

**Central Bedfordshire
Council
Statement of Accounts
2017/18**

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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2017/18

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Director of Resources' Narrative Report

A. Background

This document presents the statutory financial statements for Central Bedfordshire Council for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and provides a summary of the overall financial position of the Council, giving a true and fair view.

The Council is required by statute to prepare a Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices in relation to accounts. The Statement of Accounts has been produced for the Council as a single entity based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18 ("the Code").

The Statement of Accounts and the supporting notes explain the Council's finances during the financial year 2017/18 and its financial position at the year end. It follows approved accounting standards and is necessarily technical in parts. Comparative numbers are also provided for the financial year 2016/17.

B. About Central Bedfordshire

An Introduction to Central Bedfordshire

Central Bedfordshire is a unitary authority serving a growing population of 279,000 residents, which makes it the 13th largest unitary council population in England. It is a largely rural area with over half the population living in the countryside and the rest in a number of market towns.

The largest of these are Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Biggleswade, Flitwick and Sandy.

The area is generally prosperous, with above average levels of employment. However, there are pockets of deprivation and greater need in some areas.

The area has excellent transport links with the A1 and M1 running through it, three main rail lines and two international airports, Luton and Stansted, on our doorstep.

It is a relatively safe, green and affluent area which has attracted major investment. People living in Central Bedfordshire earn more than the national average; this is in part influenced by some residents commuting out of the area – primarily to Hertfordshire, Luton, London and Milton Keynes.



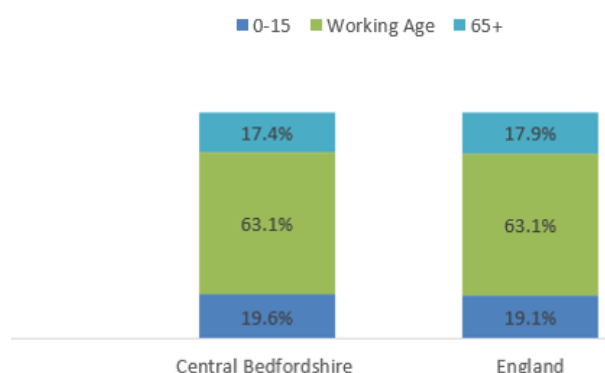
Key Facts about Central Bedfordshire

In considering Central Bedfordshire it is important to have regard to the following information:

A growing population

- The Council's population is predicted to grow to 301,250 by 2022.
- The Council submitted its Local Plan to Government on 30 April 2018, the plan runs until 2035 and provides for up to 20,000 new homes, in addition to the 23,000 that are already allocated or have planning permission.
- Central Bedfordshire's percentage working age population is on a par with the England average, however the percentage of the population aged 0-15 is higher than the England average and the percentage of the population aged 65+ is below the England average.

Central Bedfordshire Population Demographics in comparison to England average.



A strong business base

- In 2017 there were 15,680 active business enterprises in Central Bedfordshire, an increase of 3,035 between 2016 and 2017, 24% growth.
- Central Bedfordshire is home to world leading companies such as; B/E Aerospace, Lockheed Martin, Nissan Technical Centre Europe, Cranfield University, Whitbread, Amazon and the Jordan and Ryvita Company.
- As at January 2017 there had been 1,762 new small business start-ups. This is 88 fewer than in 2016.
- In September 2017, a business survey was conducted by the Council. Overall, two-thirds of businesses (66%) rated their local area as a good area to do business, giving it a score of 4 or 5 out of 5.

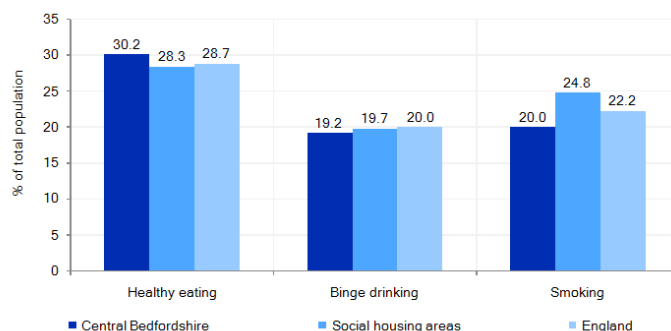
A great place to live and work

- 80% of residents are satisfied with their local areas as a place to live. The England average is 79%.
- The Council is investing in town centres via the Market Town Regeneration Fund. To date £2.5M has been allocated to seven locations to reinvigorate town centres, following a successful bidding round.
- The Council is part of the major project to establish a strategic railway connecting East Anglia with Central, Southern and Western England. The

Western Section is now funded to re-introduce passenger and freight services between Bedford and Oxford.

- The percentage of residents that eat healthily is higher than the England average, whilst the percentage of residents that binge drink or smoke is lower than the England average.

Figure: "Healthy eating" (consumptions of 5+ fruit and veg a day), binge drinking and smoking
Source: Health Survey for England 2006-2008



Economy

- In September 2017, 81.5% of people aged 16-64 were in work, significantly higher than the England average of 74.7%.
- The gross median weekly earnings of Central Bedfordshire residents in 2017 was £612.70, higher than comparators, and an increase of 3.7%, or £21.80, from the 2016 revised earnings of £590.90 (the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings report).
- The UK House Price Index (HPI) shows that the average Central Bedfordshire house price in December 2017 was £315k, annual growth of 8.6%. The England average was £244k, with annual growth of 5%.
- In August 2017 10.8% of working age residents received housing benefit, the average in England is 16.3%.

Political Structure

The Council is run by councillors who are elected by the local community and are responsible for making decisions on their behalf about local services and spending. There are 59 elected Councillors and at 31 March 2018 the Conservative group held 52 seats. The remaining seats are held by four Independent Councillors, three of whom have formed an Independent Group, and the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties held two and one seats respectively.

Cllr James Jamieson is Leader of the Council, he was re-elected at the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 19 May 2016, for a period of four years. Cllr Richard Wenham is the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources.

There were several changes to the Council Executive during 2017/18. Cllr Carole Hegley's portfolio was changed to Adults, Social Care & Housing Operations (HRA), Cllr Eugene Ghent was appointed as the Executive Member for Assets & Housing Delivery and Cllr Steven Dixon was appointed as the Executive Member for Families, Education and Children.

Governance Arrangements

Annual Governance Statement

To accompany the Narrative Report and Statement of Accounts, the Council prepares an Annual Governance Statement that sets out the arrangements that operate to ensure proper governance of the Council's affairs and the stewardship of resources at its disposal. It also outlines the arrangements that are in place to ensure that a sound system of internal control is maintained.

Our Services

The following core services are provided by the Council:

- **Adult Social Care** involves the provision of social work, personal care, protection or social support services to adults in need or at risk, or adults with needs arising from illness, disability, old age or poverty.
- **Children's** services provide care and protection where needed to help children and young people fulfil their potential. The Council supports schools and children's centres, helping disabled children and their families and providing fostering and adoption services.
- **Planning, regeneration and business** services help to support business growth, develop skills, drive employment, reinvigorate towns to attract investment and jobs as well as meeting housing need.
- **Waste and recycling** services organise alternate weekly bin collections for 116,000 households as well as running four recycling centres.
- **Highways** services keep roads and pavements in good shape by fixing problems quickly and efficiently as well as providing walking and cycling routes and promoting road safety.
- **Housing (Housing Revenue Account)** the Council owns and manages over 5,000 properties.
- **Community protection** services make sure that Central Bedfordshire is a safe place to live by tackling anti-social behaviour, supporting businesses to trade fairly and safely, and look after the environment.
- **Leisure, libraries and countryside** services provide opportunities to get fit, meet others, learn, access arts and culture and enjoy the great outdoors.
- **Other** services support the democratic process and keep the Council running effectively and efficiently making sure customers can access the services they need. These services are either provided directly by the Council or are commissioned from and delivered by other organisations. Most of these services are mandatory, meaning that the Council must provide them because it is under a statutory duty to do so. There has been no major change in statutory functions during 2017/18.

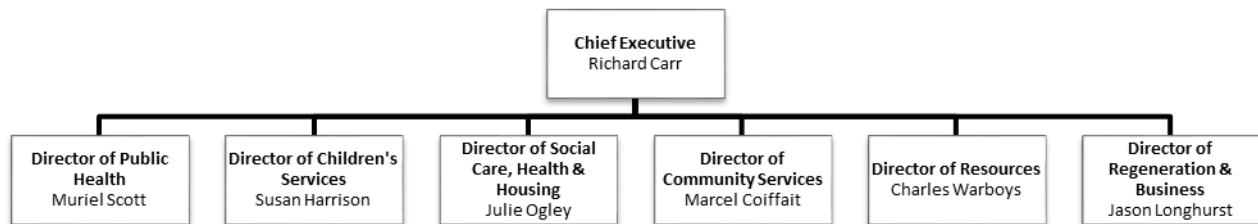
Planned future developments in service delivery include;

- Shared services – continuing to work more effectively with partners to deliver improved outcomes for the public and business.

- Waste – increasing recycling by using targeted leaflets, bin tags, vehicle branding and electronic media to encourage residents to recycle more and recycle the correct things thereby reducing the cost of disposal.
- Digitisation – to digitise the Council's services to enhance accessibility for the Council's residents, businesses and service users.

Management Structure

Delivering a diverse range of services relies on a well-structured management team. The Council's directorates are shaped around the services provided.



There has been no change to the structure since 2016/17. Since March 2016, the Council has been playing an active role in the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP). This partnership comprises 12 health organisations and four local authorities working together to develop plans for future health and social care services that are sustainable and deliver better outcomes for local people.

Given the importance of health and social care to the Council and to our residents, the Chief Executive Officer assumed the role of Senior Responsible Officer for the STP in July 2017.

Another notable external appointment regarding members of our senior management team is the appointment of Julie Ogley as Vice President to the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services in England (ADASS). The association aims to further the interests of people in need of social care by prompting high standards of social care services and influencing the development of social care legislation and policy.

Employees

The Council employs approximately 4,000 staff (including those employed within schools) and employs some temporary / agency staff to deliver the various services. However the dependency on temporary resources is reducing with total spend in 2017/18 of £9.4M compared to £10.1M in 2016/17.

The Council invests in its staff and constantly looks to improve the working environment. A wellbeing programme is promoted including activities such as the workplace challenge, a national programme aimed at engaging workplaces in sport and physical activity.

2017/18 saw the continuance of our vacancy management programme. This has emphasised opportunities for internal applications and has increased the flexibility for staff to work in different areas. The Council is also committed to supporting those

entering the workforce and as at the end of 2017/18 there were 25 apprentices throughout the Council (this compares to 13 in 2016/17).

The Council's Five-Year Plan 2015–2020

The Council has adopted a Five-Year Plan for the period 2015–2020 to deliver a vision of making Central Bedfordshire a great place to live and work. The Council intends to respond to changes in demography and technology whilst accommodating ongoing regulatory change and central government public expenditure plans. Improving the health and happiness of residents are key aims of the plan.

Underpinning this vision are our priorities:

- Enhancing Central Bedfordshire
- Great Resident Services
- Improving Education and Skills
- Protecting the Vulnerable; Improving Wellbeing
- Creating Stronger Communities
- A More Efficient and Responsive Council

Our Five-Year Plan can be accessed on the Council's website at <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council/five-year/plan.aspx>

C. The Council's Performance against Corporate Objectives

Enhancing Central Bedfordshire

We have an ambitious capital programme with a plan to invest up to £309M over the four years from 2017/18 to deliver some key infrastructure projects including roads, school buildings, leisure facilities and much more.

After years of planning, the A5-M1 Link road opened in 2017. Not only is this new road diverting HGVs away from the centre of towns and villages, it is also bringing new businesses and jobs to the area. We have secured funding from the Department of Transport to dual the A421 between junction 13 on the M1 and Milton Keynes, which is a joint project with Milton Keynes Council. We are also progressing plans for the new A6-M1 link road. It is anticipated that both projects will ease congestion in surrounding areas.

Five parks and open spaces across Central Bedfordshire were recognised in this year's Green Flag awards (nine in 2016/17). In October 2017, we opened the brand-new visitor centre at Houghton Hall Park, in Houghton Regis. The centre forms part of our wider project to restore the gardens, providing easy-access paths and innovative natural play equipment around the park, making Houghton Hall Park a great destination for all the family. Over the last year the site has recorded over 400 hours of volunteer time and 946 people engaged in events at the park.

Dunstable Leisure Centre was closed on 4 June 2017 for a £20.1M redevelopment. This is currently on track and is due to be opened in the winter of 2018/19. The redevelopment will provide a new gym and changing areas, three studios, martial arts room, meeting rooms, a new ground floor library, refurbished swimming pools and new changing rooms, along with space for adult day care and a new citizen's advice centre.



Artist's impression of the Dunstable Leisure Centre and Library redevelopment.

There are a number of exciting and ambitious schemes in place and in the pipeline to revitalise the market towns. The Market Town Regeneration Fund has seen the relaunch of markets and the unveiling of a mosaic heritage trail in three towns; Biggleswade, Sandy and Potton. A new Splash Park in Dunstable has also been completed.

In 2018 shops and businesses will also have their shopfronts and forecourts renovated. Town centre vacancy rates are a good way of indicating their success and prosperity, and will be monitored closely so that the Council can be certain the work it is doing is effective. The rate of vacant retail units in Central Bedfordshire at May 2018 stands at 7.7%. In May 2017, the rate was 7.17%, so this shows a slight increase over the last 12 months.



The mosaic unveiled in Sandy in July 2017 depicting the town's Roman past.

Great Resident Services

Performance in key services has continued to improve. A number of the Council's universal services were relatively well regarded from the outset of the Council in 2009 and have enjoyed increasing levels of satisfaction. The regular satisfaction survey of Central Bedfordshire residents was last run in 2016, the results showed that 70% of resident agree that the council supplies good quality services overall. This represents a slight decrease from 2014.

In 2017/18 124,886 tonnes of municipal waste were collected and disposed of (Residual Waste 66,149 tonnes, Recycling 53,484 tonnes and Reused 5,253 tonnes). This compares to 2016/17 where the total tonnage of Municipal Waste collected was almost 3,000 tonnes less at 121,995 tonnes (Residual Waste 64,489 tonnes, Recycling 53,202 tonnes and Reused 4,304 tonnes).

All four Household Waste Recycling Centres have been open for the full year, three of which have been developed – this has seen an increase in customer usage. These factors both increase the tonnage, and cost, against the previous year. In November 2017, a Behavioural Change Campaign designed to 'nudge' residents to recycle the right things slowed the growth of kerbside collected residual waste.

Satisfaction with highways maintenance, determined through the National Highways & Transport annual survey, was 52% in April 2017. An increase of 1% from 2016.

Participation in leisure centres – overall there has been a reduction due to the closure of Dunstable Leisure Centre on 4 June 2017 for redevelopment. All other leisure centres have seen an increase in attendance, circa 250,000 as seen in the table below. We reported satisfaction figures last year for leisure services however this was not possible for 2017/18 as the same residents' survey was not undertaken.

	Number of recorded users			
Leisure Centre	2017/18	2016/17	Variance	Percentage
Saxon	366,960	311,004	55,956	17.99%
Houghton Regis	188,265	135,306	52,959	39.14%
Flitwick	662,039	600,564	61,475	10.24%
Sandy	108,243	105,670	2,573	2.43%
Tiddenfoot	485,604	404,799	80,805	19.96%
Dunstable	41,806	363,233	-321,427	-88.49%
Total	1,852,917	1,920,576	-67,659	-3.52%

Improving Education and Skills

The Council's Children's Services was rated as 'Good' following a four-week thorough inspection process in June and July 2017. All councils undergo the same inspection process to ensure that services for children are rigorously monitored and that children are being effectively safeguarded. In December 2017, 87% of schools and academies

in Central Bedfordshire were rated as Good or Outstanding by OFSTED this compares to performance in December 2016 of 89%.

GCSE results in Central Bedfordshire improved in 2017 to 0.9 points above the national average (1.3 points below 2016).

The percentage of young people aged 16-17 who are in education or employment or training (EET) as at February 2017 in Central Bedfordshire has improved to 92.8% (from 90.4% in 2015/16), reflecting the effective support and interventions from the Council.

Learning new skills doesn't stop when children leave school, so the Council will support adults to obtain the skills they need to succeed, and will also ensure that it matches the provision of skills with those that are needed by employers.

Protecting the Vulnerable; Improving Wellbeing

Supporting vulnerable children and adults is the largest area of spend for the Council. As well as providing home care and residential care for older people we are focusing on helping people live independently for longer, with our flagship Priory View site in Dunstable a huge success with residents since it opened in 2016. Following this success, the Council is investing in a new Independent Living Scheme in Houghton Regis; this will include apartments for people aged 55 years and over, plus a range of amenities for the residents and the public.

Improvement has also been evident in our services for vulnerable children. Initially the Council saw a rapid rise in the number of looked after children and children on child protection plans, but has now stabilised the situation. The Council looks after over 300 children who cannot stay with their families. We continue to increase the number of local foster families who provide stable and nurturing environments for these children.

As at December 2017 children's safeguarding referrals as a percentage of the child population was 2.3%, the same as at December 2016. The average age of customers admitted to a residential care home is 86.7 years as at December 2017. This is the highest since June 2016 (87.7 years) and is a positive indicator as this means the Council is being effective in helping people stay in their own homes for longer.

Creating Stronger Communities

The Council will do all it can to strengthen community spirit in Central Bedfordshire's towns and villages, nurturing a sense of place and belonging to build resilience and reduce social isolation.

A More Efficient and Responsive Council

The Council will be focused on cost effectiveness and efficiency in all that it does. Customers, the residents and businesses of Central Bedfordshire, will help to determine whether it is successful in this ambition. The Council will listen to their opinions, views and preferences in shaping its plans.

Whilst making it easier to access our services online, we also want to improve access to our face-to-face customer service. In 2017/18, we started a pilot to include customer services within our libraries, starting with Shefford Library following a decline in the number of people using our customer service centres.

The Council has achieved a sustainable financial position, having delivered savings of £118M since 2009 and has a robust plan to maintain financial stability in the years to come.

The Council intends to continue to work to ensure that provision of the best possible services and opportunities for residents of all ages. The Council will also continue to work together with big businesses who are now seeing Central Bedfordshire as the perfect place to locate, bringing money and jobs to the area.

D. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Outlook

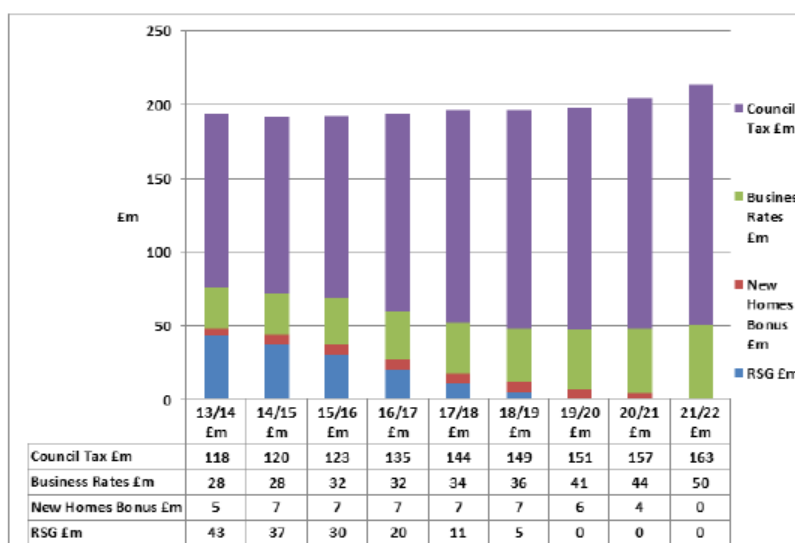
MTFP 2018/19–2021/22

The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) underpins the Five-Year Plan, by allocating resources to deliver Council services and strategic outcomes, whilst identifying adjustments to achieve a sustainable financial position over the next four years. The MTFP 2018–2022 was updated and approved by Council on 22 February 2018.

The MTFP for 2018–22 identified £13.8M of efficiencies required to produce a balanced budget for 2018/19 in light of the ongoing reduction in funding from Government and emerging cost pressures. A further £32.1M of efficiencies had been estimated as required over the three years from April 2019 to achieve the proposed MTFP.

Strategic and operational risks facing the Council are identified, reviewed and managed on a continuous basis in line with the Council's Risk Management Strategy. Local Government funding sources are forecast to change significantly over the Medium Term Financial Plan period 2018/19 to 2021/22.

The chart to the right shows how funding sources are forecast to change over the MTFP period, with 2013/14 to 2017/18 as comparators.



Revenue MTFP 2018/19–2021/22 Budget Process

The Budget Strategy Review Process for 2018/19 built on that adopted in previous years with a series of “Budget Strategy Reviews” at an early stage. As per last year, given the ever-increasing pressures on local authority finances, a greater emphasis was placed on planning for the whole 4-year period of the MTFP.

A number of financial challenges and opportunities have emerged during 2017/18 which required a focus in the MTFP to mitigate growing pressures and to stabilise costs and service provision. These included;

- **Homelessness** – The Council is facing an increase in the numbers of homeless people, and although not yet on the same scale as neighbouring authorities, this is causing financial pressures, which will continue to grow unless addressed.
- **Learning Disabilities** – The number of people (both Children and Adults) diagnosed with learning disabilities is increasing significantly. The range of disabilities is broad and different responses are required for different conditions.
- **Special Educational Needs (SEN) Transport** – The cost of transporting Children with SEN is amongst the highest in the country.
- **An integrated Approach to Families requiring Council Support** – The Council is developing more integrated approach to dealing with a pilot to look at families that require a lot of Council (and partners’) support in order to see if a more integrated approach could result in better outcomes.
- **Digitisation** – Provides the Council with many opportunities to both improve services through customer self-service or process improvement whilst reducing transactional costs. There are a number of system changes planned over the next two years that will enable these opportunities.

There was an increased focus on what drives costs, and the degree to which these can be controlled or mitigated, together with a rigorous approach to reviewing pressures and efficiencies. Focus was on the major challenges and opportunities facing the Council over the four years to 2021/22.

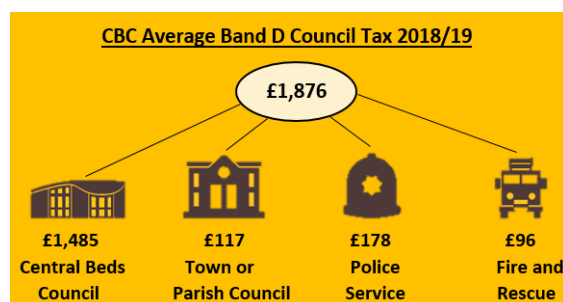
Council Tax

The 2017 Financial Settlement gave local authorities the option to raise a 6% Adult Social Care Precept over three years (2017/18–2019/20) which could be phased as either 2% each year or 3% for two years. CBC chose to increase the precept by 3% in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

The Council Tax base for 2018/19 grew by 1.88% due to housing growth within Central Bedfordshire and a reduction in the number of claimants of Local Council Tax Support (LCTS). Over the MTFP period Council Tax funding is forecast to rise from £148.6M in 2018/19 to £163.1M in 2021/22.

At the Council meeting on 22 February 2018 a Council Tax increase of 4.494% was agreed, comprising of a 1.494% general increase and a 3% Adult Social Care Precept

increase. The 2018/19 Average Band D Council Tax charge for Central Bedfordshire is £1,876, this is broken down in the diagram below.



Brexit

As part of the Council's MTFP process the impact of Brexit was considered. It is anticipated that this will result in economic volatility, but as yet this has not been possible to quantify.

Business Rates

The Business Rates Retention scheme was introduced in 2013/14. At the end of 2017/18 Central Bedfordshire exceeded the "Baseline Funding Level" set by Government for the year, and as a result of business rates' growth a levy is therefore payable, of £0.76M.

Business Rates growth has been forecast as a result of new businesses being attracted into the Central Bedfordshire area. Additional business rates income of: £1.8M in 2018/19, £4.1M in 2019/20, £3.4M in 2020/21 and £2.9M in 2021/22 has been included in the MTFP.

During 2017 the Government announced its aim to localise 75% of business rates from 2020/21 and implementation of the new needs assessment. The Fair Funding Review will set new funding baselines for every authority alongside the introduction of a 75% business rate retention system in 2021.

Reserves

A number of earmarked reserves are used to support the early years in particular of the MTFP. All use of reserves has been reversed back out over the life of the Plan, as it is not sustainable to rely on reserves as a source of longer term funding. Their use is in recognition of the lead in time for some efficiencies.

One of the key budget objectives is to maintain General Fund reserves to at least a risk assessed prudent minimum level. The 2017/18 outturn position is that General Fund reserves remain at £15.6M and Earmarked Reserves have increased by £12.1M to a total of £88.2M. A breakdown of Earmarked Reserves can be found in Note 10.

Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2021/22

The Council's Capital Programme was reviewed during 2017/18 and a number of changes were made.

From the Council's five-year plan there are a number of broad outcomes which capital investment plays a role in delivering:

- Improved town centres and facilities
- Great quality, appropriate and affordable housing
- Great infrastructure including transport and broadband
- Improved roads and pavements, parks and leisure
- Educational success
- Allowing people to live independently or in suitable specialist accommodation
- Operational efficiency

In order to deliver those outcomes and in common with the General Fund Revenue MTFP, the Capital Programme was built up thematically.

E. Financial Position

2017/18 Revenue Outturn

The net revenue budget for 2017/18 was set by the Council at £189.6M (£189.2M in 2016/17). This excludes the budget allocated to schools and also the Council's self-financing Housing Revenue Account (Landlord Business). The latter is reported under separate cover and schools are not included as the Dedicated Schools Grant received from the Government is passed directly through to schools.

The 31 March 2018 net revenue outturn that will be reported to the Executive Committee meeting of 12 June 2018, after movements in earmarked reserves, was £78k below budget (£52k below budget in 2016/17) and is shown in the following table. The outturn position reported to the Executive Committee is reconciled to the accounting statements via the Expenditure and Funding Analysis.

Core Service Expenditure	Budget £'000's	Outturn £000's	Initial Variance £000's	Reserve Adjustments £000's	Variance after reserve adjustments £000's
Net Revenue Expenditure					
Social Care, Health and Housing	72,850	72,056	(794)	1,237	443
Children's Services (excl. schools)	36,361	35,548	(813)	532	(281)
Community Services	49,892	57,850	7,958	(6,965)	993
Regeneration and Business Support	5,494	4,672	(822)	456	(366)
Public Health	60	(117)	(177)	177	0
Chief Executive's	1,345	1,293	(52)	(20)	(72)
Resources	11,533	12,938	1,405	(493)	912
Corporate Costs	12,048	465	(11,583)	9,876	(1,707)
Total Net Expenditure	189,581	184,705	(4,878)	4,800	(78)

Core Service Expenditure Funding	Budget £'000's	Outturn £000's	Initial Variance £000's	Reserve Adjustments £000's	Variance after reserve adjustments £000's
Financed by					
Revenue Support Grant	(10,599)	(10,599)	-	-	-
NNDR Collection Fund Deficit	585	585	-	-	-
Section 31 Grant	(1,851)	(1,851)	-	-	-
Retained Business Rates	(33,045)	(33,045)	-	-	-
Council Tax Collection Fund Surplus	(4,582)	(4,582)	-	-	-
Council Tax	(139,487)	(139,487)	-	-	-
Transitional Funding	(2,226)	(2,226)	-	-	-
Adult Social Care Support Grant	(869)	(869)	-	-	-
Contribution to Reserves	2,885	2,885	-	-	-
Renewable Energy NNDR	(391)	(391)	-	-	-
Total Funding	189,581	189,581			

Income Collection

97.94% (98%, 2016/17) of Council Tax and 98.53% (99.04%, 2016/17) of Business Rates due in the year were collected, which is a slight decrease on the previous year. The Council's collection rates are above the national average, Council Tax 97.2% (2016/17) and Business Rates 98.2% (2016/17).

97.32% (96.75%, 2016/17) of housing rents due in the year were collected, which is a slight increase on the previous year and reflects a reduction in former tenant arrears arising from rents due in the year.

Capital Outturn 2017/18

The Council's Capital Programme sets out expenditure plans for acquiring, constructing and improving buildings, roads and equipment that are used in delivering services. The Council derives benefit from such capital expenditure over many years. Capital net expenditure on capital assets amounted to £49.2M in the year ended 31 March 2018 (£84.9M in 2016/17).

The Capital Programme also includes £31.5M (£28.3M in 2016/17) of grants and other expenditure on projects that are capital in nature but do not create an asset to be recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet. The Council has authority under statute to finance such revenue expenditure from capital resources.

In 2017/18 the total Council Capital Programme expenditure was £70.7M (£108.45M in 2016/17), which was £56.3M (£39.4M in 2016/17) less than the budget.

The majority of the programme variance related to various scheme delays where expenditure will be incurred in 2018/19 and future years. The main reasons for the variance in budget are; £8.2M A421 M1 Junction 13, £7.8M Strategic Acquisitions, £3.4M Depot and Salt Barn North, £4.2M M1-A6 Scheme and £2.5M Extra Care Scheme.

Capital receipts received in year amounted to £48.6M (£10.3M in 2016/17), the highest achieved since the Council began in 2009. As a result, it has not been necessary for the Council to finance any of the 2017/18 capital expenditure by borrowing. Instead it has been funded by Government capital grant together with contributions from developers and outside agencies, capital receipts and revenue contributions. Funding from these sources totalled £70.7M (£64.6M in 2016/17).

The following table shows the Council's 2017/18 Capital outturn position and funding. The reported outturn position excludes s106 expenditure as it is fully funded by the s106 income. Further detail can be found in Note 36 to the Statement of Accounts.

Gross Capital Expenditure by Directorate	Budget £'000's	Outturn £000's	Variance £000's
Children's Services	13,084	18,582	5,498
Community Services	66,922	36,786	(30,136)
Regeneration and Business Support	19,631	4,658	(14,973)
Social Care, Health and Housing	10,955	3,171	(7,784)
HRA	16,472	7,519	(8,953)
Total Net Expenditure - reported	127,064	70,716	(56,348)
Total including s106		80,685	
Financed by			
Grants and Contributions	(53,377)	(40,269)	13,108
Revenue Contribution	(1,589)	(1,589)	0
Capital Receipts	(12,000)	(28,858)	(16,858)
Borrowing	(60,098)	0	60,098
Total Funding	127,064	70,716	(56,348)
Total including s106		(80,685)	

Explanation of the Main Statements in the Accounts

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

This statement, as set out on page 25, shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA) and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Key items to note:

- Net cost of services has increased by £31.23M. This is largely due to approximately £20M increase in Community Services net expenditure as a result of the movement of IT from Chief Executive Directorate to Community Services, revaluation losses and increased depreciation of approximately £7M and an additional £3M spend on leisure services. Net expenditure on the Housing Revenue Account has increased by £14M due to a £16.7M revaluation loss (compared with £1.6M in 2016/17). This has had an impact on the overall position on the provision of services resulting in a deficit of £23.050M (deficit of £10.892M in 2016/17).
- Financing and investment income has remained broadly the same between years, as has taxation and non specific grants.
- Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure has moved considerably between the years (£55.6M) largely due to the reduced deficit on revaluation of property, plant and equipment of £37.333M (£49.167M in 2017/18 compared to £86.5M in 2016/17) and the value of the defined pension asset £7.765M (compared with a liability of £85.042M in 2016/17 – a total movement of £92.807M).

The Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS)

This Statement, as set out on page 26, shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'.

The Statement shows how the movements in year of the authority's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax (or rents) for the year. The Net Increase/Decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

Key items to note:

- Usable reserves have increased by £35.7M to a total of £138.4M (£102.7M in 2016/17). Of the usable reserves £79M has been set aside in earmarked reserves as it is destined for specific purposes. Note 10 to the Statement of Accounts has further information on these future projects.
- In contrast the unusable reserves have reduced by £1.6M to a total of £383.8M (£385.4M in 2016/17). The main reasons for this reduction are a £13.9M increase in the Pension Reserve deficit due to changes in the assumptions used to value the fund, which is offset by a £16M increase in the Revaluation Reserve (£279.9M in 2017/18 compared with £263.8M in 2016/17).

The Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet, as set out on page 28, shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the Council's assets and liabilities. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council.

Reserves are reported in two categories;

- The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e., those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example, the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt).
- The second category of reserves is unusable reserves, i.e., those reserves that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example, the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

Key items to note:

- Short-term investments and cash have both increased; investments by £3.507M (from £1.007M in 2016/17 to £4.513M in 2017/18) and cash by £2.848M (from £4.263M in 2016/17 to £7.111M in 2017/18), the latter having been increased due to cash in transit as a result of timing differences.
- Assets held for sale has increased by £6.780M to a total of £6.786M (£0.006M in 2016/17). This is due to strategic decisions relating to the sale of land held by the Council for development in 2018/19.
- Due to the significant increase in capital receipts in 2017/18 there has been a substantial decrease in the need for short-term borrowing of £46.089M (from £73.430M in 2016/17 to £27.341M in 2017/18). Further information on our treasury management and borrowing practice is outlined later in this report.
- Grants Receipts in Advance – Capital has increased by £18.231M (from £42.927M in 2016/17 to £61.158M in 2017/18) largely as a result of £15.8M relating to New School Places.

The Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement page 29 shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.

The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Council's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e., borrowing) to the Council.

Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA)

This note, as set out on page 53, shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, council tax and business rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.

It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Additional Information presented

This document also includes Supplementary Financial Statements:

- the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Income and Expenditure Statement shows the costs in the year of providing housing services and the Movement on the HRA Statement shows adjustments made to the HRA in line with statutory requirements.
- the Collection Fund Statement separately summarises the transactions in relation to Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates collected by the Council on behalf of those authorities responsible for services within the area and the way in which these monies have been distributed among the authorities to finance their expenditure.

Other statements published with but not part of the Statement of Accounts include the Annual Governance Statement which explains how the Council has complied with its corporate governance framework and provides information about the different elements of the framework, key issues and the main areas of work that have been progressed during 2017/18 and are being developed in 2018/19. A Glossary of key terms is also provided as an aid to readers of this document.

Group Accounts

The Code requires Local Authorities to consider all their interests and to prepare a full set of group financial statements where they have material interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. The Council does not have material interests in any such bodies and accordingly is not required to prepare group financial statements.

Material assets acquired or liabilities incurred

The capital programme expenditure is summarised on pages 15 – 16 and movements in Property Plant and Equipment at Note 14. There were no material assets acquired or liabilities incurred during 2017/18.

Material and unusual charges or credits

Academy Transfers

There were seven schools that transferred to Academy status during 2017/18 as shown in the table below. This resulted in a net transfer of Property, Plant and Equipment non-current assets valued at £3.2M from the Council's Balance Sheet.

Previous name of school	Academy name
Caldecote VC Lower School	Caldecote Church of England Academy
Kensworth C of E Primary School	Kensworth Church of England Academy
Manshead School	Manshead CE Academy
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	St Mary's Catholic Primary School
St Vincent's Catholic Primary School	St Vincent's Catholic Primary School
Thomas Whitehead CE Primary School	Thomas Whitehead CE Academy
Totternhoe Lower School	Totternhoe CE Academy

Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund (BCF) was established by the Government from 1 April 2015 to provide funds to local areas to support the integration of health and social care. Under a framework partnership arrangement between Central Bedfordshire Council (the "host") and NHS Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, a pooled fund was set up in 2015/16 for this purpose. Both parties jointly commission the services and agree to meet their proportionate share of transactional costs. The risk share agreement is on the basis of a 50:50 split, so any net surplus or deficit is shared on this basis. The arrangement with expenditure of £20.6M (£19.3M in 2016/17) is set out at Note 29.

The Council's Local Government Pension Scheme liability

The Council is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administered by Bedford Borough Council, which is open to all non-teaching employees of Central Bedfordshire Council. The CIPFA Code of Practice requires the Council to record in the Statement of Accounts, the assets and liabilities of the LGPS attributable to the Council and the cost of pensions. The underlying principle is that

the Council should account for retirement benefits when it is committed to making them, even though the cash payments may be many years into the future.

The liability for both statutory and discretionary pension benefits, measured in accordance with International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19, has increased over the year. At 31 March 2018, the Council's net liability reported by the Actuary to the LGPS was £430.4M (£416.5M in 2016/17). The fair value of LGPS assets increased over the year to £504.4M (£500.9M in 2016/17) and the value of the obligations to pay pension liabilities increased to £934.7M (£917.4M in 2016/17).

The net pension liability of £430.4M represents an estimate following IAS19 requirements and there is no direct link to funding or employers' contribution rates. The net liability is matched by the Pension Reserve, also shown in the Balance Sheet.

There are statutory arrangements for funding any LGPS deficit by increased employer contributions over the remaining working life of employees, as determined by the scheme's Actuary. The triennial actuarial valuation of the Bedfordshire LGPS determines the future contribution rates for employers and reflects different assumptions from those required by IAS19. The triennial valuation at 31 March 2016 certified a funding level of 71% for the Bedfordshire LGPS as a whole and 66% for this Council.

Further details of the LGPS can be found in Note 41 Defined Benefit Pension Scheme.

Treasury Management and Borrowing

The Council's treasury management and capital financing strategy is to defer borrowing wherever possible and maintain cash balances sufficient only for operational purposes. The value of the Council's cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2018 was £7.111M (£4.263M 31 March 2017). The credit risk of banking failures is still present and diversification of investments between creditworthy counterparties is now increasingly important to mitigate investment risk where shareholders, bond holders and unsecured creditors are 'bailed in' to participate in any recovery process.

In the wider economy, the Bank of England has continued to maintain low interest rates and despite signs of a recovering economy with jobs growth, the Bank is not expected to raise rates until late 2018 at the earliest.

Within the Treasury Management Strategy, the Council approved an authorised borrowing limit for 2017/18 of £577.4M (£567.1M in 2016/17). Following a substantial increase in capital receipts in 2017/18 of £49.5M (£6.9M in 2016/17), the Council reduced the need for short term borrowing by circa £46M to £27.341M in 2017/18 (£73.430M in 2016/17).

At the end of the financial year, the Council had outstanding external borrowing in place of £274.3M (£347.8M in 2016/17) in respect of the funding of the capital programme and social housing.

Significant provisions or contingencies and material write-offs

There were £5.2M of provisions as at 31 March 2018 (£6.1M in 2016/17) the most significant being in respect of self-insurance arrangements and appeals in respect of business rates values. The Insurance Provision, which includes some liabilities in respect of the former Bedfordshire County Council which are managed on behalf of the Council and Bedford Borough Council, stood at £2.3M as at 31 March 2018 (£2.3M in 2016/17). A further £2.1M (£2.1M in 2016/17) reflects the Council's share of the total provision made within the Collection Fund of £4.3M (£4.3M in 2016/17) in respect of business rate appeals.

There were no significant General Fund income write-offs in the year.

Material events after the reporting date

The Statement of Accounts were authorised for issue by the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) on 30 July 2018. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2018, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

There are no events known to the Council which would need to be registered as events after the Balance Sheet date.

Significant changes in accounting policies

There were no material changes in accounting policies during 2017/18.

E. Conclusion

Through careful planning and management, Central Bedfordshire Council has been able to close its 2017/18 accounts showing a robust position, which will support the Council in meeting the financial challenges of 2018/19 and beyond.

Whilst a balanced budget has been set for 2018/19, the projections for future years indicate a relatively small gap between the Council's expected funding streams and the Council's expenditure. It is therefore essential that the Council continues with its programme to identify further savings opportunities to ensure future balanced budgets can be set.

Charles Warboys
Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer
Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands
Bedfordshire
SG17 5TQ



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 Council, the Director of Resources (Chief Finance Officer and s.151 Officer) has this responsibility.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts. The Audit Committee, under delegated authority from the Council, fulfils this role.

The Chief Finance Officer's Responsibilities

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18 (the Code).

In preparing this statement, the Chief Finance Officer has:

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

The Chief Finance Officer has also:

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

Certification and Approval

The Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Central Bedfordshire Council at 31 March 2018 and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Councillor Mike Blair – Chair of Audit Committee

Charles Warboys – Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer

30 July 2018

Core Financial Statements 2017/18

Comprehensive Income and 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 both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

2016/17			2017/18		
Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
103,622	(28,276)	75,346	107,535	(30,003)	77,532
84,951	(29,088)	55,863	82,751	(30,678)	52,073
80,581	(15,667)	64,914	103,667	(18,779)	84,888
17,205	(7,274)	9,931	21,917	(8,887)	13,030
17,753	(17,953)	(200)	17,408	(17,460)	(52)
10,851	(1,702)	9,149	1,532	(118)	1,414
78,779	(67,405)	11,374	78,628	(64,620)	14,008
2,492	(12,430)	(9,938)	3,227	(12,621)	(9,394)
118,187	(112,677)	5,510	109,899	(104,646)	5,253
21,376	(29,639)	(8,263)	35,250	(29,087)	6,163
535,796	(322,110)	213,686	561,814	(316,898)	244,916
15,639	0	15,639	12,442	(8,668)	3,774
36,842	(15,535)	21,307	34,594	(13,357)	21,237
11,046	(250,786)	(239,741)	6,577	(253,455)	(246,878)
599,323	(588,432)	10,892	615,427	(592,377)	23,050
Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services			Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services		
(86,500) Surplus or deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment (Note 24)			(86,500) Surplus or deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment (Note 24)		
(128) Surplus or deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets			(128) Surplus or deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets		
85,042 Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability / asset (Note 41)			85,042 Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability / asset (Note 41)		
(1,587) Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(1,587) Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		
9,305 Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			9,305 Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		

Movement in Reserves Statement

This Statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable' reserves (i.e., those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable' reserves. The '(Surplus) / deficit on the provision of services' line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account for Council Tax setting and dwellings rent setting purposes. The 'Net (increase) / decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves' line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves undertaken by the Council.

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) £000	Earmarked HRA Reserves £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants Un- applied Account £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Reserves £000
Balance at 31 March 2017	(15,569)	(54,442)	(2,000)	(21,571)	(6,474)	(200)	(2,459)	(102,715)	(385,373)	(488,087)
Movement in reserves during 2017/18										
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	14,564		8,486					23,050		23,050
Other Comprehensive Income / Expenditure									(57,142)	(57,142)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	14,564	0	8,486	0				23,050	(57,142)	(34,092)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 9)	(21,587)		(13,685)		(23,710)	0	244	(58,738)	58,738	0
Net Increase or Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(7,023)	0	(5,199)	0	(23,710)	0	244	(35,689)	1,596	(34,092)
Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves (Note 10)	6,945	(6,945)	5,199	(5,199)				0	0	0
Increase or Decrease in 2017/18	(78)	(6,945)	0	(5,199)	(23,710)	0	244	(35,689)	1,596	(34,092)
Balance at 31 March 2018	(15,647)	(61,387)	(2,000)	(26,770)	(30,184)	(200)	(2,216)	(138,404)	(383,776)	(522,180)

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) £000	Earmarked HRA Reserves £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants Un- applied Account £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Reserves £000
Balance at 31 March 2016	(15,517)	(44,395)	(2,000)	(17,252)	(2,996)	(200)	(3,260)	(85,619)	(411,773)	(497,392)
Movement in reserves during 2016/17										
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	20,130		(9,238)					10,892		10,892
Other Comprehensive Income / Expenditure									(1,587)	(1,587)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	20,130	0	(9,238)	0				10,892	(1,587)	9,305
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 9)	(30,229)		4,919		(3,478)	0	800	(27,988)	27,988	0
Net Increase or Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(10,099)	0	(4,319)	0	(3,478)	0	800	(17,096)	26,401	9,305
Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves (Note 10)	10,047	(10,047)	4,319	(4,319)				0	0	0
Increase or Decrease in 2016/17	(52)	(10,047)	0	(4,319)	(3,478)	0	800	(17,096)	26,401	9,305
Balance at 31 March 2017	(15,569)	(54,442)	(2,000)	(21,571)	(6,474)	(200)	(2,459)	(102,715)	(385,373)	(488,087)

Balance Sheet

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

31 March 2017 £000		Note	31 March 2018 £000
1,309,583	Property, Plant and Equipment	14	1,312,204
12,185	Intangible Assets	15	11,334
5,279	Long Term Investments	16	5,489
491	Long Term Debtors	16	16
1,327,538	Long Term Assets		1,329,043
1,007	Short-term Investments	16	4,513
6	Assets Held for Sale	20	6,786
90	Inventories	17	0
44,726	Short Term Debtors	18	45,498
4,263	Cash and Cash Equivalents	19	7,111
50,093	Current Assets		63,908
(73,430)	Short-Term Borrowing	16	(27,341)
(59,791)	Short-Term Creditors	21	(56,606)
(6,101)	Provisions	22	(5,231)
(139,321)	Current Liabilities		(89,178)
(274,279)	Long Term Borrowing	16	(274,320)
(433,016)	Other Long-Term Liabilities	38 & 41	(446,116)
(42,927)	Grants Receipts in Advance - Capital	34	(61,158)
(750,222)	Long Term Liabilities		(781,593)
488,087	Net Assets		522,180
(102,715)	Usable Reserves	23	(138,404)
(385,373)	Unusable Reserves	24	(383,776)
(488,087)	Total Reserves		(522,180)

Cash Flow Statement

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

2016/17 £000		Note	2017/18 £000
10,892	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services		23,050
(76,772)	Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for noncash movements	25	(112,898)
55,851	Adjustment for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	25	97,813
(10,029)	Net cash flows from operating activities		7,964
17,026	Net cash flows from investing activities	26	(57,079)
(10,852)	Net cash flows from financing activities	27	46,267
(3,854)	Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(2,848)
409	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		4,263
4,263	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	19	7,111

These financial statements replace the unaudited financial statements approved at the meeting of the Audit Committee on 30 May 2018.

Authorised for issue 30 July 2018

C Warboys

Director of Resources &
Section 151 Officer

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Note 1 - Accounting Policies

i. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the financial year and its position at the year-end. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which those Regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice (SeRCOP) 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.

ii. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

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

iii. Acquisitions and Discontinued Operations

When necessary, income and expenditure directly related to acquired or discontinued operations will be shown separately within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement under the heading of acquired or discontinued operations.

iv. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

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

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

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

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

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

vi. Charges to Revenue for Non-current Assets

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

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

The Council 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 Council in accordance with statutory guidance. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund

Balance (Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)), by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

vii. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

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

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

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

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

viii. 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 wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g., cars) for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Council. An accrual is made for the cost of 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 Council 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 Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises costs for a restructuring. Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the Pension Fund or 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 Council are members of one of the three following pension schemes:

- the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE);
- the Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by Bedford Borough Council;
- the NHS Pension Scheme, administered by NHS Pensions.

All schemes provided defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

However, the arrangements for the Teachers' and NHS schemes mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Council. The schemes are therefore accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet. The Children's and Education Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to Teachers' Pensions and the Public Health line charged with contributions payable to the NHS Pension Scheme in the year.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the scheme attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, which is 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 and projections of earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate based on the indicative rate of return on a high quality corporate bond each year end as prescribed by IAS19.

- The assets of the Fund attributable to the Council are included at their fair value:
 - quoted securities – current bid price;
 - unquoted securities – market value (professional estimate);
 - unitised securities – current bid price;
 - property – market value (professional estimate).

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

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

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the Pension Fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional

debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the Pension Fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits earned by employees.

ix. 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.

x. Financial Instruments

- Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

For most of the borrowings that the Council has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest); and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

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.

- Financial Assets

The Council holds two types of financial assets:

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

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 Council 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 Council.

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

- 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 – independent appraisal of company valuations.

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 Council 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 de-recognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, 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).

xi. Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

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

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

xii. Heritage Assets

Any Tangible or Intangible Heritage Assets held by the Council are not of material financial value. They are therefore classified as Property, Plant and Equipment and are not disclosed separately in the accounting statements.

xiii. Intangible Assets

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

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

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

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

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

xiv. Inventories

Any inventories held by the Council are not of material financial value. They are therefore not disclosed in the accounting statements.

xv. Leases

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

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

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

- The Council as Lessee

Operating Leases

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

- The Council as Lessor

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the 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.

xvi. Overheads and Support Services

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

xvii. Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the provision of services, for income generation or for administrative purposes on a continuing basis are classified as Property, Plant and Equipment.

- Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of tangible fixed assets is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it will yield future economic benefits or service potential to the Council for more than one financial year and the cost can be reliably measured. This will include costs and fees incurred on capital projects, which are under construction at the year end, where it can be shown that either a new asset will be created or an existing asset enhanced. All other expenditure on assets (i.e., repairs and maintenance) is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense when it is incurred.

These also include assets under finance leases and private finance initiatives which have been capitalised and included in the Balance Sheet at a value that reflects the Council's obligation to meet future rental payments.

The Council sets a £2K de-minimis level for capital spending / capital accounting purposes and spending below this limit is charged to service revenue accounts within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless the spending forms part of a larger capital scheme.

- 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 was located.

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

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

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

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost;
- dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV–SH);
- 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), the depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for current value.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are re-valued 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 as follows:

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

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 as follows:

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains);
- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(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 Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e., Assets under Construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the Valuer;
- vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the asset;
- infrastructure – straight-line allocation over 30 years.

Where a financially material item of Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) over £1M in Net Book Value has major components over £250K of the asset value, the components will be depreciated separately where the useful life is substantially different and the calculated depreciation can also be shown to be significantly different. Individual PPE assets with a Net Book Value of less than and including £1M will be classed as de-minimis and be excluded from the requirement to be componentised. Given that residential units are valued and reported individually, the Council does not componentise its HRA dwellings on the basis that the value for any single Council dwelling does not exceed £1M.

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

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale, they are re-classified 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 re-classified as Assets Held for Sale.

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

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10K are categorised as capital receipts. 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 Council's underlying need to borrow (the Capital Financing Requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

xviii. Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) and Similar Contracts

In December 2003, Bedfordshire County Council entered into a PFI contract for the provision of new buildings, the refurbishment of existing buildings and associated facilities management at two schools (Samuel Whitbread Academy and Harlington Upper School). Given that the Council is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI scheme, ownership of the property, plant and equipment would ordinarily pass to the Council at the end of the contracts for no additional charge. However, the assets used to provide services at the schools are no longer recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet given that the two schools have converted to Academy status and the assets were written out of the Council's asset register at the point of transfer to the two Academy schools.

The original recognition of these assets at fair value (based on the cost to purchase the property, plant and equipment) was balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment. This liability related to the PFI is held on the Balance Sheet as a long term liability and is being cleared over the contract term which expires in 2035.

The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year are analysed into five elements:

- fair value of the services received during the year – debited to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- finance cost – an interest charge of 7.2% on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- payment towards liability – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write-downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease);
- life-cycle replacement costs – proportion of the amounts payable is posted to the Balance Sheet as a prepayment and then recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out.

xix. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

- Provisions

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

obligation. For instance, the Council may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

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

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

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

- Contingent Liabilities

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

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

- Contingent Assets

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

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

xx. Reserves

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by transferring amounts out of the General Fund Balance/Housing Revenue Account. 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 transferred back into the General Fund Balance/Housing Revenue Account so that there is no net charge against Council Tax for the expenditure.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for Non-Current Assets, financial instruments, local taxation, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council – these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

xxi. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)

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

xxii. VAT

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

xxiii. Fair Value Measurement

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

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

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

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

- Level 1 – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Council can access at the 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.

Note 2 - Accounting Standards Issued, Not Adopted

The Council is required to disclose information relating to the probable impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted by the Code of Practice.

There have been a number of changes to international accounting standards which have been adopted by the 2018/19 CIPFA Code of Practice but not by the 2017/18 Code. The Council will therefore adopt these changes from 1 April 2018.

The accounting changes introduced in the 2018/19 Code and relevant to the Council relate to:

- IFRS 9 Financial Instruments
- IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers
- amendments to IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows disclosure initiative.

It is not anticipated that any of these changes will have a material impact on the financial statements of the Council and transitional reporting requirements for IFRS 9 and IFRS 15 have been adopted such that the preceding year 2017/18 will not require to be restated.

It should be noted that on 1 April 2018 the Council irrevocably elected to present changes in the fair value of its long-term equity investment in the UK commercial property-based Lime Fund valued at £5.5M as other comprehensive income as permitted by IFRS 9. This means that the asset will retain the same measurement basis with fair value movements to be taken to a Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve (currently Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve).

Note 3 - Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Council has made the following critical judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events.

Uncertainty about future levels of government funding

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

Deposits or investments with financial institutions

The Council has no deposits with any financial institutions that are in administration and has no evidence at the Balance Sheet date to suggest any treasury investment counterparties of the Council will enter into administration.

Controlling influence with other organisations

A number of Councillors represent the Council on the Boards of external organisations. The Council has determined that it does not have a controlling influence in any of these organisations.

Depreciation and componentisation

As financially material assets are re-valued or attract capital expenditure, the Council assesses these assets with a view to splitting them into their material components, where there may be a significant impact on how the asset is depreciated. Where the asset is not financially material or any component does not amount to over £250K, the asset is not split as any effect on depreciation is immaterial to the financial statements. Where a financially material item of Property, Plant and Equipment over £1.0M in value has major components over £250K of the asset value, the components will be depreciated separately where the useful life is substantially different and the calculated depreciation can also be shown to be significantly different.

Leases at peppercorn or minimal payments

The Council has a number of leases where the land element of the asset is leased at peppercorn or minimal rent. These leases may be of a significant length which may potentially render the lease a finance lease under accounting rules. However, where assets are valued in their existing use under accounting regulations, a key determinant of value is the amount of lease payments and as these are of immaterial rental amounts, the Council has not considered such agreements as finance leases.

Lease arrangements where the Council is the lessee or lessor are assessed to determine whether the lease is a finance lease or an operating lease. Lease arrangements which are not financially material are all treated as operating leases.

Heritage assets

Heritage Assets held by the Council are not financially material in value and therefore are not separately disclosed from Property, Plant and Equipment.

Inventories

Inventories held by the Council are not of a material financial value (£0.1M as at 31 March 2017). A separate disclosure note for this particular item has therefore been removed from the accounting statements for 2017/18.

Trading Operations

The Council has no Trading Operations of a material financial value (£4.7M gross turnover and net surplus of £0.3M in 2016/17). A separate disclosure note on Trading Operations has therefore been removed from the accounting statements for 2017/18.

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

The preparation of financial statements requires Management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the Balance Sheet date and the amounts reported for the revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates.

The key judgements and estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for the next financial year are:

Property, Plant and Equipment Assets are valued by professional staff qualified by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Nevertheless, there is an inherent element of subjectivity with any asset valuation.

The value of an asset and its estimated useful economic life determine the depreciation charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. If the useful lives of all assets are overstated by 1 year, depreciation would increase by £2.1M.

Pension Liabilities

There are a large number of variable factors used when calculating future pension liabilities, e.g., mortality ratios and future economic conditions. An independent actuary estimates the values within the Balance Sheet.

If any of the factors used to calculate the net pension liability are incorrect, there would be an impact on the balance sheet and the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

A 1% increase in the net pension liability would represent an increase of £4.3M charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, reversed out to the Pension Reserve as per regulations.

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Appeals

The Council has set aside a provision to cover successful appeals lodged against NDR banding with the Valuations office, based on a professional estimate of outstanding appeals.

If the provision is incorrect, there would be an impact on the Collection Fund balance. Any impact would be split between the Council and preceptors, with 49% of this amount impacting the Council.

Note 5 - Material Items of Income and Expense

Where material items are not disclosed on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the nature and amount of material items are set out below:

Totternhoe Lower School converted to an Academy in 2017/18 which resulted in a transfer of Property, Plant and Equipment non current assets valued at £3.3M from the Council's Balance Sheet.

Service Expenditure

The Council has made significant payments to the following contractors and providers that are not disclosed separately:

- **Ringway Jacobs Limited** – for the provision of highway maintenance work (£18.7m)
- **BIFFA Municipal Ltd** – for the provision of waste and recycling collection services (£11.4m)
- **Comensura Ltd** – for the supply of temporary agency staff (£9.2m)
- **Essex Partnership University NHS Trust** – for the provision of 0-5 health visiting and family nurse services and 5-19 school nursing (£7.4m)

Note 6 - Events After the Balance Sheet Date

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) on 30 July 2018. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2018, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information. There are no events known to the Council which would need to be registered as events after the Balance Sheet date.

Note 7 - Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balance	2016/17 Adjustments	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balance	2017/18 Adjustments	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
75,654	(308)	75,346 Social Care, Health & Housing	79,867	(2,335)	77,533
54,378	1,486	55,864 Children's Services	37,149	14,924	52,073
45,977	18,937	64,913 Community Services	53,433	31,457	84,889
6,247	3,684	9,931 Regeneration & Business Support	4,527	8,503	13,030
(187)	(13)	(201) Public Health	(117)	64	(53)
7,790	1,359	9,148 Chief Executives	1,293	122	1,414
11,490	(115)	11,375 Resources	12,976	1,033	14,009
2,792	(12,730)	(9,938) Corporate Costs	2,850	(12,245)	(9,395)
(18,212)	23,722	5,510 Schools	(1,568)	6,821	5,253
(8,242)	(20)	(8,263) Landlord Business (HRA)	(9,181)	15,345	6,164
177,685	36,001	213,686 Net Cost of Services	181,228	63,688	244,916
(177,737)	(25,057)	(202,794) Other Income and Expenditure	(181,306)	(40,562)	(221,866)
(52)	10,944	10,892 Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services	(78)	23,126	23,050
(79,164)		Opening Combined General Fund and HRA Balance	(93,582)		
(52)		Plus / less Surplus or Deficit on the General Fund and HRA Balance for the Year (Statutory basis)	(78)		
(14,366)		Transfers to/from other Reserves	(12,144)		
(93,582)		Closing Combined General Fund and HRA Balance	(105,804)		

Note 7a - Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

	Net Capital Statutory Adjustments	Net Pensions Statutory Adjustments	2017/18 Other Statutory Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Social Care, Health & Housing	2,522	1,784	7	(6,647)	(2,335)
Children's Services	15,279	1,515	(82)	(1,789)	14,924
Community Services	29,069	1,505	0	883	31,457
Regeneration & Business Support	8,234	812	0	(543)	8,503
Public Health	0	64	0	0	64
Chief Executives	0	122	0	0	122
Resources	7	1,026	0	0	1,033
Corporate Costs	(714)	1,091	0	(12,622)	(12,245)
Schools	2,157	2,410	334	1,920	6,821
Landlord Business (HRA)	20,334	365	4	(5,358)	15,345
Net Cost of Services	76,889	10,693	263	(24,157)	63,688
Other Income and Expenditure	(52,889)	10,959	3,909	(2,541)	(40,562)
Difference between the Statutory Charge and the Surplus or Deficit in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	24,000	21,652	4,171	(26,698)	23,126

	Net Capital Statutory Adjustments	Net Pensions Statutory Adjustments	2016/17 Other Statutory Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Social Care, Health & Housing	3,855	(123)	(5)	(4,034)	(308)
Children's Services	199	(106)	(127)	1,520	1,486
Community Services	21,794	(85)	(40)	(2,732)	18,937
Regeneration & Business Support	3,723	(53)	14	0	3,684
Public Health	0	(3)	(10)	0	(13)
Chief Executives	1,375	(25)	8	0	1,359
Resources	7	(63)	(60)	0	(115)
Corporate Costs	22	351	0	(13,103)	(12,730)
Schools	23,035	(198)	775	110	23,722
Landlord Business (HRA)	7,994	(22)	0	(7,992)	(20)
Net Cost of Services	62,004	(327)	555	(26,231)	36,001
Other Income and Expenditure	(37,230)	11,207	3,511	(2,545)	(25,057)
Difference between the Statutory Charge and the Surplus or Deficit in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	24,774	10,880	4,066	(28,776)	10,944

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

- Other operating expenditure – adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.
- Financing and investment income and expenditure – the statutory charges for capital financing i.e., Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.

-Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure – capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

Net Change for Pensions Adjustments – net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income:

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

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

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

Note 8 - Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

2016/17		2017/18
£000	Nature of Expenditure or Income	£000
(111,917)	Fees, charges and other service income	(113,243)
(542)	*Support service recharge income	0
(620)	Interest and investment income	(346)
(174,003)	Income from local taxation	(185,551)
(282,742)	Government grants and contributions	(269,766)
164,096	Employee benefits expenses	172,140
542	*Support service recharge expenditure	0
344,678	Other service expenses	343,108
33,834	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	51,351
21,927	Interest payments	21,583
11,386	Precepts and levies	11,929
517	Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	512
3,736	Gain or loss on disposal of non-current assets	(8,668)
10,892	Surplus or Deficit for Year	23,050

*To conform with CIPFA's Code of Practice, support service recharges have not been included in this note in 2017/18 as these are reported against each directorate within the CIES. The figures for 2016/17 have been left unchanged from last year's published accounts.

Note 9 - Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement recognised by the Council in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Council to meet future capital and revenue expenditure. The following sets out a description of the reserves that the adjustments are made against.

General Fund Balance:

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

Housing Revenue Account Balance:

The Housing Revenue Account Balance reflects the statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for local authority council housing provision in accordance with Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It contains the balance of income and expenditure as defined by the 1989 Act that is available to fund future expenditure in connection with the Council's landlord function or (where in deficit) that is required to be recovered from tenants in future years.

Major Repairs Reserve:

The Council is required to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve, which controls an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure on HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the capital resources that have yet to be applied at the year-end.

Capital Receipts Reserve:

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

Capital Grants Unapplied:

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

2017/2018	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources						
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:						
Pension cost (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	(20,906)	(746)				21,652
Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustments Account)	0	0				0
Council tax and NDR (transfers to or from the Collection Fund)	(1,994)					1,994
Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences reserve)	263	0				(263)
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(59,686)	(22,837)			0	82,523
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(82,323)	(23,583)	0	0	0	105,906

Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources						
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	48,640	4,441	(53,081)			
Payments to the government housing receipts pool (funded by a transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	(512)		512			
Posting of Housing Revenue Account resource from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve		5,262		(5,262)		
Borrowing or liabilities met from the Housing Revenue Account		100				(100)
Statutory Provision for the repayment of debt (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	5,161					(5,161)
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	1,494	96				(1,590)
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	54,782	9,899	(52,568)	(5,262)	0	(6,851)
Adjustments to Capital Resources						
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure			28,858			(28,858)
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure				5,262		(5,262)
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure					244	(244)
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	0	0	28,858	5,262	244	(34,364)
Total Adjustments	(27,541)	(13,685)	(23,710)	0	244	64,692

2016/2017	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources						
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:						
Pension cost (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	(10,555)	(325)				10,880
Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustments Account)	(48)	0				48
Council tax and NDR (transfers to or from the Collection Fund)	(966)					966
Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences reserve)	(555)	0				555
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(28,419)	(10,102)			0	38,521
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(40,542)	(10,427)	0	0	0	50,969
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources						
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	6,910	7,354	(14,263)			
Payments to the government housing receipts pool (funded by a transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	(517)		517			
Posting of Housing Revenue Account resource from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve		4,567		(4,567)		
Statutory Provision for the repayment of debt (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	1,648					(1,648)
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	2,273	3,425				(5,698)

Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	10,314	15,346	(13,746)	(4,567)	0	(7,346)
Adjustments to Capital Resources						
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure			10,268			(10,268)
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure				4,567		(4,567)
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure					800	(800)
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	0	0	10,268	4,567	800	(15,636)
Total Adjustments	(30,229)	4,919	(3,478)	0	800	27,988

Note 10 - Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves

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

	Balance at 1 April 2016	Transfers In 2016/17	Transfers Out 2016/17	Balance at 31 March 2017	Transfers In 2017/18	Transfers Out 2017/18	Balance at 31 March 2018
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General Fund Reserves:							
Redundancy Reserve	(660)	(500)	772	(388)	0	388	0
Insurance Reserve	(4,054)	(1,536)	1,095	(4,495)	(865)	641	(4,719)
Corporate Reserve	(12,643)	(11,091)	0	(23,734)	(13,781)	6,730	(30,785)
Community Services Reserve	(4,812)	(3,117)	833	(7,096)	0	4,772	(2,324)
Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve	(3,110)	0	1,669	(1,441)	(767)	630	(1,578)
Children's Services Reserve	(878)	(260)	111	(1,027)	(531)	159	(1,399)
Outcome-based Commissioning	(2,486)	0	578	(1,908)	0	1,908	0
Social Care, Health and Housing Reserve	(1,289)	(194)	140	(1,343)	(5,265)	2,238	(4,371)
Public Health Reserve	(1,546)	(239)	0	(1,785)	(176)	0	(1,961)
Schools Reserve	(12,916)	0	1,692	(11,224)	0	2,076	(9,148)
Regeneration Reserve	0	0	0	0	(4,330)	427	(3,903)
Resources Reserve	0	0	0	0	(1,266)	68	(1,198)
Total General Fund	(44,395)	(16,937)	6,890	(54,442)	(26,982)	20,037	(61,387)
Housing Revenue Account Reserves:							
Independent Living Development Reserve	(9,004)	(7,190)	1,296	(14,898)	(5,602)	0	(20,500)
Strategic Reserve	(8,248)	0	1,575	(6,673)	0	532	(6,141)
Life Cycle Replacement Reserve	0	0	0	0	(129)	0	(129)
Total Housing Revenue Account	(17,252)	(7,190)	2,871	(21,571)	(5,731)	532	(26,770)
Total Earmarked Reserves	(61,647)	(24,127)	9,761	(76,012)	(21,820)	9,676	(88,157)

A number of presentational changes have been made to General Fund Earmarked Reserves in 2017/18 to bring the note more in line with outturn reporting:

- the Redundancy Reserve (£0.388M as at 31 March 2017) is now within the Corporate Reserve.
- the Outcome-based Commissioning (£1.908M as at 31 March 2017) has been included within the Social Care, Health and Housing Reserve.

- a Regeneration Reserve (£3.641M as at 31 March 2017) has been separated out from the Community Services Reserve.
- a Resources Reserve (£1.241M as at 31 March 2017) has been split out from the Corporate Reserve.

Note 11 - Other Operating Expenditure

2016/17		2017/18
£000		£000
10,705	Precepts	11,238
681	Levies	692
517	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	512
3,736	Gains/losses on the Disposal of Non-Current Assets	(8,668)
15,639	Total Other Operating Expenditure	3,774

Note 12 - Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2016/17		2017/18
£000		£000
10,720	Interest payable and similar charges	10,624
11,207	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	10,959
(353)	Interest receivable and similar income	(346)
(267)	Other investment income and expenditure	0
21,307	Total	21,237

Note 13 - Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

2016/17		2017/18
£000		£000
(142,800)	Council tax income	(152,065)
(31,204)	Non-domestic rates income and expenditure	(33,486)
(24,149)	Non-ringfenced government grants	(16,594)
(41,588)	Capital grants and contributions	(44,732)
(239,741)	Total	(246,878)

Note 14 - Property, Plant and Equipment

Movements to 31 March 2018

	Council Dwellings	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation								
at 1 April 2017	449,370	521,414	39,005	362,382	4,681	26,269	28,671	1,431,793
Additions	7,436	12,540	4,632	11,715	233	305	17,742	54,604
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(6,897)	33,955	0	0	0	18,667	0	45,725
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(16,604)	(88)	0	(4,098)	0	592	0	(20,198)
Derecognition – disposals	(2,501)	(31,494)	(1,128)	0	1	(83)	(389)	(35,593)
Reclassifications and transfer	75	4,987	294	8,491	0	3,187	(17,165)	(131)
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	0	(17,388)	0	0	0	0	0	(17,388)
at 31 March 2018	430,879	523,926	42,803	378,490	4,915	48,937	28,859	1,458,810
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
at 1 April 2017	25	(17,722)	(20,481)	(82,610)	(710)	(713)	0	(122,210)
Depreciation charge	(5,131)	(9,870)	(2,808)	(13,008)	(30)	(389)	0	(31,237)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	3,442	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,442
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,532	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,532
Derecognition – disposals	(2)	585	1,128	0	0	24	0	1,735
Reclassifications and transfers	0	462	6	0	(84)	(307)	0	77
Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	0	54	0	0	0	0	0	54
at 31 March 2018	(134)	(26,491)	(22,156)	(95,618)	(824)	(1,384)	0	(146,607)

Net Book Value

at 31 March 2018	430,745	497,435	20,647	282,872	4,091	47,554	28,859	1,312,204
at 31 March 2017	449,395	503,693	18,524	279,772	3,971	25,557	28,671	1,309,583

Movements to 31 March 2017

	Council Dwellings	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation								
at 1 April 2016	415,692	502,106	32,387	307,196	2,678	4,407	35,727	1,300,193
Additions	10,072	18,766	5,614	32,109	139	54	17,128	83,882
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	30,245	41,439	0	0	0	3,375	4,671	79,729
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(4,985)	(3,026)	0	0	0	314	0	(7,697)
Derecognition – disposals	(2,130)	(18,607)	(112)	0	(16)	0	0	(20,865)
Reclassifications and transfer	477	(19,264)	1,117	23,077	1,880	18,120	(28,855)	(3,449)
at 31 March 2017	449,370	521,414	39,005	362,382	4,681	26,269	28,671	1,431,793
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
at 1 April 2016	(10)	(16,783)	(18,682)	(71,553)	(3)	172	0	(106,859)
Depreciation charge	(4,470)	(9,595)	(1,911)	(11,049)	(12)	(111)	0	(27,147)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	2,958	3,814	0	0	0	0	0	6,771
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,529	464	0	0	0	0	0	1,993
Derecognition – disposals	22	2,944	66	0	0	0	0	3,032
Reclassifications and transfers	(3)	1,435	45	(9)	(695)	(774)	0	0
at 31 March 2017	25	(17,722)	(20,481)	(82,610)	(710)	(713)	0	(122,210)

Net Book Value

at 31 March 2017	449,395	503,693	18,524	279,772	3,971	25,557	28,671	1,309,583
at 31 March 2016	415,681	485,323	13,705	235,643	2,675	4,579	35,727	1,193,334

Depreciation:

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

- Council houses up to 60 years
- Operational buildings up to 50 years
- Infrastructure up to 30 years
- Vehicles up to 10 years
- Plant and equipment up to 10 years.

Capital Commitments:

As at 31 March 2018, the Council had entered into contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2017/18 and future years, budgeted to cost £14.0M. Similar capital commitments as at 31 March 2017 were £6.7m. The major commitments are:

- Dunstable Library and Leisure Centre - £10.1M
- Broadband Extension Project - £3.9M.

Note 15 - Intangible Assets

The Council accounts for its IT software as Intangible Assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of Property, Plant and Equipment. The Intangible Assets include both purchased licenses and internally generated software.

All software is given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the Council. The useful lives assigned to the major software suites used by the Council are 10 years as standard.

The carrying amount of Intangible Assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. The amortisation of £1.4M charged to revenue in 2017/18 (£1.0M in 2016/17) was charged to the IT administration cost centre and then absorbed as an overhead across all the service headings in the Cost of Services.

The movement on Intangible Asset balances during the year is as follows:

31st March 2017		31st March 2018
Total		Total
£000		£000
Balance at start of year:		
18,708	Gross carrying amounts	23,206
(10,039)	Accumulated amortisation	(11,022)
8,670	Net carrying amount at start of year	12,185
Additions:		
1,050	Purchases	544
3,449	Reclassifications and transfers	54
(983)	Amortisation for the period	(1,448)
12,185	Net carrying amount at end of year	11,334
Comprising:		
23,206	Gross carrying amounts	23,804
(11,022)	Accumulated amortisation	(12,470)
12,185	Total	11,334

Note 16 - Financial Instruments

Financial Instruments

	Long-term 31 March 2017 £000	Long-term 31 March 2018 £000	Current 31 March 2017 £000	Current 31 March 2018 £000
Investments				
Loans and receivables	0	0	1,007	4,513
Available-for-sale financial assets	5,279	5,489	0	0
Total investments	5,279	5,489	1,007	4,513
Debtors				
Loans and receivables	491	16	0	0
Financial assets carried at contract amounts			28,437	27,835
Total included in Debtors	491	16	28,437	27,835
Borrowings				
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(274,279)	(274,320)	(73,430)	(27,341)
Total included in Borrowings	(274,279)	(274,320)	(73,430)	(27,341)
Other Long Term Liabilities				
PFI and finance lease liabilities	(16,532)	(15,745)		
Total other long term liabilities	(290,811)	(290,065)		
Creditors				
Financial liabilities carried at contract amount			(47,790)	(45,588)
Total Creditors	0	0	(47,790)	(45,588)

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2018				
	Financial Liabilities: Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Financial Assets: Loans and receivables	Financial Assets: Available-for- sale assets	Assets and Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Interest expense	10,602	0	0	0	10,602
Fee expense	21	0	0	0	21
Total expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	10,624	0	0	0	10,624
Interest income	-	(91)	(255)	0	(346)
Total income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(91)	(255)	0	(346)
Gains on revaluation	-	-	(210)	-	(210)
Surplus/deficit arising on revaluation of financial assets in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	(210)	-	(210)
Net (gain)/loss for the year	10,624	(91)	(465)	0	10,068
	2017				
	Financial Liabilities: Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Financial Assets: Loans and receivables	Financial Assets: Available-for- sale assets	Assets and Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Interest expense	10,697	0	0	0	10,697
Fee expense	23	0	0	0	23
Total expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	10,720	0	0	0	10,720
Interest income	-	(66)	(274)	0	(339)
Total income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(66)	(274)	0	(339)
Gains on revaluation	-	-	(128)	-	(128)
Surplus/deficit arising on revaluation of financial assets in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	(128)	-	(128)
Net (gain)/loss for the year	10,720	(66)	(402)	0	10,252

Note 16a - Financial Instruments - Fair Value

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value

Recurring Fair Value Measurements - Available for sale:

	31 March 2017	31 March 2018
	£000	£000
Lime Fund	5,279	5,489
Money Market Funds	6,000	3,960
Balance 31 March	11,279	9,449

The Fair Values of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities that are not Measured at Fair Value (but for which Fair Value Disclosures are required)

Financial Liabilities

	31 March 2017		31 March 2018	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial Liabilities held at Amortised Cost	(347,709)	(417,881)	(301,660)	(360,097)
PFI and finance lease liabilities	(17,243)	(25,898)	(16,532)	(24,061)
Total	(364,952)	(443,779)	(318,192)	(384,157)

Financial Assets

	31 March 2017		31 March 2018	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Loans and Receivables	1,007	1,007	4,513	4,513
Long-Term Debtors	491	491	16	16
Total	1,498	1,498	4,529	4,529

Note 17 - Inventories

To streamline the production of the Statement of Accounts for 2017/18, the Council has decided to no longer account for its inventories given that they are not of a material financial value.

	Community Equipment Service	
	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
Balance outstanding at start of year	98	90
Written-off balances	(7)	(90)
Balance Outstanding at Year End	90	0

Note 18 - Debtors

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
7,602	Central Government Bodies	5,790
2,940	Other Local Authorities	4,120
2,403	NHS Bodies	1,865
31,781	Other Entities and Individuals	33,722
44,726	Total Debtors	45,498

*Debtors are presented net of an impairment allowance for the potential non-payment of debts.

Note 19 - Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
(3,981)	Cash and Bank balances	1,633
6,000	Short Term Investments	3,960
2,244	Short Term Deposits	1,517
4,263	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	7,111

Note 20 - Assets Held for Sale

Current	Current
31 March 2017	31 March 2018
£000	£000
173 Balance outstanding at start of year	6
Assets newly classified as held for sale:	
0 Property Plant and Equipment	17,335
(167) Assets sold	(10,554)
0 Other Movements	0
6 Balance Outstanding year end	6,786

Note 21 - Creditors

31 March 2017	31 March 2018
£000	£000
(9,424) Central Government Bodies	(7,910)
(4,842) Other Local Authorities	(5,784)
(2,127) NHS Bodies	(700)
(43,398) Other Entities and Individuals	(42,212)
(59,791) Total Creditors	(56,606)

Note 22 - Provisions

Current Provisions

2017/18	Outstanding legal cases	Insurance provision	Other provisions	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Opening Balance	(713)	(2,334)	(3,053)	(6,101)
Increase in provision during year	(90)	(1,517)	(3,985)	(5,592)
Utilised during year	0	416	4,401	4,817
Unused Amounts Reversed	0	1,168	477	1,645
Closing Balance	(803)	(2,267)	(2,161)	(5,231)

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

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

For example, the insurance provision sets aside amounts required in order to meet potential claims that may be met by the Council within the agreed excess limits with the insurers. Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from a third party, this will only be recognised as income for the relevant service if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the Council settles the obligation.

Outstanding Legal Cases:

The Council has provided for a number of specific ongoing legal cases.

Insurance Provision:

The Council has a number of injury and compensation claims in progress where the Council is alleged to be at fault. Provision is made for those claims where it is deemed probable that the Council may have to incur costs and make settlement where any payments will not be met by relevant insurance contracts.

Other Provisions:

Other provisions mainly includes the Council's share of Non Domestic Rates (NDR) valuation appeals (£2.108M). Under NDR retention, the Council has a percentage share of all business rates income net of any backdated reductions. Rate payers can

appeal a valuation and they have five years in which to do so from the date of the creation of the Rating List. This appeals provision has been calculated based on information provided by the Valuation Office and external bodies, combined with local knowledge of the Rating List.

Note 23 - Usable Reserves

Movements in the Council's Usable Reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Capital Receipts Reserve

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
(2,996)	Balance 1 April	(6,474)
(14,263)	Capital Receipts in year	(53,081)
517	Capital Receipts Pooled	512
10,268	Capital Receipts used for financing	28,858
(6,474)	Balance 31 March	(30,184)

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

Major Repairs Reserve

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
(200)	Balance 1 April	(200)
(4,567)	Depreciation and Amortisation	(5,262)
4,567	Application to finance capital expenditure	5,262
(200)	Balance 31 March	(200)

The Council is required to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve, which controls an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure on HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the capital resources that have yet to be applied at the year-end.

Capital Grants Unapplied

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
(3,260)	Balance 1 April	(2,459)
0	Capital grants recognised in year	0
800	Capital grants and contributions applied	244
(2,459)	Balance 31 March	(2,216)

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

Note 24 - Unusable Reserves

The table below provides a breakdown of the Council's Unusable Reserves included in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Unusable Reserves have no immediate impact on the current resources available to the Council, but do illustrate potential long term financial resourcing implications.

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
(263,823)	Revaluation Reserve	(279,909)
(279)	Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve	(489)
(538,503)	Capital Adjustment Account	(536,228)
416,484	Pension Reserve	430,371
(1,814)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	180
2,563	Accumulated Absences Account	2,300
(385,373)	Total	(383,776)

Revaluation Reserve

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
(180,575)	Balance 1 April	(263,823)
(66,788)	Upward revaluation of assets	(67,297)
(19,712)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	18,130
(86,500)	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(49,167)
3,072	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	3,725
180	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	29,355
3,252	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	33,080
(263,823)	Balance 31 March	(279,909)

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets.

The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

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

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

Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
(150)	Balance 1 April	(279)
(128)	Upward revaluation of investments	(210)
(279)	Balance 31 March	(489)

The Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its investments that have quoted market prices or otherwise do not have fixed or determinable payments. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are either:

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost; or
- sold and the gains are realised.

Capital Adjustment Account

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
(550,790)	Balance 1 April	(538,503)
27,147	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	31,237
5,704	Revaluation losses on non-current assets	18,666
983	Amortisation of intangible assets	1,448
28,275	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	25,538
18,000	Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	44,413
80,109	Reversal of Items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	121,302
(3,252)	Adjusting Amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(33,080)
76,856	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	88,222
(10,268)	Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(28,858)
(4,567)	Use of Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(5,262)
(42,388)	Capital Grants and Contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	(44,976)
(1,648)	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(5,161)
(5,698)	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(1,590)
(64,569)	Capital financing applied in year:	(85,847)
0	Borrowing or liabilities met from the HRA	(100)
(538,503)	Balance 31 March	(536,228)

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 additions to those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or subsequent costs 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 and fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and subsequent costs. The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains. Note 9 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

Pension Reserve

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000	
320,562	Balance 1 April	416,484	
85,042	Remeasurements of the net defined benefit (liability)/asset	(7,765)	
30,913	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	42,140	
(20,033)	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(20,488)	
416,484	Balance 31 March	430,371	

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

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

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
(2,780)	Balance 1 April	(1,814)
966	Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	1,994
(1,814)	Balance 31 March	180

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 and Business ratepayers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

Accumulated Absences Account

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
2,008	Balance 1 April	2,563
(2,008)	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(2,563)
2,563	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	2,300
555	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in year in accordance with statutory requirements	(263)
2,563	Balance 31 March	2,300

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

Note 25 - Cash Flow from Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
(345)	Interest received	(349)
10,613	Interest paid	10,529
10,268	Total	10,180

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

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
(27,147)	Depreciation	(31,237)
(5,704)	Impairment and downward valuations	(18,666)
(983)	Amortisation	(1,448)
(13,326)	(Increase)/decrease in creditors	3,491
(168)	Increase/(decrease) in debtors	388
(7)	Increase/(decrease) in inventories	(90)
(10,880)	Movement in pension liability	(21,652)
(18,000)	Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	(44,413)
(556)	Other non-cash movements charged to the surplus or deficit on provision of services	729
(76,772)	Total	(112,898)

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

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
14,263	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	53,081
41,588	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	44,732
55,851	Total	97,813

Note 26 - Cash Flow from Investing Activities

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
84,860	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	54,926
4,005	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	13,558
0	Other payments for investing activities	10
(14,263)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(53,081)
(3,505)	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	(10,049)
(54,071)	Other receipts from investing activities	(62,443)
17,026	Net cash flows from investing activities	(57,079)

Note 27 - Cash Flow from Financing Activities

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
(290,760)	Cash receipts of short-term and long-term borrowing	(395,100)
418	Cash payments for the reduction of outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-Balance-Sheet PFI contracts	711
280,992	Repayments of short-term and long-term borrowing	441,280
(1,502)	Other payments for financing activities	(624)
(10,852)	Net cash flows from financing activities	46,267

Note 28 - Trading Operations

To streamline the production of the Statement of Accounts for 2017/18, the Council has decided to no longer separately account for its trading units given that they are not of a material financial value.

2016/17		Car Parks	2017/18
£000			£000
(1,684)	Income		0
1,242	Expenditure		0
(442)	Net Surplus / Deficit for Year		0

2016/17		Building Control	2017/18
£000			£000
(710)	Income		0
610	Expenditure		0
(100)	Net Surplus / Deficit for Year		0

2016/17		Albion Archaeology	2017/18
£000			£000
(2,035)	Income		0
2,210	Expenditure		0
175	Net Surplus / Deficit for Year		0

2016/17		Leighton Buzzard Theatre	2017/18
£000			£000
(228)	Income		0
328	Expenditure		0
100	Net Surplus / Deficit for Year		0

2016/17		Trading Operations Total Income and Expenditure:	2017/18
£000			£000
(4,657)	Income		0
4,390	Expenditure		0
(267)	Net Surplus / Deficit for Year		0

2016/17		Analysis of Inclusion in The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	2017/18
£000			£000
(267)	Net surplus on trading operations		0
(267)	Net surplus / deficit included in Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		0

Note 29 - Pooled Budgets and Partnership Arrangements

PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Better Care Fund:

Effective since April 2015, the Council has entered into a partnership arrangement with NHS Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group in accordance with Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006. Central Bedfordshire Council provides financial management for this partnership arrangement.

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a national policy initiative between local authorities, CCGs and NHS providers which has resulted in funds being used to jointly commission or deliver health and social care. Apart from the integrated equipment store arrangements, the terms of the Section 75 agreement means that contracts are stand-alone with the financial risk being retained by the lead body. In relation to the equipment store, the arrangement is hosted by the Council and accounted for as a pooled budget.

The Clinical Commissioning Group and Central Bedfordshire Council have signed a Framework Partnership Agreement relating to the BCF and commissioning of health and social care services. The agreement has established a Partnership Board with joint membership from each organisation. The Partnership Board determines which schemes are funded in the locality. Each partner then manages the contracts with their own providers of BCF services and each partner retains any financial risk relating to those contracts.

2016/17		Better Care Fund	2017/18
£000			£000
(10,313)	Authority Funding		(12,491)
(10,221)	Partner Funding		(10,404)
(20,534)	Total Pooled Funding		(22,895)
9,055	Authority Expenditure		10,147
10,221	Partner Expenditure		10,404
19,276	Expenditure		20,551
(1,258)	Net Surplus/Deficit on the Pooled Budget		(2,344)
(629)	Authority Share of the Net Surplus / Deficit		(1,172)

POOLED BUDGETS

Bedfordshire Community Equipment Service:

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has entered into a pooled budget arrangement with Bedford Borough Council (BBC) and Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) for the provision of community equipment services to meet the needs of people living in the geographical area. During 2017/18 the Council continued responsibility for hosting the pooled budget.

The partners contribute funds to the agreed budget equal to 21% (CBC), 13% (BBC) and 66% (BCCG) of the budget respectively. The same proportions are used to meet any deficit or share any surplus arising on the pooled budget at the end of each financial year.

The pooled budget is hosted by the Council on behalf of the three partners to the agreement.

2016/17	Bedfordshire Community Equipment Service		2017/18
£000			£000
(461)	Authority Funding		(434)
(1,617)	Partner Funding		(1,578)
(2,078)	Total Pooled Funding		(2,012)
2,078	Authority Expenditure		2,012
0	Partner Expenditure		0
2,078	Expenditure		2,012
0	Net Surplus/Deficit on the Pooled Budget		0
0	Authority Share of the Net Surplus / Deficit		0

Note 30 - Members' Allowances

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

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£'000		£'000
1,065	Salaries	1,072
112	Expenses	115
1,177	Total Members' Allowances	1,188

Note 31 - Officers' Remuneration

Senior officers are defined by the Council as any officer at Director level or above. During 2017/18, this classification included the Chief Executive and six Directors.

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

Senior Officer Remuneration

		Salary, Fees and Allowances	Expenses Allowances	Compensation for Loss of Office	Pension Contribution	Total
		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
2017/18						
Chief Executive (R Carr)	2017/18	184,944	0	0	44,756	229,700
	2016/17	183,113	1,457	0	45,595	230,165
Director of Children's Services (S Harrison)	2017/18	147,915	0	0	35,795	183,710
	2016/17	146,450	748	0	36,466	183,664
Director of Social Care, Health & Housing (J Ogley)	2017/18	147,915	0	0	35,795	183,710
	2016/17	146,450	1,699	0	36,466	184,615
Director of Resources (C Warboys)	2017/18	124,230	0	0	30,064	154,294
	2016/17	117,050	1,073	0	29,145	147,268
Director of Community Services (M Coiffait)	2017/18	124,230	0	0	30,064	154,294
	2016/17	117,050	528	0	29,145	146,723
Director of Improvement & Corporate Services (D Broadbent-Clarke)	2017/18	0	0	0	0	0
	2016/17	34,050	167	63,287	0	97,504
Director of Regeneration & Business Support (J Longhurst)	2017/18	121,200	0	0	29,330	150,530
	2016/17	115,550	2,685	0	28,772	147,007
Director of Public Health (M Scott)	2017/18	40,617	0	0	6,413	47,030
	2016/17	101,182	2,994	0	25,734	129,910
Total	2017/18	891,051	0	0	212,217	1,103,268
	2016/17	960,895	11,351	63,287	231,323	1,266,856

Deb Broadbent-Clarke, Director of Improvement & Corporate Services, left the Council on 30th June 2016.

Muriel Scott, Director of Public Health, is funded by Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedford Borough Council and Milton Keynes Council. She is formally employed by Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council was recharged 40% of her salary and other remuneration in 2017/18 as shown in the above table. The figures shown for 2016/17 reflect her full salary and other remuneration, the Council's recharge in 2016/17 was £52,671.

There were no other payments in either year to senior employees in relation to bonuses.

In 2017/18 we further reviewed the items to include within this note against the Code, which says that expenses allowance should include those sums that are chargeable to United Kingdom income tax. As none of the expenses relating to Senior Officers is subject to this there is nil to show in 2017/18. 2016/17 figures have not been updated to reflect this review.

The table below shows the Council's other employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions):

Officer Remuneration

	Number of Employees	
	2016/17	2017/18
£50,001 to £55,000	51	45
£55,001 to £60,000	58	51
£60,001 to £65,000	36	28
£65,001 to £70,000	21	30
£70,001 to £75,000	8	8
£75,001 to £80,000	6	7
£80,001 to £85,000	3	4
£85,001 to £90,000	6	4
£90,001 to £95,000	1	2
£95,001 to £100,000	4	0
£100,001 to £105,000	3	3
Total	197	183

Exit Packages

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 (£)	
	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18
£0-£20,000	22	32	5	5	27	37	116,000	230,000
£20,001 - £ 40,000	6	3	0	0	6	3	155,000	87,000
£40,001 - £ 60,000	1	3	1	1	2	4	90,000	194,000
£60,001 - £200,000	1	1	2	1	3	2	312,000	131,000
Total	30	39	8	7	38	46	673,000	642,000

The table above shows all exit packages that have been charged to the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the current year and includes all benefits on termination, e.g., redundancy, pay in lieu of notice, severance and actuarial strain.

Note 32 - External Audit Costs

The Council has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and returns:

2016/17		2017/18
£000		£000
139	Fees payable to external auditors with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	139
36	Fees payable in respect of other services provided by external auditors during the year	41
175	Total	180

Note 33 - Dedicated Schools Grant

The Council's expenditure on schools is funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), provided by the Department for Education (DfE). DSG is ring-fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included within the Schools Budget, as defined in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2017. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on a Council-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget, which is divided into a budget share for each school.

Details of how DSG received was used are as follows:

Notes	DSG Receivable for 2017/18	Central Expenditure £000	Individual Schools Budget £000	Total £000
A	Final DSG for year before Academies recoupment			203,595
B	Academy figure recouped for year			(102,840)
C	Total DSG after academy recoupment			100,755
D	Plus: Brought forward from previous year			1,443
F	Agreed initial budgeted distribution in year	16,473	85,725	102,198
G	In year adjustments	5,580	(6,154)	(574)
H	Final budget distribution for year	22,053	79,571	101,624
I	Less: Actual central expenditure	(20,475)		(20,475)
J	Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools		(79,571)	(79,571)
L	Carry forward to 2018/19	1,578	0	1,578

Notes	DSG Receivable for 2016/17	Central Expenditure £000	Individual Schools Budget £000	Total £000
A	Final DSG for year before Academies recoupment			195,435
B	Academy figure recouped for year			(92,506)
C	Total DSG after academy recoupment			102,929
D	Plus: Brought forward from previous year			3,109
F	Agreed initial budgeted distribution in year	22,324	83,713	106,038
G	In year adjustments	(1,721)	649	(1,071)
H	Final budget distribution for year	20,604	84,363	104,966
I	Less: Actual central expenditure	(19,162)		(19,162)
J	Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools		(84,363)	(84,363)
L	Carry forward to 2017/18	1,442	0	1,442

A Final DSG figure before any amount has been recouped from the Council including the early years block adjustment.

B Figure recouped from the Council by the DfE for the conversion of maintained schools into academies.

C Total figure after DfE academy recoupment.

D Figure brought forward from previous year as agreed with the DfE.

E Any amount which the Council decided after consultation with the Schools Forum to carry forward to the following year rather than distribute in year.

F Budgeted distribution of DSG, adjusted for carry-forward, as agreed with the Schools Forum.

G Changes to the initial distribution, for example, adjustments for exclusions, or final early years block adjustment.

H Budgeted distribution of DSG as at the end of the financial year.

I Actual amount of central expenditure incurred.

J Amount of ISB actually distributed to schools.

K Any contribution from the Council which will have the effect of substituting for DSG in funding the Schools Budget.

L Carry-forward to following year.

Note 34 - Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, taxes, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

Grant Income Credited to Taxation and non-specific Grant Income and Expenditure

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
(20,152)	Revenue Support Grant	(10,599)
(1,730)	NDR Section 31 Grant	(3,734)
(2,234)	Transition Grant	(2,226)
(33)	Council Tax Annex Grant	(35)
(13,729)	New School Places Programme	(14,287)
(7,898)	New Woodside link road to M1	(2,677)
(4,336)	Highways Structural Maintenance	(4,306)
(2,236)	Schools Capital Maintenance	(2,050)
(1,186)	Local Broadband Infrastructure	(2,874)
(3,077)	Section 106 developer contributions	(9,969)
0	Highways Integrated schemes	(1,237)
(2,402)	Special School Provision	0
(1,400)	Stratton Park Phase 5 & 6	0
(1,150)	A421-M1 Junction 13 – Milton Keynes Magna Park	(743)
(4,175)	Others (individually less than £1M)	(4,446)
0	Schools Devolved Formula Capital	(1,007)
0	Houghton Hall Park Renaissance	(1,137)
(65,737)	Total	(61,326)

Credited to Services

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
(102,929)	Dedicated Schools Grant	(100,755)
(58,446)	Housing Benefit Subsidy Grant	(56,618)
(12,909)	Public Health Grant	(12,591)
(11,725)	New Homes Bonus Grant	(10,854)
(5,055)	Better Care Fund Grant	(6,956)
(3,866)	Pupil Premium Grant (EFA)	(3,551)
(2,523)	Post-16 - Education Funding Agency Grant	(1,403)
(2,097)	Early Intervention Grant	(490)
(1,330)	Adult & Community Learning Grant	(1,361)
(9,620)	Others (individually less than £1M)	(6,669)
(1,886)	Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Grant	(1,886)
(3,444)	EFA (UIFSM/Primary PE&Sports/Year 7 Catch-Up Premium)	(3,800)
(1,175)	Asylum Seeker Grant	(1,506)
(217,005)	Total	(208,440)

Grants Receipts in Advance (Capital Grants) - Long Term Liabilities

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
Restated		
£000		£000
(38,507)	Section 106 developer contributions	(41,017)
(547)	New School Places Programme	(15,765)
(1,102)	Better Care Fund	(1,865)
(2,771)	Others (individually less than £1M)	(2,511)
(42,927)	Total	(61,158)

Note 35 - 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.

Central Government:

Central government has significant influence over the general operations of the Council – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides significant funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties.

Members:

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of Members' allowances paid in 2017/18 is shown in Note 30.

A number of Councillors are school governors and are appointed Town and Parish Council Members, although they do not control or significantly influence any of these public bodies given the nature of governance arrangements in place.

A list of Councillor and Senior Officer relationships with companies / organisations that have had material financial transactions in 2017/18 with the Council is provided below. Contracts were entered into in full compliance with the Council's standing orders. Material financial transactions for this purpose are defined as those over £1.0M. If however the transactions are below £1.0M, but significant in relation to the total income and expenditure of the Related Party, they have been included within this disclosure.

Councillor	Organisation	Relationship	2017/18 Expenditure by the Council £'000
D. Bowater	South Essex Partnership	CBC-appointed Governor	8,032
S. Dixon	Willmott Dixon which is wholly owned by Hardwicke Investments	Shareholder	2,319
P. Hollick	South Beds Dial-A-Ride	Member	193
D. Shelvey	Bedfordshire Multi Academy Trust	Director	3,941

Officer	Organisation	Relationship	2017/18 Expenditure by the Council £'000
C. Warboys	LGSS Law Ltd	CBC appointed Non Executive Director	2,423

Other Public Bodies:

The Council hosts a partnership arrangement with NHS Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group in respect of the Better Care Fund (BCF). Established in April 2015, it provides funds to local areas to support the integration of health and social care. The agreement has established a Partnership Board with joint membership from each organisation. The Partnership Board determines which schemes are funded in the locality. Each partner then manages the contracts with their own providers of BCF services and each partner retains any financial risk relating to those contracts.

The Council also hosts a pooled budget arrangement with NHS Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Bedford Borough Council for the provision of Community Equipment Services.

Further details of these two partnership and pooled budget arrangements are included in Note 29.

Pension Fund:

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), administered locally by Bedford Borough Council. Details of payments made to the Bedfordshire Pension Fund for employer's superannuation contributions are shown in Note 41.

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Council:

Whilst there are no groups controlled or significantly influenced by Central Bedfordshire Council, since 1st April 2016, the Council has held a one-third ownership of LGSS Law Ltd which is a Local Authorities Trading Company (LATC). Established by Cambridgeshire County Council and Northamptonshire County Council, the company's main objective is to provide legal services to the public sector. Total payments of £2.423M were made to LGSS Law Ltd in 2017/18 for legal services, undertaking the role of the Council's Monitoring Officer and disbursements.

Note 36 - Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

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

Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
475,810	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	524,446
	Capital Investment:	
83,882	Property Plant and Equipment	54,604
1,050	Intangible Assets	544
28,275	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	25,538
113,206	Total Capital Spending	80,686
	Sources of Finance:	
(10,268)	Capital receipts	(28,858)
(42,388)	Government Grants and other contributions	(44,976)
(4,567)	Major repairs reserve	(5,262)
	Sums set aside from revenue:	
(5,698)	- Direct revenue contributions	(1,590)
0	- Borrowing or liabilities met from the HRA	(100)
(1,648)	- Minimum revenue provision	(5,161)
(64,569)	Total Sources of Finance	(85,947)
524,446	Closing Capital Financing Requirement	519,185

Explanation of movements in year

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
48,637	Increase/(decrease) in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	(5,261)
48,637	Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	(5,261)

Note 37 - Leases

Council as Lessee

Finance Leases:

At 31 March 2018, the Council has not taken any finance leases.

Operating Leases:

The Council has use of a number of buildings and land in delivering services by entering into operating leases, with various lease lengths from 1 to 99 years. Most are less than 25 years and many are annual, those that are 99 years are very limited in number and immaterial in value.

Authority as Lessee - Operating Leases

The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases in future years are set out below:

31 March 2017 £'000		31 March 2018 £'000
200	Not later than one year	189
410	Later than one year and not later than five years	307
254	Later than five years	234
865	Total	730

The expenditure charged to services in the CIES during the year in relation to these leases was:

31 March 2017 £'000		31 March 2018 £'000
200	Minimum lease payments	189
200	Total	189

Council as Lessor

Finance Leases:

The Council has no leased out assets whereby the Council would be lessor, that meet the definition of a finance lease.

Operating Leases:

The Council leases out property (as landlord) under operating leases for the following purposes:

- for the provision of community services, such as sports facilities, tourism services and community centres;
- for economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses;
- for agricultural purposes.

The minimum lease payments receivable do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews.

Authority as Lessor - Operating Leases

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

31 March 2017 £'000		31 March 2018 £'000
1,341	Not later than one year	1,279
4,076	Later than one year and not later than five years	3,990
22,873	Later than five years	22,178
28,290	Total	27,447

Note 38 - Service Concession Arrangements

In December 2003, Bedfordshire County Council entered into a contract with Bedford Education Partnership Ltd for the provision of new buildings, the refurbishment of existing buildings and associated facilities management at two schools (Samuel Whitbread Academy and Harlington Upper School) which have both since converted to Academy status.

The contract specifies minimum standards for the services to be provided by the contractor, with deductions from the fee payable being made if facilities are unavailable or performance is below the minimum standards. The contractor took on the obligation to construct new buildings, refurbish existing buildings and maintain them in a minimum acceptable condition and to procure and maintain the plant and equipment needed to operate the schools.

The buildings and any plant and equipment installed in them at the end of the contract will be transferred to the Academies for nil consideration. The Council only has rights to terminate the contract if it compensates the contractor in full for costs incurred and future profits that would have been generated over the remaining term of the contract.

Property, Plant and Equipment:

The assets used to provide services at the schools are not recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet, given that the two schools have converted to Academy status and the assets were written out of the Council's asset register at the point of transfer.

Payments:

The Council makes an agreed payment each year to Bedford Education Partnership Ltd which is increased each year by inflation linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI) and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year but which is otherwise fixed until the contract expires on 31 December 2035. The payment was £4.769M in 2017/18 (£4.557M in 2016/17).

Movement in PFI Liabilities

2017/18	Schools PFI	Total
	£000	£000
	(17,243)	(17,243)
Balance outstanding at start of year		
Payments during the year	711	711
Balance outstanding at year-end	(16,532)	(16,532)

2016/17	Schools PFI	Total
	£000	£000
	(15,733)	(15,733)
Balance outstanding at start of year		
Payments during the year	(1,510)	(1,510)
Balance outstanding at year-end	(17,243)	(17,243)

Payments due under PFI schemes - 2017/18

Reimbursement of Capital Expenditure	Schools PFI	Total
	£000	£000
Payable within one year	(787)	(787)
Payable within two to five years	(2,008)	(2,008)
Payable within six to ten years	(4,347)	(4,347)
Payable within eleven to fifteen years	(5,640)	(5,640)
Payable within sixteen to twenty years	(3,750)	(3,750)
Total	(16,532)	(16,532)

Interest	Schools PFI	Total
	£000	£000
Payable within one year	(1,564)	(1,564)
Payable within two to five years	(5,657)	(5,657)
Payable within six to ten years	(7,057)	(7,057)
Payable within eleven to fifteen years	(5,976)	(5,976)
Payable within sixteen to twenty years	(5,043)	(5,043)
Total	(25,297)	(25,297)

Payment for Services	Schools PFI	Total
	£000	£000
Payable within one year	(1,375)	(1,375)
Payable within two to five years	(7,075)	(7,075)
Payable within six to ten years	(8,014)	(8,014)
Payable within eleven to fifteen years	(8,418)	(8,418)
Payable within sixteen to twenty years	(4,142)	(4,142)
Total	(29,024)	(29,024)

Note 39 - Termination Benefits

The Council terminated the contracts of 46 employees in 2017/18, incurring direct redundancy costs of £642K (38 employees and £673K in 2016/17) – see Note 31 for the number of exit packages and total cost per band. These costs have been incurred as part of the Council's drive to reduce operating costs:

- £36K paid to 8 officers in Social Care, Health & Housing
- £191K paid to 8 officers in Children's Services
- £167K paid to 12 officers in Community Services
- £36K paid to 3 officers in Regeneration
- £113K paid to 3 officers in Resources
- £37K paid to 3 officers in Public Health
- £62K paid to 9 officers for Schools.

Note 40 - Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes

The Council does not participate in any defined contribution schemes.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The Scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. The Scheme is unfunded and the DfE uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. Valuations of the notional fund are undertaken every four years.

The Scheme has in excess of 8,700 participating employers and consequently the Council is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2017/18, the Council paid £5.179M to Teachers' Pensions in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 16.38% of pensionable pay. The comparative figures

for 2016/17 were £5.573M and 16.49% respectively. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year-end.

The Council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis and detailed in Note 41.

The Council is not liable to the Scheme for any other entities' obligations under the plan.

Public Health Staff

Under the new arrangements for Public Health, staff performing public health functions were compulsorily transferred to the Council on 1 April 2013 on the abolition of the Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) nationally. The transferred staff retained access to the NHS Pension Scheme. The Scheme provides specified benefits upon retirement towards which the Council makes contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries. The Scheme is administered by the Department of Health (DoH).

The Scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. The Scheme is unfunded and the DoH uses a notional fund as the basis for setting employer contribution rates. Valuations of the fund are undertaken every four years.

The Scheme has over 1.35M active members employed in a wide variety of organisations. The Council is unable to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2017/18, the Council paid £43K to the NHS Pension Scheme in respect of the retirement benefits of public health staff (£50K in 2016/17). There were no contributions remaining payable at the year-end.

The Council is not liable to the Scheme for any other entities' obligations under the plan.

Note 41 - Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the Council makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits within 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 (for those benefits) and to disclose them at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Council participates in one post-employment scheme: the LGPS, administered locally by Bedford Borough Council – this is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.

There are no other schemes other than the LGPS.

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

The Bedfordshire Pension Fund is operated under the regulatory framework for the LGPS and the governance of the Scheme is the responsibility of the pensions committee of Bedford Borough Council. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pensions Fund Regulations. The investment managers of the fund are appointed by the committee and consist of the Chief Finance Officer and resources of the appointed Investment Fund managers.

The principal risks to the Council of the Scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the Scheme, structural changes to the scheme (i.e., large-scale withdrawals from the Scheme), changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the Scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account the amounts required by statute as described in the Accounting Policies Note 1.

Discretionary Post-retirement Benefits:

Discretionary post-retirement benefits on early retirement are an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made.

There are no plan assets built up to meet these pension liabilities.

Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits:

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of service when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge the Council is 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 and Housing Revenue Account 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.

General Fund Transactions

2016/17 LGPS	2017/18 LGPS
£000	£000

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

Cost of Services

Service cost comprising:	
19,320 Current service cost	30,981
386 (Gain) / loss from curtailments	200
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	
11,207 Net interest expense	10,959
30,913 Total charged to Surplus and Deficit on Provision of Services	42,140

Other post-employment benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

£000	£000
Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:	
(60,208) Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	9,250
(2,695) Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(19)
147,945 Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(16,996)
115,955 Total charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	34,375

2016/17 LGPS	2017/18 LGPS
-----------------	-----------------

Movement in Reserves Statement

£000	£000
(30,913) Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(42,140)
Actual amount charged against the general fund balance for pensions in the year:	
20,033 Employers' contributions payable to scheme	20,488

2016/17	Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet	2017/18
LGPS		LGPS
£000		£000
(917,401)	Present value of the defined obligation	(934,731)
500,917	Fair value of plan assets	504,360
(416,484)	Net (liability) / asset arising from the defined benefit obligation	(430,371)

2016/17	Movement in the Value of Scheme Assets	2017/18
LGPS		LGPS
£000		£000
427,099	Opening fair value of scheme assets	500,917
14,915	Interest income	13,011
	Re-measurement gain / (loss):	
60,208	- The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	(9,250)
20,033	Contributions from employer	20,488
5,069	Contributions from employees into the scheme	5,126
(26,407)	Benefits / transfers paid	(25,932)
500,917	Closing value of scheme assets	504,360

2016/17	Movements in the Fair Value of Scheme Liabilities	2017/18
LGPS		LGPS
£000		£000
(747,661)	Opening balance at 1 April	(917,401)
(19,320)	Current service cost	(30,981)
(26,122)	Interest cost	(23,970)
(5,069)	Contributions from scheme participants	(5,126)
	Re-measurement gains and losses:	
2,695	- Actuarial gains / (losses) from changes in demographic assumptions	19
(147,945)	- Actuarial gains / (losses) from changes in financial assumptions	16,996
(386)	Gains / (losses) on curtailments	(200)
26,407	Benefits / transfers paid	25,932
(917,401)	Balance as at 31 March	(934,731)

LGPS - Pension Scheme - Assets comprised of:

Fair value of scheme assets

2016/17				2017/18		
Quoted	Unquoted	Total		Quoted	Unquoted	Total
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
18,446	0	18,446	Cash and cash equivalents	21,719	0	21,719
<hr/>						
Bonds						
0	43,444	43,444	UK Government bonds	0	40,267	40,267
0	43,444	43,444	Subtotal Bonds	0	40,267	40,267
<hr/>						
Real estate						
0	46,030	46,030	UK Property	0	45,429	45,429
0	46,030	46,030	Subtotal Real estate	0	45,429	45,429
<hr/>						
Private equity						
0	0	0	Private equity	0	1,394	1,394
0	0	0	Subtotal Private equity	0	1,394	1,394
<hr/>						
Investment funds						
15,111	252,198	267,309	Equities	15,995	242,939	258,934
42,379	0	42,379	Bonds	39,961	0	39,961
83,309	0	83,309	Other	96,656	0	96,656
140,799	252,198	392,997	Subtotal Investment funds	152,612	242,939	395,551
<hr/>						
159,245	341,672	500,917	Total Assets	174,332	330,029	504,360
<hr/>						

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities:

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

Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and discretionary benefits liabilities have been estimated by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Bedfordshire Pension Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the Scheme as at 1 April 2016.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

2016/17	LGPS	2017/18
Long term expected rate of return on assets		
2.6%	Bonds	2.7%
2.6%	Real estate	2.7%
2.6%	Private equity	2.7%
2.6%	Investment funds	2.7%
Mortality assumptions		
Longevity at retirement for current pensioners		
22.4	Men	22.4
24.5	Women	24.5
Longevity at retirement for future pensioners		
24.0	Men	24.0
26.2	Women	26.2
Other assumptions		
2.7%	Rate of inflation	2.7%
2.7%	Rate of increase in salaries	2.7%
2.4%	Rate of increase in pensions	2.4%
2.6%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.7%

Impact of assumptions on the obligation:

Increase by 1%	LGPS	Decrease by 1%
£000	Assumption	£000
36,656	Longevity	(36,656)
20,096	Rate of inflation	(20,096)
20,096	Rate of increase in salaries	(20,096)
157,214	Rate of increase in pensions	(157,214)
(179,100)	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	179,100

Note 42 - Contingent Liabilities

Following a decision by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to restructure local government within Bedfordshire and the creation of the two unitary authorities, Bedford Borough Council (BBC) and CBC, a 'Disaggregation Agreement' was signed which sets out how assets and liabilities relating to the former Councils are to be split. As part of the terms of this agreement, the Council is required to pay over to BBC a percentage share of net proceeds from the sale of Local Development Framework (LDF) property managed by CBC in the event of its disposal. Events of this nature may occur in the future however the amounts and timing of which are both uncertain. This requirement runs until 31 March 2050.

Note 43 - Contingent Assets

Following a decision by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to restructure local government within Bedfordshire and the creation of the two unitary authorities, BBC and CBC, a 'Disaggregation Agreement' was signed which sets out how assets and liabilities relating to the former Councils are to be split. As part of the terms of this agreement, the Council is entitled to a percentage share of net proceeds, in the form of a capital receipt, from the sale of LDF property managed by BBC in the event of its disposal. Events of this nature may occur in the future, however the amounts and timing of which are both uncertain. This requirement runs until 31 March 2050.

Note 44 - Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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

- credit risk – the possibility that the counterparty to a financial asset might fail to meet its contractual obligations, causing a loss to the Council;
- liquidity risk – the possibility that the Council might not have the cash available to make its contracted payments on time;
- market risk – the possibility that an unplanned financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in market variables such as interest rates or equity prices.

The Council's overall risk management programme includes focus on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. Risk management is carried out by the

Resources Directorate's treasury team, under policies approved by the Council in the annual Treasury Management Strategy. The Council provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash.

Credit Risk:

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

This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, which will be the lowest published long-term credit rating assigned by the international rating agencies of Moody's, Standards & Poor's, and Fitch – a minimum long-term rating of BBB+ (or Moody's equivalent of Baa1) for UK counterparties: AA+ (or Moody's equivalent of Aa1) for non-UK sovereigns. The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum sum to be invested with a financial institution located within each category.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of non-recovery applies to all of the Council's deposits, but there was no evidence at the 31 March 2018 that this risk was likely to crystallise.

The Council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits and bonds.

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

The Council has a total of £14.503M customer balances which have been invoiced at year end. This is analysed in the table 'Credit Risk - Debtors' shown later in this Note.

The Council's experience of customer debtor balance write offs equated to 1.6% of the year end total in 2017/18, which compares to 1.8% in 2016/17.

Credit Risk - Debtors	31 March 2017	31 March 2018
	£000	£000
Less than three months	7,765	9,677
Three to six months	855	1,232
Six months to one year	1,710	775
More than one year	2,737	2,819
	<u>13,067</u>	<u>14,503</u>

Liquidity Risk:

The Council has a cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets and the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb). There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, the risk is that the Council will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The Council sets limits on the proportion of its fixed rate borrowing during specified periods. This strategy is to ensure that no more than 50% of loans are due to mature within any one year period through the careful planning of new loans taken out. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is analysed in the table 'Liquidity Risk' shown later in this Note.

Liquidity Risk	31 March 2017	31 March 2018
	£000	£000
Less than one year	72,280	26,200
Between one and two years	0	0
Between two and five years	0	46,469
More Than 5 Years	100,246	82,178
More Than 10 years	175,314	146,813
	347,840	301,660

Interest Rate Risk

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

- borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise;
- borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities borrowings will fall;
- investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise;
- investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Borrowings are not carried at fair value, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance.

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

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk and aims to keep a maximum of 50% of its borrowings in variable rate loans. During periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate loans will be repaid early to limit exposure to losses. The risk of loss is ameliorated by the fact that a proportion of government grant payable on financing costs will normally move with prevailing interest rates or the Council's cost of borrowing and provide compensation for a proportion of any higher costs.

The treasury management team has an active strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the setting of the annual budget and which is used to update budget monitoring quarterly during the year. This allows any adverse changes to be mitigated. The analysis will also advise whether new borrowing taken out is fixed or variable.

According to this assessment strategy, at 31 March 2018, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect is outlined in the table 'Market Risk - Interest Rate Risk' shown later in this Note. The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be the same movement as above but in reverse for variable rated borrowing.

Market Risk - Interest Rate Risk	31 March 2018
	£000
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	711
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(100)
Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	611
Share of overall impact debited to the HRA	102
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings liabilities (no impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure)	(37,496)

Price Risk

The Council does not invest in equity shares but does hold units to the value of £5.489M in a property fund with Aviva Investors (the "Lime Fund"). The Council is consequently exposed to losses arising from movements in the price of the units.

As the shareholdings have arisen in the acquisition of specific interests, the Council is not in a position to limit its exposure to price movements by diversifying its portfolio. Instead it only acquires shareholdings in return for "open book" arrangements with the company concerned so that the Council can monitor factors that might cause a fall in the value of specific shareholdings.

The units held are all classified as 'Available-for-Sale' and as all movements in price are unrealised until sale, when they would become realised, the impact of gains and

losses are recognised in the Available-for-Sale Financial Instruments Reserve. A general shift of 5% in the price of units (positive or negative) would result in a £274K gain or loss being recognised in the Available-for-Sale Financial Instruments Reserve for 2017/18 (the actual cumulative unrealised gain for the Lime Fund stood at £489K as at 31/03/2018).

Foreign Exchange Risk

The Council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies. As a result, there is no exposure to losses arising from movements in exchange rates.

Note 45 - Trust Funds

The Council acts a custodian trustee for four trust funds. The funds are not assets of the Council and therefore they have not been included in the Council's Balance Sheet.

Funds for which the Council acts as custodian trustee:

2017/18

Fund	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Assets £000	Liabilities £000
LW Williams Fund	0	0	10	0
Adult Social Care Customer Fund	0	0	31	0
LuDun Fund	0	0	130	0
Linsell House Bequest	0	9	12	0
Total	0	9	183	0

2016/17

Fund	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Assets £000	Liabilities £000
LW Williams Fund	0	0	10	0
Adult Social Care Customer Fund	0	0	30	0
LuDun Fund	0	0	130	0
Linsell House Bequest	0	2	21	0
Total	0	2	191	0

Supplementary Financial Statements 2017/18

Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
Expenditure		
5,234	Repairs & Maintenance	5,865
7,427	Supervision & Management	8,256
405	Rents, Rates, Taxes and other charges	432
7,994	Depreciation, impairments and revaluation losses of non-current assets	20,334
135	Debt Management Costs	145
86	Movement in the allowance for bad debts	132
21,280	Total Expenditure	35,164
Income		
(27,257)	Dwelling rents	(26,998)
(553)	Non-dwelling rents	(552)
(967)	Charges for services and facilities	(1,302)
(862)	Contributions towards expenditure	(260)
(29,639)	Total Income	(29,112)
(8,359)	Net Expenditure or Income of HRA Services as included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	6,052
96	HRA Services Share of Corporate & Democratic Core	111
(8,263)	Net Expenditure of HRA Services	6,164
(5,246)	(Gains)/loss on sale of HRA Fixed Assets	(1,938)
3,975	Interest Payable and Similar Charges	3,937
(52)	HRA Interest and Investment Income	(59)
347	Net interest on the defined benefit liability/asset	381
0	Capital Grants and Contributions	0
(9,238)	(Surplus) or Deficit for Year on HRA Services	8,486

Movement on the HRA Statement

31 March 2017 £000	Movement on the HRA Statement	31 March 2018 £000
(2,000)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous year	(2,000)
(9,238)	(Surplus) or Deficit on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	8,486
4,919	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	(13,685)
(4,319)	Net (increase) or decrease before transfers to or from reserves	(5,199)
4,319	Transfer to/(from) reserves	5,199
0	(Increase) or decrease on the HRA for the year	0
(2,000)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the current year	(2,000)

31 March 2017 £000	Adjustment between accounting basis	31 March 2018 £000
(7,994)	Transfers to/(from) the Capital Adjustment Account	(20,234)
5,246	Gain or (loss) on sale of non-current assets	1,938
(325)	Contributions to or (from) the Pension Reserve	(746)
4,567	Transfers to/(from) Major Repairs Reserve	5,262
3,425	Capital expenditure funded by the HRA	96
4,919	Net additional amount required by statute to be debited or (credited) to the HRA Balance for the year	(13,684)

31 March 2017 £000	Transfer to/from Reserves	31 March 2018 £000
7,190	Transfers to earmarked reserves	5,731
(2,871)	Transfers from earmarked reserves	(532)
4,319	Total Transfers	5,199

Notes to the HRA Account

HRA 1 Housing Stock

The number and types of dwelling in the Council's housing stock:

Property Type	Stock at 01/04/2017	Additions	Sales	Demolished	Stock at 31/03/2018
Low rise flats	1,331	2	(7)	(3)	1,327
Medium rise flats	593	1	(1)	0	593
High rise flats	0	0	0	0	0
Houses & bungalows	3,295	10	(29)	0	3,276
Total	5,219	13	(33)	(3)	5,196

HRA 2 Balance Sheet Values of HRA Assets

Value at 31/03/2017		Value at 31/03/2018	
£000	Operational assets	£000	
449,395	Council dwellings	430,745	
6,879	Other land & buildings	6,819	
456,274		437,564	

As at 31 December 2017, the vacant possession value of the Council's dwellings is estimated at £977.6M. The lower Balance Sheet value of £430.7M shown above reflects its existing use as tenanted council housing at less than market rents.

HRA 3 Capital Expenditure and Financing

The Council spent £7.5M on HRA capital projects in 2017/18 (2016/17 £10.2M). This spending was financed from the following sources:

31 March 2017		31 March 2018	
£000		£000	
	Sources of funding		
(3,359)	Capital Receipts	(2,257)	
(4,567)	Major Repairs Reserve	(5,262)	
(10,163)	Total funding	(7,520)	

HRA 4 Capital Receipts

The total receipts from the sale of HRA assets in the year were as follows:

Total Capital Receipts Generated during the year

31 March 2017		31 March 2017
£000		£000
(7,323)	Council Houses	(4,441)
(31)	Sale of Land	0
(7,354)	Total	(4,441)

HRA 5 Depreciation and Impairment

Depreciation and impairment is only charged to the HRA in respect of operational assets. The charges for 2017/18 were as follows:

Depreciation and Impairment of Non-Current Assets

31 March 2017			31 March 2018	
Depreciation £000	Impairment £000		Depreciation £000	Impairment £000
(4,470)	(3,456)	Council Dwellings	(5,131)	(15,072)
(97)	29	Other Land and Buildings	(131)	0
(4,567)	(3,427)	Total	(5,262)	(15,072)

HRA 6 Rent Arrears

The amount of rent arrears and the aggregate Balance Sheet impairment allowance in respect of uncollectable debts:

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2018 £000
Current Tenant Arrears	437	437
Former Tenant Arrears	513	625
Gross Rent Arrears	950	1,062
Bad Debt Provision	(575)	(685)
Total	375	377

HRA 7 The HRA share of contributions to / from the Pensions Reserve

The Council recognises the share of pension fund net assets and liabilities attributable to the HRA within appropriations in the net operating costs for the service. Appropriate adjustments are made so as to ensure that the sum required to be funded by housing rents is equal to the actual contributions paid to the Pension Fund in the year. The following adjustments have been made through the Movement on the HRA Statement balance in the year.

Transactions relating to retirement benefits

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
599	Current Service Cost	1,078
347	Net interest expense	381
946	Total charged to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	1,459
(621)	Employer's contributions payable to the Pension Fund and retirement benefits payable direct to pensioners	(713)
325	Movement on Pension Reserve	746

Collection Fund

The Collection Fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and distribution to local authorities and the Government of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates.

31 March 2017				31 March 2018		
Business Rates £000	Council Tax £000	Total £000	Collection Fund	Business Rates £000	Council Tax £000	Total £000
INCOME:						
	168,175	168,175	Council Tax Receivable		178,296	178,296
85,200		85,200	Business Rates Receivable	85,936		85,936
85,200	168,175	253,375	Total amounts to be credited	85,936	178,296	264,232
EXPENDITURE:						
Apportionment of Previous Year Surplus/Deficit:						
2,728		2,728	Central Government	597		597
2,673	(4,071)	(1,398)	Central Bedfordshire Council	586	(4,582)	(3,996)
0	(459)	(459)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire	0	(507)	(507)
55	(256)	(202)	Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service	12	(283)	(271)
Precepts, demands and shares:						
(42,712)		(42,712)	Central Government	(40,510)		(40,510)
(41,858)	(130,486)	(172,344)	Central Bedfordshire Council	(39,700)	(139,492)	(179,192)
0	(15,625)	(15,625)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire	0	(16,294)	(16,294)
(854)	(8,731)	(9,585)	Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service	(810)	(9,105)	(9,915)

	(10,705)	(10,705)	Parishes		(11,238)	(11,238)
			Charges to Collection Fund:			
(105)	0	(105)	Write-offs of uncollectable amounts	(264)	0	(264)
(546)	(739)	(1,285)	Increase/(decrease) in allowance for impairment	(608)	(647)	(1,255)
(215)		(215)	Increase/(decrease) in allowance for appeals	44		44
(345)		(345)	Transitional Protection Payments Payable	(2,141)		(2,141)
(312)		(312)	Charge to General Fund for allowable collection costs for non-domestic rates	(306)		(306)
			Other transfers to General Fund in accordance with non-domestic rates regulations			
(392)		(392)	Renewable Energy	(364)		(364)
(81,883)	(171,072)	(252,955)	Total amounts to be debited	(83,464)	(182,148)	(265,612)
3,317	(2,897)	420	(Surplus)/Deficit arising during the year	2,472	(3,852)	(1,380)
(7,202)	7,270	68	(Surplus)/Deficit b/f at 1 April 2017	(3,885)	4,373	488
(3,885)	4,373	488	(Surplus)/Deficit c/f at 31 March 2018	(1,413)	521	(892)

Notes to the Collection Fund

The Collection Fund is required by statute to show the transactions of the billing authority in relation to Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR). The Collection Fund shows how the transactions have been distributed to the Council and its major preceptors: Central Government; Bedfordshire Police Authority; and Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. Town and Parish precepts form part of the amount due to be collected from Council Taxpayers within Central Bedfordshire.

The transactions of the Collection Fund are wholly prescribed by legislation. Billing authorities have no discretion to determine which receipts and payments are accounted for within the Fund and which are outside.

Council Tax Base

The tax base is derived by estimating the number of domestic properties in each Council Tax band, applying reliefs and exemptions and multiplying the result by the weighting factor applicable to each tax band. This result is then reduced by 1% to allow for non-collection and other reductions such as discounts and appeals.

Note 1 - Council Tax Income

2017/18

Band	Valuation band limits £	Calculated no. of dwellings No.	Ratio to Band D	Equated no. of dwellings No.
A	Upto and including - 40,000	9,839	6/9	6,559
B	40,001 - 52,000	23,309	7/9	18,129
C	52,001 - 68,000	32,550	8/9	28,933
D	68,001 - 88,000	22,060	9/9	22,060
E	88,001 - 120,000	15,032	11/9	18,372
F	120,001 - 160,000	8,152	13/9	11,775
G	160,001 - 320,000	4,735	15/9	7,892
H	More than - 320,001	360	18/9	720
Adjustment				(16,336)
Council tax base				98,104

2016/17

Band	Valuation band limits £	Calculated no. of dwellings No.	Ratio to Band D	Equated no. of dwellings No.
A	Upto and including - 40,000	9,721	6/9	6,481
B	40,001 - 52,000	23,018	7/9	17,903
C	52,001 - 68,000	32,356	8/9	28,761
D	68,001 - 88,000	21,762	9/9	21,762
E	88,001 - 120,000	14,917	11/9	18,232
F	120,001 - 160,000	8,021	13/9	11,586
G	160,001 - 320,000	4,692	15/9	7,820
H	More than - 320,001	352	18/9	704
Adjustment				(17,303)
Council tax base				<u>95,946</u>

The amount of Council Tax required by Central Bedfordshire (including Town and Parish Councils but excluding Bedfordshire Police and Fire) is arrived at by dividing the net budget requirement of the Council by the tax base, to arrive at the Band D equivalent as follows: 2017/18: £150,729,918 / 98,104 = £1,536.43 (2016/17: £141,191,233 / 95,945 = £1,471.59).

The Council has to reflect balances held in respect of its own share of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) debt. The remaining balances are reflected within the Balance Sheet as debtors or creditors with major preceptors and the Government depending on whether the cash paid over to them is more or less than their attributable share of Council Tax or NDR due for the year, net of any provision for bad debts.

The Collection Fund Surplus / (Deficit) at the year-end is split as follows:

	31 March 2017			31 March 2018		
	Council Tax £000	Business Rates £000	Total £000	Council Tax £000	Business Rates £000	Total £000
Central Bedfordshire Council	3,727	(1,904)	1,823	444	(693)	(249)
Central Government	0	(1,942)	(1,942)	0	(707)	(707)
Police & Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire	415	0	415	49	0	49
Bedford Fire & Rescue Service	232	(40)	192	27	(14)	13
Total	4,373	(3,885)	488	520	(1,414)	(894)

The total non-domestic rateable value was £216.6M as per the Valuation Office's schedule dated 29 January 2018 (£213.5M at 31 December 2016).

The 2017/18 national non-domestic rate multiplier set for the year by the Government was 47.9p (49.7p in 2016/17) and 46.6p for small businesses (48.4p in 2016/17).

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Central Bedfordshire Council for the year ended 31 March 2018 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The financial statements comprise the:

- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- Movement in Reserves Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement
- Related notes 1 to 45
- Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Accounts Statement and related notes HRA 1 to HRA 7
- Collection Fund and the related note.

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 Central Bedfordshire Council as at 31 March 2018 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report below. We are independent of the authority and group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and the Comptroller and Auditor General's (C&AG) AGN01, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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 Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or

- the Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about 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 other information comprises the information included in the statement of accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer is responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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 obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements 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 the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, having regard to the guidance issued by the C&AG in November 2017, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, Central Bedfordshire Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

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

- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Responsibility of the Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts set out on page 23, the Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the Authority 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, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Authority either intends to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Auditor's responsibilities 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 <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in November 2017, as to whether Central Bedfordshire Council had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criterion as that

necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether Central Bedfordshire Council 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 form a view on whether, in all significant respects, Central Bedfordshire Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

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

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

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the Council's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our value for money conclusion.

Use of our report

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

Neil Harris (senior statutory auditor)
for and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP, Appointed Auditor
Luton
30 July 2018

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

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



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2017/18

1.0 Executive Summary

Senior Management and Members are committed to ensuring a sound system of governance (including the system of internal control) is in place to help the Council deliver effective and efficient services to the residents of Central Bedfordshire.

Each year the Council is required to produce a Governance Statement (AGS) which is the result of a review of how those governance arrangements have been working.

This statement has been considered and approved by the Council's Audit Committee on 30th May 2018.

Opinion on Governance Arrangements

Overall, we are of the view that the arrangements continue to be appropriate and fit for purpose, section 3 of the statement outlines how we have arrived at this.

There are a number of key Strategic and Governance areas where the Council intends to take steps over the coming year to further enhance our arrangements, these are detailed in section 6 below. We will monitor the implementation of these matters as part of the Council's Performance Management arrangements and report progress as part of our next annual review.

.....
J JAMIESON
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Dated

.....

.....
R CARR
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Dated

.....

2.0 What is Corporate Governance?

Good Governance in the Public Sector to us means:

‘Achieving our intended outcomes whilst acting in the public interest at all times.’

Corporate governance generally refers to the systems, processes, culture and values by which the authority directs and controls its activities and through which it engages with and leads the community. The framework enables the authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic priorities and to consider whether those priorities have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money. The governance framework is described in our Code of Corporate Governance (“Local Code” -

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council/transparency/internal-audits/audit-risk.aspx>

The system of internal control is a significant part of the corporate framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise risks to the achievement of the Council’s policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised, the impact should they be realised and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The governance framework has been in place at Central Bedfordshire Council for the year ended 31 March 2018 and up to the date of the approval of the statement of accounts.

This section of the Annual Governance Statement describes the key elements of the systems and processes that make up the authority’s governance arrangements.

2.2 Our Governance Arrangements

The Council’s governance framework contributes to the delivery of the Council’s vision and values and the key elements of the processes and systems that comprise the framework are as follows:

- Strategic leadership provided by Members including the development and review of the Council’s visions, priorities and values. These detail the Council’s vision of its purpose and intended outcomes for residents and service users to all;
- Key policies are defined in the “Policy Framework” within the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules in the Council’s Constitution. This framework is reviewed periodically to ensure it remains fit for purpose strategically and that it is aligned to corporate priorities;
- Business planning processes which ensure that services are delivered in line with the Council’s vision and values and representing the best use of all Council resources;

- Measuring performance and achievement of objectives through the mechanism of the Council's performance management system;
- A written Constitution specifying the roles and responsibilities of elected Members and Officers with protocols for effective communication;
- The Council has adopted arrangements to promote high standards of ethical governance and includes Codes of Conduct defining the standards of behaviour for both Members and Officers and a Member/Officer Protocol as part of the Constitution. Further guidance is provided in the Council's Ethical Handbook;
- The Schemes of Delegation to Members and Officers within the Constitution sets out the principles, processes and controls for decision makers. Codes of Financial and Procurement Governance set out the constraints within which Officers may work and these Codes are supported by more detailed procedure rules;
- Embedded internal systems to ensure Members are presented with the appropriate information to make decisions, including corporate implications with advice on legal, risk management and financial considerations. Member level decisions are based on reports and are recorded;
- An Audit Committee to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment, independent scrutiny of the Authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the Authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, and to oversee the financial reporting process;
- Statutory Officers to support and monitor the Council's governance arrangements, ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures and that expenditure is lawful;
- Policies for confidential reporting (whistleblowing) and an Anti-Fraud Strategy are in place to support the governance within the Council. There is a corporate complaints process with separate procedures for Children's Services and Adult Social Care where complaints procedures are governed by Regulations. There are also formal processes for registering complaints in respect of the Council's Housing Landlord functions and for receiving, evaluating and investigating complaints against Members;
- A consultation strategy to ensure the Council consults with and engages the diverse communities of Central Bedfordshire, allowing them to input to the planning of services provided for them and the review of those services as appropriate;
- A system of Overview and Scrutiny Committees with responsibility for key areas and who receive reports on key issues including budget monitoring, performance and efficiency information and provides independent checks and balances on the exercise of functions and responsibilities by the Council.

3.0 REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

The Council's review of the Governance Framework and the effectiveness of the system of internal control comprises:

- The completion of self-assurance statements by directors;
- Annual report and opinion on the Internal Control environment prepared by

the Head of Internal Audit and Risk¹. This report draws on the outcome of audit reviews undertaken throughout 2017/18 and is informed by the comments of external auditors and inspectors. The report is designed to provide assurance on the effectiveness of internal controls;

- the work undertaken by the external auditor reported in their annual audit and inspection letter.
- other work undertaken by independent inspection bodies.
- Peer reviews

(1) Central Bedfordshire Council's Vision

The Council's overall objective is to create Central Bedfordshire as a "great place to live and work" and the Council's medium term plan identifies the following priorities:

- Enhancing Central Bedfordshire.
- Great residents' services.
- Improving education and skills.
- Protecting the vulnerable and improving wellbeing.
- Creating stronger communities.
- An efficient and responsive Council.

The Council's Budget and Policy Framework contains specific plans, policies and strategies driving delivery of the Council's priorities and key work programmes. Further work is being undertaken this year to narrow the focus of these priorities and ensure there are SMART delivery plans and appropriate governance and accountability.

The Council has adopted a set of organisational values that describe the type of organisation we want to be and the principles that will guide us in achieving our priorities and vision. These set out the way the Council will work and interact with its customers, members and staff.

The Council's values are:

Respect and Empowerment

- we will treat people as individuals who matter to us.

Stewardship and Efficiencies

- we will make the best use of the resources available to us.

Results Focused

- we will focus on the outcomes that make a difference to people's lives, and

Collaborative

- we will work closely with our colleagues, partners and customers to deliver on these outcomes.

¹ The role of Chief Internal Auditor within Central Bedfordshire Council is undertaken by the Head of Internal Audit and Risk

(2) Service Quality

The Council has used regular performance reporting to ensure a sustained focus on those things that matter most to local people.

At a strategic level, the Senior Management review reports on the performance of the Council on a monthly basis. They also review the Medium Term Plan progress or status report on a quarterly basis. This report is presented to the Executive with any specific issues addressed through the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Directorates provide operational level performance data via the Council's website the latest details of which are:

<http://centralbedfordshireperformance.inphase.com>

The Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer also met on a regular basis as statutory officers to consider and address any corporate issues or matters of probity that may benefit from their collective input and approach.

(3) Key Roles and Responsibilities

The Council's Constitution sets out how the Council operates and sets out clearly what matters are reserved to full Council and those powers which have been delegated to committees and officers, Executive and Members.

(4) Codes of Conduct and standards of behaviour of Officers and Members

Central Bedfordshire Council continues to promote high standards of ethical governance. Complaints about the Council's Members is regularly reviewed via the performance reports to Senior Management and bi-annually at General Purposes Committee which has responsibility for overseeing the arrangements for the Code of Conduct.

The Council's Ethical Handbook contains additional Codes relating to Gifts and Hospitality, Planning and Licensing Good Practice, Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) and guidance for Members on Property and Transactions and Commercial Property Management.

(5) Decisions, processes and controls

The Scheme of Delegation within the Constitution sets out the powers delegated to various Officers as well as the limits, processes and controls for those powers.

The Code of Financial Governance sets out the limits within which officers may make decisions on spending, within the budget approved by the Council. The Code is supported by detailed procedure rules which are maintained on the Council's intranet.

The Code of Procurement Governance defines the procurement process and references the relevant levels of authority dependent upon financial thresholds. The Code is supported by detailed procedure rules which are maintained on the Council's intranet. The rules are promoted to staff through bespoke training courses. They are also embedded in a Procurement Tool Kit which is made available to all members of staff who are involved in procurement, and is available as an interactive version on the Intranet. A two-page pictorial summary of the rules is also made available.

The Council has a Risk Management Strategy and Policy Statement. The Strategic Risk register has been regularly reviewed and refreshed during the year. Senior Management have received regular risk reports during the year, which have also been presented to the Audit Committee.

Committee reports require officers to set out the risk management considerations in terms of current and potential risks and how they will be managed and mitigated. It is recognised that the transparency and robustness of operational risk management arrangements would benefit from improvement and work to progress this will continue over the coming year.

(6) Audit Committee

The Audit Committee provides independent assurance of the adequacy of the Council's control environment and oversees the financial reporting process.

The Audit Committee met regularly during 2017/18, considering reports, including the annual Internal Audit Report from the Chief Internal Auditor, the Council's Senior Finance Officers and the External Auditor as well as other officers as and when appropriate. The Chair of the Audit Committee presents an annual report to Council detailing the work of the Committee in the preceding year.

(7) Compliance with relevant laws and regulations

The Council continues to have access to a team of professional legal staff with specialist knowledge of its functions via LGSS Law Ltd, a firm wholly owned by the Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Northamptonshire County Council. LGSS Law Ltd have advised on relevant laws, regulations and constitutional issues to ensure that the Council acts lawfully.

All reports considered by the Executive, the Council's regulatory committees and by Overview and Scrutiny Committees include advice on the legal implications and risks of the proposed decisions. These reports are reviewed by a senior legal adviser to ensure that the legal implications have been accurately reflected.

The Monitoring Officer or, as appropriate, a senior lawyer attends meetings of the Council, the Executive and regulatory committees to advise on legal issues as they arise.

(8) Counter Fraud, Whistle-blowing and complaints

There is a Confidential Reporting Policy in place and the revised Counter-Fraud and Corruption Strategy was approved in April 2018 -

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/schools-portal/finance/regulations/procedures.aspx>

The Council welcomes feedback and has a three stage complaints process for customers with separate statutory procedures for Children's Services and Adult Social Care.

(9) Development and Training for Officers and Members

We have offered a range of Learning and Development opportunities with a focus on providing a wealth of on-demand resources (e-learning, webinars, e-books etc) linked to the Corporate Vision, Values and Priorities. These are designed to provide individuals with the skills to do their job and to support them and the organisation in meeting their objectives and statutory requirements in the context of the Council and local government.

The Member Development Programme has supported all Members and has provided essential updates and training sessions.

(10) Channels of Communication

Central Bedfordshire Council has continued to enhance its communication with the public, staff and other stakeholders during 2017/18. It has maintained presence on social media and continued to provide the quarterly community magazine, and weekly staff and Member bulletins.

(11) Equality and Diversity

The Council has continued to promote equality of opportunity and eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations during 2017/18. Equality Impact Assessments have been conducted for the development of relevant strategies, policies and services and the Council's Equality Forum have been available to quality assure any significant Council Strategies and Policies.

(12) Partnership governance

The Council's Constitution includes a detailed Partnerships Protocol that sets out the arrangements and principles for established and future public and private sector partnerships.

The Protocol prescribes the key requirements to ensure accountability (internally amongst partners and externally to communities), value for money, leadership, decision-making, scrutiny and risk management.

All partnerships are required to have detailed terms of reference that fully set out all of the arrangements and key partnerships review these on an annual basis to ensure they are fit for purpose and aligned to the Partnership's future work programme.

(13) Internal Audit

The Internal Audit plan is prioritised by a combination of the key internal controls, assessment and review on the basis of risk and the Council's corporate governance arrangements, including risk management. All Internal Audit reports included an assessment of the adequacy of internal control and prioritised action plans to address any identified weaknesses. These were submitted to service managers and senior management as appropriate.

The internal audit function is monitored and reviewed regularly by the Audit Committee. The Committee also reviews progress in implementing high risk recommendations made in audit reports.

A self-assessment review is undertaken annually by the Head of Internal Audit and Risk against compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2013 on the effectiveness of the Internal Audit function. No issues of concern were raised as a result of this review.

(14) LGA Peer Review

Our recent LGA Corporate Peer Review (May 2017) was overwhelmingly positive and concluded "Central Bedfordshire Council is an impressive council" and the review has resulted in a series of actions being progressed which are detailed in the feedback report – available here:

<http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s74230/Appendix%201%20-%20Corporate%20Peer%20Challenge%20-%20Feedback%20Report.pdf>

The review focused on partnerships and in particular on:

1. Understanding of the local place and priority setting
2. Leadership of Place
3. Financial planning and viability
4. Organisational leadership and governance
5. Capacity to deliver

The main conclusions were:

- Sound financial management is well understood across the Council and has allowed us to avoid some of the more draconian service reductions that others have implemented.
- Strong partnership working is evident in some contexts with a desire for even stronger external collaboration specifically on Central Bedfordshire specific issues.

(15) Best Value Inspection comparison review

In light of the well-publicised difficulties of a neighbouring Local Authority, the opportunity was used to undertake a self-assessment against the published Best

Value Inspection Report for Northamptonshire County Council. This self-assessment has confirmed the findings of the LGA Peer review above in that Central Bedfordshire is financially stable, well governed and well placed to continue to provide effective services to our citizens, albeit in ongoing challenging circumstances. The full self-assessment and presentation of the key findings are an item on the Agenda of the May 2018 meeting of the Audit Committee.

4.0 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT FOR 2017/18

The Council's Head of Internal Audit submitted his opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control environment to the Audit Committee on 30th May 2018. The Internal Audit work programme included reviews of the fundamental financial systems and other assurance work on other non fundamental systems.

The Head of Internal Audit reported that his opinion was that overall the Council's system of internal control, governance framework and risk management arrangements were Adequate. In general, the key controls in place were adequate and effective such that reasonable assurance can be placed on the operation of the Council's functions.

Nine of the fundamental system reviews received Adequate Assurance audit opinion, only Swift Financials has received a Limited Opinion and it is expected that all of the key issues will be resolved as part of the coming software replacement or upgrade project.

The majority of audit reviews of areas other than the fundamental systems have received Adequate Assurance opinions. Where weaknesses in the current processes have been identified actions have been agreed with management to address these issues and Internal Audit has continued to track the implementation of high priority recommendations throughout the year and report to the Audit Committee.

5.0 PREVIOUS SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The significant governance issues identified in the 2016/17 Annual Governance Statement were:

- New EU Regulations relating to data protection will be effective as from May 2018 and this will require updating of processes and procedures to ensure compliance
- Future challenges arising from significant government cuts in funding

Both of these issues are ongoing:

- New EU Regulations relating to data protection will be effective as from May 2018 and this has required the updating of processes and procedures to ensure compliance. The action plan for management of this issue included regular reviews of the Council's current and planned compliance supported

by legal advisors and an officer working group. A programme for raising awareness and implementation of necessary improvements has been carried out together with updates to senior management and assurances for Audit Committee. It is considered that by May 2018 the Council will have achieved full compliance and therefore it has not been entered onto the Strategic Risk Register

- Central Bedfordshire does continue to face significant future challenges arising from a significant reduction in Central Government funding with the Revenue Support Grant being completely phased out by 2019/20. The Council is mitigating this by being prudent in its medium term financial plan and continues to consider longer term planning. The Council is pursuing a significant transformation programme throughout the organisation to ensure that modern, efficient and effective ways of working are in place to support all service provision whilst continuing to drive down costs and seek out appropriate opportunities. There is a particular focus across the Council on the digitisation of services to provide better customer access and enhance the customer experience. Staff are being enabled to work in an agile manner, from any location. Resources have been set aside to assist with the transformation programme.

6.0 2017/18 Significant Strategic and Governance Issues:

The following are the key areas where the Council intends to take steps over the coming year to further enhance our strategic approach and governance arrangements.

Key Improvement Area	Lead	Target
Respond to the learning points from the LGA Corporate Peer Review	Richard Carr, Chief Executive	July 2018
Shaping the Educational Landscape Programme	Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services	September 2018
Operational Risk Management (1)	Charles Warboys, Director of Resources	April 2019
Respond to the learning points from the Best Value report self-assessment.	Charles Warboys, Director of Resources	September 2018 - January 2019
The Council faces a number of strategic issues which will require senior management and Member attention during the year including: Growth Agenda (Housing, Local Plan, Growth Corridor); Ageing Population; Health and Social Integration (STP) Digitisation	All Directors	March 2019

Key Improvement Area	Lead	Target
Major System implementations and processes eg SAP S4 Hana, Acolaid, Swift.	All Directors	Individual Implementation dates to be confirmed.
GDPR compliance (2)	Stephan Conaway, Chief Information Officer	May 2018

1. Operational Risk Management
Directorates are currently working on compiling their Directorate (DMT) level risks. Once complete and subject to ongoing review this will facilitate improved reporting of key operational risk to both Senior Management and Audit Committee on a quarterly basis.
2. GDPR compliance
The Council undertook a gap analysis in the summer of 2017 using the Information Commissioner's Office readiness assessment and have been progressing the resulting action plan since. There is still some work to finalise in relation to the Information Asset Registers / mapping organisational information flows and associated Privacy Notices.

7.0 Strategic Risks

The Council's Strategic Risk Management regime is subject to regular monitoring by senior management and reported through to Audit Committee for oversight.

The following Strategic risks which remain from the 2016/17 period have an impact on governance:

- Failure to deliver major transformation programme within Children's Services.
- Risk of failure to deliver community cohesion in the context of the demographic growth in Central Bedfordshire. Some settlements will experience considerable expansion and we need to manage potential resentment, secure equal access to facilities and enhance a sense of community.
- Fragility of Partners/Failure of Partners: Central Bedfordshire's vision cannot be delivered in isolation. All partners, including Police, Probation, Health, the Voluntary Community Sector, independent care providers and Town and Parish Councils are experiencing significant changes and pressures. These include budgetary pressures, transfer of responsibilities, geographical factors, confusing accountabilities, increasing complexities, fragility and volatility. There is an increased risk that services to our public will be compromised and that increased costs will fall on the Council.
- The political and economic uncertainty around potential changes in laws, regulations, government policy or funding arising from the UK leaving the European Union and other significant international events, which may impact on Council objectives.

- Failure to deliver adequately on the diverse range of change projects that currently make up the transformation programme.

8.0 COMPLIANCE WITH CIPFA CODE OF PRACTICE ON MANAGING THE RISK OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

To help Councils recognise and address their fraud risks, CIPFA published a Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption in December 2014. This sets out five principles that organisations should adhere to:

- Acknowledge responsibility
- Identify risks
- Develop a Strategy
- Provide resources
- Take action

The Code includes a requirement for organisations to include a statement within their Annual Governance Statement about their adherence to this Code. A detailed review of the Council's arrangements against the Code has been undertaken to address any gaps identified and action has been taken to address any issues identified. The Confidential Reporting Policy has been updated to support compliance with the Code. There is an annual report to the Audit Committee on the Council's anti-fraud work.

Having considered all the principles and the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy approved during the period, we are satisfied that, the organisation has adopted a response that is appropriate for its fraud and corruption risks and commits to maintain its vigilance to tackle fraud.

Glossary

ACCOUNTING PERIOD

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

ACCRUALS

Sums included in the final accounts to recognise revenue and capital income and expenditure earned or incurred in the financial year, but for which actual payment had not been received or made as at 31 March.

ACQUISITIONS

The Council spends funds from the Capital Programme to buy or enhance assets such as land and buildings.

ACTUARIAL GAINS AND LOSSES

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

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

ACTUARIAL VALUATION

The Actuary reviews the assets and liabilities of the Pension Fund and reports to the Council on the Fund's financial position and recommended employers' contribution rates every three years.

ACTUARY

An independent and appropriately qualified adviser who carries out statutorily required pension fund valuations.

AGENCY SERVICES

Provided by or for another local authority or public body where the cost of carrying out the service is reimbursed.

AMORTISATION

The routine decrease in value of an intangible asset, or the process of paying off a debt over time through regular payments. A corresponding concept for tangible assets is known as depreciation. The idea of amortisation is to spread the cost of an asset over the period of its 'useful life'.

ASSET

An item having value to the Council in monetary terms. Assets are categorised as either current or non-current:

- a current asset will be consumed or cease to have material value within the next financial year (e.g., cash and stock);
- a non-current asset provides benefits to the Council and to the services it provides for a period of more than one year and may be tangible, e.g., a community centre, or intangible, e.g., computer software licences.

ASSET REGISTER

A record of Council assets including land and buildings, housing, infrastructure, vehicles, plant and equipment. This is maintained for capital accounting and property management purposes. It is updated annually to reflect new acquisitions, disposals, revaluations and depreciation.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

An independent examination of the Council's financial affairs.

AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE FINANCIAL ASSET

A non-derivative financial asset that is not classified as Loans and Receivables. The asset needs to be immediately available for sale and is valued at the lower of its current carrying value or fair value less costs to dispose. Available-for-Sale financial assets include equity investments and other investments traded in an active market.

BAD DEBTS

Debts owed to the Council which are considered to be irrecoverable and are written off.

BALANCE SHEET

A statement of the recorded assets, liabilities and other balances at the end of the accounting period.

BALANCES

The amount of money left over at the end of the financial year after allowing for all expenditure and income that has taken place. These are also known as financial reserves. They comprise of the General Fund balance, the Collection Fund balance, the Housing Revenue Account balance and Schools Reserve Account balance.

BILLING AUTHORITY

A local authority charged by statute with responsibility for the collection of and accounting for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) in their area. These are district councils, borough councils and unitary authorities.

BORROWING

Using cash provided by another party to pay for expenditure, on the basis of an agreement to repay the cash at a future point, usually incurring interest charges over and above the original principal amount.

BUDGET

The forecast of net revenue and capital expenditure over the accounting period.

CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT

An account that reflects the difference between the cost of non-current assets consumed and the capital financing set aside to pay for them.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset, which will be used in providing services beyond the current accounting period, or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing fixed asset.

CAPITAL FINANCING

Funds raised to pay for capital expenditure. There are various methods of financing capital expenditure including borrowing, leasing, direct revenue financing, usable capital receipts, capital grants, capital contributions, revenue reserves and earmarked reserves.

CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT (CFR)

The CFR is the capital investment funded from borrowing which has yet to be repaid and is the basis for the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The capital schemes the Council intends to carry out over a specific period of time.

CAPITAL RECEIPT

The proceeds from the disposal of land or other fixed assets. Proportions of capital receipts can be used to finance new capital expenditure, within rules set down by the Government but they cannot be used to finance revenue expenditure.

CAPITAL RESERVES

Capital reserves represent resources earmarked to fund capital schemes as part of the Council's capital investment strategy.

CAPITALISATION

Costs are capitalised to the extent that they create or improve any non-current asset with a useful economic life greater than one year.

CASH EQUIVALENTS

Investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with an insignificant risk of change in value.

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY (CIPFA)

The professional accountancy body which represents at national level the interests of local government and public service finance. The Institute produces advice, codes of practice and guidance to local authorities.

CIPFA CODE OF PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTING

The Code specifies the principles and practices of accounting to give a “true and fair” view of the financial position and transactions of a local authority.

COLLECTION FUND

A separate fund that records the income and expenditure relating to Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR).

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Assets that the Council intends to hold forever, that have no determinable useful life and that may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples of community assets are parks and historical buildings.

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

The account of the Council that reports the net cost for the year of the functions for which it is responsible and demonstrates how that cost has been financed from precepts, grants and other income.

CONSISTENCY

The principle that the accounting treatment of like items within an accounting period and from one period to the next are the same.

CONTINGENT ASSET

A contingent asset is a possible asset arising from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the Council’s control.

CONTINGENT LIABILITY

A contingent liability is either:

- a possible obligation arising from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the Council’s control; or
- a present obligation arising from past events where it is possible but not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

COUNCIL TAX

A local tax, based upon the value of domestic property, set by local authorities in order to meet their budget requirement.

CREDITOR

Amount owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered within the accounting period, but for which payment has not been made by the end of that accounting period.

CURRENT ASSET

An asset that is intended to be sold within the normal operating cycle; the asset is held primarily for the purpose of trading or the Council expects to realise the asset within 12 months of the Balance Sheet date.

CURRENT LIABILITY

An amount which will become payable or could be called in within one year of the Balance Sheet date; examples are creditors and cash overdrawn.

CURRENT VALUE

The price that would be received from the sale of operational property, plant and equipment assets or paid to transfer a liability based on existing use value in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

DEBTOR

An amount owed to the Council for works done, goods received or services rendered within the accounting period, but for which payment has not been received by the end of that accounting period.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

A pension scheme in which a pensioner's benefits are specified, usually relating to their length of service and salary, and are independent of the contributions payable, and the benefits are unrelated to the performance of the investments of the scheme.

DEPRECIATED HISTORICAL COST

The valuation of non-current assets at their original cost less depreciation charged to date.

DEPRECIATED REPLACEMENT COST

Relating to non-current assets, the current replacement costs adjusted for depreciation. This method of valuation is used when it is not practical to estimate the open market value for the existing use of a specialised property, such as highways and footpaths.

DEPRECIATION

The measure of the cost of wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of the Council's fixed assets during the accounting period, whether from use, the passage of time or obsolescence through technological or other changes.

EFFECTIVE RATE OF INTEREST

The rate of interest that will discount the estimated cash flows over the life of a financial instrument to the amount in the Balance Sheet at initial measurement.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

All forms of consideration given by the Council in exchange for services rendered by employees.

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM

An item which derives from events or transactions that falls within the ordinary activities of the Council and which needs to be disclosed separately by virtue of its size or incidence to give fair presentation of the accounts from year to year. Such an item will always be explained in a Note to the Statement of Accounts.

EXISTING USE VALUE FOR SOCIAL HOUSING (EUV-SH)

A vacant possession valuation of Council dwellings adjusted to reflect the continuing occupation by a secure tenant. A further adjustment is made to reflect the difference between open market rented property and social rented property.

EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

A report which brings together the Council's performance on the basis of expenditure measured under proper accounting practices with statutorily defined charges to the General Fund (including the HRA). It also shows how annual expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's directorates.

EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS

Material items that are not within the Council's ordinary activities and are not expected to recur.

FAIR VALUE

The fair value of an asset is the price at which it could be exchanged in an arm's length transaction.

FINANCE LEASE

A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a fixed asset to the lessee. Under this type of lease, the organisation paying the lease is treated as if it owns the goods and is required to include such finance leased assets on the Balance Sheet.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT

Any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. The term 'financial instrument' covers both financial assets and financial liabilities and includes both the most straightforward financial assets and liabilities such as trade receivables and trade payables and the most complex ones such as derivatives and embedded derivatives.

FINANCIAL LIABILITY

An obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the Council. Examples include borrowings, financial guarantees and amounts owed to trade creditors.

FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Activities that result in changes in the size and composition of the principal received from or repaid to external providers of finance.

FORMULA GRANT

Central Government subsidy to local authorities comprising two elements: Revenue Support Grant and redistributed Non-Domestic Rates.

GENERAL FUND

The Council's main revenue account that covers the net cost of all services. Day-to-day transactions are conducted through this account, with the exception of those relating to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), Collection Fund or any other trust funds held by the Council. The accumulated credit balance on the General Fund is needed as a cushion against unforeseen expenditure.

GOING CONCERN

The concept that the Statement of Accounts is prepared on the assumption that the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Grants made by Central Government towards either revenue or capital expenditure in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the Council. These grants may be specific to a particular scheme or may support the revenue spend of the Council in general.

GROSS EXPENDITURE

The total cost of providing the Council's services before deducting income from Central Government grants, or fees and charges for services.

HISTORICAL COST

The amount originally paid for a non-current asset.

HOUSING BENEFITS

A national system of financial assistance to individuals towards meeting certain housing costs administered by local authorities and subsidised by Central Government.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

A separate account to the General Fund, which includes the income and expenditure arising from the provision of housing accommodation by the Council.

IMPAIRMENT

A reduction in the value of a fixed asset to below its recoverable amount, the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and its value in use.

INCOME

The gross inflow of economic benefits or service potential during the financial year when those inflows or enhancements of assets or decreases of liabilities result in an increase in reserves. Income includes both revenue arising in the course of ordinary activities and gains such as the revaluation of non-current assets.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Fixed assets belonging to the Council that cannot be transferred or sold, on which expenditure is only recoverable by the continued use of the asset created. Examples are highways, footpaths and bridges.

INSURANCE RESERVE

The Insurance Reserve is used to cover liabilities under policy excesses and to finance any claims for small risks not insured externally. In addition, the Council carries a substantial amount of self insurance financed from this Reserve.

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

An intangible (non-physical) item may be defined as an asset when access to the future economic benefits it represents is controlled by the reporting entity. This Council's intangible assets comprise computer software licences.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (IFRS)

The international accounting standards that govern the treatment and reporting of income and expenditure under which the Council has compiled its financial statements.

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS (IPSAS)

International Accounting Standards (IAS) adapted to meet public sector requirements.

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

Land or buildings that are held solely for their investment potential, i.e., to earn rental income or for capital appreciation or both.

LESSEE

The party that leases an asset that is owned by another party.

LESSOR

The owner of an asset which is leased to another party.

LIABILITY

A liability is where the Council owes payment to an individual or another organisation.

- A current liability is an amount which will become payable or could be called in within the next accounting period, e.g., creditors or cash overdrawn.
- A deferred liability is an amount which by arrangement is payable beyond the next year at some point in the future or to be paid off by an annual sum over a period of time.

LIQUID RESOURCES

Current asset investments that are readily disposable by the Council without disrupting its business and are either:

- readily convertible to known amounts of cash at or close to the carrying amount; or
- traded in an active market.

LOANS AND RECEIVABLES

Financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and are not quoted in an active market.

MAJOR REPAIRS RESERVE (MRR)

The Major Repairs Reserve records amounts set aside from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which can be used to fund either future capital expenditure or the repayment of borrowing.

MATERIALITY

The concept that the Statement of Accounts should include all amounts which, if omitted, or mis-stated, could be expected to lead to a distortion of the financial statements and ultimately mislead a user of the Statement of Accounts.

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP)

The minimum amount which must be charged to the revenue account each year in order to provide for the repayment of loans and other amounts borrowed by the Council.

NET ASSETS

The amount by which assets exceed liabilities (same as 'net worth').

NET BOOK VALUE

The amount at which fixed assets are included in the Balance Sheet, i.e., their historical costs or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

NET PRESENT VALUE (NPV)

The difference between the present value of cash inflows and the present value of cash outflows (including initial cost) over a period of time. NPV is used in capital budgeting to analyse the profitability of a potential investment or project.

NET REALISABLE VALUE

The 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.

NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE

Gross expenditure less fees and charges for services and specific grants but before the deduction of revenue support grants and national business rates.

NET WORTH

The total funds, balances and reserves (both usable and unusable reserves) held by the Council.

NON-CURRENT ASSETS

An asset that does not meet the definition of a current asset and yields benefit to the Council for a period of more than one year.

NON-DISTRIBUTED COSTS

These are overheads for which no user now benefits and as such are not apportioned to services. An example is the extra pension costs caused by early retirement.

NON-DOMESTIC RATES (NDR)

The Non-Domestic Rate is a levy on businesses, based on a national rate in the pound set by Central Government and multiplied by the assessed rateable value of the premises they occupy. It is collected by the Council on behalf of itself, Central Government and major preceptors.

NON-OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Tangible non-current assets held by the Council but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples are investment properties, assets under construction or assets surplus to requirement pending sale or redevelopment.

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Council that are not investing or financing activities.

OPERATING LEASE

A lease where the ownership of the fixed asset remains with the lessor. An operating lease is commonly used to acquire equipment on a relatively short-term basis and the lease term is short compared to the useful life of the asset or piece of equipment being leased.

OPERATIONAL ASSETS

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

OUTTURN

Refers to actual income and expenditure or balances as opposed to budgeted amounts.

PENSION RESERVE

The Pensions Reserve is a specific accounting mechanism used to reconcile the payments made for the year to various statutory pension schemes in accordance with those schemes' requirements and the net change in the Council's recognised liability under International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS), Retirement Benefits, for the same period. A transfer is made to or from the Pensions Reserve to ensure that the charge to the General Fund balance reflects the amount required to be raised in taxation. The Reserve is normally at the same level as the pensions liability carried on the top half of the Balance Sheet.

POOLED BUDGET

Partners contribute a set amount of money to form a separate budget. The purpose and scope of the budget is agreed at the outset and then used to pay for relevant services and activities.

POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Post-employment benefits cover not only pensions but also other benefits payable post-employment such as life insurance and medical care.

POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENT

Events both favourable and unfavourable which occur between the Balance Sheet date and the date on which the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue.

PRECEPT

The levy made by precepting authorities by billing authorities, requiring the latter to collect income from Council Tax on their behalf.

PRECEPTING AUTHORITIES

Those authorities that are not billing authorities (i.e., do not collect Council Tax) precept upon the billing authority, who then collect on their behalf – Bedfordshire

Police Authority, Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and the Parishes that precept upon Central Bedfordshire Council.

PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

Material adjustments applicable to previous years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. This does not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI)

A contract between the Council and a private company where the private sector makes a capital investment in the assets required to deliver improved services, and operates and maintains that property for a specified period of time. The private sector operator is paid for its services over the period of the arrangement, which is typically 25 years.

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Tangible assets (i.e., assets with physical substance) that are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services and which are expected to be used for longer than a single financial year.

PROVISION

An amount put aside in the accounts for future liabilities or losses which are certain or very likely to occur but the amounts or dates of when they will arise are uncertain.

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD (PWLB)

A Central Government Agency, which provides loans for one year and above to authorities at interest rates only slightly higher than those at which the Government can borrow itself.

QUALIFIED VALUER

A person conducting asset valuations who holds a recognised and relevant professional qualification and has sufficient current local and national knowledge of the particular market, and the skills and understanding to undertake the valuation competently.

RECEIPT IN ADVANCE

Receipt that will be matched to expenditure in a future financial year.

RELATED PARTIES

For the Council's purposes, related parties are deemed to include the Council's Members, the Chief Executive, its Directors and their close family and household members. These are considered to have the potential to control or significantly influence the Council.

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Statement Of Recommended Practice requires the disclosure of any material transactions between the Council and related parties to ensure that stakeholders are aware when these transactions occur and the amount and implications of such.

RESERVES

The accumulation of surpluses, deficits and appropriations over past years. Reserves of a revenue nature are available and can be spent or earmarked at the discretion of the Council. Some capital reserves such as the Capital Adjustment Account cannot be used to meet current expenditure.

RESIDUAL LIFE

The assumed remaining life of a non-current asset used in calculating the depreciation charge.

RESIDUAL VALUE

The net realisable value of an asset at the end of its useful life.

REVALUATION RESERVE

This records unrealised net gains from asset revaluations since 1 April 2007.

REVENUE CONTRIBUTIONS TO CAPITAL OUTLAY (RCCO)

The use of revenue monies to pay for capital expenditure – also known as Direct Revenue Funding (DRF).

REVENUE EXPENDITURE

The day-to-day expenses of providing services, e.g., salaries, wages, materials, supplies and services.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE (REFCUS)

Expenditure which ordinarily would be revenue, but is statutorily defined as capital. Examples of REFCUS include grants of a capital nature to voluntary organisations and back pay expenditure capitalised under Secretary of State Direction.

REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT (RSG)

A grant paid by Central Government to authorities, contributing towards the general cost of their services.

RIGHT TO BUY

The Council is legally required to sell council homes to tenants at a discount, where the tenant wishes to buy their home.

SECTION 151 OFFICER

A term used to describe the Chief Finance Officer whose responsibilities are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts.

SERVICE REPORTING CODE OF PRACTICE (SeRCOP)

CIPFA's Service expenditure Reporting Code of Practice which provides guidance on financial reporting to stakeholders and establishes 'proper practice' with regard to consistent financial reporting.

SHORT TERM COMPENSATED ABSENCES

Short term compensated absences are periods during which an employee does not provide services to the employer, but benefits continue to be paid.

SLIPPAGE

A delay in the progress of a capital scheme from the start date and payment flows originally allowed for in the approved Capital Programme.

STOCKS

Items of raw materials and stores the Council has procured and holds in expectation of future use. Examples are consumable stores, raw materials and products and services in intermediate stages of completion.

TRUST FUNDS

Funds administered by the Council for such purposes as prizes, charities, specific projects and on behalf of minors.

USABLE CAPITAL RECEIPTS RESERVE

Proceeds of non-current assets sales available to meet future capital investment. These capital receipts are held in this reserve until such time they are used to either fund new capital expenditure or repay any outstanding debt on fixed assets.

USEFUL ECONOMIC LIFE (UEL)

The period over which the Council will benefit from the use of a non-current asset.

VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)

An indirect tax levied on most business transactions and on many goods and some services. Input tax is VAT charged on purchases. Output tax is VAT charged on sales.

WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS (WGA)

An HM Treasury scheme to amalgamate the accounts of all UK local authorities and public bodies into a national consolidated set of accounts. Each body has to return a pro forma based on their audited published accounts and identify their major transactions with the other public sector bodies.

WRITE-OFF

Income is recorded in the Council's accounts on the basis of amounts due. When money owing to the Council cannot be collected, the income due is either reduced or written off.

Contact Details

Contact us...

If you have any questions on these Financial Statements or require further copies, please contact the Council as follows:

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