few of the current claims, costs are outstanding, and the remaining claims are still under negotiation. It should also be noted that as The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) continues to be reported there is a possibility that claims under the Public Liability policy will still be submitted. The position is independently reviewed annually by the insurance reserve actuary to ensure that reserves are sufficient to cover total liability.

Municipal Mutual Insurance Limited (MMI), the Council's insurer for employers and public liability ceased writing insurance business in September 1992 and entered a Scheme of Arrangement for an expectation of a solvent run off. This did not occur, and the Scheme was triggered on 1 January 2014, when the Scheme Administrator announced a Levy on Scheme Creditors of 15% on all claims payments made by MMI since September 1993, less the first £50,000. A further levy of 10% was then applied in April 2016. This results in a requirement

of a total of 25% of future claim payments to be self-insured. There had been an expectation that the levy might be increased further but with the accounts in June 2017 there was a slight improving position and accordingly no further levy has yet been announced. Again, as part of the annual review by the insurance actuary consideration to the exposure is considered as a part of the reserves recommendation.

From 1st April 2013 there are no longer insurance provisions in place for conditions caused by the exposure to asbestos or the Legionella Bacterium, for employees or the public. However, the Council has stringent policies and procedures in place to minimise the exposure to either of these risks.

Deepings Leisure Centre

South Kesteven District Council has handed back the Deepings Leisure Centre to Lincolnshire County Council due to a large repairing liability. It is currently assumed that the building can be sold, but if it is not then LCC would need to give consideration to the demolition of the site instead.

NOTE 41. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General Principles and Concepts

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the financial year 2024/25 and the position at the year ended 31 March 2025. The Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. These regulations require the accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practice. These practices are set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 and supported by International Financial Reporting Standards and statutory guidance.

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.

Changes in Accounting Policies

Changes in accounting policy may arise through changes to the Code or changes instigated by the Council. For changes brought in through the Code, the Council will disclose the information required by the Code. For other changes we will disclose: the nature of the change; the reasons why; report the changes to the current period and each prior period presented and the amount of the adjustment relating to periods before those presented. If retrospective application is impracticable for a particular prior period, we will disclose the

circumstances that led to the existence of that condition and a description of how and from when the change in accounting policy has been applied.

Prior period adjustments – estimates and errors

The Code requires prior period adjustments to be made when material omissions or misstatements are identified (by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period). Such errors include the effects of mathematical mistakes, mistakes in applying accounting policies, oversights or misinterpretations of facts, and fraud.

The following disclosures will be made:

- the nature of the prior period error.
- for each prior period presented, to the extent practicable, the amount of the correction for each Financial Statement line item affected; and
- the amount of the correction at the beginning of the earliest prior period presented.

Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, i.e. in the current and future years affected by the change. They do not give rise to a prior period adjustment.

Non-Current Assets – Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment are assets that have a 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
- expected to be used during more than one period.

a) Classification

Property, Plant and Equipment is classified under the following headings in the Council's Balance Sheet:

Operational Assets:

- Land and Buildings.
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment.
- Infrastructure Assets; and
- Community Assets.

Non-Operational Assets:

- Surplus Assets; and
- Assets under Construction.

Infrastructure assets include carriageways, footways and cycle tracks, structures (e.g. bridges), street lighting, street furniture (e.g. illuminated traffic signals, bollards), traffic management systems and land, which together form a single integrated highways network.

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Community Assets are assets that the Council intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life, and which may, in addition, have restrictions on their disposal. They largely comprise of open land. They are classified as operational assets in that their use provides or supports the relevant services of the Council. Community Assets include, for example, countryside parks and beaches and sandhills.

b) Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that:

- it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the entity; 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.

c) 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 authority does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred while assets are under construction. The cost of an asset acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition does not have commercial substance (i.e. it will not lead to a variation in the cash flows of the authority). 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 authority.

The Council has set a de minimis level of £10k for recognising Property, Plant and Equipment. This means that any item or scheme costing more than £10k must be treated as capital if the above criteria are met. This relates to initial recognition and subsequent expenditure on assets.

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

Operational Assets

- Infrastructure Assets, Community Assets and Assets under Construction are measured at depreciated historic cost. Where historic cost information is not known for Community Assets these have been included in the Balance Sheet at a nominal value. Highways infrastructure assets are generally measured at depreciated historical cost, however this is a modified form of historical cost – opening balances for highways Infrastructure Assets were originally recorded in balance sheets at amounts of capital undischarged for sums borrowed as at 1 April 1994, which was deemed at that time to be historical cost.
- Property Assets – Land and Buildings are measured at current value for their service potential, which is determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value or EUV). Property Assets – Land and Buildings where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of the asset and because the type of asset is rarely sold, are measured at depreciated replacement cost (DRC). Such specialised assets include schools and fire stations, as well as the building and equipment used for the Energy from Waste plant.
- Vehicles, Plant and Equipment are measured at current value. These are determined as having relatively short useful economic lives and/or relatively low values and historic cost is used as a proxy for current value.

Non-Operational Assets

- Surplus Assets are measured at fair value, which is estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective. This is the price that would be received to sell an asset, or paid to transfer the liability, in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Council uses the assumptions that the market participants, i.e. buyers and sellers in the principal or most advantageous market, would use when pricing an asset or liability under current market conditions, including assumptions about risk. Therefore, the Council's reasons for holding a surplus asset are not relevant when measuring its fair value.
- Assets Under Construction which are not yet operational, are measured at historic cost. When these assets are operationally complete, they are reclassified into the appropriate asset class and valued under the adopted approach,
- All Other Assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (EUV).

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Council values Property, Plant and Equipment using the basis recommended by CIPFA in the Accounting Code of Practice and in accordance with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Valuation – Professional Standards, the RICS Valuation – Global Standards 2017 and RICS Guidance Notes.

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. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for by:

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

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.

d) Impairment

If an asset's carrying amount is more than its recoverable amount, the asset is described as impaired. Circumstances that indicate impairment may have occurred include:

- a significant decline in an asset's market value during the period.
- evidence of obsolescence or physical damage of an asset.
- a commitment by the Authority to undertake a significant reorganisation.
- a significant change in the statutory environment in which the Authority operates.

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

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

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the revaluation reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).
- where there is no balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, or an insufficient balance in the Revaluation Reserve, or the asset is not revalued as it is measured at historic cost; the carrying amount of the asset is written down to the recoverable amount and the amount written down is charged against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is then reversed through the Movement in Reserves Statement and charged to the Capital Adjustment Account.

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

e) Componentisation of Non-Current Assets

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. The Council has identified the following significant components within the property portfolio:

- Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) assets (including fire stations, schools, libraries, and museums where the building is of a specialised nature): land, structures, services, roof, and externals.
- Office Accommodation/Administrative Buildings: land; structures, services, roof, and externals.
- Other market value and existing use value assets (including economic regeneration units): land and buildings.
- Energy from Waste Plant: Civils, Mechanicals and Instrumentation, Control and Automation (for each significant part of the plant).

f) Depreciation

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Operational Buildings are depreciated over their useful life. For buildings which are held at existing use value (EUV) a useful life of 40 years has been assumed. Asset lives for buildings held on a depreciated replacement cost (DRC) basis are

reviewed as part of the rolling programme of revaluations and the Valuer estimates the useful life. Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis.

- Infrastructure Assets. Depreciation is provided on the parts of the highways network of infrastructure assets that are subject to deterioration or depletion and by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis. Useful lives of the various parts of the highways network are assessed by the Council's Highways Engineers using industry standards where applicable as follows:
 - 1-4 years for capital pothole filling.
 - 6-12 years for carriageway surface dressing and slurry sealing.
 - 20 years for carriageways Primary Road Network (PRN) & Non-PRN.
 - 20 years for Bus infrastructure.
 - 20 years for footways/cycleways.
 - 20 years for Public Right of Way (PROW).
 - 20 years for street furniture.
 - 20 years for Traffic Management
 - 40 years for street lighting, kerbs, and drains.
 - 60 years for major road structures (i.e. sub base, underpasses).
 - Up to 120 years for bridge structures.
- Furniture and Non-Specialist Equipment is depreciated over a period of 5 years, on a straight-line basis.
- Vehicles, Plant, and Specialist Equipment (including computing equipment) are depreciated over their estimated useful lives. Currently these vary depending on the nature of the asset, from 3 years to up to 25 years for solar panels.
- Land, Property and Equipment associated with the Energy from Waste Plant are depreciated over their estimated useful lives. These range from 70 years for civils (including building structures) to 10 years for instrumentation, control and automation (ICA) assets.
- Surplus Assets are depreciated in line with the relevant operational asset class.
- No depreciation is charged on Land or on Assets Under Construction.

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 of an asset begins the year the asset becomes available for use. The charge is for 6 months in the first year, for twelve months every year thereafter and ceases when the asset has been derecognised. There is a full year's depreciation in the year of disposal.

g) Disposals and Non-Current Assets held for sale.

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an asset held for sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the other operating expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously recognised losses in the surplus or deficit on the provision of services. Depreciation is not charged on assets held for sale.

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

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

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10k are categorised as capital receipts. The balance of receipts remains within the Capital Receipts Reserve and can then only be used for new capital investment (or set aside to reduce the authority's underlying need to borrow). Receipts are appropriated to the Capital Receipts Reserve from the General Fund balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. It is Council policy to utilise these receipts to fund the capital programme in the year they are received or to carry them forward to be used in future years, subject to the flexibility described in the next paragraph. Disposal proceeds below £10k are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Under a Direction issued pursuant to sections 16 and 20 of the Local Government Act 2003, capital receipts can also be used to fund revenue expenditure that will reduce costs, increase revenue or support a more efficient provision of services. The Direction was

updated in August 2022 which allowed this freedom to continue to 2024/25. The Council has not used this flexibility for several financial years i.e. capital receipts have not been applied to fund revenue transformation expenditure.

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

h) Derecognition associated with asset enhancements.

When capital expenditure occurs on an existing asset the element of the asset being replaced must be derecognised. Where the original value of the asset being replaced is not known the value of the replacement will be used as a proxy and indexed back to an original cost with reference to the asset's remaining life. De-recognition costs will be charged to Other Operating Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (gain or loss on the disposal of non-current assets).

i) Derecognition associated with fully depreciated assets measured at historic cost.

For assets subject to depreciation which are carried at historic cost e.g. Equipment, de-recognition takes place in the year after an asset has been fully depreciated. This represents the end of an asset's useful life.

Ordinarily, Infrastructure Assets components of the highways network are derecognised in the year following the year in which they reach the end of their useful economic lives. At this point the carrying amount in the Balance Sheet is nil as the components are fully depreciated. When a component of the network is disposed of or decommissioned before the end of its useful economic life e.g. due to an impairment, the carrying amount of the component in the Balance Sheet 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. The written-off amounts of disposals are not a charge against council tax, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are transferred to the capital adjustment account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. For Infrastructure Assets, no replacement of any part of an asset takes place before that component has reached the end of its useful life, unless there has been an impairment.

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are defined as identifiable non-financial (monetary) assets without physical substance but are controllable by the Council and expected to provide future economic or service benefits. For the Council, the most common classes of intangible assets are computer software and software licences.

a) Recognition and Measurement. Intangible assets are recognised when it is likely that future benefits will flow to the Council and the cost of the asset can be reliably measured. Assets that qualify as intangible assets shall be measured and carried at cost in the absence of an active market to determine fair value.

The Council has a set a de minimis level of £10k for recognising intangible assets. This means that any item or scheme costing more than £10k would be treated as capital if the above criteria are met.

b) Subsequent Expenditure. Costs associated with maintaining intangible assets are recognised as an expense when incurred in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

c) Amortisation. The carrying value of intangible assets with a finite life is amortised on a straight-line basis over its useful life. Amortisation begins when the asset is available for use. The charge is for 6 months in the first year, for twelve months thereafter and ceases at the date that the asset is derecognised. There is a full year's amortisation in the year of disposal. Amortisation is charged to the relevant service area in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The useful lives for intangible assets are between 1 and 7 years. Useful asset lives are determined by the ICT budget holder and reviewed and updated annually.

d) Impairment. On an annual basis the ICT budget holder is asked to consider if any indicators of impairment exist for intangible assets held by the Council.

Investment Properties

An Investment Property is defined as a property that is solely held to earn rental income or for capital appreciation or both. 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.

Rental income received in relation to Investment Properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and results in a gain for the General Fund Balance. Depreciation is not charged on Investment Properties.

a) Initial Recognition. As with Property, Plant and Equipment, initial recognition is at the costs associated with the purchase.

b) Measurement after Recognition

Investment Properties will be measured 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 using the current market conditions and recent sales prices and

other relevant information for similar assets in the local area. The fair value of Investment Property held under a lease is the lease interest in the asset.

c) Revaluation Gains and Losses and Disposal of Investment Properties

A gain or loss arising from a change in the fair value of Investment Property shall be recognised in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are not permitted by statute to impact on the General Fund Balance therefore these gains or losses are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement on Reserves and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Heritage Assets

Heritage assets are defined as assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical, or environmental qualities; that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

Windmills will be valued at existing use value by the Council's Valuer and where there is insufficient market data, Depreciated Replacement Value is used as a proxy. These valuations will be included on the Council's rolling programme and will be valued every 5 years.

Lincoln Castle and Temple Bruer will continue to be carried at historic cost. This is the capital expenditure on enhancements recognised since records began as the Council does not consider that a reliable valuation can be obtained for these assets. This is because of the nature of the assets held and the lack of comparable market values.

Collections include Fine Art Collection; the Tennyson Collection; Local Studies and Archive Collections; Lincolnshire Regiment, Militaria and Arms and Armour Collections; and Agriculture Collections. The collections are relatively static, acquisitions and donations rare. When they do occur, acquisitions will be measured at cost and donations will be recognised at a valuation determined in-house. Collections will be valued based on the insurance valuations held by the Council. Insurance valuations will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Heritage assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluations gains and losses) in accordance with the Council's accounting policy on non-current assets - Property, Plant and Equipment (accounting policy 4, above). However, some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to Heritage Assets.

Impairment and Disposals are accounted for in line with the Council's policy on non-current assets – Property, Plant and Equipment (accounting policy for Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment and Impairment of non-current assets).

Assets Held for Sale

These are assets held by the Council which are planned to be disposed of which meet the following criteria:

- the asset must be available for immediate sale in its present condition subject to terms that are usual and customary for sales of such assets.
- the sale must be highly probable (with management commitment to sell and active marketing of the asset initiated).
- it must be actively marketed for sale at a price that is reasonable in relation to its current fair value; and
- the sale should be expected to qualify for recognition as a completed sale within one year.

Depreciation is not charged on non-current assets held for sale.

- a) Measurement. Non-Current Assets Held for Sale are revalued immediately before reclassification to Held for Sale and then measured at the lower of carrying value and fair value, less costs to sell (fair value here is the amount that would be paid for the asset in its highest and best use, e.g. market value).
- b) Disposal. Receipts from disposals are recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on provision of services. Amounts in excess of £10k are categorised as capital receipts and can then only be used for new capital investment or to repay the principal of any amounts borrowed. It is Council policy to utilise these receipts to fund the capital programme in the year they are received or to carry them forward to be used in future years. These receipts are transferred from the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves.

Donated Assets

Donated assets are non-current assets which are given to the Council at no cost or at below market value. These assets are initially recognised in the Balance Sheet at fair value. The difference between the 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.

- a) Where there are conditions associated with the asset which remain outstanding, the asset will be recognised in the Balance Sheet with a corresponding liability in the Donated Assets Accounts.
- b) Where there are no conditions or the conditions have been met, the donated asset will be recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and then transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

After initial recognition, donated assets are treated like all other non-current assets held by the Council and are subject to revaluation as part of the Council's rolling programme.

Charges to Revenue for the use of Non-Current Assets

Service accounts and central support services are charged with a capital charge for all non-current assets used in the provision of services to record the real cost of holding non-current assets during the year. The total charge covers:

- the annual provision for depreciation, attributed to the assets used by services.
- revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by services where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off; and
- amortisation of intangible assets attributable to services.

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to cover depreciation, impairment losses or amortisation. However, it is required to make a prudent annual provision from revenue to contribute towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement. Depreciation, impairment losses and amortisation are therefore replaced by a minimum revenue provision in the Movement in Reserves Statement, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account for the difference between the two.

Minimum Revenue Provision

The Council makes provision for the repayment of debt in accordance with the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, 5th edition. This requires the Council to set a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the repayment of debt. The approach adopted by the Council is to use the average life method (the average life of all the Council's assets) in calculating the MRP to be charged to revenue each year, which is a recommended option, as outlined in the Statutory Guidance above. From 2025/26, for both pre 2008 debt (known as Supported Borrowing) and debt taken after this time from 2009/10 onwards (known as Unsupported Borrowing; the asset life of differing categories of assets is estimated and a MRP charge has been recalculated based on an annuity method, whereby a fixed repayment of debt consists of primarily all interest in early years and principal increases in later years. The rationale for moving to this method is to match the larger MRP charge incurred in the later years of the asset's life with the increased benefits incurred from the asset in later life, and also to the increased maintenance costs incurred on the asset in later life. The increased MRP charge in later life of the asset will also be diminished due to the time value of money. The Council does not charge MRP for Major New Road Schemes until assets have become operational in accordance with the Statutory Guidance.

Revenue Expenditure Financed through Capital under Statute

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of a non-current asset in the Balance Sheet; has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service revenue account in the year.

Statutory provision reverses these charges from the Surplus or Deficit on provision of services by debiting the Capital Adjustment Account and crediting the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) and Similar Contracts

The Council has one PFI scheme for the provision of seven separate schools across the County which is classified as a Service Concession Arrangement.

Service Concession Agreements are agreements to receive services where the responsibility for making available the Property, Plant and Equipment needed to provide the services passes to the contractor. As the Council is deemed to control the services that are provided under such schemes and as ownership of the assets will pass to the Council at the end of the contract for no additional charge, the Council carries these assets used under the contracts on the Balance Sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment.

The original recognition of these assets is balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the assets. 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 contractors each year are analysed into five 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 of 7.20% on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- payment towards liability – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the contractor; and
- lifecycle replacement costs – recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment on the Balance Sheet.

Borrowing Costs

The Council has adopted the accounting policy of expensing borrowing costs of qualifying assets to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (disclosed within Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

Statement) in the year in which they are incurred. This is current practice based on the fact that borrowing undertaken is not attributed to individual schemes making capitalisation of costs complex with marginal benefit.

Classification of Leases

A lease exists where there is a contract, or part of a contract, which conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time. This includes arrangements that convey the right to control the use of an asset in exchange for payment, as well as arrangements where there is no payment or other consideration involved.

In the remainder of this policy the word “lease” refers to leases and to lease-type arrangements. A lessee is the user of the asset, and a lessor is the owner of the asset who allows a lessee the right to use that asset within a contract.

- A lessee will classify leases as finance leases. There are some exemptions which allow lessees to not apply the accounting requirements for finance leases.
- A lessor will classify leases either as a finance lease (if substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership transfer to the lessee) or as an operating lease (if substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessee).

The right of a lessee to use an intangible asset under a licensing agreement, e.g. a software licence, is an exception to the requirements of IFRS 16 Leases.

Lessee Accounting

The Council has elected to treat groups of leased assets with similar characteristics as portfolios of assets, where the accounting treatment of the portfolio is not likely to be materially different from what the accounting treatment of the individual leased assets would have been.

a) Initial measurement of the lease liability

The Council initially recognises lease liabilities measured as the present value of the lease payments which are not yet paid at the commencement date (which is taken to be the date when the lessor makes the underlying asset available for use by the lessee), discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, or if this cannot be readily determined, using the lessee’s incremental borrowing rate. The lessee’s incremental borrowing rate is defined as the rate of interest that a lessee would have to pay to borrow over a similar term, and with a similar security, the funds necessary to obtain an asset of a similar value to the right-of-use asset in a similar economic environment.

Lease payments not yet paid at the commencement date are measured as the total of:

- fixed payments, minus any lease incentives receivable, plus “in-substance” fixed payments,

- variable payments that depend on an index or a rate which are initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date,
- amounts expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees,
- the exercise price of a purchase option if it is reasonably certain to be exercised,
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease if the lease term reflects the lessee exercising an option to terminate the lease.

For assets leased under commercial payment terms, the asset will be measured as the total of the initial lease liability, plus any lease payments made before the commencement date, plus any lessee initial direct costs, plus any dismantling removal and restoration costs, minus any lease incentives received.

For assets leased under non-commercial payment terms, the asset will be measured at its fair value i.e. at the price that would be received to sell the asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Non-commercial payment terms will include: nominal or peppercorn lease rentals which are substantially below market lease payments, or nil consideration. Depreciated Replacement Cost will be used at the fair value for specialised assets for which there is no re-sale market.

Where a lease has components such as multiple assets or non-lease items such as maintenance services, each component will be accounted for as a lease and separately from non-lease components. A right of use underlying asset will be treated as a separate lease component if both: the lessee can benefit from use of the asset on its own, and the asset is not highly dependent on or inter-related to other assets in the contract.

b) Subsequent measurement of the right of use asset

Right of use assets will be subsequently measured on the same basis on which they would be valued if they were owned assets (the revaluation model). This will be in accordance with the Council's Property, Plant and Equipment accounting policy.

The Council will use the cost model as an alternative to the revaluation model where it is considered that the cost model will result in a reliable proxy for current value. This will be assessed on an individual asset basis.

The cost model measures the right of use asset as the initial cost of the right of use asset when it is first recognised, plus any cost recognised after the commencement date for dismantling removal and restoration costs, minus any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

The cost model is more likely to be a reliable proxy for current value in these circumstances:

- Leases with a short enough term that material increases in value are unlikely to arise.

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- Leases which contain provisions for rent reviews that will regularly (every one to two years) update amounts payable under the lease to reflect current market conditions, as opposed to updates on general inflation indices such as CPI.

The right-of-use asset is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the lower of either the remaining lease term or remaining useful life of the asset as at the adoption date.

The lease liability is remeasured when:

- change in lease term
- change in assessments of an option to purchase
- change in amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee
- change in future lease payments resulting from a change in an index or rate used to determine lease payments
- change in estimated costs of dismantling removal and restoration.

Such remeasurements are also reflected in the cost of the right of use asset.

c) Leases which are Exempt

As permitted by the Code, the council excludes leases that are:

- Short-term leases, which are leases with a lease term shorter than 12 months at the commencement date of the lease. Any lease which includes an option to purchase cannot be treated as a short-term lease for this purpose.
- Low value leases where the original value of the underlying asset is low. The Council has determined to adopt a value of £10,000 and below, as this is aligned to the Council's existing capital de minimis policy. In determining the value of an asset, recoverable VAT will be excluded.

An initial review has identified that the following types of assets are likely to be low value items under this definition:

- Small office equipment items such as photocopiers and franking machines.
- Other small equipment such as water coolers and vending machines

d) Accounting treatment

Right of use assets are presented within the line appropriate to the underlying asset. They are separately disclosed in the Property, Plant and Equipment disclosure note. All right of use assets that meet the definition of investment property are included in the investment properties line of the Balance Sheet (delete this if it is not applicable).

The depreciation charge for a right of use asset will be debited to gross expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and will be adjusted for through the Movement in Reserves Statement to neutralise the impact on the General Fund.

The interest cost of leases will be debited to financing and investment income and expenditure in the CIES, unless any part of it can be capitalised appropriately.

The principal and interest portions of the lease liability will be classified within financing activities in the Cash Flow Statement.

Short term lease payments, payments for leases of low value assets and variable lease payments not included in the measurement of the lease liability will be classified within operating activities in the Cash Flow Statement.

Lessor Accounting

Lessors will classify leases as either finance leases or operating leases. The key aspect of a lease which determines its classification as either finance or operating, is the extent to which risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the leased asset lie with the lessor or with the lessee. This classification will be determined at the inception date of the lease i.e. the earlier of the date of the lease agreement and the date of commitment by the parties to the principal provisions of the lease.

The main indicators of finance leases (where the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the underlying asset lie with the lessee) are:

- The lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset to the lessee by the end of the lease term.
- The lessee has the option to purchase the underlying asset at a price that is expected to be sufficiently lower than the fair value (at the date the option becomes exercisable) for it to be reasonably certain, at the inception date, that the option will be exercised.
- The lease term is for the major part of the economic life of the underlying asset, even if title is not transferred.
- At the inception date, the present value of the minimum lease payments amounts to at least substantially all of the fair value of the underlying asset (with the exception of non-commercial leases where this indicator would be ignored, and instead the substance of the arrangement and the intentions of the lessor will be assessed).
- The underlying asset is of such a specialised nature that only the lessee can use it without major modifications.
- If the lessee can cancel the lease, the lessor's losses associated with the cancellation are borne by the lessee.
- Gains or losses from the fluctuation in the fair value of the residual accrue to the lessee (for example, in the form of a rent rebate equalling most of the sales proceeds at the end of the lease).
- The lessee has the ability to continue the lease for a secondary period at a rent that is substantially lower than market rent.

Any leases that are not classified as finance leases after taking account of the indicators above, will be classified as operating leases.

Finance Leases

Where the Council is recognising a leased asset for the first time, the existing asset will be derecognised as if it had been disposed of. The relevant assets are written out of the Balance Sheet to gain or loss on disposal of assets in the Other Operating Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. A gain is also recognised on the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to represent the Council's net investment in the lease. This is matched by a receivable amount set up in long term debtors in the Balance Sheet.

The lease payments are apportioned between repayment of principal written down against the lease debtor and finance income (credited to the Finance and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement). Upon the de-recognition of the asset, a deferred capital receipt is credited, which is equivalent to the value of the discounted future lease payments and an equivalent amount is debited to the Capital Adjustment Account via the Movement in Reserves Statement. As rental income from finance leases are received, they will be treated as a capital receipt and an equivalent amount will be transferred from the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

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

Operating Leases

Where the Council holds an operating lease over Property, Vehicles or Plant and Equipment, the asset shall be retained on the Balance sheet. Rental income is recognised on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease and is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Initial direct costs incurred in arranging the lease (e.g. legal costs of negotiating the lease, costs of making the underlying asset available) are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis.

Government Grants and Contributions

Government grants and contributions may be received on account, by instalments or in arrears. However, they should be recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as due to the Council when there is reasonable assurance that:

- The Council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments. Conditions are stipulations that specify how the future economic benefits or service potential

embodied in the grant or contribution must be consumed, otherwise the grant or contribution will have to be returned to the awarding body; and

- The grant or contribution will be received.

Grants and contributions received where the conditions have not yet been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors and are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until the conditions are met.

- a) Capital Grants and Contributions are used for the acquisition of non-current assets. The treatment of these grants is as follows:

- Capital grants where no conditions are attached to the grant and the expenditure has been incurred. The income will be recognised immediately in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the taxation and non-specific grant income line. Capital grant income is not a proper charge to the General Fund. It is accounted for through the Capital Financing Requirement (set out in statute) and therefore it does not have an effect on council tax. To reflect this, the income is credited to the Capital Adjustment Account through the Movement in Reserves Statement.
- Capital grants where the conditions have not been met at the Balance Sheet date. The grant will be recognised as a Capital Grant Receipt in Advance in the liabilities section of the Balance Sheet. When the conditions have been met, the grant will be recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the appropriate statutory accounting requirements for capital grants applied.
- Capital grants where no conditions remain outstanding at the Balance Sheet date, but expenditure has not been incurred. The income will be recognised immediately in the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. As the expenditure being financed from the grant has not been incurred at the Balance Sheet date, the grant will be transferred to the Capital Grants Unapplied Account (within usable reserves section of the Balance Sheet), through the Movement in Reserves Statement. When the expenditure is incurred, the grant shall be transferred from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account to the Capital Adjustment Account to reflect the application of capital resources to finance expenditure.

- b) Revenue Government Grants and Contributions

Government grants and other contributions are accounted for on an accruals basis and recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the conditions for their receipt have been complied with and there is reasonable assurance that the grant or contribution will be received. Where the conditions have not been met, these grants will be held as creditors on the Balance Sheet.

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Specific revenue grants are included in the specific service expenditure accounts together with the service expenditure to which they relate. Grants which cover general expenditure (e.g. Revenue Support Grant) are credited to the Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement after Net Cost of Services.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised in the accounts when the ordered goods or services have been delivered or rendered by the Council in the financial year, but the income has not yet been received. For estimated manual debtors, a de minimis level of £25k for individual revenue items and £50k for capital items is set.

Debtors are initially recognised and measured at fair value of the consideration payable in the accounts. Most debtors are considered to be contractual, and these are then subsequently measured at amortised cost.

If settlement is over a year this is accounted for as long-term debtor. When considering the amortised cost of long-term debtors, the Council has set a £50k de minimis limit. Below this amount, the carrying value of the long-term debtor will be used as a proxy for amortised cost.

Creditors

Creditors are recorded where goods or services have been supplied to the Council by 31 March, but payment is not made until the following financial year. For estimated manual creditors, a de minimis level of £25k for individual revenue items and £50k for capital items is set.

Creditors are initially recognised and measured at fair value in the accounts. If payment is deferred to over a year, this is accounted for as a long-term creditor. When considering the amortised cost of long-term creditors, the Council has set a £50k de minimis limit. Below this amount, the carrying value of the long-term creditors will be used as a proxy for amortised cost.

Inventories

Inventory assets include and will be carried at the following values:

- Materials or supplies to be consumed or distributed in the rendering of services (e.g. highways salt). These are carried at the lower of cost (calculated as an average price) or current replacement cost (at the Balance Sheet date for an equivalent quantity); and
- Held for sale or distribution in the ordinary course of operations are carried at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

The Council has set a de minimis level for recognising inventories of £100k. Inventory balances below this level are not recorded on the Balance Sheet.

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 held for the purpose of meeting short term cash commitments rather than for investment or other purposes. The Council will classify these as follows:

- Instant Access Deposit Accounts or Overnight Bank Facilities set up for the purpose of meeting short term liquidity requirements and whose return (if any) does not make up the Average Yield Return on Investments, are to be classed as Cash Equivalents.
- Overnight Fixed Deposits, Deposit Based Bank Accounts and Net Asset Value Money Market Funds held for investment purposes for the returns offered, which make up the Council's Average Yield Return on its Investments, are to be classed as Short-Term Investments.

Bank Overdrafts are to be shown separately from Cash and Cash Equivalents where they are not an integral part of an Authority's cash management. Where a bank overdraft is assessed as part of the Council's cash management it will be included within Cash and Cash Equivalents.

Provisions

The Council sets aside provisions for future expenses where:

- a past event has created a current obligation (legal or constructive) to transfer economic benefit.
- it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation; and
- a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are charged to relevant revenue service account in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year the Council has an obligation. When the obligation is settled, the costs are charged to the provision set up in the Balance Sheet. When payments are eventually made, they are charged against the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Provisions contained within the Balance Sheet are split between current liabilities (those which are estimated to be settled within the next 12 months) and non-current liabilities (those which are estimated to be settled in a period greater than 12 months).

Provisions are recognised and 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.

Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability is where there is a possible obligation to transfer economic benefit resulting from a past event, but the possible obligation will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more events in the future. These events may not

wholly be within the control of the Council. The Council has set a de minimis level for disclosing Contingent Liabilities of £500k and discloses these obligations in the narrative notes to the accounts.

These amounts are not recorded in the Council's accounts because:

- it is not probable that an outflow of economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation; or
- The amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability at the year end.

Contingent Assets

A contingent asset is where there is a possible transfer of economic benefit to the Council from a past event, but the possible transfer will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more events in the future. These events may not wholly be within the control of the Council. The Council has set a de-minimis level for disclosing Contingent Assets of £500k and discloses these rights in the narrative notes to the accounts.

Events after the Reporting Date

These are events that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. The Council will report these in the following way if it is determined that the event has had a material effect on the Council's financial position:

- Events which provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period will be adjusted and included within the figures in the accounts; and
- Events that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period will be reported in the narrative notes to the accounts.

Events which take place after the authorised for issue date are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

Recognition of Revenue (Income)

Revenue is accounted for in the year it takes place, not simply when cash payments are received. The Council recognises revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligation in the contract.

Interest receivable on investments is accounted for on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Exceptional Items

Exceptional items are material amounts of income or expenditure which occur infrequently in the course of the Council's normal business and are not expected to arise at regular intervals. When these items of income or expense are material, their nature and amount will be disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the notes to the accounts depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the Council's financial performance.

Costs of Support Services

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

Acquired and Discontinued Operations

Where the Council takes on new activities or ceases providing services, the costs relating to these activities will be identified in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on the surplus or deficit on acquired and/or discontinued operations line. These items will not form part of the net cost of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year they occur.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

The Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement excludes VAT unless this is not recoverable from HM Revenue and Customs. All VAT must be passed on (where output tax exceeds input tax) or repaid (where input tax exceeds output tax) to HM Revenue and Customs. The net amount due to or from HM Revenue and Customs for VAT at the year-end shall be included as part of creditors or debtors balance.

Council Tax and Business Rates Income

The collection of Council Tax and Business Rates is in substance an agency arrangement with the seven Lincolnshire District Councils (billing Authorities) collecting Council Tax and Business Rates on behalf of the Council. The Council Tax and Business Rates income is included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis and includes the precept for the year plus the Council's share of Collection Fund surpluses and deficits from the billing Authorities.

The difference between the income reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund, shall be taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The year-end Balance Sheet includes the Council's share of debtors (arrears and collection fund surpluses, net of the impairment allowance for doubtful debts), creditors

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(prepayments, overpayments, and collection fund deficits), and provisions (business rate appeals).

Reserves

a) Usable Reserves

The Council's general revenue balances are held in the General Fund. The Council also maintains a number of specific 'earmarked' reserves for future expenditure on either policy purposes or to cover contingencies. When expenditure is financed from an earmarked reserve, it is charged to the relevant revenue service account in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then appropriated back to the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement, so that there is no net charge against Council Tax.

b) Unusable reserves

Certain reserves are kept to maintain the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, and employee benefits. These accounts do not represent usable resources for the Council.

Employee Benefits – Benefits Payable during Employment

These are amounts expected to be paid within 12 months of the Balance Sheet date. These include:

- Salaries, wages, and expenses accrued up to the Balance Sheet date. These items are charged as an expense to the relevant service revenue account in the year the employees' services are rendered; and
- Annual leave not yet taken at the Balance Sheet date. An accrual is made for items at the wage and salary rate payable. The accrual is charged to the relevant service revenue account, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Accumulated Absences Account, so this does not have an impact on Council Tax.
- Teacher Leave Accrual. The accrual for short term benefits for teachers is calculated using a standard methodology, reflecting the fact that teachers across the Council are subject to standard terms and conditions of employment. This methodology is based on the number of days of the Spring Term (both term-time and holiday) that fall within the financial year and the leave entitlement of the teacher (which varies according to whether an individual has left the teaching profession at the end of the Spring term).

Long Term Benefits are amounts which are payable beyond 12 months. The Council does not have any material long term benefits to be declared within the Financial Statements.

Termination Benefits

Employee termination benefits arise from the Council's obligation to pay redundancy costs to employees. These costs will be recognised in the Council's Financial Statements at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises the costs for a restructuring. For example, when there is a formal plan for redundancies (including the location, function and approximate number of employees affected; the termination benefits offered, and the time of implementation).

These items will be accrued in the Balance Sheet at year end and charged to the relevant service revenue account. If payments are likely to be payable in more than 12 months from the year end, then these costs will be discounted at the rate determined by reference to market yields.

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

Employee Benefits – Post Employment Benefits (Pensions)

The Council participates in four different pension schemes which provide scheme members with defined benefits related to pay and service. The schemes are as follows:

- **Teachers' Pension Scheme:** This is a notionally funded scheme administered nationally by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE). The pension contributions to be paid by the Council are determined by the Government Actuary and reviewed periodically. The scheme is accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme. There is no liability for future payments of benefits recognised in the Balance Sheet. All employers' contributions payable to teachers' pensions in the year are treated as expenditure on the Schools service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- **National Health Service Pension Scheme (NHSPS):** This is a notional funded scheme administered nationally by NHS Pensions on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The pension contributions to be paid by the Council are determined by the Government Actuary and reviewed periodically. The scheme is accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme. There is no liability for future payments of benefits recognised in the Balance Sheet. The employer's contributions payable to the NHSPS in the year are treated as expenditure in the Children's Services and Adult Care and Community Wellbeing service lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

- Uniformed Firefighters Pension Scheme (FPS): From 1 April 2015, a new pension fund for Firefighters was set up. This scheme replaced the 2006 & 1992 Firefighters schemes for new Firefighters. The 2015, 2006 and 1992 schemes remain unfunded but there are differences in the contributions payable into each scheme and the benefits paid to members. Both employee and employer contributions are paid into the three funds, against which pension payments are made. Each fund is topped up by additional government funding if contributions are insufficient to meet the cost of the pension payments. Any surplus in the funds at the end of each year will be repaid back to the Home Office. Contributions in respect of ill health retirements are still the responsibility of the Council.
- Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS): Other employees are eligible to join the LGPS. The Council pays contributions to a funded pension scheme from which employee pension benefits are paid out.

The pension costs included in the Statement of Accounts in respect of both the LGPS and the FPS have been prepared in accordance with IAS 19 Employee Benefits. The pension costs in respect of both the LGPS and FPS have been estimated by the Pension Fund actuary adviser and have incorporated an actual valuation of the accrued pension liabilities attributable to the Council as the scheme employer.

a) The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The LGPS is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme:

- The liabilities of the Lincolnshire Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates etc. and projections of earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate based on long term UK Government bonds greater than 15 years.
- The assets of Lincolnshire Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
 - quoted securities – current bid or last traded price.
 - unquoted securities – professional estimates.
 - unitised securities – current bid price.
 - property – market value.

The change in net pension's 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 arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Other Budgets.
- net interest on the net 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 benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Remeasurements comprising:
 - the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure; and
 - 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 Lincolnshire Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

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

The Council also pays any costs arising in relation to unfunded elements of pensions, paid to certain employees that have retired early and have been awarded discretionary compensation under the provisions of the Council's early retirement policy. These costs are charged to Other Budgets in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Accounting for Schools Income, Expenditure, Assets, Liabilities and Reserves

In Lincolnshire, Local Authority education is provided in: Foundation, Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools (all known as 'maintained Schools').

a) Income and Expenditure

All income and expenditure relating to maintained schools in Lincolnshire is shown in the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Schools non-current assets will be accounted for under IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment. The standard defines non-current assets as "a resource controlled by the Council as a result of a past event and from which future economic benefits or service potential is expected to flow".

If assets are owned by the Council or the governing body of the school or the future economic benefits are identified to sit with the Council, then the non-current assets will be recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where a school transfers to Academy status and has signed a long term (125 year) lease, the school is removed from the Council's Balance Sheet.

Assets and Liabilities - All assets and liabilities, excluding non-current assets which are covered above, relating to maintained Schools are included within the Council's Balance Sheet.

b) Reserves

The Council maintains specific earmarked reserves for schools balances. At year end, balances from Dedicated Schools Budgets, including those held by schools under a scheme of delegation, are transferred into the reserve to be carried forward for each school to use in the next financial year. This ensures that any unspent balances at the end of the financial year are earmarked for use by those schools as required by the Council's Scheme for Financing Schools approved by the Secretary of State for Education.

Any school with an overall cumulative deficit on its Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) must produce a management plan detailing how it will return to a balanced position in the future. Accumulated deficits must be held in a Dedicated Schools Grant adjustment account rather than being charged to the General Fund. The Dedicated Schools Grant adjustment account is an unusable reserve. There is currently no accumulated deficit relating to schools' budgets funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Group Relationships

The Council assesses on an annual basis, relationships with other bodies to identify the existence of any group relationships. A de minimis level of £20.000m aggregated gross turnover has been set for determining whether or not group accounts will be prepared. The Council has not identified and does not in aggregate have any material interests in subsidiaries, associated companies or joint ventures and therefore is not required to prepare group accounts.

Financial Instruments

a) 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.

All the Council's borrowings are carried at amortised cost and the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest) and the interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

No repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that included the modification or exchange of existing instruments. Therefore, gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement and spread over future years under statutory regulation.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. Regulations state that the period to spread discounts is limited to a minimum period equal to the outstanding term on the replaced loan or 10 years if this is shorter. Premiums may be spread over the longer of the outstanding term on replaced loan or the term of the replacement loans, or a shorter period if preferred. The Council will spread premiums over the term that was remaining on the loan replaced and spread discounts in line with regulation. When matching premium and discounts together from a re-scheduling exercise, the Council's policy is to spread the gain/loss over a ten-year period or the term that was remaining on the loan replaced if greater than ten years. The

reconciliation of premiums/discounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Council receives interest free funding from Salix Finance as part of a revolving fund to finance energy saving projects (Soft Loans Receivables). The benefit of a loan to the Council at a below-market rate of interest is treated as a grant or contribution receivable within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The benefit is measured as a difference between the cash actually advanced to the Council and the fair value of the loan on recognition, discounted at a comparable market rate of interest for a loan. The amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet is reduced as the benefit has been stripped away. The reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Council has set a £50k de minimis limit to the value of soft loans receivable or the benefit calculated by discounting of interest rates. Below this amount the above accounting treatment for soft loans receivable is not applied and the soft loan receivable is shown in the accounts at its carrying value.

b) Financial Assets

Financial Assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cash flow characteristics. There are three main classes that financial assets are 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 flows. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost, except for those whose contractual payments are not solely payment of principal and interest (i.e. where the cash flows do not take the form of a basic debt instrument). These types of assets will be measured at fair value.

c) Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial Assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes 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

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

The following financial assets held by the Council are measured at amortised cost using an effective interest rate that takes account of other considerations attributable to the asset over its lifetime such as premiums paid, or interest forgone. Interest payable in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will then be recognised on a smoothing effective interest rate basis over the life of the loan.

- Secondary Certificates of Deposit and Bonds - are purchased at an amount different to par and hence a price premium is usually incurred on purchase. The price of the instrument is the amortised cost at initial measurement (its fair value) debited to Investments on the Balance Sheet. This price premium is factored into the cash flows of the instrument over its life, that will result in a smoothing effective interest rate that when discounted will bring back cash flows to the price paid (initial measurement at fair value).

Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at a marginally lower effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the Instrument, with the difference serving to decrease the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet over its life.

Transaction costs paid to a custodian for purchasing these instruments are deemed as immaterial and hence charged directly to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when incurred, not included within the amortised cost calculation of the instrument.

- Soft Loans – The Council can make loans to third parties at less than market rates (soft loans) for service objectives. When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (debited to the appropriate service), for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal.

Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the third-party recipients of the loans, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest

receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

The Council has set a £50k de minimis limit to the value of soft loans or the loss calculated by the discounting of interest rates. Below this amount the above accounting treatment for soft loans is not applied and the soft loans are shown in the accounts at their carrying value.

d) Expected Credit Loss Model – for Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost, either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) that are more than 30 days past the due date, held by the Council. These are individually assessed to determine whether or not the trade receivable (debtors) are likely to default on their obligations.

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.

Where the counterparty for a financial asset is central government or a local authority for which relevant statutory provisions prevent default, then no loss allowance is required or recognised. Impairment losses will be charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and credited to the Financial Assets at Amortised Cost Loss Allowance. The Council has set a de minimis level of £25k to the resultant impairment loss for financial assets at amortised cost, below which the impairment is deemed immaterial and not recognised.

The Council has a portfolio of a different types of loans measured at amortised cost. Where possible losses have been assessed on these loans on a collective basis as the Council does not have reasonable and supportable information that is available without undue cost or effort to support the measurement of expected losses on an individual instrument basis.

The Council has grouped the loans into the following groups for assessing loss allowances:

- Group 1 – treasury investments governed by the Council's Annual Investment Strategy for Treasury Investments. These are loans made to highly credit rated counterparties under the credit analysis followed within the Investment Strategy. As such they are deemed low risk, so the 12 month Expected Credit Loss model is used. The Historical Default Table issued by Credit Rating Agencies and provided by the Council's Treasury Advisors is used to calculate the expected 12-month impairment losses.
- Group 2 – loans or soft loans to third parties for Service Reasons. These types of loans tend to be higher risk as credit worthiness is often not the prime consideration in making the loan. They will be assessed on an individual basis taking into consideration external credit ratings, economic conditions impacting the third party, the current financial position and financial forecasts of the third party and any history of defaults or extended credit terms. Due to the high-risk nature, the lifetime Expected Credit Loss model would normally be followed for these loans (See *Note below).
- Group 3 – loans to Council owned Companies for Service Reasons. These types of loans tend to be higher risk as credit worthiness is often not the prime consideration in making the loan. They will be assessed on an individual basis taking into consideration external credit ratings, economic conditions impacting the company, the current financial position and financial forecasts of company and any history of defaults or extended credit terms. Due to the high-risk nature, the lifetime Expected Credit Loss model would normally be followed for these loans.

***Note**

Where the Council makes loans to companies in financial difficulties to ensure continuation of vital services, fifty percent of the loan is thus deemed credit impaired on origination. This will mean that:

- as lifetime expected credit losses are taken into account in the cash flows used for calculating the effective interest rate, no loss allowance is needed on initial recognition.
- a loss allowance will then be built up on the basis of the cumulative change in lifetime expected credit losses since initial recognition.
- the annual impairment gain or loss will be the change in lifetime expected credit losses over the year.

e) Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss (FVPL)

Financial assets held by the Council that fall into this category include Constant Net Asset Value (CNAV) and Low Volatility Net Asset Value (LVNAV) Money Market Funds.

Financial assets are measured at FVPL where they fail to meet the business model and principal or interest tests of the other two classifications. For the Council, financial assets under this category meet the business model of collecting contractual cash flows, but the

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cash flows are not solely payments of principal or interest, for example they include dividend payments.

These funds are pooled investment funds that invest in short-term assets that aim to offer returns in line with money market rates and preserve the value of investments. They are instant access, whereby units of the fund are bought and sold, and dividends paid in accordance with daily yields returned, set at the end of each day. The Net Asset Value of these funds only vary by an insignificant amount due to changing values of the assets in the fund, therefore generally the price of the fund (fair value) will equal the carrying amount of units held.

Financial assets measured at FVPL are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, specifically within the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Council has set a de minimis level to the adjustment to fair value of £50k for financial assets measured at fair value, below which the change in fair value will not be recognised and the asset will be held on the Balance Sheet at its carrying value.

Statutory provision as defined in SI 2018/1207 (known as the 'statutory override') allowed English Local the ability not to recognise any gains and losses in the fair value movements of pooled investment funds in their revenue accounts, unless the gain or loss relates to impairment or the sale of the asset. Instead any amount was charged to an account established solely for the purpose of recognising fair value gains and losses. The statutory provision was extended to 31 March 2025, but after a recent consultation, the government has announced the statutory override will not be extended further. This means that from 1 April 2025, the treatment on gains and losses to fair value on pooled investment funds will now be treated in accordance with the IFRS 9 requirements, as adopted by CIPFA' Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom. For CNAV/LVNAV Money Market funds, any gains and losses to fair value are zero and will not impact on the revenue account.

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

f) Expected Credit Loss Model –For Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit and Loss

The impairment requirements do not apply to financial assets classified as 'fair value through profit or loss', as current market prices are considered to be an appropriate reflection of credit risk, with all movements in fair value (including those relation to credit risk) impacting on the carrying amount being posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as they arise.

g) Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI)

Financial assets are measured at FVOCI when the business model for holding the asset includes collecting contractual cash flows and selling assets. The Council does not hold any financial assets that meet this definition.

In line with the Code however, the Council has decided to designate some small equity holdings in companies held for service reasons to the category of FVOCI instead of FVPL. This designation is irrevocable and deemed to be a reliable accounting policy for these financial assets, based on the following reasons:

- The holdings are equity instruments as defined by the Code to exclude puttable shares (e.g. those where the issuer has a contractual obligation to exchange the shares for cash if the holder exercises an option for the return of their investment).
- They naturally fall into the FVPL classification of investments.
- The shares are held for a clear service benefit and not held for trading.
- Future gains or losses are expected to be insubstantial.

Assets designated at FVOCI will be carried in the Balance Sheet at Fair Value, with dividends credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services when the right for the Council to receive the payment is established. Movements in fair value will be credited to the Other Income and Expenditure Account and released to the General Fund. The impact on the General Fund will be removed through Movement in Reserves Statement to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve. Gains or losses will be charged directly to the General Fund via the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

The Council has set a de minimis level to the adjustment to fair value of £50k for financial assets measured at fair value, below which the change in fair value will not be recognised and the asset will be held on the Balance sheet at its carrying value.

h) Expected Credit Loss Model – For Assets Measured at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income

The Council recognises expected credit losses on financial assets measured at FVOCI either on a 12-month or lifetime basis depending on an individual assessment of the credit risk of each financial asset as follows:

Has credit risk increased significantly since initial recognition?

- No: 12-month credit loss model.
- Yes: lifetime credit loss model.
- No information available to assess: lifetime credit loss model.

Consideration will be made to external credit ratings, economic conditions impacting the company, the current financial position and financial forecasts of company and any history of defaults or extended credit terms when assessing the credit risk of these assets.

Impairment losses will be charged to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure and credited to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve. Where financial assets have been designated into the FVOCI category they are outside the scope of impairment for the same reasons that FVPL assets are.

The Council has set a de minimis level of £25k to the resultant impairment loss for financial assets at FVOCI, below which the impairment is deemed immaterial and not recognised.

Fair Value Measurement

Some of the Council's non-financial assets, such as surplus assets and investment properties and some of its financial instruments, are measured at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the following 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.

When measuring the fair value, the Council would use the assumptions of market participants when pricing the asset or liability whilst acting in their economic best interest. On fair value measurement, the Council takes into account the 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 the appropriate valuation techniques appropriate for the asset, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising unobservable inputs.

OTHER NOTES SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For financial instruments measured in fair value (FVPL and FVOCI) is therefore based on the following techniques:

- instruments with quoted market prices – the market price
- other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis.

The inputs to the measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with the following three levels:

- Level 1 - quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the authority can access at the measurement 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.

LINCOLNSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE PENSION FUND 2024-25

| 2023/24 | | Note | 2024/25 |
|---------|--|------|---------|
| £'000 | Fund Account | | £'000 |
| | Contributions Receivable: | | |
| | From employer: | | |
| (3,527) | Contributions in relation to pensionable pay | 4 | (4,684) |
| | From members: | | |
| (1,587) | Fire-fighters' contributions | 4 | (1,646) |
| | Transfers in: | | |
| (41) | Individual transfers from other schemes from Local Authorities | 7 | (224) |
| | Benefits payable: | | |
| 7,188 | Pensions | 5 | 7,786 |
| 1,457 | Commutations and lump sum retirement benefits | 5 | 876 |
| 3,490 | Sub Total Net amount payable before top-up grant | | 2,110 |
| (3,490) | Top up grant receivable from sponsoring department | 6 | (2,110) |
| 0 | Net amount payable/receivable | | (0) |

| 31 March 2024 | | 31 March 2025 |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| £'000 | Net Asset Statement | £'000 |
| | Current Assets: | |
| (519) | Amounts due from LCC | 10,187 |
| 548 | Pensions top up grant due | (10,187) |
| 29 | Total Current Assets | 0 |
| | Current Liabilities: | |
| (29) | Unpaid pension benefits | 0 |
| (29) | Total Current Liabilities | 0 |
| 0 | Total | 0 |

NOTE 1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the main recommendations of the code of practice on Local Authority Accounting issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy.

There is no separate bank account for the pension fund therefore the County Councils General Fund is shown as debtor/creditor in the net Asset Statement. The Net Asset Statement does not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the period end.

Note 29 to the Councils Financial Statement shows the Councils long term pension obligations in accordance with International Accounting Standards (IAS19).

LINCOLNSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE PENSION FUND 2024-25

NOTE 2 LINCOLNSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE PENSION FUND ACCOUNT

The Fund was established at 1 April 2006 and covered the 1992, 2006 and 2015 fire-fighters pension schemes. It was established by the Fire fighters Pension Scheme (Amendment) (England) Order 2006 (SI2006 No1810), amended by the Fire fighters Pension Scheme (England) Regulations 2014 and is administered by Lincolnshire County Council. From 1 April 22, the 1992 & 2006 schemes have closed. All firefighters who are in the pension scheme will be members of the FPS 2015 scheme. Employee and employer contributions are paid into the fund, from which payments to pensioners are made with any difference being met by top up grant from Central Government.

NOTE 3 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Principal Accounting Policies are as follows:

a) Contributions

For employees who are members of the pension schemes contributions are receivable from the employer (Council) and the members (employees) throughout the year based on a percentage of pensionable pay. The rates are set nationally by the Home Office/Government Actuary Department and subject to triennial revaluation by the Government Actuary's Department.

No provision is made in the accounts for contributions on pay awards not yet settled.

b) Benefits

Benefits include recurring payments that are paid in advance of the month for which they relate. Lump Sum payments are paid as they become due. The accounts do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the year end.

c) Transfer Values

The value of accrued benefits transferred from or to another pension arrangement, including Fire-fighters' pension schemes outside England, are recorded in the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

d) Top up Grant

Central Government pay an instalment of top up grant during the year based on estimated activity. The balance is included within the amount of grant receivable and identified in the Net asset statement under current assets or liabilities.

LINCOLNSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE PENSION FUND 2024-25

NOTE 4 CONTRIBUTION RATES

Under the Fire-fighters pension regulations, the contribution rates are set nationally and are subject to triennial revaluation by the Governments Actuary's Department. During 2024/25 the contribution rates for the 2015 scheme were a minimum of 48.8% of pensionable pay (37.6% employers and tiered employee's contribution of 11.0% to 14.5% based on employees' pensionable pay banding). Contribution tiers for part time and retained firefighters are based on whole time equivalent pay for their role.

Contributions, by the employer for fire-fighters who retire due to ill health are also paid into the Pension Fund in accordance with the regulations. This also applies to protected rights whole time equivalent compensatory payments paid to retained firefighters who were employed from 6th April 2006 and who had been ill health retired due to a qualifying injury.

NOTE 5 BENEFITS PAID

Lump sum and ongoing pensions are paid to retired officers, their survivors and others who are eligible for benefits under pension schemes. The recurring payments are usually paid monthly in advance at the beginning of the period for which they relate.

NOTE 6 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PENSION TOP UP GRANT

This is an unfunded scheme and consequently there are no investment assets. The fund is balanced to zero each year by receipt of a top up grant from the Central Government Department (Home Office) if contributions are insufficient to meet the cost of benefits payable, or by paying over any surplus to the Home Office. The difference between grant received during the year and grant required to balance to zero is set up as an accrual and shown in the Net Asset Statement.

NOTE 7 TRANSFERS IN AND OUT

The value of accrued benefits of members that are transferred from or to another pension arrangement, if a member joins or leaves the scheme.



Fund Account - For the year ended 31 March 2025

| 2023/24 | | Note | 2024/25 |
|--------------------|---|-------|--------------------|
| £'000 | | | £'000 |
| | Contributions and Benefits | | |
| (151,367) | Contributions Receivable | (6) | (161,190) |
| (13,006) | Transfers In From Other Pension Funds | (7) | (16,637) |
| (164,373) | | | (177,827) |
| 120,762 | Benefits Payable | (8) | 135,402 |
| 6,563 | Payments To and On Account of Leavers | (9) | 10,767 |
| 127,325 | | | 146,169 |
| (37,048) | Net (additions)/withdrawals from dealings with Fund Members | | (31,658) |
| 13,426 | Management Expenses | (10) | 14,196 |
| (23,622) | Net (additions)/withdrawals including Management Expenses | | (17,462) |
| | Returns on Investments | | |
| (14,941) | Investment Income | (11) | (17,255) |
| (295,168) | (Profit)/Loss on Disposal of Investments and Changes in the Value of Investments | (12A) | (109,786) |
| (7,764) | (Profit)/Loss on Forward Foreign Exchange | (13) | (12,215) |
| (317,873) | Net Returns on Investments | | (139,256) |
| (341,495) | Net (Increase)/Decrease in the Net Assets Available for Benefits during the year | | (156,718) |
| (3,060,280) | Opening Net Assets of the Fund | | (3,401,775) |
| (3,401,775) | Closing Net Assets of the Fund | | (3,558,493) |

Net Asset Statement as at 31 March 2025

| 31 March 2024 | | Note | 31 March 2025 |
|------------------|---|------|------------------|
| £'000 | | | £'000 |
| 1,182 | Long Term Investment Assets | (12) | 1,182 |
| 3,379,247 | Investment Assets | (12) | 3,533,979 |
| (6,425) | Investment Liabilities | (12) | (1,568) |
| 3,374,004 | Total Net Investments | | 3,533,593 |
| 30,986 | Current Assets | (19) | 28,756 |
| (3,215) | Current Liabilities | (20) | (3,856) |
| 3,401,775 | Net Assets of the Fund Available to Fund Benefits at the end of the Reporting Period | | 3,558,493 |

Note: 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 in Pension Fund Note 18.

Notes to the Pension Fund Financial Statements

Note 1. Description of the Pension Fund

The Lincolnshire Pension Fund (the Fund) is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme and Lincolnshire County Council is the Administering Authority. Benefits are administered by West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF) in a shared service arrangement.

General

The scheme 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 (LGPS) Regulations 2013 (as amended);
- the LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 (as amended); and
- the LGPS (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016.

It is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme to provide pensions and other benefits for pensionable employees of Lincolnshire County Council, the district councils in Lincolnshire and a range of other scheduled and admitted bodies within the county. Teachers, police officers and firefighters are not included as they come within other national pension schemes.

The Fund is overseen by the Pensions Committee, which is a committee of Lincolnshire County Council.

Membership

Membership of the LGPS is automatic for eligible employees, but they are free to choose whether to remain in the scheme or make their own personal arrangements outside of the scheme.

Organisations participating in the Fund include:

- Scheduled bodies, which are local authorities and similar bodies whose staff are automatically entitled to be members of the Fund; and
- Admitted bodies, which participate in the Fund under the terms of an admission agreement between the Fund and the relevant employer. Admitted bodies include

charitable organisations and similar not-for-profit bodies, or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following outsourcing to the private sector.

There are 268 contributing employer organisations in the Fund including the County Council and just under 82,500 members as detailed below:

| | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Number of employers with active members | 262 | 268 |
| Number of employees in the Fund: | | |
| - Lincolnshire County Council | 9,748 | 9,971 |
| - Other Employers | 16,215 | 16,494 |
| Total | 25,963 | 26,465 |
| Number of Pensioners: | | |
| - Lincolnshire County Council | 18,638 | 19,460 |
| - Other Employers | 10,021 | 10,713 |
| Total | 28,659 | 30,173 |
| Number of Deferred Pensioners: | | |
| - Lincolnshire County Council | 16,492 | 15,903 |
| - Other Employers | 9,678 | 9,943 |
| Total | 26,170 | 25,846 |
| Total number of Members in the Scheme: | 80,792 | 82,484 |

Funding

Benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. Contributions are payable by active members of the Fund in accordance with LGPS Regulations 2013 and range from 5.5% to 12.5% of pensionable pay. Employer contributions are set based on triennial actuarial funding valuations. Rates paid by employers during 2024/25 were determined at the 2022 Valuation, or when a new employer joins the scheme. Rates paid during 2024/25 ranged from 16.3% to 33.4% of pensionable pay. In addition, 52% of employers are paying monetary amounts to cover their funding deficit.

Benefits

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 up-rated annually in line with the Consumer Price Index.

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-April 2008 | Service between April 2008 and March 2014 |
|----------|--|---|
| Pension | Each year is worth $1/80 \times$ final pensionable salary. | Each year is worth $1/60 \times$ final pensionable salary. |
| Lump Sum | Automatic lump sum of $3/80 \times$ salary. | No automatic lump sum. |
| | 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. | 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. |

There are a range of other benefits provided under the scheme including early retirement, ill-health pensions and death benefits.

Note 2. Basis of Preparation

The financial statements summarise the Fund's transactions for the 2024/25 financial year and its position at year end as at 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code), which is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

The accounting policies set out below (at Pension Fund Note 3) have been applied consistently to all periods presented within these financial statements.

The financial statements report the net assets available to pay pension benefits. They do not take into account obligations to pay pensions and other benefits that fall due after the end of the financial year, nor do they take into account the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits. The Code gives administering authorities the option to disclose this information in the net asset statement, in the notes to the account, or by appending an actuarial report prepared for this purpose. The Pension Fund has opted to disclose this information in Pension Fund Note 18.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted

On an annual basis, the Code requires the Pension Fund to consider the impact of accounting standards that have been issued but have not yet been adopted and disclose information relating to the impact of these standards. For 2025/26 the Code introduces the following changes to the accounting standards:

- IAS 21 The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rate (Lack of Exchangeability) issued in August 2023. The amendments to the standard clarify how an entity should assess whether a currency is exchangeable and how it should determine a spot exchange rate when exchangeability is lacking, as well as require the disclosure of information that enables users of financial statements to understand the impact of a currency not being exchangeable.
- IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts issued in May 2017. IFRS 17 replaces IFRS 4 and sets out principles for recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of insurance contracts.
- Changes to the measurement of non-investment assets within the 2025/26 Code including: adaptations and interpretations of IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment and IAS 38 Intangible Assets. These include setting out three revaluation processes for operational property, plant and equipment, requiring indexation for tangible non-investment assets and a requirement to value intangible assets using the historical cost approach.

It is not thought that any of these changes will have a significant impact on the Pension Fund financial statements for 2025/26.

Note 3. Significant Accounting Policies

Fund account – revenue recognition**a. Contributions income**

Normal contributions are accounted for on an accruals basis as follows:

- Employee contribution rates are set in accordance with LGPS regulations using common percentage rates for all Funds which rise according to pensionable pay; and
- 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, for example, in respect of 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.

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. They are calculated in accordance with the LGPS Regulations 2013:

- Individual transfers in/out are accounted for when received/paid, which is normally when the member liability is accepted or discharged; and
- Bulk 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 account 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) Changes in the net market value of investments

Changes in the net market value of investments are recognised as income/expense and comprise all realised and unrealised profits/losses during the year. Where the Fund holds accumulation units in pooled funds no dividend or distribution is receivable by the Fund. All dividends and distributions are reinvested in the pooled fund and reflected in the unit price. Changes in the unit price are included in the change in the net market value of investments.

Fund account – expense items

d. Benefits payable

Pensions and lump sum benefits payable are included in the financial statements at the time of payment.

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 withholding tax in the country of origin, unless exemption is permitted.

Irrecoverable tax is accounted for as part of the overall cost of transactions (e.g. purchase price).

f. Management expenses

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

i) Administrative expenses

All costs associated with pensions administration are charged to the Fund.

Associated management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to this activity and charged as expenses to the Fund.

ii) Oversight and Governance

All costs associated with the governance and oversight are recharged to the Fund.

Associated management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to this activity and charged as expenses to the Fund.

iii) Investment management expenses

Investment management expenses 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.

Fees on investments where the cost is deducted at source have been included within investment expenses and an adjustment made to the change in market value of investments.

Fees for the external investment managers and custodian are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointments. Broadly, these are based on the market value of the investments under their management and therefore increase and decrease as the value of the investments change.

In addition, the Fund has negotiated with Morgan Stanley Investment Management Ltd (for the Private Markets Portfolio) that an element of their fee will be performance related.

Where an investment manager's fee invoice has not been received by the financial year end, an estimate based upon the market value of their mandate is used for inclusion in the Funds financial statements.

Net assets statement

g. Financial assets

All investment assets are included in the net asset statement on a fair value basis as at the reporting date. A financial asset is recognised in the net asset statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this date, any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the asset are recognised by the Fund and are classified as Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVPL). Any amounts due or payable in respect of trades entered into, but not yet completed at 31 March each year are accounted for as financial instruments held at amortised cost.

The values of investments, as shown in the net asset statement, have been determined at fair value in accordance with the requirements of the Code and IFRS13 (see Pension Fund Note 14). 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).

Private market, infrastructure, private equity and property venture valuations are based on the most recent valuations provided by managers at the year-end date. Where more up-to-date valuations are received during the financial statement preparation or audit period, their materiality, both individually and collectively will be considered, and the financial statements revised to reflect these valuations, if necessary. If valuations are not produced by the manager at 31 March, then the latest available valuation is used, adjusted for purchases and sales which occur between the valuation date and 31 March.

The investment in the LGPS asset pool, Border to Coast Pensions Partnership, is also carried at fair value. This has been classified as Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI) rather than FVPL as the investment is a strategic investment and not held for trading.

h. Foreign currency transactions

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

accounts, market values of overseas investments and purchases and sales outstanding at the end of the reporting period. Any gains or losses arising from these transactions are treated as part of the change in the value of investments in the fund account.

i. Derivatives

The Fund uses derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to certain risks arising from its investment activities. The Fund does not hold derivatives for speculative purposes.

Future value of forward currency contracts is based on market forward exchange rates at the year-end date and determined as the gain or loss that would arise if the outstanding contract were matched at the year-end with an equal and opposite contract. The contracts are valued using Northern Trust closing spot/forward foreign exchange rates on 31 March.

j. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises: cash in hand, deposits and amounts held by external managers. All cash balances are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and are subject to minimum 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 as at the reporting date, 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, i.e. the amount carried in the net asset statement is the outstanding principal repayable plus accrued interest.

l. Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is formally assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS 19 and relevant actuarial standards. At each year end, the promised retirement benefits have been projected using a roll forward approximation from the latest formal funding valuation. 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 (see Pension Fund Note 18).

m. Additional voluntary contributions

The Fund provides an additional voluntary contribution (AVC) scheme for its members, the assets of which are invested separately from those of the Pension Fund. The Fund has appointed Prudential 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 account and the movements in the year.

AVCs are not included in the financial statements in accordance with Regulation 4(1)(b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 but are disclosed as a note for information (see Pension Fund Note 21).

Note 4. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies, the Fund is required to make judgements about complex transactions and the value of assets and liabilities where there is an element of uncertainty. Those with the most significant effect include:

- No investments are impaired (further detail on how the fund manages risk is set out in Pension Fund Note 16: Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments).

Any judgements made in relation to specific assets and liabilities, in addition to information stated in the relevant notes, can also be found in Pension Fund Note 3: Significant Accounting Policies.

Note 5. Assumptions Made About the Future and 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 at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for the revenues and expenses during the year. Estimates and assumptions are made, taking into account, historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, the nature of estimation means that the actual outcomes could differ from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are set out in the table on the next page:

| Item | Uncertainties | Effect if actual results differ from assumptions |
|---|---|---|
| Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits (Pension Fund Note 18) | Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to: the discount rate used; salary and pension increases; changes in retirement ages; mortality rates; and expected returns on Fund assets. Details about the actuarial method and assumptions selected by the Fund's actuary, Barnett Waddingham, are set out in Pension Fund Note 18. | At 31 March 2025 the present value of the total obligation was estimated by the actuary to be £2,603.5m. The effects of changes in the individual assumptions can be measured. For example: 1) a 0.5% increase in the discount rate assumption would reduce future pension liabilities by c. £182.5m. 2) a 0.25% increase in earnings inflation would increase the value of future pension liabilities by c. £6.9m. 3) a 0.25% increase in the pension increase rate would increase the value of future pension liabilities by c. £95.8m. 4) a one-year increase in assumed life expectancy would increase the value of future pension liabilities by c. £95.2m. |
| Hedge Funds (Pension Fund Note 14) | Some hedge fund investments are not regularly traded and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation. | A fund manager estimates that the sensitivity of valuation of these assets, included at level three in the fair value hierarchy, is +/-10%. This equates to a +/- £21.8m on a carrying value of £218.5m. |
| Market Value of unquoted level three investments (including: private markets, infrastructure, other property and private equity) (Pension Fund Note 14) | Private markets, infrastructure, other property and private equity are valued at fair value in accordance with International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines (2018) and the Special Guidance issued in March 2020 concerning the impact of Covid-19 on valuations. These investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation. | Level three investments at 31 March 2025 are valued at £539.7m in the financial statements. There is a risk that these investments may be under- or over-stated in the accounts. Private markets by +/-15% or £59.8m on a carrying value of £398.6m. Infrastructure by +/-14% or £8.4m on a carrying value of £60.0m. Property Venture by +/-16% or £12.6m on a carrying value of £78.5m. Private Equity by +/-23% or £0.6m on a carrying value of £2.6m. |

Note 6. Contributions Receivable

Contributions receivable are analysed by category below:

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Employers | | |
| Normal Contributions | 115,362 | 122,703 |
| Deficit Recovery Contributions | 5,196 | 5,433 |
| Additional – Augmentation Contributions | 1,126 | 867 |
| Members | | |
| Normal Contributions | 29,552 | 32,081 |
| Additional years Contributions | 131 | 106 |
| Total | 151,367 | 161,190 |

These contributions are analysed by type of Member Body as follows:

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Lincolnshire County Council – Administering Authority | 58,630 | 64,513 |
| Scheduled Bodies | 89,059 | 95,861 |
| Admitted Bodies | 3,678 | 816 |
| Total | 151,367 | 161,190 |

Note 7. Transfers In From Other Pension Funds

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Individual transfers from other schemes | 13,006 | 14,773 |
| Group transfers from other schemes | - | 1,864 |
| Total | 13,006 | 16,637 |

There were no material outstanding transfers due to the Pension Fund as at 31 March 2025.

During 2024/25 two academy schools transferred into the Lincolnshire Pension Fund. Houghton Regis Academy, a member of The Greenwood Academies Trust and Bowman Academy, a member of C.I.T. Multi-Academy Trust.

Note 8. Benefits Payable

Benefits payable are analysed by category below:

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Pensions | 97,825 | 107,283 |
| Commutations & Lump Sum Retirement Benefits | 20,098 | 24,367 |
| Lump Sum Death Benefits | 2,839 | 3,752 |
| Total | 120,762 | 135,402 |

These benefits are analysed by type of Member Body as follows:

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Lincolnshire County Council – Administering Authority | 61,961 | 68,085 |
| Scheduled Bodies | 53,417 | 60,762 |
| Admitted Bodies | 5,384 | 6,555 |
| Total | 120,762 | 135,402 |

Note 9. Payments To and On Account of Leavers

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Individual transfers to other schemes | 6,149 | 10,276 |
| Refunds to members leaving service | 414 | 491 |
| Total | 6,563 | 10,767 |

There were no material outstanding transfers due from the Pension Fund as at 31 March 2025.

Note 10. Management Expenses

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Administration Costs | 1,513 | 1,700 |
| Investment Management Expenses | 10,966 | 11,512 |
| Oversight and Governance Costs | 947 | 984 |
| Total | 13,426 | 14,196 |

The statutory audit fee for the year was £0.094m (£0.083m in 2023/24, plus fee variations of £0.010m).

A further breakdown of the investment management expenses is shown below:

| 2024/25 | Total | Management Fees | Performance Related Fees | Transaction Costs |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Managed by Border to Coast | 4,886 | 4,148 | - | 738 |
| Unitised Insurance Policies | 802 | 802 | - | - |
| Unit Trusts | 838 | 711 | 8 | 119 |
| Other Managed Funds | 4,707 | 3,719 | 223 | 765 |
| Cash | - | - | - | - |
| | 11,233 | 9,380 | 231 | 1,622 |
| Custody Fees | 279 | | | |
| Total | 11,512 | | | |

| 2023/24 | Total | Management Fees | Performance Related Fees | Transaction Costs |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Managed by Border to Coast | 4,737 | 3,884 | - | 853 |
| Unitised Insurance Policies | 711 | 711 | - | - |
| Unit Trusts | 913 | 714 | 19 | 180 |
| Other Managed Funds | 4,339 | 3,912 | 215 | 212 |
| Cash | - | - | - | - |
| | 10,700 | 9,221 | 234 | 1,245 |
| Custody Fees | 266 | | | |
| Total | 10,966 | | | |

Note 11. Investment Income

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Equities | 28 | (673) |
| Unit Trusts: | | |
| - Property | 1,501 | 1,671 |
| Other Managed Funds: | | |
| - Infrastructure | 3,325 | 3,413 |
| - Private Equity | - | 244 |
| - Private Markets | 3,898 | 2,713 |
| - Property | 1,414 | 4,486 |
| Interest on Cash Deposits | 4,775 | 5,401 |
| Total | 14,941 | 17,255 |

During 2024/25 the Fund reviewed outstanding tax reclaims from segregated equity investments held up to 2020/21. The Fund wrote off £0.682m of reclaims which the custodian believes will not now be received.

Note 12. Investments

| | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Long Term Investments | | |
| Unquoted Equity Holding in Border to Coast Pensions Partnership | 1,182 | 1,182 |
| Total Long-Term Investments | 1,182 | 1,182 |
| Investment Assets | | |
| Pooled Investment Vehicles | | |
| Managed by Border to Coast: | | |
| - Bonds | 411,138 | 449,807 |
| - Equities – Global | 539,398 | 521,662 |
| - Equities – Overseas Developed Markets | 348,423 | 349,642 |
| - Equities – UK | 277,892 | 269,997 |
| - Multi Asset Credit | 325,269 | 361,294 |
| - Property | - | 15,961 |
| Unitised Insurance Policies: | | |
| - Equities – Global | 517,508 | 529,778 |
| Unit Trusts: | | |
| - Property | 130,518 | 137,378 |
| Other Managed Funds: | | |
| - Infrastructure | 66,927 | 59,999 |
| - Private Equity | 3,897 | 2,642 |
| - Private Markets | 568,915 | 618,355 |
| - Property | 98,528 | 96,937 |
| Total Pooled Investment Vehicles | 3,288,413 | 3,413,452 |
| Other Investment Assets | | |
| Derivatives: | | |
| - Open Forward Foreign Exchange (FX) | - | - |
| Cash Deposits | 88,882 | 119,703 |
| Investment Income Due | 1,952 | 824 |
| Total Other Investment Assets | 90,834 | 120,527 |
| Total Investment Assets | 3,379,247 | 3,533,979 |
| Investment Liabilities | | |
| Derivatives: | | |
| - Open Forward Foreign Exchange (FX) | (6,425) | (1,568) |
| Total Investment Liabilities | (6,425) | (1,568) |
| Total Net Investment Assets | 3,374,004 | 3,533,593 |

12A Reconciliation of Movements in Investments

| 2024/25 | Market Value at 31 March 2024 | Purchases and Derivative Payments | Sales and Derivative Receipts | Change in Value during the Year | Market Value at 31 March 2025 |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Long Term Investments | | | | | |
| Unquoted Equity Holding in Border to Coast Pensions Partnership | 1,182 | - | - | - | 1,182 |
| Total Long-Term Investment | 1,182 | - | - | - | 1,182 |
| Investment Assets | | | | | |
| Pooled Investment Vehicles | | | | | |
| - Managed by Border to Coast | 1,902,120 | 54,443 | (64,657) | 76,457 | 1,968,363 |
| - Unitised Insurance Policies | 517,508 | - | (806) | 13,076 | 529,778 |
| - Unit Trusts | 130,518 | 253 | (1,307) | 7,914 | 137,378 |
| - Other Managed Funds | 738,267 | 143,571 | (116,244) | 12,339 | 777,933 |
| Total Pooled Investment Vehicles | 3,288,413 | 198,267 | (183,014) | 109,786 | 3,413,452 |
| Other Investments | | | | | |
| Derivatives: | | | | | |
| - Open Forward Foreign Exchange (FX) | (6,425) | 5,621,937 | (5,629,295) | 12,215 | (1,568) |
| Total Other Investments | (6,425) | 5,621,937 | (5,629,295) | 12,215 | (1,568) |
| Other Investment Balances | | | | | |
| - Cash Deposits | 88,882 | | | | 119,703 |
| - Investment Income Due | 1,952 | | | | 824 |
| Total Other Investments | 90,834 | - | - | - | 120,527 |
| Total Net Investment Assets | 3,374,004 | 5,820,204 | (5,812,309) | 122,001 | 3,533,593 |

LINCOLNSHIRE PENSION FUND 2024-25

| 2023/24 | Market Value at 31 March 2023 | Purchases and Derivative Payments | Sales and Derivative Receipts | Change in Value during the Year | Market Value at 31 March 2024 |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Long Term Investments | | | | | |
| Unquoted Equity Holding in Border to Coast Pensions Partnership | 1,182 | - | - | - | 1,182 |
| Total Long Term Investment | 1,182 | - | - | - | 1,182 |
| Investment Assets | | | | | |
| Pooled Investment Vehicles | | | | | |
| - Managed by Border to Coast | 1,591,374 | 635,000 | (538,846) | 214,592 | 1,902,120 |
| - Unitised Insurance Policies | 588,750 | 2,580 | (142,356) | 68,534 | 517,508 |
| - Unit Trusts | 140,502 | 289 | (10,383) | 110 | 130,518 |
| - Other Managed Funds | 627,856 | 156,526 | (58,047) | 11,932 | 738,267 |
| Total Pooled Investment Vehicles | 2,948,482 | 794,395 | (749,632) | 295,168 | 3,288,413 |
| Other Investments | | | | | |
| Derivatives: | | | | | |
| - Open Forward Foreign Exchange (FX) | 7,545 | 4,160,937 | (4,182,671) | 7,764 | (6,425) |
| Total Other Investments | 7,545 | 4,160,937 | (4,182,671) | 7,764 | (6,425) |
| Other Investment Balances | | | | | |
| - Cash Deposits | 75,666 | | | | 88,882 |
| - Investment Income Due | 1,950 | | | | 1,952 |
| Total Other Investments | 77,616 | - | - | - | 90,834 |
| Total Net Investment Assets | 3,034,825 | 4,955,332 | (4,932,303) | 302,932 | 3,374,004 |

12B Investments Analysed by Fund Manager

| Fund Manager | 31 March 2024 | | 31 March 2025 | |
|---|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| | £'000 | % | £'000 | % |
| Investments managed by Border to Coast: | | | | |
| - Global Equity Alpha | 539,398 | 16.0 | 521,662 | 14.8 |
| - Sterling Investment Grade Credit | 411,138 | 12.2 | 449,807 | 12.7 |
| - Multi-Asset Credit | 325,269 | 9.6 | 361,294 | 10.2 |
| - Overseas Developed Market Equity | 348,423 | 10.3 | 349,642 | 9.9 |
| - Listed UK Equity | 277,892 | 8.2 | 269,997 | 7.6 |
| - Core Global Real Estate | - | - | 15,961 | 0.5 |
| Unitised Insurance Policies: | | | | |
| - Legal and General (Future World Fund) | 517,508 | 15.3 | 529,778 | 15.0 |
| Investments managed outside of the asset pool: | | | | |
| - Morgan Stanley (Private Markets) | 575,246 | 17.2 | 633,115 | 18.0 |
| - Morgan Stanley (Legacy Private Equity) | 4,399 | 0.1 | 3,725 | 0.1 |
| - Internally Managed (Property Unit Trusts) | 130,518 | 3.9 | 137,469 | 3.9 |
| - Internally Managed (Property) | 98,528 | 2.9 | 97,018 | 2.7 |
| - Internally Managed (Infrastructure) | 67,231 | 2.0 | 60,154 | 1.7 |
| - Internally Managed (Cash managed by LCC Treasury Management Team) | 65,000 | 1.9 | 89,000 | 2.5 |
| - Unallocated Cash | 12,272 | 0.4 | 13,789 | 0.4 |
| Total | 3,372,822 | 100.0 | 3,532,411 | 100.0 |

12C Fund Assets exceeding 5%

The following table sets out where there is a concentration of investments which exceeds 5% of the total value of the net assets of the scheme (exc. holdings in UK Government Securities).

| Fund Manager | 31 March 2024 | | 31 March 2025 | |
|--|---------------|------|---------------|------|
| | £'000 | % | £'000 | % |
| Morgan Stanley (Private Markets) | 568,915 | 16.7 | 618,355 | 17.4 |
| Legal and General (Future World Fund) | 517,508 | 15.2 | 529,778 | 14.9 |
| Border to Coast (Global Equity Alpha) | 539,398 | 15.9 | 521,662 | 14.7 |
| Border to Coast (Sterling Investment Grade Credit) | 411,138 | 12.1 | 449,807 | 12.6 |
| Border to Coast (Multi-Asset Credit) | 325,269 | 9.6 | 361,294 | 10.2 |
| Border to Coast (Overseas Developed Market Equity) | 348,423 | 10.2 | 349,642 | 9.8 |
| Border to Coast (Listed UK Equity) | 277,892 | 8.2 | 269,997 | 7.6 |

Note 13. Analysis of Derivatives

The holding in derivatives is used to hedge exposures to reduce risk in the Fund. The use of any derivatives is managed in line with the investment management agreements in place between the Fund and the investment manager.

The only direct derivative exposure that the Fund has is in forward foreign currency contracts. The Fund's private markets investment manager uses forward foreign exchange contracts to reduce exposure to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates.

Open Forward Currency Contracts

| Settlement | Currency Bought | Local Value | Currency Sold | Local Value | Asset Value | Liability Value |
|--|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | | '000 | | '000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Up to one month | None | | | | | |
| Over one month | GBP | 1,732 | AUD | 3,565 | 10 | |
| | GBP | 16,572 | CAD | 30,885 | | (118) |
| | GBP | 13,720 | EUR | 22,113 | 177 | |
| | GBP | 574,141 | USD | 743,133 | | (1,637) |
| Total | | | | | 187 | (1,755) |
| Net Forward Currency Contracts at 31 March 2025 | | | | | | (1,568) |
| Prior year comparative | | | | | | |
| Open forward currency contracts at 31 March 2024 | | | | | - | (6,425) |
| Net Forward Currency Contracts at 31 March 2024 | | | | | | (6,425) |

Profit (Loss) of Forward Currency Deals and Currency Exchange

The profit or loss from any forward deals and from currency exchange is a result of normal trading of the Fund's managers who manage multi-currency portfolios. For 2024/25 this was a profit of £12.215m (£7.764m profit in 2023/24).

Note 14. Fair Value – Basis of Valuation

All investments assets are valued using fair value techniques based on the characteristics of each instrument, where possible using market-based information. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year.

Asset and liability valuations have been classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values.

Level One – where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities, comprising quoted equities, quoted bonds and unit trusts.

Level Two – where quoted market prices are not available, or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value based on observable data.

Level Three – where at least one input that could have significant effect on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data.

The basis of the valuation of each class of investment asset is set out below:

| Description of Asset | Basis of Valuation | Observable and Unobservable Inputs | Key Sensitivities Affecting the Valuations Provided |
|---|---|---|---|
| Level One | | | |
| Quoted equities and pooled fund investments. | The published bid market price on the final day of the accounting period. | Not Required. | Not Required. |
| Cash and cash equivalents. | Carrying value is deemed to be fair value because of the short-term nature of these financial instruments. | Not Required. | Not Required. |
| Level Two | | | |
| Unquoted equity investments, fixed income bonds, unit trusts and pooled fund investments. | Average of broker prices | Evaluated price feeds. | Not Required. |
| Forward foreign exchange derivatives. | Market forward exchange rates at the year-end. | Exchange rate risk. | Not Required. |
| Pooled property funds where regular trading takes place. | 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. |

| Description of Asset | Basis of Valuation | Observable and Unobservable Inputs | Key Sensitivities Affecting the Valuations Provided |
|--|---|---|---|
| Level Three | | | |
| Pooled property, other investment funds and hedge funds where regular trading does not take place. | Valued by investment managers on a fair value basis each year using PRAG guidance. | NAV-based pricing set on a forward pricing basis. | Valuations are affected by any changes to the value of the financial instrument being hedged against. |
| Other unquoted and private equities (inc. private markets, infrastructure and private equity). | Comparable valuation of similar companies in accordance with International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines 2018 and the IPEV Board's Special Valuation Guidance (March 2020). | EBITDA multiple; Revenue multiple; Discount for lack of marketability; and Control premium. | Valuations could be affected by material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the pension fund's own reporting date, by changes to expected cashflows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts. |
| Shares in Border to Coast Pensions Partnership. | Shareholdings in Border to Coast have been valued at cost i.e. transaction price as an appropriate estimate of fair value. | No market for shares held in Border to Coast. Disposal of shares is not a matter in which any shareholder can make a unilateral decision. Partnership is structured so as not to make a profit. | Valuation could be affected by future funding models, post-balance sheet events, or changes to current operating procedures. |

Sensitivity of assets valued at level 3

The Fund has determined that the valuation methods described above for level three investments are likely to be accurate within the following ranges, and has set out in the table below the consequent potential impact on the closing value of investments held at 31 March 2025.

| | Potential variation in fair value | Value as at 31 March 2025 | Potential value on increase | Potential value on decrease |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | (+/-) | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Infrastructure | 14% | 59,999 | 68,399 | 51,599 |
| Private Equity | 23% | 2,642 | 3,250 | 2,034 |
| Private Markets: | | | | |
| - Hedge Funds | 10% | 218,464 | 240,310 | 196,618 |
| - Unquoted Holdings | 15% | 398,553 | 458,336 | 338,770 |
| Property Venture | 16% | 78,467 | 91,022 | 65,912 |

14A Fair Value Hierarchy

The following table provides an analysis of the financial assets and liabilities of the Pension Fund grouped into levels 1 to 3, based on the level at which the fair value is observable.

| Values at 31 March 2025 – Observable Fair Value | Quoted Market Price Level 1 | Using Observable Inputs Level 2 | With Significant Unobservable Level 3 | Total |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss: | | | | |
| <u>Pooled Investment Vehicles:</u> | | | | |
| Managed by Border to Coast | | 1,952,402 | 15,961 | 1,968,363 |
| Unitised Insurance Policies | | 529,778 | | 529,778 |
| Unit Trusts | | 137,378 | | 137,378 |
| Other Managed Funds | 1,338 | 34,431 | 742,164 | 777,933 |
| Derivatives: Forward Foreign Exchange | | - | | - |
| Cash | 17,532 | | | 17,532 |
| | 18,870 | 2,653,989 | 758,125 | 3,430,984 |
| Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss: | | | | |
| Derivatives: Forward Foreign Exchange | | (1,568) | | (1,568) |
| | | (1,568) | | (1,568) |
| Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income and expenditure: | | | | |
| Unquoted Equity Holding in Border to Coast Pensions Partnership | | | 1,182 | 1,182 |
| | | | 1,182 | 1,182 |
| Net Investment Assets | 18,870 | 2,652,421 | 759,307 | 3,430,598 |

| Values at 31 March 2024 – Observable Fair Value | Quoted Market Price Level 1 | Using Observable Inputs Level 2 | With Significant Unobservable Level 3 | Total |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss: | | | | |
| <u>Pooled Investment Vehicles:</u> | | | | |
| Managed by Border to Coast | | 1,902,120 | | 1,902,120 |
| Unitised Insurance Policies | | 517,508 | | 517,508 |
| Unit Trusts | | 130,518 | | 130,518 |
| Other Managed Funds | | 40,131 | 698,136 | 738,267 |
| Derivatives: Forward Foreign Exchange | | - | | - |
| Cash | 13,208 | | | 13,208 |
| | 13,208 | 2,590,277 | 698,136 | 3,301,621 |
| Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss: | | | | |
| Derivatives: Forward Foreign Exchange | | (6,425) | | (6,425) |
| | | (6,425) | | (6,425) |
| Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income and expenditure: | | | | |
| Unquoted Equity Holding in Border to Coast Pensions Partnership | | | 1,182 | 1,182 |
| | | | 1,182 | 1,182 |
| Net Investment Assets | 13,208 | 2,583,852 | 699,318 | 3,296,378 |

14B Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements within Level 3

| 2024/25 | Market value at 31 March 2024 | Purchases during the year and derivative payments | Sales during the year and derivative receipts | Unrealised gains/(losses) * | Realised gains/(losses) * | Market value at 31 March 2025 |
|--|----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Infrastructure | 66,927 | 296 | (3,036) | (4,552) | 364 | 59,999 |
| Private Equity | 3,897 | (70) | (1,053) | 1,563 | (1,695) | 2,642 |
| Private Markets | 568,915 | 137,687 | (110,616) | 15,809 | 5,222 | 617,017 |
| Property Venture | 58,397 | 20,225 | (843) | 524 | 164 | 78,467 |
| Unquoted Equity Holding in Border to Coast Pensions Partnership | 1,182 | - | - | - | - | 1,182 |
| Total | 699,318 | 158,138 | (115,548) | 13,344 | 4,055 | 759,307 |

| 2023/24 | Market value at 31 March 2023 | Purchases during the year and derivative payments | Sales during the year and derivative receipts | Unrealised gains/(losses) * | Realised gains/(losses) * | Market value at 31 March 2024 |
|--|----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Infrastructure | 68,498 | 1,839 | (1,623) | (1,798) | 11 | 66,927 |
| Private Equity | 6,123 | 223 | (2,620) | (868) | 1,039 | 3,897 |
| Private Markets | 455,250 | 135,084 | (40,634) | 11,087 | 8,128 | 568,915 |
| Property Venture | 41,187 | 19,379 | (755) | (1,414) | - | 58,397 |
| Unquoted Equity Holding in Border to Coast Pensions Partnership | 1,182 | - | - | - | - | 1,182 |
| Total | 572,240 | 156,525 | (45,632) | 7,007 | 9,178 | 699,318 |

* Unrealised and realised gains and losses are recognised in the profit and losses on disposal and change in market values line of the Fund account.

Note 15. Financial Instruments

15A Classification of Financial Instruments

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

| | 31 March 2025 | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| | Fair value through profit & loss | Assets at amortised cost | Liabilities at amortised cost | Fair value through comprehensive income |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Financial Assets | | | | |
| Unquoted Equity Holding in Border to Coast Pensions Partnership | | | | 1,182 |
| Pooled Investment Vehicles: | | | | |
| - Managed by Border to Coast | 1,968,363 | | | |
| - Unitised Insurance Policies | 529,778 | | | |
| - Unit Trusts | 137,378 | | | |
| - Other Managed Funds | 777,933 | | | |
| Derivatives: Forward Foreign Exchange | - | | | |
| Cash | 17,532 | 116,418 | | |
| Other Investment Balances | | 824 | | |
| Sundry Debtors | | 4,749 | | |
| | 3,430,984 | 121,991 | - | 1,182 |
| Financial Liabilities | | | | |
| Derivatives: Forward Foreign Exchange | (1,568) | | | |
| Other Investment Balances | | | - | |
| Sundry Creditors | | | (2,022) | |
| | (1,568) | | (2,022) | - |
| | 3,429,416 | 121,991 | (2,022) | 1,182 |

| | 31 March 2024 | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| | Fair value through profit & loss | Assets at amortised cost | Liabilities at amortised cost | Fair value through comprehensive income |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Financial Assets | | | | |
| Unquoted Equity Holding in Border to Coast Pensions Partnership | | | | 1,182 |
| Pooled Investment Vehicles: | | | | |
| - Managed by Border to Coast | 1,902,120 | | | |
| - Unitised Insurance Policies | 517,508 | | | |
| - Unit Trusts | 130,518 | | | |
| - Other Managed Funds | 738,267 | | | |
| Derivatives: Forward Foreign Exchange | - | | | |
| Cash | 13,208 | 91,569 | | |
| Other Investment Balances | | 1,952 | | |
| Sundry Debtors | | 3,914 | | |
| | 3,301,621 | 97,435 | - | 1,182 |
| Financial Liabilities | | | | |
| Derivatives: Forward Foreign Exchange | (6,425) | | | |
| Other Investment Balances | | | - | |
| Sundry Creditors | | | (1,489) | |
| | (6,425) | - | (1,489) | - |
| | 3,295,196 | 97,435 | (1,489) | 1,182 |

15B Net Gains and Losses on Financial Instruments

All realised gains and losses arise from the sale or disposal of financial assets that have been derecognised in the financial statements. The fund has not entered into any financial guarantees that are required to be accounted for as financial instruments.

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| Financial Assets | | |
| Fair Value through Profit and Loss | 295,168 | 109,786 |
| | 295,168 | 109,786 |

Note 16. 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. the promised benefits payable to members). 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 Fund 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 Pensions Committee. Risk management policies have been established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Pension Fund's operations. These are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in activity and market conditions.

a) Market Risk

Market risk is the 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 prices 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.

To mitigate market risk, the Fund invests in a diversified pool of assets to ensure a reasonable balance between different categories, having taken advice from the Fund's Investment Consultant. The management of the assets is split between a number of managers and investment vehicles with different performance targets and investment strategies. Risks associated with the strategy and investment returns are included as part of the quarterly reporting to the Pensions Committee where they are monitored and reviewed.

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 its issuer or factors affecting all such instruments in the market.

The Fund is exposed to share and derivative price risk. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which the future price is uncertain. All securities investments present a risk of loss of capital. The maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instrument.

The Fund's investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification, and the selection of securities and other financial instruments is monitored by the Fund to ensure it is within limits specified in the Fund's investment strategy.

Other Price Risk - Sensitivity Analysis

Following analysis of historical data and expected investment return during the financial year, the Fund, in consultation with a fund manager, has determined that the following movements in market price are reasonably possible for 2025/26; assuming that all other variables, in particular foreign exchange rates and interest rates, remain the same (prior year comparatives are shown on the next page):

| Asset Type | Value at 31 March 2025 | Potential market movements (+/-) | Value on Increase | Value on Decrease |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £'000 | | £'000 | £'000 |
| UK Equities | 269,997 | 18% | 318,596 | 221,398 |
| Global Equities | 1,051,440 | 18% | 1,240,699 | 862,181 |
| Overseas Equities | 349,642 | 18% | 412,578 | 286,706 |
| Bonds | 449,807 | 7% | 481,293 | 418,321 |
| Multi Asset Credit | 361,294 | 8% | 390,198 | 332,390 |
| UK Property | 199,884 | 16% | 231,865 | 167,903 |
| Overseas Property | 50,392 | 16% | 58,455 | 42,329 |
| Infrastructure | 59,999 | 14% | 68,399 | 51,599 |
| Private Equity | 229,922 | 23% | 282,804 | 177,040 |
| Private Debt | 63,816 | 12% | 71,474 | 56,158 |
| Private Real Assets | 108,712 | 15% | 125,019 | 92,405 |
| Other Alternatives | 83 | 15% | 95 | 71 |
| Hedge Funds | 218,464 | 10% | 240,310 | 196,618 |
| Total Assets Available | 3,413,452 | | 3,921,785 | 2,905,119 |

| Asset Type | Value at 31 March 2024 | Potential market movements (+/-) | Value on Increase | Value on Decrease |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £'000 | | £'000 | £'000 |
| UK Equities | 277,892 | 16% | 322,355 | 233,429 |
| Global Equities | 1,056,906 | 16% | 1,226,011 | 887,801 |
| Overseas Equities | 348,423 | 16% | 404,171 | 292,675 |
| Bonds | 411,138 | 6% | 435,806 | 386,470 |
| Multi Asset Credit | 325,269 | 7% | 348,038 | 302,500 |
| UK Property | 188,915 | 15% | 217,252 | 160,578 |
| Overseas Property | 40,131 | 15% | 46,151 | 34,111 |
| Infrastructure | 66,927 | 14% | 76,297 | 57,557 |
| Private Equity | 235,257 | 23% | 289,366 | 181,148 |
| Private Debt | 50,274 | 12% | 56,307 | 44,241 |
| Private Real Assets | 69,077 | 15% | 79,439 | 58,715 |
| Other Alternatives | 555 | 15% | 638 | 472 |
| Hedge Funds | 217,649 | 8% | 235,061 | 200,237 |
| Total Assets Available | 3,288,413 | | 3,736,892 | 2,839,934 |

Interest rate risk

The Fund recognises that interest rates can vary and can affect both income to the Fund and carrying value of fund assets, both of which affect the value of the net assets available to pay benefits. A Fund Manager, and experience, suggests that a movement of +/- 100 basis points (+/- 1.0%) in interest rates from one year to the next is likely (+/-150 basis points in 2023/24).

Interest rate risk – sensitivity analysis

The analysis that follows assumes that all other variables, in particular exchange rates, remain constant, and shows the effect in the year on the net assets available to pay benefits of a +/- 1.0% change in interest rates. This analysis demonstrates that a 1.0% increase in interest rates will not affect the interest received on fixed interest assets but will reduce their fair value, and vice versa. Changes in interest rates do not impact on the value of cash and cash equivalent balances but they will affect the interest income received on those balances.

Assets Exposed to Interest Rate Risk:

| Exposure to interest rate risk | Value at 31 March 2025 | Percentage movement on 1.0% change in Interest Rates | Impact of 1.0% increase | Impact of 1.0% decrease |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | 119,703 | - | 119,703 | 119,703 |
| Cash Balances | 14,247 | - | 14,247 | 14,247 |
| Bond Funds | 449,807 | 6,747 | 456,554 | 443,060 |
| Total | 583,757 | 6,747 | 590,504 | 577,010 |

| Exposure to interest rate risk | Value at 31 March 2024 | Percentage movement on 1.5% change in Interest Rates | Impact of 1.5% increase | Impact of 1.5% decrease |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | 88,882 | - | 88,882 | 88,882 |
| Cash Balances | 15,895 | - | 15,895 | 15,895 |
| Bond Funds | 411,138 | 6,167 | 417,305 | 404,971 |
| Total | 515,915 | 6,167 | 522,082 | 509,748 |

| Income Exposed to Interest Rate Risk | Interest Receivable 2024/25 | Percentage movement on 1.0% change in Interest Rates | Impact of 1.0% increase | Impact of 1.0% decrease |
|--|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Cash Deposits, Cash and Cash Equivalents | 5,401 | 81 | 5,482 | 5,320 |
| Bond Funds | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 5,401 | 81 | 5,482 | 5,320 |

| Income Exposed to Interest Rate Risk | Interest Receivable 2023/24 | Percentage movement on 1.5% change in Interest Rates | Value on 1.5% increase | Value on 1.5% decrease |
|--|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Cash Deposits, Cash and Cash Equivalents | 4,775 | 72 | 4,847 | 4,703 |
| Bond Funds | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 4,775 | 72 | 4,847 | 4,703 |

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. Following analysis of historical data and in consultation with an investment manager, the Fund considers the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange rate movements to be not more than 9%, as measured by one standard deviation (8% in 2023/24). A 9% strengthening/weakening of the pound against various currencies in which the Fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net asset available to pay benefits as follows:

Currency risk – sensitivity analysis

| Asset Exposed to Currency Risk | Value at 31 March 2025 | Potential Market Movement | Value on Increase | Value on Decrease |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Overseas Hedge Funds | 218,464 | 19,662 | 238,126 | 198,802 |
| Overseas Infrastructure | 14,136 | 1,272 | 15,408 | 12,864 |
| Overseas Other Alternatives | 83 | 7 | 90 | 76 |
| Overseas Private Debt | 62,762 | 5,649 | 68,411 | 57,113 |
| Overseas Private Equity | 229,921 | 20,693 | 250,614 | 209,228 |
| Overseas Property | 34,431 | 3,099 | 37,530 | 31,332 |
| Overseas Real Private Assets | 107,988 | 9,719 | 117,707 | 98,269 |
| Total | 667,785 | 60,101 | 727,886 | 607,684 |

| Asset Exposed to Currency Risk | Value at 31 March 2024 | Potential Market Movement | Value on Increase | Value on Decrease |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Overseas Hedge Funds | 217,649 | 17,412 | 235,061 | 200,237 |
| Overseas Infrastructure | 15,540 | 1,243 | 16,783 | 14,297 |
| Overseas Other Alternatives | 555 | 44 | 599 | 511 |
| Overseas Private Debt | 49,408 | 3,953 | 53,361 | 45,455 |
| Overseas Private Equity | 235,256 | 18,820 | 254,076 | 216,436 |
| Overseas Property | 40,131 | 3,210 | 43,341 | 36,921 |
| Overseas Real Private Assets | 68,509 | 5,481 | 73,990 | 63,028 |
| Total | 627,048 | 50,163 | 677,211 | 576,885 |

b) Credit Risk

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. Assets potentially affected by this are investment assets and cash deposits. The market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit in their pricing and

consequently the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities. The Fund is additionally exposed to credit risk through its daily treasury activities. Credit risk may also occur if an employing body, not supported by central government, does not pay its contributions promptly, or defaults on its obligations.

The Pension Fund's bank account is held at Barclays, which holds an 'A+' long term credit rating (Fitch Credit Rating Agency), and it maintains its status as a well-capitalised and strong financial organisation. The management of the cash held in this account is carried out by the Council's Strategic Finance Manager - Treasury, in accordance with an agreement signed by the Pensions Committee and the Council. The agreement stipulates that the cash is pooled with the Council's cash and managed in line with the policies and practices followed by the Council, as outlined in the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services and detailed in its Treasury Management Practices. At 31 March 2025 the balance at Barclays was £102.247m (£79.895m at 31 March 2024).

The Pension Fund closely monitors employer contributions each month. All contributions from employers, due to the Fund for March 2025, were received by the end of May 2025. The Fund's default policy for admission bodies joining the Fund is under a pass-through arrangement. Under a pass-through arrangement, the letting authority retains the pensions risk. The admission body is responsible for paying the agreed contribution rate and also additional costs as set out in each admission agreement e.g. redundancy and early retirement costs.

c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Fund takes steps to ensure that it has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments.

The Fund holds a working cash balance in its own bank account to cover the payment of benefits and other lump sum payments. At an investment level, the Fund holds a large proportion of assets in instruments that can be liquidated at short notice (pooled equities and bonds), normally within a week. As at 31 March 2025, these assets totalled £2,120.886m (£2,094.359m as at 31 March 2024), with a further £133.950m held in cash (£104.777m as at 31 March 2024).

Currently, the Fund is cash flow positive each month (i.e. contributions received exceed pensions paid). This position is monitored regularly and reviewed at least every three years alongside the Triennial Valuation.

Note 17. Funding Arrangements

In line 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 is due to take place as at 31 March 2025.

Description of Funding Policy

Details of the funding policy are set out in the Funding Strategy Statement (FSS), in summary, the key points are to:

- Ensure that pension benefits can be met as and when they fall due over the lifetime of the Fund;
- Ensure the solvency of the Fund;
- Set levels of employer contribution rates to target a 100% funding level over an appropriate time period and using appropriate actuarial assumptions, while taking into account the different characteristics of participating employers;
- Build up the required assets in such a way that employer contribution rates are kept as stable as possible, with consideration of the long-term cost efficiency objective; and
- Adopt appropriate measures and approaches to reduce the risk, as far as possible, to the Fund, other employers and ultimately the taxpayer from an employer defaulting on its pension obligations.

Further details are contained in the FSS.

Actuary's Statement

The last full triennial valuation of the Lincolnshire Pension Fund (the Fund) was carried out as at 31 March 2022 as required under Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (the Regulations) and in accordance with the Funding Strategy Statement of the Fund. The results were published in the triennial valuation report dated 30 March 2023.

Asset value and funding level

The results for the Fund at 31 March 2022 were as follows:

- The market value of the Fund's assets as at 31 March 2022 was £3,071m.
- The Fund had a funding level of 101% i.e. the value of assets for valuation purposes was 101% of the value that they would have needed to be to pay for the benefits

accrued to that date, based on the assumptions used. This corresponded to a surplus of £18m.

Contribution Rates

The employer contribution rates, in addition to those paid by the members of the Fund, are set to be sufficient to meet:

- the annual accrual of benefits allowing for future pay increases and increases to pensions in payment when these fall due;
- plus an amount to reflect each participating employer's notional share of the Fund's assets compared with 100% of their liabilities in the Fund, in respect of service to the valuation date.

The primary rate of contribution on a whole Fund level was 24.1% of payroll p.a. The primary rate as defined by Regulation 62(5) is the employer's share of the cost of benefits accruing in each of the three years beginning 1 April 2023.

In addition, each employer pays a secondary contribution as required under Regulation 62(7) that when combined with the primary rate results in the minimum total contributions. This secondary rate is based on their particular circumstances and so individual adjustments are made for each employer.

Details of each employer's contribution rate are contained in the Rates and Adjustments Certificate in Appendix 5 of the triennial valuation report.

Assumptions

The key assumptions used to value the liabilities at 31 March 2022 are summarised below:

| Financial Assumptions | Assumptions used for the 2022 valuation |
|----------------------------|---|
| Market date | 31 March 2022 |
| CPI inflation | 2.9% p.a. |
| Long-term salary increases | 3.9% p.a. |
| Discount rate | 4.0% p.a. |

| Demographic Assumptions | Assumptions used for the 2022 valuation |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Post-retirement mortality: | |
| Base tables | S3PA tables |
| Projection model | CMI 2021 |
| Long-term rate of improvement | 1.25% p.a. |
| Smoothing parameter | 7.0 |
| Initial addition to improvements | 0.0% p.a. |
| 2022/21 weighting parameter | 5% |

Full details of the demographic and other assumptions adopted as well as details of the derivation of the financial assumptions used can be found in the 2022 valuation report.

Updated position since the 2022 valuation

Assets

Investment returns on the Fund's assets over the three years to 31 March 2025 have been higher than assumed at the previous actuarial valuation. The Fund also has a positive cash flow and so the market value of assets at 31 March 2025 has increased since the formal valuation.

Liabilities

Inflation over the three years to 31 March 2025 has been higher than the long-term average assumed at the 2022 valuation. However, this has been largely offset by changes in financial assumptions underlying the valuation funding model. The value of liabilities has overall increased mainly due to interest accruing on those liabilities and due to further accrual of members' benefits over the period.

Overall position

Both the value of assets and the value of liabilities are estimated to have increased by similar amounts and so the funding level is estimated to be similar to that at the last formal valuation.

The 2025 valuation of the Fund is now underway, which will set revised contributions for all employers due over the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029.

The Fund also continues to monitor the funding level using LGPS Monitor on a regular basis.

Matthew Paton FFA

Associate, Barnett Waddingham LLP

Note 18. 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 adopting methods and assumptions that are consistent with IAS19 on an annual basis.

Introduction

Pension expense calculations have been undertaken in respect of pension benefits provided by the Local Government Pension Scheme (the LGPS) to members of the Lincolnshire Pension Fund as at 31 March 2025. The calculations take into account current LGPS Regulations, as amended, as at the date of this report.

The LGPS is a defined benefit statutory scheme administered in accordance with the regulations and currently provides benefits based on career average revalued earnings. Full details of the benefits being valued are as set out in the Regulations as amended and summarised on the LGPS website here and the Fund's membership booklet.

This report is prepared in accordance with the actuary's understanding of IAS26 and complies with Technical Actuarial Standard 100: General Actuarial Standards (TAS 100) as issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC). In calculating the disclosed numbers, they have adopted methods and assumptions that are consistent with IAS19.

This report should be read in conjunction with the post accounting date briefing note for disclosures as at 31 March 2025. A copy of this can be requested from the Fund.

Valuation Data

Data Used

The following items of data have been used in the calculations:

- 31 March 2022 - results of the latest funding valuation;
- 31 March 2024 - results of the previous IAS26 report;
- 31 March 2025 - actual Fund returns to;
- 31 March 2025 - Fund asset statement;
- 31 March 2025 - Fund income and expenditure items to; and
- 31 March 2025 - details of any new unreduced early retirement payments out to.

The data is provided by the administering authority and has been checked for reasonableness by the actuary, including consistency with previous valuation data where relevant and is sufficient for this purpose. Although some of these data items have been estimated, the actuary does not believe that they are likely to have a material effect on the results of this report. There have not been any material changes or events since the data was prepared.

Employer Membership Statistics

The table below summarises the membership data, as at 31 March 2022.

| Member Data Summary | Number | Salaries / Pensions £'000 | Average Age |
|---------------------|--------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Active Members | 24,013 | 397,111 | 46 |
| Deferred Pensioners | 28,653 | 30,628 | 49 |
| Pensioners | 25,949 | 85,232 | 72 |

Payroll

The total estimated pensionable payroll for the employers in the Fund is £519,702,000 for the year to 31 March 2025 (£478,740,000 for the year to 31 March 2024).

Unfunded benefits

Unfunded benefits are excluded from the calculations as these are liabilities of employers rather than the Fund.

Early retirements

The calculations include 19 new early retirements during the year which were not allowed for at the previous accounting date. The total annual pension that came into payment was £204,400 (46 in the previous financial year totalling £253,200).

Assets

The return on the Fund (on a bid value to bid value basis) for the year to 31 March 2025 is calculated to be 3.88% based on actual Fund returns as set out in the data section above.

The estimated asset allocation for Lincolnshire Pension Fund as at 31 March 2025 is as follows (noting that due to rounding they may not total 100%):

| Asset Breakdown | 31 March 2024 | | 31 March 2025 | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| | £'000 | % | £'000 | % |
| Equities | 1,683,221 | 50% | 1,671,080 | 47% |
| Bonds | 461,537 | 14% | 513,623 | 15% |
| Property | 229,045 | 7% | 250,276 | 7% |
| Cash/temporary investments | 85,592 | 3% | 120,141 | 3% |
| Infrastructure | 136,004 | 4% | 168,710 | 5% |
| Absolute Return Fund | 778,729 | 23% | 809,763 | 23% |
| Total | 3,374,003 | 100% | 3,533,593 | 100% |

Actuarial methods and assumptions

Details of the actuarial methods and derivation of the assumptions used can be found in the 31 March 2025 briefing note (a copy of this can be requested from the Fund). The key assumptions used are set out below.

| Financial Assumptions | 31 March 2024 % p.a. | 31 March 2025 % p.a. |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Discount Rate | 4.90% | 5.85% |
| Pension Increases (CPI) | 2.90% | 2.90% |
| RPI inflation | 3.20% | 3.20% |
| Salary Increases | 3.90% | 3.90% |

Projected unit method is used in the calculations.

The actuary has allowed for actual ONS CPI inflation observed between March 2024 and March 2025, this is reflected in the experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation figure in the results.

The demographic assumptions adopted are consistent with those used for the most recent Fund valuation, which was carried out as at 31 March 2022, except for an update of the CMI projection model. Details of the post-retirement mortality assumption are set out in the table on the next page; further details of the demographic assumptions adopted can be found in the briefing note corresponding to this report, and the Fund's actuarial valuation report.

| Post Retirement Mortality | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Base table | S3PA | S3PA |
| Multiplier (M/F) | 130% / 120% | 130% / 120% |
| Future Improvements model | CMI_2022 | CMI_2023 |
| Long term rate of improvement | 1.25% p.a. | 1.25% p.a. |
| Smoothing parameter | 7.0 | 7.0 |
| Initial additional parameter | 0.0% p.a. | 0.0% p.a. |
| 2020 weight parameter | 0% | 0% |
| 2021 weight parameter | 0% | 0% |
| 2022 weight parameter | 25% | 15% |
| 2023 weight parameter | N/A | 15% |

The assumed life expectancies, based on the assumptions set out above, are set out in the table below:

| Life Expectancy from age 65 years | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Retiring Today | | |
| Males | 19.5 | 19.5 |
| Females | 22.7 | 22.7 |
| Retiring in 20 years | | |
| Males | 20.8 | 20.8 |
| Females | 24.1 | 24.1 |

Fund Duration

The estimated Macaulay duration of the Fund as at the accounting date, using the assumptions set out above is 16 years.

Results

The net surplus as at 31 March 2025 is estimated to be £930,051m.

| Net pension asset in the statement of financial position as at: | 31 March 2024 £'000 | 31 March 2025 £'000 |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| Present value of the defined benefit obligation | (2,929,372) | (2,603,542) |
| Fair value of Fund assets (bid value) | 3,374,003 | 3,533,593 |
| Net surplus/(liability) in balance sheet | 444,631 | 930,051 |

The present value of the defined benefit obligation consists of £2,577.376m (£2,896.446m as at 31 March 2024) in respect of vested obligation and £26.166m (£32.926m as at 31 March 2024) in respect of non-vested obligation.

The figures presented in this report are prepared on an IAS19 basis and therefore will differ from the results of the 2022 triennial funding valuation (see Pension Fund Note 17) because IAS19 stipulates the discount rate applied.

Note 19. Current Assets

| | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Short Term Debtors: | | |
| Contributions due - Employers | 8,938 | 7,291 |
| Contributions due - Employees | 1,807 | 1,776 |
| Debtors Relating to Members | 353 | 603 |
| VAT Debtor | 79 | 90 |
| Sundry Debtors | 3,914 | 4,749 |
| Short Term Debtors | 15,091 | 14,509 |
| Cash Balances | 15,895 | 14,247 |
| Cash Balances | 15,895 | 14,247 |
| Total Current Assets | 30,986 | 28,756 |

Note 20. Current Liabilities

| | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Short Term Creditors: | | |
| Contributions - paid in advance | (22) | (6) |
| Creditors Relating to Members | (1,704) | (1,828) |
| Sundry Creditors | (1,489) | (2,022) |
| Total Current Liabilities | (3,215) | (3,856) |

Note 21. Additional Voluntary Contributions

Scheme members may make additional contributions to enhance their pension benefits. All Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) are invested in a range of investment funds managed by the Prudential plc. At the year end, the value of AVC investments (excluding any final bonus) amounted to £7.761m (£7.596m in 2023/24). Member contributions of £0.738m (£0.766m in 2023/24) were received by the Prudential and £1.600m (£1.800m in 2023/24) was paid out to members in the year to 31 March 2025.

The value of AVC funds and contributions received in the year are not included in the Fund Account and Net Assets Statement.

Note 22. Related Party Transactions

Lincolnshire County Council

The Lincolnshire Pension Fund is administered by Lincolnshire County Council. During the reporting period, the Council incurred costs of £0.353m (£0.303m in 2023/24) 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 £51.039m (£46.445m in 2023/24) to the Fund in 2024/25. All monies owing to and due from the Fund were paid by the statutory deadline and accounted for in the financial year.

The Treasury Management section of the Council acts on behalf of the Pension Fund to manage the cash position held in the Pension Fund bank account. This is amalgamated with the Council's cash and lent out in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management policies. During the year, the average balance in the Pension Fund bank account was £85.949m (£74.272m in 2023/24) and interest of £4.582m (£3.825m in 2023/24) was earned over the year.

Pensions Committee

Each member of the Pension Fund Committee is required to declare their interests at each meeting and is also asked to sign an annual declaration disclosing any related party transactions. Three Committee members: J Balchin (Employee Representative), S Larter (Small Scheduled Bodies Representative) and T Hotchin (Academy Sector Representative) were contributing members of the Pension Fund during 2024/25. S Larter (Small Scheduled Bodies Representative) is also a deferred member of the scheme. Cllr M Allen, Cllr Mrs

Overton and Cllr P Key (District Council Representative) were in receipt of a pension from the Lincolnshire Pension Fund.

Border to Coast Pensions Partnership

Lincolnshire Pension Fund is a minority shareholder in Border to Coast Pensions Partnership. It holds a £1 A share which gives the Fund one vote. The Fund also holds £1.182m (£1.182m in 2023/24) of regulatory share capital (B shares). These are included within long term investments in the net asset statement. At 31 March 2025 the Fund had invested in six sub-funds managed by Border to Coast Pensions Partnership (details shown in Note 12) and 55.7% of fund assets were under the management of Border to Coast at 31 March 2025 (56.4% at 31 March 2024). During 2024/25 the Fund paid Border to Coast £5.102m (£5.875m in 2023/24) to manage these assets and the partnership.

Note 23. Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel of the Fund are the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Resources, Assistant Director Finance, Head of Lincolnshire Pension Fund, and Accounting, Investment and Governance Manager. The Fund does not employ any staff directly. Lincolnshire County Council employs the staff involved in providing the duties of the Administering Authority for the Fund. The proportion of employee benefits earned by key management personnel relating to the Pension Fund are: £0.148m short term benefits (£0.144m in 2023/24) and £0.036m post-employment benefits (£0.035m in 2023/24).

Note 24. Contractual Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2025 the Fund had outstanding capital commitments (investments) to ten investment vehicles, amounting to £76.962m (£102.096m as at 31 March 2024). These commitments relate to outstanding call payments due on unquoted limited partnerships making investments in private equity, property or infrastructure funds. The amounts 'called' by these funds are irregular in both size and timing over the lifetime of the funds.

Note 25. Events After the Balance Sheet Date

There have been no events after the balance sheet date that require adjustment or disclosure within the financial statements.

Glossary of Terms

Actuary – An independent consultant who advises the Fund and every three years formally reviews the assets and liabilities of the Fund and produces a report on the Fund's financial position, known as the Actuarial Valuation.

Administering Authority – The administering authority has a legal responsibility to maintain and manage the their LGPS fund. The administering authority for Lincolnshire Pension Fund is Lincolnshire County Council.

Admitted Body – Private contractors that are admitted to the LGPS to protect member pension rights following a TUPE transfer, or a body which provides a public service which operates otherwise than for the purposes of gain.

Alternatives – Investment products other than traditional investments of stocks, bonds, cash or property. The term is used for tangible assets such as infrastructure and property and financial assets such as private equity, private debt and derivatives.

Asset Allocation – Distribution of investments across asset categories, such as cash, equities and bonds. Asset allocation affects both risk and return, and is a central concept in financial planning and investment management.

Asset Pooling – In the context of the LGPS, this is the collaboration of several LGPS Funds to pool their investment assets in order to generate savings from economies of scale, as requested by MHCLG: 'significantly reducing costs whilst maintaining investment performance'.

Auto Enrolment – UK employers have to automatically enrol their staff into a workplace pension if they meet certain criteria and repeat this process every three years to re-enrol any employees who have opted out.

Bonds – Certificate of debt issued by a government or company, promising regular payments on a specified date or range of dates, usually with final capital payment at redemption.

Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) Scheme – The pension at retirement will relate to your average salary over your career (while paying into the pension scheme). More precisely for the LGPS, it is based on pensionable earnings, increased in line with inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

CIPFA – Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) – The rate of increase in prices for goods and services. CPI is the official measure of inflation of consumer prices of the United Kingdom.

Counterparty – The other party that participates in a financial transaction. Every transaction must have a counterparty in order for the transaction to complete. More specifically, every buyer of an asset must be paired up with a seller that is willing to sell and vice versa.

Custodian – Organisation which is responsible for the safekeeping of assets, income collection and settlement of trades for a portfolio, independent from the asset management function.

Defined Benefit – An employer-sponsored retirement plan where employee benefits are assessed based on a formula using factors such as salary history and duration of employment.

Derivative – Financial instrument whose value is dependent on the value of an underlying index, currency, commodity or other asset.

Diversification – Risk management technique which involves spreading investments across a range of different investment opportunities, thus helping to reduce overall risk. Risk reduction arises from the different investments not being perfectly correlated. Diversification can apply at various levels, such as diversification between countries, asset classes, sectors and individual securities.

Equities – Ordinary shares in UK and overseas companies traded on a stock exchange. Shareholders have an interest in the profits of the company and are entitled to vote at shareholders' meetings.

Fiduciary Duty – A legal obligation of one party to act in the best interest of another. The obligated party is typically a fiduciary, that is, someone entrusted with the care of money or property.

Final Salary – One type of defined benefit pension scheme where employee benefits are based on the person's final salary when they retire. The LGPS Scheme has moved from this to a CARE (career average) scheme from 2014.

Funding Level – The ratio of a pension fund's assets to its liabilities. Normally relates to defined benefit pension funds and used as a measure of the fund's ability to meet its future liabilities.

IFRS – International Financial Reporting Standards. Aim to standardise the reporting and information disclosed in the financial accounts of companies and other organisations globally.

Infrastructure – The public facilities and services needed to support residential development, including highways, bridges, schools, and sewer and water systems. A term usually associated with investment in transport, power and utilities projects.

Investment Strategy – The investor’s long-term distribution of assets across various asset classes, taking into consideration their objectives, their attitude to risk and timescale.

Liabilities – Financial liabilities are debts owed to creditors for outstanding payments due to be paid. Pensions liabilities are the pension benefits and payments that are due to be paid when someone retires.

Market Value – The price at which an investment can be bought or sold at a given date.

Pooled Investment Fund – A fund managed by an external Fund Manager in which a number of investors buy units. The total fund is then invested in a particular market or region. The underlying assets the funds hold on behalf of clients are quoted assets such as fixed interest bonds and equity shares. They are used as an efficient low-risk method of investing in the asset classes.

Portfolio – Block of assets generally managed under a single mandate.

Private Debt – A loan extended to an unquoted company by a private investor rather than a commercial bank.

Private Equity – Shares in unquoted companies, the shares are not on offer to the general public through stock markets. Usually high risk, high return in nature.

Return – Increase in value of an investment over a period of time, expressed as a percentage of the value of the investment at the start of the period.

Risk – Likelihood of a return different from that expected and the possible extent of the difference. Also used to indicate the volatility of different assets.

Scheduled Body – Public sector employers or designating bodies that have an automatic right and requirement to be an employer within the LGPS.

Settlement – Payment or collection of proceeds after trading a security. Settlement usually takes place sometime after the deal and price are agreed.

Target – Managers are set a target for investment performance such as 1% above benchmark per year over three year rolling periods.

Triennial Actuarial Valuation – Every three years the actuary formally reviews the assets and liabilities of the Lincolnshire Fund and produces a report on the Fund’s financial position.

AUDIT OPINIONS 2024-25

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE AUTHORITY'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE AUTHORITY'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Lincolnshire County Council ("the Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2025 on pages 4 to 163 which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and the related notes, including the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the accounting policies.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2025 and of the Authority's income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the Authority in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

Going concern

The Chief Finance Officer ("the Section 151 Officer") has prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as they have not been informed by the government of the intention to either cease the Authority's services or dissolve the Authority without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements ("the going concern period").

In our evaluation of the Section 151 Officer's conclusions, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuity of services provided by the Authority over the going concern period.

Our conclusions based on this work:

- we consider that the Section 151 Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate; and
- we have not identified, and concur with the Section 151 Officer's assessment that there is not, a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for the going concern period.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the above conclusions are not a guarantee that the Authority will continue in operation.

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud

AUDIT OPINIONS 2024-25

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud (“fraud risks”) we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of management, the Audit Committee and internal audit and inspection of policy documentation as to the Authority’s high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud , including the internal audit function, as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud.
- Reading Authority and Audit Committee minutes.
- Using analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, and taking into account financial performance at the Authority we performed procedures to address the risk of management override of controls in particular the risk that Authority management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting. On this audit we did not identify a fraud risk related to revenue recognition due to our assessment that there was limited opportunity for manipulation of revenue reported given the nature of the funding provided to the Authority during the year.

We did not identify any additional fraud risks

We performed procedures including:

- Identifying journal entries to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation. These included unusual combinations with borrowing.
- Assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement related to compliance with laws and regulations

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general sector experience and through discussion with the Chief Finance Officer and other management (as required by auditing standards), and discussed with the Chief Finance Officer and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

Firstly, the Authority is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements, including the financial reporting aspects of local government legislation. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Secondly, the Authority is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: anti-money laundering, anti-bribery, employment law, recognising the nature of the Authority’s activities. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Chief Finance Officer and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Therefore, if a breach of operational regulations is not disclosed to us or evident from relevant correspondence, an audit will not detect that breach.

Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation

AUDIT OPINIONS 2024-25

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Other information

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, in this audit report we do not express an audit opinion or, except as explicitly stated below, any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work:

- we have not identified material misstatements in the other information; and
- in our opinion the other information included in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year is consistent with the financial statements.

Chief Finance Officer's and Audit Committee's responsibilities

As explained more fully in the statement set out on page 33, the Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view. They are also responsible for: such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the Authority'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 they have been informed by the government of the intention to either cease the services provided by the Authority or dissolve the Authority without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity.

The Audit Committee of the Authority is responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities

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 our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not 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 aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

Report on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources

AUDIT OPINIONS 2024-25

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office in November 2024 on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the “NAO Code of Audit Practice”), we are required to report to you if we identify any significant weaknesses in the arrangements that have been made by the Authority to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

We have nothing to report in this respect.

Respective responsibilities in respect of our review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of resources

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are required under section 20(1) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied 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. We are also not required to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has achieved value for money during the year.

We planned our work and undertook our review in accordance with the NAO Code of Audit Practice and related statutory guidance, having regard to whether the Authority had proper arrangements in place to ensure financial sustainability, proper governance and to use information about costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary.

Statutory reporting matters

We are required by Schedule 2 to the NAO Code of Audit Practice to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 and Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make written recommendations to the Authority under Section 24 and Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- 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; or
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in this respect.

THE PURPOSE OF OUR AUDIT WORK AND TO WHOM WE OWE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of the Authority, as a body, those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor’s report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the members of the Authority, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DELAY IN CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF THE AUDIT

As at the date of this audit report, we are unable to confirm that we have completed our work in respect of the Authority’s Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack for the year

AUDIT OPINIONS 2024-25

ended 31 March 2025 because we have not received confirmation from the NAO that the NAO's audit of the Whole of Government Accounts is complete.

Until we have completed this work, we are unable to certify that we have completed the audit of the Lincolnshire County Council for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the NAO Code of Audit Practice.



Rashpal Khangura
for and on behalf of KPMG LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Sovereign Square
Sovereign Street
LS1 4DA

Date: 27 January 2026

AUDIT OPINIONS 2024-25

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LINCOLNSHIRE PENSION FUND ON THE PENSION FUND'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Lincolnshire Pension Fund ("the Pension Fund") for the year ended 31 March 2025 on pages 164 to 210 which comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes to the Pension Fund financial statements, including the accounting policies in note 3.

In our opinion the Pension Fund financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Pension Fund during the year ended 31 March 2025 and of the amount and disposition at that date of its assets and liabilities; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the Lincolnshire County Council (as administering authority for the Pension Fund, the "Authority") in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

Going concern

The Chief Finance Officer ("the Section 151 Officer") has prepared the Pension Fund financial statements on the going concern basis as they have not been informed by the government of the intention to either cease the Authority's services or dissolve the Authority without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the Pension Fund financial statements ("the going concern period").

In our evaluation of the Section 151 Officer's conclusions, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuity of services provided by the Authority over the going concern period.

Our conclusions based on this work:

- we consider that the Section 151 Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the Pension Fund financial statements is appropriate; and
- we have not identified, and concur with the Section 151 Officer's assessment that there is not, a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for the going concern period.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the above conclusions are not a guarantee that the Authority will continue in operation.

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud

AUDIT OPINIONS 2024-25

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud (“fraud risks”) we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of management and the Pensions Committee as to the Pension Fund’s high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud, as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud.
- Reading Pensions Committee minutes.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, we performed procedures to address the risk of management override of controls in particular the risk that Pension Fund management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries and the risk of bias in accounting estimates and judgements such as the valuation of unlisted investments. On this audit we did not identify a fraud risk related to revenue recognition because revenue in a pension scheme relates to contributions receivable as paid under an agreed schedule.

We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

We performed procedures including:

- Identifying journal entries and other adjustments to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation. These included unusual debits or credits to cash, post closing journals and journals posted by senior finance personnel.
- Assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement related to compliance with laws and regulations

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the Pension Fund financial statements from our general sector experience and through discussion with the Section 151 Officer (as required by auditing standards), the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the Pension Fund financial statements varies considerably.

The Pension Fund is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the Pension Fund financial statements, including the financial reporting aspects of local government legislation. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Whilst the Pension Fund is subject to many other laws and regulations, we did not identify any others where the consequences of non-compliance alone could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the Pension Fund financial statements

Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the Pension Fund financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the Pension Fund financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit

AUDIT OPINIONS 2024-25

procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Other information

The Section 151 Officer is responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the Pension Fund financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the Pension Fund financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, in this audit report we do not express an audit opinion or, except as explicitly stated below, any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our Pension Fund financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the Pension Fund financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work we have not identified material misstatements in the other information.

Section 151 Officer's and Audit and Governance Committee's responsibilities

As explained more fully in the statement set out on page 33, the Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of Pension Fund financial statements, that give a true and fair view. They are also responsible for: such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of Pension Fund financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the Authority'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 they have been informed by the government of the intention to either cease the services provided by the Authority or dissolve the Authority without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity.

The Pensions Committee of the Authority is responsible for overseeing the Pension Fund's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Pension Fund financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not 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 aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the Pension Fund financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

THE PURPOSE OF OUR AUDIT WORK AND TO WHOM WE OWE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

This report is made solely to the members of Lincolnshire County Council, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of Lincolnshire County Council, as a body, those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Lincolnshire County Council and the members of Lincolnshire County Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

AUDIT OPINIONS 2024-25



Rashpal Khangura
for and on behalf of KPMG LLP

Chartered Accountants
1 Sovereign Street
Leeds
LS1 4DA

Date: 27 January 2026

AUDIT OPINIONS 2024-25

Annual Governance Statement 2025



ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024

The Council's Responsibilities

The Annual Governance Statement is a statutory document which explains the processes and procedures put in place to enable the council to conduct its business in accordance with the law and proper standards. It needs to demonstrate that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The council also has a duty to put in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and the effective discharge of its functions to secure continuous improvement and management of risk.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015) require the council to conduct a review, at least annually on the effectiveness of its internal control systems and include the Annual Governance Statement reporting on the review with the Statement of Accounts.

Lincolnshire is a place which we are proud of, and we will continue to ensure that our residents enjoy the lifestyle they deserve. The Council continues to work with our partners to enhance services and ensure we are successful in meeting the needs and expectations of our residents, businesses, and visitors through the delivery of our Corporate Plan.

We are satisfied that this statement provides a reasonable level of assurance that good governance is in place at Lincolnshire County Council and that appropriate arrangements are in place to address improvements identified in our review of compliance. Progress on these improvements will be monitored through the year by senior officers and reported through the Audit Committee.

Councillor Martin Hill OBE
Leader of the Council 24/25

Debbie Barnes OBE
Chief Executive

Andrew Crookham
**Deputy Chief Executive &
Executive Director Resources**

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024

The Purpose of the Governance Framework

The Council's governance framework comprises all the systems, processes, values and culture by which the council directed and controlled its activities, and through which it accounted to and engaged with, the community. It enabled the council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives, manage risk and address areas of development identified previously.

The system of internal control was a significant part of that framework and was designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide a reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control was based on a process designed to identify and prioritise risks to the achievement of the council's policies, ambitions and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood and potential impact of those risks being realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

A robust governance framework has been in place for several years and in particular for the year ended 31st March 2025. This is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (2016)' developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and the Senior Managers (SOLACE).

The Governance Framework

The International Framework: Good governance in the public sector states *"Governance comprises the arrangements put in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for stakeholders are defined and achieved. The fundamental function of good governance in the public sector is to ensure that entities achieve their intended outcomes whilst acting in the public interest at all times."* The Chartered Governance Institute (UK & Ireland) states its belief that *good governance is important as it provides the infrastructure that improve the quality of the decisions made by those who manage organisations.* It is widely accepted that good quality, ethical decision-making builds sustainable businesses and enables them to create long-term value.

Throughout the year the council regularly reviews the effectiveness of its governance arrangements through performance reporting, internal and external audit services and the activities of the Executive, Regulatory and Scrutiny Committees. The Monitoring Officer has established a programmed review of the Constitution actioned by the Head of Democratic Services which identifies and prioritises the areas for review for reference to the Audit Committee and full Council. Matters that were reviewed during the year are detailed below. In addition, the Monitoring Officer provides an annual report on the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements to the Audit Committee.

In addition to the work outlined above, the AGS is informed by senior management governance assessments which includes statutory officers' reports. Together these practices help to ensure there is regular corporate oversight and that our governance arrangements remain effective and sufficient.

The governance arrangements are considered against the definitions of effectiveness in table 1 below. As well as providing overall assurance about the council's governance arrangements, the methodology identifies any processes or areas where governance needs to be strengthened.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024

| Definition | Description |
|--|--|
| Adequate. | There are sound policies and processes in place that are working effectively across services, which provide for good governance arrangements and support compliance with requirements of the CIPFA Principle, and the achievement of the council's aims and objectives. There may be minor areas for continuous improvement, but these do not represent a significant or material risk to the council's overall governance framework and/or achievement of objectives. |
| Some Development or Improvement Needed. | Whilst there are policies and processes in place, there are some areas that remain a challenge for the council or require further improvement, which may impact the effectiveness of elements of the council's governance arrangements, compliance with the CIPFA principle and the achievement of the council's aims and objectives. The council has an action plan in place to address challenges and improvement matters. |
| Key Development or Many Areas of Improvement Needed. | We have identified significant challenges in relation to the policies and processes, which may impact the effectiveness of elements of our governance arrangements, compliance with the CIPFA principle and achievement of our aims and objectives. We have implemented plans for corrective actions to manage these risks. |

Table 1

Principle A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.

Our Constitution establishes the roles and responsibilities for members of the Executive, Regulatory Committees and Scrutiny Committees together with officer functions. It included details of delegation arrangements, codes of conduct and protocols for member/officer relations.

The Constitution was kept under review to ensure that it continued to be fit for purpose, with any proposed changes being considered by the Audit Committee before being determined by Full Council. During the year the following parts of the Constitution were updated: Budget and Policy framework, Key Decision definition, Substitution Scheme, Petition Scheme, Health Scrutiny Committee terms of reference, Corporate Parenting Panel terms of reference, Common Seal of the Council, Gifts and Hospitality thresholds, Local Standards Arrangements, Contract Procedure Rules and the Whistleblowing Policy.

The Constitution also contains procedure rules, standing orders and financial regulations that define clearly how decisions are taken and where authority lies for decisions. The statutory roles of Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer, and Chief Financial Officer (S151) are described together with their respective roles and contributions to provide for robust assurance on governance and to ensure that expenditure is lawful and in line with approved budgets and procedures.

The Head of Paid Service is the Chief Executive and is responsible for all Council employees. The Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Resources is the Council's Chief Financial Officer and is responsible for safeguarding the Council's financial position and ensuring value for money. The Chief Legal Officer is the Monitoring Officer and is responsible for ensuring legality and promoting high standards of conduct by members.

Under Section 18(2) of the Children Act 2004, Local Authorities in England have a duty to appoint a Director of Children's Services. Local Authorities in England are also required to appoint a Director of

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Adult Services. Lincolnshire County Council has in place both Executive Directors. Alongside these officers, the Executive Director of Place and the Chief Fire Officer comprise the Council's senior leadership team.

The Council's Constitution sets out how the Council operates. It states what matters are reserved for decision by the whole Council and the responsibilities of the Executive. Decision making powers not reserved for councillors are delegated to chief officers under the Council's Scheme of Officer Delegations which is currently being reviewed and will be reported to the full Council at its AGM in May 2025, having already been endorsed by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 24 March 2025. Each chief officer has a scheme of authorisation setting out the powers that others may exercise on their behalf.

The Members' Code of Conduct advises an elected member (or voting co-opted member) what conduct is expected of them and whether their conduct constitutes a criminal offence. A Code of Conduct also exists for staff which sets out the standards of conduct expected of all council employees and prevents employees from being in a situation where they may be vulnerable to an accusation of favouritism or bias or other improper motives, whether this is real or perceived.

The Council operates under an Executive/Scrutiny model, which had oversight of the formulation of all major policies, strategies and plans. The Executive also led on the preparation of the Council's budget. A number of scrutiny committees and panels are in place to provide support and robust challenge to the Executive.

The Council is committed to promoting equality of opportunity, valuing diversity and eliminating discrimination.

Principle B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stake holder engagement.

All 70 elected members represented their electoral division. Those not appointed to the Executive supported the development of policy and scrutinised decisions made by the Executive or by officers under delegated powers. They also reviewed services provided by the Council and our partners. The Council's committee structure included a number of scrutiny committees, one of which was the designated statutory health scrutiny committee responsible for reviewing proposals for significant changes to NHS services in Lincolnshire. The Council's overall policy is represented through its Corporate Plan.

Committee meetings were open to the public throughout the year, and most were webcast via YouTube and the Council's website. The agenda papers and minutes remain available on the internet.

The complaints procedure and a whistle-blowing policy and procedure are maintained and kept under review. The whistleblowing policy was last reviewed and approved by the full Council in September 2024. These provide the opportunity for members of the public and staff to raise issues when they believe that appropriate standards have not been met. An annual complaints report analyses complaints received, their resolution and key lessons learnt. This was presented to the Audit committee in September 2024 by the Monitoring Officer as part of his annual Monitoring Officer's report. Within the year, the Executive Councillor for People Management, Legal, Corporate Property and Complaints has been given executive responsibility for oversight of the Council's

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corporate complaints process. The Audit Committee has responsibility for the oversight of any investigation of complaints against members.

The Council has a whistleblowing policy, which encourages employees and other concerned parties to report any instances of suspected unlawful conduct, financial malpractice, or actions that are dangerous to the public or environment. In addition to a fraud and whistleblowing intranet page, the Chief Executive communicates this to all employees on an annual basis to make them aware of this policy. The policy is supported by a confidential whistleblowing hotline and email address. The Confidential Reporting Code also forms part of the Constitution.

Throughout 2024/25 interactive workshops led by the Monitoring Officer and assisted by the Head of Democracy were held for officers on the Council's decision making processes to help embed best practice and further aid understanding around legal requirements, transparency and evidential support. In total six sessions were held gaining adequate attendance at each session.

The Council expects the highest standards of conduct and personal behaviour from members and employees. These standards are defined and communicated through codes of conduct and protocols. Our Communications team provides a wide range of support for the whole council including using social media, internal communications, marketing and promotions advice, media relations. Public consultation played a key part in the decision-making process, across the full range of Council services. A disclosure log has been included on the Council website, transparently including responses to Freedom of Information requests received.

The Council expects the highest standards of conduct and personal behaviour from councillors and employees. These standards are defined and communicated through codes of conduct and protocols. The Council has also engaged with its employees and launched its new workforce values and behaviours. Our Communications team provides a wide range of support for the whole council including using social media, internal communications, marketing and promotions advice, media relations. Public consultation played a key part in the decision-making process, across the full range of Council services. A disclosure log has been included on the Council website, transparently including responses to Freedom of Information requests received.

Principle C: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable, economic, social and environmental benefits & Principle D: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.

Our Corporate Plan set out the vision and ambitions for the future, with our aim being to continue working for a better future. Through this during 24/25 we remained committed to our determined approach that in the coming years people and communities will have high aspirations, be enabled to enjoy life to the full, enjoy thriving environments and be supported by good value council services.

Throughout 2024/25 the work to deliver our commitment and corporate plan included the following delivery and achievements.

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Support high aspirations

The Council continued to support families to enable children to thrive, with the number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who are in mainstream education is 58.3%. This is better than the target of 57% and reflects the continued efforts by all those who support young people with special educational needs. The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system has focused on ensuring that the mainstream sector has practitioners with the skills and knowledge to be able to meet the wide range of needs of this cohort. This not only provides young people with SEND the opportunities to access a varied curriculum but also provides capacity in specialist settings for those young people who require a higher level of support.

The council has also supported local groups and organisations with advice, information and resources to help with delivering their vital services and providing support to their volunteers through:

- Practical advice and resources
- Online forums and regular networking opportunities
- Funding advice
- Funding readiness online training and support
- Support to develop new roles and recruit volunteers
- Advice and support with DBS checks

There has been the launch of the new Lincolnshire Funding Alliance which was attended by a variety of local and national funding bodies who discussed the current and developing funding challenges for local organisations across the County.

Over the last year 289 organisations have registered on the Lincolnshire Volunteering Website adding 1,678 volunteer opportunities to the system. These have been made available to the public to view and apply for with 95% of organisations receiving a referral for a potential volunteer.

Extensive work took place to implement a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire which will provide around £750 million in government funding over the next 30 years, with £28.4 million allocated to 2024/25. The new Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority was established in February 2025 to drive economic growth and opportunity across the region, The first mayor will be elected on 1 May 2025.

Enable everyone to enjoy life to the full

At the end of December 2024, out of 1,721 people who were open to social care with a primary reason of learning disability, 194 were in employment or volunteering. A joint funding employment initiative with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) assists getting people into employment, however, there is no ongoing dedicated base budget to support people with a Learning Disability into employment so future outcomes may be impacted if further investment is not secured.

507 carers out of 518 who have been in receipt of a Direct Payment for 12 months received a review of their support needs. This is 97.9% of carers eligible for a review, exceeding the target. The carers service will continue to monitor cases where carers have not received a review, which can occur for

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a number of reasons. The number of cases is continuing to fall with 11 carers not receiving a review in Quarter 3 2024/25 compared to 25 carers in Quarter 2 2024/25.

Create thriving environments

The Council continued to invest in business support activities including support for those sectors of the economy facing particular challenges including farming and agricultural business across Lincolnshire. The newly established Greater Lincolnshire Combined County authority is expected to build on this support as the organisation commences work and matures.

The percentage of the unclassified road network where maintenance should be considered has reduced across the last 5 years. This performance indicator has performed well with a value of 25.5% against a target of 26%. During a recent review of all highways and transport performance indicators, this indicator has been expanded to 1 decimal place in order to show greater detail. All historical values which have been previously reported have been retrospectively updated.

The Council has prioritised protecting our environment and opposed those national infrastructure projects where they are potentially harmful to the local environment, communities and the Greater Lincolnshire economy.

Provide good value council services

The UK economy has continued to see high levels of inflation and increased costs for councils in providing services. The council continues to adapt its approach to continue to deliver cost effective, sustainable services.

It is Lincolnshire County Council's ambition to be in the lowest quartile (a rank of 5 or lower out of 21 local authorities). LCC has achieved a rank position of 3 out of 21 local authorities with a council tax band D value of £1,578.69 for 2024/25. We are also assessed each year on our arrangements for securing best value in the use of our resources by our external auditor. The auditors are currently concluding their work for 2023/24 but have reported that no significant risks or weaknesses have been identified in our arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of our resources.

Principle E: Developing the entity's capacity the capacity of its leadership and the individuals within it.

During 2024/25 there were regular reviews and maintenance of appropriate employee structures and leadership; as well as benchmarking and aligning duties and capacity to operational delivery. Adaptable and inclusive approaches to resourcing encouraged appointments that were representative of our communities. Across the Council we delivered induction programmes, regular performance oversight and supported officers to ensure personal and professional effectiveness through our one to one and appraisal processes. There has been full use of the apprenticeship levy, learning and development programmes, business partner developments and supporting behaviour change through our culture and leadership programme.

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From an Equality and Diversity perspective there was support and development of staff network groups to represent the diversity in our employee voice, and provision for a wide range of employee health and wellbeing support and initiatives working monitoring need, take up and effectiveness.

Communications came from several areas including newsletter updates from the corporate leadership team, manager briefings, staff virtual briefings, regular surveys and workshops to inform, support and coproduce resources which helped to drive change and improvements.

In relation to our members, we offered quality training for individual committees and regular portfolio holder/ officer interaction to enable reciprocal understanding and collaboration.

Principle F: Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.

The council recognised the importance of a robust and effective risk management strategy, framework and tool kit, which were in place and utilised across the council by services in the management of their risks. A central risk team supported the development and education needs for both operational and strategic risk development across all service areas and directorates. Strategic risks were reviewed throughout the year and reported to the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis. In February 2024 the Audit Committee invited the Executive Directors to present their strategic risks and were able to respond to assurance based questions. The council has a Corporate Risk and Safety Steering Group, consisting of representation from all directorates. The steering group was a key contributor in supporting CLT to maintain their oversight of key risks and acted as an assurance system on health and safety matters, emergency preparedness and resilience to crisis.

The internal audit programme informs the adequacy of the internal control environment through unrestricted access across all directorates. Management engaged proactively with advisory assignments to develop action plans and understand lesson learned from routine delivery. This informed management's aware of first and second line internal control operations. Follow up assignments provided an updated risk profile follow the assurance work and informs councillors and management on the implementation of risk mitigations arising from internal audit delivery.

The annual audit committee report, presented by the Chair of the Audit Committee to the Full Council, demonstrates the audit committee has effectively discharged their responsibilities and provided assurance of their duties to all councillors.

During 2024/25 effective financial management was achieved through monthly reporting to our leadership teams and senior managers. Our financial position was regularly presented in quarterly public reports alongside our service delivery performance and received thorough scrutiny and challenge from our councillors. Despite continued financial challenges from growing demand for our services and cost increases, the Executive was able to make additional service investments in the areas of key priority for Lincolnshire residents. This was whilst still delivering our core services and producing an overall underspend against our revenue budget for the year.

The Corporate Performance Team (CPT) delivered quarterly performance reporting to the CLT as well as Executive Members and Service Scrutiny Committees throughout the year. CPT support the CLT monthly Performance Board where performance data from across the organisation is considered which includes quarterly reporting against the Corporate Plan objectives. This board is

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mirrored in each Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) to enable data and insight to be appropriately considered and then escalated where appropriate to CLT performance board meetings. Each Directorate area was supported with bespoke performance data provided by CPT, with this being considered at a series of tactical and operational meetings and used to underpin DLT discussions. CPT also ensured that the organisation was compliant with all directorate statutory reporting commitments.

The Head of Information Assurance provided regular and appropriate risk communications across the council and reported risks and mitigations to the Audit Committee annually. Given the statutory environment the council operated within, Information Assurance played a pivotal role in supporting the secure, effective, and lawful use of information within our organisation. The team's work was fundamental in the management of information risk and improving accountability for the information used. Furthermore, it steered activity designed to meet our legal and regulatory obligations. This was achieved through a corporate framework which promoted a positive information culture, encouraged good practice, and supported informed decision making. High demand for Information Assurance services continued throughout the year resulting in greater support. Such demand also provided opportunities to guide, advise and inform colleagues on the principles of good information assurance and led to continual improvement. The demonstration of consistently high engagement, together with regular reporting to the council's Senior Information Risk Owner and Information Asset Owners improved understanding across key information assets and raised awareness of information risk. This resulted in the identification of opportunities to improve local practices and directly informed risk reduction through a variety of internal controls.

During February 2025, and in the spirit of continual improvement and transparency, the Information Assurance team agreed to a consensual audit by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The audit focused on three areas of data protection namely, governance and accountability; training and awareness; and records management. The audit was designed to give the council an independent opinion of the extent to which we are complying with data protection legislation and highlight any areas of risk to our compliance. The ICO's audit team concluded that "there is a reasonable level of assurance that processes and procedures are in place and are delivering data protection compliance."

Principle G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit, to deliver effective accountability.

The Council's Corporate Plan set out the Council's objectives for a 10-year period. The Corporate Plan Success Framework (CPSF) set out key activities and key performance indicators (KPIs) which underpinned the delivery of the objectives of the Corporate Plan throughout 2024/25.

The CPSF included targets for the KPIs and milestones for the activities signed off by Executive Members. The CPSF included targets for the KPIs and milestones for the activities signed off by Executive Members. A quarterly progress report was presented to the Executive for scrutiny and discussion.

The council has a duty to demonstrate continuous improvement and value for money in how it delivers its services. All key decisions included comments from the Executive Director of Resources which considered the value for money of the decision under consideration and ensured the approved budget was able to meet any costs identified. The council remains in a strong financial position, with adequate budget and reserves to deliver the services it provides on an on-going basis. Budget planning

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process continually looked at areas for further efficiency and ways to reduce process and administrative burdens. We also consider areas of significant growth in demand and prioritise these areas in our service reviews.

During 2024/25 the contract for provision of transactional financial and payroll services came to an end. The functions were insourced back into the council, providing an opportunity for improvements and efficiencies in how these functions are delivered.

The council's financial strategy and medium term financial plan, reflects known and emerging cost pressures and risks which were also reflected in the budget set for 2024/25. All service directors provided a robustness statement to confirm their budgets were adequate to provide the services they are delivering in line with corporate priorities. The statements acknowledge risks and volatility within the budgets, and these are highlighted in our financial strategy along with mitigations. This included areas of most volatility and financial challenge, such as social care placements and school transport.

The Council's meetings of full council and the committees which discharge executive and non-executive or scrutiny functions have decisions published on the website and retained for public access. The publication of the Forward Plan for key decisions is made available to the press and public to ensure there is general public and Member awareness of Council plans and proposals before they are considered for approval. A limited number of reports are considered in private session only when the subject meets the prescribed criteria for confidentiality with the rationale stated in each report and recorded in the minutes.

Review of the Effectiveness of the Council's Governance Framework

In reviewing the effectiveness of the Council's governance framework, the following section outlines some of the assurances reviewed.

A review of agendas, minutes and decisions taken by the Audit Committee, Executive and Council to ensure that periodic monitoring and reviews are being reported appropriately, and governance issues are addressed.

A review of the Council's arrangements against the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit. The review confirms that the Council's arrangements fully conform to the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit and the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Finance Officer in Local Government.

A review of the 2024/25 Annual Report from the Head of Information Assurance which provides assurance that during 2024/25 information risks have been effectively managed and provides assurance as to the work undertaken for supporting these governance arrangements.

A review of the 2024/25 Combined Risk Report from the Corporate Risk Management Team, in conjunction with all the Executive Directors, which provided assurance that the strategic risks have been effectively managed and discussed from an assurance questioning session from the Audit Committee.

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The Council continued to commission internal reviews and self-assessment activity to complement external assurances awarded by regulatory bodies. External reports are submitted through the Executive where senior officers are held to account for their performance, and any improvement delivery requirements. Action plans are routinely scrutinised for implementation and lessons learned. External assurance reports considered throughout 2024/25 include:

- Legal Services Lexcel Accreditation
- Regulation of Investigation Powers Inspection
- ICO Audit
- OFSTED FE & Skills Inspection
- NRRT Assurance FU visit
- Foster Link Service Inspection
- Ofsted Social Care Engagements
- Ofsted SEND Provision Engagement

Subsidiary Companies

The council had three wholly owned subsidiary companies at the end of 2024/2025. The Council maintained shareholdings in other organisations but as a minor shareholder. The three wholly owned subsidiary companies are:

Transport Connect Limited (TCL). This is a passenger transport company incorporated in 2016. The Council has a nominated Director and shareholder representative who is the Chair of the Board of Directors. The Head of Transport attends all board meetings. Accountancy and HR services are independent of LCC. An Annual Update report was presented to Highways and Transport Scrutiny in October 2024.

EMPSN Infrastructure Limited. This company owns and manages the communications infrastructure which delivers the Council's wide area network. The Council appoints a director who is the Chair of the Programme Board and controls the strategic direction of the company as owner through reserved matters such as the approval of technical strategy. Monthly reports were provided to the portfolio holder throughout the year.

Legal Services Lincolnshire (Trading) Ltd. In 2024 the company has received a licence from the Solicitor's Regulation Authority and has been trading as Lincolnshire Public Law. Annual accounts prepared by a commercial accountancy partner and shared with the Executive Director of Resources annually.

Statutory Assurances

Several officers at the council hold statutory roles, which are established in legislation and have specific responsibilities. It is important that assurances from these officers are included in this AGS to support its conclusion on the council's governance arrangements.

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Chief Executive

The Chief executive is responsible for the overall corporate and operational management of the council. These responsibilities are considered within the context of this statement, and the Chief Executive can confirm that proper arrangements have been put in place for the overall operation and management of the council.

The Chief Executive has no significant concerns to report and continues to evolve the organisational strategy to support the delivery of the council's priorities and ambitions. It has been a challenging year for the council with significant and increasing service demand and economic pressures and influences. These have been exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis. As a result of our governance arrangements and practices, we have been able to continue our sustained focus on performance and support whilst effectively managing our risks.

Chief Financial Officer

The Executive Director of Resources is responsible for the proper administration of the council's financial affairs and confirms that the council's arrangements conform to Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the Council complies with the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial officer in Local Government (2016). The council has robust financial arrangements in place and can demonstrate the effective holding of sufficient reserves to enable the council to manage the risks it faces. A robustness statement (from the S151 Officer) was presented to Council alongside the budget proposals for the year, which highlighted risks and mitigations to be considered alongside the budget proposals the Council approved.

The S151 officer is also the delegated scheme manager for the Lincolnshire Local Government Pension Fund, and ensures the same governance is applied in this area.

Monitoring Officer

The Monitoring Officer is required to report to the council any case where it appears that any proposal, decision or omission by the authority has given rise to or is likely to give rise to any contravention of any enactment, rule of law or code of practice or maladministration or injustice, in according with Section 5 (as amended) Local Government & Housing Act 1989. No concerns were raised by the Monitoring Officer during 2024-25.

Internal Audit Annual Opinion

The Head of Internal Audit opinion states "I am satisfied that sufficient assurance work has been carried out to allow me to form a conclusion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control environment. In my opinion the frameworks of governance, risk management and management controls are **adequate**, and audit testing has demonstrated controls to be working in practice. Where weaknesses have been identified through internal audit review, the audit team have worked with management to agree corrective actions within an appropriate timescale. Weaknesses in maintained school internal controls are outside the direct control of council officers arising from delegations to Governing Bodies."

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External Audit

External audit provided an unqualified opinion of the statement on accounts for 2023-24 and did not identify any significant weaknesses in governance arrangements, financial sustainability or improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Significant Governance Issues

A governance issue arises when something has gone wrong which will affect the achievement of the Council's objectives. There is a need to respond and often recover from an issue and in financial terms responding and recovering may add significant cost to the organisation or its processes. An issue may arise unexpectedly or result from a poorly managed risk.

Whilst determining the significance of an issue will always contain an element of judgement, an issue is likely to be significant if one or more of the following criteria applies:

- It has significantly prejudiced or prevented achievement of a principal objective.
- It has resulted in the need to seek additional significant funding to allow it to be resolved.
- It has required significant diversion of resources.
- It has had a material impact on the accounts.
- It has been identified by the Audit Committee as significant.
- It has resulted in significant public interest.
- It has resulted in formal actions being taken by the Section 151 Officer or Monitoring Officer.
- It has resulted in significant adverse commentary in external or internal inspection reports that has not been able to be addressed in a timely manner.

No significant governance issues have been identified.

Improvements from 2023/24

Two areas were identified for improvement in the 2023/24 effectiveness review. The 2024/25 review identified that sufficient work has been undertaken to address the concerns. An update on the work to improve these areas is outlined below:

1. There has been a systematic assurance programme implemented to gain independent assurance on the internal control environment operating across maintained schools. Their associated risk profile is now visible with appropriate engagement to provide assurance on their internal control processes.
2. A programme to provide independent assurance around IT investments, project delivery and adequacy of governance arrangements has been developed and is fully supported across the council. Adequate engagement levels have been evidenced. As the programme is finalised, outcomes will be shared with officers and the Audit Committee.

Improvements from 2024/25

The review of the governance arrangements across the council has not resulted in any areas for improvement being identified.

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Conclusion

Taking into consideration the content of this report, the contribution from statutory officers and the external reports shared, we are satisfied that the Council's corporate governance arrangements in place for 2024/25 were fit for purpose in accordance with the CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance Framework 2016 and as a result, deem the governance arrangements to be adequate.

GLOSSARY

| | | |
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| <u>A</u> | Academy Schools | Academy schools are directly funded by central government (the Department for Education) and are independent of local Council control. |
| | Accounting Period | The period of time covered by the accounts, normally a period of twelve months commencing on 1 April. The end of the accounting period is the Balance Sheet date. |
| | Accounting Policies | <p>The principles, bases, conventions, rules, and practices applied by an organisation that specify how the effects of transactions and other events are to be reflected in its Financial Statements.</p> <p>Retrospective application is applying a new accounting policy to transactions, other events and conditions as if that policy had always been applied.</p> |
| | Accruals | Sums included in the final accounts to recognise revenue and capital income and expenditure attributable to the accounting period, but for which payment has not been received or made by 31 March. |
| | Amortisation | The term used to describe the charge made for the cost of using intangible non-current assets. The charge for the year will represent the amount of economic benefits consumed (e.g. wear and tear). |
| | Appropriation | The transfer of sums to and from reserves, provisions and balances. |
| | Asset | <p>An item having value to the Council in monetary terms, categorised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Current assets' are intended for use or to be sold within the normal operating cycle. They are held for the purpose of current service provision, trading or the Council expects to realise the assets within 12 months after the reporting date. • 'Non-current assets' do not meet the definition of a current asset and can be tangible (e.g. school buildings) or intangible (e.g. computer software licences). • 'Donated assets' are assets which transferred to the Council at nil value or acquired at less than fair value. • 'Heritage Assets' are of an historic nature, including buildings and collections, which are held by the Council. • 'Intangible Assets' are without physical substance. Examples include computer software and licences. |

GLOSSARY

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| | Audit of Accounts | An independent examination of the Council's financial affairs. |
| <u>B</u> | Balances | The total revenue reserves required to provide a working balance during the financial year, for example in periods when expenditure exceeds income. |
| | Balance Sheet | Shows all balances including reserves, long-term debt, fixed and net current assets, together with summarised information on the non-current assets held. |
| | Borrowing costs | Interest and other costs that an entity incurs in connection with the borrowing of funds. |
| | Budget | The forecast of net revenue and capital expenditure over the accounting period. |
| <u>C</u> | Capital Charges | This is a general term used for the notional charges made to service expenditure accounts for the use of non-current assets. The term covers depreciation and impairment charges (included in gross expenditure). |
| | Capital Expenditure | Expenditure on assets which have a long-term value. Includes the purchase of land, purchase, or cost of construction of buildings and the acquisition of plant, equipment and vehicles. |
| | Capital Financing (Costs & Requirements) | Costs - These are the revenue costs of financing the capital programme and include the repayment of loan principal, loan interest charges, loan fees and revenue funding for capital. Requirements - Statutory requirement to ensure that over the medium term the net borrowing by the Council will only be for capital purposes. |
| | Capital Grants Unapplied Account | Grants that have been recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but where the expenditure has not yet been incurred. |
| | Capital Receipts | Proceeds received from the sale of property and other non-current assets. |
| | Carrying Amount | The amount of an asset that is recognised on the Balance Sheet after all costs have been charged for the accounting period (e.g. accumulated depreciation and impairment losses). |
| | Cash equivalents | Short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value (e.g. bank balances). |

GLOSSARY

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| | Cash Flow Statement | This consolidated statement summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes |
| | Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CI&ES) | This statement reports the net cost of all the services which the Council is responsible for and demonstrates how that cost has been financed. |
| | Contingent... | <p>...Asset is a possible asset that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council.</p> <p>...Liabilities are potential costs the Council may incur in the future because of something that happened in the past, but there is no certainty that a cost will occur.</p> |
| | Creditors | Amounts owed by the Council for work done, goods received, or services rendered but for which payment has not been made at 31 March. |
| <u>D</u> | Debtors | <p>Sums of money owed to the Council but unpaid at 31 March.</p> <p>Long Term Debtors are sums of money due to the Council originally repayable within a period in excess of twelve months but where payment is not due until future years.</p> |
| | Defined Benefit Scheme | Also known as a final salary scheme. Pension scheme arrangement where the benefits payable to the members are determined by the scheme rules. In most cases there is a compulsory member's contribution but over and above this all costs of meeting the quoted benefits are the responsibility of the employer. |
| | Depreciation | <p>The allocation of the cost of the useful economic life of the Council's non-current assets for the accounting period through general wear and tear, consumption or obsolescence.</p> <p>Straight Line basis is the method of calculating depreciation by charging the same amount each year over the asset's life.</p> |
| | Depreciated replacement cost (DRC) | Is a method of valuation which provides the current cost of replacing an asset with its modern equivalent asset less deductions for all physical deterioration and all relevant forms of obsolescence and optimisation. |

GLOSSARY

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| <u>E</u> | Employee benefits | Are all forms of consideration (both monetary and in-kind) given by the Council in exchange for service rendered. Short Term Employee Benefits (other than termination benefits) fall due wholly within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service. |
| | Exceptional Items | Are all forms of consideration (both monetary and in-kind) given by the Council in exchange for service rendered. |
| <u>F</u> | Fair Value | The amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's-length deal. |
| | Finance Costs | Reflects the element of annual payment for PFI or Leased assets which is in relation to interest payable on the loan liability. |
| | Financial... | ...Assets are a right to future economic benefits controlled by the Council. ... Liabilities are an obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the Council. |
| | Financial Instrument | A contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability of another entity; for example, at its simplest, a contractual right to receive money (debtor) and a contractual obligation to pay money (creditor). |
| | Foundation Schools | Schools run by their own governing body, which employs the staff and sets the administrations criteria. Land and buildings are usually owned by the governing body or a charitable foundation. |
| <u>G</u> | General Fund | The main revenue fund of the Council. Income from the council tax precept and government grants is paid into the fund, from which the costs of providing services are met. |
| | Going Concern | The going concern accounting concept assumes that the organisation will not significantly curtail the scale of its operation in the foreseeable future. |
| | Government Grants | Payments by central government towards Council expenditure. They are receivable in respect of both revenue and capital expenditure. |

GLOSSARY

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| | Grants and Contributions | Assistance in the form of transfers of resources to the Council in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the operation of activities. |
| I | <u>Impairment</u> | A reduction in the value of a non-current asset to below its carrying amount on the Balance Sheet, due to damage, obsolescence, or a general decrease in market value. |
| | International Accounting Standard (IAS) | Regulations outlining the method of accounting for activities, IASs are currently being replaced with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. |
| | International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) | Regulations outlining the method of accounting for activities, issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. |
| | Inventories | Items of raw materials, work in progress or finished goods held at the financial year end, valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value. |
| L | Leases | <p>A lease is an agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee, in return for a payment, the right to use an asset for an agreed period of time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Lease – a lease whereby all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset are with the lessee. In substance the asset belongs to the lessee. • Operating Lease – a lease where the risks and rewards, and therefore ownership, of the asset remains with the lessor. |
| | Lessee | The person or organisation that is using or occupying an asset under lease (tenant). |
| | Lessor | The person or organisation that owns an asset under lease (landlord). |
| | Liabilities | <p>A present obligation to transfer economic benefits.</p> <p>Current liabilities are payable within one year.</p> |
| | Liquid Resources | Cash and current asset investments that can be easily converted to known amounts of cash without penalty or can be traded in an active market. |
| | Long-Term Contract | A contract entered into for the design, manufacture or construction of a single substantial asset, or the provision of a |

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| | | service (or a combination of assets and services which together constitute a single project), where the project life falls into more than one accounting period. |
| <u>M</u> | Materiality | Materiality is an expression of the relative significance or importance of a particular matter in the context of the financial statements as a whole. Materiality depends on the nature or size of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances. The nature or size of the item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor. |
| | Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) | A minimum amount, set by law, which the Council must charge to the income & expenditure account, for debt redemption or for the discharge of other credit liabilities (e.g. finance lease). |
| <u>N</u> | Net Book Value | The value of non-current assets included on the Balance Sheet, being the historical cost or a current revaluation less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation. |
| | Net Debt | The Council's borrowings less liquid resources. |
| | Non-Distributed Costs | These are overhead costs from which no user now benefits. They include the costs associated with unused assets and certain pension costs. |
| <u>O</u> | Off Balance Sheet | Accounting category not shown or recorded on a Balance Sheet, such as an operating lease or a deferred or contingent asset or liability which is shown only when it becomes 'actual'. |
| | Operations (Acquired & Discontinued) | Operations comprise services and division of service as defined in SERCOP. - Acquired operations are those that are acquired in the period by the Council. - Discontinued operations are those that are discontinued in the period. Responsibilities that are transferred from one part of the public sector to another are not discontinued operations. |
| <u>P</u> | Pension fund accounts | This covers accounting and reporting by pension funds to all fund participants as a group rather than being concerned with determination of the cost of retirement benefits in the Financial Statements of employers. |
| | Precept | The amount levied by one Authority which is collected by another e.g. Lincolnshire is the precepting Authority and the District Councils are the collecting Authorities of Council Tax. Water |

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| | | Authorities also precept on the Council for land drainage purposes. |
| | Previous Year Adjustments | These are material adjustments relating to prior year accounts that are reported in subsequent years and arise from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. |
| | Principal | The amount of repayment to a lender which relates to the reduction in the loan, rather than the interest paid on the loan. |
| | Private Finance Initiative (PFI) | A government initiative that enables Authorities to carry out capital projects, in partnership with the private sector, through the provision of financial support. |
| | Projected Unit Method | <p>An accrued pension benefits valuation method in which the scheme liabilities make allowance for projected earnings. An accrued benefits valuation method is a method in which the scheme liabilities at the valuation date relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the benefits for pensioners and deferred pensioners and their dependants, allowing where appropriate for future increases, and the accrued benefits for members in service on the valuation date. |
| | Property, Plant & Equipment | <p>Are tangible assets (i.e. assets with physical substance) that are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and expected to be used during more than one period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land and buildings. Vehicles, plant, furniture, and equipment. Infrastructure assets that form part of the economic or social framework of the area and whose function is not transferable (e.g. highways, bridges, and footpaths). Community assets that the Council intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life and may have restrictions on their disposal (e.g. nature reserves, country & coastal parks, and picnic sites). Surplus assets are non-current assets held by the Council but not directly occupied, used, or consumed in the delivery of services. Investment properties are land or buildings held to earn rental income or for capital appreciation or both. Assets under construction are non-current assets which include expenditure capitalised for work in progress in |

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| | | <p>respect of activities to develop, expand or enhance items of property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and exploration assets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations. These are non-current assets that are either going to be sold or disposed of within the next twelve months. |
| | Provision | This is an amount which is put aside to cover future liabilities or losses which are considered to be certain or very likely to occur, but the amounts and timing are uncertain. |
| | Prudential Indicators | A set of financial indicators and limits that are calculated in order to demonstrate that Councils' capital investment plans are affordable, prudent, and sustainable. |
| | Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) | A central government agency, which provides loans for one year and above to Authorities at favourable rates which are only slightly higher than the Government can borrow itself. |
| <u>R</u> | Recognition | The process upon which assets are deemed to belong to the Council either by purchase, construction, or other forms of acquisition. |
| | Related party | These are parties which are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party, or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions, or if the related party entity and another entity are subject to common control. Related party transactions are transfers of resources or obligations between related parties, regardless of whether a price is charged. Related party transactions exclude transactions with any other entity that is a related party solely because of its economic dependence on the Council or the Government of which it forms part. |
| | Reserves | <p>The accumulation of surpluses, deficits and appropriations over past years. Reserves of a revenue nature are available and can be spent or earmarked at the discretion of the Council. Some capital reserves such as the Revaluation Reserve and Capital Adjustment Account cannot be used to meet current expenditure.</p> <p>Capital Adjustment Account reserve largely consisting of resources applied to capital financing and not available to the Council to support new investment.</p> |

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| | | <p>Earmarked Reserves are those elements of total Council reserves which are retained for specific purposes.</p> <p>Revaluation Reserve holds revaluation gains on assets recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation.</p> |
| | Retirement Benefits | <p>Post-employment benefits are employee benefits (other than termination benefits) which are payable after the completion of employment.</p> <p>Actuarial basis is the estimation technique applied when estimating the liabilities to be recognised for defined benefit pension schemes in the Financial Statements of an organisation.</p> <p>Actuarial gains and losses for a defined benefit pension scheme are the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains and losses); or • The actuarial assumptions have changed. <p>Current service cost is the increase in the present value of a defined benefit obligation resulting from employee service in the current period.</p> <p>Defined benefit plans are post-employment benefit plans other than defined contribution plans.</p> <p>Defined contribution plans are post-employment benefit plans under which an entity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity (a fund) and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.</p> <p>Interest cost is the increase during a period in the present value of a defined benefit obligation which arises because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.</p> <p>Past service cost is the increase in the present value of the defined benefit obligation for employee service in prior periods, resulting in the current period from the introduction of, or changes to, post-employment benefits or other long-term employee benefits. Past service cost may be either positive (where benefits are introduced or improved) or negative (where existing benefits are reduced).</p> |
| | Revaluation Gain | The increase to the fair value of an asset following a valuation. |
| | Revenue Contributions | This refers to the financing of capital expenditure directly from revenue rather than from loans or other sources. |

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| | Revenue Expenditure | The day-to-day expenditure on such items as employees and equipment. |
| | Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS) | Expenditure which may be funded from capital, but which does not result in non-current assets owned by the Council. These costs are included in the net cost of services shown in the Income and Expenditure Account. |
| <u>S</u> | Service Reporting Code of Practice (SERCOP) | Details standard definitions of service and total cost which enables spending comparisons to be made with other Local Authorities. |
| | Specific Grant | A grant awarded to a Council for a specific purpose or service that cannot be spent on anything else. |
| <u>T</u> | Termination Benefits | Employee benefits paid upon termination of employment such as redundancy. |
| | Treasury Management | The utilisation of cash flows through investments and loans. |
| | Trust Funds | Funds administered by the Council for such purposes as prizes, charities and specific projects or on behalf of minors. |
| <u>U</u> | Useful Life | The period with which an asset is expected to be useful to the Council in its current state. |