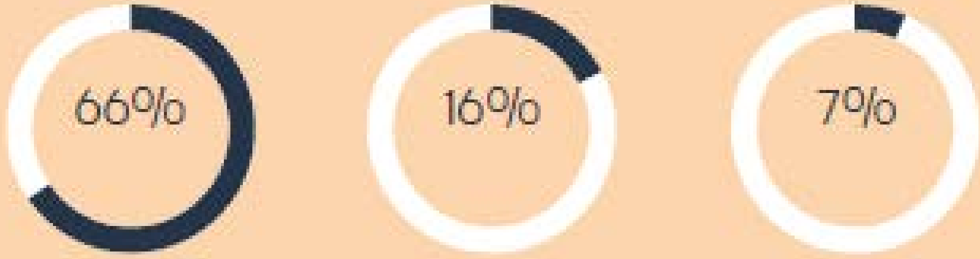
STAFFORDSHIRE moorlands DISTRICT COUNCIL
ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

Statement of Accounts
2017 - 2018



Contents

Chief Financial Officer's Narrative Report	**2 - 21**
Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts	**22**
Statement of Accounting Policy	**23 - 25**
Financial Statements:-	
Movement in Reserves Statement	**26 - 27**
Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	**28**
Balance Sheet	**29**
Cash Flow Statement	**30**
Notes to the Financial Statements	**31 - 81**
Supplementary Statements:-	
Collection Fund Account	**82 - 84**
Group Accounts	**85 – 93**
Accounting Policies	**94 – 103**
Glossary of Financial Terms	**104 – 107**
Independent Auditor's Report	**108 – 110**

Chief Finance Officer's Narrative Report

The Council's Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018, together with the accompanying notes, explain how the Council spent your council tax, business rates and other sources of funding on the provision of services during the year. The narrative report provides a financial summary focusing on the current financial challenges and opportunities as identified within the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), details of the financial performance for 2017/18, a focus on the Council's Corporate Plan, risk and performance framework, identification of the Council's key strategic partnerships and an explanation of the key financial statements.

Financial Summary

The District of Staffordshire Moorlands covers an area of 57,600 hectares, of which 32.16% is classed as rural, and serves a resident population of 97,106. There are 43,974 domestic households on the Council Tax valuation list. The District continues to face significant financial challenges as a consequence of austerity measures along with cost pressures within services and greater volatility in financing streams. The shift in local authority financing is increasing the focus on locally generated income streams and reducing the reliance on core Central Government funding. This increases the control and influence the Council has over income generated within the District but has also made it vulnerable to fluctuations within the local economy, hence increasing financial risk.

Future Challenges and Opportunities

The paragraphs below set out some of the more significant developments which have a potential impact on the financial position of the Authority.

Changes to Local Government Finance

In November 2015, the Chancellor's Autumn Statement set out the strategic direction for public expenditure, which outlined a number of changes to local government financing which have had a significant impact on the Council's future financial position.

Revenue Support Grant - The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government presented the Local Government finance settlement 2016/17 to the House of Commons on 17th December 2015. This was made in the context of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement / Spending Review and included a four year settlement offer to Authorities for Revenue Support Grant (the Local Government core grant) which confirmed the phasing out of the grant by 2020. The Council accepted this and the financial impact has been included in the Council's MTFP.

Business Rates – It has previously been announced by Government that by 2020, authorities will retain 100% of Business Rate growth. As part of the current Business Rates Retention system, authorities are able to retain a proportion of any growth in business rates over and above a centrally established baseline. The Council's proportion is further increased by participation in the Staffordshire Business Rates pool, which removes the growth levy payable to Government.

Following invitation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Staffordshire Authorities made an application to become a pilot area for 100% Business Rates Retention. The application was unsuccessful for 2018/19, but indications are that applications will be sought again by MHCLG for 2019/20 pilots and the authority will consider at the appropriate time whether or not to pursue this.
There remains uncertainly surrounding how the new system will be phased in and in what form – the approved pilots being trialled around the Country will support the Government in forming the final model. Therefore, no financial assumptions based on the new system have been included with the Council's financial plan at this stage - these will be fed into the plans once we have more certainty around how the system will operate.

During 2016, a national revaluation of business rates premises took place and the new list of rateable values has been introduced from 1st April 2017. Central Government have adjusted the tariff applied to the Council's business rates income to take account of this change. The change in this tariff is offset by the net change in income following the introduction of the revised rateable values.
As a result of the revaluation, the Government extended some existing reliefs and introduced a number of new Business Rate Reliefs to support businesses who have suffered an increase in rates. To compensate for the loss of business rates income resulting from the reliefs, funding has to date been made available to Councils under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

Council Tax - The Council has the capacity to vary Council Tax levels, following the abolition of capping. However the Council's ability to increase Council Tax by more than a certain percentage is subject to referendum. The threshold was 1.99% - therefore a Council Tax increase of 1.9% was applied by the Council for 2017/18.
This threshold was increased to 2.99% in the recent finance settlement in order to better reflect CPI (to be applied from 1st April 2018) – the Council has increased its share of Council Tax by 2.9% in 2018/19.

New Homes Bonus - Proposals were presented to amend the current New Homes Bonus settlement which is currently a significant source of income to the Authority. A consultation was then undertaken, with the outcome released in December 2016. The main changes to the scheme which came into effect from 1st April 2017 were incorporated into the 2017/18 budget and four year MTFP, these include:-

- The reduction in the number of years for which the Bonus is paid from the current 6 years to 5 years in 2017/18; to be followed by a further reduction to four years in 2018/19;
- The removal of New Homes Bonus paid on development below a 0.4% baseline (of the overall tax base).

Further changes, proposed in the consultation, have been put on hold to be considered for future implementation. These include:

- Withholding the Bonus from areas where an authority does not have a Local Plan in place;
- Abating the Bonus in circumstances where planning permission for a new development has only been granted on appeal.

The 2018 settlement announcement confirmed these measures would not be implemented in 2018/19.

Social Housing - The Government announced in July 2015 far reaching legislative and financial changes for the social housing sector. One of the most significant announcements being the reduction in social housing rents by 1% per annum from April 2016 for 4 years. The Government announced in October 2017 that after the four year 1% rent reduction ends in 2019/20, Authorities will then be allowed to increase rents from 2020/21 by CPI +1%.

This has impacted on the Ascent business plan (the joint venture company established by the Council and Your Housing Group Limited) to deliver affordable housing across the District. Consequently, forecast revenue receipts have been revised to account for the reduction in rental income and as a result a number of strategic options are now being considered for the future of Ascent (see 'Key Partnerships' within this section of the Accounts).

Impact of Brexit

On the 23rd June 2016, the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union as a result of the referendum. Subsequently, Prime Minister Theresa May activated the official mechanism that made this a reality – Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty – on 29th

March 2017, which then allows two years to negotiate withdrawal and reach agreement before the UK officially leaves the EU by 29th March 2019.

The financial consequences of 'Brexit' on the Council remain uncertain at this stage. It will have implications on specific project funding bids which have in the past been submitted to European established bodies, it is unclear what/if any mechanism will replace this.

Dependent on the economic impact of an EU exit, this could potentially impact on the valuation of our assets and liabilities; for example, the Council's property portfolio and pension liability. Discussions with valuers suggest it is extremely difficult to assess any implications at this stage.

Additionally, the EU exit may influence investment and borrowing rates. The overall wider impact and any specific changes to Local Government finance will be further assessed within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

A general election was called and took place on 8th June 2017 providing the opportunity for the general public to vote for a Government to undertake Brexit negotiations. The results of which meant that the Conservatives lost their majority after losing seats to opposition parties across the Country. The Conservatives subsequently made an agreement with Northern Ireland's DUP (Democratic Unionist Party) forming a minority Government.

Efficiency & Rationalisation Programme

2017-18 was the first year of the Council's new four year Efficiency and Rationalisation Programme, which targets £3.1m in financial savings by 31st March 2021 to offset the four year forecast budget shortfall and ensure the Council is financially stable. The new Efficiency and Rationalisation Strategy was developed and presented as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan to Full Council in February 2017.

The new Efficiency and Rationalisation Strategy aims to both reduce expenditure and increase income. The need to grow income is now more of a priority as the Council moves towards being self-financing and no longer heavily reliant on direct Government funding such as the Revenue Support Grant. The Strategy has been developed with the underlying principles of protecting frontline service delivery. It is also intended that the Strategy is a tool to enable the Council to ensure that its service spending is determined by the established priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.

The Efficiency Programme is focused on five areas:-

- **Major Procurements -** There is the opportunity to focus attention on a number of large service functions which are currently provided by an external contractor / supplier. A number of significant contracts are coming to an end. This will also allow a fundamental review of these services with proper consideration of the current financial constraints. The contract commitments have sometimes restricted the opportunity to align services across the Alliance with High Peak. The individual projects will focus on Waste Collection & Environmental Services, Leisure Management and Facilities Management.

- **Asset Management Plan –** Continuation of the existing priority of rationalising the Council's asset base with a focus around priorities in order to allow for the necessary capital investment.

- **Growth –** development of a clear focus on housing and economic growth based upon the established Local Plan.

- **Income Generation –** focus on increasing the yield from existing sources of income and a drive towards identifying new sources of income.

- **Rationalisation –** a commitment to reducing expenditure on non-priority areas of spend e.g. management arrangements, non-statutory services and channel shift (reducing the need for personal contact by providing technology to access services).

The delivery of efficiency and rationalisation projects is monitored by the Transformation Board made up of Directors, Heads of Service along with key Corporate Service Managers and Officers. A Director is allocated as 'project executive' and a full business case appraisal is completed for each project.

The table below summarises the financial targets assigned to each efficiency project and the estimated profile of achievement. More detail is available within the Efficiency and Rationalisation Strategy which was approved as part of the MTFP by Council in February 2017 and can be found on the Council's website:-

General Fund Efficiency Programme	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Major Procurements	100,000	275,000	100,000	600,000	**1,075,000**
Asset Management	50,000	50,000	25,000	25,000	**150,000**
Growth	65,000	150,000	250,000	300,000	**765,000**
Income Generation	305,000	355,000	100,000	250,000	**1,010,000**
Rationalisation	141,000	-	-	-	**141,000**
TOTAL	**661,000**	**830,000**	**475,000**	**1,175,000**	**3,141,000**

During 2017/18, the efficiency target of £661,000 has been achieved. The savings achieved relate to management review savings; additional income from car parking and recycling; channel shift project savings; agency/vacancy reviews within Operational Services; and a reduction in printing and postage costs. Additionally, a number of vacant staff posts have been reviewed (in line with the service review process and as a result of other efficiency projects) which have contributed to the overall efficiency programme.

Going Concern

The Statement of Accounts 2017/18 has been prepared on a going concern basis. Therefore the Council is viewed as continuing in operation for the foreseeable future. This is considered appropriate on the basis that there are no material uncertainties about the Council's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Council has a firmly embedded Financial Planning process, which includes a rolling four-year Medium-Term Financial Plan that is updated twice per year. This includes the Chief Finance Officer's statement regarding the adequacy of reserves and balances.

All known events which could cast doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern are systematically mitigated. For example, budget deficits are primarily addressed through a well developed approach towards the achievement of efficiency savings, which has a proven track record of success.

In response to the Government's four year Revenue Support Grant settlement, the Council submitted an efficiency plan outlining how the Council will be addressing financial pressures in accepting the settlement offer. Additionally, as detailed above, a new four year efficiency plan was presented to coincide with the 2017/18 Budget and updated MTFP presented in February 2018 to outline plans to meet the budget deficit over the four year period. There is a well established quarterly reporting process to Cabinet which monitors in year financial performance and identifies any risks in achieving the Efficiency Plan.

In terms of the Council's cash and liquidity position, detailed forecasts of cash flows are maintained for the 12 months following the date of the audit so up to 31st July 2019. These are compared against actual cash flows on a daily basis by the Council's Finance team. The treasury function is scrutinised by the Audit & Accounts Committee.

2017/18 Financial Performance

Revenue Spending

Revenue spending represents the net cost of consuming supplies and providing services delivered by the Council in its day-to-day business during the year. The financial planning process for 2017/18 was driven by the need to provide effective services while satisfying the on-going economic pressure to become ever more efficient in our use of resources.

What we planned to spend

The Council set an original net Revenue budget of £10,279,430 for spending on services. It was anticipated that financing available from external grants and retained Council Tax and Business Rates would be £9,751,040 leaving £528,390 to be funded from general reserves. These reserves are held both as a contingency and to prudently support spending over the medium term.

What we actually spent

The Authority's actual performance against budget resulted in a £1,497,076 operating surplus in 2017/18, generated as set out in the table below.
Funding levels achieved were £730,650 above expectations owing to better than anticipated levels of retained business rates accruing to the year. While this included £5,000 in additional Government funding the main source was better than anticipated levels of retained business rates. £290,000 of the additional business rates arising in the year reflected better revenue streams than originally anticipated. The remaining increase in business rates accruing to the year was the by-product of government support given to local businesses in the form of relief against the rates bills of small businesses, public houses, etc. Government grants were received in-year to compensate the Council for the reduction in rates collectable from those businesses. The rules around Collection Fund budgeting and accounting meant that while this income represented an in-year boost, it produced a deficit on the account at the year end which will have to be recovered from Fund preceptors, including the District, in future years. It is therefore considered prudent that the Authority's year end reserves are at least sufficient to meet their share of the deficit (£440,000).

Actual spend on activities during 2017/18 was £752,551 lower than anticipated. The under spend was due to savings made across a number of Council services. This reflected the cumulative impact of the Authority's historic efficiency and rationalisation programme.

The substantial underspend together with the increased income accruing to the year meant that the budgeted call on reserves was not required. Instead of a net use of reserves, 2017/18 has actually seen them increase. Adjusting the operating surplus for the nominal actual use of reserves gives the figure by which the Authority's usable reserves increased in the year, as £954,811.

		Budget £	Actual £	Variance £
Activites		10,279,430	9,526,879	(752,551)
Funding:	External	(9,751,040)	(10,481,690)	(730,650)
	Reserves	(528,390)	(542,265)	(13,875)
Operating Deficit / (Surplus) in the Year			(1,497,076)	(1,497,076)
Adding back the actual net use of reserves in year				542,265
Gives the increase in Reserves Generated in 2017/18				**(954,811)**

As illustrated below the surplus generated increased the value of the Authority's usable reserves to £7.800million.

Revenue Reserves	Brought Forward £000	2017/18 Net Change £000	2017/18 Revenue Balance £000	2017/18 Applied to Capital £000	Carried Forward £000
Capital Support	520		520	(9)	511
Earmarked	2,702	(27)	2,675		2,675
General Revenue	3,623	982	4,605		4,605
	6,845	**955**	**7,800**	**(9)**	**7,791**

Both the capital and earmarked reserves have been built up over time to provide funding for future projects and specific activities in line with the Authority's medium term aims and objectives. During 2017/18 £9,000 of the Capital Support Reserve was used to support the Authority's Capital Programme. The General Revenue Reserve is primarily held as a contingency to provide the Authority with operational funds and as a safeguard against financial risk. Current risk-based assessments set the Council's need for a revenue contingency at £1million.

At the end of 2017/18 the reserve stood at £4.605million, which means that a surplus of £3.605million is potentially available to support future spending plans. A review of reserves earmarked for specific purposes has resulted in net contributions from the general reserve of £1.497million. The most significant being a £1.5million contribution to the Capital Support reserve. After these re-designations the Authority's general reserves remain £2.108million above the minimum contingency level. This is more than adequate to offset the £440,000 impact of the Business Rates collection fund deficit on the District's financial plans. Indeed the current Medium Term Financial Plan only expects to utilise a net £0.3million of general contingency reserves to support the Revenue Budget over the next four years 2018/19 – 2021/22.

Revenues Reserves	Earmarked £000	General £000	Total £000
Year End	3,188	4,605	7,793
Redesignated	1,497	(1,497)	0
Minimum Contingency	0	(1,000)	(1,000)
	4,685	**2,108**	**6,793**

How the money was spent

The Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES) (page 28) summarises the resources that have been generated and consumed in providing services and managing the Council this year. It shows Net Expenditure for the year was £11.130million across the 26 service areas around which the Authority organises the budgets. This figure includes nominal charges made for the use of capital assets and future pension liability.

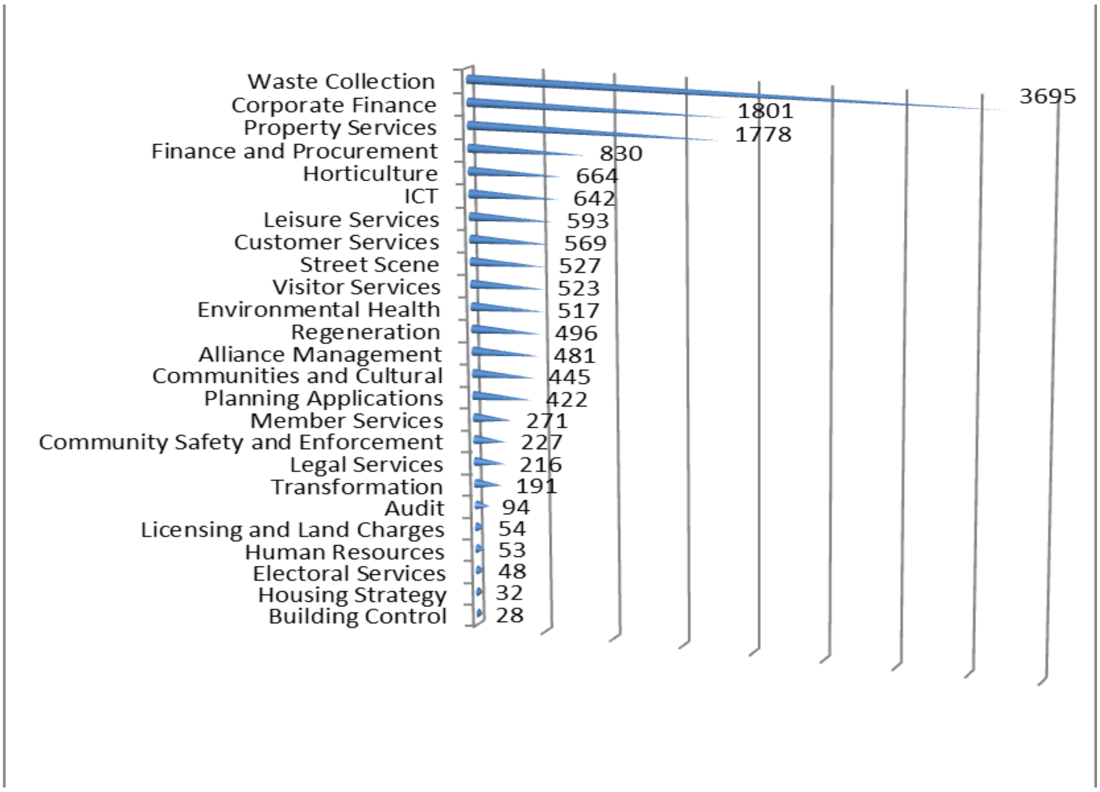
Their inclusion is a requirement to allow comparison between Councils as to the true cost of providing services. Statutory provisions however require that such charges are excluded from the amount charged to Council Tax payers.

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA) (page 32) reconciles the service outturn reported in the CIES with the £9.526million spend on activities as measured against the 2017/18 budget. The table below summarises that reconciliation and by adding in external sources of funding and the use of reserves, reveals the actual gross expenditure and income behind the £1.497million surplus generated in the year.

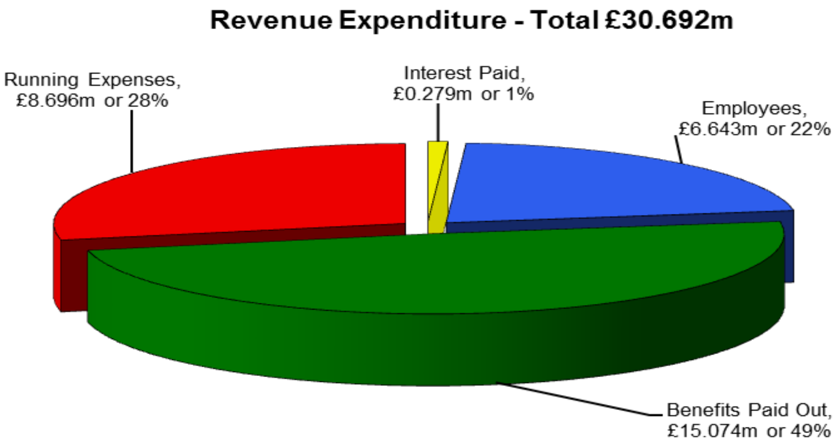
	Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
CIES	33,080	(21,950)	11,130
Nominal Adjustments	(2,388)	784	(1,604)
EFA	**30,692**	**(21,166)**	**9,526**
Funding :			
External		(10,481)	(10,481)
Reserves		(542)	(542)
	30,692	**(32,189)**	**(1,497)**

An analysis of the £30.692million Gross Expenditure illustrates how actual revenue resources were applied in 2017/18. At £15.49million the administration and payment of Benefits accounted for 51% of the Authority's revenue spend. The chart below profiles the remaining 49% - £15.20million - across the Authority's other service areas.

Gross Expenditure (2017/18) (£000) (excluding Benefits administration)

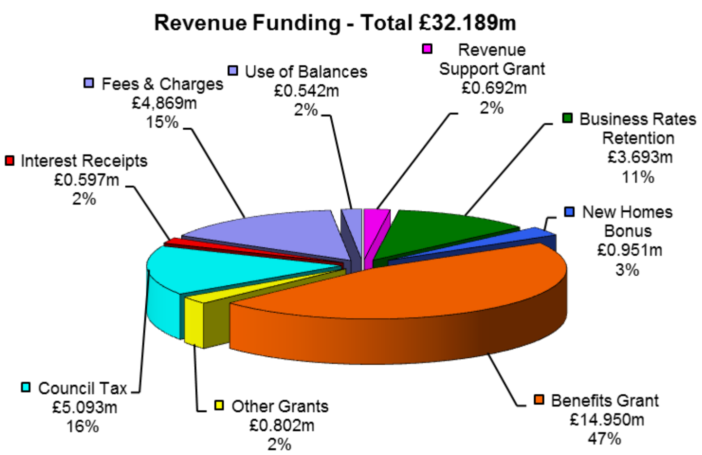


The four main categories of this spend are employee costs, running expenses, interest paid on borrowing and Housing Benefit payments made to residents. Running expenses include maintenance of buildings, vehicle costs and supplies and services. The chart below illustrates the proportion in which expenditure was incurred on these categories of expenditure. The largest element at £15.074million is the payment of Housing Benefits on behalf of Central Government



How it was paid for

Excluding the £14.95million Housing Benefits grant from Central Government, the chart below illustrates the continuing shift in Local Government finance to generate income locally and become self financing. Of the remaining £17.24million in funding (excluding the Benefit grant) 86% - £14.79million – is from the locally generated income streams of Council Tax, Business Rates, interest, fees and charges, together with the use of reserves. Of the £2.4million of other grant funding, £0.95million relates to the New Homes Bonus grant, which is a Government grant the Authority benefits from as a result of growth in housing within the District.



Capital Spending

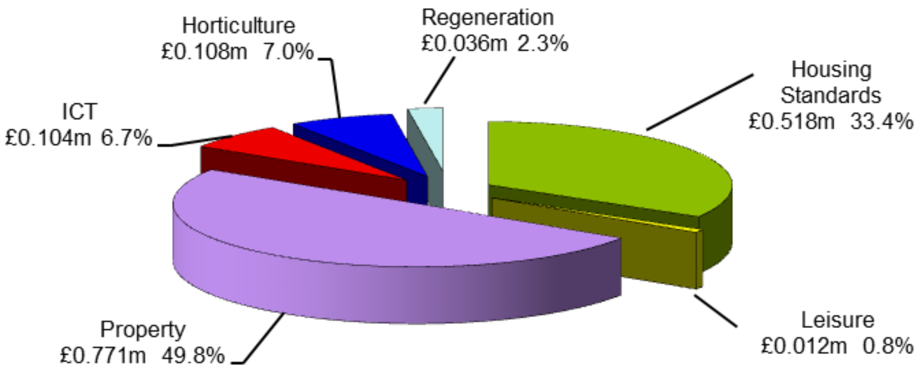
Capital spending either maintains or creates new assets that will contribute to the Council's aims and objectives over more than one year. The Council therefore plans and budgets for capital expenditure by means of a four-year 'rolling' capital programme. This programme was last updated in February 2018 and included capital commitments of £12.9million over the period 2017/18 to 2021/22.

How the money was spent

The actual spend in 2017/18 was £1.549million. This spend was £0.163million less than that budgeted for the year owing to the re-profiling, within the overall programme, of individual projects. Major areas of capital expenditure and significant individual projects included:

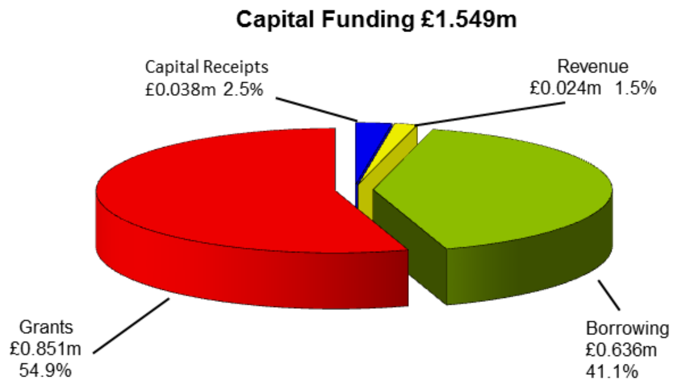
- Property – reconfiguration of Biddulph Town Hall (£0.374m), improvements of the infrastructure at Victoria Business Park (£0.261m) and investment in the Council's property portfolio (£0.136m);
- Housing Standards - disabled facilities grants (DFG), (£0.518m).

Capital Expenditure £1.549m



How it was paid for

There are a number of sources by which the Council can fund capital expenditure. The funding of the 2017/18 capital programme is illustrated below:



- Grants – contributions from third parties and Central Government grants. The latter providing majority funding of the DFG programme.
- Revenue Reserves – over time the Council has built up revenue reserves for the purpose of supporting future capital projects.
- Capital Receipts – cash resources from the sale of capital assets.
- Borrowing – this equates to both funding by internal resources and external borrowing. The latter includes borrowing from other Local Authorities.

The Balance Sheet Perspective

At the end of 2017/18 the Authority's net worth, as reported on the Balance Sheet, stood at a net asset value of £7.394million. When compared to an opening value of £2.247million at the beginning of the year. This represents an increase in net worth of £5.147million.

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2018 £000
Long Term Assets	32,511	36,230
Ascent Loan	16,792	16,848
Net Current Assets (debtors, inventories, less creditors, other liabilities)	4,251	3,608
Borrowing	(12,072)	(12,060)
Pensions Liability	(38,130)	(36,566)
Other Long Term Liabilities and Provisions	(1,105)	(666)
Net Assets	**2,247**	**7,394**
Represented by: Usable Reserves	**7,658**	**9,550**
: Unusable Reserves	**(5,411)**	**(2,156)**

How can the Authority have experienced such an increase in value when the additional reserves generated by its revenue activities, at £0.955million, account for only 20% of the £5million? The answer is a combination of an increase in the carrying value of its non-current assets and a decrease in the Authority's long term pension liability.

- Non-current Assets – all the property plant and equipment owned by the Authority are professionally valued on a five year rolling cycle to ensure that their carrying value on the Balance Sheet reflects an up-to-date position. At the end of 2017/18 the valuation process has resulted in a cumulative increase in the carrying value of the Authority's properties of some £4million.

- Pension Liability – under financial accounting regulations the Authority's Balance Sheet must show the cumulative net value of its pension scheme if all the assets and liabilities became realisable or payable on the 31st March. While in reality pension schemes continue over generations this snap shot measurement draws attention to any underlying long term strengths or weaknesses. The measurements applied to the Council's scheme at the end of 2017/18 reduced the liability reported on the Balance Sheet by £1.5million to £36.57million. The value of the pension as reported on the Balance Sheet is a significant liability for the Council. However because this liability only falls due over the long term, measures have been put in place that ensure the Authority's continuing financial viability. At a national level Government has altered future scheme benefits and entitlements while locally both Council and employee contributions have increased. In addition the Authority makes annual lump sum contributions into the fund to further reduce the deficit. In 2017/18 the Authority chose to make the next two year's contributions in advance so as to benefit from a cash discount. The in-year change in liability shown on the Balance Sheet is broadly in line with the value of the two years paid in advance, £1.354million.

Both asset and pension valuations are performed on behalf of the Council by suitably qualified professionals guided by statute and best practice. Their valuations however represent a snapshot as at 31st March 2018 and reflect the market forces and other valuation factors relevant at that date.

The Council's Corporate Plan

Following the local elections in May 2015, the Council has developed a new Corporate Plan covering the period 2015-2019 which supports the vision of 'Achieving excellence in the delivery of high quality services that meet the needs and aspirations of our communities'. The vision is articulated by four aims which are supported by a number of objectives which provide the framework for delivery of individual service plans.

These are summarised below:

	Aim	Objectives
1	Help create a safer and healthier environment for our communities to live and work	• Increased supply of good quality affordable homes • Develop a positive relationship with communities • Effective relationship with strategic partners • Effective support of community safety arrangements including CCTV • Provision of sports facilities and leisure opportunities focused upon improving health
2	Meet our financial challenges and provide value for money	• Effective use of financial and other resources to ensure value for money • Ensure services are easily available to all our residents in the appropriate channels and provided "right first time" • A high performing and well motivated workforce • More effective use of Council assets
3	Help create a strong economy by supporting further regeneration of towns and villages	• Encourage business start-ups and enterprises • Flourishing town centres that support the local economy • Encourage and develop tourism • High quality development and building control with an "open for business" approach
4	Protect and improve the environment	• Effective recycling and waste management • Promote environmentally sustainable policies and practices • Provision of high quality public amenities, clean streets and environmental health • Provision of quality parks and open spaces • Car parking arrangements that meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors

Our Performance Framework, which measures our success in delivering the Corporate Plan, also reflects the three pillars of value for money: economy, efficiency and effectiveness and is fully aligned to the Council's new corporate objectives. The Council is currently developing a new Annual Report, which will take stock of the progress made in delivery of the Corporate Plan objectives and use comparative performance and cost measures to help shape the Council's refreshed objectives for the final year of the 2015-2019 Corporate Plan.

Following the completion of an organisation-wide service transformation process in 2016/17, the Council developed, in partnership with its workforce, a new set of core values called 'CHOICE'. These values are being reinforced and reflected in employee performance and behavioural objectives through the Council's new approach to appraisal and employee development called PEP – Plan, Enable, Perform

Risk Management

The Council ensures that it undertakes a deliberate and systematic identification of the key risks that might prevent, degrade, delay or enhance the achievement of its objectives and priorities. The Council's Risk Management Strategy sets out the process for undertaking this on an ongoing basis. In addition to the identification of risks, managers also have to quantify them in terms of likelihood and potential impact. The risks are then recorded in the Council's Risk Registers. These have three aspects – strategic, operational and project risks. The Council's Strategic, Operational and Project Risk Registers are reviewed on a quarterly basis and reported into the Corporate Risk Management Group and the Audit and Accounts Committee on an exception basis.

Our Performance in 2017/18

The Council used a range of financial and other indicators to measure performance in 2017/18. At the end of March, 76% of the Council's performance targets for the year had been met. Compared to last year 75% of measures had either maintained or improved on their previous year's performance.

The Council also exceeded its targets in a number of areas including: households in temporary accommodation, homelessness prevention; complaints dealt with within 10 working days; Council Tax and Business Rates collection, Internal Audit recommendations implemented on time; sundry debt reduction; invoices paid on time; and 'Major', 'Minor' and 'other' planning applications processed on time.

The service areas which fell short of target include Housing Benefit new claims processing, planning appeals defended, missed bins, town centre vacancy rates, fly-tipping incidents, and Council owned business units occupied.

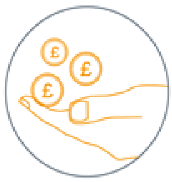
For those measures that fell below the target set for the year we have developed actions for improvement, where feasible, as part of our performance reporting to senior managers and members. As well as comparing performance over time and against target, we also compare our performance with other Councils nationally through local benchmarking clubs and through the Local Government Association's (LGA) online benchmarking tool 'Inform'.

Delivering against our Corporate Aims

The Council's Corporate Plan has four key aims, and below we have highlighted some of our achievements last year in relation to each of them.

Help create a safer and healthier environment for our communities to live and work - This aim covers our objectives around affordable housing, sports and leisure, community safety, community relations and the effectiveness of our strategic partnerships. Last year we:

- ✓ Secured £75,000 of external funding to support our Sport and Physical Activity Strategy
- ✓ Dealt with over 400 homeless presentations
- ✓ Developed an Empty Property Strategy
- ✓ Launched the Safe and Sound service to support the upgrading of security in vulnerable people's homes
- ✓ Supported the improved provision of outreach workers for domestic violence through the Community Safety Partnership's Link Worker project
- ✓ Used the crime and policing powers to issue 30 warning letters, 3 Community Protection Notices, 4 Criminal Behaviour Orders and 1 Injunction
- ✓ Introduced new tennis and netball programmes to the Staffordshire Moorlands, with over 200 young people now experiencing new weekly coaching sessions
- ✓ Utilised six different providers to deliver over 130 activities across Staffordshire Moorlands during the 2017 summer school holiday SPACE programme



Meet financial challenges and provide value for money – This aim covers our objectives around value for money, customer access, use of assets and a high performing and motivated workforce. Last year we:

- ✓ Completed Phase One of our channel shift programme, resulting in 100% of Benefit Claims now being made online and reduced face to face and telephone contacts
- ✓ Introduced a new customer portal – OneVu – as part of our ican campaign, and attracted 10,500 new accounts across the alliance that enable customers to view Council Tax / Benefits details online
- ✓ Developed and published a new Annual Report, which provides value for money insights and contextual information, in order to help inform corporate planning and performance targets.
- ✓ Achieved the prestigious RoSpa Gold Award in recognition of our approach to health and safety at work
- ✓ Exceeded our Council Tax and Business Rates collection targets

Help create a strong economy by supporting further regeneration of towns and villages – This aim covers our objectives around tourism, flourishing town centres, encouraging new business and promoting an open for business approach in our development and building control functions. Last year we:

- ✓ Determined 100% of 'major' planning applications on time and assisted 238 customers through our Planning Surgeries
- ✓ Launched a new market in Cheadle at Greyhound Walk
- ✓ Carried out the Preferred Options consultation for the Staffordshire Moorlands Plan; over 2500 comments were received, analysed and responded to

- ✓ Held a successful year of varied events and exhibitions at The Nicholson Museum & Art Gallery
- ✓ Submitted a planning application for extending the heritage rail link from Leekbrook to Leek (Cornhill) with the help of grant money from Moorlands Partnership. This is a big leap forward to put the rail back on track and provide visitors the opportunity to travel from Leek to Froghall. Work also started on site for the reinstatement of Leekbrook station

Protect and improve the environment – This aim covers our objectives around waste and recycling, clean streets, environmental health, quality parks and open spaces, environmental sustainability and car parking. Last year we:

- ✓ Carried out 100% of 'high risk' premises interventions to safeguard public health
- ✓ Exceeded our recycling target of 55% for household waste and our residual waste targets
- ✓ Supported 60 community clean-up campaigns
- ✓ Undertook over 600 environmental crime enforcements in order to tackle dog fouling, littering and fly-tipping, and issued 52 Fixed Penalty Notices
- ✓ Helped ensure that 98% of Food Premised meet the Food Standards Agency criteria for compliance through a rigorous inspection programme

Key Strategic Partnerships

Strategic Alliance

In 2008 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council entered into a "Strategic Alliance" (the Alliance) with our neighbours, High Peak Borough Council. The primary aim of the Alliance is, through joint working, to drive through service improvements, whilst reducing costs in order to increase value-for-money and minimise future council tax increases. The arrangement – which has featured a fully integrated Joint Senior Management Team and widespread joint service delivery – crosses both county and regional boundaries. The Alliance sits at the heart of the Council's Efficiency and Rationalisation Strategy. The 'Alliance' celebrates 10 years of existence during 2018, consequently, there are plans in place to focus on and celebrate what has been achieved during this time.

Affordable Housing Joint Venture

On 21st September 2010 the Council formally entered, through the incorporation of Ascent Housing LLP, into a joint venture with Your Housing Group Limited. The Council has 49% of the shareholding in this Limited Liability Partnership and appoints two out of the four executive board directors. This Joint Venture is the Authority's main vehicle for the provision of affordable housing across the District. Information about the Council's interests in the Joint Venture is contained in more detail within the Group Accounts.

On 31 July 2017 Your Housing Group Limited undertook a corporate restructure. As part of the corporate restructure Moorlands Housing transferred its undertakings into Arena Housing Group Limited, a subsidiary of Your Housing Group Limited. On the same date Arena Housing Group Limited changed its name to Your Housing Limited. Ascent Housing LLP has a £5,000,000 loan with Moorlands Housing which has transferred to Your Housing Limited as part of the restructure. The terms and conditions of the loan are unaffected.

A review of the Ascent corporate structure is currently being reviewed in light of the future potential financial challenges as forecast in the latest Ascent business plan. Whilst there are no short term issues of going concern, there are potential long-term challenges – particularly the ability of Ascent to repay its debts in the long term which need to be addressed.
There are a number of strategic options being considered, which are summarised as:-

- Retain the existing structure
- The Council acquires the Your Housing Group stake in Ascent by acquiring the properties. At which point Ascent LLP would be wound up
- Your Housing Group acquires the Council's stake in Ascent by acquiring the properties. At which point Ascent LLP would be wound up
- Your Housing Group exits the partnership and are replaced by another Registered Provider

Pending any future decision on corporate structure, valuers have been instructed to assess the valuation of Ascent's property. The results of this exercise will inform further discussions between the Council and Your Housing Group.

Environmental Services Joint Venture – Alliance Environmental Services (AES)
The Council, along with Alliance partner High Peak Borough Council, has agreed in principle to establish a joint venture partnership with Ansa - a subsidiary of Cheshire East Council - to deliver waste collection, street cleaning, grounds maintenance and fleet management services. This project forms part of the new Efficiency and Rationalisation Programme and savings of over £1m (Alliance wide) are expected as a result of the new arrangements.
The new arrangements are being introduced in a phased approached with phase one having taken place in August 2017 which focused on the transfer of the outsourced High Peak B.C. waste service to the joint venture company – Alliance Environmental Services. The second phase, which will focus on the transfer of the Staffordshire

Moorlands D.C. Waste service and both High Peak B.C. and Staffordshire Moorlands D.C. Fleet arrangements is taking place in July 2018. This is likely to be followed later in the year by the transfer of the Streets Scene and Parks services.

The collaborative arrangement has been assessed to be a joint operation with 100% of the service being used by High Peak Borough Council at the reporting date and therefore is consolidated into the single entity financial statements of High Peak Borough Council. The financial results of the company for the 2017/18 year and the assessment of the joint arrangement is described in note 2e Interests in Companies & other entities and Joint arrangements.

Explanation of the Financial Statements

The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018 has been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The format and content of the financial statements are prescribed by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18, which in turn is underpinned by the International Financial Reporting Standards.

The Council's core financial statements, beginning at page 26, are listed below along with a brief explanation of their purpose:

- ***Movement on Reserves -*** this statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Authority's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund for council tax setting purposes. The Net Increase/(Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to/from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council;

- ***Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement*** – this statement is fundamental to the understanding of the Council's activities, in that it reports the net cost for the year of all the functions for which the Council is responsible and demonstrates how that cost has been financed from general government grants and income from local taxpayers;

- ***Balance Sheet*** - this explains the Council's financial position at the year-end. It provides details of the Council's balances and reserves and its long-term indebtedness. It also shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council; and

- ***Cash Flow Statement*** - this illustrates the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.

In addition, the Council is also required to produce two supplementary statements: -

- ***Collection Fund*** - this reflects the statutory requirement for the Authority to maintain a separate account providing details of receipts of council tax and business rates and the associated payments to precepting authorities.
- ***Group Accounts* –** these statements show consolidated Group Accounts for those subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures in which the Council has a material interest. In 2017/18, the Council has just one material interest which gives rise to group accounts for Ascent Housing LLP, a joint venture in which it holds a 49% share.

The 2017/18 Statement of Accounts shows that our finances remain sound. Revenue and capital spending is controlled by affordable budgets while assets and reserves exist to support services and the achievement of key priorities.

Date: 27th July 2018

Andrew P Stokes BA (Hons), MBA, CPFA, CIHM, CIMSPA

Executive Director & Chief Finance Officer

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL BY AUDIT & ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

I confirm that these accounts were approved by the meeting of the Audit and Accounts Committee held on 27th July 2018.

Councillor Tony D Hall

Chair of the Audit & Accounts Committee

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required:

- To make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority, that officer is the Executive Director (Chief Finance Officer (CFO));
- To manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets; and
- To approve the statement of accounts.

The Executive Director's Responsibilities

The Executive Director (CFO) is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Financial Statements. These, in terms of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ('the Code of Practice'), are required to present the true and fair financial position of the Council at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year (ended 31st March 2018).

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Executive Director (CFO) has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and decisions that were reasonable and prudent; and
- Complied with the Code of Practice.

The Executive Director (CFO) has also:

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

Certificate of the Executive Director (CFO)

I certify that this Statement of Accounts gives a 'true and fair' view of the financial position of the Council at 31st March 2018 and its income and expenditure for the year.

Andrew P. Stokes BA (Hons), MBA, CPFA, CIHM, CIMSPA
Executive Director & Chief Finance Officer
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Statement of Accounting Policy

The purpose of this section is to explain the basis for the recognition, measurement and disclosure of transactions and other events in the accounts.

1. Accounting Policies

The Accounting Policies set out on pages 94-103 have been applied in producing the statements. They are based on best practice and legislative requirements, including CIPFA's Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom for 2017/18.

2. Accounting Standards Issued, Not Adopted

The 2018/19 Code of Practice introduces changes to a number of the reporting standards to be applied to future Statements. The Authority is obliged to consider what, if any, the impact would have been on these Statements had they been applied in 2017/18.

Financial Instruments (IFRS9): classification and impairment.

Classification: Financial assets previously categorised as 'Loans and Receivables, Available for Sale and Fair Value through Profit and Loss' are to be reclassified on the basis of their cash flow characteristics and how an instrument is managed. Their resulting new classification will be one of 'Amortised Cost, Fair Value through Comprehensive Income and Fair Value through Profit and Loss'. It is likely that adoption of this standard will lead to the reclassification of certain assets.

Impairment: The adoption of an approach that measures impairment based on an expectation of future losses is to replace one currently based on actual losses incurred. Owing to the strict credit quality arrangements the Authority applies to its Treasury transactions it is considered unlikely that there will be a material impact on reported impairment values.

Revenue from contracts with customers (IFRS 15): principles of reporting revenues and cash flows.

A five-step process is set out to recognise and measure contract and sales revenue based on when a customer is able to take effective control and substantially benefit from the goods or services provided. It is not anticipated that the Authority's revenue streams will be materially impacted by adoption of this standard.

3. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in part 1 of this section, the Authority has had regard to the materiality of the transactions being reported. It has also had to make certain judgments about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgments made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- The Authority has had to review certain contractual arrangements to decide if they are in the nature of a lease and if so determine whether they were classified as Operational or Finance. These decisions are often based on judgements as to where the practical control of an asset lies;

- The Authority undertakes an annual assessment for indications of impairment of its assets. This assessment is performed by specialist staff with reference to external advice;

- An exercise is performed to assess whether capital spend restores or enhances an asset. A further judgement is then made as to whether there is a consequent requirement to derecognise any existing value of any component of the asset;

- Alliance Environmental Services Ltd (AES) is a company created between Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, High Peak Borough Council and Ansa Environmental Services Ltd (Ansa), a wholly owned subsidiary of Cheshire East Council. Phase 1 of the transfer of services commenced on 7th August 2017 to deliver High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) Waste services. This collaboration has been determined to be a Joint Operation with 100% of the service delivery to HPBC and is therefore consolidated in to HPBC's single entity financial statements. Whilst Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has an equivalent interest in the company, the service delivery to the Council is 0% therefore there is nothing to consolidate into the Council's financial statements. The relationship, details of this assessment and financial performance and results of the company are included in note 2e Interests in Companies & other entities and Joint arrangements.

- There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the Authority has determined that this uncertainly is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the authority might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.

4. Assumptions Made about the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Authority about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates. The items in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2018 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied (Note 5f highlights key assumptions). A 1% change in the assessed carrying value of the Authority's pension liability equates to £379,200. (Total £37,920,000)
Asset Valuations	The valuations of property, plant and equipment reported in the Balance Sheet and the related depreciation charges made to the CIES are based on an estimation of their value and asset life. A firm of qualified valuers is engaged by the Authority to carry out, for the major assets, a programme of physical valuations to ensure that their carrying values are subject to professional and independent assessment. A 1% change in the assessed carrying value of the Authority's assets equates to £362,100.(Total £36,210,000)

Financial Statements

The core single entity financial statements applicable to all local authorities comprise:

- **Movement in Reserves Statement**
- **Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement**
- **Balance Sheet**
- **Cash Flow Statement**

The core financial statements are followed by supporting notes and the supplementary statements relating to:-

- **Collection Fund**
- **Group Accounts** (incorporating the Council's share in Ascent Housing LLP)

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Authority's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance for council tax setting purposes. The Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

Movement in Reserves Statement

	Notes	General Fund			Capital				
		General	Earmarked Reserves	Total	Receipts Reserve	Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Council Reserves
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2016		(3,211)	(3,782)	**(6,993)**	**(5)**	**(210)**	**(7,208)**	**2,629**	**(4,579)**
(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of Services		1,492	0	**1,492**	0	0	**1,492**	**0**	**1,492**
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0	**0**	0	0	**0**	**840**	**840**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		1,492	0	**1,492**	**0**	**0**	**1,492**	**840**	**2,332**
Adjustment between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	6	(1,897)	553	**(1,344)**	(3)	(595)	**(1,942)**	**1,942**	**0**
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		(405)	553	**148**	**(3)**	**(595)**	**(450)**	**2,782**	**2,332**
Transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves		(7)	7	**0**	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**
(Increase)/Decrease in 2016/17	**12**	(412)	560	**148**	**(3)**	**(595)**	**(450)**	**2,782**	**2,332**
Balance at 31 March 2017 carried forward		(3,623)	(3,222)	**(6,845)**	**(8)**	**(805)**	**(7,658)**	**5,411**	**(2,247)**
(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of Services		1,695	0	**1,695**	0	0	**1,695**	**0**	**1,695**
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0	**0**	0	0	**0**	**(6,842)**	**(6,842)**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		1,695	0	**1,695**	**0**	**0**	**1,695**	**(6,842)**	**(5,147)**
Adjustment between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	6	(2,649)	8	**(2,641)**	3	(949)	**(3,587)**	**3,587**	**0**
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		(954)	8	**(946)**	**3**	**(949)**	**(1,892)**	**(3,255)**	**(5,147)**
Transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves		1,471	(1,471)	**0**	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**
(Increase)/Decrease in 2017/18	**12**	517	(1,463)	**(946)**	**3**	**(949)**	**(1,892)**	**(3,255)**	**(5,147)**
Balance at 31 March 2018 carried forward		(3,106)	(4,685)	**(7,791)**	(5)	(1,754)	**(9,550)**	**2,156**	**(7,394)**

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

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

2016/17					2017/18		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Notes	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expendture
£000	£000	£000			£000	£000	£000
610	0	610	Alliance Management		648	0	648
101	0	101	Audit		124	0	124
753	0	753	ICT		751	(13)	738
39	0	39	Human Resources		53	0	53
287	(10)	277	Member Services		271	(10)	261
1,871	(313)	1,558	Property Services		2,040	(399)	1,641
16,141	(16,154)	(13)	Benefits		15,554	(15,591)	(37)
446	(403)	43	Planning Applications		469	(536)	(67)
56	(60)	(4)	Building Contol		28	(44)	(16)
726	(23)	703	Customer Services		640	(25)	615
258	(7)	251	Legal Services		226	(24)	202
30	(30)	0	Electoral Services		48	(23)	25
81	(276)	(195)	Licensing and Land Charges		54	(279)	(225)
517	(62)	455	Regeneration		565	(46)	519
518	(31)	487	Communities and Cultural		503	0	503
82	(1)	81	Housing Strategy		32	(81)	(49)
238	0	238	Transformation		210	0	210
287	(76)	211	Community Safety and Enforcement		269	(82)	187
789	(422)	367	Finance and Procurement		965	(365)	600
454	(42)	412	Corporate Finance		343	(26)	317
4,153	(1,644)	2,509	Waste Collection		4,392	(1,639)	2,753
620	(185)	435	Street Scene		682	(192)	490
1,849	(34)	1,815	Leisure Services		1,780	(6)	1,774
783	(170)	613	Horticulture		755	(169)	586
483	(714)	(231)	Visitor Services		543	(799)	(256)
328	(486)	(158)	Environmental Health		1,135	(1,601)	(466)
32,500	**(21,143)**	**11,357**	**Cost of Services**		**33,080**	**(21,950)**	**11,130**
1,206	0	1,206	Other Operating Expenditure	3a	1,567	(35)	1,532
1,590	(1,016)	574	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	3b	1,257	(845)	412
	(11,645)	(11,645)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and expenditure	3c		(11,379)	(11,379)
		1,492	**(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services**				**1,695**
		(524)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment Assets	13			(5,307)
		1,364	Remeasurement of the net defined pension benefit liability	5			(1,535)
		840	**Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**				**(6,842)**
		2,332	**Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**				**(5,147)**

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet provides an overall summary of the financial position of the Council as at 31st March 2018. It shows the Council's balances and reserves and its long-term indebtedness, and the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council.

31st March 2017 £000		Notes	31st March 2018 £000
28,446	Property, Plant & Equipment	7a	32,193
572	Heritage Assets		572
3,378	Investment Properties	7b	3,378
87	Intangible Assets		67
9,820	Long Term Debtors	9	9,869
42,303	**TOTAL LONG TERM ASSETS**		**46,079**
500	Short Term Investments	14d	1,001
102	Inventories		102
9,354	Short Term Debtors	9	10,023
5,970	Cash and Cash Equivalents	8	4,861
15,926	**TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS**		**15,987**
(5,019)	Short Term Borrowings	14a	(5,008)
(3,874)	Short Term Creditors	10	(4,062)
(801)	Provisions	11	(1,317)
(9,694)	**TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES**		**(10,387)**
(7,053)	Long Term Borrowing		(7,053)
(38,130)	Pensions Liability	5c	(36,566)
(854)	Other Long Term Liabilities	7h	(524)
(251)	Grants Receipts in Advance - Capital		(142)
(46,288)	**TOTAL LONG TERM LIABILITIES**		**(44,285)**
2,247	**TOTAL NET ASSETS**		**7,394**
7,658	Usable Reserves	12	9,550
(5,411)	Unusable Reserves	13	(2,156)
2,247	**TOTAL RESERVES**		**7,394**

The unaudited accounts were issued on 31st May 2018 and the audited accounts were authorised for issue on 27th July 2018.

Andrew P Stokes BA (Hons), MBA, CPFA, CIHM, CIMSPA
Executive Director & Chief Finance Officer

Cash Flow Statement

This statement summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.

2016/17 £000		Notes	2017/18 £000
(1,492)	Net Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services		(1,695)
3,201	Adjustment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements	17a	2,277
(1,119)	Adjust for Item Included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities	17a	(1,852)
590	**Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities**		**(1,270)**
1,135	Investing Activities	17c	248
(1,877)	Financing Activities	17d	(87)
(152)	**Net Increase or (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents**		**(1,109)**
6,122	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period	8	5,970
5,970	**Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period**		**4,861**

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes to the core financial statements are shown below. Some are dictated by statute while others are included to add clarity.

1. *Amounts Reported for Resource Allocation Decisions*

Decisions about resource allocation are taken by the Authority's Cabinet on financial reports prepared on a different basis from the accounting policies used in the financial statements. In particular:

- *no charges are made in relation to capital expenditure (whereas depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses in excess of the balance on the Revaluation Reserve and amortisations are charged to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement);*
- *the cost of retirement benefits is based on cash flows (payment of employer's pensions contributions) rather than current service cost of benefits accrued in year;*

The following tables analyse and show the relationship between the statutory statements and the financial information reported to and used by the decision makers.

1a. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

2016/17				2017/18		
Net Expenditure to General Fund Balance	Adjustments Funding & Accounting	Net Expenditure in the CIES		Net Expenditure to General Fund Balance	Adjustments Funding & Accounting	Net Expenditure in the CIES
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
535	75	610	Alliance Management	482	166	648
90	11	101	Audit	93	31	124
646	107	753	ICT	629	109	738
39	0	39	Human Resources	53	0	53
277	0	277	Member Services	261	0	261
1,144	414	1,558	Property Services	1,273	368	1,641
(13)	0	(13)	Benefits	(95)	58	(37)
24	19	43	Planning Applications	(115)	48	(67)
(4)	0	(4)	Building Contol	(16)	0	(16)
676	27	703	Customer Services	544	71	615
251	0	251	Legal Services	192	10	202
(4)	4	0	Electoral Services	25	0	25
(195)	0	(195)	Licensing and Land Charges	(225)	0	(225)
407	48	455	Regeneration	450	69	519
465	22	487	Communities and Cultural	445	58	503
81	0	81	Housing Strategy	(49)	0	(49)
225	13	238	Transformation	191	19	210
170	41	211	Community Safety and Enforcement	146	41	187
321	46	367	Finance and Procurement	465	135	600
1,150	(738)	412	Corporate Finance	1,176	(859)	317
1,968	541	2,509	Waste Collection	2,055	698	2,753
307	128	435	Street Scene	336	154	490
610	1,205	1,815	Leisure Services	587	1,187	1,774
576	37	613	Horticulture	542	44	586
(316)	85	(231)	Visitor Services	(361)	105	(256)
407	(565)	(158)	Environmental Health	442	(908)	(466)
9,837	**1,520**	**11,357**	**Cost of Services**	**9,526**	**1,604**	**11,130**
(9,689)	(176)	(9,865)	Other Income and Expenditure	(10,472)	1,037	(9,435)
148	**1,344**	**1,492**	**Cost of Services**	**(946)**	**2,641**	**1,695**
(6,993)			**Opening General Fund Balance**	**(6,845)**		
148			Less (Surplus) or Deficit in Year	(946)		
(6,845)			**Closing General Fund Balance**	**(7,791)**		

1b. Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This note provides a reconciliation of the main adjustments to Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund to arrive at the amounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2016/17					2017/18			
Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change of the Pension Adjustment	Other Differences	Total Adjustments		Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change of the Pension Adjustment	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000
0	75	0	75	Alliance Management	0	166	0	**166**
0	11	0	11	Audit	0	31	0	**31**
107	0	0	107	ICT	109	0	0	**109**
0	0	0	0	Human Resources	0	0	0	**0**
0	0	0	0	Member Services	0	0	0	**0**
226	9	179	414	Property Services	231	31	106	**368**
0	0	0	0	Benefits	0	58	0	**58**
0	19	0	19	Planning Applications	0	48	0	**48**
0	0	0	0	Building Contol	0	0	0	**0**
0	27	0	27	Customer Services	0	71	0	**71**
0	0	0	0	Legal Services	0	10	0	**10**
0	4	0	4	Electoral Services	0	0	0	**0**
0	0	0	0	Licensing and Land Charges	0	0	0	**0**
37	11	0	48	Regeneration	36	33	0	**69**
0	22	0	22	Communities and Cultural	1	57	0	**58**
0	0	0	0	Housing Strategy	0	0	0	**0**
0	13	0	13	Transformation	0	19	0	**19**
41	0	0	41	Community Safety and Enforcement	41	0	0	**41**
0	46	0	46	Finance and Procurement	0	135	0	**135**
(526)	(606)	394	(738)	Corporate Finance	(379)	(798)	318	**(859)**
422	119	0	541	Waste Collection	370	328	0	**698**
113	15	0	128	Street Scene	113	41	0	**154**
1,205	0	0	1,205	Leisure Services	1,187	0	0	**1,187**
37	0	0	37	Horticulture	44	0	0	**44**
(31)	9	107	85	Visitor Services	0	19	86	**105**
(593)	28	0	(565)	Environmental Health	(1,006)	98	0	**(908)**
1,038	**(198)**	**680**	**1,520**	**Cost of Services**	**747**	**347**	**510**	**1,604**
133	1,239	(1,548)	(176)	Other Income and Expenditure	140	978	(81)	1,037
1,171	**1,041**	**(868)**	**1,344**	**Difference between General Fund (Surplus)/ Deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**	**887**	**1,325**	**429**	**2,641**

Adjustments for Capital Purposes

Adjustments to General Fund Balances to meet the requirement of generally accepted accounting practices.

Within Cost of Services

- adds in depreciation and impairment on Assets used by the service, and
- adjusts for any revaluation gains and losses on those Assets.

Within Other Income and Expenditure

- Adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.
- 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.
- Capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the

year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year.
- 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
Net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income.

Within Cost of Services
- The removal of the employer pension contributions made by the Authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.

Within Other Income and Expenditure
- Records the net interest on the defined benefit liability charged to the CIES.

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

Within Cost of Services
- Statutory adjustment for a financial instrument relating to a decision to issue a soft loan (below market rates)
- Accounting for the employee accumulated absence liability.

Within Other Income and Expenditure
- Adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.
- The difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and NNDR that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future Surpluses or Deficits on the Collection Fund.

1c. Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

This represents a subjective analysis of the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services as reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
Employee Expenses	7,887	8,247
Other Service Expenses	24,319	23,492
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	2,095	2,317
Interest Payments	351	279
Precepts & Levies	1,073	1,140
Derecognition and Disposal Value of Fixed Assets	133	427
Total Expenditure	**35,858**	**35,902**
Fees, Charges & Other Service Income	(4,668)	(4,869)
Interest and Investment Income	(690)	(653)
Council Tax	(6,012)	(6,210)
Business Rates	(2,991)	(3,231)
Government Grant	(18,886)	(17,393)
Capital Grants and Contributions	(1,119)	(1,816)
Capital Receipts	0	(35)
Total Income	**(34,366)**	**(34,207)**
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**1,492**	**1,695**

1d. Segmental Analysis

This Table shows which services generated the Fees, Charges and Other Income reported at 1c.

2016/17 £000	Fees, Charges and Other Income	2017/18 £000
(10)	Member Services	(10)
(492)	Property Services	(504)
(277)	Benefits	(299)
(403)	Planning Applications	(536)
(59)	Building Contol	(44)
(23)	Customer Services	(25)
(7)	Legal Services	(24)
(2)	Electoral Services	(2)
(270)	Licensing and Land Charges	(258)
(6)	Housing Strategy	(1)
0	Community Safety and Enforcement	(10)
(201)	Finance and Procurement	(226)
(34)	Corporate Finance	(17)
(1,644)	Waste Collection	(1,639)
(184)	Street Scene	(192)
(3)	Leisure Services	(4)
(120)	Horticulture	(117)
(821)	Visitor Services	(885)
(72)	Environmental Health	(76)
(4,628)	**Total Analysed on a Segmental Basis**	**(4,869)**
(40)	Other Expenditure and Income	0
(4,668)	**Total**	**(4,869)**

2. Net Cost of Services

The following transactions, included in the Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement, are considered in more detail:

a. Member Allowances

b. Officer Remuneration

c. Related Party Transactions

d. Audit Costs

e. Interest in Companies & Other Entities and Joint Arrangements

2a. Members' Allowances

The Council paid the following amounts to members of the Council during the year.

	2017/18 £	2016/17 £
Allowances	242,900	242,128
Expenses	8,046	11,620
Total	**250,946**	**253,748**

2b. Officers' Remuneration

Remuneration paid to the Authority's senior employees:

Under the management arrangements for the Alliance, costs and responsibilities for senior posts are shared between Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and High Peak Borough Council based on proportion of time allocated to the two Authorities, including Housing Revenue Account responsibilities at High Peak. In line with the regulations the remuneration of senior officers is included in the disclosure within the Statement of Accounts of the Authority by whom they are employed and paid.

2017/18	Salary, Fees and Allowances £	Expenses Allowances £	Total (excl Pension cont) £	Pension Contribution £	Total (inc Pension cont) £	Proportion of Total charged to HPBC £	Net Charge to SMDC £
Senior Officer with Salary over £150,000							
Chief Executive Officer - S Baker	160,947	25,486	186,433	27,629	214,062	127,409	86,653
Senior Officers with Salary over £50,000 to £150,000							
Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer	122,807	6,740	129,547	20,386	149,933	89,960	59,973
Executive Director & Monitoring Officer	117,759	3,244	121,003	19,527	140,530	84,318	56,212
Head of Customer Services	68,403	963	69,366	11,355	80,721	56,505	24,216
Head of Operational Services	68,403	963	69,366	11,355	80,721	48,433	32,288
Audit Services Manager	56,886	4,774	61,660	9,443	71,103	42,662	28,441
Democratic & Community Services Manager	56,886	963	57,849	9,443	67,292	33,646	33,646
Finance & Procurement Manager	56,886	963	57,849	9,443	67,292	33,646	33,646
Regeneration Manager	56,886	963	57,849	9,443	67,292	33,646	33,646
Operations Manager Environment Services (Regulatory)	54,681	5,443	60,124	9,077	69,201	34,601	34,600
Operations Manager Contract Management	54,681	963	55,644	9,077	64,721	35,597	29,124
Operations Manager Direct Services	54,768	963	55,731	9,092	64,823	25,929	38,894
	929,993	**52,428**	**982,421**	**155,270**	**1,137,691**	**646,352**	**491,339**

As can be seen from the tables above, there is a recharge to High Peak BC of £646,352 for the posts paid by Staffordshire Moorlands DC. However as a number of the

Directors and Senior Service Managers are employed and paid by High Peak BC, there is a recharge back to Staffordshire Moorlands DC of £215,378 as detailed below.

2017/18	Salary, Fees and Allowances	Expenses Allowances	Total (excl Pension cont)	Pension Contribution	Total(inc Pension cont)	Charge to SMDC	Net Charge to HPBC
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Executive Director	97,546	963	98,509	12,096	110,605	49,772	60,833
Organisational Development & Transformation Manager	51,823	963	52,786	6,426	59,212	23,685	35,527
Legal & Electoral Services Manager	52,534	963	53,497	6,507	60,004	24,002	36,002
Visitor Services Manager	60,526	963	61,489	0	61,489	24,596	36,893
Asset Manager	58,788	963	59,751	7,290	67,041	22,124	44,917
Operational Manager - Planning & Building Control	54,681	963	55,644	6,780	62,424	31,212	31,212
Operational Manager - Housing & Benefits	52,061	963	53,024	6,455	59,479	11,896	47,583
Operational Manager - Customer Services	54,681	963	55,644	6,780	62,424	28,091	34,333
	482,640	**7,704**	**490,344**	**52,334**	**542,678**	**215,378**	**327,300**

2016/17 Comparatives

2016/17	Salary, Fees and Allowances	Expenses Allowances	Total (excl Pension cont)	Pension Contribution	Total (inc Pension cont)	Proportion of Total charged to HPBC	Net Charge to SMDC
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Senior Officer with Salary over £150,000							
Chief Executive Officer - S Baker	160,448	20,874	181,322	26,453	207,775	113,493	94,282
Senior Officers with Salary over £50,000 to £150,000							
Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer	124,078	6,069	130,147	20,218	150,365	82,701	67,664
Executive Director & Monitoring Officer	118,987	1,330	120,317	19,347	139,664	83,798	55,866
Organisational Development & Transformation Manager	66,237	963	67,200	10,995	78,195	46,917	31,278
Head of Operational Services	67,726	963	68,689	11,242	79,931	43,962	35,969
Audit Services Manager	54,140	4,015	58,155	8,987	67,142	40,285	26,857
Democratic & Community Services Manager	56,323	963	57,286	9,350	66,636	33,318	33,318
Finance & Procurement Manager	54,140	963	55,103	8,987	64,090	32,045	32,045
Regeneration Manager	54,140	963	55,103	8,987	64,090	28,841	35,249
Operations Manager Environment Services	51,773	3,617	55,390	0	55,390	27,695	27,695
Operations Manager Contract Management	51,773	963	52,736	8,594	61,330	33,732	27,598
Operations Manager Direct Services	52,207	963	53,170	8,666	61,836	24,734	37,102
	911,972	**42,646**	**954,618**	**141,826**	**1,096,444**	**591,521**	**504,923**

Senior Officers with between £50,000 and £150,000 charged from High Peak Borough Council during 2016/17:

2016/17	Salary, Fees and Allowances	Expenses Allowances	Total (excl Pension cont)	Pension Contribution	Total(inc Pension cont)	Proportion of Total charged to SMDC	Net Charge to HPBC
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Executive Director	96,579	963	97,542	11,976	109,518	60,235	49,283
Head of Service - Customer Services*	55,168	811	55,979	6,841	62,820	18,846	43,974
Head of Service - Regulatory Services**	49,230	727	49,957	6,167	56,124	28,062	28,062
Visitor Services Manager	60,474	963	61,437	0	61,437	24,575	36,862
Asset Manager	58,206	963	59,169	7,218	66,387	21,908	44,479
Operational Manager - Planning & Building Control	50,940	963	51,903	6,316	58,219	29,110	29,109
Operational Manager - Customer Services	51,773	963	52,736	6,420	59,156	26,620	32,536
	422,370	**6,353**	**428,723**	**44,938**	**473,661**	**209,356**	**264,305**

* Left February 2017

** Left December 2016

Termination benefits paid to the Authority's non senior employees:

The Authority, in conjunction with High Peak BC, entered into a joint Voluntary Redundancy process during 2010/11, whereby the contracts of a number of employees were approved for termination. Although many of those affected left the Authority in 2011/12, a small number of further departures have occurred annually since then. In 2017/18 three such departures were approved and the costs are reflected in the table below.

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band £000	
	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18
£0 - £20,000	0	0	1	0	1	0	17	0
£20,001 - £40,000	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	62
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£60,001 - £80,000	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	62
Total	**0**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**3**	**17**	**124**

In addition to the costs included above, a further £627,727 is payable in future pension contributions on staff departures under this process since 2010/11. These costs are included when determining the banding for individual exit packages. Of the total exit package costs referred to above, £70,938 was charged to High Peak BC in 2017/18 (£8,726 in 2016/17) in respect of shared employees. High Peak BC is also liable for £184,911 of the future pension costs.

No shared employees left High Peak Borough Council in either 2017/18 or 2016/17; consequently there has been no recharge to Staffordshire Moorlands.

No senior officers left the Authority in 2017/18 under the voluntary redundancy programme.

2c. Related Parties

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

Related Parties:

Central Government - has effective control over general operations of the Council. It provides the statutory framework, provides the majority of funding and prescribes the terms of many transactions with other parties (such as Housing Benefit).

Local Authorities – such as Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Police and Fire Authority and local Parish Councils issue precepts on the Council which are shown in the Collection Fund. The County administers the Authority's pension fund. There are other transactions with these authorities involving service provision and funding.

Subsidiary, associated companies or joint ventures – the Strategic Alliance with High Peak Borough Council involves development of joint working at all levels, including shared resources and staff. The two Authorities, however, retain their political and financial independence and accountability. The Strategic Alliance has joined with Ansa, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cheshire East Council, to create a joint operation called Alliance Environmental Services (AES). Section 2e gives further detail about the Alliance and AES. The Council has a material interest in Ascent Housing LLP, a joint venture company incorporated in 2010 to provide affordable housing across the District. It has been classified as a collaborative activity, which constitutes an arrangement under which there is joint control and is included in the group accounts.

Members - have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The Council also nominates Members to sit on outside bodies. Several Council Members are also Members of Staffordshire County Council, local parish councils, or various local voluntary organisations, which the Council supports financially.

Those charitable organisations that received Authority funding that could be considered a material proportion of their total turnover, where Members have declared an interest were:

Charity	Funding £000
Biddulph in Bloom	5
Staffordshire North & Stoke on Trent Citizens Advice Bureau	23
Leek Citizens Advice Bureau	20
Cheadle Citizens Advice Bureau	23
Haregate Community Centre	15

Council Members make disclosures of relevant interests to the Council's Monitoring Officer, and also have to make declarations on individual committee decisions. The Register of Member Interests is open to public inspection, subject to prior notice, at Moorlands House.

Officers – have scope, in some circumstances, to influence Authority policy. The Chief Executive Officer maintains a record of officer interests which, together with the Authority's standards and procedures, acts as a guard against undue influence.

Related Party Transactions:
Material transactions with Central and other Local Government organisations are separately reported throughout the Statements, including the analyses of precepts, grants and pension contributions. There are no material transactions or evidence suggesting undue influence in relation to Members or Officers.

2d. Audit Costs

The costs set out below have been incurred in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and statutory inspections and to non-audit services provided by the Authority's external auditors Grant Thornton.

	2017/18 £000	2016/17 £000
Fees payable to the appointed auditors for external audit services carried out for the year	45	45
Fees payable to the external auditors for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	7	11
Fees payable in respect of other services provided by the external auditors during the year	11	21
Total	**63**	**77**

2e. Interests in companies & other entities and Joint arrangements

The Council has financial interests with a number of entities and actively pursues working in partnership with other organisations where this can improve efficiency and effectiveness in achieving key priorities. Some of the more significant joint arrangements are detailed below:

High Peak Borough Council - Strategic Alliance
On 11th June 2008, the strategic Alliance between Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and High Peak Borough Council was formally sealed at a signing ceremony in the presence of both Council leaders. The aim of the Alliance is not only to produce savings through joint procurement and working, but also to draw on the expertise of both Authorities and, in doing so, improve service provision.

Any costs and savings, incurred and accruing in an accounting period, are accounted for by the relevant Authority. The Alliance related expenditure of SMDC amounted to £3,225,596 in 2017/18 (£3,262,845 in 2016/17). The corresponding income received from HPBC was £3,509,208 in 2017/18 (£3,537,956 in 2016/17).

	Paid by SMDC to HPBC £000	Paid by HPBC to SMDC £000
Contribution to Employee Costs	2,535	2,152
Contribution to Other Costs	974	1,073
Total	**3,509**	**3,225**

Ascent Housing LLP – (Registered Company No OC358082)

Ascent Housing LLP was incorporated as a Limited Liability Partnership on 21 September 2010 and a joint venture of the Council and Your Housing Group Limited. It is classified as a joint venture as the two parties have contractually agreed to share control, such that decisions about activities that significantly affect returns require unanimous consent, and both have rights to the net assets of the partnership. The primary role of the Joint Venture is to provide affordable housing throughout the Staffordshire Moorlands. It is the accounts of Ascent LLP that are consolidated with those of the Council to produce Group Accounts.

The Council has a 49% shareholding in this company and appoints two out of the four executive board directors. The remaining shares are held by Your Housing Group Limited. Profits are to be distributed according to shareholding.

A full copy of the Ascent Housing LLP Report and Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2018 can be obtained from Ascent Housing LLP, 602 Aston Avenue, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6ZN.

Alliance Environmental Services Ltd - (Registered company number 10760856)

Alliance Environmental Services Ltd (AES) is a company created with a vision to deliver waste, street cleansing and grounds maintenance services in the Staffordshire Moorlands and High Peak areas. The company has three shareholders: Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, High Peak Borough Council and Ansa, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cheshire East Council.

The company was incorporated under the Company Act 2006 on 9 May 2017 as a private company limited by shares. It has issued ordinary shares of £1.00 each in the volume of 150 to Ansa, 25 to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and 25 to High Peak Borough Council. The registered office of the company is c/o Ansa Environmental Services Ltd, Brooks Lane, Middlewich, CW10 0JG.

Phase 1 of the transfer of services commenced on 7th August 2017 to deliver High Peak Borough Council Waste services. This followed the end of the previous contract with Veolia Environmental Services.

The relationship between the shareholders has been assessed to establish the nature of the collaborative activity and how this should be presented in the Council's financial statements. There is a signed shareholders' agreement between all three parties setting out terms and conditions on which all parties have agreed to participate in the company and the rights and obligations of each of them as its members, thus the collaborative activity constitutes an arrangement. Furthermore, specific clauses in the agreement confirm that unanimous consent is implicit in the agreement, therefore the authority has joint control of the arrangement.

The agreement indicates that the authority has rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities of the company, rather than rights to net assets, therefore the arrangement is classified as a Joint Operation. A joint operation does not require separate group accounts, instead the authority's share of the balances, income and expenditure and cash flows of the company are consolidated line by line into the authority's own Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Cash Flow Statement and Balance Sheet. This consolidation has the effect of analysing the elements of the management fee paid to AES for service delivery between employees, transport, supplies & services and 3rd party income and brings in the surplus achieved on the company's profit and loss showing the overall cost of the service.

During the year AES has provided services in proportion of 100% to High Peak Borough Council and 0% to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. Therefore 100% of the Income Statement and Balance Sheet are consolidated into High Peak Borough Council's financial statements, but there is no requirement to consolidate anything into the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council financial statements.

The company has reported a profit at the balance sheet date of £38,134, which is held on the company's balance sheet in reserves.

3. Corporate Income and Expenditure

The following transactions, included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement, are considered in more detail:

a. Other Operating Expenditure
b. Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure
c. Taxation and non-specific grant income
d. Grant income

3a. Other Operating Expenditure

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
1,073	Parish Council Precepts	1,140
0	Capital Receipts	(35)
133	Derecognition and Disposal Value of Fixed Assets	427
1,206	**Total**	**1,532**

Housing Capital Receipts

In January 2006 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) changed their position on the pooling of housing capital receipts. Previously the ODPM had advised those authorities that had closed their Housing Revenue Accounts (HRA) that they did not have to pay a proportion of any capital receipt generated by the disposal of an HRA asset to the Secretary of State. Their revised position is that ex-HRA authorities, such as this Council, should be subject to pooling and pay over receipts from HRA sales.

This change, retrospectively effective from the 1st April 2004, was subject to interpretation and challenge. After taking legal advice on the interpretation of the legislation it had been determined that payment should be made. Outstanding amounts up to 31st March 2007 have been paid. However the Council has, on the advice of their Treasury advisors, Link, formally challenged the requirement to pay over the receipts. The issue has still to be resolved; the ODPM's stance continues to be that the receipts are payable but Link's advice remains that no payment is due.

3b. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
351	Interest payable and similar charges	279
1,239	Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	978
(691)	Interest receivable and similar income	(653)
(325)	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	(192)
574	**Total**	**412**

3c. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income & Expenditure

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
(6,012)	Council Tax Income	(6,210)
(2,427)	Retained Business Rates	(2,169)
(3,145)	Non Ringfenced Government Grants	(2,757)
(61)	Capital Grants and Contributions	(243)
(11,645)	**Total**	**(11,379)**

3d. Grant Income

The Authority credited the following grants and contributions to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2017/18.

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
	Non Ringfenced Government Grants	
(1,311)	Revenue Support Grant	(744)
(565)	Business Rates Grants	(1,062)
(1,269)	New Homes Bonus Grant	(951)
(3,145)		**(2,757)**
	Capital Grants and Contributions	
(61)	Capital Grants	(243)
(61)		**(243)**
	Credited to Services	
(15,590)	Housing Benefit Subsidy	(14,949)
(218)	Housing Benefit Administration Grant	(201)
(1,009)	Disabled Facilities Grant	(1,525)
(65)	New Burdens Grants	(214)
(65)	Safer & Stronger Communities Fund	(58)
(95)	LCTRS Admin Grant	0
(28)	IER Section 31 Grant	(21)
(31)	Health Grant	0
(263)	Other Third Party Funds	(301)
(17,364)	**Total**	**(17,269)**

4. Termination Benefits

Now included within Note 2b (Officers' Remuneration) above.

5. Retirement Benefits

The impact of accounting for retirement benefits on the Council's Statement of Accounts is considered in the following sections:

a. Participation in Pension Schemes
b. Transactions relating to retirement benefits
c. Assets and Liabilities in relation to retirement benefits
d. Scheme history
e. Basis for estimating assets and liabilities
f. Sensitivity to changes in actuarial assumptions

5a. Participation in Pension Scheme

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its employees, the Council offers retirement benefits through membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Council has a commitment to make the payments, that need to be disclosed, at the time that employees earn their future entitlements. The Council is a member of the Staffordshire County Pension Fund, which is administered by Staffordshire County Council in accordance with the LGPS Regulations 1997. Overall strategy for the Fund is set by the Pensions Committee, which also monitors performance and administers the scheme. The appointment of Investment Managers is the responsibility of the Pensions Panel. Both bodies are made up of elected members.

Further information can be found in Staffordshire County Council's Superannuation Fund's Annual Report which is available upon request from the Pension Services Section, 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford ST16 2DH or via the Fund's website (www.staffspf.org.uk)

The Scheme is known as a 'Defined Benefit' and 'Funded' scheme.

Defined Benefit - the levels of benefit retiring members receive is based on their pay history and length of service.

Funded - a Pension Fund of investments is built up from employee and employer contributions to generate income streams out of which retirement benefits are paid. The Council pays contributions to the Pension Fund sufficient to ensure that it can meet future payment obligations. These contributions are set on rates that are determined by Hymans Robertson LLP, the Pension Fund's professionally qualified and independent actuaries and are based on triennial valuations of the fund. The Fund was last revalued as at 31st March 2016 and this set the required employer contribution rates for the three years commencing 1st April 2017. As the Fund is effectively underwritten by the employers, any deterioration in performance can have serious long term financial consequences for the Council. Steps have been taken nationally to mitigate this risk to the local taxpayer, by reforming the LGPS and introducing a greater element of future cost sharing between the scheme employers and the scheme beneficiaries.

5b. Transactions Relating to Retirement Benefits

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge 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 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:

	2017/18	2016/17
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	**£000**	**£000**
Current service cost	(1,847)	(1,163)
Past service cost (including curtailments)	(63)	0
Net Interest		
Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	(2,389)	(2,765)
Interest income on plan assets	1,411	1,526
Total post employment benefit charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the provision of services	**(2,888)**	**(2,402)**
Remeasurements		
Changes in demographic assumptions	0	455
Changes in financial assumptions	1,690	(12,666)
Other experience	3	1,219
Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	(161)	9,624
Total post employment benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	**(1,356)**	**(3,770)**
Movement in Reserve Statement		
Reversal of net charges made to the surplus or deficit for the provision of services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	2,888	2,402
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:		
Employers contributions payable to the scheme	**2,920**	**970**

5c. Assets and Liabilities in Relation to Retirement Benefits

The pension liability reported on the Balance Sheet shows the Council's projected liability on its share of the Staffordshire Pension Fund. This represents the underlying commitment to pay retirement benefits in the long run. It is actually a net figure comprising the following overall assets and liabilities for the Council's share of the Scheme.

Staffordshire Moorlands DC share of Pension Fund assets and liabilities	31-March-18 £000	31-March-17 £000
Estimated Assets in the Scheme	55,849	54,049
Estimated Liabilities in the Scheme	(92,415)	(92,179)
Net defined benefit obligation asset/ (Liability)	**(36,566)**	**(38,130)**

Comparison with Pension Reserve:

Pension Reserve (Note 12)	(37,920)	(38,130)
Difference	**(1,354)**	**0**

The £1,354k difference as at 31st March 2018 represented years 2 and 3 of the Authority's three year fund deficit reduction contributions as determined by the Actuary. By paying the full amount due in 2017/18 (year 1) the Authority gained a cash discount on the total amount payable.

The £1.56 million reduction in the net liability between years is broadly in line with expectation. The relative movement in individual asset and liability valuations are set out in the following two tables.

Reconciliation of Liabilities (Obligations):

Year Ended	31st March 2018 £000	31st March 2017 £000
Opening defined benefit obligation	**92,179**	**79,658**
Current service cost	1,847	1,163
Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	2,389	2,765
Contributions by scheme participants	318	321
Changes in demographic assumptions	0	(455)
Changes in financial assumptions	(1,690)	12,666
Other experience	(3)	(1,219)
Benefits paid	(2,552)	(2,580)
Unfunded benefits paid	(136)	(140)
Past service cost (including curtailments)	63	0
Closing Balance at 31 March	**92,415**	**92,179**

Reconciliation of Fair Value of Employer Assets:

Year Ended	31st March 2018 £000	31st March 2017 £000
Opening fair value of employer assets	**54,049**	**44,328**
Interest on plan assets	1,411	1,526
Remeasurements	(161)	9,624
Contributions by the employer	2,784	830
Contributions by plan participants	318	321
Benefits paid	(2,552)	(2,580)
Unfunded benefits paid	(136)	(140)
Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits	136	140
Closing fair value of employer assets	**55,849**	**54,049**

The profile of the scheme's liabilities is summarised in the table below:

Profile of Liabilities	Liability split	Weighted Average Duration*
Active members	35.50%	24.5
Deferred members	23.80%	23.6
Pensioner members	40.70%	11.4
Total	**100.0%**	**17.6**

* The Weighted Average Duration is a reflection of the average time until payment of all expected future discounted cash flows. It is determined based on membership and the financial and demographic assumptions used in the most recent actuarial valuation. The shorter the duration, the more 'mature' the employer.

5d. Scheme History

Year Ended	31-Mar-14 £000	31-Mar-15 £000	31-Mar-16 £000	31-Mar-17 £000	31-Mar-18 £000
Estimated Assets in the Scheme	40,381	45,080	44,328	54,049	55,849
Estimated Liabilities in the Scheme	(75,200)	(86,673)	(79,658)	(92,179)	(92,415)
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(34,819)	(41,593)	(35,330)	(38,130)	(36,566)

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Authority has in the long run to pay retirement benefits. The total liability of £36.57m has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Authority, as recorded in the Balance Sheet, which now stands, after taking into account these pension costs, at £7.394million.

However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Authority remains healthy. The deficit on the scheme will be made good by increasing contributions over the remaining working life of employees, as assessed by the scheme actuary.

The triennial valuation, undertaken by the scheme actuary in 2016, required the Council to make deficit reduction payments totalling £1.9 million over the following 3 years. As mentioned above, this was paid in full, in 2017/18, taking advantage of a cash reduction offered by the actuary. In addition, the Council will make current service contributions of approximately £769,000 in 2018/19.

5e. Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependant on assumptions about salary levels, mortality rates, etc.
The scheme liabilities have been assessed by Hymans Robertson LLP an independent firm of actuaries, with estimates of the County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31st March 2016.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

Financial Assumptions

Assumptions as at	31st March 2016 (% per annum)	31st March 2017 (% per annum)	31st March 2018 (% per annum)
Pension Increase Rate	2.20%	2.40%	2.40%
Salary Increase Rate	4.20%	2.80%	2.80%
Discount Rate	3.50%	2.60%	2.70%

Mortality

	31st March 2017		31st March 2018	
Longevity beyond age 65	Males	Females	Males	Females
Current Pensioners	22.1 Years	24.4 Years	22.1 Years	24.4 Years
Future Pensioners	24.1 Years	26.4 Years	24.1 Years	26.4 Years

Commutation
An allowance is included for 50% (50% in 2016/17) of future retirements to elect to take additional tax free cash up to HMRC limits and 75% of the maximum tax-free cash for post-April 2008 service.

Asset Category

The Pension Scheme's assets consist of the following categories, by proportion of the total assets held:

Asset Category		31st March 2017 Fund Value £000	31st March 2017 Asset Distribution %	31st March 2018 Fund Value £000	31st March 2018 Asset Distribution %
Equity Securities					
	Consumer	3,626	7	2,420	4
	Manufacturing	3,126	6	2,332	4
	Energy & Utilities	1,340	2	684	1
	Financial Institutions	3,620	7	2,267	4
	Health & Care	3,007	6	1,653	3
	Information Technology	3,617	7	1,582	3
	Other	54	0	61	0
Debt Securities					
	Corporate Bonds (investment grade)	4,014	7	4,237	8
Private Equity					
	All *	1,716	3	1,631	3
Real Estate					
	UK Property *	4,351	8	4,320	8
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts					
	Equities	18,039	34	26,393	46
	Bonds	2,956	5	3,286	6
	Hedge Funds *	1,061	2	981	2
	Other *	807	1	1,441	3
Cash and Cash Equivalents					
	All	2,715	5	2,561	5
Totals		**54,049**	**100**	**55,849**	**100**

* denotes asset prices not quoted in an active market

5f. Sensitivity to Changes in Actuarial Assumptions

The assumptions made by the actuary are subject to change between valuation dates as a result of variations in such factors as longevity, investment return and inflation. The table below illustrates the sensitivity to such changes and the consequent impact on the employer liability:

Sensitivity Analysis - change in assumptions at 31/3/18	Approximate % increase to Employer Liability	Aproximate monetary amount (£000)
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	10.0%	8,806
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	1.0%	1,264
0.5% Increase in the Pension Increase Rate	8.0%	7,429

6. Adjustments Between Accounting Basis & Funding Basis Under Regulations

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

2017/18	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked Reserve £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:					
Depreciation	(2,067)	0	0	0	2,067
Impairment / Revaluation losses charged to CIES	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment Written Back - Revaluation Gain	0	0	0	0	0
Movements in the fair value of Investment Properties	0	0	0	0	0
Amortisation of intangible assets	(20)	0	0	0	20
Capital Grants and contributions applied					0
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(614)	0	0	0	614
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition of non-current assets as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	(427)	0	0	0	427
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits	(2,888)	0	0	0	2,888
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:					
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	381	0	0	0	(381)
Capital Grants and contributions applied credited to the CIES	430	0	0	0	(430)
Capital Grants and contributions unapplied credited to the CIES	1,387	0	0	(1,387)	0
Employers contribution to pension schemes	1,563	0	0	0	(1,563)
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account (Capital Grants Unapplied Account)	0	0	0	438	(438)
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	35	0	(35)	0	0
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	38	0	(38)
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance payments to the Government capital receipts pool	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash.	0	0	0	0	0
Use of Earmarked Capital Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	8	0	0	(8)
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	56	0	0	0	(56)
Amount by which council tax and business rates income credited to the CIES is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(485)	0	0	0	485
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirement	0	0	0	0	0
Total Adjustments	**(2,649)**	**8**	**3**	**(949)**	**3,587**

2016/17 Comparative Figures	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked Reserve £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:					
Depreciation	(2,099)	0	0	0	2,099
Impairment / Revaluaton losses charged to CIES	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment Written Back - Revaluation Gain	31	0	0	0	(31)
Movements in the fair value of Investment Properties	39	0	0	0	(39)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(24)	0	0	0	24
Capital Grants and contributions applied	0	0	0	0	0
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(530)	0	0	0	530
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition of non-current assets as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	(133)	0	0	0	133
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits	(2,402)	0	0	0	2,402
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:					
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	419	0	0	0	(419)
Capital Grants and contributions applied credited to the CIES	474	0	0	0	(474)
Capital Grants and contributions unapplied credited to the CIES	645	0	0	(645)	0
Employers contribution to pension schemes	1,361	0	0	0	(1,361)
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account (Capital Grants Unapplied Account)	0	0	0	50	(50)
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	0	0	0	0	0
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance payments to the Government capital receipts pool	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash.	0	0	(3)	0	3
Use of Earmarked Capital Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	553	0	0	(553)
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	53	0	0	0	(53)
Amount by which council tax income credited to the CIES is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	269	0	0	0	(269)
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirement	0	0	0	0	0
Total Adjustments	**(1,897)**	**553**	**(3)**	**(595)**	**1,942**

7. Capital

This note is broken down into a number of sections covering:

a. Property, Plant & Equipment
b. Investment Properties
c. Assets Held for Sale
d. Valuation information
e. Capital expenditure & financing
f. Information on assets held
g. Commitments on capital contracts
h. Assets Held under Leases – Authority as Lessee
i. Assets Held Under Leases – Authority as Lessor

7a. Property, Plant & Equipment

The table below analyses capital expenditure, disposals, revaluations and depreciation charged on the non-current assets of the Council.

Movements in 2017/18	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
Cost or Valuation						
At April 2017	**26,346**	**9,305**	**947**	**388**	**136**	**37,122**
Additions	469	164	0	0	302	**935**
Revaluation Increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	2,523	0	0	0	0	**2,523**
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Derecognition - Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Derecognition - Other *	(399)	(2,813)	0	0	0	**(3,212)**
Other movements in Cost or Valuation	87	0	0	0	(87)	**0**
At 31 March 2018	**29,026**	**6,656**	**947**	**388**	**351**	**37,368**
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment						
At April 2017	**(1,657)**	**(7,014)**	**0**	**(5)**	**0**	**(8,676)**
Depreciation Charge	(1,425)	(639)	0	(3)	0	**(2,067)**
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	2,784	0	0	0	0	**2,784**
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Derecognition - Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Derecognition - Other	0	2,784	0	0	0	**2,784**
Other movements in Depreciation & Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
At 31 March 2018	**(298)**	**(4,869)**	**0**	**(8)**	**0**	**(5,175)**
Net Book Value						
at 31st March 2018	**28,728**	**1,787**	**947**	**380**	**351**	**32,193**
at 31st March 2017	**24,689**	**2,291**	**947**	**383**	**136**	**28,446**

* Derecognition other:- Vehicles & Plant of £2.7m operated under finance leasing arrangements which have expired and assets returned make up the bulk of other values derecognised in the table above.

The Property, Plant & Equipment 2016/17 comparative figures are illustrated below:

Movements in 2016/17	**Other Land and Buildings £000**	**Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000**	**Community Assets £000**	**Surplus Assets £000**	**Assets Under Construction £000**	**Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000**
Cost or Valuation						
At April 2016	**25,768**	**9,548**	**947**	**388**	**141**	**36,792**
Additions	6	426	0	0	65	**497**
Revaluation Increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	517	0	0	0	0	**517**
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	31	0	0	0	0	**31**
Derecognition - Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Derecognition - Other**	(46)	(669)	0	0	0	**(715)**
Other movements in Cost or Valuation	70	0	0	0	(70)	**0**
At 31 March 2017	**26,346**	**9,305**	**947**	**388**	**136**	**37,122**
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment						
At April 2016	**(245)**	**(6,938)**	**0**	**(2)**	**0**	**(7,185)**
Depreciation Charge	(1,419)	(677)	0	(3)	0	**(2,099)**
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	7	0	0	0	0	**7**
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Derecognition - Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Derecognition - Other	0	601	0	0	0	**601**
Other movements in Depreciation & Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
At 31 March 2017	**(1,657)**	**(7,014)**	**0**	**(5)**	**0**	**(8,676)**
Net Book Value						
at 31st March 2017	**24,689**	**2,291**	**947**	**383**	**136**	**28,446**
at 31st March 2016	**25,523**	**2,610**	**947**	**386**	**141**	**29,607**

Depreciation

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

- Other Land & Buildings - Up to 50 years
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment - 3 to 15 years

7b. Investment Properties

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

	2017/18 £000	2016/17 £000
Rental income from investment property	(275)	(307)
Direct operating expenses arising from investment	83	21
Net (gain)/loss	**(192)**	**(286)**

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

	2017/18 £000	2016/17 £000
Balance at start of the year	**(3,378)**	**(3,339)**
Net (gain) /loss from fair value adjustments	0	(39)
Balance at end of year	**(3,378)**	**(3,378)**

Fair Value Hierarchy

All the Council's investment property portfolio has been assessed as Level 3 (unobservable inputs) for valuation purposes (see accounting policy 23) for an explanation of fair value levels). There were no transfers between levels 1, 2 and 3 during the year. In 2017/18 the valuer carried out a desk top review of all investment properties and did not identify any properties which required a formal valuation.

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

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

There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for investment properties. The table below sets out the basis for the level 3 unobservable inputs applied in the valuation process:-

Investment Properties	As at March 2018	Valuation Technique Used to Measure Fair Value	Unobservable Inputs	Range (weighted average used)	Sensitivity
	£'000s				
Land	34	Market & Income Approach	Adjusted market evidence of rental lettings and sales of similar properties and investment yields	Rental range c. £5.25 to £25 per square foot. Investment Yields c.5% -13%	Significant changes to the indivdual inputs in rental growth; vacancy levels and investment yields could affect the reported value
Building	3,344				

Highest and best use of Investment Properties

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

7c. Assets Held for Sale

The Council does not currently have any non-current assets classified as 'assets held for sale'.

7d. Valuation Information

Under statute the Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property measured at current value or fair value as appropriate is revalued at least every five years. In addition to this requirement the council now revalue all their high value assets annually; the total value of these assets in 2018 was £21.2m. The Council's de minimis policy excludes the requirement to formally revalue assets with a current carry value of below £10,000; however these assets are still subject to an internal desk top valuation. No changes were made to the value of this group of assets as a result of the internal review. All external valuations were carried out by Urban Vision Partnership Limited, the Council's valuing agents. 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. The effective date of each revaluation was 31st March 2018.

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the valuations are:

- that good title can be shown and all valid planning permissions and statutory approvals are in place;
- that the property is connected and has a right to use mains services and that sewers, main services and roads giving access to it have been adopted;
- that an inspection of those parts not inspected would not reveal defects that would affect the valuation;
- that the testing of electrical or other services would not reveal defects that would cause the valuation to alter; and
- that there are no deleterious or hazardous materials or existing or potential environmental factors that would affect the valuation.

The valuation report and annual assessment for "indications" of impairment have been prepared by Stephen Gwatkin MRICS (senior principal surveyor), Urban Vision. There was no evidence of individual assets that had been impaired due to fire or other event consequently there was no requirement for an impairment review.

As a result of the adoption of IFRS 13 all surplus assets were valued at 31st March 2016. These assets were previously valued at existing use; assessment is now made at fair value, highest and best use at level 3 (under fair value hierarchy- see accounting policy 23 for fair value explanations). There were no transfers between levels 1, 2 and 3 during the year. In addition to the formal 5 year valuation these assets are individually reviewed by the valuer each year; his 2018 report confirmed that all the existing values were still appropriate.

The table below sets out the basis for the level 3 unobservable inputs applied in the valuation process:-

Surplus Assets	As at March 2018	Valuation Technique Used to Measure Fair Value	Unobservable Inputs	Range (weighted average used)	Sensitivity
	£'000s				
Land	330	Market & Income Approach	Adjusted market evidence of rental lettings and sales of similar properties and investment yields	Rental rate approx £11 per square foot. Investment Yields c.8% Land Values £5k to £65k per acre	Significant changes to the indivdual inputs in rental growth; vacancy levels and investment yields could affect the reported value
Building	58				

Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are carried at depreciated historic cost as a proxy for current value.

The Table below shows the profile of valuations supporting the Gross Book Value reported as at 31st March 2018.

	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Equipment	Surplus Assets	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Carried at Historic cost		6,656		**6,656**
Valued at Current Value as at:				
31 March 2018	22,652	0	36	**22,688**
31 March 2017	3,585	0	0	**3,585**
31 March 2016	900	0	352	**1,252**
31 March 2015	1,889	0	0	**1,889**
Total	**29,026**	**6,656**	**388**	**36,070**

7e. Capital Expenditure and Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year was £1,550,000. Details are shown in the table below, together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets used by the Authority, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Authority that has yet to be financed.

	2017/18 £000	2016/17 £000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	**16,216**	**16,635**
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment	936	497
Intangible Assets	0	49
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	614	531
	1,550	**1,077**
Sources of Finance		
Capital Receipts	(38)	0
Government grant and other contributions	(867)	(524)
Sums set aside from Revenue:		
Capital Reserves	(8)	(553)
MRP/ Loans Fund principal	(381)	(419)
	(1,294)	**(1,496)**
Closing Capital Financing requirements	**16,472**	**16,216**
Explanation of movements in year		
Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	637	0
Minimum Revenue Provision	(381)	(419)
Increase /(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	**256**	**(419)**
Net capital investment in year excluding finance leases added to Balance Sheet	*1,550*	*1,077*

Minimum Revenue Provision

The Council is obliged to make an annual charge to revenue for unfinanced capital expenditure. The charge is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The requirement is based on a simple duty for an authority to make an amount of MRP, which it considers to be "prudent". In 2017/18 the Council made MRP of £381,000. The amount relates to the Council’s liability to repay the principal element on vehicles plant and equipment acquired under finance leases.

7f. Information on Assets Held

The main assets held by the Council are:

31st March 2017 No.		31st March 2018 No.
3	Town Halls and Council Offices	3
3	Markets	3
2	Industrial Estates	2
14	Public Conveniences	14
1	Depots	1
3	Leisure Centres	3
2	Cemeteries	2
1	Museums	1
29	**Total**	**29**

7g. Construction Contracts and Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2018, the Council had no construction contracts in progress.

At 31 March 2018, the Authority has entered into one contract for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2018/19 and future years – this is shown in the table below.

Commitments of this nature at 31 March 2017 amounted to £393,000.

Scheme	Estimated Values £000	Period Investment will Take Place
Butter & Trestle Markets	67	2018-19

In addition there is one significant project committed in the capital programme with contracts yet to be agreed:

Scheme	Estimated Values £000	Period Investment will Take Place
Smithfield Public Toilets	85	2018-19

Affordable Housing: At 31 March 2018, the Council has a continuing commitment, as part of the Capital Programme, to provide a loan to Ascent Housing LLP, the Joint Venture Company set up with Your Housing Group Limited to provide affordable housing across the district. At 31 March 2018 £14million of the Loan had been drawn. £6million of the original commitment remains.

7h. Assets Held under Leases – Authority as the Lessee

Finance Leases

The Council has acquired a number of buildings, refuse, sweep and parks vehicles under finance leases. The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2017 £000
Other Land and Buildings	81	85
Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	962	1,358
	1,043	**1,443**

Only peppercorn rentals are payable on leases relating to other land and buildings.

The Authority is committed to making minimum payments under these leases comprising settlement of the long-term liability for the interest in the property acquired by the Authority and finance costs that will be payable by the Authority in future years while the liability remains outstanding. The minimum lease payments are made up of the following amounts:

	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2017 £000
Finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments):		
• current	330	360
• non-current	524	854
Finance costs payable in future years	123	220
Minimum lease payments	**977**	**1,434**

The minimum lease payments will be payable over the following periods:

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Liabilities	
	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2017 £000
Not later than one year	397	457	330	360
Later than one year and not later than five years	580	977	524	854
	977	**1,434**	**854**	**1,214**

7i. Assets Held under Leases - Authority as the Lessor:

Operating Leases

The Authority leases out assets under operating leases.

The Council acts as a lessor of commercial property, shops and market stalls. Income from these sources in 2017/18 totalled £0.420m (£0.423m in 2016/17).

The future minimum lease payments receivable under operating leases in future years are:

	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2017 £000
Not later than one year	156	69
Later than one year and not later than five years	209	119
Later than five years	391	370
	756	**558**

The minimum lease payments receivable are at current rental levels.

8. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents is made up of the following elements:

	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2017 £000
Cash held by the Council	1	1
Bank Current Accounts	1,102	1,567
Short-Term Deposits	3,758	4,402
Cash and Cash Equivalents Current Assets	**4,861**	**5,970**
Bank Overdraft	0	0
Cash and Cash Equivalents Current Liabilities	**0**	**0**
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	**4,861**	**5,970**

9. Debtors

An analysis of the bodies and individuals owing money to the Council is as below:

	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2017 £000
Central Government bodies	108	(281)
Other Local Authorities	1,038	905
Other entities and individuals	9,402	9,175
LESS Bad Debt Provisions	(525)	(445)
Total Short Term Debtors	**10,023**	**9,354**

Long Term Debtors

Debtors due over a period of longer than twelve months are classified as long-term debtors on the balance sheet. At 31st March 2018 these consist of the debenture and loan to Ascent Housing LLP, car loans, and the Parish Council loan.

The Council has entered into a joint venture with Your Housing Group Limited to provide affordable housing across the District and has made a commitment to provide a £5,000,000 debenture. As at 31st March 2015, the full £5,000,000 debenture facility had been drawn by the joint venture company Ascent Housing LLP (£1,108,000 in 2011/12, £351,566 in 2012/13, £1,952,663 in 2013/14 and £1,587,771 in 2014/15). This has been disclosed as a long-term debtor on the Balance Sheet. However, because the interest charged on the debenture is currently set at a rate below which Ascent Housing LLP could expect to pay on a comparable loan from the market, the loan is deemed to be a material soft loan. Consequently, the value of the debenture is discounted to the present value of the future cash flows and the long-term debtor value has been adjusted to £2,848,000 to reflect this (see note 14 'Financial Instruments' for more detail).

The Council has also made a commitment to provide a £20,000,000 loan facility to Ascent Housing LLP. As at 31st March 2017, £14,000,000 of the loan facility had been drawn by Ascent Housing LLP. This loan is repayable in tranches, the first of which amounts to £7,000,000 and was due in October 2017. This was refinanced during the year for a further year, therefore is now due in October 2018. This £7,000,000 tranche is classed as a short-term debtor on the Balance Sheet; the remaining £7,000,000 of the loan is disclosed as a long-term debtor.

Balances at the end of the year were as follows:

	31 March 2018	31 March 2017
	£000	£000
Ascent Loan	7,000	7,000
Ascent Debenture	2,848	2,792
Car Loans	8	15
Parish Council Loan	13	13
Long Term Debtors	**9,869**	**9,820**

10. Creditors

An analysis of the bodies and individuals to whom the Council owes money is as below:

	31 March 2018	31 March 2017
	£000	£000
Central Government bodies	(688)	(383)
Other local authorities	(1,682)	(1,635)
Other entities and individuals	(1,692)	(1,856)
Short Term Creditors	**(4,062)**	**(3,874)**

11. Provisions

	31-Mar-18	31-Mar-17
	£'000	£'000
NNDR Appeals Provision (Billing Authority Share)		
Provision Brought Forward	(801)	(768)
Refunds charged to provision during the year	131	148
(Increase)/ decrease in provision	(647)	(181)
NNDR Appeals Provision Carried Forward	**(1,317)**	**(801)**

NNDR Appeals

A Provision is made based on the best estimate of the potential liability arising from NNDR appeals against rateable values lodged with the Valuation Office Agency.

12. Usable Reserves

This note sets out the amounts included in Usable Reserves.

	Balance at 1 April 2016 £000	Transfers out 2016/17 £000	Transfers In 2016/17 £000	Balance at 31 March 2017 £000	Transfers out 2017/18 £000	Transfers in 2017/18 £000	Balance at 31 March 2018 £000
General Fund Contingency Reserve	**3,211**	**0**	**412**	**3,623**	**(2,073)**	**1,556**	**3,106**
General Fund Earmarked Reserve:							
Reserves for Capital schemes	**1,000**	(553)	73	**520**	(7)	1,500	**2,013**
Section 106 Commuted Sums	**134**	(11)	0	**123**	(8)	0	**115**
Insurance Fund	**341**	0	0	**341**	(2)	0	**339**
Local Development Framework	**40**	0	0	**40**	0	0	**40**
Leisure Provision Reserve	**50**	0	0	**50**	0	0	**50**
Efficiency & Rationalisation Reserve	**493**	0	0	**493**	0	0	**493**
Pension Reserve	**600**	0	0	**600**	0	0	**600**
Community Reserve	**50**	0	0	**50**	0	0	**50**
Growth Reserve	**60**	0	0	**60**	(60)	0	**0**
Fuel Reserve	**50**	0	0	**50**	0	0	**50**
Localising Council Tax Support	**80**	0	0	**80**	0	0	**80**
Planning Appeals	**57**	(4)	0	**53**	0	0	**53**
IT Strategy & Infrastructure	**100**	0	100	**200**	0	0	**200**
Asset Health & Safety Requirements	**100**	0	0	**100**	(75)	0	**25**
Staff Conference	**10**	0	0	**10**	0	0	**10**
Elections Reserve	**0**	0	27	**27**	0	83	**110**
Unused Third Party Funds	**543**	(167)	49	**425**	(85)	117	**457**
Total Earmarked Reserves	**3,782**	**(809)**	**249**	**3,222**	**(237)**	**1,700**	**4,685**
Capital Reserves							
Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	**5**	0	3	**8**	(38)	35	**5**
Capital Grants Unapplied	**210**	(50)	645	**805**	(438)	1,387	**1,754**
Total Capital Reserves	**215**	**(50)**	**648**	**813**	**(476)**	**1,422**	**1,759**
Total Usable Reserves	**7,208**	**(859)**	**1,309**	**7,658**	**(2,786)**	**4,678**	**9,550**

The Council's Revenue Reserves are either held as a contingency; are earmarked for specific purposes; or are as a result of 'ring fencing'. A brief description of the reserves is given below.

Reserve	Nature of Reserve
General Fund for Capital Schemes	Earmarked to provide funding for the Council's Capital Strategy
General Fund (Contingency)	Both as a contingency and to temporarily hold balances to be fed back into the short term budgetary process
Insurance Fund	To meet the cost of any residual MMI liabilities (see Note 15) ; to cover the cost of uninsured losses; and to fund risk management (RM) activity (per the Council's Risk Management Strategy)
Unused Third Party Funds	These are funds (grants and contributions) from third parties which are unused at the year end but will be used for specific purposes. The key issue is that in the main they will be used in specific pre-ordained areas
Other (earmarked)	These are revenue reserves established on a short term basis to provide funds for Council initiatives in the following areas: - to further develop shared working arrangements - encouraging business growth in the district - supporting sports development - towards future pension liabilities - to dampen impact of fuel price variations - against potential Land Charge and Planning Appeal costs - implementation of the IT Strategy - to cover potential costs of localising Council Tax Benefit - local development framework - to continue the efficiency programme - to spread the costs of elections over a full term

13. Unusable Reserves

The total unusable reserves included on the balance sheet are shown in the table below;

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
9,602	Revaluation Reserve	14,335
25,666	Capital Adjustment Account	24,407
(2,208)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(2,152)
(38,130)	Pensions Reserve	(37,920)
(232)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(717)
(109)	Accumulated Absences Account	(109)
(5,411)	**Total Unusable Reserves**	**(2,156)**

Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Authority 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.

2016/17 £000	Revaluation Reserve		2017/18 £000
9,674	**Balance at 1 April**		**9,602**
532	Upward revaluations of assets	5,307	
(8)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	
524	**Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services**		**5,307**
(556)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(574)	
(40)	Accumulated gains on assets sold/ scrapped/ Other Movement	0	
(596)	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account		(574)
9,602	**Balance at 31 March**		**14,335**

Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions.

The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert current value figures to an historic cost basis).

The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Authority.

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

2016/17 £000		Capital Adjustment Account	2017/18 £000	
	26,289	**Balance at 1 April**		**25,666**
		Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the CIES		
(2,099)		• Charges for depreciation of non current assets	(2,067)	
31		• Impairment written back revaluation gain	0	
(24)		• Amortisation of intangible assets	(20)	
(530)		• Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(614)	
(133)		• Derecognition of non current assets part of the gain/loss	(427)	
	(2,755)			(3,128)
	597	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve		574
	(2,158)	**Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year**		**(2,554)**
		Capital financing applied in the year:		
0		• Use of capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	38	
474		• Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have	430	
		been applied to capital financing	438	
50		• Applications of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grant Unapplied Account		
419		• Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	381	
553		• Use of Earmarked Capital Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	8	
	1,496			**1,295**
	39	Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the CIES		0
	25,666	**Balance at 31 March**		**24,407**

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account (FIAA) 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 Authority uses the Account to recognise the accounting loss on material soft loans issued (see Financial Instruments Note 14). The full accounting loss is debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of issuance and then reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the FIAA in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Over the period of the loan, the balance on the FIAA is reduced by the difference between the actual interest received on the soft loan and the notional interest that would have been received if the loan had been issued at market rate.

2016/17 £000	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	2017/18 £000
(2,260)	**Balance at 1 April**	**(2,208)**
52	Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	56
(2,208)	**Balance at 31 March**	**(2,152)**

Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Authority accounts for post employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs.

However, statutory arrangements require any benefits earned to be financed as the employer makes contributions to the pension fund (or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible). The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Authority has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

2016/17 £000	Pension Reserve	2017/18 £000
(35,725)	**Balance at 1 April**	**(38,130)**
(1,368)	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability	1,532
(2,402)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES	(2,888)
1,365	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	1,566
(38,130)	**Balance at 31 March**	**(37,920)**

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

2016/17 £000	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	2017/18 £000
(501)	**Balance at 1 April**	**(232)**
269	Amount by which council tax and business rates income credited to the CIES is different from council tax and business rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(485)
(232)	**Balance at 31 March**	**(717)**

14. Financial Instruments

The Council has carried out an analysis of all its financial assets and liabilities with regard to the Code and the results are set out in the following sections:

a. Categories of Financial Instruments
b. Material Soft Loans
c. Re-classification
d. Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities
e. Income, Expense, Gains and Losses
f. Impairment Review
g. Risk Analysis

14a. Categories of Financial Instruments

Accounting regulations require the "financial instruments" (investment, lending and borrowing of the Council) shown on the Balance Sheet to be further analysed into various defined categories. The investments, lending and borrowing disclosed in the Balance Sheet are made up of the following categories of "financial instruments".

	Long Term		Current	
	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2017 £000
Investments				
Loans and Receivables				
Cash Deposits	0	0	4,861	5,970
Fixed Term Deposits	0	0	1,001	500
Total Investments	**0**	**0**	**5,862**	**6,470**
Debtors				
Loans and Receivables	9,869	9,820	8,549 *	8,496 *
Total Debtors	**9,869**	**9,820**	**8,549**	**8,496**
Borrowings				
Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost				
Fixed Term Borrowing	7,053	7,053	5,008	5,019
Total Borrowings	**7,053**	**7,053**	**5,008**	**5,019**
Other Long-Term Liabilities				
Finance lease liabilities	524	854	330 **	360 **
Total other long-term liabilities	**524**	**854**	**330**	**360**
Creditors				
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	0	0	1,479 *	1,599 *
Total Creditors	**0**	**0**	**1,479**	**1,599**

* Current Debtors / Creditors – the above table includes 'trade' debtors/creditors only, statutory debtors of £2.0m (£1.3m 16/17) and statutory creditors of £2.3m (£1.9m 16/17) are excluded. The current debtors figure is also gross of the bad debt provision of £0.5m (£0.45m 16/17), which is included in the balance sheet.

** Current Other Long Term Liabilities are included within the short term creditors figure on the balance sheet

14b. Material Soft Loans

The Council has entered into a joint venture with Your Housing Group Limited to provide affordable housing across the District and has made a commitment to provide a £5,000,000 debenture. As at 31st March 2015, the full £5million of the debenture facility had been drawn by the Joint Venture company Ascent LLP. There have been no changes to this balance during the year. The debenture is to be fully repaid within a 25 year period.

Interest charged on the debenture is currently set at a rate below which Ascent could expect to pay on a comparable loan from the market, therefore the loan is deemed to be a material soft loan. Consequently, the value of the debenture is discounted to the present value of the future cash flows.

	2017/18 £000	2016/17 £000
Opening Balance	**2,791**	**2,739**
Fair value adjustment on initial recognition	0	0
Increase in discounted amount	57	52
Other changes	0	0
Closing Balance at year end	**2,848**	**2,791**

The interest rate at which the value of the debenture has been discounted has been arrived at by taking the rate at which the Authority could have borrowed at for the same period on the same day the loan was issued, plus an allowance to allow for the risk associated with lending to the Joint Venture.

The Debenture is classified as a long-term debtor on the balance sheet, and is held at fair value. Over the 25 year period, the discounted amount will be increased by the difference between the actual interest received and the notional interest that would have been received if the loan had been made at the higher rate.

14c. Re-classification

No financial instruments were reclassified during 2017/18.

14d. Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

There are no financial assets or liabilities carried in the balance sheet at fair value on a recurring basis. Therefore, all financial liabilities and financial assets represented by loans and receivables, and long-term debtors and creditors are carried on the balance sheet at amortised cost. Their fair values 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 other market debt and investments prevailing market rates have been used to provide the fair value, i.e. the rate available for an instrument with the same terms from a comparable lender.

- No early repayment or impairment is recognised.
- Where an instrument has a maturity of less than 12 months or is a trade or other receivable the fair value is taken to be the carrying amount or the billed amount.
- For the valuation and disclosure of fair values of financial assets and liabilities the rates quoted were obtained from Link Asset Services (the Council's Advisors) using Level 2 Valuations.
- There were no transfers between input levels 1 and 2 during the year.
- There has been no change in the valuation technique used during the year for financial instrument.

The fair values are calculated as follows:

	Fair Value Hierarchy	31 March 2018 Carrying Amount £000	31 March 2018 Fair Value £000	31 March 2017 Carrying Amount £000	31 March 2017 Fair Value £000
Loans and receivables					
Cash deposits		4,861	4,861	5,970	5,970
Fixed term deposits	Level 2	1,001	1,001	500	501
Debtors		8,549	8,549	8,496	8,496
Total		**14,411**	**14,411**	**14,966**	**14,967**
Long-term Debtors		9,869	9,869	9,820	9,820
TOTAL		**24,280**	**24,280**	**24,786**	**24,787**
Financial liabilities at amortised cost					
Local Authority Loans	Level 2	12,061	12,099	12,072	12,262
Creditors		1,809	1,809	1,959	1,959
Total		**13,870**	**13,908**	**14,031**	**14,221**
Long-term Creditors		524	524	854	854
TOTAL		**14,394**	**14,432**	**14,885**	**15,075**

The fair value of the financial liabilities is £38,908 more than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes six fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is more than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future loss (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2018) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates.

Long-term Debtors

Long-term Debtors at 31st March 2018 include a debenture and loan to Ascent Housing LLP, the Joint Venture company, car loans, and a parish council loan. The debenture has been classified as a material soft loan; and has therefore been recognised in the balance sheet at fair value (as detailed in section b of this note).

Long-term Creditors

Long-term creditors relate to the future lease payments due on the Council's finance leases.

14e. Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

The total gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are illustrated below. The figures include the interest receivable and payable on investments and borrowings in 2017/18, and the accounting amendments made in relation to the fair value of the debenture to Ascent Housing LLP.

	2017/18				2016/17			
	Financial Liabilities	Financial Assets			Financial Liabilities	Financial Assets		
	Financial Liabilities at amortised cost £000	Loans & Receivables £000	Available for Sale £000	Total	Financial Liabilities at amortised cost £000	Loans & Receivables £000	Available for Sale £000	Total
Interest Expense	(279)	0	0	**(279)**	(351)	0	0	**(351)**
Reductions in fair value	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	**0**
Total expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**(279)**	**0**	**0**	**(279)**	**(351)**	**0**	**0**	**(351)**
Interest Income	0	653	0	**653**	0	691	0	**691**
Increases in fair value	0	57	0	**57**	0	52	0	**52**
Total Income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**0**	**710**	**0**	**710**	**0**	**743**	**0**	**743**
Surplus/Deficit arising on revaluation of financial assets in Other CIES	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Net gain/(loss) for the year	**(279)**	**710**	**0**	**431**	**(351)**	**743**	**0**	**392**

Included within the £279,000 interest expense incurred on financial liabilities at amortised cost is the interest payable on finance leases of £97,000. Assets obtained under finance leases are capitalised in the balance sheet and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful economic lives. The annual lease payments are then allocated between the finance cost and the repayment of the liability so as to produce a constant rate of interest.

14f. Impairment Review

An impairment review has been carried out on the Authority's financial assets to assess the likelihood of repayment. The only asset category where impairment has been applied is general trade receivables. The result of which is included in the accounts as an allowance for bad debts. This is based on historical data and an analysis of individual debtors. Current and prior year outstanding debtors are impaired by a determined percentage, except where 100% non-payment is assumed. The allowance is allocated to services based on Debtors outstanding at 31 March 2018 and historical write offs.

14g. Risk Analysis

The Authority's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. Risk management within the Council is overseen by the Audit & Accounts Committee in accordance with the Risk Management Strategy approved by Cabinet.

The Authority's treasury team implements the approved Treasury Management Strategy and maintains written Treasury Management Practices (TMP's) covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash. The Council also has a Treasury Management Policy in place, which defines the policies and objectives of its treasury activities. The policy statement refers to the identification, monitoring and control of risk as the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of the Council's treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on the risk implications for the Authority.

Exposure to financial risks is discussed in more detail below:

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

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Authority's customers. The following analysis summarises the Authority's potential maximum exposure to credit risk, based on experience of default and non-collection, adjusted to reflect current market conditions.

	Amount at 31st March 2018	Historical experience of default	Historical experience adjusted for markets conditions at 31st March 2018	Estimated maximum exposure to default and non-collectability	Estimated maximum exposure at 31st March 2018
	£000	%	%	£000	£000
Deposits with Banks & Financial Instruments	5,616	0.00%	0.00%	-	-
Customers (non-statutory sundry debtors)	8,549	1.04%	1.04%	89	89

The Authority's exposure to credit risk in relation to deposits with banks and financial institutions cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make repayments will be specific to individual institutions. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all the Authority's deposits, but there was no evidence at 31 March 2018 that this was likely to crystallise.

Customers are assessed, taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors such as the recent downturn in the economy, with individual credit limits being set in accordance with internal ratings in accordance with parameters set by the Council. The overdue (greater than 28 days) amount from customers can be analysed by age as follows:

Period Overdue		Default Exposure	
	£	%	£
Less than three months	17,454	2%	349
Three to six months	31,948	17%	5,431
Six months to one year	4,695	17%	798
More than one year	89,096	70%	62,367
	143,193		**68,945**

The Council has registered an interest in the property of one of the past due debtors outstanding included in the above for £25,788.

Treasury Management – lending criteria

The Council uses the creditworthiness methodology recommended by the Council's Treasury advisors. This has been incorporated into the Annual Investment Strategy, which outlines the minimum criteria as established by three of the main credit ratings agencies also including current market data. The Strategy also establishes group limits and recognises only Institutions in International Countries with a AAA (the maximum available) sovereignty rating (excludes the UK).

All investments as at 31 March 2018 were held with institutions that domicile within the United Kingdom, as shown below:

Financial Institution	Country of Domcile	Group/ Parent	Principal Amount Invested (£)
Santander UK Plc	UK	Santander UK Plc	£3,000,000
Lloyds Bank Plc	UK	Lloyds Banking Group	£1,000,000
National Westminster Bank Plc	UK	Royal Bank of Scotland Group	£862,771
Money Market Funds	UK	Money Market Funds	£750,000
Total Prinicpal Invested			**£5,612,771**
Accrued Interest			*£3,552*

Liquidity Risk

Investments

The Authority holds £1m in fixed investments as at 31 March 2018. The Treasury Management Strategy establishes limits on investments that can be placed greater than one year, based on the core cashflow forecast. This is to ensure there are sufficient funds available to meet future capital commitments. All sums owing are due to be paid in less than one year.

The in-house treasury team also monitor short-term liquidity on a daily basis to ensure there are adequate funds easily accessible to cover in-year payments such as precepts, salaries, payments to suppliers and central government.

Refinancing Risk

Borrowings

The Council has access to a facility to borrow from the Public Works Loans Board and can also borrow from market lenders for longer-term commitments.

The Council has limits in place to ensure that a significant proportion of its borrowing does not mature for repayment at any one time in the future to reduce the financial impact of re-borrowing at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The maturity structure of financial liabilities is as follows (original principal invested):

Loans Outstanding	**31st March 2018 £000**	**31st March 2017 £000**
Local Authority Loans	12,000	12,000
Total	**12,000**	**12,000**
Maturity Profile		
Less than 1 Year	5,000	5,000
Between 1 and 5 years	7,000	7,000
Total	**12,000**	**12,000**

Market Risk

The Authority is exposed to significant risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its investments. Movements in interest rates have a significant impact on the Authority. For example, a rise in interest rates would have the following effect:

- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement would increase.
- Investment at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall (no impact on the balance sheet as all investments carried at carrying value).
- Borrowing at variable rates – the interest payable charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement would increase.
- Borrowing at fixed rates – the fair value of fixed rate financial liabilities will fall (no impact on Balance Sheet as held at amortised cost).

The Council carries out its borrowing and investment function within the parameters set in its Treasury Management Strategy, which establishes interest rate exposure. The Council uses the services of a treasury advisor, who issue regular interest rate forecasts to aid decision making when placing investments and setting the annual investment income budget for the following year. Forecasts are updated and reported to the Audit & Accounts Committee, which allows any significant changes in interest rates to be reflected in current budget projections.

At 31 March 2018, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be:

	£000
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(85)
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	0
Impact on Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**(85)**
Decrease in Fair Value of Fixed Rate Borrowing	133
Decrease in Fair Value of Fixed Rate Investments	0

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

Price Risk

The Authority does not invest in equity shares and is therefore not exposed to losses arising from movements in the prices of shares.

Foreign Exchange Risk

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

15. Contingent Liabilities and Assets

The disclosures made here are based on the FRS12 definitions of contingent assets and liabilities quoted in the Code:

- a possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the organisation's control; or
- a present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognised because:
  - it is not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, or
  - the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Contingent Liabilities

Municipal Mutual Insurance – Scheme of Arrangement

Prior to 1992 the Council was insured by Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI). When MMI ceased accepting new business in 1992/93 the Council was entered into a Scheme of Arrangement (SOA) under Section 425 of the Companies Act 1985. The SOA was triggered on 13 November 2012 following the conclusion of long running legal proceedings. From that date Ernst & Young LLP became responsible for the management of the company's business, affairs and assets. An initial levy of 15% (£9,292) was paid in 2013/14. The levy was reviewed in 2015 with the result that a further payment equivalent to 10% (£8,059) was paid in 2016/17. Annual review of the levy rate is required under the terms of the Scheme and this could lead to the rate being further amended in future, either up or down.

Under the terms of the SOA, the Council now has to meet 25% of any new insurance settlements, relating to its claims, made by MMI. To date, payments amounting to £5,335 have been made under this part of the scheme. An earmarked Insurance reserve, with a balance of £338,580, is currently available to mitigate the financial pressure created by the MMI levy and any other uninsured losses, which might occur in the future.

At 31 March 2018 the Council's outstanding liability under the SOA stood at £90,747.

Planning – Public Inquiries / Judicial Reviews

The Council is involved in a number of planning-related legal proceedings. The modest cost involved in these to date, has been absorbed in the in-year revenue costs of the Authority. There is, however, potential for these costs to escalate in the future, as the legal process develops. It is too early to quantify the likely costs involved, which can be significantly increased if the Council is unsuccessful in defending a Public Inquiry or related civil proceedings and is held liable for the developers' costs.

Contingent Assets

Housing Capital Receipts

As discussed in Note 3, the Council has accounted for the payment of pooling of capital receipts within the accounts as effective from 1 April 2004. If the legal challenge put forward by Link Treasury Solutions Limited (formerly Capita Asset Services) (the Council's Treasury Advisors) was successful, the Council could benefit by approximately £50,000.

16. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

The Statement of Accounts 2017/18 were authorised for issue on 27th July 2018 by Andrew P Stokes, Executive Director (Chief Finance Officer). Events after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes.

Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2018, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

Enquiries with the Council's Senior Management Team have confirmed that there are no other outstanding legal issues, insurance claims or ombudsman complaints, which are likely to have a significant impact on these financial statements.

17. Notes Relating to the Cash Flow Statement

This note provides further analysis of certain figures used in the Cash Flow Statement:

a. Net cash flows from Operating Activities
b. Operating Activities (relating to Interest)
c. Investing Activities
d. Financing Activities

17a. Net cash flows from operating activities

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
(1,492)	**Net Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services**	**(1,695)**
	Adjust net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements	
2,099	Depreciation	2,067
102	Impairment and downward valuations	428
24	Amortisation	20
(53)	Reduction in fair value of Soft Loans (non Subsidiary) made in the year	(55)
3	Unwinding the Discount on Deferred Receipts	0
(1)	Increase/ (Decrease) in Interest Creditors	(12)
(1,550)	Increase/ (Decrease) in Creditors	144
9	(Increase) /Decrease in Interest and Dividend Debtors	(1)
1,119	(Increase) /Decrease in Debtors	(691)
19	(Increase) /Decrease in Inventories	(1)
1,436	Pension Liability	(29)
33	Contributions to/ (from) Provisions	407
	Carrying amount of non-current assets sold [property plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets]	
(39)	Movement in Investment Property Values	0
3,201		**2,277**
	Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	
(1,119)	Capital Grants credited to surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(1,817)
0	Proceeds from the sale of short and long term investments	0
0	Proceeds from the sale of property plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(35)
(1,119)		**(1,852)**
590	**Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities**	**(1,270)**

17b. Operating Activities (relating to Interest)

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
649	Interest received	597
(351)	Interest paid	(291)

17c. Investing Activities

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
(469)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(995)
(6,100)	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	(2,000)
0	Other payments for investing activities	(14)
0	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	35
6,600	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	1,500
1,104	Other receipts from investing activities	1,722
1,135	**Net cash flows from investing activities**	**248**

17d. *Financing Activities*

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
521	Billing Authorities - Council Tax & NNDR Adjustment	273
(398)	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to Finance leases	(360)
(2,000)	Repayments of short and long-term borrowing	0
0	Other receipts from financing activities	0
(1,877)	**Net cash flows from financing activities**	**(87)**

Supplementary Statements

Collection Fund Account

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

2016/17 Council Tax £000	2016/17 Business Rates £000	2016/17 Total £000		2017/18 Council Tax £000	2017/18 Business Rates £000	2017/18 Total £000
			Income			
	(18,781)		Income due from Business Rates Payers		(19,279)	
			Transitional Protection Payments for Business Rates		(1,162)	
(49,904)			Income due from Council Tax Payers	(52,370)		
(49,904)	**(18,781)**	**(68,685)**	**Total Income**	**(52,370)**	**(20,441)**	**(72,811)**
			Expenditure			
			Preceptors			
	9,311		Central Government		10,169	
35,335	1,676		Staffordshire County Council	37,395	1,830	
5,765			Staffordshire Police Authority	5,930		
2,283	186		Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Authority	2,342	203	
5,963	7,449		Staffordshire Moorlands DC	6,168	8,135	
		67,968				**72,172**
			Distribution of Previous Year Surplus/ (Deficit)			
	(398)		Central Government		(181)	
374	(72)		Staffordshire County Council	387	(32)	
63			Staffordshire Police Authority	63		
25	(8)		Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Authority	25	(4)	
65	(318)		Staffordshire Moorlands DC	65	(144)	
		(269)				**179**
			Charges to the Collection Fund			
	18		Transitional Protection Payments for Business Rates		0	
130	8		Write Offs of Uncollectable Amounts	150	272	
26	18		Increase/ (Decrease) in Impairment Allowance	38	(58)	
	(371)		Refunds Charged to Provision for Appeals		(329)	
	453		Increase/ (Decrease) in Provision for Appeals		1,618	
	115		Cost of Collection Allowance		115	
		397				**1,806**
50,029	**18,067**	**68,096**	**Total Expenditure**	**52,563**	**21,594**	**74,157**
125	**(714)**	**(589)**	**Movement on Fund Balance in year**	**193**	**1,153**	**1,346**
(449)	1,392	943	(Surplus)/ Deficit on Fund Brought Forward	(324)	678	354
(324)	**678**	**354**	**(Surplus)/Deficit on Fund Carried Forward**	**(131)**	**1,831**	**1,700**

Notes to the Collection Fund Account

1. Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

From 1st April 2013 Central Government introduced the Business Rates Retention Scheme. Where previously business rates collected by local authorities were paid over to Central Government as part of a National Pool, under the retention scheme 40% of the business rates is now retained by the Council; 50% is paid to Central Government, 9% to the County Council, and 1% to the Fire & Rescue Authority.

Central Government continues to set a National Non-Domestic Rate Multiplier and, subject to the effects of transitional arrangements, local businesses pay rates calculated by multiplying their Rateable Value by that amount, adjusted by any applicable reliefs or exemptions.

2016/17		2017/18
£48,630,050	Total Non-Domestic Rateable Value at Year End	£55,797,422
49.7p	National Non-Domestic Rate Multiplier	47.9p

2. Council Tax Base

Council tax income derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties that have been classified into 8 bands, based on valuations as at 1 April 1991. Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required from the Collection Fund by County Council, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, Fire & Rescue Authority and this Council, and dividing this total figure by the council tax base. The council tax base for the year was calculated as follows:

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D Charge (ninths)	Number of Dwellings in Valuation List		Number of Band D Equivalent Dwellings	
		2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18
Band A	6	9,555	9,548	4,155	4,204
Band B	7	10,450	10,487	6,494	6,586
Band C	8	10,551	10,578	8,122	8,207
Band D	9	6,117	6,142	5,586	5,561
Band E	11	4,254	4,292	4,798	4,851
Band F	13	1,913	1,925	2,520	2,542
Band G	15	763	766	1,182	1,181
Band H	18	32	32	29	29
Total		**43,635**	**43,770**	**32,886**	**33,161**
Deduction for non-collection				(428)	(431)
Additional properties and adjustments during the year				0	0
Council Tax Base (Band D equivalent)				**32,458**	**32,730**

3. The Fund Balance

Prior to the end of each year, the year-end surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund for both council tax and business rates is estimated in order that it can be distributed amongst the billing and precepting authorities along with the precepts for the coming year. The declaration has to be made on 15 January each year for council tax and 31 January for business rates. The estimated surplus/deficits declared for the 2016/17 year were a £540,310 surplus for council tax and a deficit of £361,317 for business rates, both of which have been distributed in 2017/18.

For council tax, the estimated surplus was apportioned amongst the preceptors in proportion to the value of their respective demands and precepts made on the Collection Fund for 2016/17. For business rates, the estimated deficit was apportioned using the prescribed proportions of 50% (Central Government), 40% (Billing Authority), 9% (County Council), and 1% (Fire Authority).

2016/17 Council Tax	2016/17 Business Rates		2017/18 Council Tax Precept	2017/18 Business Rates Precept	Distribution of Council Tax Estimated Surplus / (Deficit)	Distribution of Business Rates Estimated Surplus / (Deficit)	2017/18 Council Tax Total	2017/18 Business Rates Total
£000	£000	**Precepting Authorities**	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	8,913	Central Government		10,169		(181)		9,988
35,709	1,604	Staffordshire County Council	37,395	1,830	387	(32)	37,782	1,798
5,828		Staffordshire Police Authority	5,930		63		5,993	
2,308	178	Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Authority	2,342	203	25	(4)	2,367	199
43,845	**10,695**	**Precepting Authorities**	**45,667**	**12,202**	**475**	**(217)**	**46,142**	**11,985**
4,955	7,131	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	5,028	8,135	65	(144)	5,093	7,991
228		Cheadle Town Council	247				247	
256		Biddulph Town Council	273				273	
138		Leek Town Council	140				140	
451		Parish Councils	480				480	
6,028	**7,131**		**6,168**	**8,135**	**65**	**(144)**	**6,233**	**7,991**
49,873	**17,826**	**Total**	**51,835**	**20,337**	**540**	**(361)**	**52,375**	**19,976**

On the 2017/18 Collection Fund, the accounts record an in-year deficit of £193,000 for council tax and an in-year deficit of £1,154,000 for business rates. The balance at 31 March 2018 has been disaggregated for the purpose of these Accounts to attribute relevant amounts to the Precepting Authorities' debtor and creditor accounts and those of the Billing Authority (the Council) as follows:

2016/17			2017/18		2017/18	
Council Tax Cumulative Surplus/ (Deficit)	Business Rates Cumulative Surplus/ (Deficit)		Council Tax In Year Surplus/ (Deficit)	Business Rates In Year Surplus/ (Deficit)	Council Tax Cumulative Surplus/ (Deficit)	Business Rates Cumulative Surplus/ (Deficit)
£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000
	(339)	Central Government		(577)		(916)
40	(272)	Staffordshire Moorlands District Counc	(23)	(462)	17	(734)
231	(61)	Staffordshire County Council	(137)	(104)	94	(165)
39		Staffordshire Police Authority	(24)		15	
14	(6)	Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Authority	(9)	(11)	5	(17)
324	**(678)**	**Balance at 31 March**	**(193)**	**(1,154)**	**131**	**(1,832)**

The council tax cumulative surplus amounts attributable to the County Council, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and Fire & Rescue Authority above are shown as creditors in the 2017/18 Balance Sheet; the business rates cumulative deficit amounts attributable to Central Government, the County Council and Fire & Rescue Authority above are shown as debtors in the 2017/18 Balance Sheet.

4. Council Tax & Non-Domestic Rates Income reported on the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

The Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement includes income from Council Tax & Non-Domestic Rates in "Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income & Expenditure"; this is further detailed in Note 3c in the Notes to the Financial Statements. A reconciliation between the income reported in the Collection Fund Statement and Notes and that shown in Note 3c follows:

2016/17 Council Tax	2016/17 Business Rates		2017/18 Council Tax	2017/18 Business Rates
£000	£000		£000	£000
		Note 3c Taxation and Non-Specific Grant		
(6,012)		Council Tax Income	(6,210)	
	(2,427)	Non-Domestic Rates Retention		(2,169)
(5,963)	(7,449)	SMDC Precept	(6,168)	(8,135)
(65)	318	SMDC share of (Surplus)/ Deficit Distributed in the Year	(65)	144
16	(285)	SMDC share of actual (Surplus)/ Deficit recorded at 31st March	23	462
	234	NDR Levy paid to the Business Rate Pool lead, Staffordshire County Council *		312
	4,755	NDR Tariff**		5,048
(6,012)	**(2,427)**	**Total**	**(6,210)**	**(2,169)**
0	**0**	**Variance**	**0**	**0**

* Under the Business Rates Retention system, the NDR levy is a charge on a proportion of growth above the Business Rates Funding Baseline in the year. This is a charge to the General Fund and as such does not feature in the Collection Fund Statement. As a member of a Business Rates Pool, the Council does not have to pay this levy to Central Government, but instead pays 60% of the levy amount to Staffordshire County Council as the Lead of the Business Rates Pool for later use by the Pool according to the Pool agreement.

** The NDR Tariff is the difference between the NDR Baseline and the Funding Baseline, which are set by Central Government as part of the Budget. It is paid to Central Government during the year out of the General Fund and as such does not feature in the Collection Fund Statement.

5. Community Charge

Outstanding arrears in respect of Community Charge are still being collected and these amounts are credited directly to the Council's General Fund.

Group Accounts

The Council is in a collaborative arrangement with Ascent Housing LLP whose primary role is to provide affordable housing throughout the district. The Council has a 49% shareholding in this company and the arrangement is classified as a joint venture. The following group accounts consolidate the Council's share of the net assets and its share of the operating results of the Ascent LLP into the Council's own financial statements.

The group financial statements comprise of:

- Group Movement in Reserves Statement
- Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement
- Group Balance Sheet
- Group Cash Flow Statement

The purpose of each of these statements is described at each of the core single entity financial statements of the Authority – they are expanded here to show the Authority's share of the activity of the Joint Venture and a consolidated total of the Authority and the Joint Venture.

Group Movement in Reserves Statement

	Single Entity Notes	General Fund			Capital						
		General	Earmarked Reserves	Total	Receipts Reserve	Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Council Reserves	Authority's share of Unusable Reserves of the Joint Venture	Total Reserves
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2016		(3,211)	(3,782)	**(6,993)**	**(5)**	**(210)**	**(7,208)**	**2,629**	**(4,579)**	**(4,435)**	**(9,014)**
(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of Services		1,492	0	**1,492**	0	0	**1,492**	**0**	**1,492**	**0**	**1,492**
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0	**0**	0	0	**0**	**840**	**840**	**4,354**	**5,194**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		1,492	0	**1,492**	**0**	**0**	**1,492**	**840**	**2,332**	**4,354**	**6,686**
Adjustment between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	6	(1,897)	553	**(1,344)**	(3)	(595)	**(1,942)**	**1,942**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		(405)	553	**148**	**(3)**	**(595)**	**(450)**	**2,782**	**2,332**	**4,354**	**6,686**
Transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves		(7)	7	**0**	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
(Increase)/Decrease in 2016/17	**12**	**(412)**	**560**	**148**	**(3)**	**(595)**	**(450)**	**2,782**	**2,332**	**4,354**	**6,686**
Balance at 31 March 2017 carried forward		(3,623)	(3,222)	**(6,845)**	**(8)**	**(805)**	**(7,658)**	**5,411**	**(2,247)**	**(81)**	**(2,328)**
(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of Services		1,695	0	**1,695**	0	0	**1,695**	**0**	**1,695**	**0**	**1,695**
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	0	**0**	0	0	**0**	**(6,842)**	**(6,842)**	**18**	**(6,824)**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		1,695	0	**1,695**	**0**	**0**	**1,695**	**(6,842)**	**(5,147)**	**18**	**(5,129)**
Adjustment between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	6	(2,649)	8	**(2,641)**	3	(949)	**(3,587)**	**3,587**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		(954)	8	**(946)**	**3**	**(949)**	**(1,892)**	**(3,255)**	**(5,147)**	**18**	**(5,129)**
Transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves		1,471	(1,471)	**0**	0	0	**0**		**0**	**0**	
(Increase)/Decrease in 2017/18	**12**	517	(1,463)	**(946)**	**3**	**(949)**	**(1,892)**	**(3,255)**	**(5,147)**	**18**	**(5,129)**
Balance at 31 March 2018 carried forward		(3,106)	(4,685)	**(7,791)**	(5)	(1,754)	**(9,550)**	**2,156**	**(7,394)**	**(63)**	**(7,457)**

Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2016/17 Group Net Total		2017/18 Group Expenditure	Group Income	Group Net Total
£000		£000	£000	£000
610	Alliance Management	648	0	648
101	Audit	124	0	124
753	ICT	751	(13)	738
39	Human Resources	53	0	53
277	Member Services	271	(10)	261
1,558	Property Services	2,040	(399)	1,641
(13)	Benefits	15,554	(15,591)	(37)
43	Planning Applications	469	(536)	(67)
(4)	Building Contol	28	(44)	(16)
703	Customer Services	640	(25)	615
251	Legal Services	226	(24)	202
0	Electoral Services	48	(23)	25
(195)	Licensing and Land Charges	54	(279)	(225)
455	Regeneration	565	(46)	519
487	Communities and Cultural	503	0	503
81	Housing Strategy	32	(81)	(49)
238	Transformation	210	0	210
211	Community Safety and Enforcement	269	(82)	187
367	Finance and Performance	965	(365)	600
412	Corporate Finance	343	(26)	317
2,509	Waste Collection	4,392	(1,639)	2,753
435	Street Scene	682	(192)	490
1,815	Leisure Services	1,780	(6)	1,774
613	Horticulture	755	(169)	586
(231)	Visitor Services	543	(799)	(256)
(158)	Environmental Health	1,135	(1,601)	(466)
11,357	**Cost of Services**	**33,080**	**(21,950)**	**11,130**
1,206	Other Operating Expenditure	1,567	(35)	1,532
574	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	1,257	(845)	412
(11,645)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	0	(11,379)	(11,379)
1,492	**(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services**			**1,695**
(524)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment Assets			(5,307)
4,354	Share of the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure of the Joint Venture			18
1,364	Remeasurement of the net defined pension benefit liability			(1,535)
5,194	**Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**			**(6,824)**
6,686	**Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**			**(5,129)**

Group Balance Sheet

31 March 2017 £000		Notes	31 March 2018 £000
28,446	Property, Plant & Equipment		32,193
572	Heritage Assets		572
3,378	Investment Properties		3,378
87	Intangible Assets		67
81	Investment in Joint Ventures	1	63
0	Long Term Investments		0
9,820	Long Term Debtors		9,869
42,384	**TOTAL LONG TERM ASSETS**		**46,142**
500	Short Term Investments		1,001
102	Inventories		102
9,354	Short Term Debtors		10,023
5,970	Cash and Cash Equivalents		4,861
15,926	**TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS**		**15,987**
(5,019)	Short Term Borrowings		(5,008)
(3,765)	Short Term Creditors		(4,062)
(910)	Provisions		(1,317)
(9,694)	**TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES**		**(10,387)**
(7,053)	Long Term Borrowing		(7,053)
(38,130)	Net Pension Liability		(36,566)
(854)	Other Long Term Liabilities		(524)
(251)	Grants Receipts in Advance - Capital		(142)
(46,288)	**TOTAL LONG TERM LIABILITIES**		**(44,285)**
2,328	**TOTAL NET ASSETS**		**7,457**
7,658	Usable Reserves - Authority		9,550
(5,411)	Unusable Reserves		(2,156)
81	Unusable Reserves - Joint Venture	1	63
2,328	**TOTAL RESERVES**		**7,457**

Group Cash Flow Statement

The Group Cash Flow statement shows cash flows between the Council and the Joint Venture entity only, thus it excludes cash flows between the joint venture and the other entities. Therefore the following Group Cash Flow Statement is the same as that presented in the Council's own accounts, it is reproduced here to complete a full set of Group Accounts.

Group Cashflow 2016/17 £000		Group Cashflow 2017/18 £000
(1,492)	Net Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services	(1,695)
3,201	Adjustment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements	2,277
(1,119)	Adjust for Item Included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities	(1,852)
590	**Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities**	**(1,270)**
1,122	Investing Activities	248
(1,864)	Financing Activities	(87)
(152)	**Net Increase or (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents**	**(1,109)**
6,122	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period	5,970
5,970	**Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period**	**4,861**

Group Accounting Policies

The accounting policies adopted in the accounts of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council equally apply to the Group Accounts, with the addition of the below policies:

1. Critical Judgement in Assessing the Collaborative Activity

The Council's collaborative activity in Ascent LLP with Your Housing Group Limited constitutes an arrangement under which there is joint control owing to the need for unanimous consent for reserved matters on the Ascent LLP Board. As the Council has rights to a share of the net assets, the collaborative arrangement is deemed to be a joint venture under accounting standards resulting in a need for Group Accounts.

2. Basis for bringing the transactions and balances of the Joint Venture into the group accounts

As the collaborative arrangement is a Joint Venture, Equity Accounting for Group Accounts is required under IAS28 *Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures*, IFRS11 *Joint Arrangements*, along with IFRS12 *Disclosures of Interests in Other Entities*. The equity method of accounting for joint ventures requires an investor to bring an investment into its Group Balance Sheet at cost and then to adjust the carrying value by the change in the investor's share of the joint venture's net assets. The investor calculates its share of the joint venture's operating results for the year and includes this amount in the Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement immediately after its group operating result. The investor's share of the net assets of the joint venture should be included in the Group Balance Sheet.

Notes to the Group Accounts

The notes to the financial statements of the single entity accounts of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council equally apply to the Group Accounts. Notes specific to the Group Accounts illustrate the Authority's material relationship with the Joint Venture and the Authority's share of the Joint Venture's activities:

1. Ascent Housing LLP – Registered Company No OC35082

Ascent Housing LLP was incorporated as a Limited Liability Partnership on 21 September 2010 as a collaborative activity between the Council and Your Housing Group Limited. It is classified as a joint venture as the two parties have contractually agreed to share control, such that decisions about activities that significantly affect returns require unanimous consent, and both have rights to the net assets of the entity. The primary role of the Joint Venture is to provide affordable housing throughout the Staffordshire Moorlands.

Ascent Housing LLP has two Designated Members: the Council has a 49% shareholding in this company; and the remaining 51% of shares are held by Your Housing Group Limited. Profits are to be distributed amongst the Members according to shareholding.

Each Designated Member appoints two out of the four executive board directors and votes are divided equally.

The Council's share of Ascent Housing LLP's assets and liabilities are as follows:

2016/17 £000	Ascent Housing LLP (49%)	2017/18 £000
(237)	Operating (Profit) / Loss	(248)
328	Expenses (including Taxation)	332
91	**Total (Profit) / Loss**	**84**
(91)	Recognition of Profits/(Losses) suspended as exceed Council's interest in Joint Venture	(84)
0	**Total (Profit) / Loss included within the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**	**0**
12,777	Long Term Assets	12,553
2,467	Current Assets	2,519
15,244	**Total Assets**	**15,072**
(2,899)	Current Liabilities	(3,166)
(12,355)	Long Term Liabilities	(11,927)
(15,254)	**Total Liabilities**	**(15,093)**
(10)	**Total Net Assets / (Liabilities)**	**(21)**
91	Recognition of (Profits)/Losses suspended as exceed Council's interest in Joint Venture	84
81	**Total Net Assets / (Liabilities) included within the Group Balance Sheet**	**63**

2. Losses made by the Joint Venture

Under the provision of IAS28, where the Council's share of losses of the Joint Venture equals or exceeds its interest in the Joint Venture, the Council discontinues recognising its share of further losses. Under the agreement of the Joint Venture, the Council has not incurred any legal or constructive obligation to meet these losses or made payments on behalf of the Joint Venture, therefore no liability is recognised.

Under IAS 28, the Council will resume recognising its share of any future profits reported by the Joint Venture only after its share of the profits equals the share of the losses not recognised. Ascent LLP first reported a loss in 2013/14. Any profits realised since then have not yet equalled that loss, therefore the interest is still in a cumulative loss position. The table below shows the balance of the losses to be offset against future profits.

2016/17 £000	SMDC 49% Share of Loss on Profit and Loss Account	2017/18 £000
201	Losses brought forward	**292**
91	In year profits offset against prior year losses before recognition in the balance of the investment in group accounts	83
292	**Losses carried forward**	**375**

3. Capital Commitments and Cash Flows in the Joint Venture

A debenture of £5million was fully issued to Ascent Housing by 31st March 2015.

The Council has also made available to Ascent Housing LLP a £20million loan facility. As at 31st March 2016 a total of £14million of this facility had been drawn and there have been no further drawdowns by 31st March 2018; the remaining capital commitment on this loan amounts to £6million.

The Council has received interest payments from Ascent LLP of £459,250 for the loan and £100,000 for the Debenture.

4. Risks associated with the Council's interest in Ascent Housing LLP

The prime purpose of the joint venture is the development of affordable housing within the District. The properties developed appear on the Group Balance Sheet, consolidated under accounting standards at current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value). The Council's share of Ascent's net assets in the Group Balance Sheet in the table at note 1 reflects the worth in these assets. As such it is indicative of the underlying strength of the asset base built up by the Joint Venture. Therefore, the Council remains confident that the underlying business plan and asset base are robust and sufficient to achieve the cost effective development of affordable housing across the District.

Going concern

Additional assurance that Ascent LLP continues to be a going concern is provided by Ascent's audited statements. As one of the two equal Designated Members of the Joint Venture, the Council is represented on the Board of Members of Ascent LLP, where confidence is given of Ascent's continuation of its long-term business plan. The need for affordable housing in the area - the prime purpose of the entity - and market conditions for such continue. As such, there is no indication of a need to write down or devalue or otherwise provide for the Council's investment in the Joint Venture or non-repayment of the Loan/ Debenture.

Loan

A Deed of priority between the Designated Members of the Joint Venture (the Council and Your Housing Group Limited) and the Joint Venture entity (Ascent Housing LLP) states that the Council would become a preferential creditor for any proportion of the £20million loan as described in the Capital Commitments note above, which were still outstanding in the event of the winding-up of the entity. To further recognise this risk, the Council charges a 1.25% interest premium in addition to the normal interest on the loan.

Debenture

As well as the Council, the other investor in the entity, Your Housing Group Limited, has also provided a £5million debenture to Ascent LLP. The ultimate repayment of these debentures to both Designated Members would be viewed equally.

If, in the event of the winding-up of the entity, all Designated Members did not receive repayment in full of all the sums owed to them, any shortfalls would be apportioned between Designated Members in order that each bears its respective share.

There has been no change in the level of these risks between the current and previous year.

5. Contingent Liabilities

The Ascent LLP accounts disclose one contingent liability: "The Association receives capital grant from the Homes and Community Agency, which is used to fund the acquisition and development of housing properties. In certain circumstances upon disposal of grant funded properties the Group is required to recycle this grant by crediting the Recycling Capital Grant Funding."

6. Ascent Housing LLP

The Ascent Housing LLP Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2018 can be obtained from the registered office – 602 Aston Avenue, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6ZN.

7. Your Housing Group Limited Corporate Restructure

On 31 July 2017 Your Housing Group Limited undertook a corporate restructure. As part of the corporate restructure Moorlands Housing transfers its undertakings into Arena Housing Group Limited, a subsidiary of Your Housing Group Limited. On the same date Arena Housing Group Limited changes its name to Your Housing Limited. Ascent Housing LLP has a £5,000,000 loan with Moorlands Housing which transfers to Your Housing Limited as part of the restructure. The terms and conditions of the loan are unaffected.

Accounting Policies

1. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2017/18 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2018. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Those Regulations require the Statement of Accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18 supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

2. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Authority transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Authority.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Authority can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Authority.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption; they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.
- The resources available are concentrated on identifying and accruing individual transactions of £5,000 and above.
- An Accumulated Absences creditor balance is maintained to reflect the value of time owed to employees for accrued holidays, TOIL (time off in lieu) and flexitime. This balance is based on an historic value subject to annual review and amendment where there have been significant changes in staff numbers or working patterns.

3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial instruments repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours.

Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Authority's cash management.

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

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

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

Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

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

5. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

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

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

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

Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance [MRP], by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the

Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

6. Employee Benefits

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

Termination Benefits
Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Authority to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service segment or, where applicable, to a corporate service segment at the earlier of when the Authority can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Authority recognises costs for restructuring.
Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post-Employment Benefits
Employees of the Authority are members of The Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by Staffordshire County Council.
The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Authority.

The Local Government Pension Scheme
The Staffordshire Pension Fund is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme, and is accounted for as a defined benefit scheme.

- The liabilities of the Staffordshire Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc. and projections of future earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate determined by the actuary (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds).
- The assets of the Staffordshire Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at fair value:
    - quoted securities – current bid price
    - unquoted securities – professional estimate
    - unitised securities – current bid price
    - property – market value.

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

- Service cost comprising:
    - Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked.
    - Past service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs.
    - Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – i.e. the net interest expense for the Authority – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Remeasurements comprising:
    - The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
    - Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Contributions paid to the Staffordshire 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.

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

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

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

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

8. Financial Instruments
Financial Liabilities
Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. 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. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.
For most of the borrowings that the Authority has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest); and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.
Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write-down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.
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. The Authority has a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge 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.

Financial Assets
Financial assets are classified into two types:

- loans and receivables – assets that have fixed or determinable payments but are not quoted in an active market
- available-for-sale assets – assets that have a quoted market price and/or do not have fixed or determinable payments.

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

When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (debited to the appropriate service) for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal. Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the voluntary organisations, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

Any gains and losses that arise on the 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.

Available-for-Sale Assets
Available-for-sale assets are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value.
Where the asset has fixed or determinable payments, annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the amortised cost of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. Where there are no fixed or determinable payments, income (e.g. dividends) is credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when it becomes receivable by the Authority.

Assets are maintained in the Balance Sheet at fair value. Values are based on the following techniques:

- instruments with quoted market prices – the market price
- other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis
- equity shares with no quoted market prices – multiple valuation techniques (which include market approach, income approach and cost approach).

The inputs to the measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with the following three levels:

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

Changes in fair value are balanced by an entry in the Available-for-Sale Reserve and the gain/loss is recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Revaluation of Available-for-Sale Financial Assets. The exception is where impairment losses have been incurred – these are debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any net gain or loss for the asset accumulated in the Available-for-Sale Reserve.

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made (fixed or determinable payments) or fair value falls below cost, the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. If the asset has fixed or determinable payments, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. Otherwise, the impairment loss is measured as any shortfall of fair value against the acquisition cost of the instrument (net of any principal repayment and amortisation).
Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any accumulated gains or losses previously recognised in the Available-for-Sale Reserve.

Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, the instrument is carried at cost (less any impairment losses).

9. Government Grants and Contributions
Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Authority when there is reasonable assurance that:

- the Authority will comply with the conditions attached to the payments, and
- the grants or contributions will be received.

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

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure (non-ringfenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

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

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

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

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

Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

11. Interests in Companies and Other Entities
The Authority has a material interest in Ascent Housing LLP which is a joint venture between the Council and Your Housing Group Limited.
The results of this Joint Venture have been consolidated into the Group Accounts of the Council using the equity method of consolidation under the provisions of IFRS11 Joint Arrangements, IAS28 Interests in Associates and Joint Ventures and IFRS12 Disclosures of Interests in Other Entities.

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

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

13. Inventories and Long Term Contracts
Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value.
The cost of inventories is assigned using the First In First Out [FIFO] costing formula.

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

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

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use. Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year-end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

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

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

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.
Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

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

Lease payments are apportioned between:
- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant or equipment – applied to write down the lease liability, and
- a finance charge debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (where applicable–may not be a finance charge e.g. leases in regard to land.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of 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 in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

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

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

Measurement
Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its current 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.

Donated assets are measured initially at current value. The difference between current value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure 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:

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historic cost.
- dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH).
- surplus assets – the measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective.
- all other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

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

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. 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.

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

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

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

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

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

Deprecation is calculated on the following bases:

- dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer
- vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – a percentage of the value of each class of assets in the Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer.

Where a 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 (see Componentisation below).

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

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

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

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

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale.

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

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of capital receipts relating to housing disposals is payable to the Government. 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 (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.
The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Componentisation

A formal Componentisation policy has been adopted in accordance with the requirements of International Reporting Standards effective from 2010/11. The policy applies to all categories of Property, Plant and Equipment which meet the following criteria:

- individual assets and groups of similar assets, whether held at historic cost or current cost, with a gross carrying value of £800,000 and above will be considered for the purposes of componentisation,
- items below this level will be disregarded as the impact upon the total cost of service is not considered material,
- assets that are above the £800,000 threshold will be 'componentised' where the cost of the component is significant in relation to the overall cost of the asset. A component will be deemed significant where it represents 20% of the total cost of the overall asset at the time of acquisition or construction and where the component element has a significantly different useful life and/or method of depreciation to the main asset.
- where assets comprise two or more components any change in overall valuation will not simply be applied to the overall asset but assigned to its component parts in accordance with any split provided by the valuer.

Derecognition

When a component is replaced or restored the old component should be "derecognised" (written off) to avoid double counting. Under the Code, derecognition is required to ensure the asset carrying values are not materially overstated. To this end the following principles will be applied when calculating derecognition values:

- **General Fund Assets**
  - o the component does not need to have been separately identified under the above policy.
  - o all spending on assets valued at over £800,000 will be considered for de-recognition.
  - o on assets valued at under £800,000, only capital spending greater than £160,000 (20%) will be considered for de-recognition.
  - o on all assets, capital spending lower than £160,000 will be treated as an enhancement without any de-recognition.
- **Determining De-Recognition Values**
  - o de-recognition will be based on valuations of the replaced component provided by Property Services; or
  - o where no valuations are readily available, replacement cost will be used, adjusted for appropriate levels of depreciation and impairment.

Note: all assets will be considered separately for an Impairment Review in accordance with the Code.

De Minimis
Where the gross value of a Property asset is £10,000 or less it is included on the Balance Sheet at its carrying value without further revaluation, depreciation or impairment. These assets are subjected to an annual internal review. Where this identifies the potential for a significant increase that would take carrying values above £10,000, a formal valuation will be triggered.

17. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

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

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

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

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

Contingent Assets
A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Authority.
Contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

18. Reserves
Reserves equate to the residual value of the Authority's assets after deducting all its liabilities. They are reported on the Balance Sheet under two categories:

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

Unusable Reserves
Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Authority. They are of two kinds:

a) those that hold unrealised gains and losses. Arising from changes in Asset or Liability valuation, where gains/ losses will only be released once the Asset/ Liability is disposed of
b) adjustment accounts that carry a balance reflecting the timing difference between income and expenditure as recognised under accounting standards and that required under statute.

These reserves, explained in the relevant policies and Statement notes, are Revaluation Reserve [(a) capital], Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve [(b) capital], Capital Adjustment Account [(b) capital], Pensions Reserve [(b) employees], Accumulated Absences Account (b), Financial Instrument Adjustment Account (b), Collection Fund Adjustment Account (b).

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

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

21. Heritage Assets
Heritage Assets are assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities held and maintained for their contribution to knowledge and culture.
The Council holds a range of Heritage Assets:

- Civic Regalia – comprises the various chains of office associated with the ceremonial functions of the Council and the office of Mayor (including deputies and consorts).
- Nicholson Collection – held on trust by the Council this collection is primarily on public display in the Nicholson Museum & Art Gallery within the Nicholson Institute in Leek.

- Civic Memorabilia – items, commemorative in nature, that have been donated to the Council.
- Legal Documents – a number of historical legal documents.
- Monuments, Memorials, Statues and Other Assets – the Council either owns or is custodian for a range of items (e.g. fountains, wells etc.) considered significant to the heritage of the district.

Heritage Assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the Authority's accounting policies on property, plant and equipment. However, some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to Heritage Assets, as detailed below.
Both the Civic Regalia and Nicholson collections are held on the Balance Sheet at Insurance Value which is based on market value. It is considered that they have an indefinite life and therefore Depreciation is not charged. The Nicholson Collection is specifically maintained and preserved in its original condition.
In addition, both collections are annually reviewed in order to establish if carrying values remain current and if impairment is required.
For security reasons, the Council does not publicly reveal precise details of either its Civic Regalia or the Nicholson Collection.

Information on cost or value is not usually held on the remaining Heritage Assets and the Council considers that the cost of obtaining valuations tends not to be commensurate with the potential benefits to the users of the Statement of Accounts. Therefore these assets are rarely included on the face of the Balance Sheet. However, an annual review of such assets is undertaken to ensure that this assumption remains valid.

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

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR
The council tax and NDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the Authority's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax and NDR that must be included in the Authority's General Fund. Therefore, the difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.
The Balance Sheet included the Authority's share of the end of year balances in respect of council tax and NDR relating to arrears, impairment allowances for doubtful debts, overpayments and prepayments and appeals.

23. Fair Value Measurement
The Authority measures some of its assets and liabilities at fair value at the end of the reporting period. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

a) in the principal market for the asset or liability, or
b) in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.

The Authority measures the fair value of an asset or liability using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest.
When measuring the fair value of a non-financial asset, the Authority takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

The Authority uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

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

Level 1 – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the 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.

24. Presentation of Items in Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure
The Authority does not have any transactions in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure which are reclassifiable to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and has therefore not split Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure into those items that will, or will not, be reclassified subsequently to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services when specific conditions are met.

Glossary of Financial Terms

Accounting Period
This is the length of time covered by the accounts. It is normally a period of 12 months commencing 1st April. The end of the accounting period is the reporting date.

Accounting Policies
Accounting policies and estimation techniques are the principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by the Council that specify how the effects of transactions and other events are to be reflected in its financial statements.

Accruals
The accruals basis of accounting requires the non-cash effects of transactions to be reflected in the financial statements for the accounting period in which they were earned or incurred, and not in the period in which any cash is received or paid.

Actuarial Gains and Losses
For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because:

- Events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation; or
- The actuarial assumptions have changed.

Asset
An asset is something that the Council owns that has a monetary value. Assets are either 'current' or 'non-current'. A current asset will be used by the end of the next financial year, whereas a non-current asset provides benefits for a period of more than one year.

Balance Sheet
A snapshot of the overall financial position of the Council at the reporting date.

Balances
Reserves held in Council funds at the reporting date.

Capital Adjustment Account
Provides a balancing mechanism between the cost of non-current assets consumed and the capital financing set aside to pay for them. (Introduced by the 2007 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice), it replaced the Capital Financing Account.)

Capital Charges
The depreciation charge covering non-current assets used in the provision of services.

Capital Expenditure
Spend on the acquisition of non-current assets or expenditure which adds to and does not merely maintain existing assets.

Capital Receipts
Income received from the sale of capital assets, a specified proportion of which may be used to finance new capital expenditure and the remainder is set aside and may only be used for paying off debt.

Carrying Value
The value at which an asset or liability is held on the Balance Sheet.

Cash Flow Statement
This statement summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)
The professional accountancy body concerned with local authorities and the public sector.

Collection Fund
Fund indicating the level of council tax and non-domestic rates received by the Council and the payments which are made from these funds including precepts to central government, other authorities and the Council's own demand.

Community Assets
Assets which the Council intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life and that may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples of community assets are parks and historic buildings.

Consistency
Accounting concept applied in the preparation of the accounts, ensuring that the accounting treatment of like items within a period and from one period to the next is the same.

Contingent Assets & Liabilities
Possible asset or obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Authority.

Creditors *(Payables)*
Amounts owed by the Council for goods and services, where payments have not been made at the reporting date.

Current Assets
Items that can be readily converted into cash.

Current Liabilities
Items due immediately or in the short-term.

Debtors *(Receivables)*
Amounts owed to the Council for goods and services, where the income has not been received at the end of the financial year.

Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC)
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 the relevant forms of obsolescence and optimisation.

Depreciation
Measure of the wearing out, consumption, or other reduction in the useful economic life of a non-current asset, whether arising from use over time or obsolescence through technological or other changes.

Earmarked Reserves
Reserves set aside for a specific purpose, a particular service, or type of expenditure.

Events after the Reporting Period
Events, both favourable and unfavourable, which occur between the reporting date and the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the responsible financial officer.

Extraordinary Items
Material items, possessing a high degree of abnormality, which derive from events or transactions that fall outside the ordinary activities of the Authority and which are not expected to recur. They do not include exceptional items nor do they include any prior period items merely because they relate to a prior period.

Fair Value
The fair value of an asset 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.

Fees and Charges
Income arising from the provision of services.

Finance Lease
A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a non-current asset to the lessee from the lessor. Such a transfer of risks and rewards may be presumed to occur if at the inception of the lease the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any initial payment, amounts to substantially all of the fair value of the leased asset.

Financial Instrument
These are contracts that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability of another. Examples include trade payables and receivables, borrowings, investments, loans and bank deposits.

Financial Year
A period of time to which a Statement of Accounts relates. The financial year of the Council runs from 1st April to 31st March.

General Fund (GF)
The main revenue fund of a billing authority. Day-to-day spending on services is met from the fund.

Going Concern
The accounting concept that assumes the Council will remain in operational existence for the foreseeable future. This means in particular that the income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet assume no intention to curtail significantly the scale of operations.

Government Grants
Assistance by government, its agencies and similar bodies in the form of cash or transfer of assets to an authority in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the Authority.

Heritage Asset
An asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

Impairment
The writing down in the value of an asset, owing to a change in value or use of resource.

Income & Expenditure Account
Summarises the resources that have been generated and consumed in providing services and managing the Council during the year.

Infrastructure Assets
Inalienable assets, expenditure on which is only recoverable by continued use of the asset created, i.e. there is no prospect of sale or alternative use. Examples of such assets are highways and footpaths.

Intangible Assets
Non-financial non-current assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled by the Authority through custom or legal rights. Examples of such assets are software licences.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs)
A suite of accounting standards used across the world and prepared by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). IFRS is the international equivalent of the Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs) formerly used in the UK. IFRSs apply to local authorities and any departure from these must be disclosed in the published accounts.

Investment Properties
Property (land or a building, or part of a building, or both) held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both rather than for use in the production or supply of goods or services or for administrative purposes; or sale in the ordinary course of operations.

Joint Operation
Joint operations are arrangements where the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities relating to the arrangement. The activities undertaken by the authority in conjunction with other joint operators involve the use of the assets and resources of those joint operators.

Joint Venture
Arrangement under which two or more parties have contractually agreed to share control, such that decisions about activities that significantly affect returns require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control, and joint venturers have the rights to the net assets of the arrangement.

Leasing
Method of financing the provision of various capital assets, usually in the form of operating leases which tend not to provide for property in the asset to transfer to the Authority.

Liability
A present obligation of the Authority, settlement of which is expected to require the outflow of resources such as cash or the provision of a service.

Long-Term Debtors
Monies due to the Council which are unlikely to be recovered within a 12-month period, for example mortgage debts.

Long-Term Investments
An investment intended to be held for the medium- or long-term and will not be capable of realisation within a year of the reporting date.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)
Minimum amount which must be charged to an authority's revenue account each year for the repayment of principal and set aside as a provision for credit liabilities.

Net Book Value
Amount at which non-current assets are included in the balance sheet, i.e. their historic cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

Net Current Replacement Cost
Cost of replacing or recreating the particular asset in its existing condition and in its existing use, i.e. the cost of its replacement or of the nearest equivalent asset, adjusted to reflect the current condition of the existing asset.

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

New Homes Bonus
A reward grant paid to authorities based on the number of new homes built or brought back into occupation. A premium is paid for affordable homes included in these numbers.

Non-Current Assets
Asset that yields benefits to the Authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)
Amounts payable to local authorities from non-domestic properties: 50% is distributed to Central Government; 9% to the County Council; 1% to the Fire Authority; and 40% is retained by the Council.

Non-Operational Assets
Non-current assets held by the Authority but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples are investment properties and assets that are surplus to requirements, pending sale or redevelopment.

Operating Leases
A lease other than a finance lease.

Operational Assets
Non-current assets held and occupied, used or consumed by the Authority in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility.

Precept
Demands made upon the collection fund by Central Government and other authorities (Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Authority, Staffordshire Police and Town & Parish Councils) for the services they provide.

Provisions
Amounts set aside where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential. The best estimate at the reporting date of the expenditure

required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

Prudence
An accounting concept that revenue is not anticipated, but is recognised only when it is realised in the form of cash or other assets; the ultimate cash realisation of which can be assessed with reasonable certainty.

Prudential Framework
The Prudential Framework replaced the credit approval mechanism previously used by central government to control borrowing for capital expenditure. Local authorities are now allowed to determine their own capital programmes according to prudent assessments of affordability. Authorities must set their spending plans in accordance with the CIPFA Prudential Code.

Reserves
Sums set aside to meet future expenditure on specific purposes.

Revaluation Reserve
A capital reserve that records net gains (if any) from revaluations of assets made after 1st April 2007. (Introduced by the 2007 SORP, it replaced the Fixed Asset Restatement Account.)

Revenue Expenditure
Expenditure on the day-to-day running of the Council, including employee costs, running expenses and capital financing costs.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)
Expenditure classified as capital for funding purposes which does not result in a non-current asset being carried on the Balance Sheet. This would include capital grants or renovation grants to private persons.

Revenue Support Grant (RSG)
Grant paid to local authorities by Central Government to help finance its general expenditure, becoming less significant as its level is reduced year-on-year.

Section 106 (S106)
This section of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 enables legal agreements between planning authorities and a developer where, on being granted a planning application, the latter may be obliged to provide additional funding for specified services.

Short-Term Investments
An investment that is capable of realisation within a year of the reporting date.

Soft Loan
Loans made for policy reasons rather than as financial instruments; commonly made to local and voluntary sector bodies that undertake activities considered beneficial to the community. They may be interest free or below prevailing market rates.

Usable Capital Receipts Reserve
Distinguishes the amounts in the reserve from any capital receipts that have been posted to the Capital Adjustment Account to reduce the Authority's underlying requirement to borrow.

Useful Life
Period over which the Authority will derive benefits from the use of a non-current asset.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (the 'Authority') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2018 which comprise the Statement of Accounting Policy, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, Notes to the Financial Statements, the Collection Fund Statement and associated notes, the Group Movement in Reserves Statement, the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Group Balance Sheet, the Group Cash Flow Statement, the Group Accounting Policies and Notes to the Group Accounts and Accounting Policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the group and of the Authority as at 31 March 2018 and of the group's expenditure and income and the Authority's expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Who we are reporting to

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 and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members 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 Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's or the Authority's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts set out on pages 2 to 107 and the Annual Governance Statement, other than the group and Council financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge of the group and Authority obtained in the course of our work including that gained through work in relation to the Authority's arrangements for securing value for money through economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other information we are required to report on by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)' published by CIPFA and SOLACE or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter required by the Code of Audit Practice

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements and our knowledge of the Authority gained through our work in relation to the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts on pages 2 to 107 and the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Code of Audit Practice we are required to report to you if:

- we have reported a matter in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we have made a written recommendation to the Authority under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we have exercised any other special powers of the auditor under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matters.

Responsibilities of the Authority, the Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer and Those Charged with Governance for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page 22, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer. The Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18, which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer is responsible for assessing the group's and 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 the group or the Authority lacks funding for its continued existence or when policy decisions have been made that affect the services provided by the group or the Authority.

The Audit and Accounts Committee is Those Charged with Governance.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements - Conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2017, we are satisfied that the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Responsibilities of the Authority

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 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 have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2017, as to whether in all significant respects the Authority had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and

Auditor General determined this criterion as that necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2018.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to be satisfied that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements - Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the financial statements of the Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

Grant Patterson

Grant Patterson
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Appointed Auditor

The Colmore Building
20 Colmore Plaza
Birmingham B4 6AT

27 July 2018