

Statement of Accounting Policies

1. General Principles and Concepts

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the financial year **2017-18** and the position at the year-end **31 March 2018**. The Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

These regulations require the accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practice. These practices are set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom **2017-18** and Service Reporting Code of Practice **2017-18**, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards and statutory guidance.

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

2. Changes in Accounting Policies

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

3. Prior period adjustments – estimates and errors

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

The following disclosures will be made:

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

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

4. Non-Current Assets – Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment are assets that have a physical substance and are:

- held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes; and
- expected to be used during more than one period.

Classification

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

Operational Assets:

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

Non-Operational Assets:

- Surplus Assets; and
- Assets Under Construction.

a) Initial Recognition

The cost of an item of Property, Plant and Equipment shall be recognised as an asset if, and only if:

- it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the entity; and
- the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

These costs include expenditure incurred to acquire or construct an item of Property, Plant and Equipment, costs associated with bringing an asset into use and costs incurred subsequently to add to, replace part of, or service it as long as the above criteria are met. All costs associated with a capital scheme will be settled on the asset created or enhanced. Initial recognition of Property, Plant and Equipment shall be at cost.

Further details relating to capital expenditure are set out in the Council's Capitalisation Policy.

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

De-recognition associated with asset enhancements. When capital expenditure occurs on an existing asset the element of the asset being replaced must be derecognised. Where the original value of the asset being replaced is not known the value of the replacement will be used as a

proxy, and indexed back to an original cost; with reference to the asset's remaining life. De-recognition costs will be charged to Other Operating Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (gain or loss on the disposal of non-current assets).

b) Measurement after Recognition – Valuation Approach

The Council value Property, Plant and Equipment using the basis recommended by CIPFA in the Code of Practice and in accordance with the Statements of Asset Valuation Principles and Guidance Notes issued by The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

The code requires the following valuation approaches to be adopted:

Operational Assets

- Land and property assets shall be measured at current value **for their service potential**, which is determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (EUV). For assets where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of the asset and the asset is rarely sold, a Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) approach will be used (such specialised assets include schools);
- Non-property assets (including: vehicles, plant and equipment) shall be measured at current value. These are determined to have short asset lives and historic cost is used as a proxy for current value;
- Land, Property and Equipment associated with the Energy from Waste Plant shall be measured at current value on a Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) approach as it is a specialised asset; and
- Infrastructure assets (such as roads and bridges) and community assets are measured at historic cost. NB: where historic cost information is not known for community assets these have been included within the Balance Sheet at a nominal value.

Non-Operational Assets

- Surplus assets (i.e. assets which the Council no longer operates/are no longer used for service delivery, but are not Investment Properties or meet the definition for held for sale) have their current value measured at fair value which is estimated at the highest and best use from a market participant's perspective. ***This is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer the liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Council use the assumptions that the market participants, ie buyers and sellers in the principal or most advantageous market, would use when pricing an asset or liability under current market conditions, including assumption about risk. Therefore, the Council's reasons for holding a surplus asset are not relevant when measuring its fair value.***
- Surplus assets are depreciated in line with the operational asset class; and

- Assets under Construction are held at cost. When these assets are operationally complete, they are reclassified into the appropriate asset class and valued under the adopted approach.

Valuation Programme

Assets are included within the Balance Sheet at current value. The Council's land and property portfolio is revalued on a five year rolling programme. On an annual basis at year-end, all asset values are reviewed to ensure they are not carried at amounts materially different to current value.

c) Revaluation Gains and Losses

Movements in asset value arising from revaluation are reflected in the value of these assets held on the Balance Sheet.

If a revaluation increases an asset's carrying amount then this increase will be credited directly to the revaluation reserve to recognise the unrealised gain. In exceptional circumstances, gains might reverse a previous impairment or revaluation decrease charged to the Surplus or Deficit on provision of service.

If a revaluation decreases an asset's carrying amount, the decrease shall be charged initially against any surplus balance in the revaluation reserve in respect of the individual asset. Any additional decrease is recognised in the relevant service revenue account in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The revaluation reserve only contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007, the date of its formal implementation. Any movements on revaluation arising before this date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account (CAA).

d) Depreciation

Depreciation is charged on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets with a finite life and is the systematic allocation of its worth over its useful life. This charge is made in line with the following policy:

- Operational buildings are depreciated over their useful life. For buildings which are held at existing use value a useful life of 40 years has been assumed. Asset lives for buildings held on a depreciated replacement cost basis are reviewed as part of the rolling programme of revaluations and the Valuer estimates the useful life. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis;
- Infrastructure assets, primarily roads, are depreciated over their estimated useful lives, varying from 1-3 years (for capital pothole filling) to 120 years (for bridge structures), on a straight line basis;
- Furniture and non-specialist equipment is depreciated over a period of 5 years, on a straight line basis;

- Vehicles, plant and specialist equipment (including computing equipment) are depreciated over their estimated useful lives, varying between 3 and 15 years. For vehicles purchased after 1 April 2004, the reducing balance method of depreciation is used;
- Land, Property and Equipment associated with the Energy from Waste Plant are depreciated over their useful life. These range from 70 years for Civils (including Building Structures) to 10 years for Instrumentation, Control and Automation assets (ICA); and
- Surplus assets are depreciated in line with the operational asset class.

No depreciation is charged on: Heritage Assets, Investment Properties, Land, Assets Under Construction, and Assets Held for Sale.

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

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.

Component Accounting for Property, Plant and Equipment

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. The Council has identified the following significant components within the property portfolio:

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

e) Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment

An item of Property, Plant and Equipment shall be derecognised on disposal, or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

The gain or loss arising from disposals is shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, on the Other Operating Expenditure line. Receipts from disposals are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal. Any revaluation gains in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts in excess of £10k are categorised as capital receipts and can then only be used for new capital investment or to repay the principal of any amounts borrowed. It is Council policy to fully

utilise these receipts to fund the capital programme in the year they are received. These receipts are transferred from the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves to be utilised to fund the capital programme. Sale proceeds below £10k are below the de-minimis and are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Under a Direction issued pursuant to sections 16 and 20 of the Local Government Act 2003 these receipts will be fully used to fund expenditure that is designed to generate ongoing revenue savings or transform services to reduce costs and is properly incurred for the financial years commencing on 1 April 2016, 2017 and 2018. ***The Local Government Finance Settlement for 2018/19 announced a continuation of these rules for a further 3 financial years that begin on 1 April 2019, 2020 and 2021.***

The written-off value of disposals is not charged 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 through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

f) Impairment of non-Current Assets

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

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

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

Impairment losses are initially recognised against any revaluation reserve for that asset up to the balance available. Any remaining loss is charged in the Surplus or Deficit on provision of services. This is then reversed through the Movement in Reserves Statement and charged to the Capital Adjustment Account.

5. Intangible Assets

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

a) Recognition and Measurement of assets that qualify as intangible assets, shall be measured and carried at cost, in the absence of an active market to determine fair value, as these are short life assets.

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

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

c) Amortisation. The carrying value of intangible assets with a finite life is amortised on a straight line basis over its useful life. Amortisation begins when the asset is available for use. **The charge is for 6 months in the first year, for twelve months thereafter** and ceases at the date that the asset is derecognised. **There is a full year's amortisation in the year of disposal**. Amortisation is charged to the relevant service area in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The useful lives for intangible assets are between 3 and 7 years. Useful asset lives are determined by the ICT budget holder and reviewed and updated annually.

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

6. Investment Properties

An Investment Property is defined as a property that is solely held to earn rental income or for capital appreciation or both. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods, or is held for sale.

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

b) Measurement after Recognition. Investment Properties will be measured at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset, Investment Properties are measured at highest and best use. The fair value of Investment Property held under a lease, is the lease interest in the asset. Investment Properties are subject to annual revaluations.

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

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

d) Depreciation is not charged on Investment Properties.

e) Disposal of Investment Properties. Gains or losses arising from the disposal of an Investment Property shall be recognised in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. As with revaluation gains or losses, these do

not form part of the General Fund Balance and are transferred to fund the capital programme via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

f) Rental Income. Rentals received in relation to Investment Properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and results in a gain for the General Fund Balance.

7. Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are defined as assets that are held by the Council principally for their contribution to knowledge or culture. Heritage assets held by the Council include:

- Historic Buildings including: Lincoln Castle, Temple Bruer and four historic windmills in Lincolnshire; and
- Collections including: Fine Art Collection; the Tennyson Collection; Local Studies and Archive Collections; Lincolnshire Regiment, Militaria and Arms and Armour Collections; and Agriculture Collections.

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

a) Initial Recognition

- Collections: The collections are relatively static, acquisitions and donations rare. Where they do occur acquisitions will be measured at cost and donations will be recognised at a valuation determined in-house.

b) Measurement after recognition:

- Historic Buildings – Windmills: will be valued at existing use value by the Council's Valuer. These valuations will be included on the Council's rolling programme and will be valued every 5 years.
- Historic Buildings – Lincoln Castle and Temple Bruer: will continue to be carried at historic cost as the Council does not consider that a reliable valuation can be obtained for these assets. This is because of the nature of the assets held and the lack of comparable market values.
- Collections: will be valued based on the insurance valuations held by the Council. Insurance valuations will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

c) Impairment and Disposals are accounted for in line with the Council's policy on non-current assets – Property, Plant and Equipment (accounting policy 4: e) Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment and f.) Impairment of non-current assets).

d) Depreciation is not charged on Heritage Assets.

8. Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

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

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

a) Measurement. Non-Current Assets Held for Sale are revalued immediately before reclassification to Held for Sale and then measured at the lower of carrying value and fair value less costs to sell (fair value here is the amount that would be paid for the asset in its highest and best use, e.g. market value).

b) Depreciation. Is not charged on non-current assets held for sale.

c) Disposal. Receipts from disposals are recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on provision of services.

Amounts in excess of £10k are categorised as capital receipts and can then only be used for new capital investment or to repay the principal of any amounts borrowed. It is Council policy to fully utilise these receipts to fund the capital programme in the year they are received.

9. Donated Assets

Donated assets are non-current assets which are given to the Council at no cost or at below market value. These assets are initially recognised in the Balance Sheet at fair value. The difference between the fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific grant Income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless the donation has been made conditionally.

a) Where there are conditions associated with the asset which remain outstanding. The asset will be recognised in the Balance Sheet with a corresponding liability in the Donated Assets Accounts.

b) Where there are no conditions or the conditions have been met. The donated asset will be recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, then transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

10. Charges to Revenue for the use of Non-Current Assets

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

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

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

11. Minimum Revenue Provision

The Council makes provision for the repayment of debt in accordance with the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. This requires the Council to set a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) which it considers to be prudent. The approach adopted by the Council is to use the average life method (the average life of all the Council's assets) in calculating the MRP to be charged to revenue each year.

For pre 2008 debt this is based on a standard asset life of 50 years equating to a 2% flat charge. For 2009/10 debt onwards, asset life of differing categories of assets is estimated and a charge based on an annuity method is used for Infrastructure Assets, where the benefit of these assets are expected to increase in later years. A charge based on Equal Instalments of Principal is used for all other categories of assets. The Council does not charge MRP until assets become operational.

12. Revenue Expenditure Financed through Capital under Statute

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

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

13. Service Concession Agreements (including Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and similar contracts)

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

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

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

- fair value of the services received during the year – debited to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- finance cost – an interest charge of 7.20% on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- payment towards liability – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the contractor; and
- lifecycle replacement costs – recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment on the Balance Sheet.

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

14. Borrowing Costs

The Council has adopted the accounting policy of expensing borrowing costs of qualifying assets to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (disclosed within Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement) in the year in which they are incurred.

This is current practice based on the fact that borrowing undertaken is not attributed to individual schemes making capitalisation of costs complex with marginal benefit.

15. Classification of Leases

Leases are classified as a finance lease or an operating lease depending on the extent to which risks and rewards of ownership of a leased Property, Plant and Equipment lie with the lessor (landlord) or the lessee (tenant).

IAS 17 'Leases' includes indicators for the classification of leases as a finance lease. Within these indicators the Council has set the following criteria: the 'major part' of the asset life is determined to be 75%; and 'substantially all' of the value is determined to be 75%.

- Finance Lease: A lease is classified as a finance lease when the lease arrangement transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset to the lessee.
- Operating Lease: All other leases are determined to be operating leases.

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, these elements are considered separately.

This policy on accounting for leased assets also includes contractual arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment.

a) Finance Leases

i) Lessee – Vehicles, Plant & Equipment will be recognised on the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated on a straight line basis over the term of the lease (in line with the Council's capitalisation and depreciation policy for vehicles, plant and equipment).

ii) Lessee – Property will be recognised on the Balance Sheet at an amount equal to the fair value of the property, or if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments, determined at the inception of the lease.

The asset recognised is matched by a liability representing the obligation to pay the lessor. This is reduced as lease payments are made. Minimum lease payments are to be apportioned between the finance charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement) and the reduction of the deferred liability in the Balance Sheet.

Statutory provision reverses the finance charge, depreciation and any impairment or revaluation from the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the Capital Adjustment Account through the Movement in Reserves statement. Instead, a prudent annual contribution is made from revenue funds towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory requirements.

iii) Lessor – Property. When a finance lease is granted on a property, the relevant assets are written out of the Balance Sheet to gain or loss on disposal of assets in the Other Operating Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. A gain is also recognised on the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to represent the Council's net investment in the lease. This is matched by a lease asset set up in long term debtors in the Balance Sheet. The lease payments are apportioned between repayment of principal written down against the lease debtor and finance income (credited to the Finance and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

Initial direct costs are included in the initial measurement of the debtor and recognised as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as the income.

Rental income from finance leases entered into after 1 April 2010, will be treated as a capital receipt and removed from the General Fund Balance to capital receipts via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

b) Operating Leases

i) Lessee – Property, Vehicles, Plant & Equipment will be treated as revenue expenditure in the service revenue accounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

ii) Lessor – Property, Vehicles, Plant & Equipment shall be retained as an asset on the Balance Sheet. Rental income is recognised on a straight line, basis over the lease term, credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

c) Investment Property Leases (Lessee). In line with IAS 49 'Investment Properties', any lease which is assessed to be an Investment Property will be treated as if it was a finance lease. The fair value of the lease interest is used for the asset recognised. Separate measurement of land and buildings elements is not required when the leases are classified as an Investment Property.

16. Government Grants and Contributions

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

- The Council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments. Conditions are stipulations that specify how the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the grant or contribution must be consumed, otherwise the grant or contribution will have to be returned to the awarding body; and
- The grant or contribution will be received.

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

Capital Grants and Contributions (non-current assets)

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

a) Capital grants where there are no conditions attached to the grant and the expenditure has been incurred. The income will be recognised immediately in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, in the taxation and non-specific grant income line.

Capital grant income is not a proper charge to the General Fund. It is accounted for through the Capital Financing Requirement (set out in statute) and therefore it does not have an effect on council tax. To reflect this, the income is credited to the Capital Adjustment Account through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

b) Capital grants where the conditions have not been met at the Balance Sheet date. At the Balance Sheet date the grant will be recognised as a Capital Grant Receipt in Advance in the liabilities section of the Balance Sheet. When the conditions have been met, the grant will be recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the appropriate statutory accounting requirements for capital grants applied.

c) Capital grants where no conditions remain outstanding at the Balance Sheet date, but expenditure has not been incurred. The income will be recognised immediately in the Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. As the expenditure being financed from the grant has not been incurred at the Balance Sheet date, the grant will be transferred to the Capital Grants Unapplied Account (within usable reserves section of the Balance Sheet), through the Movement in Reserves Statement. When the expenditure is incurred, the grant shall be transferred from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account to the Capital Adjustment Account to reflect the application of capital resources to finance expenditure.

Revenue Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

17. Debtors

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

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Council transfers the significant risk 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; and

- 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.

Debtors are recognised and measured at fair value in the accounts. When considering the fair value of long term debtors, the Council has set a £50k de minimis limit. Below this amount, the carrying value of the long term debtor will be used as a proxy for fair value.

For estimated manual debtors, a de-minimis level of ~~£10k~~ **£25k** for individual revenue items and ~~£25k~~ **£50k** for capital items is set.

18. Creditors

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

Creditors are recognised and measured at fair value in the accounts. When considering the fair value of long term creditors, the Council has set a £50k de minimis limit. Below this amount, the carrying value of the long term creditors will be used as a proxy for fair value.

For estimated manual creditors, a de-minimis level of ~~£10k~~ **£25k** for individual revenue items and ~~£25k~~ **£50k** for capital items is set.

19. Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debt

Where there is evidence that the Council may not be able to collect all amounts due to it, a provision for impairment is established. The provision made is the difference between the current carrying value of the debt and the amount likely to be collected. At the end of the financial year, bad debt provisions will be made for debts that have been outstanding for more than twelve months. The Council's policy is:

- Adult Social Care debtors are grouped by type and provided for on this basis plus the age of the debt; and
- Other aged debtors over 12 months old. Significant debtors are reviewed on a case by case basis, all remaining debtors are 100% provided for.

The provision for impairment is recognised as a charge to the relevant revenue service account in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the income that might not be collected.

20. Inventories

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

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

- Held for sale or distribution in the ordinary course of operations, are carried at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

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

21. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

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

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

c) Bank Overdrafts are to be shown separately from Cash and Cash Equivalents where they are not an integral part of an Authority's cash management. They are to be shown net of Cash and Cash Equivalents where they are an integral part of an Authority's cash management.

22. Provisions

The Council sets aside provisions for future expenses where: a past event has created a current obligation (legal or constructive) to transfer economic benefit; it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation; and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are charged to relevant revenue service account in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year the Council becomes aware of the obligation. When the obligation is settled, the costs are charged to the provision set up in the Balance Sheet. When payments are eventually made, they are charged against the provision carried in the Balance Sheet.

The Council has set a de-minimis level for recognising provisions of ~~£100k~~ **£250k**.

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

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

When considering the valuation of long term provisions, the Council has set a £50k de minimis limit. Below this amount long term provisions are measured using carrying value.

23. Contingent Liabilities

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

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

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

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

24. Contingent Assets

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

The Council has set a de-minimis level for recognising Contingent Assets of £500k.

25. Events after the Reporting Date

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

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

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

26. Recognition of Revenue (Income)

Revenue shall be measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Revenue is recognised only when it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council, with the exception of non-exchange transactions (such as Council Tax and general rate) where it is assumed there is no difference between the delivery and payment date.

27. Exceptional Items

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

28. Costs of Support Services

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

29. Acquired and Discontinued Operations

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

30. Value Added Tax (VAT)

The Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement excludes VAT. All VAT must be passed on (where output tax exceeds input tax) or repaid (where input tax exceeds output tax) to HM Revenue and Customs.

The net amount due to or from HM Revenue and Customs for VAT at the year-end shall be included as part of creditors or debtors balance.

31. Council Tax and Business Rates Income

The collection of Council Tax and Business Rates is in substance an agency arrangement with the seven Lincolnshire District Councils (billing Authorities) collecting Council Tax and Business Rates on behalf of the Council.

The Council Tax and Business Rates income is included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis and includes the precept for the year plus the Council's share of Collection Fund surpluses and deficits from the billing Authorities.

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

The year-end Balance Sheet includes the Council's share of debtors (arrears and collection fund surpluses), creditors (prepayments, overpayments and collection fund deficits) and provisions (business rate appeals).

32. Reserves

a) Useable Reserves

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

b) Unusable Reserves

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

- Capital Adjustment Account;
- Revaluation Reserve;
- Financial Instruments Adjustment Account;
- Pension Reserve;
- Collection Fund Adjustment Account; and
- Accumulated Absences Reserve.

33. Employee Benefits – Benefits Payable during Employment

a) Benefits Payable During Employment – Short Term Benefits

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

- Salaries, wages and expenses accrued up to the Balance Sheet date. These items are charged as an expense to the relevant service revenue account in the year the employees' services are rendered; and
- Annual leave and flexi hours earned, but not yet taken at the Balance Sheet date. An accrual is made for items at the wage and salary rate payable. The accrual is charged to the relevant service revenue account, but then reversed out through the Movement in

Reserves Statement to the Accumulated Absences Account, so this does not have an impact on council tax.

Teacher Leave Accrual

The accrual for short term benefits for teachers is calculated using a standard methodology, reflecting the fact that teachers across the Council are subject to standard terms and conditions of employment. This methodology is based on the number of days of the Spring Term (both term-time and holiday) that fall within the financial year and the leave entitlement of the teacher (which varies according to whether an individual has left the teaching profession at the end of the Spring term).

b) Long Term Benefits

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

34. Employee Benefits – Termination Benefits

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

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

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

35. Employee Benefits – Post Employment Benefits (Pensions)

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

- Teachers' Pension Scheme: This is a notionally funded scheme administered nationally by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE). The pension contributions to be paid by the Council are determined by the Government Actuary and reviewed periodically. The scheme is accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme. There is no liability for future payments of benefits recognised in the Balance

Sheet. All employer's contributions payable to teachers' pensions in the year are treated as expenditure on the Schools' service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

- National Health Service Pension Scheme (NHSPS): This is a notional funded scheme administered national by NHS Pensions on behalf of the Department of Health (DoH) The pension contributions to be paid by the Council are determined by the Government Actuary and reviewed periodically. The scheme is accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme. There is no liability for future payments of benefits recognised in the Balance Sheet. All **The** employer's contributions payable to the National Health Service Pension Scheme in the year are treated as expenditure in the Wellbeing **and Children's** service lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Uniformed Fire-fighters Pension Scheme (FPS): From 1 April 2015, a new pension fund for Fire-fighters was set up. This scheme replaced the 2006 & 1992 Fire-fighters schemes for new Fire-fighters. The 2015, 2006 and 1992 schemes remain unfunded but there are differences in the contributions payable into each scheme and the benefits paid to members. Both employee and employer contributions are paid into the three funds, against which pension payments are made. Each fund is topped up by additional government funding if contributions are insufficient to meet the cost of the pension payments. Any surplus in the funds at the end of each year will be repaid back to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Contributions in respect of ill health retirements are still the responsibility of the Council.
- Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS): Other employees are eligible to join the LGPS. The Council pays contributions to a funded pension scheme from which employee pension benefits are paid out.

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

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The LGPS is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme:

- The liabilities of the Lincolnshire Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of **2.7% - to be updated once information is available** (based on long term UK Government bonds greater than 15 years).

- The assets of Lincolnshire Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
 - quoted securities – current bid or last traded price;
 - unquoted securities – professional estimates;
 - unitised securities – current bid price.

The change in 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 arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus of 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.

- Remeasurements comprising:
 - the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure; **and**
 - actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – ~~debit~~ **charged** to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure; ~~and~~

- contributions paid to the Lincolnshire Pension Fund – cash paid as employer’s contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

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

The Council also pays any costs arising in relation to unfunded elements of pensions, paid to certain employees that have retired early and have been awarded discretionary compensation under the provisions of the Council's early retirement policy. These costs are charged to Other Budgets in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

36. Accounting for Schools Income, Expenditure, Assets, Liabilities and Reserves

In Lincolnshire, Local Authority education is provided in: Foundation, Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools (all known as 'maintained schools').

Income and Expenditure

All income and expenditure relating to maintained schools in Lincolnshire is shown in the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Non-Current Assets

Schools non-current assets will be accounted for under IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment. The standard defines non-current assets as "a resource controlled by the Council as a result of a past event and from which future economic benefits or service potential are expected to flow".

If assets are owned by the Council or the governing body of the school, or the future economic benefits are identified to sit with the Council, then the non-current assets will be recorded in the Balance Sheet.

The exception to this is for any finance leases for IT equipment taken out by the Council on behalf of a school; these remain within the Council's Balance Sheet as the Council retains the liability.

Assets and Liabilities

All assets and liabilities, excluding non-current assets which are covered above, relating to maintained schools are included within the Council's Balance Sheet.

Reserves

The Council maintains specific earmarked reserves for schools balances. At year end balances from dedicated schools budgets, including those held by schools under a scheme of delegation, are transferred into the reserve to be carried forward for each school to use in the next financial year. This ensures that any unspent balances at the end of the financial year are earmarked for use by those schools as required by the Council's scheme for financing schools approved by the Secretary of State for Education.

37. Group Relationships

The Council assesses on an annual basis relationships with other bodies to identify the existence of any group relationships. A de-minimis level of ~~£1.000m~~ **£10.000m** has been set for considering bodies to be included within group accounts.

The Council has not identified, and does not in aggregate have any material interests in subsidiaries, associated companies or joint ventures and therefore is not required to prepare group accounts.

38. Financial Instruments

a) Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing & Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised. All the Council's borrowings are carried at amortised cost and the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest) and the interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

No repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that included the modification or exchange of existing instruments. Therefore gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement and spread over future years under statutory regulation.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain/loss over ten years or the term that was remaining on the loan if less than ten years. The reconciliation of premiums / discounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

b) Financial Assets

Financial Assets are classified into two types:

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

i) 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 and carried at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing & 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 the majority 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.

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

The Council has set a £50k de minimis limit to the value of soft loans or the discounting of interest rates. Below this amount the above accounting treatment for soft loans is not applied and the soft loans are shown in the accounts at their carrying value.

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 Financing & Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or the relevant service (for receivables specific to that service). 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 derecognition of the assets are credited/debited to the Financing & Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

ii) Available-for-sale Assets

Available-for-sale assets are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Where the asset has fixed or determinable payments, annual credits to the Financing & 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;
- and

- Equity shares with no quoted market prices – independent appraisal of company valuations.

The comparative measures used in the valuation techniques for fair value are categorised in accordance with the following three levels:

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

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

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 Assets. The exception is where impairment losses have been incurred and these are debited to the Financing & 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 & 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.

38. Fair Value Measurement

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

- ***In the principal market for the asset or liability, or***
- ***In the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.***

When measuring the fair value, the Council would use the assumptions of market participants when pricing the asset or liability whilst acting in their economic best interest.

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

The Council uses the appropriate valuation techniques appropriate for the asset, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising unobservable inputs.

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

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

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