### Appendix A

#### **APPENDIX A**

## <u>Lincolnshire County Council - Statement of Accounting Policies</u>

Our Accounting policies for 2022/23 have been reviewed as part of an exercise to streamline our Financial Statements. The concept of materiality has been considered and where transactions and balances are not deemed as material, the relevant Accounting Policy has been removed.

As our Accounting Policies are reviewed on an annual basis, we can reinstate any Accounting Policies that become material on a year by year basis. For 2022/23 the following Accounting Policies have been removed:

- Donated assets
- Inventories
- Contingent Assets
- Events after the Reporting Date
- Exceptional Items
- Acquired and Discontinued Operations

The placement of our Accounting Policies within our Financial Statements has also been reviewed and where it has been judged that further clarity can be achieved by incorporating the policy within the relevant Disclosure Note, we have done this.

This approach allows our significant Accounting Policies to remain together in one place where they can be referred to if required.

#### 1. General Principles and Concepts

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the financial year 2022-23 and the position at the year-end 31 March 2023. 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 2022-23 and supported by International Financial Reporting Standards and statutory guidance.

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

#### 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.

#### 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 minimis 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. Derecognition 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).

#### De-recognition associated with depreciated historic cost assets

For assets subject to depreciation, which are carried at historic cost e.g. equipment and infrastructure assets, de-recognition takes place in the year after an asset has been fully depreciated. This represents the end of an asset's useful life. For infrastructure assets, no replacement of any part of an asset takes place before that component has reached the end of its useful life.

#### a) Measurement after Recognition – Valuation Approach

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

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 because the type of 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 uses the assumptions that the market participants, i.e. buyers and sellers in the principal or most advantageous market, would use when pricing an asset or liability under current market conditions, including 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.

#### a) 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.

#### 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).

#### b) Depreciation

Depreciation is charged on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets with a finite life and is the systematic allocation of it's 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 on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives, currently varying from:
  - 1-4 years for capital pothole filling;
  - 6-12 years for carriageway surface dressing and slurry sealing;
  - 20 years for carriageways Primary Road Network (PRN) & Non PRN
  - 20 years for Bus infrastructure
  - 20 years for footways/cycleways
  - 20 years for Public Right of Way (PROW)
  - 20 years for street furniture;

- 20 years for Traffic Management
- 40 years for street lighting, kerbs and drains;
- 60 years for major road structures (i.e. sub base, underpasses);
- Up to 120 years for bridge structures.
- Furniture and non-specialist equipment is depreciated over a period of 5 years, on a straight line basis;
- Vehicles, plant and specialist equipment (including computing equipment) are depreciated over their estimated useful lives, currently these vary depending on the nature of the asset, from 3 years up to 25 years for solar panels;
- Land, Property and Equipment associated with the Energy from Waste Plant are depreciated over their estimated 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 Land or Assets Under Construction.

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

- c) 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:
  - Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) assets (including fire stations, schools, libraries and museums where the building is of a specialised nature): land, structures, services, roof and externals;
  - Office Accommodation/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).
  - d) 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 utilise these receipts to fund the capital programme in the year they are received or to carry them forward to be used in future years, subject to the flexibility described in the next paragraph. These receipts are transferred from the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves to be utilised to fund the capital programme or set aside within the capital receipts reserve for future use to reduce the underlying need to borrow. Sale proceeds below £10k are below the de-minimis and are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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 though the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

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

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

  The useful lives for intangible assets are between 3 and 10 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. Charges to Revenue for the use of Non-Current Assets

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

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

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

#### 7. 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 Major New Road Schemes, 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 for Major New Road Schemes until assets have become operational.

# 8. 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

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.

#### 9. Borrowing Costs

the year.

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.

#### 10. 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 40 '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.

#### 11. Government Grants and Contributions

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

The Council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments.
 Conditions are stipulations that specify how the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the grant or contribution must be consumed,

- otherwise the grant or contribution will have to be returned to the awarding body; and
- The grant or contribution will be received.

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

#### Capital Grants and Contributions (non-current assets)

in Reserves Statement.

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

Capital grants where no conditions are attached to the grant and the
expenditure has been incurred. The income will be recognised immediately
in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the taxation and
non-specific grant income line.
 Capital grant income is not a proper charge to the General Fund. It is
accounted for through the Capital Financing Requirement (set out in statute)
and therefore it does not have an effect on council tax. To reflect this, the

income is credited to the Capital Adjustment Account through the Movement

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

#### 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 Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement after Net Cost of Services.

#### 12. Recognition of Revenue (Income)

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

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

#### 13. 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.

#### 14. Value Added Tax (VAT)

The Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement excludes VAT unless this is not recoverable from HM Revenue and Customs. All VAT must be passed on (where output tax exceeds input tax) or repaid (where input tax exceeds output tax) to HM Revenue and Customs.

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

#### 15. Council Tax and Business Rates Income

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

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

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

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

#### 16. Employee Benefits - Benefits Payable during Employment

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 not yet taken at the Balance Sheet date. An accrual is made
  for items at the wage and salary rate payable. The accrual is charged to
  the relevant service revenue account, but then reversed out through the
  Movement in Reserves Statement to the Accumulated Absences
  Account, so this does not have an impact on Council Tax.

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

Long Term Benefits. 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.

#### <u>17. Employee Benefits – Post Employment Benefits (Pensions)</u>

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

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

be paid by the Council are determined by the Government Actuary and reviewed periodically. The scheme is accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme. There is no liability for future payments of benefits recognised in the Balance Sheet. The employer's contributions payable to the NHSPS in the year are treated as expenditure in the Children's Services and Adult Care and Community Wellbeing service lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

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

#### The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The LGPS is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme:

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

The change in net pension's liability is analysed into the following components:

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

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

required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

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

18. 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 is expected to flow".

If assets are owned by the Council or the governing body of the school or the future economic benefits are identified to sit with the Council, then the non-current assets will be recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where a school transfers to Academy status and has signed a long term (125 year) lease, the school is removed from the Council's Balance Sheet.

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

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

Any school with an overall cumulative deficit on its Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) must produce a management plan detailing how it will return to a balanced position in the future. Accumulated deficits must be held in a Dedicated Schools Grant adjustment account rather than being charged to the General Fund. The Dedicated Schools Grant adjustment account is an unusable reserve. There

## is currently no accumulated deficit relating to schools' budgets funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant.

#### 19. Group Relationships

The Council assesses on an annual basis, relationships with other bodies to identify the existence of any group relationships. A de minimis level of £20.000m aggregated gross turnover has been set for determining whether or not group accounts will be prepared.

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

#### 20. Financial Instruments

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

All the Council's borrowings are carried at amortised cost and the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest) and the interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

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

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. Regulations state that the period to spread discounts is limited to a minimum period equal to the outstanding term on the replaced loan or 10 years if this is shorter. Premiums may be spread over the longer of the outstanding term on replaced loan or the term of the replacement loans, or a shorter period if preferred. The Council will spread premiums over the term that was remaining on the loan replaced and spread discounts in line with regulation. When matching premium and discounts together from a re-scheduling

exercise, the Council's policy is to spread the gain/loss over a ten year period or the term that was remaining on the loan replaced if greater than ten years. The reconciliation of premiums/discounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Council receives interest free funding from Salix Finance as part of a revolving fund to finance energy saving projects (Soft Loans Receivables). The benefit of a loan to the Council at a below-market rate of interest is treated as a grant or contribution receivable within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The benefit is measured as a difference between the cash actually advanced to the Council and the fair value of the loan on recognition, discounted at a comparable market rate of interest for a loan. The amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet is reduced as the benefit has been stripped away. The reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

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

- Amortised Cost
- Fair Value Through Profit or Loss (FVPL); and
- Fair Value Through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI).

The Council's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flows. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost, except for those whose contractual payments are not solely payment of principal and interest (i.e. where the cash flows do not take the form of a basic debt instrument). These types of asset will be measured at fair value.

#### Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial Assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment

Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the financial assets held by the Council, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

The following financial assets held by the Council are measured at amortised cost using an effective interest rate that takes account of other considerations attributable to the asset over its lifetime such as premiums paid or interest forgone. Interest payable in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will then be recognised on a smoothing effective interest rate basis over the life of the loan.

• Secondary Certificates of Deposit and Bonds - are purchased at an amount different to par and hence a price premium is usually incurred on purchase. The price of the instrument is the amortised cost at initial measurement (its fair value) debited to Investments on the Balance Sheet. This price premium is factored into the cash flows of the instrument over its life, that will result in a smoothing effective interest rate that when discounted will bring back cash flows to the price paid (initial measurement at fair value).

Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at a marginally lower effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the Instrument, with the difference serving to decrease the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet over its life.

Transaction costs paid to a custodian for purchasing these instruments are deemed as immaterial and hence charged directly to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when incurred, not included within the amortised cost calculation of the instrument.

 Soft Loans – The Council can make loans to third parties at less than market rates (soft loans) for service objectives. When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (debited to the appropriate service), for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal.

Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the third party recipients of the loans, with the difference serving to increase the

amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Any gains and losses that arise on the de-recognition of an asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

#### Expected Credit Loss Model – for Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost, either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) that are more than 30 days past the due date, held by the Council. These are individually assessed to determine whether or not the trade receivable (debtors) are likely to default on their obligations.

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

Where the counterparty for a financial asset is central government or a local authority for which relevant statutory provisions prevent default, then no loss allowance is required or recognised.

Impairment losses will be charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and credited to the Financial Assets at Amortised Cost Loss Allowance.

The Council has set a de minimis level of £25k to the resultant impairment loss for financial assets at amortised cost, below which the impairment is deemed immaterial and not recognised.

The Council has a portfolio of a different types of loans measured at amortised cost. Where possible losses have been assessed on these loans on a collective basis as the Council does not have reasonable and supportable information that is

available without undue cost or effort to support the measurement of expected losses on an individual instrument basis.

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

- Group 1 treasury investments governed by the Council's Annual
  Investment Strategy for Treasury Investments. These are loans made to
  highly credit rated counterparties under the credit analysis followed within
  the Investment Strategy. As such they are deemed low risk so the 12 month
  Expected Credit Loss model is used. The Historical Default Table issued by
  Credit Rating Agencies and provided by the Council's Treasury Advisors is
  used to calculate the expected 12 month impairment losses.
- Group 2 loans or soft loans to third parties for Service Reasons. These types of loans tend to be higher risk as credit worthiness is often not the prime consideration in making the loan. They will be assessed on an individual basis taking into consideration external credit ratings, economic conditions impacting the third party, the current financial position and financial forecasts of the third party and any history of defaults or extended credit terms. Due to the high risk nature, the lifetime Expected Credit Loss model would normally be followed for these loans (See \*Note below).
- Group 3 loans to Council owned Companies for Service Reasons. These
  types of loans tend to be higher risk as credit worthiness is often not the
  prime consideration in making the loan. They will be assessed on an
  individual basis taking into consideration external credit ratings, economic
  conditions impacting the company, the current financial position and
  financial forecasts of company and any history of defaults or extended credit
  terms. Due to the high risk nature, the lifetime Expected Credit Loss model
  would normally be followed for these loans.

#### \*Note

Where the Council makes loans to companies in financial difficulties to ensure continuation of vital services, fifty percent of the loan is thus deemed credit impaired on origination. This will mean that:

- as lifetime expected credit losses are taken into account in the cash flows used for calculating the effective interest rate, no loss allowance is needed on initial recognition;
- a loss allowance will then be built up on the basis of the cumulative change in lifetime expected credit losses since initial recognition;
- the annual impairment gain or loss will be the change in lifetime expected credit losses over the year.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss (FVPL)

Financial assets held by the Council that fall into this category include Constant Net Asset Value (CNAV) and Low Volatility Net Asset Value (LVNAV) Money Market Funds.

Financial assets are measured at FVPL where they fail to meet the business model and principal or interest tests of the other two classifications. For the Council, financial assets under this category meet the business model of collecting contractual cash flows, but the cash flows are not solely payments of principal or interest, for example they include dividend payments.

These funds are pooled investment funds that invest in short-term assets that aim to offer returns in line with money market rates and preserve the value of investments. They are instant access, whereby units of the fund are bought and sold and dividends paid in accordance with daily yields returned, set at the end of each day. The Net Asset Value of these funds only vary by an insignificant amount due to changing values of the assets in the fund, therefore generally the price of the fund (fair value) will equal the carrying amount of units held.

Financial assets measured at FVPL are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, specifically within the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Council has set a de minimis level to the adjustment to fair value of £50k for financial assets measured at fair value, below which the change in fair value will not be recognised and the asset will be held on the Balance Sheet at its carrying value.

Statutory provision as defined in SI 2018/1207 means that until 31 March 2023, English Local Authorities are prohibited from charging to a revenue account fair value gains or losses, unless the gain or loss relates to impairment or the sale of the asset. Instead that amount is charged to an account established solely for the purpose of recognising fair value gains and losses. This statutory override will not be applicable for CNAV/LVNAV Money Market funds as gains and losses to fair value will be zero and will not impact on the revenue account.

Any gains and losses that arise on the de-recognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

<u>Expected Credit Loss Model –For Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit</u> and Loss

The impairment requirements do not apply to financial assets classified as 'fair value through profit or loss', as current market prices are considered to be an

appropriate reflection of credit risk, with all movements in fair value (including those relation to credit risk) impacting on the carrying amount being posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as they arise.

## <u>Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income</u> (FVOCI)

Financial assets are measured at FVOCI when the business model for holding the asset includes collecting contractual cash flows and selling assets. The Council does not hold any financial assets that meet this definition.

In line with the Code however, the Council has decided to designate some small equity holdings in companies held for service reasons to the category of FVOCI instead of FVPL. This designation is irrevocable and deemed to be a reliable accounting policy for these financial assets, based on the following reasons:

- The holdings are equity instruments as defined by the Code to exclude puttable shares (e.g. those where the issuer has a contractual obligation to exchange the shares for cash if the holder exercises an option for the return of their investment).
- They naturally fall into the FVPL classification of investments.
- The shares are held for a clear service benefit and not held for trading.
- Future gains or losses are expected to be insubstantial.

Assets designated at FVOCI will be carried in the Balance Sheet at Fair Value, with dividends credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services when the right for the Council to receive the payment is established. Movements in fair value will be credited to the Other Income and Expenditure Account and released to the General Fund. The impact on the General Fund will be removed through Movement in Reserves Statement to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve. Gains or losses will be charged directly to the General Fund via the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

The Council has set a de minimis level to the adjustment to fair value of £50k for financial assets measured at fair value, below which the change in fair value will not be recognised and the asset will be held on the Balance sheet at its carrying value.

#### <u>Expected Credit Loss Model – For Assets Measured at Fair Value through Other</u> <u>Comprehensive Income</u>

The Council recognises expected credit losses on financial assets measured at FVOCI either on a 12-month or lifetime basis depending on an individual assessment of the credit risk of each financial asset as follows:

Has credit risk increased significantly since initial recognition?

- No: 12 month credit loss model.
- Yes: lifetime credit loss model.
- No information available to assess: lifetime credit loss model.

Consideration will be made to external credit ratings, economic conditions impacting the company, the current financial position and financial forecasts of company and any history of defaults or extended credit terms when assessing the credit risk of these assets.

Impairment losses will be charged to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure and credited to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

Where financial assets have been designated into the FVOCI category they are outside the scope of impairment for the same reasons that FVPL assets are.

The Council has set a de minimis level of £25k to the resultant impairment loss for financial assets at FVOCI, below which the impairment is deemed immaterial and not recognised.

#### 21. 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.

For financial instruments measured in fair value (FVPL and FVOCI) is therefore based on the following techniques:

- instruments with guoted market prices the market price
- other instruments with fixed and determinable payments discounted cash flow analysis.

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

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

#### 22. Recognition of Revenue (Income)

Revenue is accounted for in the year it takes place, not simply when cash payments are received.

The Council recognises revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligation in the contract.

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

#### 23. Council Tax and Business Rates Income

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

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

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

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

24. Accounting Policies now included within the relevant Disclosure Note

- Usable Reserves within Note 12
- Unusable Reserves within Note 13
- Heritage Assets within Note 16

- Investment Properties within Note 17
- Debtors within Note 20
- Assets Held for Sale within Note 21
- Cash and Cash Equivalents within Note 22
- Creditors within Note 23
- Provisions within Note 24
- Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) and Similar Contracts within Note 26
- Termination Benefits within Note 37
- Contingent Liabilities within Note 42

