# **Taunton Deane Borough Council**

# **Corporate Governance Committee – 22 September** 2014

# Approval of the Statement of Accounts 2013/14

# Report of the Director of Operations, Shirlene Adam

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Williams (Leader of the Council)

# 1 Executive Summary

The Statement of Accounts for 2013/14 is required to be approved by the Corporate Governance Committee and signed by the s.151 Officer (Shirlene Adam) and the Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee (Councillor Reed). The Statement of Accounts document is attached to this report.

This report also links to and reflects the Audit Findings Report which was prepared by and will be presented by the Council's external auditors – Grant Thornton UK LLP.

# 2 Background

- 2.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 require the Statement of Accounts to be approved by a resolution of a nominated committee. The current constitutional arrangements devolve this responsibility to the Corporate Governance Committee.
- 2.2 The s.151 officer is required to sign off the unaudited Draft Accounts as true and fair by 30 June each year. The audited Statement of Accounts must be approved by Committee by 30 September each year. Once approved the Statement must be signed by the s.151 Officer and the Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee, and published on the Council's website.
- 2.3 The Council's Statement of Accounts has been audited this year by Grant Thornton UK LLP and are attached to this report. At the time of writing this report, Grant Thornton intend to issue an unqualified opinion, as reported in the Audit Findings Report earlier on the agenda for this meeting. However it should be noted that Grant Thornton are finalising a few areas of their work which will be completed by the date of the committee. Should there be any adjustments to the Statement of Accounts subsequent to this report being issued this will be reported at the Committee meeting.

# 3 Statement of Accounts

- 3.1 The Statement of Accounts for 2013/14 has been prepared on an IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards) basis in line with the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accounting) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2013/14.
- 3.2 In 2013/14 there were a small number of changes for our accounting requirements, the details of which were reported to this committee on 23 June 2014 notably affecting accounting for pension costs and business rates provisions for appeals and refunds. Comparative financial details related to 2012/13 have been applied to the Statement of Accounts as set out in that previous report.
- 3.3 There are no material errors related to previous years, or other material changes to accounting requirements, therefore no further changes to comparative financial details related to 2012/13 have been made.
- 3.4 The Statement of Accounts contain four main statements reflecting the position of the Council at 31 March 2014:
  - Movement in Reserves Statement
  - Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
  - Balance Sheet
  - Cash Flow Statement
- 3.5 There are also supplementary statements related to the Collection Fund (which deals with the collection and distribution of Council Tax and Business Rates) and the Housing Revenue Account.

# **Movement in Reserves Statement**

- 3.6 This account shows the changes in the Council's financial resources over the year by showing the movement on the reserves held. The reserves are analysed into usable (these can be used to fund spending) and unusable reserves (reserves that cannot be spent as they contain technical accounting adjustments that do not represent available funding).
- 3.7 The total of the Council's Usable Reserves (capital and revenue combined) has increased by £4.431m in year. The largest movements are seen in the General Fund earmarked reserves (£5.501m), a reserve set up for JMASS (£1.568m), a business rates smoothing reserve (£1.265m) and an increase in the capital financing reserve (£4.363m) Similarly there is a balance on the Major Repairs Reserve (£2.463m) reflecting funding allocated to, but not yet spent on, capital works on the Housing Stock.

3.8 The Statement shows that both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balances are above the minimum level required in the Council's financial strategy, with General Fund Reserves decreasing from £3.943m to £2.537m, and HRA balances increasing from £2.247m to £3.059m in year.

# **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**

- 3.9 The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) shows the day to day revenue spending and income on the Council's services. It also shows the council tax and government grants received to help pay for those services. The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the net cost on an "accounting basis" which includes accounting adjustments such as depreciation, impairment and revaluation losses, and other types of accounting adjustments. These adjustments are then reversed out in the Movement in Reserves Statement to show the "funding" position of the Council. Included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) but there is also a separate HRA Statement included in the Statement of Accounts which is explained further on in this report.
- 3.10 The net Cost of Services has increased by around £1.5m compared to the previous year's accounts. This mainly reflects the changes in pension costs as a result of sensitivity to changes in actuarial assumptions and market conditions.
- 3.11 The Financial Outturn position for 2013/14 was reported to the Executive and Corporate Scrutiny meetings in July and August respectively. This report included information relating to the Council's financial performance for the 2013/14 financial year. The report highlighted key variances to the budget and provided explanations for these.

# **Balance Sheet**

- 3.12 The Balance Sheet provides a snapshot of the Council's financial position as at 31 March 2014 (with comparatives for 31 March 2013).
- 3.13 The Balance Sheet shows that net assets have increased by £13m in 2013/14, to a balance of £174m as at March 2014. This is mainly due to an increase in cash due to an increase in General Fund earmarked reserves, an increase in the value of the Council's property plant and equipment of £4m mainly due to revaluation increases in council dwellings.

# **Cashflow Statement**

3.14 The cash flow statement summarises the flows of cash and cash equivalents into and out of the Council during the year.

- 3.15 Cash and cash equivalents are represented by the following: cash in hand; deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours; and investments that mature in one month or less from the date of the balance sheet and are readily convertible into cash.
- 3.16 During the year the Council's cash and cash equivalents increased by approximately £6.4m. The main reason for the increase is due to General Fund earmarked reserves.

# **Housing Revenue Account**

- 3.17 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Income and Expenditure Account shows the economic cost in year of providing housing services.
- 3.18 The HRA for 2013/14 shows that income for the year has increased from 2011/12 by £1.3m, mainly reflecting the approved increase in dwelling rents. Service Expenditure has increased by £1.4m, mainly reflecting increased maintenance spending during the year.

# **Collection Fund**

- 3.19 The Collection Fund Statement shows the total amount the Council has collected from rate payers on behalf of, and distributed to, all of the precepting authorities and central government. The major precepting authorities are Somerset County Council, Avon and Somerset Police, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority and Central Government. The Council has a statutory obligation to maintain a separate Collection Fund Account.
- 3.20 The presentation of the statement has been updated this year to reflect the introduction of Business Rates Retention, with the Council Tax and Business Rates movements and balances clearly separated. The statement shows that the Council has collected £92.7m on behalf of the precepting authorities and Central Government. This comprises council tax income of £53.6m and business rates income of £39.1m. The Council Tax receipts have reduced mainly due to the abolition of Council Tax Benefit – in 2012/13 income was reported gross including £6.9m funded through Benefit Subsidy, whereas the 2013/14 figure is reduced as it is reported net of Council Tax Support discounts totalling £5.897m.
- 3.21 The statement currently shows a small surplus of £0.3m (TDBC share = £31k) in respect of Council Tax and a deficit of £3.2m (TDBC share = £1.3m) in respect of business rates. The deficit in business rates largely reflects the creation of a provision of £2.9m in respect of appeals and refunds, which is required with the inception of the Retention system.

# 4 Result of the Audit of the Statement of Accounts

- 4.1 Grant Thornton UK LLP intends to issue the Council with an "unqualified" opinion on the Statement of Accounts and the Value for Money conclusion. This is good news and means that the Auditors agree that the Accounts provide a "true and fair view" of the financial position.
- 4.2 During the audit there were a small number of amendments to the Draft Accounts to improve the presentation of the statements and correct disclosures – as shown in the Audit Findings Report earlier on this agenda. These were presentational only and did not affect the overall financial position of the Council.
- 4.3 The auditors have recommended that we update our approach to the rolling programme of asset valuations, so that all assets within the same class are valued in the same reporting period. This is taken as an action for the 2014/15 accounts.

# 5 Legal Comments

- 5.1 There is a Statement of Responsibilities within the Statement of Accounts, which summarises responsibilities for the Council and its S151 officer. The Accounts are prepared in accordance the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, which specifies the principles and practices of accounting required to give a 'true and fair' view of the financial position and transactions of the authority.
- 5.2 The Code sets out the proper accounting practices required by section 21(2) of the Local Government Act 2003. These proper practices apply to:
  - Statements of Accounts prepared in accordance with the statutory framework established by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011
  - The audit of those accounts undertaken in accordance with the statutory framework established by section 5 of the Audit Commission Act 1998

# 6 Links to Corporate Aims

6.1 The Statement of Accounts reports the financial activities of the Council in the delivery of its corporate aims.

# 7 Environmental Implications

- 7.1 There are no environmental implications.
- 8 Community Safety Implications
- 8.1 There are no community safety implications.
- 9 Equalities Impact

9.1 The Statement of Accounts is available in a variety of formats.

## 10 Risk Management

10.1 The issues flagged in the action plan will be reviewed and if appropriate, entered into service risk registers.

## **11** Partnership Implications

11.1 The preparation of the Statement of Accounts is carried out by Southwest One on behalf of the Council.

## 12 Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- 12.1 Note the Auditor's unqualified opinion on the Statement of Accounts.
- 12.2 Approve the 2013/14 Statement of Accounts as attached to this report; then
- 12.3 The Chairman of the Committee is requested to sign the Statement of Accounts.

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# **Background Papers**

Executive – 9 July 2014: Financial Outturn 2013/14

**Taunton Deane Borough Council** 

Audited Statement of Accounts 2013/14

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# Foreword by the Section 151 Officer

# A SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2013/14

This foreword highlights some of the most important matters reported in the accounts and provides a management commentary on the financial performance and standing of the Council. The commentary is focussed both on the performance in the past year and on issues affecting the Council in 2014/15 and beyond.

# THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The main financial statements contained within the Statement of Accounts are as follows.

- The **Movement in Reserves Statement** (pages 42 and 43) shows the changes in the Council's financial resources over the year, by showing the movement on the different reserves held, analysed into 'usable reserves' (that can be used to fund spending) or other reserves
- The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (page 44) brings together details of the Council's day-to-day revenue spending and income on its services, and other gains and losses in the year.
- The **Balance Sheet** (page 45) provides a snapshot of the Council's financial position at 31 March and sets out what is owned and what is owed.
- The **Cash Flow Statement** (page 46) summarises the flows of cash into and out of the council during the year.
- The **Notes to the Financial Statements** (pages 47-105) provide supplementary information on some of the figures contained within the primary statements. They also include accounting policies, which guide the treatment of income and expenditure, and disclosures relating to the assets and liabilities of the Council.

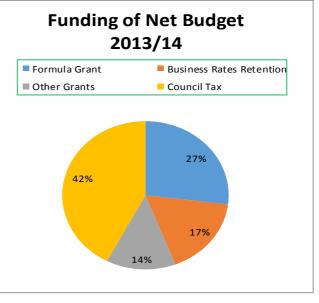
A more detailed explanation of each of the main statements is included alongside each of those statements within the Statement of Accounts.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## General Fund Revenue Budget and Reserves

The Council's Net Budget for 2013/14 is £13,187k, representing the net cost of General Fund services funded by grants and Council Tax as shown in the following table and graph.

	£k
Formula Grant from Government	3,556
Business Rates Retention	2,264
Other Unring-fenced Government	1,784
Grants (New Homes Bonus,	
Council Tax Freeze)	
Previous Years Collection Fund	23
Surplus	
Council Tax	5,560
Net Expenditure Budget	13,187



In setting the budget for 2013/14 the Council agreed to a Council Tax Freeze for the third consecutive year. This meant the annual Band D Council Tax remained at £135.19. The 2013/14 Freeze was funded by a one-year grant from Government of £57k and the £138k relating to the Tax Freeze in 2011/12, which has been rolled into our general grant funding.

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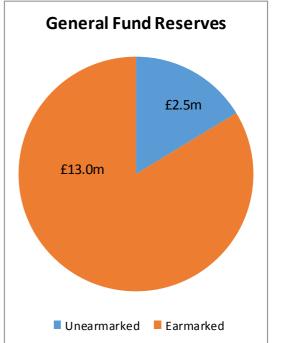
The Council's actual net expenditure before funding in 2013/14 was £13,453k, resulting in a reported underspend on the final budget of £964k (7.0% of Net Budget). The net underspend arose due to variances in several budget areas. The most significant underspends have been reported against Household Waste Collection/Recycling costs, Garden Waste Income, Off-street Parking Services and Planning Services. These together with other smaller underspends have enabled to the Council to offset budget overspends/shortfalls in arriving at the net position. The most significant budget pressure in the year relates to crematorium and cemeteries income where there is competition from two new crematoria in Honiton and Pawlett. The following table provides a summary of the financial results for the year compared to budget.

General Fund Outturn 2013/14	Budget	Actual	Variance	
	£k	£k	£k	%
Net Expenditure on Services	12,238	13,197	959	7.8
Other Operating Costs and Income	198	269	71	35.0
Net Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	5,410	5,501	91	1.7
Net Transfer from General Reserves	(2,369)	(2,369)	0	0
Capital Financing and Debt Repayment	1,532	1,518	(14)	(0.9)
Technical Accounting Adjustments	(2,537)	(4,663)	(2,126)	83.8
Net Budget before Funding	14,472	13,453	(1,019)	(7.0)
Funding - Grants and Council Tax	(14,472)	(14,417)	55	(0.4)
Net Variance	0	(964)	(964)	

Further information for spending on services, and other operating costs and income is shown within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account and Notes.

The General Fund Reserves have decreased from £3,943k at the start of the year to £2,537k at 31 March 2014. There were approved transfers to the Revenue Budget of £2,369k, offset by underspend in the year. Later in this foreword I explain the financial challenges and risks faced by the Council. Having reserves at this level provides some resilience as the Council takes the necessary steps to continue to maintain a robust and sustainable financial position.

The Council also carries Earmarked Reserve balances, which represent funds that have been set aside to support specific spending in future years. The General Fund Earmarked Reserves balance at 31 March 2014 stands at  $\pounds$ 13,009k. This balance covers a wide variety of planned spending requirements, including: asset maintenance; growth and regeneration service and project costs; affordable housing investment; funding for the capital



programme; a self-insurance fund, business rates funding contingency, and a wide variety of other initiatives and service costs.

# Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and Reserves

The Council is a major provider of social housing, working closely with housing associations and other social landlords to provide affordable housing for tenants in the Borough. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) only accounts for the costs and income related to provision of Council-owned accommodation. The Local Government Act 1989 requires that this expenditure is ring-fenced and cannot be subsidised by the General Fund.

The Net Budget for the HRA is £Nil, reflecting the self-financing nature of the account. However, financial performance is measured against the Gross Income budget, which is £25,915k for the year. The HRA has reported a net surplus of £861k for 2013/14, which is 3% of gross income, which relates to one-off items including an additional week of rental income (there were 53 weekly rent debits in 2013/14)

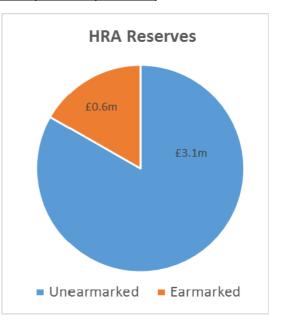
#### Taunton Deane Borough Council

and the postponement of universal credit which has meant arrears are lower than budgeted. The following table provides a summary of performance against budget for the year.

HRA Outturn 2013/14	Budget	Outturn	Variance	
	£k	£k	£k	%
Gross Income	(25,915)	(25,861)	54	0%
Service Expenditure	13,209	12,318	(891)	-7%
Other Operating Costs and Income	2,902	2,893	(9)	0%
Earmarked Reserve Transfers	(705)	(705)	0	0%
Capital Financing and Debt Repayment	10,138	10,123	(15)	0%
Technical Accounting Adjustments	419	419	Ó	0%
Unearmarked Reserve Transfers	(48)	(48)	0	0%
Net Variance	0	(861)	(861)	-7%

The Housing Revenue Account Reserve has increased from  $\pounds 2,246$ k at the start of the year to  $\pounds 3,059$ k at 31 March 2014. The year end balance is well above the minimum level set within the Council's financial strategy of  $\pounds 1.8$ m, providing some resilience for the additional risks and plans recognised in the HRA Business Plan.

The HRA Earmarked Reserve balance at 31 March 2014 is  $\pounds$ 614k, a decrease of  $\pounds$ 705k in the year. The Social Housing Development Fund is a major element of this, and although  $\pounds$ 801k was transferred to this reserve from the revenue budget, a total of  $\pounds$ 1,505k has been allocated to the Social Housing Development Fund capital programme in 2013/14 to fund a combination of new build development schemes which are underway, and the acquisition of dwellings previously sold under Right to Buy. The Social Housing Development Fund reserve balance at the end of 2013/14 is  $\pounds$ 404k, a net decrease of  $\pounds$ 704k.



## **Capital Spending and Reserves**

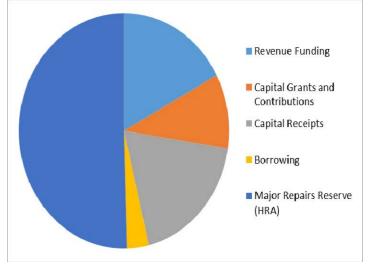
In addition to our spending on day-to-day service provision, the Council spends money on assets such as buildings, major improvements to parks, and contributions to jointly-financed schemes. Capital expenditure in the year totalled £12,997k (£9.4m in 2012/13). Capital spending comprises £4,350k on General Fund schemes and £8,647k on HRA capital works, as summarised in the table below. A significant proportion of General Fund spending related to Station Road pool, with £1.45m spent in 2013/14. HRA capital works are largely related to maintaining housing standards, including replacing roofs, kitchens, bathrooms, windows, doors, heating systems and other related works.

General Fund Capital Schemes	£k	HRA Capital Schemes	£k
Station Road Pool	1,450	Heating Systems	1,506
Cremators Replacement	231	Replacement Roofing	1,333
Housing Enabling and Housing Standards	782	Kitchens and Bathrooms	1,239
Play Equipment and Sports Facilities	795	Doors and Windows	551
DLO Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	466	Accessibility Aids and Adaptations	608
Regeneration Schemes	317	HRA Buybacks	712
		Creechbarrow, Normandy Drive	1,325
		Fascias, Soffits and Fire Safety	973
Other schemes	309	Other schemes	400
Total	4,350	Total	8,647

Sources of Capital Funding£kRevenue Funding2,234Capital Grants and Contributions1,328Capital Receipts2,441Borrowing433Major Repairs Reserve (HRA)6,561Total12,997

Capital expenditure is funded from a variety of sources, as shown in the table and graph below.

The General Fund Capital Programme has committed approved capital spending in future years of £13,623k. The HRA Capital Programme has committed approved capital spending into future years of £11,717k.



Overall the Council has sufficient resources available to meet its approved capital programme in 2014/15 but recognises that significant further funds will be required to meet all our future aspirations.

Capital reserves reflect funds set aside to fund investment in capital items in future years, and largely comprise grants, contributions and capital receipts that are committed on projects to be completed in the 2013/14 capital programme. The Council currently holds £11,433k of capital reserves, providing funding for the approved capital spending referred to above. The Council has also approved borrowing of £15,091k to fund approved schemes.

## Pensions

The Council's share of the overall Pension Fund deficit decreased from  $\pounds$ 70.1m at 31 March 2013 to  $\pounds$ 67.2m at 31 March 2014. The deficit has decreased by 4%, which is largely due to an increase in actuarial gains on pension assets.

In recent years, the level of reported pension deficit has changed significantly from year to year, reflecting the sensitivity to changes in actuarial assumptions and market conditions. Despite the changes in valuation, this is a real liability that has resulted from pension entitlement earned by employees. The liability appears in the Council's Balance Sheet but any immediate impact on levels of Council Tax is neutralised by a matching Pensions Reserve.

Following the actuarial valuation in 2013 we have changed the way in which we contribute to the Pension Fund as an employer. We are now required to contribute a percentage plus a lump sum each year. During 2013/14 we were contributing 18.4% as an employer. Due to falling staff numbers maintaining this approach would not address the deficit. Hence in the years 2014/15 onwards we will be contributing 13.5% plus a lump sum. In 2014/15 this lump sum is £760k rising to £1,220k in 2016/17.

## **Treasury Management and Capital Resources**

At 31 March 2014, the Council held investments of £26.3m (£18.3m at 31 March 2013). The return on these investments included in the revenue accounts amounted to £0.344m (£0.185m in 2012/13). The return on investments has increased this year due to the duration the Council is advised to invest for increasing, which has resulted in higher returns from investments.

Total borrowing amounted to £94.4m at 31 March 2014 (£94.4m at 31 March 2013). The cost of borrowing and management of debt charged to the revenue accounts during 2013/14 was £2.941m (£2.769m in 2012/13).

Although proactive treasury management continues to ensure that the Council minimises its interest payable on external borrowings, and invests any temporary cash surpluses to generate investment income, the net impact of this continues the trend from the previous financial year and remains low given the current historically low level of interest rates. Like all Councils we are facing increased treasury management risks, mainly due to the Eurozone, and finding a safe place to invest any surplus cash is becoming harder. The investment strategy is to spread this risk wider with the preservation of cash at the heart of any investment decision.

The Council's capital borrowing is split into two pools. As part of the move to Self-Financing, the Government has imposed a debt cap for the HRA. This is to limit nationally the scale of public sector borrowing related to housing. For this Council the debt cap during 2013/14 was £115.8m, and the difference between our actual borrowing and the cap is our "headroom" for additional borrowing to support capital investment in our housing stock. The Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), which is effectively our underlying need to borrow for capital purposes, is summarised in the table below. As the table shows, it has only been necessary to externalise debt for part of the CFR amount, as we have been able to use internal cash balances without the need to take out loans from financial institutions. The HRA Business Plan allows for the current HRA capital debt to be repaid within 17 years.

General Fund and HRA Capital Financing	General Fund £k	HRA £k	Total £k
Capital Financing Requirement 1 April 2013	5,889	99,649	105,538
Provision for debt repayment during the year	(729)	(1,851)	(2,581)
New expenditure funded through borrowing	433	0	433
Capital Financing Requirement 31 March 2014	5,593	97,798	103,390
Externalised capital borrowing	0	94,198	94,198
Expenditure financed by internal cash resources	5,593	3,600	9,192
Total Borrowing Requirement	5,593	97,798	103,390
Borrowing Headroom for the HRA	n/a	17,986	n/a
HRA Debt Cap	n/a	115,784	n/a

## **Right to Buy and One for One Replacement**

A new Government policy was introduced early in 2012/13, related to the retention of sale proceeds for properties bought by Housing Tenants under the "Right to Buy" scheme. The Invigorating Right to Buy policy gives greater discounts to tenants wishing to purchase their rented council dwelling, and the new incentives have seen the number of sales continue to increase to 47 in 2013/14 (compared to 37 in 2012/13 and 11 in 2011/12). This generated total capital receipts of £2,705k in 2013/14 which after allowable deductions for pooling, self-financing debt and transaction costs related to the sold properties, the balance of £1,292k must be allocated to expenditure on replacement affordable homes. Under the agreement with central Government, the use of Right to Buy receipts must not exceed 30% of total spending on new affordable homes; in other words 'match funding' of at least 70% is required. In addition, the expenditure must be incurred within 3 years of the receipt. The total amount of additional receipts retained since April 2012 is £2,526k. Of which £496k has already been allocated towards funding new affordable housing in the development capital programme and the remaining on track to be fully utilised within the timescales with a combination of buy backs and new build development schemes.

## **Business Rates Retention**

The Local Government Finance Act introduced the business rates retention scheme altering the way in which local authorities are funded. This has seen a move away from the current needs-based formula funding arrangement to one that provides a strong incentive for local authorities to go for growth. 2013/14 has seen the introduction of a new Business Rates Retention Scheme, which passes some of the risks and rewards for Business Rates growth from central to local government under the Localism agenda.

In establishing the new arrangements the Government has set a Business Rates Baseline assessment. For every £1 of additional Business Rates collected above this baseline, the Council will keep 20p (the remainder is passed to central government, the County Council and Fire Authority). However, if Business Rates yield falls below the baseline our residual funding is reduced by 40p in every £1. This places a strong link between local funding and the incentive to sustain and grow the local economy. The following table summarises the distribution of Business Rates in 2013/14.

The Council's safety net of £2,188k in 2013/14 is compared with its retained income which is its share of business rate income less the amount paid to Central Government plus share of 50% of Small Business Rate Relief and a share of Localism Act Reliefs. The retained income is £1,451k and the difference of £737k is the safety net payment required to take the Council to its safety net threshold of £2,188k.

A smoothing reserve of £1,265k has been set up from additional income compared to budget in 2013/14 to manage the fluctuations in retained business rates income in future years.

Business rates income and expenditure is set out in the Collection Fund on page 100.

	£k
Net Business Rates Yield	36,663
Amount paid to central government	(31,343)
Amount paid to County Council and Fire Authority	(3,869)
Retained Business Rates by Taunton Deane Borough Council	1,451
Safety Net Threshold	2,188
Estimated difference between retained Business Rates and the baseline	737

## Localised Support for Council Tax (Council Tax Reduction Scheme)

At the Spending Review 2010 the Government announced that it would localise support for Council Tax from April 2013, reducing expenditure by 10%. The Welfare Reform Act 2012 contains provisions for the abolition of Council Tax Benefit, and subsequently the Local Government Finance Bill (introduced to Parliament 19 December 2011) imposes a duty on billing authorities to make a localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) by 31 January 2013. Working in collaboration with the County Council and other Somerset district Councils, TDBC has approved a new local Council Tax Support Policy for 2013/14, which results in a range of Council Tax discounts being available instead of the previous Benefit regime. Previously the Government provided a subsidy to fully reimburse the Council for the cost of benefits paid out, but from April 2013 the Government has included a fixed grant amount within the Finance Settlement. This amount, which is £638k for 2013/14, forms part of the funding allocation received via Revenue Support Grant and the Retained Business Rates Baseline (see above).

Whereas previously the cost of Council Tax Benefit was accounted for wholly by Taunton Deane Borough Council, as the billing authority for the area, the new arrangements mean that the major precepting authorities - Somerset County Council, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority, and the Police Authority – also receive a fixed grant from Government and account for "their share" of Council Tax discounts. Any difference between the costs of the local scheme and the grant received will therefore be met by this Council and the other precepting authorities, through the distribution of net Council Tax income in the Collection Fund.

# IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

## **Customer Access and Office Accommodation**

The Council has committed to review its future accommodation needs in light of technological, financial and social changes, and to consider as part of this review how customers will access council services in future. A business case has been be developed which has set out options, costs and benefits to enable the Council to agree and implement a fit for purpose future strategy.

## Taunton Deane and West Somerset Councils Joint Working Project

West Somerset Council, like most local authorities, is facing significant financial challenges. Cuts to funding from Government and the wider recession have placed the Council in a difficult position. One of the strategies for achieving a sustainable future for West Somerset was to explore opportunities for Joint

Management and Shared Services between councils. In March 2013, this Council committed itself to a project to explore opportunities for TDBC and West Somerset to work together, and the Councils prepared a Strategic Business Case to explore whether joint working would help both Councils achieve:

- A sustainable future for both democratically-independent organisations
- Reduced net costs major financial savings (reduced staff numbers, reduced duplication of systems and processes)
- Improved resilience protecting each Council further against the risk of service failure
- Effective, efficient and affordable service delivery (developing a flexible approach to service delivery)

The Strategic Business Case has been developed and approved by both Councils to support the vision of:

- A single, fully-merged, affordable officer structure serving two separate, sovereign Councils each responsible for the government of their own area, acting independently of each other much of the time
- The ability for Members to make local decisions on the quality and level of service will be preserved.

In addition, it is hoped that the joint working arrangements could progress some other ambitions for the Councils such as retaining local employment and promoting high quality customer access (retaining face-to-face presence in both localities). The business case will deliver savings for both Councils, with expected cumulative savings of £1,182k for this Council built into our budget.

Following the implementation of the Joint Management Structure and the delivery of shared services between West Somerset and Taunton Deane, the Councils will focus on the transformation of services to further meet the ambitions of the Councils and provide further opportunities for savings.

NB. We have received a Transformation Grant of £750k from Government (£600k to TDBC and £150k to WSDC), to help fund our transformation agenda.

## Budget Challenges

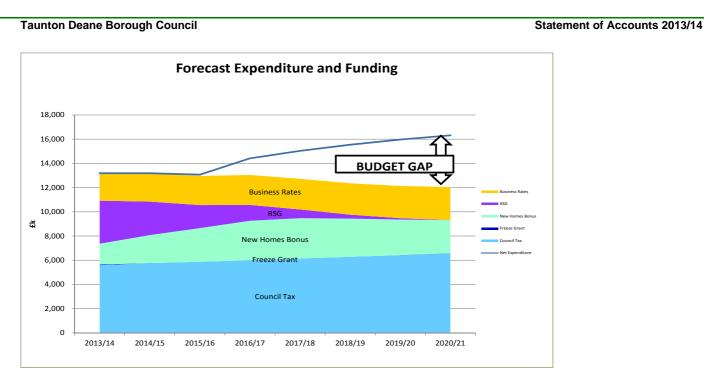
For 2014/15 the Council has produced a balanced budget with a 1.99% increase in basic Council Tax (Band D Tax increases to £137.88). The Net Budget for the year is £13.2m, funded as shown in the table below.

	£k
Revenue Support Grant	2,766
Retained Business Rates	2,346
Other Unringfenced Government Grant (New Homes Bonus)	2,303
Previous Year's Collection Fund Surplus	34
Council Tax	5,739
Net Expenditure Budget	13,188

With the ongoing pressure on the wider economy, the Government has been clear on the continued need for cuts in public sector spending. Our general grant has again been cut this year by some £0.790m (22.2%). For 2014/15, New Homes Bonus has increased by £0.576m (33%). This mitigates the reduction in general grant funding but does not eliminate it. We are being prudent in our financial planning, and we believe there will be further cuts and are planning for a further reduction in funding of around 24%, or £1.4m, by 2016/17, as reported in the Council Report of 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

The Medium Term Financial Plan demonstrates the scale of the projected financial challenge, with an estimated cumulative Budget Gap of £3.2m to be addressed by 2018/19, as reported to Council when the 2014/15 Budget was approved in February 2014. This represents a further 24% reduction in the current Net Budget. The following graph shows the scale of the challenge.

The forecast budget gap is relatively small for 2015/16 (£104k) but will need to addressed when considering the forward budget in order to mitigate the cumulative effect on future funding gaps.



The Council approved a new Corporate Business Plan in 2012/13 setting out the vision, ambitions and objectives for the Council – see above. Although the Council has previously been successful in balancing its budget, there is ongoing pressure to reduce spending and at the same time meet the Council's ambitions for growth and regeneration which are seen as a catalyst for sustaining and improving the local economy. The Plan provides transparency for customers and staff on the direction the Council is heading in and service delivery priorities. The Council will need to react flexibly to this strategic approach – by using reserves to smooth the impact of the cuts over this period if necessary – and will continue to look at innovative ways to deliver and charge for services.

New Homes Bonus Grant has become a significant element of the Council's funding streams. The amount of Grant we receive is based on growth in housing, with a top-up related to growth in affordable housing. The Grant in 2014/15 is £2.3m (2013/14 £1.7m), and this is projected to rise to around £3.3m per year by 2017. The Council is using around £0.4m of this Grant each year to support the annual budget, and the remaining balance received to date, some £2.4m, has been committed to support the Council's growth and regeneration ambitions and is not currently planned to be used to address the Budget Gap shown above.

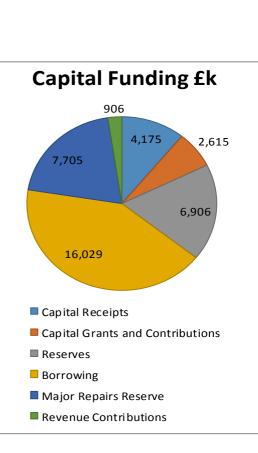
# **Capital Expenditure Plans and Funding**

The Council has recognised that significant capital investment is required over the next 5 to 10 years. When the budget was approved for 2014/15, this included known priorities that are affordable from projected capital resources. The Capital Programme that Members approved has committed the Council to spending £38.3m on General and HRA capital projects, with the majority of this expenditure expected to be incurred in the next two years.

The Council has also recently committed to building a new swimming pool with learner pool and spa located at the Blackbrook Pavilion in Taunton, which added £5.4m to the approved Programme in 2013/14. The current approved Capital Programme is therefore summarised as follows:

	GF	HRA	Total
	£k	£k	£k
New Swimming Pool	5,353		5,353
Station Road Pool Refurbishment	1,515		1,270
Car Park Improvements	936		503
Affordable Housing	1,597		1,597
Firepool Access	1,500		1,500
Thales	800		800
JMASS	1,010		1,010
SCCC loan	1,000		1,000
DLO Vehicles & Equipment	698		698
Disabled Facilities Grants	678		287
Other General Fund Schemes	2,885		2,885
HRA Capital Maintenance Works		8,021	8,021
Social Housing Developments		12,343	12,343
	17,972	20,364	38,336

The expenditure will be funded from a variety of sources and will require some capital borrowing. As part of the HRA Business Plan, a new Social Housing Development Fund was created in 2012/13, to provide revenue resources to contribute to growth in council house provision. In addition, following a Government move to enhance the incentives for tenants to purchase their homes under the Right to Buy scheme (see below), the amount of Right to Buy capital receipts have increased. The chart to the right shows how the above expenditure is initially proposed to be funded. However, we will use our resources flexibly so that where for example capital receipts exceed our estimates, we will use these before borrowing to minimise our financing costs.



# Southwest One

Southwest One is a key joint venture partnership between Taunton Deane Borough Council, Somerset County Council, Avon and Somerset Police and IBM that was established in 2007 to deliver back office and customer services and a number if wider transformation projects. The Council has a 10 year contract with Southwest One and there are less than three years remaining. The establishment of the joint venture was a major project in itself that took several years to implement, and it is appropriate that the Council now starts to prepare for beyond the existing contract terms. During the last 12 months the Council, following changes to the services being supplied to Somerset County Council, has returned services to in-house provision.

## Welfare Reform – Benefit Changes

In addition to the changes introduced in the past year, the Government has also made clear its intentions to reform the benefits system, with a number of changes being introduced or considered in relation to entitlement to Housing Benefit. It is recognised that these changes will have an impact on citizens within the Borough, which may impact on demand for local services such as benefits and housing advice, and also potentially the finances of the Council in terms of costs of impacted services and may also affect income collection. The Council will incorporate the estimated impact within its Service Planning and Medium Term Financial Plan.

Linked to the reform of benefits is the expected transfer of benefit fraud investigation from local authorities to the DWP, as a "Single Fraud Investigation Service". This will reduce the costs to the Council, and is also expected to result in a reduction in Housing Benefit Administration Grant Funding. Indications are that this will happen in June 2015.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Summarised information from these accounts can also be found in the Council's Annual Report or on the Council's website (<u>www.tauntondeane.gov.uk</u>).

Further information on the contents of these statements, easy to read summary versions and additional copies of this booklet can be obtained from:

S Adam FCCA, Section 151 Officer, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1HE Telephoning: (01823) 356310 E-mail to: <u>s.adam@tauntondeane.gov.uk</u>

# The Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

## The Council is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council that officer is the Director of Operations.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

## The Director of Operations is required to:

The Director of Operations is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts which, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (referred to as the Code).

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Director of Operations has:

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

The Director of Operations has also:

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

# **Certification of the Accounts**

This Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Taunton Deane Borough Council at 31 March 2014 and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2014.

S Adam FCCA Director of Operations Section 151 Officer

30 June 2014

# TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

# ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2013/14

# Scope of responsibility

Taunton Deane Borough Council is responsible for making sure that:-

- its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards
- public money is protected and properly accounted for
- public money is used economically, efficiently and effectively
- there is a sound system of governance incorporating the system of internal control.

The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, and the management of risk.

Taunton Deane Borough Council has approved and adopted a Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework "*Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*". A copy of the code can be obtained on request.

This statement explains how Taunton Deane Borough Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2011 in relation to the publication of statement on internal control.

**Public communication** – local public sector bodies serve every part of society and have a statutory duty to communicate with the general public and other stakeholders about their financial and governance arrangements. Local government and the public sector more widely is changing at a rapid rate, therefore greater clarity is required in public reporting to give greater transparency and to address the demands of the interactive expectations of the public.

# Purpose of the Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, culture and values, by which the Council is directed and controlled and the activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.

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

The governance framework has been in place at Taunton Deane Borough Council for the whole year ended 31 March 2014 and up to the date of approval of the statement of accounts.

## The Governance Framework

In March 2008, Taunton Deane Borough Council adopted a formal code of corporate governance in line with guidance provided by CIPFA and SOLACE. This describes how Taunton Deane discharges its responsibilities for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, incorporating the six core principles identified by CIPFA / SOLACE. The framework we have in place to ensure we adhere to the Code is described in more detail below.

# Core Principle 1: Focusing on the purpose of the Council and on outcomes for the community creating and implementing a vision for the local area.

• The Council has a 3 year Corporate Business Plan (2013/14 – 2015/16) which was developed after detailed consultation work with councillors and all political groups and following an external peer review by the Local Government Association (LGA). It sets out a new Vision, four corporate aims, and a series of high level actions to achieve its aims and transform the council, ensuring statutory requirements are met whilst being fit for purpose, addressing funding pressures and setting a balanced, sustainable budget. The Corporate Business Plan is the Council's core planning document, from which the Financial Strategy, Medium Term Financial Plan, Annual Budget, Asset Management Plan, Capital and Housing Strategies are formed to underpin the corporate aims. Service Plans are produced from the Corporate Business Plan to show how each service will contribute to the delivery of the Corporate Aims and its service objectives.

Hyperlink to TDBC Corporate Business Plan: TDBC Corporate Business Plan

- The council has developed and approved a new 'Growth Prospectus for Taunton' which feeds into a higher-level Somerset Growth Plan – this document sets out an ambitious vision, commitment and a clear direction for the growth of Taunton's economy over the period to 2028, together with an outline of the key schemes needed to deliver Taunton's full economic potential. In addition, a project was completed in 2013 to deliver a 'Taunton Rethink', which is a short sharp health-check of the Taunton Vision, and sets out a refreshed set of ambitions and plans for the future of Taunton Town Centre. A robust Programme Management approach and governance structure is being established in 2014 to coordinate the delivery of the council's growth outcomes.
- The 2013/14 Performance Outturn Report and Annual Accounts review our performance over the last year. An Annual Report is also published highlighting some practical examples of our activities, achievements, financial position and performance.
- The council's Joint Management Team, Scrutiny Committees and the Executive review our performance and delivery of the strategic and service delivery plans and priorities on a quarterly basis. All performance and finance reports are published on the council's website.
- Additional performance monitoring reports for key service delivery partners are also reviewed by the management team and Scrutiny committees (e.g. Southwest One, Somerset Waste Partnership, Tone Leisure).
- The Taunton Deane Partnership comprises key agencies within the public and voluntary sectors that seek to tackle both urban and rural deprivation. The focus of activity within Taunton is North Taunton, Taunton East, Wellington and the rural areas. The TDP have prepared the Priority Areas Strategy and Action Plan (PAS). This was developed through extensive consultation and engagement. The PAS contains four themes: building strong communities, improved access to services, improving the lives of the most vulnerable families and improving the look and feel of priority areas. A revised version of the PAS will be published in summer 2014. The TDP also supports the delivery of the Troubled Families agenda and the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Actively supporting the Halcon One Team model which recognises the government agenda of joining up public services at the point of delivery. This model is a new 'way of working' (as opposed to a formal project) and has delivered significant outcomes to the community particularly around reduced crime, as well as the deployment of existing resources more effectively 'on the ground' reducing costs to the public purse. Our structure proposals look to extend this model across other parts of Taunton Deane. Governance arrangements exist with the involvement of senior officers and Portfolio Holders at Strategic, Tactical and operational levels.
- To ensure the council makes best use of resources and provides value for money to service users, Service Plans and service profiles have been developed, which include: financial and

personnel resources and performance and service cost comparisons with other similar authorities (benchmarking). Work is continuing to build benchmarking data into on-going performance reports.

Joint Management and Shared Services:

- TDBC & WSC jointly developed a business case for joint management and shared services. The business case went through the democratic process and was approved by both Councils in Nov 2013.
- Between Jan-Mar 2013, the management teams from both councils met on various occasions to discuss and develop the expectations and vision for a partnership. The Leaders from both councils also worked together early on in the process to ensure they held common aims and expectations.
- During the development of the Business case a Joint Members Advisory Panel (JMAP) was established JMAP. This included 4 members from each council. Following the approval of the business case, this has developed into the Joint Partnership Advisory Panel (JPAG), with a similar format, 4 members from each council and also now includes the leader from each council.
- An elected member development programme is also in the process of being developed with the support of the LGA/member peers and a member representative from each council.
- Communications plans during the business case development and since approval, have included activities to keep members from both councils informed of proposals and actions underway. These activities have included member briefing sessions at key stages of the process.
- Outcomes and benefits to the community include Value for money services, Attracting funding to the council to improve the council and maintain level of service delivery, Maintaining local democracy and a greater local/regional/national influence/ representation as a partnership than as individual councils.

# Core Principle 2: Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles.

- The Council's constitution documents the roles and responsibilities of the Council, Executive, Scrutiny, Policy Development, Regulatory and Officer functions. The constitution is kept under review by the Constitutional Sub-Committee. All proposed changes are considered by the Corporate Governance Committee and Full Council. The Constitution was reviewed and updated in January 2014 to reflect the TDBC / West Somerset Council 'JMASS' project.
- The Statutory Officers meet as a Corporate Governance Group. The Monitoring Officer and S151 Officer are members of the Joint Management Team (JMT) and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) which meets weekly and regularly considers governance issues.
- The Group Leaders, Chief Executive and other relevant key officers meet regularly to share information and discuss any issues for the authority.
- The strategic direction of the organisation and sponsorship of key objectives and priorities is undertaken by the Joint Management Team, which consists of the Directors, Assistant Directors, Assistant Chief Executive and a representative of Southwest One – who meet on a monthly basis with the Chief Executive. In addition to this the Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive and Directors (the Senior Leadership Team) meet on a weekly basis.
- The Council's Lead Officers meet monthly along with the members of JMT. Many items are discussed. The expectation is that key messages are shared back to teams through team meetings.
- The Leader and Chief Executive meet on a monthly basis in order to maintain a shared understanding of roles and objectives.
- The statutory roles of Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer and Head of Paid Service are well established with their own control regimes to enhance the control environment. These roles

are embedded within the new Joint Management structure. In the new JMT arrangements in place since Jan '14, the Assistant Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer is a member of the Senior Leadership Team alongside the Chief Executive and s151 Officer / Deputy CEO / Director of Operations (two deputies are also appointed and are available to cover both WSC and TDBC)

- There is a member/officer protocol that sets out the standards of behaviour expected to ensure a good working relationship between members and officers.
- Portfolio holders and the shadow portfolio holders meet key officers on a regular basis to discuss relevant issues within their portfolio.
- The financial management arrangements are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they conform to the requirements of CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Finance Officer in Local Government (2010) as set out in the Application Note to Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework. From Jan 2014 onwards, the Chief Financial Officer and Section 151 provision is covered by the Director – Operations as part of the TDBC/WSC Joint Management now in place. The Chief Financial Officer is a CCAB qualified accountant and is responsible for maintaining a robust system of internal control
- TDBC is part of a partnership called Southwest One. We are represented on the main Southwest One Board, which meets quarterly, through a nominated elected member. The Board is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the company and for its financial performance
- The Assistant Director Corporate Services meets on a monthly basis with Southwest One's CEO and Senior Responsible Officers of the other two partners, to discuss strategy and broad operational issues. They also meet on a monthly basis with the Southwest One Director of Service Operations and the Heads of Client of the other two partners, to discuss day to day operational issues

Joint Management and Shared Services:

- A transparent, equitable and fair recruitment process has been developed with input from Unison and JPAG to support the re-structure phase of the partnership. The 'Creating a shared workforce and transition redundancy policy' report was presented to and approved by both councils in Nov 2013
- The Chief Executive meets monthly with the Leader of TDBC and Leader WSC individually and again with both Leaders together on a monthly basis.
- All staff briefings are held monthly with sessions at West Somerset House and Deane House. These are headed up by the CEO and Assistant Chief Executive with support from other Directors and Assistant Directors as required. Senior management Team (SMT) briefings are also being held to disseminate information at key stages of the restructure process.

# Core Principle 3: Promoting the values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour

The Localism Act 2011 made a number of changes to the Standards Regime which was
implemented by the Council in July 2012. The Council decided to keep a Standards Committee.
The Committee is politically balanced with five elected members, three independent co-opted
members and two parish council representatives. In addition the Council also appointed an
Independent Person and a reserve Independent Person. The terms of reference for the
Committee are set out in the Constitution set out at

http://www.tauntondeane.gov.uk/irj/public/council/councillors/councillor?rid=/wpccontent/Sites/TDBC/We b%20Pages/Council/Councillors/Taunton%20Deane%20Standards%20Committee

• The Committee promotes and maintains high standards of conduct by Councillors, advising and training on the member's code of conduct, dealing with complaints against members, and any

issues raised by the Monitoring Officer. The Committee submits an annual report to the Council's Corporate Governance Committee, and deals with any formal complaints as required.

• The Council has a set of four Core Values and Business Principles which underpin and support the Council's Vision, and reflect its fundamental beliefs as an organisation and guide how it deals with staff, customers and partners.

Core Values:

- o Integrity we will be honest, do what is right and stick to it
- Fairness we will consistently treat everyone as an equal, respecting their individual needs and abilities
- **Respect** we will always show respect for everyone
- Trust we will show trust and confidence in our staff and customers

**Business Principles:** 

- **Quality Services** ensuring the delivery of accessible, quality services that provide good value for money (either as direct providers or through partnership)
- **Customer Driven** we will put the needs of our customers at the heart of all that we do
- A dynamic organisation innovative, forward-looking and focussed on results
- Environmentally Responsible we will minimise the environmental impact from our operations
- Managers are responsible for ensuring that staff operate within council policies, procedures and legislation and for the management of risk and maintenance of risk registers.
- A complaints procedure is in place for the Council to receive and investigate any complaint made against Borough or Parish members.
- Internal and External audit work together to review and provide annual opinions on the control framework, governance and validity of the annual accounts.

Joint Management and Shared Services:

- The Joint Partnership Advisory Group (JPAG) that provides the member governance for the JMASS programme encourages mutual working and trust between the member representatives.
- A Member development programme is in development and will encourage opportunities for TDBC/WSC members to meet and work together. There is also the potential in the future for joint committees e.g. Audit/Standards.
- The project mandate, agreed by both councils, included the non-negotiable issues and these were reflected throughout the development of the business case. e.g., retain sovereignty/no cross subsidy.
- The trust and respect of and between the councils and management has been key to the speed of progress that has been made. Following the appointment of the Joint Chief Executive and the establishment of the Joint Management team (in place by Jan 2014) there has been the promotion and endorsement of a 'One Team' culture across both councils. This approach is also under-pinned by the agreed employment model where people appointed in the new structure are employed by TDBC.
- Additional HR resource (from SCC and via internal secondment) has been drafted in during the development of the business case and latterly as the restructure gets underway to support the recruitment process.
- A Joint Unison Board (unison reps from TDBC & WSC) was established at an early stage of the partnership process (first meeting held Mar '13). JUB meet monthly and are consulted at all stages of the process e.g. Employment model, recruitment process, Job evaluation process

# Core Principle 4: Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and risk management arrangements

• Taunton Deane Borough Council has a published Constitution that sets out the decision-making arrangements and the responsibilities for different functions. There are clear rules of procedure

for the running of business meetings and details of delegated authorities to individuals. The Monitoring Officer is responsible for the Constitution.

- Corporate Scrutiny and Community Scrutiny were set up in April 2009. Performance issues identified in the monitoring reports can be referred to other committees for further scrutiny.
- The main decision making body of the Council is the Executive, which consists of the Leader together with 7 Councillors and carries out all of the Council's functions, which are not the responsibility of any other part of the Council.
- Council meetings are open to the public (with the exception of items that are exempt under the Access to Information Act). The Council makes every effort to advertise meetings, communicate decisions and minutes to ensure they are publicly available.
- The Executive has a published Forward Plan of Decisions to be taken and meets on a monthly basis. The Forward Plan was amended in line with the Local Authority (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and now has a column to indicate where it is anticipated that confidential items are likely to be discussed and allows for representations to be made to state why a decision should not be made in private session. To date no representations have been received.
- Executive Councillors have delegated authority to make certain decisions, which are published in the Council's Weekly Bulletin. This, together with an appropriate level of delegation to senior managers, enables speedy and effective decision-making. In addition, all draft Executive minutes are circulated with a call-in pro-forma to all councillors, ensuring a prompt response to any request.
- The Council has in place a Risk Management Policy and Strategy, and maintains a Risk Management Action Plan which ensures that Risk Management is embedded within the Council and aligned with our partner organisations. The strategy sets out clear limits of responsibility for risk management across the Council. Major projects and partnerships also have risk registers in place and JMT has reviewed and refreshed the Corporate Risk Register during the course of the year
- Council committee reports include a standard section for the consideration of risks, which informs decision-making.
- TDBC operates a Corporate Governance Committee which is independent of the Executive and Scrutiny functions of the Council. They cover a wide remit and deal with such things as health and safety, risk management, recommend changes to the Constitution in addition to receiving any audit reports given to the Authority.
- The council's Fraud and Whistle-blowing policies were updated during 2013/14.

Joint Management and Shared Services:

- Savings from the Joint Management and staffing restructure were based on a budget envelope to ensure the required savings would be achieved.
- The business case identified savings from joint management and staffing restructure was based on a budget envelope to assure savings are achievable. Anticipated savings from the future transformation phase were not included because they will be reliant on the appetite of members for change and cannot be anticipated with enough assurance at this stage.
- Reports will be submitted to keep Members informed and to enable the consideration of business cases and the shaping of shared services from 2014/15 onwards.
- There are also differences (e.g. Housing stock/coastal management) which can still be brought together under the joint management structure, although the scope for savings in these areas through joining services is obviously more limited

- Staff briefings held throughout the process have clearly stated the reasons and advantages of the partnership. A monthly project newsletter was produced during development of the business case to keep staff informed and this has been replaced with the 'One Team' newsletter.
- A risk register was developed and maintained as part of the business case process and was monitored and managed by the project board and JMAP. Following approval of the business case an implementation risk register has been drafted and this is monitored and managed by the project board and JPAG.
- Risks associated with the Partnership project are also included in the joint TDBC/WSC Corporate risk register as appropriate.

# Core Principle 5: Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective in their roles

• The Council aims to ensure that officers and members have the knowledge, capacity and skills they need to undertake their duties, and this is reviewed through the appraisal system. An induction programme is in place for all new staff and new Members.

• A 'Programme Management Group' oversaw and monitored the Council's programme of major projects during 2013/14 – a key role was to understand capacity and resourcing issues within project delivery, and report to JMT to enable these issues to be addressed. The council's approach to programme management for corporate transformation and growth and development projects will be strengthened as part of the new 'JMASS' management structure during 2014/15.

- All staff have a performance review and employee development (PRED) meeting with their manager. Performance is reviewed and an action plan for the next period is set. This assists the member of staff in the performance of their work, helps to develop their skills and identifies any training needs.
- There have been a number of training opportunities for Members during 2013/14, and these will continue into 2014/15. A comprehensive Member Development programme will be developed in conjunction with the Member Development Champion (Cllr Gill Slattery) including training for all Councillors following the Borough Elections in May 2015.
- As part of the annual planning processes the Learning and Development Lead liaises with all senior managers on the training plans before preparing a plan for JMT approval. Work is currently underway regarding an organisational development programme to ensure that staff appointed into the new 'JMASS' structure have the appropriate support, training and development to be effective in their new roles.
- In addition to this there is a corporate training plan developed every year to meet corporate needs. This year the Corporate Business Plan is being used as the baseline for identifying needs and this also links to the emerging Workforce Plan.
- The Council's Performance Management Framework ensures that the links between the Council's Corporate Objectives, Operational Plans and those of individual officers are clear.
- All Executive reports are required to include an Equalities Impact Assessment to ensure that members make decisions with a clear understanding of the impacts on groups with protected equalities characteristics.
- The Council has regular member briefings and training opportunities (such as Finance) which cover a range of issues and to ensure that the members are fully equipped with the skills they need in order to be effective leaders in their community.

Joint Management and Shared Services:

 The business case includes an ICT programme including technologies to enable managers and staff are able to work effectively across the disparate office locations. This includes a dedicated secure communications line that has been installed between Deane House and West Somerset House. A trust domain has also been established to enable both MS Outlook instances to be integrated, including calendars. Work is underway to combine/integrate building access control systems at both locations.

# Core Principle 6: Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

- The Council consults using a variety of methods, which include public meetings, forums, surveys, feedback forms and focus groups. Listening to and understanding the views of residents, services users, business people, visitors and staff is important to Taunton Deane Borough Council. A corporate Consultation Register is maintained.
- The Council's vision and priorities are regularly communicated to the Community through the Somerset County Gazette, especially through the 'Deane Dispatch' page each month.
- The Council produces an Annual Statement of Accounts. The Council Tax booklet shares with Council Tax and Business Rate payers, details on the Council's financial position (i.e. a summary of the Statement of Accounts), priorities, and other useful information and is available on line and also available in paper format on request.
- Committee and Council meetings are open to the public, with papers available on the internet.
- There is regular community engagement and participation through specific community groups involving Housing, Environmental Health, Planning and Democratic Services.
- A Tenants Services Management Board has been set up, whose members include tenants and councillors. This board holds the Housing Service to account including performance and expenditure and helps shape the direction of the service. Other groups such as the Tenants Forum and Sheltered Housing Forum also allow tenants to have a strong voice in ensuring accountability of the Housing service.
- The Council encourages all types of feedback (complaints, compliments, comments & suggestions) from a number of channels (website, telephone, e-mail/letter, face-to-face), and these are logged on a central database for analysis and review. A Customer Feedback Guidance & Process document is available for Managers and Officers to deal with feedback consistently and effectively.
- Corporate use of social media ('Twitter') is being trialled during 2013-14, and a policy is being developed
- The corporate communications function has been moved into the corporate centre under the responsibility of the Assistant Chief Executive – this will enable closer links with elected Members and the Democratic Services function. Various communication methods are in place to ensure effective internal communications (e.g. Core Brief / 'One Team' newsletters, staff briefings / Senior Management Team / Leads meetings)

Joint Management and Shared Services:

- A communications plan was developed to support the business case process which included keeping community groups and key stakeholders informed.
- A press briefing was held on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct '13 to ensure the media were kept in the loop and able to report accurately on the business case proposals.
- TDBC's Weekly Bulletin and WSC's Community Matters have also been used to communicate information at key stages.
- Communications, since the Business case approval has been focused internally (for staff and members), which is appropriate to this stage of the process.
- The communications plan is being updated for the next stage of the process and successes at key stages will be communicated to the public as appropriate

• The monthly staff briefings, regular member briefings and the monthly newsletters, which are circulated to all members and officers, are the key communication channels at this stage of change. These help to reinforce the 'One Team' ethos, highlight successes, future proposals and developments in the transformation phase of the project.

### **Review of effectiveness**

Taunton Deane Borough Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of its governance framework including the effectiveness of the system of internal control. The review of the effectiveness is informed by senior managers within the Council, who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, and also by the work of the internal and external auditors.

The review for the 2013/14 statement was led by the Corporate Performance Lead Officer, supported by the Monitoring Officer (Assistant Chief Executive), the Deputy Section 151 Officer (Assistant Director – Resources), and the Council's Audit Manager. The process that has been applied to maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the governance framework include:

- South West Audit Partnership Internal Audit (SWAP) is subject to regular inspection by the Council's external auditors who place reliance on the work carried out by Internal Audit. In addition, the s151 Officer carries out a review annually. A summary of the Internal Audits undertaken during 2013/14 where level 4 () and 5() recommendations together with their mitigating actions and an update on progress of these is attached as Appendix B
- Grant Thornton (as external auditors)
- Local Partnerships (subsidiary of the LGA) undertook the assurance review of the Joint Management and shared services business case)
- **Corporate Governance Committee** reviews the effectiveness of Internal Audit, and the Annual Governance Statement. It receives reports from internal audit on a quarterly basis and agrees Internal and External Audit Plan
- Standards Board
- Executive committee
- The **monitoring officer** has a duty to monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure its aims and principles are adequate. The Council reviews the constitution regularly the latest review being undertaken in March 2013.
- The Council's **Financial Regulations** are kept under continuous review the last review was approved in December 2012

The conclusion of the review is that, overall, the governance arrangements are robust and are working effectively. Some issues need attention and they are set out below.

## Significant governance issues

During the year the Group Auditor (South West Audit Partnership) brought a number of control issues to the attention of the Council's Corporate Governance Committee. The opinion of the Internal Auditors was that the control environment was *"reasonable"* in 2013/14.

High priority recommendations were made in the following areas from audits during 2013/14 - these continue to be included on the council's action plan for 2014/15:

- Strengthening of contractual arrangements
- Creditors purchase ordering and new creditor authorisation processes
- Equality & Diversity compliance with requirements and duties
- Fraud improve awareness of Corporate Counter Fraud & Corruption policy & strategy
- Information governance introduce a confidentiality code of practice

## **ACTION PLAN**

Area	Action	Who	When
Strengthen contractual	Address legacy arrangements that are in place where contracts have expired	Paul Fitzgerald	Qtr 2
arrangements	Develop a process to keep Contracts register up to date to ensure it is an accurate reflection of contracts in place.	Paul Fitzgerald	Qtr 2
Creditors – purchase ordering and new creditor	Ensure vendor checks are undertaken to confirm change of details are correct.	Paul Fitzgerald	Qtr 2
authorisation processes	Retrospective PO still occurs – address the on-going issue from the previous year.	Paul Fitzgerald	Qtr 3
Equality & Diversity – compliance with	Monitor compliance and adherence to the TDBC Equalities framework.	Simon Lewis	Qtr 3
requirements and duties	Increase awareness of the TDBC framework and expectations (staff training and awareness).	Simon Lewis	Qtr 2
Fraud	Improve awareness of the approved Corporate Counter Fraud & Corruption policy & strategy	Paul Fitzgerald	Qtr 3
Information governance	Introduce a confidentiality code of practice	Richard Sealy	Qtr 3
Priority Area Strategy	Improve clarity surrounding the ownership of reviewing the outcomes of PAS, bringing this information to a central point.	Simon Lewis	Qtr 2
	Introduce a defined reporting structure to formally inform the dashboards.	Simon Lewis	Qtr 2

The Council proposes over the coming year to take steps to address the above matters in order to further enhance our governance arrangements. Regular reports will be made to the Corporate Governance Committee on the progress being made. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

Signed:

Signed:

Cllr John Williams

Penny James

# Independent Auditors Report to the Members of Taunton Deane Borough Council

## Draft Opinion on the Authority financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Taunton Deane Borough Council for the year ended 31 March2014 under the Audit Commission Act 1998. The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement and Collection Fund and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14. This report is made solely to the members of Taunton Deane Borough Council in accordance with Part II of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 48 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by the Audit Commission in March 2010. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's Members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## Respective responsibilities of the Director – Operations and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Director – Operations Responsibilities, the Director– Operations is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial Statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

# Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Authority's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Director – Operations and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the foreword to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report

## **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements: give a true and fair view of the financial position of Taunton Deane Borough Council as at 31 March 2014 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14 and applicable law.

## **Opinion on other matters**

In our opinion, the information given in the foreword for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

### Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

in our opinion the annual governance statement does not reflect compliance with 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: a Framework' published by CIPFA/SOLACE in June 2007; we issue a report in the public interest under section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998; we designate under section 11 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 any recommendation as one that requires the Authority to consider it at a public meeting and to decide what action to take in response; or we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under the Audit Commission Act 1998. We have nothing to report in these respects.

# Conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

## Respective responsibilities of the Authority and the auditor

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

We are required under Section 5 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements, having regard to relevant criteria specified by the Audit Commission.

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

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

We have undertaken our audit in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria, published by the Audit Commission in October 2013, as to whether the Authority has proper arrangements for:

securing financial resilience; and challenging how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The Audit Commission has determined these two criteria as those necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2014.

#### Taunton Deane Borough Council

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether, in all significant respects, the Authority had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

## Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria published by the Audit Commission in October 2013, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, Taunton Deane Borough Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2014.

## Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the financial statements of Taunton Deane Borough Council in accordance with the requirements of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission.

Peter A Barber Associate Director for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Appointed Auditor Hartwell House 55-61 Victoria Street Bristol BS1 6FT 22 September 2014

# STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

## 1. Accounting Policies

## i. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2013/14 financial year and its position at the year-end on 31 March 2014. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, which those Regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14 ('the Code') and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2013/14 ('SERCOP'), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the 2003 Act.

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

### ii. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

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

## iii. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in one month or less from the date of the balance sheet and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. As the majority of the Council's own bills are due in one month or less, the council treats cash on deposit for more than one month (and so not immediately available to pay bills) as a short-term investment rather than a cash equivalent available alongside cash itself.

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

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

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

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

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

#### v. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current (fixed) assets during the year:

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

The Council is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation are therefore replaced by the contribution (Minimum Revenue Provision, MRP) in the General Fund balance and Housing Revenue Account balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

#### vi. Employee Benefits

#### **Benefits Payable During Employment**

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled wholly within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave, paid sick leave, and nonmonetary benefits (e.g. cars) for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which the employees render service to the Council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. flexi-time) earned by employees but not taken before the year end which the employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wages and salary rates applicable at the end of the year, which is considered to represent a fair value for the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday entitlements are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

### **Termination Benefits**

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of either the Council's decision to end an employee's employment before the normal retirement date, or an employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. (Voluntary early retirement under scheme rules is not a termination benefit since the benefit is a right of all scheme members) Termination benefits are recognised as a liability or an expense only when the Council is demonstrably committed through a detailed formal plan to either terminating the employment of an employee or group of employees before the normal retirement date or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Termination costs are shown immediately in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services; costs from service-specific redundancy decisions are charged to the relevant service, while costs resulting from a Council-wide process, and any past service pension costs, are charged to the non-distributed costs line. If termination benefits fall due more than 12 months after the balance sheet date, they are discounted using the discount rate determined by reference to market yields at the balance sheet date on high quality corporate bonds. In the case of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy, the cost of termination benefits would be based on the number of employees expected to accept the offer. Where there is uncertainty about the number of employees who will accept any offer of termination benefits, the estimated cost will be shown as a contingent liability.

Where termination benefits involve pension enhancements (usually in the form of 'added years') the enhancements will be treated as pension costs for the purposes of the statutory transfer between the Pension Reserve and the General Fund. The General Fund will be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or pensioner in the year and the difference between the pension costs calculated by the Code and the contributions due under the pension's scheme regulations will be charged or credited to the Pensions reserve and shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement

## Post Employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by Somerset County Council (SCC). The Local Government Scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

## The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the SCC pension scheme 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 future earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 4.5% (based on the annualised yield at the 19 year point on the Merill Lynch AA rated corporate bond curve which has been chosen to meet the requirements of IAS19 and with the consideration of the duration of the Employer's liabilities).
- The assets of the SCC pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
  - quoted securities current bid price
  - unquoted securities professional estimate
  - unitised securities current bid price
  - property market value.

The change in the net pension 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 Account 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 line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs
- net interest on the net defined benefit liability 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 at the beginning of the period taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability 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 – charged to the Pensions reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure
- actuarial gains and losses changes in the net pension 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 SCC 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 and Housing Revenue Account balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund 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 any amounts payable to the fund but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

#### **Discretionary Benefits**

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

### vii. Events After The Balance Sheet Date

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

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

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

### viii. Financial Instruments

## **Financial Liabilities**

Financial liabilities 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 and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective rate of interest is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

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

As a local authority, the council can borrow from The Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), a statutory body operating within the United Kingdom Debt Management Office, which is itself an Executive Agency of HM Treasury. PWLB's function is to lend money from the National Loans Fund to local authorities and other prescribed bodies, and to collect the repayments. The Code allows two options for calculating the fair value of PWLB loans; so, to provide the most helpful information to readers of these accounts and for comparability with Somerset County Council, Taunton Deane has chosen to use the "repayment rate" option which gives the actual amount an authority would have to pay to avoid the loss or realise the notional gain.

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write-down to the Income and Expenditure Account is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund balance to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

# **Financial Assets**

Financial assets are classified into two types:

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

## Loans and Receivables

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

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

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

# Available-for-Sale Assets

Available-for-sale assets are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Where the asset has fixed or determinable payments, annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest received are based on the amortised cost of the asset multiplied by the effective interest 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.

The Council treats investments in Money Market Funds as Available for Sale financial assets.

# ix. Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

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

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and

Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure (non-ring-fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

### Community Infrastructure Levy

The Council has elected to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The levy will be charged on new builds (chargeable developments for the Council) with appropriate planning consent. The Council charges for and collects the levy, which is a planning charge. The income from the levy will be used to fund a number of infrastructure projects to support the development of the area.

CIL is received without outstanding conditions; it is therefore recognised at the commencement date of the chargeable development in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with the accounting policy for government grants and contributions as set out above. CIL charges will be largely used to fund capital expenditure. However, a small proportion of the charges may be used to fund revenue expenditure.

## x. Heritage Assets

The recognition of Heritage Assets was a requirement introduced by the Code in 2011/12. Heritage Assets are recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's accounting policies on Property Plant and Equipment. However some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to heritage assets. The Council's Heritage Assets recognised on the balance sheet are Civic Regalia.

The valuation of the Council's heritage assets is based on the insurance values. The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment, e.g. where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise to its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's general policies on impairment see note xviii in this summary of significant accounting policies. The proceeds for the sale of Heritage Assets are accounted for in accordance with the Council's general provisions relating to the disposal of property, plant and equipment. Disposal proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements and are accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts.

# xi. Intangible Fixed Assets

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

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

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

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only revalued where the fair value of the assets held by the Council can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no

intangible asset held by the Council meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

## xii. Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Council has interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of associates and trust funds but these are not material interests and therefore do not require group accounts to be prepared.

## xiii. Inventories and Long Term Contracts

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories is assigned using the FIFO costing formula. (FIFO is First In First Out, one of several commonly-used methods of valuing inventories and chosen for simplicity).

Long term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services with the value of works and services received under the contract during the financial year. The value of works is subject to an interim valuation at the year-end and is recognised at cost plus any reasonably attributable profit.

### xiv. Investment Property

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

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, based on the amount at which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable parties at arm's-length. Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the yearend. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

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

# xv. Jointly Controlled Operations and Jointly Controlled Assets

Jointly controlled operations are activities undertaken by the Council in conjunction with other venturers that involve the use of assets and resources of the venturers rather than the establishment of a separate entity. The Council recognises on its Balance Sheet the assets that it controls and the liabilities that it incurs and debits and credits the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement with the expenditure it incurs and the share of income it earns from the activity of the operation.

Jointly controlled assets are items of property, plant or equipment that are jointly controlled by the Council and other venture's, with the assets being used to obtain benefits for the venture's. The joint venture does not involve the establishment of a separate entity. The Council accounts for only its share of the jointly controlled assets, the liabilities and expenses that it incurs on its own behalf or jointly with others in respect of its interest in the joint venture and income that it earns from the venture.

### xvi. Leases

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

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

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

# The Council as Lessee

## Finance Leases

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

Lease payments are apportioned between:

- A charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant or equipment applied to write down the lease liability, and
- A finance charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

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

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

### **Operating Leases**

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

## The Council as Lessor

## Finance Leases

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

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

- A credit/receipt for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant or equipment applied to write down the lease debtor (together with any premiums received), and
- Finance income (credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

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

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of fixed 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 or Housing Revenue Account Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

# **Operating Leases**

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

# xvii. Overheads and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to those that benefit from the supply or service in accordance with the costing principles of the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice 2013/14 (SeRCOP). The total absorption costing principle is used as a basis for setting support service budgets. Actual figures are calculated on budget and then the difference (if not material) is charged to Corporate and Democratic Core. If the balance was material then the allocation would be reviewed. The cost of overheads and support services are shared between users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

• Corporate and Democratic Core – costs relating to the Council's status as a multi-functional, democratic organisation.

• Non Distributed Costs – the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and any depreciation and impairment losses chargeable on Assets Held for Sale.

These two cost categories are defined in SeRCOP and accounted for as separate headings in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, as part of Net Expenditure on Continuing Services.

## xviii. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

## Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred. The Council has a discretionary de minimus level for recognising Property Plant and Equipment of £10,000.

## Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- The purchase price
- Any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management
- The initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

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

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

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless the donation has been made conditionally. Until conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in the Donated Assets Account. Where gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction depreciated historical cost
- Dwellings fair value, determined using the existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH)
- All other assets fair value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value EUV).

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

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

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

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

The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

#### Impairment

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

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

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

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

### Depreciation

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Dwellings and other buildings straight-line allocation over the life of the property as estimated by the valuer
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment a percentage of the value of each class of assets in the Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer
- Infrastructure straight-line allocation over 50 years (or the life of the asset if less).

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

## Disposals and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

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

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

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

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

Amounts received for the disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of receipts relating to housing disposals is payable to the Government. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

# xix. Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Similar Contracts

PFI and similar contracts are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available the property plant and equipment needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. The Council is not party to a PFI contract.

### xx. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

### Provisions

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

be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation. If the date of likely settlement is so far in the future to affect the present value of the obligation, the provision will be shown in the statements at its discounted present value using a discount rate judged appropriate at the time. The discounted value recognises that payments made or received at some time in the future are not worth the same as payments made or received immediately.

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

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

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

## **Contingent Liabilities**

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

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

# **Contingent Assets**

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

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

### xxi. Reserves

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

Separate reserves are maintained for capital and revenue spending; in line with legislation and accounting practice, capital reserves cannot be used to support general revenue spending although revenue reserves may be used to support capital spending.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, and retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council – these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

# xxii. Revenue Expenditure Funded from 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 is charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Council has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of council tax.

# xxiii. VAT

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

## xxiv. The Collection Fund

The Code requires the inclusion of a Collection Fund Statement within the Statement of Accounts of every council tax billing authority; this Council is such an authority. The Statement reflects the statutory requirement contained in section 89 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 1992) for billing authorities to establish and maintain a separate fund for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and national non-domestic rates (NNDR).

There is no requirement for a separate Collection Fund Balance Sheet. Instead Collection Fund balances are distributed across the Balance Sheets of the billing authority, the Government and precepting authorities.

## xxv. Accounting for Council Tax

Council tax income is accounted for within the Collection Fund Statement on an accruals basis based on amount due from taxpayers for the year, and adjustments for earlier years not already taken into account. The figure excludes amounts receivable in the form of penalties, which are recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the General Fund.

Since the collection of council tax income is in substance an agency arrangement, the cash collected by the Council from council tax debtors belongs proportionately to the Council and the major preceptors. There will be therefore a debtor/creditor position between the Council and each major preceptor to be recognised since the net cash paid to each major preceptor in the year will not be its share of the cash collected from council taxpayers.

Precepts for the major precepting authorities and the Council's demand on the fund are paid out of the Collection Fund and credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements of the precepting authorities and the Council. However, the transactions presented in the Collection Fund Statement are limited to the cash flows permitted by statute for the financial year, whereas each authority and the Council recognises income on a full accruals basis i.e. sharing out in full the surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund at the end of the year, even though it will be distributed to or recovered from the precepting authorities including the Council in a subsequent financial year. The difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the Collection Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The year-end surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund is distributed between the Council and major precepting authorities on the basis of estimates made on 15 January of the year-end balance. The Council's share is credited (surplus) or debited (deficit) on the same line as the demand on the fund, and is taken into account in arriving at the difference that is adjusted to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account.

# xxvi. Accounting for National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

The Local Government Finance Act 2012 introduced a business rates retention scheme that enabled local authorities to retain a proportion of the business rates generated in their area. The new arrangements for the retention of business rates came into effect on 1 April 2013. As a billing authority we must include on the Balance Sheet the following:

- Our share of non-domestic rates debtors (net of the impairment allowances for doubtful debts)
- Our share of creditors for overpaid/pre-paid non-domestic rates
- A debtor for each major preceptor and Central Government for cash paid to them in advance of receipt from non-domestic rate payers
- A creditor for rates collected and not paid for
- A debtor/creditor for the difference between safety net payments made on account and the actual safety net payment due
- A creditor for the actual levy payment due.
- A provision for refunding ratepayers, who have successfully appealed against the rateable value of their properties on the rating list. This will include amounts relating to non-domestic rates charged to businesses in 2012-13 and earlier financial years.

#### **Taunton Deane Borough Council**

#### Statement of Accounts 2013/14

# **Movement in Reserves Statement**

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

	General Fund Balance £'000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Earmarked HRA Reserves £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Council Reserves £'000
Balance as 31 March 2012 carried forward	3,336	6,598	1,356	474	916	0	2,696	15,376	135,818	151,194
Prior Period Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance as 1 April 2012 carried forward	3,336	6,598	1,356	474	916	0	2,696	15,376	135,818	151,194
Movement in Reserves during 2012/13:										
Surplus or (deficit) on provision of services	409	0	4,156	0	0	0	0	4,565	0	4,565
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,756	5,756
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	409	0	4,156	0	0	0	0	4,565	5,756	10,321
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	671	0	(1,982)	0	4,872	2,198	(1,764)	3,995	(3,995)	0
Net Increase/Decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves	1,080	0	2,174	0	4,872	2,198	(1,764)	8,560	1,761	10,321
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 8)	(911)	911	(845)	845	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements*	438	0	(438)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/(Decrease) in 2012/13	607	911	891	845	4,872	2,198	(1,764)	8,560	1,761	10,321
Balance at 31 March 2013 carried forward	3,943	7,509	2,247	1,319	5,788	2,198	932	23,936	137,579	161,515

\*The other movements represent reclassifications between the HRA and the General Fund earmarked reserves.

#### Statement of Accounts 2013/14

# Movement in Reserves Statement (continued)

	General Fund Balance £'000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Earmarked HRA Reserves £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves $\mathcal{E}'000$	Total Council Reserves £'000
Balance as 31 March 2013 carried forward	3,943	7,508	2,246	1,319	5,788	2,198	932	23,935	137,579	161,514
Movement in Reserves during 2013/14:										
Surplus or (deficit) on provision of services	(1,924)	0	3,511	0	0	0	0	1,587	0	1,587
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,291	11,291
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(1,924)	0	3,511	0	0	0	0	1,587	11,291	12,878
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	5,601	0	(2,985)	0	136	266	(172)	2,844	(2,844)	0
Net Increase/(Decrease) before transfers to Earmarked Reserves	3,677	0	527	0	136	266	(172)	4,432	8,447	12,878
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 8)	(5,501)	5,501	705	(705)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Movements	418	0	(418)	0	0	0	0	(0)	0	(0)
Increase/(Decrease) in 2013/14	(1,406)	5,501	813	(705)	136	266	(172)	4,432	8,447	12,878
Balance at 31 March 2014 carried forward	2,537	13,009	3,059	614	5,924	2,464	760	28,367	146,026	174,393

# **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**

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

Gross Expenditure	2012/13 Gross Income	Net Expenditure (Restated)		Gross Expenditure £'000	2013/14 Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
£'000	£'000	£'000				
8,512	(7,582)	930	Central Services to the Public	1,866	(714)	1,152
3,605	(587)	3,018	Cultural and Related Services	4,109	(654)	3,455
7,616	(2,498)	5,118	Environmental and Regulatory Services	7,788	(2,336)	5,452
3,962	(1,466)	2,496	Planning Services	4,956	(2,254)	2,702
1,792	(3,884)	(2,092)	Highways and Transport Services	1,206	(3,888)	(2,682)
17,586	(24,332)	(6,746)	Local Authority Housing (HRA)	19,405	(25,977)	(6,572)
33,547	(31,461)	2,086	Other Housing Services	35,002	(32,540)	2,462
2,385	(1,107)	1,278	Corporate & Democratic Core	2,913	(2,082)	831
(522)	0	(522)	Non distributed costs	261	0	261
78,483	(72,917)	5,566	Cost of Services	77,506	70,445	7,061
		(1,900)	Other operating expenditure (Note 9)			550
		5,604	Financing and investment income and expenditure (Note 10)			5,145
		(13,835)	Taxation and non-specific grant income (Note 11)			(14,374)
		(4,565)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			(1,588)
		(7,265)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment assets			(4,345)
		1,509	Remeasurement of the net Defined Pension Liability			(6,945)
		(5,756)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(11,290)
		(10,321)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(12,601)

# **Balance Sheet**

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

31 Marc	ch 2013		Note	31 March 2014		
2'000	£'000			£'000	£'000	
	206,400	Council Dwellings	12		209,892	
	76,326	Other Land and Buildings	12		76,506	
	5,926	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	12		5,980	
	10,584	Infrastructure Assets	12		10,420	
	6,888	Community Assets	12		6,940	
	2,645	Assets under construction	12		2,990	
	308,769	Total Property, Plant & Equipment			312,728	
	141	Heritage Assets	13		141	
	3,081	Investment Property	14		3,216	
	454	Intangible Assets	15		436	
	3	Long Term Investments	16		3	
	341	Long Term Debtors	18		270	
	312,789	Long Term Assets			316,794	
291		Current Held for Sale Investment Property	14	544		
8,009		Short term Investments	16	9,020		
513		Assets Held for Sale	20	788		
163		Inventories	17	156		
4,699		Short Term Debtors	18	4,334		
10,847		Cash & Cash Equivalents	19	17,249		
	24,522	Current Assets			32,091	
0		Short Term Borrowing	16	(2,073)		
(11,180)		Short Term Creditors	21	(11,622)		
(137)		Provisions	22	(1,297)		
	(11,317)	Current Liabilities			(14,992)	
	325,994				333,893	
(94,379)		Long Term Borrowing	16	(92,306)		
(70,100)		Other Long Term Liabilities	38	(67,194)		
	(164,479)	Long Term Liabilities			(159,500)	
	161,515	Net Assets			174,393	
	23,936	Usable Reserves	23		28,367	
	137,579	Unusable Reserves	24		146,026	
	161,515	Total Reserves			174,393	

# **Cash Flow Statement**

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

2012/13		2013/14
Restated £000		£000
4,565	Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	(1,588)
12,447	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements (Note 25)	17,007
(5,735)	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities (Note 25)	(2,927)
11,277	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	12,492
(5,891)	Investing Activities (Note 26)	(6,091)
(800)	Financing Activities (Note 27)	0
4,586	Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	6,401
6,261	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	10,848
10,847	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (Note 19)	17,249

# **Notes to the Core Financial Statements**

(Please be aware that there may be minor rounding differences in some of these notes).

# 1. Prior-period adjustments

# The accounting standard IAS 19 – Employee Benefits has changed.

# **Treatment of Pension Administration Costs**

The standard requires that administration costs directly related to the management of plan assets and any tax payable by the plan itself, other than tax included in the actuarial assumptions used to measure the defined benefit obligation, are recognised as a reduction in the return on plan assets and recorded in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

The change in the standard means that other administration costs must not be deducted from the return on plan assets. Instead they are required to be shown in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. We have opted to include this amount in "Other operating expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure". We have had to restate 2012/13 as this is a retrospective requirement.

# Interest Costs in relation to Current Service Cost

In 2012/13 we included in Note 10 Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure, a line for "Pension interest cost and expected return on pensions assets". The new requirements have "split" these values and the line now contains the "net interest cost" only. The expected return on pensions assets is now shown within the Remeasurement of the Net Defined Pension Liability For this reason we have restated those lines in the notes and the "Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement".

This change also impacts on the Cash Flow Statement and Note 25 as the distinction between the categories has changed.

# Changes to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (Page 44)

Other Operating Expenditure	2012/13 Statements £'000 (1,908)	Adjustments Made £'000 8
Financing and investment income and expenditure	4,715	889
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	(5,462)	897
Actuarial (gains)/losses on pension assets/liabilities	2,406	-897

# Changes to the Movements in Reserves Statement (Page 42)

# Movement in Reserves Statement – Usable Reserves

	2012/13 Statements £'000	Adjustments Made £'000
Surplus or (deficit) on provision of services	5,462	897
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	4,859	-897

# Movement in Reserves Statement – Unusable Reserves

	2012/13 Statements £'000	Adjustments Made £'000
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	4,859	897
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(3,098)	-897

# Changes to the Cash Flow Statement (Page 46)

	2012/13 Statements £'000	Adjustments Made £'000
Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	5,462	-897
Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non- cash movements (Note 25)	11,550	897

# Changes to Note 25 - Cash Flow Statement - Operating Activities (Page 46)

	2012/13 Statements £'000	Adjustments Made £'000
Other non cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(445)	897

# 2. Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued But Have Not Yet Been Adopted

The Authority has yet to adopt the following accounting standards:

# • IFRS 10 Consolidated Financial Statements (May 2011)

IFRS 10 was issued in response to the financial crisis, during which there was significant criticism of accounting rules that permitted certain entities to remain off-balance sheet. The main change introduced by IFRS10 is a greater focus on which party has power over an entity rather than who has the majority of the risks and rewards.

This new standard comes into effect for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013 so does not affect the disclosures for 2013/14, but will need to be applied retrospectively to our accounts from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

At the time of writing, the impact to our accounts is not fully known although based on our current arrangements is likely to be immaterial.

# • IFRS 11 Joint Arrangements (May 2011)

IFRS 11 was issued at the same time as IFRS10 to improve the accounting for joint arrangements. It introduces a principle based approach that requires a party to a joint arrangement to recognise its rights and obligations arising from the arrangement. This will provide users with greater clarity about an entity's involvement in its joint arrangements.

This new standard comes into effect for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013 so does not affect the disclosures for 2013/14, but will need to be applied retrospectively to our accounts from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

At the time of writing, the impact to our accounts is not fully known although based on our current arrangements is likely to be immaterial.

• IFRS 12 Disclosures of Interests in Other Entities (May 2011)

IFRS12 requires the disclosure of information that enables users of financial statements to evaluate:

- The nature of, and risks associated with, its interests in other entities; and
- The effects of those interests on its financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

This new standard comes into effect for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013 so does not affect the disclosures for 2013/14, but will need to be applied retrospectively to our accounts from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

At the time of writing, the impact to our accounts is not fully known although based on our current arrangements is likely to be immaterial.

# • IFRS13 Fair Value Measurement

IFRS 13 defines fair value and sets out in a single IFRS a framework for measuring fair value. It also identifies the disclosure requirement for items measured at fair value.

This new standard comes into effect for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013, so does not affect the disclosures for 2013/14.

At the time of writing the CIPFA/LASAAC Local Authority Accounting Code Board have decided to defer the implementation of this standard to the 2015/16 Code, so there will be no impact to our accounts during 2014/15.

• IAS 27 Separate Financial Statements (as amended in May 2011)

IAS 27 Separate Financial Statements (as amended in 2011) outlines the accounting and disclosure requirements for 'separate financial statements', which are financial statements prepared by a parent, or an investor in a joint venture or associate, where those investments are accounted for either at cost or in accordance with IAS 39.

This new standard comes into effect for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013 so does not affect the disclosures for 2013/14, but will need to be applied retrospectively to our accounts from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

At the time of writing, the impact to our accounts is not fully known although based on our current arrangements is likely to be immaterial.

IAS 28 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures (as amended in May 2011)

IAS 28 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures (as amended in 2011) outlines how to apply, with certain limited exceptions, the equity method to investments in associates and joint ventures. The standard also defines an associate by reference to the concept of "significant influence", which requires power to participate in financial and operating policy decisions of an investee (but not joint control or control of those polices).

This new standard comes into effect for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013 so does not affect the disclosures for 2013/14, but will need to be applied retrospectively to our accounts from 1st April 2014.

At the time of writing, the impact to our accounts is not fully known although based on our current arrangements is likely to be immaterial.

 <u>IAS 32 Financial Instruments: Presentation – Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial</u> <u>Liabilities (as amended in December 2011)</u>

These amendments address inconsistencies in current practice when applying the offsetting criteria in IAS 32 Financial Instruments: Presentation. The amendments clarify:

- The meaning of 'currently has a legally enforceable right of set-off'; and
- That some gross settlement systems may be considered equivalent to net settlement.

This new standard comes into effect for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2014 so does not affect the disclosures for 2013/14, and as the amendments do not constitute a change of accounting policy we are not required to apply them retrospectively.

As the authority does not currently offset any of its financial instruments, there will be no impact in our accounts as a result of these amendments.

# 3. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies, as in every year, the Council has had to make judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events.

The main critical judgements made in this Statement of Accounts are:

- The Council is a key partner in Firepool development which is one of the largest mixed use regeneration schemes in the south-west and one of the first key areas for "Project Taunton", a town-wide regeneration initiative which recognises the opportunity for the Council to be a lead partner providing further contributions to the continued growth and prosperity of Taunton. The Council has capitalised the costs of the project so far, which are mainly to do with the necessary planning, land and property acquisition and preparation for such a high-profile asset creation.
- There continues to be a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. The Council has therefore put significant senior management and transactional resources into identifying opportunities for both reducing costs and improving performance. While it is possible that funding uncertainty might impair the Council's assets, for example by requiring the closure of specialist facilities currently valued in the balance-sheet as operational assets, at this stage the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to indicate any impairment may become necessary.
- The Council's leisure facilities are run on its behalf by Tone Leisure (Taunton Deane) Limited, a charitable trust (number 1110756) and not-for-profit social enterprise working with South Hams District Council through its own group company as well as Taunton Deane. The Council has the right to appoint two Councillors to the board of Tone Leisure Ltd, but does not have overall control of the Trust and so accounts for the arrangement as an Associate. In previous years the Council has included Tone Leisure in its group accounts. The inclusion of Tone Leisure has been reviewed this year and we have made a judgement that the Council's interest in Tone Leisure is not material to the accounts so therefore group accounts have not been prepared.
- The Council currently uses the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) as a proxy for depreciation. This is a DCLG assessment of the cost of maintaining our Council Dwellings, therefore the Council believes it to be a reliable estimate. There is a five year transition period in place and the Council intends to review this basis within this period which ends in 2016/17.
- Depreciation for the Council's assets is run on opening balances. If there are any revaluations in year the revaluations are processed and depreciation is written out. There is assurance from the valuer that the values in the accounts at 31 March 2014 are a true reflection of the fair value at this date.
- A Business Rates provision has been made in the accounts for £2.942m. The Council has put in its best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation based on the appeals put in by ratepayers.

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

The Statement of Accounts necessarily contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2014 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Significant Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)	PPE assets are depreciated over useful lives that are chosen based on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. If the working lives change significantly as a result of the Council's review of its services then those useful lives may lengthen or shorten.	Depreciation is calculated to spread the cost of an asset over its estimated working life. If the working life is reduced, depreciation goes up and carrying-value goes down; if the working life is extended, depreciation goes down and so carrying value goes up. For example, with vehicles valued at £929k and an average working life of around five years, extending the life by 1 year would reduce annual depreciation by £31k.
	The carrying values of assets such as council houses depend very much on outside factors; for example, the significant revaluation in 2010/11 was due to a change in the discount factor applied nationally to social housing. This factor depends on market conditions such as the value of similar properties in an open market and rent yields for the private sector. For example, in 2005 when the present system was introduced, the discount factor for the south-west was 44%; in 2013/14 it is 31%.	With council housing having a balance- sheet cost of around £210m, each 1% change in the social housing discount factor moves the valuation up or down by £2m while having no effect on the actual housing stock itself.
Pensions Liability	Estimates of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. The Council works in partnership with other local authorities to engage a firm of consulting actuaries to provide expert advice about the assumptions to be applied, and reviews those assumptions in discussion with its partner Councils. Part of the annual accounts process is to review previous assumptions and test them against what actually happened, to provide further data for future assumptions.	The effects on the net pension liability of many changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For example, if the discount rate were to change by plus or minus 0.1% from its assumed 4.5%, then the projected service cost would be between £2.749m to £2.886m. A similar change of 1 year in the mortality age range assumption means the projected service cost could be from £2.723m to £2.911m.

Item	Significant Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
	With so much national debate and change in pension provisions, the assumptions are both difficult to predict from historical data and likely to change significantly in the short to medium term. The pensions liability and its underlying data is therefore very much a carefully-reasoned estimate of the most likely combination of factors, but by its very nature is significantly uncertain.	However, the assumptions interact in complex ways; for example, pension membership may fall, the proportion of commutable pension exchanged by members for cash on retirement may go up while members live longer and equity yields improve.
Business Rates Appeals Provision	Estimates has been made for the provision for refunding ratepayers who have successfully appealed against the rateable value of their properties. This includes the current and previous financial years. The estimate is based on those ratepayers who have appealed.	There is uncertainty and risk surrounding the calculation of the provision as future events may affect the amount required to settle an obligation.
Arrears	At 31 March 2014 the Council had a balance of Council Tax debtors of £2.6m, up from the £2m the previous year, which is to be expected when collecting council tax of around £50m each year. The Council has made an impairment provision within the collection fund of £1.6m to cover debts that are not collectible for a variety of reasons; this Council's share of this is 11% of the total. However, in the current economic climate the level of unpaid debts could change significantly at short notice.	The Council is confident that the current levels of provision present a true and fair estimate of likely unpaid debts. However, the figures are large; with council tax income of over £50m this year from approximately 49,000 households, a 0.1% change in the collection rate changes the amount collected by around £50k in a full year (the Council's risk would be 11% of this amount). The Council's collection rate for 2013/14 was 99%.

### 5. Material Items of Income and Expense

During the year, there have been 47 sales of Council dwellings to Council tenants, 1 sale on the open market, 31 dwellings were disposed of to a housing association and the sale of some Housing Revenue Account land resulting in a gain shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement of £1,016k. There have also been a number General Fund properties and vehicles sold during the year resulting in a total net loss shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement of £658k.

During 2013/14 there was a significant revaluation loss in relation to Deane House of £2.2m. This is a notional charge which does not affect council tax payers but does reduce the value of the asset on the balance sheet. This value will be reviewed in 5 years time as part of the cyclical revaluation programme.

# 6. Events After the Balance Sheet Date

There have been no events after the balance sheet date of 31 March 2014 that require the financial statements or notes to be adjusted for 2013/14.

# 7. Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Regulations

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

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

# General Fund Balance

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

## Housing Revenue Account Balance

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

## Major Repairs Reserve

The Council is required to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve, which controls the application of the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA). The MRA is restricted to being applied to new capital investment in HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the MRA that has yet to be applied at the year-end.

# Capital Receipts Reserve

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

# Capital Grants Unapplied

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

# Taunton Deane Borough Council

The table below shows the adjustments that have been made between the accounting basis and funding basis:

		Us	able Reserv	res		
2013/14			D.		-	
	General Fund Balance $\mathcal{E}'000$	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £'000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement						
Charges for depreciation of non-current assets	(1,485)	(6,758)	0	0	0	8,243
Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment	(818)	0	0	0	0	818
Amortisation of intangible assets	(28)	(68)	0	0	0	96
Capital grants and contributions applied	1,051	0	0	0	0	(1,051)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(977)	0	0	0	0	977
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(25)	(2,579)	0	0	0	2,604
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	729	1,851	0	0	0	(2,580)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	789	1,445	0	0	0	(2,234)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:						
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	105	0	0	0	(105)	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0	0	0	278	(278)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and Expenditure Account Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance	17	2,904	(2,921)	0	0	0
new capital expenditure	0	0	2,441	0	0	(2,441)
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards the administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	0	(61)	61	0	0	0
Contribution from the Capital Receipt reserve to finance the payments to the central government capital receipts pool	(284)	0	284	0	0	0
Adjustments primarily involving the Major Repairs Reserve:						
Transfer dwelling depreciation to Major Repairs Reserve	0	6,414	0	(6,414)	0	0

		119	able Reserv			
2013/14		00				
2013/14	General Fund Balance £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £'000
Transfer non-dwelling depreciation to Major Repairs Reserve	0	412	0	(412)		0
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	6,561	0	(6,561)
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Employers pension contributions and direct	(5,451)	(917)	0	0	0	6,368
payments to pensioners payable in the year	1,989	339	0	0	0	(2,328)
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(1,198)	0	0	0	0	1,198
Adjustments primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in						
accordance with statutory requirements Total Adjustments 2013/14	(15) (5,601)	2 2,984	0 (135)	0 (265)	0 173	13 <b>2,844</b>

		Us	able Reserv	ves		
2012/13 Comparative Figures	General Fund Balance £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £'000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement						
Charges for depreciation of non-current assets	(1,407)	(6,435)	0	0	0	7,842
Charges for impairment of non-current assets	0	96	0	0	0	(96)
Excess of depreciation charged to HRA services over the MRA	0	(346)	0	0	0	346
Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment	(20)	0	0	0	0	20

	î					
		Us	able Reserv	/es		
2012/13 Comparative Figures	General Fund Balance £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £'000
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties						
Amortisation of intangible assets	(50)	(67)	0	0	0	117
Capital grants and contributions applied	948	0	0	0	0	(948)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(1,028)	0	0	0	0	1,028
Self Financing						
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,342)	(1,574)	0	0	0	2,916
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	955	1,646	0	0	0	(2,601)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	1,011	0	0	0	0	(1,011)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:						
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	17	0	0	0	(17)	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0	0	0	1,781	(1,781)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and Expenditure Account	3,354	2,381	(5,735)	0	0	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	435	0	0	(435)
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards the administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	0	(48)	48	0	0	0
Contribution from the Capital Receipt reserve to finance the payments to the central government capital receipts pool	(380)	0	380	0	0	0

		lls	able Reserv	/85		
2012/12 Compositive Figures (Destated)	1	03				
2012/13 Comparative Figures (Restated)		÷				
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	and	Ac	se	- e	api	sat
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	General £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £'000
	Genei £'000	Housi £'000	E,C E	E, Ma	£,C £	Movement Reserves £'000
Adjustments primarily involving the Major						
Repairs Reserve:						
Transfer dwelling depreciation to Major Repairs	0	6434	0	(6434)	0	0
Reserve	Ũ	0.01	Ū	(0.0.1)	Ũ	C C
Transfer non-dwelling depreciation to Major	0	413	0	(413)	0	0
Repairs Reserve	-	_	_	( - )	-	-
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance credited to						
the HRA						
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new	0	0	0	4,649	0	(4,649)
Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	4,043	0	(4,043)
Adjustments primarily involving the Financial						
Instruments Adjustment Account:						
Amounts by which finance costs charged to the						
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			_			
Statement are different from finance costs	0	39	0	0	0	(39)
chargeable in the year in accordance with						
statutory requirements						
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions						
Reserve: (Restated) Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits						
debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income	(4,290)	(879)	0	0	0	5,169
and Expenditure Statement	(4,290)	(079)	0	0	0	5,109
Employers pension contributions and direct						
payments to pensioners payable in the year	1,793	298	0	0	0	(2,091)
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection						
Fund Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which council tax income credited to						
the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure						
Statement is different from council tax income	(186)	0	0	0	0	186
calculated for the year in accordance with	( )					
statutory requirements						
Adjustments primarily involving the						
Accumulated Absences Account:						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to						
the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure						
Statement on an accruals basis is different from	2	(24)	0	0	0	22
Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in	2	(24)	0	0	0	22
	2	(24)	0	0	0	22

# 8. Transfers to/From Earmarked Reserves

The table below shows the amounts set aside from the General Fund and HRA balances in capital or revenue earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans. It also shows the movement in each major earmarked reserve where amounts have either been posted to the reserve or back to meet General Fund and HRA expenditure in 2013/14.

	Balance at 31 March 2012 £'000	Transfers In 2012/13 £'000	Transfers Out 2012/13 £'000	Balance at 31 March 2013 £'000	Transfers In 2013/14 £'000	Transfers Out 2013/14 £'000	Balance at 31 March 2014 £'000
General Fund							
Asset Management - General	218	120	0	338	19	(107)	250
Asset Management - Leisure	784	74	(85)	773	176	(620)	329
Capital Financing Reserve	939	242	(190)	991	3,372	0	4,363
Carryforwards	0	541	0	541	475	(541)	475
CEO Initiatives	60	21	(1)	80	41	(17)	104
Core Council Review	146	0	(14)	132	0	(132)	0
DLO Trading Account	222	0	(84)	138	67	0	205
DLO Vehicle Replacement Reserve	117	202	(319)	0	241	0	241
Eco Towns Projects	149	0	(29)	120	0	(24)	96
Growth & Regeneration Service Costs	886	13	(340)	559	50	(387)	222
Homelessness Grant	0	123	0	123	26	0	149
Housing Enabling	218	7	(17)	208	4	(36)	176
JM & SS Project EMR	0	0	0	0	1,418	0	1,418
Local Plan Enquiry	238	187	(63)	362	137	(95)	404
Monkton Heathfield EMR	0	0	0	0	300	0	300
New Homes Bonus Reserve	392	648	0	1,040	1,354	(1,600)	794
Performance & Client Consultancy	144	0	(36)	108	163	(60)	211
Planning Delivery Grant	237	0	(44)	193	0	(41)	152
Self Insurance Fund	750	0	0	750	0	(250)	500
TDBC share of NNDR Surplus/Deficit	0	0	0	0	1,265	0	1,265
Troubled Families	0	256	(10)	246	249	(143)	352
Other earmarked reserves	1,215	667	(1,075)	807	681	(485)	1,003
Total General Fund	6,598	2,899	(1,988)	7,509	10,038	(4,538)	13,009

	Balance at 31 March 2012 £'000	Transfers In 2012/13 £'000	Transfers Out 2012/13 £'000	Balance at 31 March 2013 £'000	Transfers In 2013/14 £'000	Transfers Out 2013/14 £'000	Balance at 31 March 2014 £'000
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)							
Capital Financing Reserve	78	0	0	78	1	0	79
Customer Access & Accomm Project	0	0	0	0	36	0	36
DLO Transformation	77	0	(11)	66	1	(22)	45
Halcon Reserve	65	0	(13)	52	0	(28)	24
Social Housing Development Fund	0	1,108	0	1,108	822	(1,526)	404
Other earmarked reserves	253	1	(240)	14	50	(38)	26
Total HRA	474	1,109	(264)	1,319	909	(1,614)	614

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Included in the reserves above is the Council's Self Insurance Fund. This is a sum of £500,000 which is set aside for self insurance in respect of property risks. The Stop Loss insurance policy for Council Dwellings has excesses of £50,000 per property and up to £250,000 per year.

# 9. Other Operating Expenditure

Taunton Deane Borough Council

The note below details what is included in the 'other operating expenditure' line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This now includes the Pension administration costs.

2012/13 (Restated)		2013/14
(Restated) £'000		£'000
482	Parish Council precepts	521
380	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	284
8	Pension administration costs	29
(2,770)	(Gains)/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	(358)
(1,900)	Total	476

# **10.** Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

The note below details what is included in the 'Financing and investment income and expenditure' line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Restated 2012/13		2013/14
£'000		£'000
287	Trading account (surpluses) and deficits	(6)
2,769	Interest payable and similar charges	2,942
2,955	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	2,966
(185)	Interest receivable and similar income	(344)
(222)	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their Fair Value	(137)
5,604	Total	5,421

# 11. Taxation and Non Specific Grant Incomes

The note below details what is included in the 'Taxation and non-specific grant income' line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2012/13		2013/14
£'000		£'000
6,099	Council tax income	4,355
5,207	Non-domestic rates income and expenditure	3,504
1,563	Non-ringfenced government grants	5,360
966	Capital grants and contributions	1,155
13,835	Total	14,374

More details of grants the Council has received can be found in Note 33 Grant Income.

# 12. Property, Plant and Equipment

The table below details the movement on the Council's assets shown on the Balance Sheet as Property Plant and Equipment.

Movements in 2013/14							
	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000
Cost or Valuation							
At 1 April 2013	206,400	77,871	8,752	11,713	6,965	2,645	314,346
Additions	8,572	2,172	802	0	52	345	11,943
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(2,447)	(101)	0	0	0	0	(2,548)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(1,968)	0	0	0	0	(1,968)
Derecognition - disposals	(1,256)	0	0	0	0	0	(1,256)
Derecognition - other	(746)	0	0	0	0	0	(746)
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	(630)	(216)	0	0	0	0	(846)
At 31 March 2014	209,893	77,758	9,554	11,713	7,017	2,990	318,925
Accumulated Depreciation and Imp	pairments						
At 1 April 2013	0	(1,545)	(2,826)	(1,129)	(77)	0	(5,577)
Depreciation Charge	(6,414)	(917)	(748)	(164)	0	0	(8,243)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	6,414	473	0	0	0	0	6,887
Depreciation written out to Surplus Deficit on Provision of Services	0	737	0	0	0	0	737
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition - Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition – Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2014	0	(1,252)	(3,574)	(1,293)	(77)	0	(6,196)
Net Book Value As at 31 March 2014	209,893	76,506	5,980	10,420	6,940	2,990	312,729

Comparative Movements in 2012/13		ס	ţ				
2012/13	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000
Cost or Valuation							
At 1 April 2012	208,800	78,514	6,762	11,713	4,288	3,757	313,834
Additions	4,610	120	1,675	0	1,389	530	8,324
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(5,305)	(66)	0	0	0	0	(5,371)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(23)	0	0	0	0	(23)
Derecognition - disposals	(1,361)	(634)	(39)	0	0	0	(2,034)
Derecognition - other	40	(40)	354	0	1,288	(1,642)	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	(384)	0	0	0	0	0	(384)
At 31 March 2013	206,400	77,871	8,752	11,713	6,965	2,645	314,346
Accumulated Depreciation and Imp	pairments						
At 1 April 2012	(4,026)	(2,870)	(2,233)	(965)	(77)	0	(10,171)
Depreciation Charge	(6,434)	(958)	(632)	(164)	0	0	(8,188)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	10,374	2,264	0	0	0	0	12,638
Depreciation written out to Surplus Deficit on Provision of Services	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	96	0	0	0	0	0	96
Derecognition - Disposals	0	6	39	0	0	0	45
Derecognition – Other	(10)	10	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2013	0	(1,545)	(2,826)	(1,129)	(77)	0	(5,577)
Net Book Value As at 31 March 2013	206,400	76,326	5,926	10,584	6,888	2,645	308,769

# Depreciation

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

- Council Dwellings The Major Repairs Allowance is used as a reasonable estimate for depreciation
- Other Land and Buildings Straight Line allocation over a useful life of between 25-60 years
- Vehicles Plant and Equipment Straight line basis over a useful life of between 4-10 years
- Infrastructure Depreciation on a straight line basis of between 5-50 years.

# **Capital Commitments**

The major commitments on the Council's Housing Revenue Account and General Fund Capital Programme in 2014/15 are shown below.

# **General Fund**

The Council has entered into a contract for Blackbrook Pool which is due to be completed in 2015/16. Remaining commitments on this contract are approximately £5.3m.

Similar commitments as at 31 March 2013 on General Fund Projects were approximately £240k in total.

# **Housing Revenue Account**

At the 31 March 2014 the Council has entered into a number of contracts to maintain the Housing Stock in 2013/14. The commitments are: Air Source Heat Pump installation £2,680k.

Similar commitments at 31 March 2013 on Housing Revenue Account contracts were £521k

# Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property Plant and Equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every five years. All valuations are carried out by TDBC staff. All valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Valuations of vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are based on current prices where there is an active second-hand market or latest prices adjusted for the condition of the asset.

The valuation report received states the following basis has been used in calculating the fair value of Property Plant and Equipment. Existing Use Value (EUV) has been used where there is sufficient evidence of market transactions and Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) has been used where the asset is of specialised nature or where there is little or no evidence of market transactions.

The assets have been valued taking into account the following assumptions:

- Building surveys have not been carried out and properties not inspected where it is not considered necessary in view of the purpose and methodology of the valuation. It is therefore assumed that parts of the building are considered in good repair and condition.
- It is assumed that there is not any significant risk that any deleterious or hazardous material has been used in the construction of the properties.
- Unless already advised it has been assumed that the properties are not, nor are likely to be affected by land contamination and there are no ground conditions that would affect the present or future used of the properties.
- No allowance has been made for rights, obligations or liabilities arising from the Defective Premises Act 1972.
- When valuing properties using EUV or DRC, it is assumed that planning permission exists for the use of the property.
- It is assumed there are no outstanding debts or mortgages on the properties.

The table below shows the values against the latest valuation dates for each group of assets:

	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles Plant and Equipment £'000	Total £'000
Carried at historical cost	4,610	1,118	9,554	15,282
Valued at fair value as at:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
31 March 2008	526	0	0	526
1 April 2009	0	10,381	0	10,381
31 March 2010	0	15,041	0	15,041
1 April 2010	0	11,622	0	11,622
31 March 2011	363	397	0	760
1 April 2011	0	15,373	0	15,373
1 April 2012	200,901	21,806	0	222,707
31 March 2013	0	2,133	0	2,133
31 March 2014	0	4,845	0	4,845

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	Total Cost or Valuation	206,400	82,716	9,554	298,670	

# 13. Heritage Assets

A heritage asset is described as an asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

The Council recognised heritage assets to the value of £141k for the first time in 2011/12. The Council's heritage assets consist of civic insignia and silver. The Council has not depreciated heritage assets as the civic insignia and silver are assumed to have an indefinite useful life. There have been no additions or disposals of heritage assets in year.

2012/13		2013/14
£'000		£'000
141	Balance at start of the year	141
141	Balance at end of the year	141

The main items included in the Civic Insignia and Silver are:

- The Mayor's Chain this was acquired in 1884 and presented to the Corporation of Taunton. Every year a new shield was added up until 1973/74. Altogether there are 68 shields on the chain and on each shield is the name of each mayor. The chain is believed to be 18 carat gold and the medallion 9 carat gold. The weight of the chain in total is 750 grams. The chain was transferred to Taunton Deane Borough Council in 1974 on the reorganisation of local government. The chain is worn by the mayor at most civic engagements.
- The Mayoress's Chain this was acquired in 1928 and there are 37 shields on the chain each with the names of the mayoress on. The chain is believed to be 14 carat gold and the medallion is diamond encrusted. The total weight of the chain is 190 grams. The chain was transferred to Taunton Deane Borough Council in 1974 on the reorganisation of local government. The chain is worn by the mayoress at most civic engagements.
- The Mace this was acquired in 1877. The mace is silver and the weight of the mace is 2.7kg. The mace was historically used to protect the Mayor but is now used for ceremonial purposes.
- The Civic Silver this has been purchased or donated throughout the years. Some of the Civic Silver is on display to the public in a cabinet in the internal foyer at the Council's offices. The silver has half yearly outings to Annual Council and the annual civic dinner and dance where it creates a lot of interest from those attending the events.

The Council also owns various paintings including a collection by Harry Frier but it is felt that these do not meet the definition of Heritage Assets as they are not held principally for the contribution to knowledge and culture.

# **14. Investment Properties**

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

2012/13		2013/14	
£'000		£'000	
222	Rental Income from investment property	348	
222	Total	348	

The following table summarises the movement in the fair value of Investment Properties over the year:

2012/13		2013/14
£'000		£'000
3,081	Balance at start of the year	3,081
0	Net gains/(losses) from fair value adjustments	347
	Transfers:	
0	To/(from) Investment Properties Held for Sale	(212)
3,081	Balance at end of the year	3,216

## Investment Properties Held for Sale

2012/13		2013/14
£'000		£'000
291	Balance at start of the year	291
	Transfers:	
0	To/(from) Investment Properties Held for Sale	253
291	Balance at end of the year	544

Investment Properties are revalued every year at 31 March and are recognised at fair value. The fair value is based on the valuations performed by the in house valuer. All valuations were carried out in accordance with standards set out by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

# 15. Intangible Assets

The Council accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of Property, Plant and Equipment. The intangible assets include purchased licences only. All software is given a finite useful life based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the Council. The useful lives assigned to the major software suites used by the Council are:

Useful Life	Internally Generated Assets	Other Assets
5 years	None	Revenues & Benefits Software, Development Management System
10 years	None	SAP, Land Charges and Building Control system, Housing management system, Choice Based letting system

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight line basis. The amortisation of  $\pounds$ 96,600 was charged to the relevant services or if the software is used across the whole of the Council it is charged to ICT and then apportioned across all services.

The movement on intangible asset balances during the year are as follows:

2012/13 Total £'000		2013/14 Total £'000
	Balance at the start of the year:	
2,217	Gross carrying amounts	2,231
(1,660)	Accumulated amortisation	(1,777)
557	Net carrying amount at the start of the year	454
14	Additions: Purchases	78
(117)	Amortisation for the period	(97)
454	Net carrying amount at end of year	435
	Comprising:	
2,231	Gross carrying amounts	2,310
(1,777)	Accumulated amortisation	(1,875)
454		435

There are four items of capitalised software that are individually material to the financial statements:

Carrying Amount	Capitalised software	Carrying Amount	Remaining	
31 March 2013 £'000		31 March 2014 £'000	Amortisation Period	
57	SAP System	46	5 Years	
70	IDOX Land Charges and Building Control Software	80	6 Years	
82	Choice Based Lettings System	68	5 Years	
237	Housing Management System	241	4 Years	

# **16. Financial Instruments**

The definition of a financial instrument is: 'Any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity'.

The term 'financial instrument' covers both financial assets and financial liabilities. These range from straightforward trade receivables and trade payables to more complex transactions such as financial guarantees, derivatives and embedded derivatives. The Council's borrowing, finance leases and investment transactions are also classified as financial instruments.

# **Financial Liabilities**

A financial liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the Council and can be represented by a contractual obligation to deliver cash or financial assets or an obligation to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that are potentially unfavourable to the Council.

The Council's non-derivative financial liabilities held during the year are measured at amortised cost and comprised:

- Long-term loans from the Public Works Loan Board and commercial lenders
- Overdraft with NatWest bank
- Trade payables for goods and services received

# **Financial Assets**

A Financial Asset is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the Council that is represented by cash or other instruments or a contractual right to received cash or another financial asset. The financial assets held by the Council during the year are held under the following four classifications:

Loans and receivables (financial assets that have fixed or determinable payments and are not quoted in an active market) comprising:

- Cash
- Bank accounts
- Loan made to Tone Leisure for service purposes
- Fixed term deposits with banks and building societies
- Trade receivables for goods and services delivered

Available for sale financial assets (those that are quoted in an active market) comprising:

- Money market funds and other collective investment schemes
- Certificates of deposit issues by banks and building societies
- Treasury bills and gilts issued by the UK Government

Assets held at fair value through profit and loss comprising:

• Externally managed funds that are held for trading

# **Financial Instruments - Balances**

The financial liabilities disclosed in the Balance Sheet are analysed across the following categories:

	Long	Short Term		
Financial Liabilities	31 March 2013 £'000	31 March 2014 £'000	31 March 2013 £'000	31 March 2014 £'000
Loans at amortised cost:				
- Principal sum borrowed	94,198	92,125	0	2,073
- Accrued interest	181	181	0	0
Total Borrowing	94,379	92,306	0	2,073
Liabilities at amortised cost:				
- Trade payables	0	0	4,334	5,390
Included in Creditors	0	0	4,334	5,390
Total Financial Liabilities	94,379	92,306	4,334	7,463

The financial assets disclosed in the Balance Sheet are analysed across the following categories:

	Long	Term	Short	Term
Financial Assets	31 March 2013 £'000	31 March 2014 £'000	31 March 2013 £'000	31 March 2014 £'000
Loans and receivables:				
- Principal at amortised cost	3	3	8,000	9,000
- Accrued Interest	0	0	9	20
Total Investments	3	3	8,009	9,020
Loans and receivables:				
- Cash	0	0	541	539
- Cash equivalents at amortised cost	0	0	2,000	4,500
- Accrued interest	0	0	1	2
Available-for-sale investments:				
- Cash equivalents at amortised cost	0	0	8,300	12,200
- Accrued Interest	0	0	5	8
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	0	0	10,847	17,249
Loans and receivables:				
- Trade receivables	86	79	2,370	857
- Loans made for service purposes	254	191	64	0
Included in Debtors	340	270	2,434	857
Total Financial Assets	343	273	21,290	27,126

£191k of loans made for service purposes in 2013/14 meet the definition of capital expenditure in the Capital Finance Regulations.

# Soft Loans

Soft loans are those advanced at below market rates in support of the Council's service priorities.

The Council has no material outstanding soft loans and has made no material soft loans in 2013/14.

# Financial Instruments – Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments consists of the following items shown in the table on the next page:

# 2013/14

# Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2012/13				201	3/14		
	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £'000	Financial Assets: Loans and receivables $\pounds'000$	Financial Assets: Available for sale $\mathcal{E}'000$	Total £'000	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £'000	Financial Assets: Loans and receivables £'000	Financial Assets: Available for sale £'000	Total £'000
Total interest expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,769	0	0	2,769	2,942	0	0	2,942
Total interest income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(145)	(40)	(185)	0	(316)	(28)	(344)

# **Financial Instruments - Fair Values**

Financial assets classified as loans and receivables and all non-derivative financial liabilities are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair values have been estimated by calculating the net present value of the remaining contractual cashflows at 31 March 2014 using the following assumptions:

- PWLB loans have been discounted at the published interest rates for new certainty rate loans arranged on 31 March
- Other long-term loans and investments have been discounted at the market rates for similar instruments on 31 March
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised
- The fair value of short-term instruments, including trade payables and receivables is assumed to be approximate to the carrying amount.

# **Financial Liabilities**

	31 Marc	ch 2013	31 March 2014	
	Carrying amount £'000	Fair value £'000	Carrying amount £'000	Fair value £'000
Financial Liabilities Borrowing	94,379	106,697	94,379	91,258
Total Financial Liabilities	94,379	106,697	94,379	91,258

The fair value of the long term financial liabilities is lower than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes a number of loans where the interest rate payable is currently lower than current market rates available for similar loans as at the Balance Sheet date.

# 17. Inventories

The table below details the purchases and issues of stock during the year and any balances written off. The majority (£126k) of the inventory balance at 31 March 2014 was in relation to the stores stock.

2012/13 £		2013/14 £
168	Balance outstanding at start of year	163
829	Purchases	757
(834)	Issues	(765)
163	Balance outstanding at year-end	155

# 18. Debtors

The table below details the Council's debtors at 31 March. Debtors are amounts owed to the Council but remain unpaid at 31 March. Included in the figures per classification is an allowance for the impairment of the debts.

# Current Debtors:

31 March 2013 £'000		31 March 2014 £'000
921	Central Government	566
670	Other local authorities	1,164
26	NHS Bodies	6
3,082	Other entities and individuals	2,598
4,699	Total	4,334

# Long term Debtors:

Long term debtors are debtors that are due in over 12 months.

31 March 2013 £'000		31 March 2014 £'000
70	Sundry Mortgages	67
17	Car/Bike Loans to Employees	12
254	Tone Leisure Loan	191
341	Total	270

# **19. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

The table below shows how the balance of cash and cash equivalents held by the Council at 31 March is made up. Cash and cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash. The details of what is included in as cash and cash equivalents is detailed in (iii) of note 1 Accounting Policies.

31 March 2013 £'000		31 March 2014 £'000
8	Cash Held by the Council	6
539	Bank current accounts	535
2,000	Call Accounts	7,008
1,000	VNAV Short Duration Bond Fund	2,000

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7,300	Money Market Funds	5,200
0	Short-term deposits	2,500
10,847	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	17,249

# 20. Assets Held for Sale

The table below details the balances of Assets Held for Sale at 31 March. For an asset to be classified as held for sale it must meet the following criteria:

- Be available for sale in its present condition
- The sale must be highly probable and have Member approval
- The asset must be actively marketed for sale at a price that is reasonable in relation to its current fair value
- The sale must be expected to be completed within one year of classification (in some circumstances if it is expected to take longer than a year to complete but still meets the other criteria it may be included as a non-current asset held for sale).

Also included as assets held for sale are Right-To-Buy (RTB) applications where it is highly probable the Council Dwelling will be sold through the RTB process.

Assets Held for Sale are revalued every year at 31 March and are recognised at lower of its carrying value and fair value less costs to sell. The maximum amount at which an asset is carried is at the amount which it was initially recognised as Held for Sale. The valuation is based on the valuations performed by TDBC valuer. All valuations were carried out in accordance with standards set out by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

# Assets Held for Sale:

Current		Current
2012/13 £'000		2013/14 £'000
1,056	Balance outstanding at start of year	513
	Assets newly classified as held for sale	
384	- Property Plant and Equipment	852
(927)	Assets sold	(577)
513	Balance outstanding at year-end	788

# 21. Creditors

The table below details the Council's creditors at 31 March. Creditors are amounts owed by the Council at 31 March in respect of goods and services received before the end of the financial year.

31 March 2013 £'000		31 March 2014 £'000
1,796	Central Government bodies	1,121
559	Other local authorities	1,176
0	Public corporations and trading funds	14
8,825	Other entities and individuals	9,311
11,180	Total	11,622

# 22. Provisions

	Provision £'000
Balance at 1 April 2013	137
Amounts used in 2013/14	(35)
Provisions made in 2013/14	1,195
Balance at 31 March 2014	1,297

# Landlord Deposit Protection Scheme

The provision balance of £12k brought forward relates to the Deposit Protection Scheme run by the Council to enable tenants to obtain private sector rented accommodation. This amount was used in full in 2013/14, and a new provision of £19k was set aside in the year representing the updated estimated liability based on previous experience of percentage of claims made.

# Personal Search Fees

The provision balance of £101k brought forward relates to a probable obligation to refund Personal Search Fees. Litigation is currently underway nationally where it is claimed that Personal Search Agents have been incorrectly charged personal search fees for a period of six years. It is considered prudent to continue to set aside the sum of £101k, which is expected to cover the cost of refunds plus associated legal costs.

#### Insurance

On 28 March 2012 the Supreme Court ruled that the insurer who was on risk at the time of an employee's exposure to asbestos was liable to pay compensation for the employee's mesothelioma. Municipal Mutual Insurance Limited (MMI) ceased writing insurance and went into run-off in September 1992. TDBC are Scheme Creditors party to the contingent Scheme of Arrangement sanctioned by the Court in January 1994. The Board of Directors has taken legal, financial and actuarial advice in order to determine the full implications of the judgement and the most appropriate way forward for MMI. The provision balance of £24k brought forward relates to the estimated levy that was due to be paid during 2013/14. The actual levy due amounted to £11k and the remainder of the provision has been released. The most recent statement indicated that no further levy was due in 2014/15.

# **Business Rates**

The Local Government Finance Act 2012 introduced changes to the accounting arrangements for Business Rates. These changes require the Council to put in a provision for appeals for refunding ratepayers who have appealed against the rateable value of their properties on the rating list. The Council has to put in its best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation which totals £2.942m in respect of the Business Rates Collection Fund.

# 23. Usable Reserves

Movements in the Council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Usable reserves are reserves that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation.

# 24. Unusable Reserves

The table below details the Council's unusable reserves. These are reserves that cannot be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation – they are not useable resources.

31 March 2013 £'000		31 March 2014 £'000
22,522	Revaluation Reserve	26,563
185,507	Capital Adjustment Account	188,218
(70,100)	Pensions Reserve	(67,194)

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(8)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(1,205)
(342)	Accumulated Absences Account	(355)
137,579	Total Unusable Reserves	146,026

# **Revaluation Reserve**

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

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

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

The table below shows that transactions that have gone through the revaluation reserve:

2012/13			2013/14
£'000			£'000
15,554	Balance at 1 April		22,522
7,462	Upwards revaluation of assets	4,976	
(196)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(632)	
7,266	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services		4,344
(298)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(303)	
(298)	Amount written off to Capital Adjustment Account		(303)
22,522	Balance at 31 March		26,563

# Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The account is credited with amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the cost of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

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

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

Note 7 – Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations, provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

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2013/14			2012/13
£'000			£'000
185,507		Balance at 1 April	185,957
		Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
	(8,243)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(8,188)
	(921)	Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	76
	(97)	Amortisation of intangible assets	(117)
	(977)	Revenue Expenditure funded from capital under statute	(1,028)
	(2,500)	Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(2,916)
(12,738)			(12,173)
303		Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	298
173,072		Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	174,082
		Use of the Capital financing applied in the year:	
	2,441	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	435
	6,561	Use of Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	4,649
	278	Capital Grants and Contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	948
	1,051	Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	1,781
	2,581	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	2,601
	2,234	Capital Expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA Balances	1,011
15,146			11,425
0		Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0
188,218		Balance at 31 March	185,507

# Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

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The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account (FIAA) was established on 1 April 2007 when Financial Reporting Standards 25, 26 and 29 relating to Financial Instruments were adopted into the 2007 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice). The balance shown in the FIAA at the end of the financial year represents the amount that should have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with proper accounting practices under the code of practice, but which Statutory Provisions allow or require to be deferred over future years.

The Council uses the Account to manage premiums paid on the early redemption of loans. Premiums are debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when they are incurred, but reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Movement in Reserves Statement. Over time, the expense is posted back to the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory arrangements for spreading the burden on Council Tax. In the Council's case, this period is the unexpired term that was outstanding on the loans when they were redeemed.

The table below details the transactions that have gone through the FIAA:

2012/13			2013/14
£'000			£'000
(39)	Balance at 1 April		0
39	Premiums incurred in the year and charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0	
39	Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements		0
0	Balance at 31 March		0

#### Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns in any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to the pension fund or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that the funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

Transactions in the pension reserve are as shown in the table below:

2012/13		2013/14
£'000		£'000
(65,513)	Balance at 1 April	(70,100)
(2,406)	Remeasurement of the Net Defined Pension Liability	6,946
(4,272)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(6,368)
2,091	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	2,328
(70,100)	Balance at 31 March	(67,194)

# **Collection Fund Adjustment Account**

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

#### Taunton Deane Borough Council

The balance shown on the Collection Fund Adjustment Account represents the Council's share of the Collection Fund surplus or deficit.

2012/13 £'000		Council Tax £'000	Business Rates £'000	2013/14 £'000
178	Balance at 1 April	(8)	0	(8)
(186)	Amount by which Council Tax/NNDR income is credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from Council Tax/NNDR income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	38	(1,235)	(1,197)
(8)	Balance at 31 March	30	(1,235)	(1,205)

#### **Accumulated Absences Account**

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

2012/13		2013/14	
£'000		£'000	£'000
(319)	Balance at 1 April		(342)
319	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	342	
(342)	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(355)	
(342)	Balance at 31 March		(355)
(23)	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from the remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(13)	

#### 25. Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

The net cash flows for operating activities line on the cash flow statement includes the following items in the table below:

2012/13		2013/14
£'000		£'000
(185)	Interest Received	(344)
2,769	Interest Paid	2,942
2,584		2,598

The following table shows the adjustments to the Net Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services for noncash movements:

2012/13 (Restated) £'000		2013/14 £'000
8,188	Depreciation	8,243
(76)	Impairment and Downward Valuations	1,094
117	Amortisation	157
(25)	Increase/(Decrease) in impairment for Bad Debts	(121)

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(3,315)	Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	442		
1,868	(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	365		
3	(Increase)/Decrease in Inventory	8		
2,181	Movement in Pension Liability	4,040		
0	Movement in Council Tax Credited	(1,198)		
2,917	Carrying amount of non current assets sold	2,396		
137	Provisions	1,297		
452	Other non cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	9		
12,447		17,007		

Adjustments for items included in the net surplus/deficit on provision of services that are Investing and Financing Activities (Note 25):

2012/13		2013/14
£'000		£'000
(5,735)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(2,927)
(5,735)		(2,927)

# 26. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

2012/13		2013/14
£'000		£'000
(8,125)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(11,626)
(149,921)	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	(108,442)
5,735	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	2,927
146,421	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	111,050
(5,890)	Net cash flows from investing activities	(6,091)

# 27. Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

2012/13		2013/14
£'000		£'000
(800)	Repayment of short-term and long-term borrowing	0
(800)	Net cash flows from financing activities	0

# 28. Amounts Reported for Resource Allocation Decisions

The analysis of income and expenditure by service on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is that specified by the Service Reporting Code of Practice. However, decisions about resource allocation are taken by the Council on the basis of regular budget reports analysed across its services and "portfolios". These reports are prepared on a different basis from the accounting policies used in the financial statements. In particular:

- No charges are made to services in relation to capital expenditure (whereas depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses in excess of the balance on the Revaluation Reserve and amortisations are charged to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement). Capital projects are, however, managed through regular budget reports.
- The cost of retirement benefits is based on cash flows (actual payment of employer's pensions contributions) rather than current service cost of benefits accrued in the year and identified by actuaries at the end of the year for adjustment into the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet.
- The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes notional charges for employee benefits accrued but not paid (such as leave entitlement not taken at year-end); this charge is irrelevant for management control purposes and is not shown in the budget reports.
- Expenditure on some support services is budgeted for and controlled centrally and not recharged to services or portfolios until the year-end.
- For management control purposes, General Fund, HRA and capital are all reported separately with the impact on the Council's reserves shown in summary tables.

The regular budget reports prepared for high-level governance are supported by a dynamic budgetholder reporting framework using SAP, a management information tool which can show individual budget holders up-to-the-minute spending and income to the penny in each of their areas of responsibility.

The table below shows the controllable expenditure and income reported to management and Members under the Council's portfolio structure.

The portfolios are as follows:

- COM Community Leadership
- COR Corporate Resources
- ECD Economic Development Asset Management and the Arts
- ENV Environmental Services
- GEN General Services
- HSG Housing Services (General Fund only)
- PTC Planning, Transportations and Communications
- SPL Sports Parks and Leisure
- HRA Housing Revenue Account

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The income and expenditure of the Council's portfolios reported to management for decisions for the year 2013/14 is as follows:

# Portfolio Analysis 2013/14

2013/14	COM £'000	COR £'000	ECD £'000	ENV £'000	GEN £'000	HSG £'000	PTC £'000	SPL £'000	Total GF Portfolios £'000	HRA £'000	Grand Total £'000
Fees, charges and other service income	(302)	(1,790)	(306)	(2,331)	(448)	(150)	(5,153)	(368)	(10,849)	(25,561)	(36,410)
Government grants and contributions	(14)	(33,083)	(8)	0	(619)	(11)	(300)	0	(34,034)	0	(34,034)
Total Income	(316)	(34,873)	(314)	(2,331)	(1,067)	(161)	(5,453)	(368)	(44,883)	(25,561)	(70,444)
Employee expenses	767	2,936	518	1,646	291	863	1,250	389	8,660	2,456	11,116
Other services and expenses	484	36,743	993	4,169	471	698	1,197	2,031	46,786	7,967	54,753
Support service recharges	75	(2,983)	131	479	896	110	881	196	(215)	2,015	1,800
Total Expenditure	1,326	36,696	1,642	6,294	1,658	1,671	3,328	2,616	55,231	12,438	67,669
Net Expenditure	1,010	1,823	1,328	3,963	591	1,510	(2,125)	2,248	10,348	(13,123)	(2,775)

The reconciliation below shows how the figures in the analysis of portfolio income and expenditure related to the amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

	2013/14 £'000
Net expenditure in the portfolio analysis	(2,775)
Net expenditure of services and support services not included in the portfolio analysis	47
Amounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement not reported to management for decisions in the portfolio analysis	9,818
Amounts included in the portfolio analysis not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0
Cost of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	7,090

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# **Reconciliation to Subjective Analysis**

This reconciliation shows how the figures in the analysis of portfolio income and expenditure relate to a subjective analysis of the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2013/14	Portfolio Analysis £'000	Services and Support Services Not in Analysis £'000	Amounts not Reported to Management £'000	Amounts Not Included in CI&ES £'000	Allocation of Recharges £'000	Cost of Services £'000	Corporate Amounts £'000	Total £'000
Fees, charges and other service income	(36,410)	0	0	0	0	(36,410)	(16,158)	(52,568)
Interest and Investment Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	(171)	(171)
Income from council tax	0	0	0	0	0	0	(4,355)	(4,355)
Government grants and contributions	(34,034)	0	0	0	0	(34,034)	(8,863)	(42,897)
Capital grants and contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,156)	(1,156)
Total Income	(70,444)	0	0	0	0	(70,444)	(30,704)	(101,147)
Employee expenses	11,115	0	723	0	0	11,838	5,377	17,216
Other service expenses	54,752	48	0	0	0	54,800	10.016	64,816
Support service recharges	1,800	0	0	0	0	1,800	651	2,451
Depreciation, amortisation, impairment and REFCUS	0	0	9,095	0	0	9,095	15	9,110
Interest payments	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,735	5,735
Precepts and levies	0	0	0	0	0	0	479	479
Payments to housing capital receipts pool	0	0	0	0	0	0	284	284
Gain or loss on disposal of long term assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	(359)	(359)
Total Expenditure	67,669	48	9,818	0	0	77,534	22,197	99,731
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(2,775)	48	9,818	0	0	7,091	(8,507)	(1,416)

# 29. Trading Operations

There are two Direct Labour Organisations currently within the Council which operate as trading accounts, these are detailed below:

#### Building Maintenance DLO

Primarily undertakes work for the Council's Housing Department maintaining the housing stock. Workload ranges from minor day-to-day repairs to major capital schemes. The DLO is also contracted to maintain the Council's public buildings and other miscellaneous properties.

#### **Grounds Maintenance DLO and Nursery**

Maintains the Council's parks, playing fields and other open spaces for both the general fund and HRA; and provision of plants for these purposes.

#### **Deane Helpline**

In addition to the DLO the Council operates the Deane Helpline, which provides a 24-hour response service to the elderly and disabled.

Trading Account performance over the past three years is detailed in the table below:

		2011/	12	2012/	/13	2013/14	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Building Maintenance DLO	Turnover	4,526		4,806		5,536	
	Expenditure	(4,601)		(5,013)		(5,471)	
	Surplus/(Deficit)		(75)		(207)		65
Grounds Maintenance DLO	Turnover	2,783		2,817		3,270	
	Expenditure	(2,671)		(2,781)		(3,179)	
	Surplus/(Deficit)		112		36		91
Net DLO Surplus/(Deficit)			37		(171)		156
Deane Helpline	Turnover	884		980		935	
	Expenditure	(1,001)		(1,096)		(1,085)	
	Surplus/(Deficit)		(117)		(116)		(150)
Net Trading Surplus/(Deficit)			(80)		(287)		6

#### Other fee charging service areas

In addition to the trading accounts above there are three service areas within The Council that run on a three year rolling budget ensuring that they break even during that period.

- a) Land Charges A transfer of £10,700 was made to the Land Charges Self Financing Reserve and will be spent in 2014/15
- b) Building Control A transfer of £17,540 was made to the Building Control Earmarked Reserve in 2013/14
- c) Licensing A transfer of £16,990 was made to the Licensing Self Financing Reserve to cover any future losses within the service.

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# 30. Officers' Remuneration

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

		Salary, Fees and Allowances £	Expenses Allowances £	Compensation for Loss of Office £	Total Remuneration excluding pension contributions £	Pension Contribution £	Total £	Annualised Salary At 31/03/2014 £
Chief Executive <sup>1</sup>	2013/14	113,090	1,310	0	114,400	0	114,400	110,000
	2012/13	110,908	3,702	0	114,610	0	114,610	
Strategic Director A	2013/14	78,157	1,542	0	79,699	14,259	93,958	85,000
	2012/13	54,652	5,391	0	60,043	9,436	69,479	
Strategic Director B	2013/14	73,543	1,094	0	74,637	13,532	88,169	80,000
	2012/13	71,391	5,005	0	76,396	12,480	88,876	
Strategic Director C <sup>2</sup>	2013/14	46,237	32	48,057	94,326	7,881	102,207	42,835
	2012/13	64,181	7,883	0	72,064	11,202	83,266	
Strategic Director D	2013/14	62,134	0	0	62,134	12,210	74,344	80,000
	2012/13	53,952	900	0	54,852	8,712	63,564	
Assistant Chief Executive and	2013/14	15,875	417	0	16,292	2,921	19,213	63,500
Monitoring Officer <sup>3</sup>	2012/13	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Assistant Director A	2013/14	56,684	841	0	57,525	10,430	67,955	60,000
	2012/13	53,592	1,162	0	54,754	9,460	64,214	
Assistant Director B	2013/14	56,684	1,725	0	58,409	10,430	68,839	60,000
	2012/13	53,952	3,591	0	57,543	9,460	67,003	
Assistant Director C	2013/14	57,104	1,107	0	58,211	10,430	68,641	60,000
	2012/13	53,952	4,128	0	58,080	9,504	67,584	
Assistant Director D	2013/14	57,403	1,239	0	58,642	11,293	69,935	60,000
	2012/13	50,596	3,582	0	54,178	8,423	62,601	
Assistant Director E <sup>3</sup>	2013/14	15,000	0	0	15,000	2,760	17,760	60,000
	2012/13	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Assistant Director F <sup>3</sup>	2013/14	10,000	226	0	10,226	1,840	12,066	60,000
	2012/13	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Theme Manager A <sup>2</sup>	2013/14	57,246	0	70,813	128,059	10,533	138,592	57,246
	2012/13	56,679	1,185	0	57,864	9,935	67,799	

Notes:

- 1 The Chief Executive opted out of the pension scheme in 2012/13.
- 2 Strategic Director C and Theme Manager A left the organisation through redundancy during 2013/14 as part of the Joint Management and Shared Services review with West Somerset Council.
- 3 Assistant Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, Assistant Director E and Assistant Director F were appointed during 2013/14 as part of the Joint Management and Shared Services review with West Somerset Council.
- 4 Strategic Director C went from 1 FTE to 0.6FTE in January 2013
- 5 During 2013/14 Taunton Deane Borough Council approved plans to share a joint management team with West Somerset Council and the above represents the full cost of remuneration. From 1 January 2014 the above posts excluding Strategic Director C and Theme Manager A, who left the organisation through redundancy, were shared with West Somerset Council except the Chief Executive who took up the role on 24 October 2013 and Assistant Director F who took up the role on 1 February 2014. From these dates the split of remuneration was 80:20 to Taunton Deane: West Somerset except the Strategic Director D where the split is 90:10 TO Taunton Deane: West Somerset and the Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer and Assistant Director F where the split is 50:50 to Taunton Deane: West Somerset.

The table below shows the number of <u>other</u> employees, (excluding the senior employees in the table above) whose remuneration, (excluding employer's pension contributions) was £50,000 or more for the year in bands of £5,000 were:

Remuneration band	2012/13 Number of employees	2013/14 Number of employees
£50,000 - £54,999	2	2
£55,000 - £59,999	3	0
£60,000 - £64,999	0	0
£65,000 - £69,999	0	1
£70,000 - £74,999	0	0
£75,000 - £79,999	0	0
£80,000 - £84,999	0	0
£85,000 - £89,999	0	0
£90,000 - £94,000	0	0
£95,000 - £99,999	0	0
£100,000 - £104,999	0	0
£105,000 - £109,999	0	0
£110,000 - £114,999	0	0
£115,000 - £119,999	0	0
£120,000 - £124,999	0	0
£125,000 - £129,999	0	0
£130,000 - £134,999	0	0
£135,000 - £139,999	0	1

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Number of other departures agreed		Number of compulsory redundancies		package	ber of exit s by cost nd	Total cost of exit packages in each band £	
	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14
£0 - £20,000	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	25,530

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£20,00	1 - £40,000	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	128,160
£40,00	1 - £60,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£60,00	1 - £80,000	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	212,580
£80,00 <sup>2</sup>	1 - £100,000	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	181,450
£100,00	0 - £150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	12	0	12	0	547,720

# 31. Members' Allowances

The table below shows the amounts payable by the Authority to Members of the Council as allowances and expenses during the year. More details of what was paid to our Members is available on our website: www.tauntondeane.gov.uk.

	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Allowances	309	298
Expenses	17	27
Total	326	325

# 32. External Audit Costs

The Council has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and statutory inspections and to non-audit services by the Council's external auditors.

2012/12		2013/14
2012/13 £'000		£'000
83	Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor*	67
31	Fees payable the certification of grant claims and returns	17
1	Fees payable in respect of other services provided during the year	2
115	Total	86

\* In 2012/13 the fees payable for external auditor services include an additional charge for work completed due to an objection to the 2011/12 accounts.

#### 33. Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2013/14:

2012/13 £'000		2013/14 £'000
	Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	
104	Revenue Support Grant	3,556
278	Council Tax Freeze Grant*	57
1,040	New Homes Bonus	1,747
141	Local Services Support Grant	0
383	Capital Grants	437
1,946	Total	5,797

Taunton Deane Boro	ugh Council	Statement of Accounts 2013/14
	Credited to Services	
6,898	Council Tax Benefit	0
18,021	Rent Allowances	18,755
12,985	Rent Rebates	13,228
733	Housing Benefit Admin	692
287	Other Grants	1,469
38,924	Total	34,144

\* Included in the Council Tax Freeze Grant figure for 2012/13 is £138k which the Government has technically distributed under the Non- domestic rates grant and Revenue Support Grant. The Council has chosen to split this out to try and show the total amount of funding under the Council Tax freeze grant.

# 34. Related Parties

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

# **UK Central Government**

UK Central Government has significant influence over the general operations of the Council – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. Council Tax bills, housing benefits). Grants income is shown in Note 33.

Transactions to and from the Pension Fund are detailed in Note 38.

# Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of Members' allowances paid in 2013/14 is shown in Note 31.

During 2004/05, the Council created a Leisure Trust, Tone Leisure, to manage its leisure services on its behalf. The Council has two Councillors on the board of Tone Leisure Ltd, but does not have overall control of the trust.

The Council is part of a joint venture partnership, Southwest One, between Taunton Deane Borough Council, Somerset County Council, Avon and Somerset Police and IBM that was established in 2007 to deliver back office and customer services and a number of wider transformation projects. The Main Board comprises an Independent Chair and Directors representing IBM and each of the founding authorities – the Chief Executive of the Police Authority representing Avon & Somerset Police and, in the case of each Council, an Elected Member. The contract costs for these services are laid out within the original contract and are therefore not influenced by the board.

The Council paid grants totalling £221,874 to voluntary organisations. A grant of £9,000 was awarded to North Taunton Partnership for which one Member has declared an interest as a trustee. In all instances,

the grants were made with proper consideration of declarations of interest. The relevant Member did not take part in any discussion or decision relating to the grants. Details of all these interests are recorded in the Register of Members Interests, open to public inspection at the Council office during office hours.

# Officers

During 2013/14 no senior officers of the Council declared any material pecuniary interest in any works, services or grants commissioned or awarded by the Council.

# 35. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

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

The CFR is analysed as follows:

Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	107,280	105,538
Capital Investment		
Property Plant and Equipment	8,324	11,942
Loans made for service purposes	318	0
Intangible Assets	15	78
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	1,028	977
	116,965	118,535
Sources of Finance		
Capital Receipts	(435)	(2,441)
Government Grants and Other Contributions	(2,740)	(1,328)
Major Repairs Allowance	(4,650)	(6,561)
Sums Set Aside from Revenue		
Direct Revenue Contributions	(1,001)	(2,234)
Minimum Revenue Provision	(2,601)	(2,581)
	(11,427)	(15,145)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	105,538	103,390

Explanation of movements in the Capital Financing Requirement in year:

	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	859	433
Decrease in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	(2,601)	(2,376)
Increase/(Decrease) in the Capital Financing Requirement	(1,742)	(1,943)

#### 36. Leases

The Council has leased a number of vehicles for its own use (lessee) and, as lessor, has leased some of its own property to third-party users. IAS17 Leases (the relevant International Accounting Standard) sets out a range of factors to decide whether a lease is an operating lease or a finance lease. The factors are simple in principle but can be complex in practice; in summary, a lease is classified as a finance lease if it transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership while a lease is classified as an operating lease simply if it is not a finance lease.

The accounting treatment is quite different. Finance leases are in effect a way of transferring ownership, assets leased under finance leases are shown in the Council's balance sheet as assets, and the cost of the lease is shown as a liability. Operating leases are in effect a way of obtaining the use of an asset, so the lease costs are charged directly to services and the asset is not shown in the balance sheet.

#### Council as Lessee

# **Operating Leases**

The Council has recorded 64 leases for vehicles ranging from vans, lorries and cars to specialist mowers. Lease periods range from 1 to 5 years, most commonly 5 years, and all current operating leases expire by March 2018. The Council also leases a number of properties on operating leases. The total of future minimum lease payments due in future years are:

	31 March 2013 £'000	31 March 2014 £'000
Not later than one year	170	162
Later than one year and not later than five years	237	152
Later than five years and not later than ten years	13	11
Later than ten years	49	49
Total payments due in future years	469	374

All leased vehicles are used by Taunton Deane DLO, and the total lease payments charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year was:

	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Minimum lease payments	170	170
Total expenditure charged	170	170

#### Council as Lessor

#### Finance Leases

During the year the Council leased out a property to Somerset County Council on a finance lease for 37 years. The lease is on a peppercorn rent.

The Council has a number of other on-going finance leases from previous years which are on a peppercorn rent. There is also another finance lease to Somerset County Council that under IFRS transition rules the annual rental income of £17k is credited as revenue income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

#### **Operating Leases**

As part of its work to support local communities, the Council has granted leases in respect of a number of its properties (principally commercial premises and business units) which are treated as operating leases.

#### Taunton Deane Borough Council

Due to the nature of leases granted by the Council, and in particular its aim of tackling community deprivation and sustainable community deprivation mixed with its commercial awareness, the gross investment in the lease and the minimum lease payments that will be received over the following periods are subject to significant and sometimes-unpredictable variables such as property values at rent-review intervals and the subsequent change in lease payments. For example, particularly in the current economic climate, it is in practice impossible to reliably predict how long a new or renewing leaseholder may be prepared to commit to. The figures in the table below are therefore a reasoned estimate assuming that annual lease income remains constant.

# **Operating Leases:**

Operating leases:	31 March 2013 £'000	31 March 2014 £'000
Not later than one year	635	664
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,334	2,440
Later than five years and not later than ten years	2,501	2,614
Total payments due in future years	5,470	5,718

The minimum lease payments above do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. Due to the inherent variability of rental income in the medium to long term, the information in this note has been closed-off at ten years. This will be reviewed in future years if less volatile information becomes available.

# **37. Termination Benefits**

The Council terminated the contracts of ten of its employees in 2013/14, compared to none in 2012/13. As part of the Joint Management and Shared Service (JMASS) partnership with West Somerset the Councils jointly terminated the contracts of a further two employees in 2013/14. See note 30 for the number of exit packages and total cost per band.\*

# 38. Defined Benefit Pensions Schemes

# Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of the employment of its officers, the Council makes contributions towards the cost of post employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire the Council has a commitment to make the payments that need to be disclosed at the time that the employees earn their future entitlement.

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Somerset County Council. This is a funded scheme, which means that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with the investment assets.

# Transactions relating to post employment benefits

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge we are required to make against Council Tax is based on cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund and the HRA via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions shown in the table have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund/HRA Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

	Local Govern	ment Pension	Scheme
	2012/13 £'000	Restated 2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)			
Cost of Services:			
Service Cost	0	2,206	3,327
Current service cost	2,882	0	C
Past service costs	0	0	46
Settlements and curtailments	(676)	0	C
Administration expenses	0	8	29
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:			
Net interest on the defined liability	0	2,955	2,966
Interest Cost	5,766	0	C
Expected return on scheme assets	(3,700)	0	C
Total Post-Employment Benefits charged to the Surplus on the Provision of Services	4,272	5,169	6,368
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:			
Return on assets (excluding the amount included in net interest expense)	0	(6,805)	(1,009)
Change in financial assumptions	0	8,222	303
Change in demographic assumptions	0	0	4,624
Experience (gain)/loss on defined benefit obligation	0	92	(9,875)
Other actuarial (gains)/losses on assets	0	0	(989)
Prior to new standard - Actuarial (Gains) and Losses	2,406	0	C
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the CIES	2,406	1,509	(6,946)
Movement in Reserves Statement			
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the code	(4,272)	(5,169)	(6,368)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:			
Employers contributions payable to scheme	2,091	2,091	2,328

# Assets and Liabilities in Relation to Post-employment Benefits

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities (defined benefit obligation):

		ded Liabilities nment Pensior	
	2012/13 £'000	Restated 2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Opening balance at 1 April	(128,844)	(128,844)	(139,890)
Current service cost	(2,882)	(2,882)	(3,327)
Interest cost	(5,766)	(5,766)	(5,931)
Change in financial assumptions	0	(8,222)	(303)
Change in demographic assumptions	0	0	(4,624)
Experience (loss)/gain on defined benefit obligation	0	(92)	9,875
Contributions by scheme participants	(734)	(734)	(749)
Actuarial gains and (losses)	(8,314)	0	0
Benefits paid	4,608	4,608	4,597
Past service costs, including curtailments	0	0	(46)
Settlements	1,885	1,885	0
Unfunded pension payments	157	157	156
Closing balance at 31 March	(139,890)	(139,890)	(140,242)

# Reconciliation of fair value of the scheme assets:

	Local Government Pension Scheme			
	2012/13 £'000	Restated 2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000	
Opening balance at 1 April	63,331	63,331	69,790	
Expected rate of return	3,700	0	0	
Interest on assets	0	2,811	2,965	
Return on assets less interest	0	6,805	1,009	
Other actuarial gains/(losses)	0	0	989	
Actuarial gains and losses	5,908	0	0	
Administration expenses	0	(8)	(29)	
Employer contributions	2,091	2,091	2,328	
Contributions by scheme participants	734	734	749	
Benefits Paid	(4,765)	(4,765)	(4,753)	
Payment of bulk transfer value	(1,209)	(1,209)	0	
Closing balance at 31 March	69,790	69,790	73,048	

#### **Expected Return on Assets**

For accounting years beginning on or after 1 January 2013, the expected return and the interest cost will be replaced with a single net interest cost, which will effectively set the expected return equal to the discount rate.

The actual return on scheme assets in the year was £3,974,000 (2012/13 £9,608,000)

# Scheme History

	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000	2011/12 £'000	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Present value of liabilities	(120,887)	(109,053)	(128,844)	(139,890)	(140,242)
*Fair value of assets	59,433	63,636	63,331	69,790	73,048
Surplus/(Deficit) in the scheme	(61,454)	(45,417)	(65,513)	(70,100)	(67,194)

\*From the information we have received from the Administering Authority we understand that of the total Fund of 28 February 2014, 1% of Equities and 9% of Property did not have a quoted market price in an active market.

- The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Council has in the long run to pay post employment (retirement) benefits. The total liability of £67,194,000 has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Council as recorded in the Balance Sheet. However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Council remains healthy:
- The deficit on the Local Government scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees (i.e. before payments fall due), as assessed by the scheme actuary.

The total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the Council in the year 31 March 2015 is: £2,319,000.

# Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependant on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc. The Local Government Pension Scheme has been assessed by Barnett Waddingham, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2013.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary are detailed in the table below:	Local Government Pension Scheme		
	2012/13	2013/14	
Long-term expected rate of return on assets in the scheme:			
Equity investments	6%	6%	
Government Bonds	6%	6%	
Corporate Bonds	6%	6%	
Property	6%	6%	
Cash	6%	6%	
Mortality assumptions			
Longevity at 65 for pensioners retiring today:			
Men	20.1	23.6	
Women	24.1	26.0	
Longevity at 65 for pensioners retiring in 20 years:			
Men	22.1	25.8	

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The principal assumptions used by the actuary are detailed in the table below:	Local Government Pens	nsion Scheme	
	2012/13	2013/14	
Women	26.0	28.3	
Financial assumptions			
RPI Increases	3.3%	3.6%	
CPI Increases	2.5%	2.8%	
Rate of increase in salaries	4.7%	4.6%	
Rate of increase in pensions	2.5%	2.8%	
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.3%	4.5%	
Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum	Not available	10%	

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

	31 March 2013	31 March 2014
Equity Investments	72%	71%
Gilts	8%	6%
Other Bonds	11%	11%
Property	8%	10%
Cash	1%	2%

# Sensitivity Analysis:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustment to discount rate	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	137,712	140,242	142,821
Projected service cost	2,749	2,817	2,886
Adjustment to long term salary increase	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	140,620	140,242	139,866
Projected service cost	2,817	2,817	2,817
Adjustment to pension increases and deferred revaluation	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	142,483	140,242	138,044
Projected service cost	2,887	2,817	2,748
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption	+1 Year	None	-1 Year
Present value of total obligation	135,442	140,242	145,083
Projected service cost	2,723	2,817	2,911

# **39. Contingent Liabilities**

# **Tone Leisure**

During 2004/05, the Council created a Leisure Trust, Tone Leisure, to manage its leisure services on its behalf. The Council fully deficit-funds the Leisure Trust. During the creation of the trust, Tone Leisure has become an admitted body into the Somerset County Council Pension Fund and the Council has provided a guarantee that it will meet the employers' contributions due to the Pension Fund if the Trust were to fail to make the necessary payments. In addition if there were to be a deficit on the Pension

Fund - attributable to Tone Leisure's employee pension entitlements at the date of termination of the Council's relationship with the Trust - then the Council would need to make good that deficit by increasing its own contributions to the Fund on an agreed basis. The deficit on the Pension Fund attributable to Tone Leisure at 31 March 2014 has not been included within the Council's main financial statements. However, the amount disclosed, in compliance with the relevant accounting requirements, does not fully reflect the Council's overall potential liability in this matter, which amounts to approximately £1.761m (2012/13 £1.920m).

# **Business Rates Retention**

A provision for current and backdated appeals of £2.942m has been set up as part of the changes to Business Rates as a requirement of the Code. There could be future appeals in respect of rates billed to date but there is no reasonable basis of estimating what that total could be.

# South West Audit Partnership Limited

In March 2013, new governance arrangements were approved with the formation of a new company limited by guarantee to replace the previous Joint Committee. At its Full Council meeting on 4 March 2013, Taunton Deane Borough Council elected to become a Member of the Company – South West Audit Partnership Ltd – with effect from 1 April 2013. At the same meeting the Council offered to guarantee to the Somerset Pension Fund the level of deficit funding related to ex-TDBC employees, estimated at £149k.

# 40. Contingent Assets

The Council has identified no material contingent assets in 2013/14.

# 41. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising From Financial Instruments

The Council has adopted CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management (and subsequent amendments) and complies with The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (both revised in November 2011).

As part of the adoption of the Treasury Management Code, the Council approves a Treasury Management Strategy before the commencement of each financial year. The Strategy sets out the parameters for the management of risks associated with Financial Instruments. The Council also produces Treasury Management Practices specifying the practical arrangements to be followed to manage these risks.

The Treasury Management Strategy includes an Annual Investment Strategy in compliance with the Communities and Local Government Investment Guidance for Local Authorities. This guidance emphasises that priority is to be given to security and liquidity rather than yield. The Council's Treasury Strategy, together with its Treasury Management Practices, are based on seeking the highest rate of return consistent with the proper levels of security and liquidity.

The main risks covered are:

- **Credit Risk** The possibility that one party to a financial instrument will fail to meet its contractual obligations, causing a loss for the other party.
- Liquidity Risk The possibility that the Council might not have the cash available to make its contracted payments on time.
- *Market Risk* The possibility that financial loss will materialise because of changes in market variables such as interest rates or equity prices.

# Credit Risk: Investments

The Council manages credit risk by ensuring that investments are placed with organisations of high credit quality as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy. These include commercial entities with a minimum long-term credit rating of A-, and other local authorities without credit ratings. Recognising that

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credit ratings are imperfect predicators of default, the Council has regard to other measures including credit default swap and equity prices when selecting commercial organisations for investment.

A limit of up to £3.5m is placed on the amount of money that can be invested with a single counterparty. The Council also sets a total group investment limit for institutions that are part of the same banking group. No more than £3.5m in total can be invested for a period of longer than a year.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies of £3.5m cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Council's deposits, but there was no evidence at the 31 March 2014 that this was likely to crystallise.

The Council does not hold collateral against any investments.

The table below summarises the credit risk exposures of the Council's investment portfolio by credit rating:

	Short Term		
Credit Rating	31/03/2013 31/03/20 £'000 £'000		
AAA	8,300	0	
AA-	1,000	0	
A+	2,500	0	
A	6,500	0	
A-	0	25,700	
Total	18,300	25,700	

#### Trade Receivables

During 2013/14 the Council continued to carefully review historic debtor balances and has written off old irrecoverable debts. The Council has a policy of exploring cost effective ways to ensure debts are fully recovered and thus minimise exposure to credit risk.

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk, based on the experience gathered on the level of default on trade debtors, adjusted for current market conditions. Only those receivables meeting the definition of a financial asset are included.

Balances and transactions arising from statutory functions such as Council Tax and NNDR are excluded from this disclosure note, as they have not arisen from contractual trading activities. However, the analysis below does include amounts owed to the Council by Central Government, other Local Authorities and NHS bodies.

31 March 2013 Trade Debtors £'000		31 March 2014 Trade Debtors £'000	31 March 2014 Impairment £'000	31 March 2014 Trade Debtors not impaired £'000
1,205	Less than three months	1,061	0	1,061
47	Over three months up to six months	33	9	24
111	Over six months up to one year	84	23	61
579	More than one year	167	142	25
1,942		1,345	174	1,171

# Liquidity Risk

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The authority has ready access to borrowing at favourable rates from the Public Works Loans Board and other local authorities, and at higher rates from banks and building societies. There is no perceived risk that the Council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments. It is however exposed to the risk that it will need to refinance a significant proportion of its borrowing at a time of unfavourably high interest rates. The risk is managed by maintaining a spread of fixed rate loans.

	Long-	Long-term		Term
	31 March 2014 £'000	31 March 2013 £'000	31 March 2014 £'000	31 March 2013 £'000
Loans by Type				
Public Works Loan Board	89,268	91,341	2,073	0
Other Financial Institutions	3,038	3,038	0	0
	92,306	94,379	2,073	0
Loans by Maturity				
Less than 1 year	0	0	2,073	0
Over 1 but not over 2 years	0	2,073		
Over 2 but not over 5 years	12,699	6,699		
Over 5 but not over 10 years	26,004	25,004		
Over 10 but not over 15 years	36,010	43,010		
Over 15 but not over 20 years	10,503	10,503		
More than 20 years	7,090	7,090		
	92,306	94,379	2,073	0

The Council has a £3m "Lender's option, borrower's option" (LOBO) loan due to mature in 2077. This is where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the rate payable, the Council will have the option to accept the new rate or repay the loan without penalty. Due to current low interest rates, in the unlikely event that the lender exercises its option, the Council is likely to repay these loans.

# Market Risk

# Interest Rate Risk

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

- Borrowings at variable rates the interest expense will rise
- Borrowings at fixed rates the fair value of the liabilities borrowings will fall
- Investments at variable rates the interest income credited will rise
- Investments at fixed rates the fair value of the assets will fall

Investments classed as "loans and receivables" and loans borrowed are not carried at fair value, so changes in their fair value will have no impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments classed as "available for sale" will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

The Treasury Management Strategy aims to mitigate these risks by setting upper limits on its net exposures to fixed and variable interest rates.

If all interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be:

	2012/13	2013/14
	£'000	£'000
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	50	50
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(113)	(237)
Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(63)	(207)
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings	10,037	10,037

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

#### Price Risk

The Council does not generally invest in equity shares and is therefore not subject to equity price risk.

# Foreign Exchange Risk

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

#### 42. Trust Funds

The Council acts as a sole trustee for two trust funds: Galmington Trust and Greenway Trust. These were both created by a Deed of Gift from members of the public. They enable the provision of open spaces and facilities for sport and recreation for the general public. As a trustee the Council holds the property but does not own the assets. The Council has responsibility for controlling the assets of the Trust Funds and is accountable for any losses on the funds.

#### 2013/14

	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000		Liabilities £'000	
Galmington Trust	0	0	129	(11)	
Greenway Trust	0	0	5	0	
Total	0	0	134	(11)	

#### 2012/13

	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000		Liabilities £'000
Galmington Trust	(12)	12	129	(11)
Greenway Trust	(5)	5	5	0
Total	(17)	17	134	(11)

#### 43. Group Accounts

The Council's Statement of Accounts previously consisted of group accounts. There is a requirement to consolidate into the Council's own accounts (as a single entity) the financial activities of outside organisations such as subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates subject to the consideration of

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materiality. The Council is represented on many external bodies, but as membership of these bodies does not confer any financial obligation on behalf of the Council, these relationships do not require inclusion within the Group Accounts.

The Council has considered the materiality of the organisations previously included in the Group Accounts and it has concluded that the figures are not material enough to warrant the production of group accounts.

The following organisations were previously included in the Group Accounts:

# 1. Tone Leisure

During 2004/05, the Council created a Leisure Trust to manage its Leisure facilities. The Council has both financial and service benefits accruing from the Trust's operations. In addition the Trust is dependent on the Council for deficit funding and as such the Council has a degree of control over its activities. The level of voting rights that it has on the Leisure Trust Board is 16.67%. The Council has a commitment to meet Pension Fund deficits relating to Tone Leisure upon the termination of the Council's relationship with the Trust. Full details of Tone Leisure's accounts are available from: The Finance Director, Tone Leisure, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1HE

# 2. Trust Funds

The Council administers the assets of two Trust Funds Galmington and Greenway. As the Trustee, the Council has sole responsibility for controlling the assets of the Trust Funds and is accountable for any losses on the Funds. The Trust Funds are shown in note 42.

# Housing (HRA) Income and Expenditure Account

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Income and Expenditure Statement shows the economic cost in year of providing housing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from rents and government grants. Authorities charge rents to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The increase or decrease in the year, on the basis of which rents are raised, is shown in the Movement of the HRA Statement.

/2012 (Resta			Note	2013	/14
(Resia £'000	£'000			£'000	£'000
		Income			
	(22,653)	Dwelling rents			(23,741
	(538)	Non dwelling rents			(587
	(866)	Charges for services/facilities			(999
	(485)	Contributions towards expenditure			(488
	(24,542)				(25,81
		Expenditure			
6,031		Repairs and maintenance		6,941	
4,534		Supervision and management		5,064	
159		Rents, rates, taxes and other charges		282	
9		Housing Revenue Account subsidy payable		0	
6,751		Depreciation and impairment of fixed assets		6,826	
8		Debt management expenses		0	
73		Movement in the allowance for bad debts		(108)	
	17,565				19,00
	(6,977)	Net Expenditure of HRA Services as included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement			(6,81
	231	HRA services share of corporate and democratic core			23
	(6,746)	Net Expenditure of HRA Services			(6,57
		HRA share of operating income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:			
	(758)	(Gain) or loss on sale of HRA fixed assets			(26
	2,942	Interest payable and similar charges			2,94
	(15)	Interest and investment income			(4
	421	Pensions interest cost			43
	(4,156)	(Surplus)/Deficit for the year on HRA services			(3,51

# Statement of Movement on the HRA Balance

2012/1 (Restate			2013	/14
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
	1,356	Balance on the HRA at the end of the year		2,247
4,156		Surplus or (deficit) for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Account	3,511	
(1,982)		Adjustments between accounting basis and funding under statute (see analysis below)	(2,984)	
2,174		Net Increase or (decrease) before transfers to or from reserves	527	
(845)		Transfers (to) or from reserves	705	
(438)		Other movements	(420)	
	891	Increase or (decrease) in the year on the HRA		812
	2,247	Balance on the HRA at the end of the current year		3,059

# Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Statute

This note details the adjustments that are made to the surplus/deficit for the year recognised by the Council on the HRA Statement in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Council to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

2012/13		2013/14
£'000		£'000
(38)	Difference between amounts charged to HRA Income and Expenditure for premiums and discounts and the charge for the year determined in accordance with statute	0
24	Difference between any other item of income and expenditure determined in accordance with the Code and determined in accordance with statute requirements	(2)
(758)	Reversal of (gain) or loss on sale of HRA non-current assets	(264)
0	Capital Expenditure charged against revenue	(1,445)
533	HRA share of contributions to or from the Pensions Reserve	578
(6,847)	Transfer to/(from) the Major Repairs Reserve	(6,826)
5,104	Transfer to/(from) the Capital Adjustment Account	4,975
(1,982)		(2,984)

# **Collection Fund**

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

2012				2013/14	
Resta	ated		Business Rates	Council Tax	Total
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
		Income			
(59,132)		Council Tax Receivable	0	(53,853)	(53,853
(38,702)		Business Rates Receivable	(39,084)	0	(39,084
		Apportionment of Previous Year's Surplus			
0		Somerset County Council	0	157	15
0		Avon & Somerset Police Authority	0	26	2
0		Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	0	11	1
0		Taunton Deane Borough Council	0	23	2
	(97,834)		(39,084)	(53,636)	(92,720
		Expenditure			
		Demands and Shares			
38,541		Central Government	19,348	0	19,34
42,342		Somerset County Council	3,483	38,298	41,78
6,926		Avon & Somerset Police Authority	0	6,264	6,26
3,047		Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	387	2,811	3,19
6,102		Taunton Deane Borough Council	15,478	5,560	21,03
1,766		Contribution towards previous years Collection Fund Surplus	0		
			38,696	52,933	91,62
		Charges to Collection Fund			
161		Less: Costs of Collection	163	0	16
0		Less: Increase(-)/Decrease in Provision for appeals	2,942	0	2,94
598		Less Increase in Provision for bad and doubtful debts	256	104	36
132		Less: Write offs during the year	161	242	40
0		Less: Disregarded amounts	29	0	2
	99,615		3,551	346	3,89
	1,781	(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	3,163	(357)	2,80
	(1,719)	(Surplus)/ Deficit Balance Brought Forward	0	62	6
	62	(Surplus)/ Deficit Balance Carried Forward	3,163	(295)	2,868
		Attributable to:			
	0	Central Government	1,582	0	1,58
	52	Somerset County Council	285	(213)	72
	(1)	Avon & Somerset Police Authority	0	(35)	(35
	3	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	31	(16)	1:
	8	Taunton Deane Borough Council	1,265	(31)	1,234
	62		3,163	(295)	2,86

# Notes to the Supplementary Statements

Housing Revenue Account

# A Housing Stock

The Council was responsible for managing around 6,000 dwellings during 2012/13. The stock at 31 March was made up as follows:

	31 March 2013	31 March 2014
Houses	2,998	2,963
Bungalows	861	859
Flats and Maisonettes	2,111	2,082
	5,970	5,904
Shared Equity	1	1
	5,971	5,905

The change in stock in was made up of 48 sales, 13 acquisitions and the disposal of 31 dwellings to a housing association for redevelopment.

# **B** Value of Assets

The balance sheet value of HRA assets at 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014 is shown below.

	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Total Property Plant and Equipment £'000	Assets Held for Sale £'000	Intangible Assets £'000	TOTAL Assets £'000
Cost or Valuation								
At 1 April 2013	206,400	19,136	103	1,987	227,626	513	683	228,822
Additions	8,572	0	17	0	8,589	0	57	8,646
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(2,447)	(21)	0	0	(2,468)	6	0	(2,462)
Derecognition – Disposals	(1,257)	0	0	0	(1,257)	(577)	0	(1,834)
Derecognition - Other	(746)	105	0	0	(641)	0	0	(641)
Reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	(630)	0	0	0	(630)	630	0	0
At 31 March 2014	209,892	19,220	120	1,987	231,219	572	740	232,532
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairments								
At 1 April 2013	0	(234)	(61)	(256)	(551)	0	(362)	(913)
Depreciation Charge	(6,414)	(284)	(9)	(51)	(6,758)	0	(68)	(6,826)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	6,414	214	0	0	6,628	0	0	6,628
At 31 March 2014	0	(304)	(70)	(307)	(681)	0	(430)	(1,111)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2014	209,892	18,916	50	1,680	230,538	572	310	231,420

Comparatives 2012/13								
	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Total Property Plant and Equipment £'000	Assets Held for Sale £'000	Intangible Assets £'000	TOTAL Assets £'000
Cost or Valuation								
At 1 April 2012	208,800	19,362	77	1,987	230,226	252	668	231,146
Additions	4,610	0	26	0	4,636	0	15	4,651
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(5,305)	(90)	0	0	(5,395)	0	0	(5,395)
Derecognition – Disposals	(1,361)	(96)	0	0	(1,457)	(123)	0	(1,580)
Derecognition - Other	40	(40)	0	0	0			
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	(384)	0	0	0	(384)	384	0	0
At 31 March 2013	206,400	19,136	103	1,987	227,626	513	683	228,822
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairments								
At 1 April 2012	(4,026)	(717)	(57)	(205)	(5,005)	0	(295)	(5,300)
Depreciation Charge	(6,434)	(291)	(4)	(51)	(6,780)	0	(67)	(6,847)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	10,374	760	0	0	11,134	0	0	11,134
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	96	0	0	0	96	0	0	96
Derecognition – Disposals	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	4
Derecognition - Other	(10)	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2013	0	(234)	(61)	(256)	(551)	0	(362)	(913)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2013	206,400	18,902	42	1,731	227,075	513	321	227,909

# C Value of Dwellings at 1 April 2013

The open market value of dwellings within the HRA at 1 April 2013 is £651,045,127 compared with the balance sheet value of £209,892,357. The difference of £441,152,770 represents the economic cost to the Government of providing Council housing at less than open market rents.

# **D** Rent Arrears

Rent arrears as at the end of the financial year were as follows:

31 March 2013		31 March 2014
£'000		£'000
568	Rent arrears	519
(316)	Provision for bad debts	(288)
252	Anticipated collectable arrears	231
2.5%	Arrears as % of gross rent income	2.2%

#### E Rent Rebates

Assistance with rents is available under the Housing Benefits scheme for tenants on low incomes. The rent shown in the HRA is the gross rent before rent rebates are granted.

### F Gross Rent Income

This is the total rent income due for the year after allowing for voids. During the year 0.78% (0.76% in 2012/13) of available properties were vacant. Average weekly rents were £77.17, an increase of £4.43 (6.09%) over the previous year.

# **G** Major Repairs Reserve

The Council is required to maintain a Major Repairs Reserve. The account is credited with depreciation and is used to finance HRA capital expenditure. The depreciation charge for council dwellings is funded by the major repairs allowance, which is included within the HRA subsidy, and reflects the cost of keeping the stock in its current condition.

2012/13		2013/14
£'000		£'000
0	Balance at 1 April	2,198
6,434	Transfer dwelling depreciation to MRR	0
413	Transfer non dwelling depreciation to MRR	6,826
(4,650)	Financing of HRA Capital Expenditure	(6,561)
1	Rounding differences	0
2,198	Balance at 31 March	2,463

# H Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute

The following items of capital expenditure were charged to the HRA:

2012/13		2013/14
£'000		£'000
0	Capital Expenditure	1,445
0	Total	1,445

# I Total Capital Expenditure and Receipts

2012/13		2013/14
£'000		£'000
	HRA Capital Expenditure	
4,610	Dwellings	8,567
15	Intangible Assets	58
25	Vehicles Plant and Equipment	22
4,650		8,647
	Financed By	
0	Capital receipts	641
0	Contribution from revenue	1,445
4,650	Major repairs reserve	6,561
4,650		8,647

The table below shows the amount of capital receipts received by the HRA and what they were for:

2012/13	Housing Capital Receipts	2013/14
£'000		£'000
2,330	Dwellings	2,705
51	Land	206
(48)	Administrative cost of sales	(61)
2,333		2,850

# J Pension Scheme

Following advice issued by CIPFA regarding Accounting for Defined Benefit Retirement Benefits in the HRA, TDBC has concluded that neither ring-fencing nor resource accounting in the HRA require the HRA to be treated differently from other services on the grounds of proper practice. There is therefore an amount of £145,605 (2012/13 £112,799) included within management expenditure, which reflects the Current Service Costs of the Pension Scheme, in accordance with IAS19. These costs are currently notional and do not represent real cash outflows. Within the Housing Revenue Account these costs are negated by a contribution from the pension reserve.

# The accounting standard IAS 19 – Employee Benefits has changed.

The overall impact of this change has been explained in Note 1 to the accounts and affect the 2012/13 reporting as well as having an ongoing impact. A proportion of the changes made affect the HRA. These changes are those of recategorisation and do not impact on the HRA fund balance. The reporting changes are simply those of presentation and we have therefore restated the 2012/13 figures for clarity. Please see Note 1 for the full details.

# **Collection Fund**

# K Council Tax

The Council's tax base for 2013/14, i.e. the number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band (adjusted for dwellings where discounts apply), converted to an equivalent number of Band D dwelling, was calculated as follows:

Band	Number of Taxable Dwellings After Discount	Ratio	Band D Equivalent Dwellings
A (Disabled Reduction)	4.50	5/9	2.50
A	4,037.12	6/9	2,691.41
В	11,306.98	7/9	8,794.32
C	8,049.05	8/9	7,154.71
D	6,233.44	9/9	6,233.44
E	5,054.06	11/9	6,177.19
F	3,052.92	13/9	4,409.77
G	1,417.89	15/9	2,363.16
Н	59.66	18/9	119.33
	39,215.62		37,945.83
Less Adjustment for Collection Rates	(665.23)		
Council Tax Base	37,280.60		

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# L Income from Business Ratepayers

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Under the arrangements for uniform business rates, the Council collects non-domestic rates for its area, which are based on local rateable values multiplied by a uniform rate. The Local Government Act 2012 introduced a business rates retention scheme that enables local authorities to retain a proportion of the business rates generated in their area. TDBC pays 50 per cent to the Government, 9 per cent to Somerset County Council, 1 per cent to Devon and Somerset Fire Authority and retains 40 per cent.

The total non-domestic rateable value at 31 March 2014 was £101,419,865 (31 March 2013 £101,623,760). The standard national non-domestic multiplier for the year was £0.471 (2012/13 £0.458); the national non-domestic small business multiplier for the year was £0.462 (2012/13 £0.450).

# M Band D Council Tax

The breakdown of a Band D Council Tax is shown in the table below.

2012/13	Council Tax Levy at Band D	2013/14	
£		£	
1,027.30	Somerset County Council	1,027.30	
168.03	Avon & Somerset Police Authority	168.03	
73.92	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	75.39	
135.19	Taunton Deane Borough Council	135.19	
1,404.44		1,405.91	
12.85	Add Town & Parish Council (average)	13.96	
1,417.29	Average Council Tax Levy at Band D	1,419.87	

# **Glossary of Terms**

Local government, in common with many other specialised fields, has developed over the years its own unique set of terms and phrases. This glossary helps to identify some of those terms and phrases, which will be found in this statement.

#### Accruals

The concept that income and expenditure are recognised in the financial records as they are earned or incurred, not as the money is received or paid.

#### Amortisation

The loss in value of an intangible asset due to its use by the Council. Amortisation is a non-cash item, it is merely an accounting assessment.

#### Amortised Cost

The amount at which a financial asset or liability is measured at initial cost minus repayments and impairment, plus or minus the cumulative amortisation of the difference between the initial amount and the maturity amount. Amortisation is worked out using the effective interest rate (EIR).

#### Apportionment

The sharing of costs fairly based upon usage of a service.

#### Assets Held for Sale

Assets held for sale are assets which it is expected that their carrying amount is going to be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than continued use.

#### **Assets under Construction**

Assets under construction are assets that are assets that are currently being developed and are not yet completed. They are capitalised at cost.

#### **Band D Equivalent**

A band D is the average property valuation band. This is calculated by multiplying the number of properties by the band D ratio to produce an equated tax base i.e. as if all properties were in band D.

#### **Billing Authority**

A local authority responsible for the collection of council tax and non-domestic rates.

#### **Budget Requirement**

The budget requirement is the net revenue expenditure calculated in advance each year by every billing authority and precepting authority. It is important for two reasons; as a step in the valuation of council tax and as a basis for local authority capping. It is calculated as the estimated gross revenue expenditure minus the estimated revenue income, allowing for movements in reserves.

#### **Capital Charges**

A charge to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of their services; the charges reflect notional depreciation costs only.

#### **Capital Expenditure**

Expenditure on the purchase or provision of assets, which will be of long-term value to the authority e.g. land, buildings, vehicle, plant and equipment.

# **Capital Receipts**

The proceeds from the sale of land and other assets. Capital receipts can be used to finance new capital expenditure, within rules set down by the government, or to repay debt on existing assets.

# Cash Equivalents

Cash equivalents are short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into know amounts of cash which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

#### Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

CFR measures an authority's underlying need to borrow or finance by other long-term liabilities for a capital purpose.

#### Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA)

CIPFA is a privately funded professional body with charitable status, which represents accountants working in the public sector. The institute provides financial and statistical information for local government and other public sector bodies and advises central government and other bodies on local government and public finance matters.

#### **CIPFA/LASAAC**

This board is responsible for preparing, maintaining, developing and issuing the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting for the United Kingdom. The board is a partnership between CIPFA England and the Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee.

#### **Collection Fund**

A statutory fund maintained by a billing authority, which is used to record local taxes and non-domestic rates collected by the authority, along with payments to precepting authorities and the national pool of non-domestic rates, as well as into it's own general fund.

#### **Collection Fund Adjustment Account**

The collection find adjustment account represents the Council's share of the collection fund surplus or deficit.

#### **Community Assets**

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

#### **Commuted Sum**

An amount paid to the Council by a developer to cover the cost of maintaining a piece of land over a number of years, usually play areas.

#### Componentisation

Where an asset is split into significant components (e.g. a building could be split into building/windows/roof/boiler) to enable them to be depreciated over their separate useful lives.

#### **Corporate and Democratic Core**

The corporate and democratic core comprises all activities, which local authorities engage in specifically because they are elected, multi-purpose authorities. The costs of these activities are over and above those that would be incurred by a series of independent, single purpose, nominated bodies managing the same services.

#### **Council Tax**

The main source of local taxation for local authorities. Council tax is set by local authorities and is levied on all domestic dwellings whether houses, bungalows, flats, maisonettes, mobile homes or houseboats, and whether owned or rented. The proceeds are paid into the council's Collection Fund for distribution to precepting authorities and for use by its own General Fund. Council Tax replaced community charge on 1st April 1993.

#### Creditors

Amounts owed by the authority at the balance sheet date in respect of goods and services received before the end of the financial year.

#### Debtors

Amounts owed to the authority but unpaid at the balance sheet date.

#### Depreciation

Represents the reduction in useful economic life of an asset whether arising from use, the passage of time, or obsolescence.

#### Direct Service Organisation (DSO)/Direct Labour Organisation (DLO)

The term direct service organisation (DSO) is used to cover both direct labour organisations (DLO's) established under the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 and DSO's established under the Local Government Act 1988. These organisations are set up by a local authority to provide services subject to compulsory competitive tendering (CCT). Although the requirements of CCT no longer apply to these services, the terms DLO and DSO are still commonly used.

#### **Discontinued Operations**

Operations comprise services and divisions of service as defined in CIPFA's standard classification of income and expenditure. An operation should be classified as discontinued if all of the following conditions are met:

- The termination of the operation is completed either in the period or before the earlier of three months after the commencement of the subsequent period and the date on which the financial statements are approved;
- The activities related to the operation have ceased permanently;
- The termination of the operation has a material effect on the nature and focus of the local authority's operations and represents a material reduction in its provision of services resulting either from its withdrawal from a particular activity (whether a service or division of service or its provision in a specific geographical area) or from a material reduction in net expenditure in the local authority's continuing operations;
- The assets, liabilities, income and expenditure of operations and activities are clearly distinguishable physically, operationally and for financial reporting purposes.

Operations not satisfying all these conditions are classified as continuing.

#### **Earmarked Reserves**

Amounts of money set aside for a specific purpose.

#### Estimates

The amounts which are expected to be spent, or received as income, during an accounting period. The term is also used to describe detailed budgets, which are either being prepared for the following year, or have been approved for the current year.

#### Fair Value

The amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or liability settled between knowledgeable and willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

#### Fees and Charges

Income raised by charging for the use of facilities or services.

#### **Financial Instruments**

Cash, evidence of an ownership interest in an entity, or a contractual right to receive, or deliver, cash or another financial instrument.

#### **Financial Instruments Adjustment Account**

The financial instruments adjustment account balance represents the amount that should have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with proper accounting practices under the Code of Practice but which statutory provisions allow or require it to be deferred over future years e.g. premiums for the early redemption of loans or discounts for soft loans.

#### Finance Lease

A lease that transfers substantially all of the rewards of ownership of a fixed asset to the lessee.

#### **Fixed Assets**

#### Taunton Deane Borough Council

Tangible assets that yield benefits to local authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

# General Fund

All district and borough councils have to maintain a general fund which is used to pay for day-to-day items of non-housing revenue expenditure such as wages and salaries, heating and lighting, office supplies, etc. Spending on the provision of council housing, however, must be charged to a separate Housing Revenue Account.

#### **Government Grants**

Assistance by government and inter-government agencies and similar bodies, whether local, national or international, in the form of cash or transfers of assets to an authority in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the authority.

#### **Group Accounts**

The Council is required to consolidate into its own accounts (as a single entity) the financial activities of outside organisations such as subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates. These consolidated accounts show the whole span of influence, which the council has, and are known as group accounts.

# Gross Expenditure

The total cost of providing the Council's services, before taking into account income from government grant and fees and charges for services.

#### Heritage Assets

A heritage asset is described as an asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

#### Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

Local authorities are required to maintain a separate account – the Housing Revenue Account – which sets out the expenditure and income arising from the provision of housing. Other services are charged to the general fund. Since 1990/91, local authorities have not been allowed to transfer monies between their General Fund and their HRA; this is known as "ring fencing". Rents charged to council house tenants are set based on convergence with the rents levied by other social housing providers, such as housing associations, by 2016/17.

# Housing subsidy

Most authorities receive HRA subsidy from the government to cover the costs of proving, managing and maintaining dwellings, allowable capital charges and paying housing benefit to council tenants. HRA subsidy is payable when the authority's notional HRA expenditure exceeds its notional HRA income (i.e. from rents and interest on receipts), as determined by the government – this is the current position of the council.

#### IFRS

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS's) are issued by the Accounting Standards Board. The Council's accounts conform to IFRS's where they are applicable to local authorities.

# **IFRS Code of Practice**

International Financial Reporting Standards Code of Practice Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom - this is the Code produced by CIPFA the Council follows to produce the Statement of Accounts.

#### Impairment

A reduction in the value of fixed assets caused either by a consumption of economic benefits or by a general fall in prices.

#### Infrastructure Assets

Fixed assets that by their nature cannot be sold and therefore expenditure is only recoverable by continued use of that asset. Examples of infrastructure assets are highways and footpaths.

#### Inventories

Inventories include goods or other assets purchased for resale, consumable stores and raw materials.

#### Investments

A long-term investment is an investment that is intended to be held for use on a continuing basis in the activities of the authority. Investments are classified as such only when it is intended to hold the investment for more than one year or where there are restrictions on the investor's ability to dispose of it. Investments which do not meet the above criteria should be classified as current assets.

#### **Investment Properties**

Investment Properties are properties which are held by the Council solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or for both.

# **Liquid Resources**

Assets which are readily convertible into known amounts of cash.

#### Loans and Receivables

Loans and receivables are financial instruments that have fixed or determinable payments and are not quoted on the stock market.

# LGA

The Local Government Association is the national voice of local government. They work with councils to support, promote and improve local government.

#### Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

The minimum revenue provision is the sum required to be met from revenue under current capital controls to provide for the repayment of outstanding borrowings; additional sums may be voluntarily set aside.

#### **Money Market Funds**

A money market fund is an open-ended mutual fund that invests in short term debt securities.

#### **Net Book Value**

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

# Net Current Replacement Cost

The cost of replacing or recreating the particular asset in its existing condition and for its existing use.

# Net Expenditure

Gross expenditure less specific service income, but before deduction of revenue support grant.

#### Net Realisable Value

The open market value of the asset in its existing use net of the potential expenses of sale.

# National Non-domestic Rate (NNDR)

A levy on businesses, based on a national rate in the pound set by the government multiplied by the "rateable value" of the premises they occupy. NNDR is collected by billing authorities in line with national criteria, and then redistributed among all local authorities and police authorities on the basis of population. Also known as "business rates", the "uniform business rate" and the "non-domestic rate".

#### **Operating Lease**

A type of lease, usually for vehicles or equipment, which is similar to renting and which does not come within the government's capital control system. The risks and rewards of ownership of the asset must remain with the lessor for a lease to be classified as an operating lease.

# **Post Balance Sheet Events**

Events, both favourable and unfavourable, which occur between the balance sheet date and the date on which the authority approves the financial statements.

#### Precept

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

#### **Precepting Authorities**

Those authorities which are not billing authorities i.e., do not collect the council tax and non-domestic rate. County councils and police and fire authorities are "major precepting authorities" while parish, community and town councils are "local precepting authorities".

#### **Property Plant and Equipment**

Property Plant and Equipment is the word used for a group of assets which consist of the following: Council Dwellings, Other Land and Buildings, Vehicles Furniture Plant and Equipment, Infrastructure Assets, Community Assets, Assets Under Construction and Surplus Assets.

#### Provisions

Provisions are amounts set aside in one year for liabilities or losses which are likely or certain to be incurred, but uncertain in timing or value.

#### Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

A central government agency, which provides long and shorter-term loans to local authorities.

#### Rateable Value

Estimate of the value of a property which is used as a basis for local taxation.

#### **Re-chargeable Works**

Ad-hoc jobs, the costs of which are recoverable from third parties.

#### Reserves

Reserves are amounts set aside which do not fall within the definition of provisions and include general reserves (or "balances"), which every authority must maintain as a matter of prudence.

#### **Revenue Expenditure**

This can be defined as expenditure on the day-to-day running of the council.

#### **Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute**

Legislation in England and Wales allows some expenditure to be classified as capital for funding purposes when it does not result in the expenditure being carried on the Balance Sheet as a fixed asset. The purpose of this is to enable it to be funded from capital resources rather than be charged to the General Fund and impact on that year's council tax.

#### **Revenue Support Grant (RSG)**

This is the grant which the government pays to the council to bridge the gap between income raised by the council tax and NDR and the total assessment of the authority's need to spend (as measured by its standard spending assessment). The payment of RSG attempts to ensure that differences in spending needs and resources between authorities are equalised, in order to permit each authority to support a standard level of spending.

#### SeRCOP

The CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice (SeRCOP) applies to all local authority services throughout the United Kingdom from 1 April 2013 for the preparation of 2013/14 Budgets, Performance Indicators and Statement of Accounts.

#### Support Service Recharges

The allocation of the costs of back office functions such as Accountancy, HR or ICT etc to front line services.

#### **Useful Life**

The period over which the local authority will derive economic benefits from the use of a fixed asset.

# Work in Progress

The value of work on an uncompleted project at the balance sheet date, which has yet to be recovered from the client.