



South Cambridgeshire District Council

Disclaimed Statement of Accounts 2023/24

Please note that figures are rounded to the nearest thousand (where applicable) throughout the document and may not sum due to rounding.

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1. Introduction

This report has been compiled to provide a summary of the development and performance of the Council over the financial year, outline planned future developments in service delivery including revenue and capital investment plans and to provide assistance in understanding the financial statements and the Council's financial position.

2. Key Facts about South Cambridgeshire

South Cambridgeshire sits at the heart of one of the most economically successful and fast-growing areas in the UK. Ensuring growth is well managed to create a place where people want to live, work, and learn is a key challenge for us.

South Cambridgeshire is a vibrant rural district of 350 square miles surrounding Cambridge City. We are home to world-leading centres of science and technology such as Granta Park, the Babraham Institute and the Genome Campus at Hinxton. In addition to hosting some of the most renowned science parks, we are home to some 8,320 businesses, the majority of whom are small to medium enterprises. The greatest employment within the knowledge intensive (KI) sector is science and technology, whereas within the non-KI sectors, manufacturing, wholesale, retail trade and construction are key employment areas. Although we are home to some of England's oldest villages, we are also developing some of the most exciting and largest new towns in the country. This includes Cambourne, Northstowe and Waterbeach. Based on our latest housing trajectory, it is anticipated that 21,200 dwellings will have been completed in Greater Cambridge (the city of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire) between April 2011 to March 2024. This brings with it the environmental and housing-based pressures associated with one of the fastest growing areas of the UK. The newly upgraded A14 passes through the district, while National Highways is currently working on a plan to upgrade the A428 – which is another key route that passes through South Cambridgeshire. The district is also served by railway stations, such as those at Cambridge North, Foxton, Meldreth, Shelford, Shepreth, Waterbeach and Whittlesford Parkway.

The district is largely rural with most of the population of around 162,000 living in small, relatively isolated, outlying rural settlements, and with larger settlements situated on strategic routes into Cambridge such as Histon, Milton and Cambourne, and Cambridge Fringe developments such as Orchard Park and Trumpington Meadows. It is at the centre of a number of important corridors of growth; London-Stansted-Cambridge, Norwich-Cambridge and Oxford-Cambridge. Cambourne is the largest settlement, with approximately 12,350 residents, and construction at Northstowe and Waterbeach has begun, both of which will become significant towns in the district.

As per the 2021 census, the number of people aged between 65 to 74 years rose by around 3,400 (an increase of 26.2%), while the number of residents between 20 and 24 years fell by around 850 (a 12.0% decrease). The average (median) age of South Cambridgeshire residents increased by one year, from 41 to 42 years of age.

Of South Cambridgeshire households, 68.9% owned their home in 2021, down from 70.3% in 2011. In 2021, 14% rented privately, compared with 12% in 2011. The percentage of South Cambridgeshire households that lived in a socially rented property increased from 14.3% to 14.5%.

Overall, South Cambridgeshire is a prosperous area with high levels of economic activity and low levels of unemployment. The district forms part of the Cambridge Sub-Region. The district is a key contributor to the growth that makes Greater Cambridge a major driver of UK economic prosperity, competing for inward investment on a global stage with areas such as Massachusetts, California, Europe and the Far East.

3. South Cambridgeshire District Council Business Plan 2019-2024

The Business Plan 2019-2024 is the document that sets out the Council's vision and strategic objectives, providing the context for the agreement of financial strategies and subsequent departmental budgets to deliver them. The Plan contains:

- Our Vision for the district;
- Four Strategic Objectives setting out how the Vision will be achieved, delivered through 20 key actions;
- What we will do to achieve each objective, and what success will look like;
- Key performance measures.

Our Strategic Objectives are as follows:

Growing Local Businesses and Economies - We will support businesses of all sizes, including rural enterprise and farming, to help create new jobs and opportunities near to where people live.

Housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in - We will build vibrant communities in locations where people have good access to facilities and good transport links, so they can genuinely afford to live a happy and healthy life.

Being Green to our Core - We will create a cleaner, greener and zero-carbon future for our communities.

A Modern and Caring Council - We will provide our customers with high-quality services, strive to reduce costs, build on what we are good at to generate our own income, and make decisions in a transparent, open and inclusive way.

Current and Future Developments

The high level priorities are underpinned by a number of more detailed actions that set out now the priorities are being delivered.

With regard to growing local businesses and economies the immediate objective is to provide support to local business through a team of officers dedicated to providing a range of measures including skills support, trainings, promotion of tourism and the visitor economy, encouraging shopping locally and providing affordable housing for essential and key workers.

With regard to housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in, the Council has set an ambitious house building programme to deliver up to 75 new council homes per annum in 2023/24 and improve the energy efficiency of existing dwellings. Plans also include improving liaison with Parish Councils regarding potential housing development in their area. There are also plans to combat homelessness and be a significant partner driving the new town development at Northstowe.

The Council is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and this is driven by the green to our core priority. Key actions include improving recycling rates, trialling electric waste vehicles with a view to greening the fleet, carrying out works at the Council offices to improve energy efficiency and generate our own power through renewable energy and stemming the increasing incidence of fly tipping across the district. Longer term aims look at promoting cycling, walking and the use of public transport to, where possible, move people away from car use and further promote recycling, waste reduction and deter fly tipping.

With regard to a modern and caring council, the objectives look at increasing efficiency with more reliance on technology, streamlining processes generally, signposting customers to the use of on-line forms and generating more income from Council activities to support service delivery. Longer term aims look at supporting voluntary groups to deliver local projects and developing members to better equip them to serve their local communities.

Performance and Plans

The following link, [Performance and Plans](#), provides information on the Council's KPI performance and business plan actions update for each quarter since 2018-19.

4. Political and Management Structure

South Cambridgeshire District Council was represented by a total of 57 Councillors until May 2018. Following a boundary review the number reduced to 45. At 31st March 2024, the breakdown of councillors by political group was as follows:

Liberal Democrat	35
Conservative	9
Independent Group	1

The Council operates a Leader and Cabinet model of governance under which the Leader of the Council, elected by the whole Council to serve a four-year term of office, appoints a Cabinet of up to ten councillors, each of which are given a Portfolio to reflect a corporate priority. The Cabinet implements the strategic policy and budgetary framework agreed by all Councillors each February. It is held to account by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee which comprises of 14 members and met 8 times during the financial year.

The Council's Leadership Team is responsible for ensuring that the plans agreed by Council and Cabinet are delivered. At 31 March 2024, the Team consisted of the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service (Liz Watts), supported by:

- Chief Operating Officer – Anne Ainsworth
- Head of Finance, Section 151 Officer - Peter Maddock
- Head of Transformation – Jeff Membery
- Head of Housing – Peter Campbell
- Director of Shared Planning (Joint with Cambridge City Council) – Stephen Kelly
- Head of Climate, Waste and Environment (Joint with Cambridge City Council) – Bode Esan
- Monitoring Officer – John Murphy

The Council's three statutory officers are as follows:

- Head of Paid Service - Liz Watts
- Head of Finance, Section 151 Officer - Peter Maddock
- Monitoring Officer – John Murphy

The functions and areas of responsibility of the Statutory Officers are set out in Article 12 of the Constitution. This is recognised in our Code of Governance, which is reviewed regularly and published on our website.

5. Corporate Peer Challenge

The District Council has recently taken part in a Corporate Peer Challenge, which is run by the Local Government Association (LGA) and designed to provide robust, strategic, and credible challenge and support to councils. Typically, Councils have a peer review every five years and for South Cambridgeshire, our last peer review was of our Planning Committee in 2020.

The District Council invited the team of peers, made-up of councillors and officers from other councils, to visit us in late October / early November. They spoke with staff, councillors, and local partners, and their report has now been published which highlighted much good work being undertaken by the Council, and also made some recommendations for us to consider.

The peers recognised the strong financial position the Council was in and recommended that we accelerate the closure of outstanding accounts.

6. Summary of Financial Performance

The financial year began with the setting of the budget in February 2023. The following sections describe the actual performance against this budget. The Council incurs both revenue and capital expenditure. The revenue account, known as the General Fund, bears the cost of providing day to day services. The capital account shows the net cost of transactions to buy or sell land, property or other assets, build new property, make improvements and provide grants or loans to other bodies to undertake this type of activity. The tables below show the outturn position and variances for the General Fund (services for the whole community) and the Housing Revenue Income and Expenditure Account (Council housing). The overall financial position of the Council is reflected in its Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account and its Balance Sheet shown in these Statement of Accounts.

When the budget for the financial year ending 31 March 2024 was set in February 2023, the surplus was estimated at £1.294m (Appropriation to General Fund Balance line). The budget was revised to a surplus of £1.897m in the year. The actual outturn reported to cabinet was a surplus of £1.933m.

Narrative Statement

General Fund Summary	Revised Budget	Provisional Reported Outturn	Actual Outturn	Actual v/s Provisional Outturn	Actual Outturn v/s Revised Budget
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Net Expenditure Portfolio					
Chief Executive	2,693	2,676	2,676	0	(17)
Head of Climate, Environment & Waste	8,225	7,655	7,655	0	(570)
Head of Finance	7,319	7,444	8,061	617	742
Monitoring Officer	158	109	109	0	(49)
Head of Housing	1,550	1,011	1,010	(1)	(540)
Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning	4,676	4,653	4,652	(1)	(24)
Head of Transformation, HR & Corporate Services	3,235	3,206	3,207	1	(28)
Operational Net Cost	27,856	26,754	27,370	616	(486)
Income from Investments	(7,408)	(7,915)	(7,894)	21	(486)
Other Levies and Contributions	2,096	2,275	2,276	1	180
Interest Payable (Inc. HRA)	2,136	2,597	2,598	1	462
Accounting Reversals	1,960	2,526	2,556	30	596
Appropriation to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	4,043	(1,256)	(1,867)	(611)	(5,910)
Net Operational Budgets	2,827	(1,773)	(2,331)	(558)	(5,158)
Total Expenditure	30,683	24,981	25,039	58	(5,644)
Government Grants	(3,067)	(3,067)	(3,015)	52	52
Council Tax	(11,155)	(11,130)	(11,130)	0	25
Business Rates Income	(16,468)	(10,954)	(10,954)	0	5,514
Business Rates Pool Gain	(1,120)	(1,124)	(1,105)	19	15
Business Rates Collection Fund Deficit	(695)	(695)	(695)	0	0
Council Tax - Collection Fund Surplus	(75)	(75)	(75)	0	0
Income from Taxation and Government Grants	(32,580)	(27,045)	(26,974)	71	5,606
Appropriation (to)/from General Fund	(1,897)	(2,064)	(1,935)	129	(38)

The table above shows the variances against the revised 2023/24 budget for the General Fund with an overall variance of £0.038m.

Head of Climate, Environment and Waste – This was the largest variance and was a combination of additional trade waste income and lower than expected operation costs in waste.

Head of Housing – The variance here was entirely due to slippage in grant payments to Ermine Street housing which took place in 2024/25.

Income - This was slightly higher due to the inclusion of accrued interest relating to the loan made in May 2021 to the South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership (SCIP), which was not included in the revised estimates.

The income from Business rates was not finalised until after the revised estimate and following the significant increase in property revaluations for business rate purposes income was somewhat lower than expected due to successful appeals this meant the transfer to earmarked reserves of surplus income was also lower than expected and the effect on the General fund was neutral.

Overall the outturn position was an addition to the General Fund reserves of £1.935m against a budget that assumed a £1.897m contribution to reserves. General Fund reserves stood at £19.952m at 31 March 2024, (see movement on General Fund statement).

Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) summarises the transactions relating to the provision, management and maintenance of Council houses and flats. Although this account is also included within the core financial statements it represents such a significant proportion of the services provided by the Council that it is a requirement that it has a separate account. The account has to be self-financing and there is a prohibition on cross subsidising to or from the council tax payer. The HRA statement and notes are included after the main statement notes.

Housing Revenue Account	Revised Budget	Provisional Reported Outturn	Actual Outturn	Actual v/s Provisional Outturn	Actual Outturn v/s Revised Budget
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Housing Management	7,609	7,637	7,643	6	34
Housing Repairs	8,010	7,210	7,210	0	(800)
Depreciation	8,885	9,729	9,722	(7)	837
Interest Payable	7,234	7,230	7,230	0	(4)
Capital Expenditure Funded from Revenue	14,033	5,299	5,299	0	(8,734)
Other Items	434	547	548	1	114
Gross Expenditure	46,205	37,652	37,652	0	(8,553)
Rents	(34,553)	(34,596)	(34,597)	(1)	(44)
Charges for services and facilities	(1,464)	(1,396)	(1,398)	(2)	66
Interest on Balances	(911)	(1,294)	(1,294)	0	(383)
Contributions towards expenditure	(438)	(538)	(539)	(1)	(101)
Gross Income	(37,366)	(37,824)	(37,828)	(4)	(462)
Transfer from Earmarked Reserve	(8,500)	0	0	0	8,500
Amount (to)/from HRA Balance	339	(172)	(176)	(4)	(515)

Narrative Statement

The table above shows the variances against the final 2023/24 budget for the HRA with an overall variance of £0.515m.

Repairs – Routine property repairs are charged to the revenue account and are difficult to estimate accurately. There was an underspend of £0.8m in this area

Depreciation – Due to an increase in property values there was an increase in depreciation of around £0.852m. The effect was to provide more resources in the Major Repairs Reserve to fund capital expenditure.

Capital Expenditure Funded from Revenue - This is £8.7m lower due to significant slippage in the new build element of the capital programme. The intention was to use the £8.5m self financing reserve to fund capital expenditure in 2023/24 but due to the aforementioned slippage this was not necessary.

Overall the outturn position was an increase in the HRA reserves of £0.176m against a budget that assumed a £0.339m contribution from reserves. HRA reserves stood at £3.011m at 31 March 2024, (see movement on HRA statement)

Capital

Capital expenditure produces assets capable of providing benefits to the community for several years to come. Total expenditure for the year amounted to £67.403m (including revenue expenditure funded from capital (REFCUS)).

The programme included £4.853m spent on land acquisition and community buildings at Northstowe, £1.634m spent on vehicle replacements, £1.202m on the Council Offices greening project and £56.621m being invested through the HRA in the Council's own housing stock and new build initiatives.

Treasury Management

At 31 March 2024, investments (including those classed as cash equivalents) totalled £129.636m. These are shown on the Balance Sheet as follows, long term investments £117.689m, short term investments £5.115m and cash and cash equivalents £6.832m.

These investments produced interest of £6.233m, which was used towards the cost of services. The Council has debt of £264.723m of which £217.123m was in respect of funding Housing Revenue Account assets as long term borrowing and £39.6m was for General Fund shown as short term borrowing.

Balances and Reserves

The balances on the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account were £19.952m and £3.011m respectively as at 31 March 2024 (excluding earmarked reserves). This compares to the proposed minimum level of balances of £2.5m (General Fund) and £2.0m (Housing Revenue Account). These will be used to meet the cost of services in future years and/or to control any increases in council tax/rents.

Reserves available for capital expenditure stood at £25.964m, consisting of the usable capital receipts reserve, capital grants unapplied and major repairs reserve.

Covid-19 Pandemic and Aftermath

Covid related restrictions ended during the 2021 but since then there has been a period of high inflation which continued into 2024/25. The cost of living crisis, as it is referred to, has put added pressure on local authorities in the form of increased cost generally and increased demand for particular services provided.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) takes into account the impact of high inflation levels assuming these will take a little while to come down to pre-pandemic levels.

Council Tax

The Council collects the Council Tax from residents for a number of preceptors including itself and passes the amounts in line with agreed precepts onwards. The preceptors who the Council collect on behalf of are shown in the Collection Fund Statement on page 57.

The Council Tax set by the Council is substantially below the average charged by other shire districts because in the past the Council used a proportion of its reserves to reduce the amount of Council Tax residents would have to pay. Without the use of reserves, the Council Tax would be at its higher, underlying level. The gap is now constant due to applying the maximum £5 increase allowed under the Council Tax capping arrangements since 2017.

Reporting Cycle

The General Fund and Housing Revenue Account budgets are presented to Cabinet and Council for approval every year, in February, and are published on the Council website.

During the year, expenditure and income is monitored and significant variances reported to Cabinet. The Council's Forward Plan providing information on key reports is published on the Council's website.

The Council's Scrutiny and Overview Committee and Cabinet regularly monitors performance against key performance indicators. This information and the Business Plan 2019 to 2024 is available on the Council's website.

The Current Economic Climate and Other Significant Risks

The Government's actions to reduce the fiscal deficit, mainly by reducing public spending have resulted in substantial cuts for local government. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy is identified in its strategic risk register with an assessed risk of high impact / likely. The financial situation is dependent, amongst other things, on the continuation of the New Homes Bonus and the redistribution of retained Business Rates.

The Homelessness Reduction Act has significantly increased duties owed by the Council. This added to increased costs to meet statutory obligations meaning Homelessness budget pressures are a considerable risk now and into the future. The Council is likely to see increased demand for the service and more in-depth support and assessment for those who approach the Council.

Affordable Housing

Following on from the Housing Revenue Account self-financing debt settlement at the end of March 2012, the Council has established a new build development programme. In 2023/24 construction was completed on 48 new homes, with the new build programme continuing into 2024/25. There were also

61 homes acquired under the Local Authority Fund Acquisition scheme for housing Ukrainian and Afghan refugees, around 40% of this scheme was funded by Central Government. The properties, in the longer term, will form part of the Councils general needs stock. No existing market homes were acquired in 2023/24 for letting as affordable housing by the authority.

Ermine Street Housing

In November 2012 approval was given by Council to set up a subsidiary housing company, registered as South Cambs Ltd and trading as Ermine Street Housing with a principal activity being the management of both purchased and leased properties for the purpose of residential lettings. The link [Ermine Street Housing](#) opens the website for this company which provides information about its services.

Ermine Street Housing has a portfolio of both owned and leased market housing stock, with a year-end portfolio of 190 leased properties and 518 properties acquired for rental across Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Leeds at 31 March 2024. The company achieved its target of 500 acquisitions in March 2022. No further acquisitions were made during the financial year. Ermine Street reports annually to Council through its business case updates.

As an independent but wholly owned subsidiary and in accordance with proper practices as set out in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Code of Practice, the Council has prepared group accounts to show the overall financial position and results of the District Council.

Greater Cambridge Partnership (formerly known as the Greater Cambridge City Deal)

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) is a partnership of local councils, including South Cambridgeshire, business and academia set up to deliver the City Deal (an agreement with Central Government). The Partnership constitutes a 15-year plan to improve the infrastructure of the area, supporting economic growth and securing long-term prosperity and quality of life for the people of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. The other partners to the Partnership are Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, the GCGP Local Enterprise Partnership (now part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority) and Cambridge University.

A thriving and vibrant city region, Greater Cambridge has achieved rapid growth and economic success through world-leading innovation and collaboration between entrepreneurs and academics. It has the highest cluster of technology firms in the UK and competes on a global stage as a gateway for high-tech investment into the UK. However, this success and the area's appeal as an attractive place to live and work, has resulted in significant transport congestion, a shortage of housing and access to relevant skills. These issues have to be addressed to secure future economic growth and quality of life. Through the deal, the GCP has secured powers and funding from Central Government to make vital improvements to secure future economic growth and quality of life in the city region. The GCP aims to deliver over £1 billion of investment, thousands of new homes and jobs, and improved transport links. The 15-year plan focuses on four key issues: Transport, Housing, Skills and Innovation.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority was formally constituted in March 2017, following a Devolution deal with government which was planned to unlock hundreds of millions of pounds of new funding for the county, including £100 million for affordable homes. Cllr Smith represented the Council on the Combined Authority throughout 2023/24 financial year.

.....
Peter Maddock
Head of Finance, Section 151 Officer
Date: 28/06/2024

The Statement of Responsibilities

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority, that officer is the Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer).
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets; and
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

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Councillor Atkins

Chairman of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee

Head of Finance, Section 151 Officer's Responsibilities

The Head of Finance, Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ('the Code').

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Section 151 Officer has:

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

The Section 151 Officer has also:

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

The Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority at 31 March 2024 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

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Peter Maddock

Head of Finance, Section 151 Officer

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing service in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Councils 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.

2022/23					2023/24		
Gross Spend	Gross Income	Net Spend			Gross Spend	Gross Income	Net Spend
£000	£000	£000		Note	£000	£000	£000
			Continuing Operations				
2,821	(444)	2,377	Chief Executive		3,460	(821)	2,639
18,712	(9,310)	9,402	Head of Climate, Waste & Environment		18,368	(9,932)	8,436
28,914	(19,295)	9,619	Head of Finance		29,239	(21,254)	7,985
0	0	0	Monitoring Officer		109	0	109
6,894	(3,277)	3,617	Head of Housing		5,553	(3,846)	1,707
11,078	(4,958)	6,120	Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning		10,041	(5,561)	4,480
6,919	(4,653)	2,266	Head of Transformation, HR & Corporate Services		7,813	(4,136)	3,677
31,467	(33,856)	(2,389)	Housing Revenue Account		66,556	(36,972)	29,584
106,805	(75,793)	31,012	Net Cost of Services		141,139	(82,522)	58,617
7,131	(8,421)	(1,290)	Other Operating Expenditure and Income	9	9,492	(2,466)	7,026
9,583	(6,707)	2,876	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	10	8,961	(23,696)	(14,735)
0	(33,050)	(33,050)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	11	52	(46,386)	(46,334)
123,519	(123,971)	(452)	(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services		159,644	(155,070)	4,574
		(14,869)	(Surplus) / Deficit on Revaluation of Property Plant & Equipment	20a			(4,144)
		(65,397)	Actuarial (Gains) / Losses on Pension Assets / Liabilities	32			(5,557)
		(80,718)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(5,127)

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the authority, analysed into usable reserves (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and unusable reserves. The surplus or deficit on the provision of services line in the CIES shows the true economic cost of providing the authority's services. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

		General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves (General Fund)	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked Reserves (HRA)	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves
Movements in Reserves during 2022/23	Note	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 01 April 2022		(15,162)	(41,052)	(4,500)	(9,500)	(3,446)	(12,530)	(746)	(86,936)	(410,918)	(497,854)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	CIES	50	0	(502)	0	0	0	0	(452)	(80,266)	(80,718)
Adjustment Between Accounting and Funding Basis Under Regulations	7	4,890	0	2,190	0	1,298	(27,691)	73	(19,240)	19,240	0
(Increase) / Decrease in Year		4,940	0	1,688	0	1,298	(27,691)	73	(19,692)	(61,026)	(80,718)
Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	8	(7,822)	7,822	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase) / Decrease in Year		(2,882)	7,822	1,688	0	1,298	(27,691)	73	(19,692)	(61,026)	(80,718)
Balance as at 31 March 2023	B/S	(18,044)	(33,230)	(2,812)	(9,500)	(2,148)	(40,221)	(673)	(106,628)	(471,944)	(578,572)
Movement in reserves during 2023/24											
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	CIES	(17,384)	0	21,958	0	0	0	0	4,574	(9,701)	(5,127)
Adjustment Between Accounting and Funding Basis Under Regulations	7	17,316	0	(22,134)	0	(1,131)	19,118	(234)	12,932	(12,932)	0
(Increase) / Decrease in Year		(68)	0	(176)	0	(1,131)	19,118	(234)	17,506	(22,633)	(5,127)
Transfer from Earmarked Reserves	8	(1,867)	1,867	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase) / Decrease in Year		(1,935)	1,867	(176)	0	(1,131)	19,118	(234)	17,506	(22,633)	(5,127)
Balance as at 31 March 2024	B/S	(19,979)	(31,363)	(2,988)	(9,500)	(3,279)	(21,103)	(907)	(89,122)	(494,577)	(583,699)

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the authority. The net assets of the authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the authority. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the authority 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 Reserves that may only be used to fund capital 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.

31 March 2023			31 March 2024
£000		Note	£000
689,640	Property, Plant & Equipment	12	704,216
39,135	Investment Properties	12a	54,510
670	Intangible Assets	36	681
122,848	Long Term Investments	13	117,689
747	Long Term Debtors	14	747
0	Pension Asset	32	7,356
853,040	Total Long Term Assets		885,199
12,021	Short Term Temporary Investments	13	5,115
330	Inventories	-	199
11,106	Debtors and Prepayments	16	13,945
19,053	Cash & Cash Equivalents	17	6,832
42,510	Total Current Assets		26,091
(66,896)	Short Term Creditors	18	(54,980)
(40,000)	Short Term Borrowing	15	(42,600)
(1,313)	Cash & Cash Equivalents	17	(734)
(3,219)	Provisions	19	(5,762)
(111,428)	Total Current Liabilities		(104,076)
(427)	Pensions Liability	32	(1,392)
(205,123)	Long Term Loans	13	(222,123)
(205,550)	Total Long Term Liabilities		(223,515)
578,572	Net Assets		583,699
(106,628)	Usable Reserves	MIRS	(89,122)
(471,944)	Unusable Reserves	MIRS/ 20	(494,577)
(578,572)	Total Reserves		(583,699)

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Peter Maddock
Head of Finance, Section 151 Officer

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 authority.

2022/23			2023/24
£000		Note	£000
452	Net Surplus/(Deficit) on Provision of Services	CIES	(4,574)
58,821	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	21	27,512
(42,677)	Adjustment for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	21	(4,082)
16,596	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		18,856
(22,014)	Investing Activities	22	(29,731)
9,435	Financing Activities	23	(766)
4,017	Net Increase or (Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(11,642)
13,723	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	17	17,740
17,740	Cash and Cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	17	6,098

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the relevant financial year and its position at the Balance Sheet date of 31 March. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (2023/24) and the Service Reporting Code of Practice (2023/24) supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The underlying concepts of the accounts include the:

- Council being a 'going concern' – all operations continuing
- Accrual of income and expenditure – placing items in the year in which the liability is incurred

The accounting statements are prepared with the objective of presenting a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Council.

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. The accounting policies are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that they are appropriate, compliant with accepted accounting practice and relevant to the Council's ongoing business activity.

1.2 Accruals of Income and Expenditure

The accounts of the Council are maintained on an accrual's basis, that is, sums due to the Council for goods/services provided or due from the Council for goods/services received during the year are included as income or expenditure whether or not the cash has actually been received or paid in the year. Any differences between the actual amounts and accrued amounts will be reflected in the accounts of the following year.

Exceptions to this principle relate, for example, to quarterly payments where payments are charged in the year rather than apportioning charges between financial years. This policy is consistently applied each year and, therefore, does not have a material effect on the year's accounts. Grants payable to other organisations are included in the accounts on a payment basis.

Where income and expenditure has been recognised in the accounts, but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor is recorded in the balance sheet. The Council adopted a policy of a £5,000 de-minimus level on all manual accruals (debtors and creditors) for 2023/24.

1.3 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. They include deposits in constant Net Asset Value money market funds that are available for withdrawal with 24 hours' notice. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in three months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

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

1.4 Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services, support services and trading accounts are charged with the following amounts to reflect the cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

- depreciation attributable to the asset 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 losses can be written off.
- amortisation of intangible assets attributable to the service.

Any depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation charged to the relevant accounts is reversed out in the movement in reserves statement and transferred to the capital adjustment account so that these charges are not met by council tax or rents.

The provisions for charges to revenue for non-current assets in the HRA were amended on 1 April 2012 following the introduction of self-financing. There was an initial transitional period to 31 March 2018 where a notional charge in line with the major repairs allowance was used, but from 1st April 2018 a full depreciation charge equivalent to the whole capital adjustment transfer has to be made to the Housing Revenue Account.

The Authority is required to charge an annual provision to revenue as a contribution towards reducing its overall borrowing requirement. This provision, known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), is an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Authority in accordance with statutory guidance. No minimum revenue provision is currently charged on the debt acquired in relation to Housing Revenue Account self-financing as this is outside the scope of the MRP regime.

1.5 Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

The Council as a billing authority acts as an agent, collecting council tax and non-domestic rates (NDR) on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Police & Crime Commissioner (i.e. the major preceptors which also includes central government for NDR) and as principal, it collects council tax and NDR for itself. Billing authorities are required by statute to maintain a separate fund (known as the Collection Fund) for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and NDR. Under the legislative framework for the Collection Fund, billing authorities, major preceptors and central government share proportionately the risks and rewards that the amount of council tax and NDR collected could be less or more than predicted.

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

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

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

1.6 Exceptional Items

Any material exceptional items are included within the cost of the relevant individual service or, if a degree of prominence is necessary in order to give a fair presentation of the accounts, separately identified on the face of the comprehensive income and expenditure account. Details of any such exceptional items are given in the explanatory notes.

1.7 Events After the Reporting Period

Events after the balance sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. There are two types of events:

- for 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.
- for 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.

1.8 Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the balance sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the financing and investment section of the Income and Expenditure Account for interest 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 discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the fair value at which it was originally recognised.

The only financial liabilities for this Council are trade payables of short duration, measured at original or estimated invoice amount, and long-term borrowing which is shown in the balance sheet as the outstanding principal repayable with interest charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure account being the amount payable for the year in accordance with the loan agreement.

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

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund balance to be spread over future years. The 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 consist of:

- loans and receivables and
- available-for-sale assets – financial instruments

The financial assets applicable to this Council are loans and receivables which have the defining characteristics of fixed and determinable payments and are not quoted in an active market and, equity shares in the Local Capital Finance Company (Municipal Bond Agency) with no quoted market prices.

Loans and receivables are recognised on the balance sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently carried at amortised cost. Annual credits to the financing and investment section of the comprehensive income and expenditure account for interest are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the loans and receivables owed to the Council, the amount shown in the balance sheet is the outstanding principal or invoice amount receivable and interest credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure account is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

1.9 Government Grants and Contributions

Government grants and other contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Authority when there is a reasonable assurance that:

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

Amounts recognised as due to the Authority are not credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement until such conditions (as distinct from a restriction) 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 acquired using 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, i.e. if the grant or contribution is not used as intended, then it has to be repaid.

Restrictions are stipulations that limit or direct the purposes for which a transferred asset may be used, but do not specify that future economic benefits or service potential are required to be returned to the transferor if not deployed as specified. The key difference between a condition and a restriction is that a condition requires the grant funder or donor to have a right to the return of their monies or the donated asset (or similar equivalent compensation).

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the balance sheet as creditors (receipts in advance). When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or to the taxation and non-specific grant income section (non-ring-fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

When the conditions of a grant have been met and it has been reflected as income in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, the Council still has discretion to carry the grant income forward through an earmarked reserve if it deems this appropriate. This could arise in cases where there is no condition on the timescale in which the grant can be spent, but it has not been spent at the year-end.

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

In relation to capital grants or contributions recognised as income in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, where the expenditure has not been incurred at the balance sheet date, the grant recognised as income is transferred to the Usable Reserve (Capital Grants Unapplied Account) representing capital resources not yet utilised.

- Where capital grants are credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, they are
- to the capital grants unapplied reserve if the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure or
 - to the capital adjustment account if the grant has been used to finance capital expenditure

Amounts in the capital grants unapplied reserve are transferred to the capital adjustment account when they are applied to fund capital expenditure.

1.10 Employee Benefits

Short-term employee benefits (those that fall due wholly within 12 months of the year-end), such as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, flexi-leave and time off in lieu for current employees, are recognised as an expense in the year in which employees render service to the Council. An accrual is made against services in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for the cost of holiday entitlements and other forms of leave earned by employees but not taken before the year-end and which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the remuneration rates applicable in the following financial year. Any accrual made is required, under statute, to be reversed out of the General Fund or HRA Balance by a credit to the Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy.

Termination benefits are charged to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account when the council can demonstrate that it is committed to either terminating the employment of an officer or has made an offer of voluntary redundancy even if the officer has not left the council by 31 March.

Post-Employment Benefits (Pensions)

Post-employment benefits are employee benefits (other than termination and short-term benefits) that are payable after the completion of employment.

Employees of the Authority are eligible to be members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Cambridgeshire County Council, which is accounted for as a defined benefit Scheme whereby:

- the Authority's share of the liabilities of the pension fund are included in the balance sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit cost method, that is, an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc. and projections of earnings for current employee.
- these liabilities are then discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds.

- the Authority's share of the assets of the pension fund are included in the balance sheet at their fair value being.

Quoted securities	current bid price
Unquoted securities	professional estimate
Unitised securities	current bid price
Property	market value

The change in the net pension asset is analysed into seven components:

- current service cost being the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned in the current year where the cost is allocated in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement to the services for which the employees worked.
- past service cost being the increase or decrease in liabilities arising from decisions in the current year affecting liabilities incurred in past years where the cost is charged or credited to non-distributed costs in the comprehensive income and expenditure account.
- net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), that is, the net interest expense for the authority being the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged where the cost is charged to financing and investment income and expenditure in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.
- expected return on assets being expected annual investment return on the fund assets, excluding amounts included in net interest on the defined benefit liability (asset), based on the average of the expected long term returns where the return is credited to the financing and investment section of the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.
- gains or losses on settlements, being the result of actions to relieve the Authority of liabilities, and curtailments, being events that reduce the expected future service or accrual of benefits of employees, where the gain or losses are credited or charged to non-distributed costs in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.
- actuarial gains and losses being changes in the net pensions liability that arises because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions where the gains and losses are credited or charged to the pensions reserve; and
- contributions paid to the pension fund in the year being the payments made by the Authority as employer, that is, cash paid as employer's contribution to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

The charges and credits to the comprehensive income and expenditure account mentioned above are reversed out in the movement in reserves statement to the pensions reserve and replaced with the contributions paid.

As at 31 March 2024, the fair value of plan assets were measured at greater than the present value of the defined benefit obligation, resulting in a net pension asset. The accounting standard interpretation IFRIC 14 restricts the amount of the net pension asset that can be recognised on the balance sheet to the estimated economic benefit of the net asset arising from a reduction in future contributions, amending for any additional liabilities arising from past service contributions. This asset ceiling calculation has resulted in a credit value of £9.996m to the Balance Sheet in the Defined Pension Assets included in Long Term Debtors at Note 14.

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS), administered by Cambridgeshire County Council. This scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees work for the Council.

- The liabilities of the LGPS 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 protected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using an appropriate discount rate (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds as identified by the actuary).

Discretionary Benefits

The Authority also has powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirement. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any employee are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award.

1.11 Leases

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

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

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

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. 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 financing charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefiting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the Council grants a finance lease over a property, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal whilst an appropriate debtor balance is created to reflect the amount owed.

Operating Leases

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

1.12 Overheads and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services are charges to those services which benefit from the provision of the overheads and support services in accordance with the costing principles in the Service Reporting Code of Practice. The full cost of overheads and support services are charged out to users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

- Corporate and Democratic Core - costs relating to the Authority's status as a multi-functional, democratic organisation, and
- Non-distributed costs include pension costs, relating to past service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments, and any depreciation and impairment are reversed out in the movement in reserves statement.

These two categories were defined in the Service Reporting Code of Practice and accounted for as separate headings in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement; they are now reported in line with the management reporting structure of the Council in accordance with the Expenditure and Funding Analysis in the revised Code of Practice.

1.13 Intangible Assets

Expenditure, on an accrual's basis, for assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and controlled by the Council (e.g. software licences) are capitalised where they will bring benefit for more than one year. The balance is amortised (charged) to the relevant service revenue account over the economic life of the investment to reflect the pattern of consumption of benefits.

1.14 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

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

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

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising the purchase price and 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 the Authority.

Assets are then carried in the balance sheet using the following measurement bases:

- Infrastructure, community assets- historical cost.
- Assets under construction- historical cost.
- Dwellings- fair value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing.
- Investment property- fair value.
- Assets held for sale- current value.
- Non-commercial assets held for sale- lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.
- Non-property assets that have short useful lives and/or low values- depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for fair value, and
- All other assets- fair value, which for this purpose is interpreted as being met by provision of a market value figure which will reflect all potential uses.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Assets included in the balance sheet at fair value and market values are revalued sufficiently regularly (at least every five years) to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year-end. Valuations are undertaken by a professionally qualified valuer and also carry out a material change review at year end to ensure revaluations are kept up to date. Revaluations also take place when there has been a significant change to the asset (e.g. major building works).

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.

Decreases in valuations are accounted for by writing down the balance (if any) of revaluation gains in the revaluation reserve for that asset and then charging any remaining decrease in value to the relevant service in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

The revaluation reserve only contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the capital adjustment account.

Impairment

Assets are assessed at the end of each year 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 an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service 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 on all property, plant and equipment calculated on a straight-line allocation over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life, i.e. freehold land and certain community assets, if any, and assets that are not yet available for use, i.e. assets under construction, if any.

The residual value of an item of property, plant and equipment and its useful life are reviewed at the end of each financial year and, if expectations differ from previous reviews or there has been a significant change in the consumption of economic benefits or service potential, the change is accounted for as a change in accounting estimate.

Where property, plant and equipment assets have major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the asset, depreciation on the components has been calculated and is not materially different from depreciation on the depreciable part of the whole asset. Components have not, therefore, been depreciated separately.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated by an amount equal to the difference between the current value depreciation charges on the assets and the historic cost depreciation charges on the assets, with this difference being transferred each year from the revaluation reserve to the capital adjustment account.

Componentisation

Each part of an item of property, plant and equipment with a cost that is significant in relation to the total cost of the item is depreciated separately. Where there is more than one significant part of the same asset which has the same useful life and depreciation method, such parts are grouped together in determining the depreciation charge.

The Council has determined that dwellings and other property are subject to componentisation and are assessed against two components determined by the Council's valuer, namely land and buildings, components within buildings being assessed annually for materiality.

Disposal and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

An asset is reclassified as an asset held for sale when it becomes probable that the carrying amount of the asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Any subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell is posted to the other Operating Expenditure Section in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account but any gains in fair value are only recognised up to the amount of any previously recognised losses. Depreciation is not charged on assets held for sale.

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

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as assets held for sale.

When an asset is disposed of, the carrying amount of the asset in the balance sheet is written off and any receipts on disposal are credited to the other operating expenditure section in the comprehensive income and expenditure account so that this section shows the net gain or loss on the disposal of non-current assets. The net gain or loss is then reversed out in the movement in reserves statement with the carrying amount transferred to the capital adjustment account and the receipts on disposal credited to the capital receipts reserve so that the net gain or loss is not met by council tax or rents.

Any revaluation gains in the revaluation reserve in respect of the asset are transferred to the capital adjustment account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts.

A proportion of capital receipts relating to housing disposals (net of statutory deductions and allowances) is payable to Central Government and shown in the other operating expenditure section in the comprehensive income and expenditure.

1.15 Investment Property

Following the PWLB consultation response in November 2020, the Council took the decision not to purchase investment property for yield and hence there were no further such purchases in 2023/24.

Rental income and changes in valuation fall within the heading financing and investment income and expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the year-end valuations in the Balance Sheet and note 12a.

1.16 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a legal or constructive obligation in the future that probably requires settlement by transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Authority 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 the relevant risks and uncertainties. Any payments eventually made are charged against the provision, provisions are reviewed at the end of each financial year and any reduction in the need for the provision is credited back to the relevant service.

Contingent Liabilities

Contingent liabilities arise where events have taken place which give the Authority possible obligations whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Authority. Contingent liabilities also arise where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that a settlement 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

Contingent assets arise where events have taken place which gives the Authority possible assets whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Authority. Contingent assets are not recognised in the balance sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

Developers' Contributions

Developers' contributions are monies received from developers under Section 106 of the Town Country Planning Act 1990 for future expenditure on affordable housing, drainage, community costs and development etc. Any unused balances of these contributions at the Balance Sheet date are shown as receipts in advance under creditors until such time as the terms and conditions of receipt have been fully satisfied.

1.17 Reserves

The Council has set aside certain revenue and capital amounts as earmarked reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. All other fund balances represent working balances for the purpose of the specific fund and are made up of accumulated surpluses and deficits derived over a period of time. All earmarked fund balances and reserves are reviewed periodically as to their size and appropriateness.

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

Certain reserves are unusable reserves and are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, local taxation, retirement and employee benefits are explained in the relevant policies.

1.18 Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)

Expenditure which is incurred during the year and may be capitalised under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. Such expenditure which is met from capital resources or from borrowing is then transferred out in the movement in reserves statement from the General Fund balance to the Capital adjustment account, and then reverses out the charge so that there is no impact on the council tax.

1.19 Value Added Tax (VAT)

VAT is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from HMRC. VAT receivable is excluded from Income.

1.20 Group Accounts

The boundary for Group Accounts is determined by the extent of the Council's control or influence over an entity, and the materiality of the relationship to users of the Council's accounts.

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

A subsidiary is an entity which the Council controls through the power to govern its financial and operational activities, so as to obtain benefits from the entity. Control is deemed to exist where the Council owns more than half of the entity.

An associate is an entity where the Council has significant influence over decision making, but stopping short of control. It is normally presumed that significant influence exists where the Council owns 20% or more of the entity.

A joint venture is where two organisations work together in a formal partnership sharing 50% each of the risk and rewards. The Council is in a partnership with Hill Partnerships Ltd called the South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership (SCIP) and with Balfour Beattie called South Cambridgeshire Projects (SCP). The Council has lent money to SCIP for the purchase of land opposite the Council Offices for a Housing Development scheme.

A jointly controlled entity exists where the Council is party to the contractually and binding agreed shared control of an organisation, where strategic financial and operating decisions require unanimous consent of the parties sharing control.

Group accounts have been prepared for South Cambs Ltd (trading as Ermine Street Housing), Cambourne Business Park Limited and Shire Homes Lettings Limited, all are wholly owned subsidiaries of South Cambridgeshire District Council. Investments in the subsidiary companies are recognised in the Balance Sheet as unquoted equity investments at cost.

Private sector organisations adopted IFRS16- Leases on 1st April 2019 with retrospective application for 2018/19 as comparator. However, the formal adoption of this standard in the public sector has been delayed until 1st April 2024, the transition will occur with effect from 31st March 2025. As such there is a difference in accounting policies for both 2023/24 and 2022/23 as comparator between South Cambridge District Council (parent) and its subsidiaries (SC Ltd, Cambourne Business Park Ltd and Shire Homes). The Code mandates that where differing accounting policies exist within group boundaries that the parent's accounting policies must be applied to the subsidiaries and consolidated. As such SCDC has removed the impact of IFRS 16 from the subsidiaries account before consolidation.

1.21 Going Concern

The CIPFA Code confirms that local authority accounts must be prepared on a going concern basis.

Balances held by the Council.

Date	General Fund	Housing	Earmarked Reserves
31/03/2023	18.0m	2.8m	42.7m
31/03/2024	19.9m	3.0m	41.4m
31/03/2025	24.4m	2.9m	38.4m

The table shows that balances are and will remain well above the minimum thresholds set by the Council's S151 officer and both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account. A significant amount of HRA resources are applied to expenditure within the capital programme and this funding is set based on affordability and maintaining the HRA balance above the £2m threshold.

The UK economy continues to face uncertainty due to the ongoing financial challenges associated with high inflation levels. The Bank of England has increased the base rate several times since

2022/23, which affects interest rates for mortgages and loans. Inflation is used to drive expenditure and income assumptions in revenue budget planning. The Council lends its cash balances externally to generate a return for delivering council services while managing security and liquidity. Short term loans were used in 2023/24 to part fund the capital programme. Short term borrowing at the start of the financial year stood at £40m rising to £59.6m at year end. It initially dipped to £25m in January 2024 before rising to the level reported at 31st March 2024. Cost pressures from inflation, energy prices, and national living wage pressures and interest rates have all been taken into account for the 2024/25 budget.

Subsidiary companies

The Council's subsidiary companies' ability to continue as a going concern is dependent on their ability to generate profit in the medium term, where applicable, and/or the continued support of the Council.

The Council has provided cash in the form of loans to its subsidiary Ermine Street Housing for the purchase of property and with regard to Shire Homes Ltd to meet the operating deficit. During the twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts this is expected to continue and there is a parent guarantee in place to that effect.

Due to the parent guarantee from the Council for the subsidiary companies, the subsidiary accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

If there is any short-term liquidity requirements over the next twelve months from approval date these will be met on the basis of the guarantee in place.

The Council concludes that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, and that the Council will continue as a going concern, based on the review of the forecasted reserve and cash position 12 months from the signing of the accounts.

2 Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted

The following changes in accounting standards will be introduced in the 2024/25 Code:

- IFRS16 Leases issued in January 2016.
- Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current (Amendments to IFRS 1) issued in January 2020.
- Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback (Amendments to IFRS16) issued in September 2022.
- Updating Non-current Liabilities with Covenants (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in October 2022.
- International Tax Reform: Pillar Two Model Rules (Amendments to IAS 12) issued in May 2023.
- Supplier Finance Arrangements (Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7) issued in May 2023.

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

The local authority has not implemented IFRS 16 Leases, which requires the recognition of lease assets and liabilities on the balance sheet. The impact of this adoption on 1 April 2024 is currently being assessed and not known or reasonably estimable, further details will be provided in future financial statements. CIPFA code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 page 308 para c24 d) ii)

These amendments will not have a material impact on the financial statements or balances of the Council.

3 Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in note 1 (accounting policies), the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events, this includes a degree of uncertainty about the levels of funding for local government. However, the Authority has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Authority might be impaired as a result of a need to reduce levels of service provision or through changes to arrangements for service provision.

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

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

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

Pensions Liability

The main item in the Council's balance sheet as at 31 March for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment is the estimation of the pension net assets by a consulting Actuary engaged by the pension fund administrator, Cambridgeshire County Council. When a net pension asset is calculated, there is a restriction on the recognition of that asset to the estimated future benefit from that asset in reduced pension contributions. The calculation of this net pension asset ceiling is also subject to actuarial assumptions.

The estimation is over several decades where a small change in one of the assumptions can have a large effect on the liability and the Actuary has provided the following sensitivity analysis. The effects on the net pension asset prior to the impact of the net pension asset ceiling of changes in individual assumptions can be measured as follows

<i>Change in assumption</i>	2022-23 Inc. in Liability (£m)	2023-24 Inc. in Liability (£m)
<i>0.1% decrease in real discount rate</i>	28.15	3.12
<i>0.1% increase in salary increase rate</i>	0.27	0.11
<i>0.1% increase in pension increase rate</i>	25.87	3.07

Fair Value Measurement

When the fair value of assets and liabilities cannot be measured based on quoted prices in an active market (Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using valuation techniques. Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observation data, but where this is not possible judgement is required in establishing fair values. These judgements typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. However, changes in the assumptions used could affect the fair value of the Authority's assets and liabilities.

Where Level 1 input is not available, the Authority employs relevant experts to identify the most appropriate valuation techniques to determine fair value.

The most significant assets that the Authority has measured at fair value in the Balance Sheet where Level 1 inputs are not available are Investment Properties (Group Accounts) and Surplus Property, Plant and Equipment. Significant changes in any of the unobservable inputs in these valuations would result in significantly higher/lower fair value measurements.

Information about the valuation techniques and inputs used in determining the fair value of the Authority's assets and liabilities can be found in Notes 12, 15 and 20.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. If the Council did not sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance the useful lives currently assigned to assets may be reduced.

If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increased and the carrying value of the asset will decrease. The largest category of assets is Council dwellings and it is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for these would increase by approximately £251,000+ for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.

Investment Properties

The only expenditure on investment properties was related to enhancements. No properties were purchased during 2023/24. Rental income and changes in valuation fall within the heading financing and investment income and expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the year end valuations in the Balance Sheet and note 12(a).

5 Events After Balance Sheet Date

The draft Statement of Accounts were authorised for issue by the S151 Officer (Peter Maddock) on 28/06/2024. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2023, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

6 Expenditure and Funding Analysis

(a) Adjustments between Funding & Accounting Basis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis is complementary to the Movement in Reserves Statement and Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account. The overall purpose of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis is to analyse the amounts reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account as operating reporting segment outturn totals across specific types of Reserves.

2022/23					2023/24			
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund & HRA Balances	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis Capital	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis Other	Net Expenditure in the CIES		Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund & HRA Balances	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis Capital	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis Other	Net Expenditure in the CIES
£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000
2,178	0	199	2,377	Chief Executive	2,676	0	(37)	2,639
7,262	731	1,409	9,402	Head of Climate, Waste & Environment	7,655	998	(217)	8,436
4,533	4,103	983	9,619	Head of Finance	8,061	(1)	(75)	7,985
0	0	0	0	Monitoring Officer	109	0	0	109
809	2,403	405	3,617	Head of Housing	1,010	745	(48)	1,707
5,056	0	1,064	6,120	Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning	4,652	0	(172)	4,480
1,943	3	320	2,266	Head of Transformation, HR & Corporate Services	3,207	603	(133)	3,677
(10,453)	7,460	604	(2,389)	Housing Revenue Account	91	29,593	(100)	29,584
11,328	14,700	4,984	31,012	Net Cost of Service	27,461	31,938	(782)	58,617
(4,700)	(24,797)	(1,967)	(31,464)	Other Income and Expenditure	(27,705)	(26,701)	363	(54,043)
6,628	(10,097)	3,017	(452)	(Surplus) / Deficit on provision of services	(244)	5,237	(419)	4,574
(19,662)				Opening General Fund and HRA Balance	(20,856)			
6,628				(Surplus)/Deficit on General Fund and HRA	(244)			
(7,822)				Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	(1,867)			
(20,856)				Closing General Fund and HRA Balance	(22,967)			

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

(b) Expenditure and Funding by Nature

The authority's expenditure and income is analysed as follows:

2022/23	Subjective Analysis	2023/24
£000		£000
	Expenditure	
39,019	Employee Expenses (including Benefits)	34,288
48,190	Other Service Expenses	55,221
0	Support Service Recharges	(1,222)
19,580	Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	53,368
7,789	Interest Payments	8,533
7,131	Precepts and Levies	7,756
1,810	Pension Interest costs & expected return on assets	-
0	Contributions towards pension deficits	1,700
123,519	Total Expenditure	159,644
	Income	
(53,360)	Fees, Charges and Other Service Income	(56,799)
(22,417)	Government Grants/Contributions (Services)	(25,773)
(8,421)	Gain on the disposal of assets	(2,476)
(9,342)	Government Grants/Contributions (Central)	(21,162)
(5,432)	Interest and Investment Income	(6,233)
(1,291)	Net income in relation to inv. prop. and changes in fair value	(17,455)
(17,241)	Income From Council Tax	(18,023)
(6,467)	Business Rates Income and Expenditure	(7,149)
(123,971)	Total Income	(155,070)
(452)	(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	4,574

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

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.

	Gen. Fund	Housing Revenue Account	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grant Un-applied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
2023/24	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments Involving the Capital Receipts Reserve						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain\loss on disposal to the CIES	563	4,285		(4,848)		
Used to finance new Capital Expenditure				23,966		(23,966)
Adjustments Primarily Involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account						
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account	1,050	0			(291)	(759)
Adjustments Involving the Capital Adjustment Account						
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(1,625)	(9,722)				11,347
Upward/(Downward) revaluation of non-current assets	(581)	(41,301)				41,882
Amortisation of intangible assets	(139)					139
Capital Grants and contributions applied	898	11,709			57	(12,664)
Revenue expenditure funded from Capital under statute	(957)					957
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain\loss on disposal to the CIES	(208)	(2,216)				2,424
Statutory provision for repayment of debt (MRP)	1,147					(1,147)
Movement in Fair Value of Investment Properties	15,375					(15,375)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	1,461	5,299				(6,760)
Adjustments relating to the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR)						
Depreciation transferred from HRA		9,722	(9,722)			
Use of the MRR to finance new capital exp			8,591			(8,591)
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited\credited to the CIES	734	100				(834)
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account						
Amount by which council tax and business rate income credited to the CIES is different from that calculated in accordance with statutory requirements	(357)					357
Adjustments Involving the Accumulated Absences Account						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(45)	(10)				55
Total Adjustments	17,316	(22,134)	(1,131)	19,118	(234)	(12,935)

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

	Gen. Fund	Housing Revenue Account	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grant Un-applied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
2022/23	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments Involving the Capital Receipts Reserve						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain\loss on disposal to the CIES	25,385	7,856		(33,241)		
Used to finance new Capital Expenditure				5,550		(5,550)
Adjustments Primarily Involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account						
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account	0				0	
Adjustments Involving the Capital Adjustment Account						
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(1,143)	(9,462)				10,605
Upward/(Downward) revaluation of non-current assets	(1,300)	(7,460)				8,760
Amortisation of intangible assets	(215)					215
Capital Grants and contributions applied	2,023	776			73	(2,872)
Revenue expenditure funded from Capital under statute	(4,583)					4,583
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain\loss on disposal to the CIES	(20,500)	(4,349)				24,849
Statutory provision for repayment of debt (MRP)	997					(997)
Movement in Fair Value of Investment Properties	395					(395)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	6,025	6,189				(12,214)
Adjustments relating to the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR)						
Depreciation transferred from HRA		9,462	(9,462)			
Use of the MRR to finance new capital exp			10,760			(10,760)
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited\credited to the CIES	(5,916)	(804)				6,720
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account						
Amount by which council tax and business rate income credited to the CIES is different from that calculated in accordance with statutory requirements	3,779					(3,779)
Adjustments Involving the Accumulated Absences Account						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(57)	(18)				75
Total Adjustments	4,890	2,190	1,298	(27,691)	73	19,240

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

8 Movements in Earmarked Reserves

	Balance 01 April 2022	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Balance 31 March 2023	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Balance 31 March 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Business Rates Growth	(3,485)		3,000	(485)	(1,389)		(1,874)
Infrastructure	(5,835)		3,542	(2,293)		2,293	0
Greater Cambridge City Deal	(4,329)			(4,329)		4,330	1
Renewables	(6,130)	(1,513)	1,105	(6,538)	(2,948)		(9,486)
Pensions	(89)		89	0			0
Vehicle Renewables	(3,645)	(850)	668	(3,827)	(202)		(4,029)
Accommodation	(575)	(124)	29	(670)		226	(444)
Transformation Reserves	(2,731)		1,230	(1,501)		759	(742)
Electoral Registration	(172)	(82)	172	(82)	(82)		(164)
Land Charges	(103)			(103)			(103)
Environmental	(172)	(453)	121	(504)	(105)		(609)
Planning	(4,876)	(856)	486	(5,246)		16	(5,230)
Other	(31)	0	26	(5)	0		(5)
Home for Ukraine	0	(1,279)	0	(1,279)	(1,388)		(2,667)
Homelessness	(807)	(591)	599	(799)	(24)		(823)
Community Development	(269)		226	(43)	(5)		(48)
Housing	(250)		35	(215)		32	(183)
Property Investment	(3,937)	(111)	628	(3,420)			(3,420)
Covid-19	(3,172)		1,879	(1,293)		185	(1,108)
HomeLink	(144)	(8)	15	(137)	(7)		(144)
Software Fund	(300)	(100)	39	(361)		176	(185)
Revenues and Benefits	0	(100)		(100)			(100)
General Fund	(41,052)	(6,067)	13,889	(33,230)	(6,150)	8,017	(31,363)
Self Insurance	(1,000)	0	0	(1,000)	0	0	(1,000)
Investment Repayment	(8,500)	0	0	(8,500)	0	0	(8,500)
Housing Revenue Account	(9,500)	0	0	(9,500)	0	0	(9,500)
Total Earmarked Reserves	(50,552)	(6,067)	13,889	(42,730)	(6,150)	8,017	(40,863)

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

9 Other Operating Income and Expenditure

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
6,516	Parish Council precepts	6,964
208	Internal Drainage Boards	219
407	Enterprise Zones	573
-	Contributions towards pension deficits	1,700
(8,421)	(Gains) / losses on the disposal of non-current assets	(2,430)
(1,290)	Total	7,026

10 Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
7,789	Interest payable and similar charges	8,533
1,810	Pensions interest cost	-
(5,432)	Interest receivable and similar income	(6,233)
(1,291)	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and	(17,035)
2,876	Total	(14,735)

11 Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income and Expenditure

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
(17,241)	Council Tax Income	(18,023)
(6,467)	Non Domestic Rate Income	(7,149)
(7,165)	Non-ring fenced Government Grants (see note 28 for breakdown)	(8,409)
(2,177)	Capital Grants and Other Contributions (see note 28 for breakdown)	(12,753)
(33,050)	Total	(46,334)

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

12 Property, Plant and Equipment

Depreciation starting in the year after acquisition is provided for on non-current assets by writing down the cost (or re-valued amount) less estimated residual value, on a straight-line basis to the appropriate revenue account over the following periods:

- * Council dwellings – 42 to 56 years,
- * Buildings other than dwellings – 8 to 54 years,
- * Vehicles, plant and equipment – 3 to 14 years.

No depreciation is charged on surplus assets, assets held for sale or freehold land in accordance with standard accounting policies. The depreciation charged on dwelling stock is reversed out at 31 March each year when the housing stock is revalued so this charge has no impact on the fair value of the housing stock as recorded in the Balance Sheet.

	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equip-ment £000	Infra-structure Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total £000
Gross Book Value 01 April 2023	633,158	32,269	13,267	1,607	5,939	13,055	699,295
Adjustments	(89)						(89)
Additions	32,270	3,456	1,564	447	26,338	2,102	66,177
Revaluation Cr.ed to Revaluation Reserve	(7,486)	1,204	0	0	0	132	(6,150)
Revaluation Applied to the CIES	(41,590)	(114)	0	0	0	40	(41,664)
Derecognition- Disposals	(2,119)	(166)	0	0	0	(262)	(2,547)
Transfers	10,114	180	0	0	(10,114)	(180)	0
Gross Book Value 31 March 2024	624,258	36,829	14,831	2,054	22,163	14,887	715,022
Depreciation 01 April 2023	(122)	(343)	(8,947)	(243)	0	0	(9,655)
Depreciation in Year	(9,504)	(591)	(1,113)	(121)	0	0	(11,329)
Adjustments	68	200	(125)	(56)	0	0	87
Depreciation written off to Revaluation Reserve	9,526	532	0	0	0	0	10,058
Depreciation written out to CIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition- Disposals	18	15	`	0	0	0	33
Depreciation 31 March 2024	(14)	(187)	(10,185)	(420)	0	0	(10,806)
Net Book Value 31 March 2023	633,036	31,926	4,320	1,364	5,939	13,055	689,640
Net Book Value 31 March 2024	624,244	36,642	4,646	1,634	22,163	14,887	704,216

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equip-ment £000	Infra-structure Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total £000
Gross Book Value 01 April 2022	613,653	29,560	11,978	1,512	10,451	13,977	681,131
Adjustments	7	(10)	(2)	0	3	(5)	(7)
Additions	8,908	2,665	1,291	95	13,166	6	26,131
Revaluation credited to Revaluation Reserve	4,833	558	0	0	0	(64)	5,327
Revaluation Applied to the CIES	(7,396)	(504)	0	0	0	(860)	(8,760)
Derecognition- Disposals	(4,528)	0	0	0	0	1	(4,527)
Transfers	17,681	0	0	0	(17,681)	0	0
Gross Book Value 31 March 2023	633,158	32,269	13,267	1,607	5,939	13,055	699,295
Depreciation 01 April 2022	(143)	(303)	(8,015)	(167)	0	0	(8,628)
Depreciation in Year	(9,044)	(552)	(932)	(76)	0	0	(10,604)
Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation written off to Revaluation Reserve	9,037	512	0	0	0	0	9,549
Depreciation written out to CIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition- Disposals	28	0	0	0	0	0	28
Depreciation 31 March 2023	(52)	(143)	(9,072)	(299)	0	0	(9,655)
Net Book Value 31 March 2022	613,510	29,257	3,963	1,364	10,451	13,977	672,503
Net Book Value 31 March 2023	633,106	32,126	4,195	1,308	5,939	13,055	689,640

Revaluations

It is a requirement that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every five years. The Council carries out a programme that will ensure the valuer undertakes an annual desk top revaluation review with an in depth valuation at least every five years.

Valuations, with an effective date of 31 March 2024, on the bases set out in the statement of accounting policies have been carried out by Wilks, Head & Eve LLP for all land and buildings.

The Council is not aware of any events or circumstances which indicate that the amounts stated in the balance sheet for non-current assets may not be realisable, as at the balance sheet date. Council dwellings are valued on the prescribed basis set out in note 1.14.

The valuation of operational property was on the basis of existing use value. Further detail on the basis for valuation is set out in the statement of accounting policies 1.14.

Surplus assets are valued at fair value (at level 2 of the fair value hierarchy) as at 31 March 2024. This value represents the development potential based on a value per net developable acre taking into account planning risk.

Details on investment property valuation can be found in Note 12a.

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

Vehicles, Plant and Equipment as short life operational assets, are held at historical cost less depreciation.

Valuation	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equip-ment £000	Infra-structure Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total £000
Carried Historical Cost	0	0	14,831	2,054	22,163	0	39,048
Valued at Current Value as from:							
31 March 2024	624,258	36,829	0	0	0	14,887	675,974
Total Cost or Valuation	624,258	36,829	14,831	2,054	22,163	14,887	715,022

12a Investment Properties

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

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
(1,497)	Rental income from investment property	(2,079)
602	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	419
(895)	Net (gain)/loss	(1,660)

There are no restrictions on the authority’s ability to realise the value inherent in its investment property or on the authority’s right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The authority has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or repairs, maintenance or enhancement.

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

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
38,118	Balance at the start of the year	39,135
	Additions:	
0	Purchases	0
622	Subsequent expenditure	0
0	Adjustment	0
395	Net gains/(losses) from fair value adjustments	15,375
39,135	Balance at the end of the year	54,510

All investment properties have been valued based on level 2 (office/commercial units) observable inputs for the asset either directly or indirectly using a market approach and that their current use is their highest and best use. The updated valuations were carried out as at 31 March 2024 by Wilks, Head & Eve LLP.

The office and commercial units located in the local authority area are measured using the market approach, it uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable (i.e. similar) assets.

The authority’s office and commercial units are therefore categorised as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy as the measurement technique uses observable inputs to determine the fair value measurements. The inputs used took the form of analysed and weighted market evidence such as sales, rentals and yields in respect of comparable properties in the same or similar locations at or around the valuation date.

In estimating the fair value of the authority’s investment properties, the highest and best use of the properties is their current use.

13 Investments and Borrowing

Credit risk arises from investments with banks and other financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council’s customers.

The following shows the original principal sum invested at 31 March analysed by the nature of the financial institution and by maturity, these investments (other than South Cambs Ltd) are fixed time and callable deposits where the deposits are redeemed for the same value as the amount invested. The deposits are with United Kingdom banks, building societies and housing associations and, therefore, no provision is made for possible loss of principal.

31 March 2023	Investments	31 March 2024
£000		£000
19,547	Local Authorities	508
101,302	South Cambs Limited	101,071
9,657	Clearing Banks	1,714
5,115	Banks (other)	5,115
2,374	Money Market Funds	5,118
10	Cambourne Business Park Limited (CBPL)	30
13,396	South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership (SCIP)	13,591
2,521	Other	2,489
153,922		129,636
(19,053)	Less: cash and cash equivalents	(6,832)
134,869	Total	122,804

31 March 2023		31 March 2024	31 March 2024	31 March 2024
		Short Term	Long Term	Total
£000	Principal Investment analysed by maturity	£000	£000	£000
12,000	2024/25	5,000	0	5,000
120,864	2025/26	0	115,822	115,822
2,005	Accrued Interest	115	1,867	1,982
134,869		5,115	117,689	122,804

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

Long Term Borrowing for HRA Financing

In March 2012 the Council obtained 43 individual loans with maturity dates between 28 March 2025 and 28 March 2057 from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) to finance the one-off payment to buy the Council out of the negative subsidy position at the end of 2011/12. The loans have been included in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost, administration charges where incurred are charged directly to the Housing Revenue Income and Expenditure Account. An analysis of the PWLB long term liability is provided below:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
-	Repayable within 5 years	(17,000)
	Repayable within 15 years	(25,000)
	Repayable within 20 years	(50,000)
(85,000)	Repayable within 25 years	(50,000)
(50,000)	Repayable within 30 years	(50,000)
(50,000)	Repayable within 35 years	(30,123)
(20,123)	Repayable within 40 years	
(205,123)	Net Carrying Amount at end of the year	(222,123)

14 Long Term Debtors

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
418	Webbs Hole Sluice	418
329	Long Term Loans	329
747	Net Carrying Amount at end of the year	747

15 Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments

Long Term	Current		Long Term	Current
31 March 2023	31 March 2023	Categories of Financial Assets	31 March 2024	31 March 2024
£000	£000		£000	£000
		Financial assets held at amortised costs		
120,864	12,000	Investments (Principal amount)	115,822	5,000
1,984	21	Investments Accrued Interest	1,867	115
0	19,053	Cash & Cash Equivalents	0	6,832
747	7,341	Debtors	747	6,001
123,595	38,415	Total Financial Assets	118,436	17,948

Long Term	Current		Long Term	Current
31 March 2023	31 March 2023	Categories of Financial Liabilities	31 March 2024	31 March 2024
		Financial liabilities held at amortised costs		
(205,123)	(40,000)	Loans (principal amount)	(225,123)	(39,600)
		Interrest Accrued		
0	(1,313)	Cash & Cash Equivalents	0	(734)
0	(15,401)	Current Creditors	0	(8,706)
(205,123)	(56,714)	Total Financial Liabilities	(225,123)	(49,040)

Long Term	Current		Long Term	Current
31 March 2023	31 March 2023	Debtors Reconciliation to Balance Sheet	31 March 2024	31 March 2024
£000	£000		£000	£000
747	7,341	Included in Financial Assets	747	6,001
		Debtors that do not meet the definition of a financial assets:		
0	6,864	Statutory Debtors	0	10,344
0	127	Prepayments	0	246
	(3,226)	Provision for Bad Debts / Impairment		(2,646)
747	11,106	Total Debtors	747	13,945

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

Income and Expense Gains and Losses

Items of Income, Expense, Gains and Losses Recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The following table provides a breakdown of the financial instrument items of income, expenditure and gains/ losses recognised in the CIES.

2022/23				2023/24		
Financial Liabilities: Amortised Cost	Financial Assets: Amortised Cost	Total	Financial instrument items of income, expenditure and gains/losses recognised in the CIES	Financial Liabilities: Amortised Cost	Financial Assets: Amortised Cost	Total
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
7,789	0	7,789	Interest Expense	8,533	0	8,533
0	0	0	Impairment losses	0	0	0
7,789	0	7,789	Total expense in (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	8,533	0	8,533
0	(5,432)	(5,432)	Interest Income	0	(6,233)	(6,233)
0	0	0	Dividend Income	0	0	0
0	(5,432)	(5,432)	Total income in (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	0	(6,233)	(6,233)
7,789	(5,432)	2,357	Net (Gain)/Loss for the year	8,533	(6,233)	2,300

Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

Financial liabilities and assets are carried in the balance sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions.
For trade payables, bank deposits and trade receivables, being of short duration, and for long term mortgages, being at variable rates, the carrying value in the balance sheet is considered approximate to their fair value.

For investments, which are mainly at fixed rates, fair value has not been calculated as this is the same as its carrying value.

Estimated ranges of interest rates at 31 March 2024 of 3.97% to 4.30% (3.62% to 3.79% at 31 March 2023) for SCDC loans from the Public Works Loans Board based on premature repayment rates at that date.

Fair value is the amount determined by knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm’s length transaction. Local authorities are required to follow the fair value hierarchy prescribed by paragraphs 76-90 of IFRS13. This hierarchy categorises into three levels the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value, these include:

- Level 1 inputs- quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Authority can access at the measurement date
- Level 2 inputs- inputs other than quoted prices included within level1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly
- Level 3 inputs- unobservable inputs for the asset or liability

The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 inputs) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 inputs).

The fair values and carrying values are considered to be the same with the exception of the following;

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
Carrying Amount	Fair Value		Carrying Amount	Fair Value
£000	£000		£000	£000
		Financial liabilities		
(205,123)	(197,886)	Long term borrowing	(222,123)	203,913
(205,123)	(197,886)	Total Financial Liabilities	(222,123)	203,913

The fair value of the long term PWLB loans measures the economic effect of the terms agreed with the PWLB compared with estimates of the terms that would be offered for a market transaction undertaken at the balance sheet date. The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value

measure the additional interest that the Council will pay over the remaining terms of the loans under the agreements with the PWLB, against what would be paid if the loans were at prevailing rates.

The fair value of the loans from the PWLB has been assessed using the new loans rate. IFRS13 and the Code require that in the absence of a quoted price for a liability, fair value should be measured from the perspective of a market participant. For PWLB loans, measurement is therefore required from the perspective of the PWLB, assessing the price that they would be able to secure if they were to sell the loans in an orderly market transaction. However, it is sometimes not possible to find observable active markets.

If the Council were to seek to take advantage of the lower prevailing market rates by repaying current PWLB loans, the PWLB would charge a penalty and the Council would have to pay an early redemption rate. The exit price for PWLB loans including this penalty would be over £250m.

16 Short Term Debtors and Payments in Advance

An analysis of debtors falling due within one year is shown below:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
1,505	Central Government Bodies	2,381
5,758	Local Authorities	8,974
230	NHS	38
6,712	Other Entities and Individuals	4,952
127	Payments in Advance	246
14,332	Total debtors and payments in advance	16,591
	Less: Provision for Bad Debts / Impairment	
(125)	Council Tax Arrears- Council share	(128)
(863)	NDR Arrears- Council share	(465)
(753)	Housing (HRA)	(740)
(1,485)	Sundry Debtors (customer debt)	(1,313)
(3,226)	Total provisions for bad debts / impairments	(2,646)
11,106	Total net figure	13,945

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

The credit risk associated with accounts payable to the Council is reflected in the provisions made in the accounts for doubtful debts.

17 Cash and Cash Equivalents

The balance of cash and cash equivalents is made up of the following elements:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
19,053	Short-term Deposits and Money Market Funds	6,832
(1,313)	Bank Overdrafts	(734)
17,740	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	6,098

18 Short Term Creditors and Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance

An analysis of creditors falling due within one year is shown below:

Restated 31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
(20,817)	Central Government Bodies	(12,154)
(10,806)	Local Authorities	(9,036)
(25,020)	Other Entities and Individuals - S106 (see breakdown in note 18a)	(22,167)
(5,005)	Other Entities and Individuals -Other	(5,748)
(5,248)	Receipts in Advance	(5,875)
(66,896)	Total creditors and receipts in advance	(54,980)

18(a) Capital Grants and Contributions

Developer (S106) Contributions:

Developers’ contributions are monies received from developers under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 which contribute to the infrastructure costs for drainage and to community arts and development and are detailed below:

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000	Developer (S106) Contributions:	£000
	Capital	
(21,978)	Commutated sums	(19,953)
(956)	Community Transport Initiative	(791)
(1,335)	Affordable Housing s106	(787)
(24,269)		(21,531)
	Revenue	
(54)	Sustainability s106 Orchard park	(54)
(13)	Public art s106 Orchard Park	(10)
(95)	Community development s106	(72)
(16)	Electoral arrangements	(16)
(573)	Waste Management	(484)
(751)		(636)
(25,020)		(22,167)

19 Provisions

Provisions included in the balance sheet consist of provisions for bad and doubtful debts, which have been netted off against debtors as shown in the Balance Sheet and Note 16.

New arrangements for the retention of Business Rates came into effect on 1 April 2013, at which time the Council assumed liability for refunding ratepayers who have successfully appealed against the rateable value of their properties on the rating list, which will include amounts that were paid over to central Government in respect of 2012/13 and prior years. A provision for the appeals liabilities of £5.762m has been recognised in the 2023/24 accounts (£3.219m in 2022/23), and the in-year movement is shown in Note 19.

Short Term (Business Rates)		Short Term (Business Rates)
£000		£000
(3,282)	Balance at 01 April 2023	(3,219)
63	Additional provisions made in 2023/24	(2,543)
0	Amounts used in 2023/24	0
(3,219)	Balance as at 31 March 2024	(5,762)

20 Unusable Reserves

Movements in Usable Reserves are shown in detail on the Movement in Reserves Statement.

31 March 2023			31 March 2024
£000			£000
(232,401)	Revaluation Reserve	(a)	(235,959)
(239,319)	Capital Adjustment Account	(b)	(252,413)
427	Pension Reserve	(c)	(5,964)
(106)	Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	(d)	(106)
(1,001)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(e)	(644)
456	Accumulated Absences Account	(f)	509
(471,944)			(494,577)

(a) Revaluation Reserve

The revaluation reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of Property, Plant and Equipment (and Intangible Assets). The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

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

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

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
(221,552)	Balance at 1 April	(232,401)
(22,933)	Upward revaluation of assets	(4,144)
8,064	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the (Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	
(14,869)	(Surplus) or Deficit on revaluation of non current assets not posted to the (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(4,144)
3,213	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	586
807	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	0

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
4,020	Net amount transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	586
(232,401)	Balance at 31 March	(235,959)

(b) 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 provision. The account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the CIES (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

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

Note 7 details the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve and Deferred Capital Receipts.

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
(251,533)	Balance at 1 April	(239,319)
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:	
10,605	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	11,347
8,760	Revaluation impairment through CIES	41,882
0	Reversal of impairment on revaluation	0
215	Amortisation of intangible assets	139
4,583	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	957
24,849	Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal as part of the gain / loss on disposal posted to the CIES	2,424
(807)	Write out of revaluation gain on disposal from Revaluation Reserve	
(3,213)	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment w/o from Reval. Res.	(586)
44,992	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	56,163
	Capital financing applied in the year:	
(5,550)	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(23,966)
(10,760)	Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(8,591)
(776)	Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	(12,664)
(2,023)	Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(759)
(997)	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund balance	(1,147)
	Use of General Earmarked Reserved to finance new capital expenditure	
(12,214)	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(6,760)
(32,320)		(53,887)
(395)	Movements in the market value of Investment Properties credited to the CIES	(15,375)
(63)	Other adjustment	5
(239,319)	Balance at 31 March	(252,413)

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

c) Pension 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 CIES as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed 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 of the Pension Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by the past and current employees and the resources the Council have set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements ensure the funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

See Note 32 for further details of the Reserve Balance which equates to the Liability.

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
59,104	Balance at 1 April	427
(65,397)	Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liabilities	(5,557)
12,033	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	5,009
(5,313)	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(5,843)
427	Balance at 31 March	(5,964)

(d) Deferred Capital Receipts

The Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve holds the gains recognised on the disposal of non-current assets but for which cash settlement has yet to take place. Under statutory arrangements, the Council does not treat these gains as useable for financing new capital expenditure until they are backed by cash receipts. When the cash is eventually received, amounts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
(97)	Balance at 1 April	(106)
(9)	Movement in year	0
(106)	Balance at 31 March	(106)

(e) Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account represents the amount that the Council owes itself at the year end arising from the declared Collection Fund Surplus for the year. This amount is not permitted to be allocated to the General Fund under Statute hence its inclusion within this Reserve.

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
2,777	Balance at 1 April	(1,001)
(3,852)	Amount by which the non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement is different from non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	210
74	Amount by which the council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	147
(1,001)	Balance at 31 March	(644)

(f) Accumulated Absence Reserve

The Accumulating Compensated Absence Reserve reflects the input of excess staff time utilised at the Balance Sheet Date which will be paid in kind beyond the Balance Sheet Date in the form of excess leave.

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
383	Balance at 1 April	456
0	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of previous year	(456)
73	Amounts accrued at the end of current year	509
456	Balance at 31 March	509

21 Cash Flow Statement- Operating Activities

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

Adjusted net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services for non cash movements

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
10,819	Depreciation	11,385
8,337	Impairment and upward revaluations	26,512
5,732	Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(11,916)
(63)	Increase / (decrease) in provisions	2,543
2,432	(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(2,839)
(34)	(Increase) / decrease in inventories	131
6,720	Pension Liability	(834)
24,877	Carrying amount of Non-Current Assets sold	2,529
1	Other Non-Cash Items Charged to the Net Surplus or deficit on the Provision of Services	1
58,821	Total	27,512

Adjusted for items included in the net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
(2,193)	Creditors relating to Section 106 etc.	2,853
(7,243)	Creditors relating to Collection Fund Agencies	(2,943)
0	Debtors relating to Collection Fund Agencies	856
(33,241)	Proceeds from the sale of property and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(4,848)
(42,677)	Total	(4,082)

Operating activities within the cashflow statement include the following cash flows relating to interest and other operating activities

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
5,432	Interest Received	6,233
(7,789)	Interest Charge for the Year	(8,533)
(2,357)	Total	(2,300)

22 Cash Flow Statement- Investing Activities

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
(26,789)	Purchase of Property, Plant & Equipment, Investing Property	(66,244)
(18,466)	Purchase of Short-term and Long-term Investments	12,065
(10,000)	Purchase of Short-term and Long-term Borrowing	19,600
33,241	Proceeds from Sale of Property, Plant & Equipment, Investment	4,848
(22,014)	Total	(29,731)

23 Cash Flow Statement- Financing Activities

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
2,193	Creditors relating to Section 106 etc.	(2,853)
7,243	Creditors relating to Collection Fund Agencies	2,943
0	Debtors relating to Collection Fund Agencies	(856)
9,436	Total	(766)

24 Trading Operations

There were no trading operations at the Council in 2023/24 or prior.

25 Members Allowance

South Cambridgeshire District Council was represented by a total of 45 Councillors during the year. Further information is available upon request from the Democratic Services Manager, South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6EA.

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£		£
368,374	Allowances	400,185
9,648	Expenses	10,105
378,022	Total	410,290

26 Officer Remuneration

Senior officers' remuneration.

	2023/24				
	Salary (including fees and allowances)	Benefits in Kind	Pension Contributions	Compensa- tion for Loss of Office	Total Remuneration including Pension Contributions
Chief Executive	141,166	0	24,281	0	165,447
Chief Operating Officer	118,359	0	20,358	0	138,717
Head of Housing	81,834	0	14,075	0	95,909
Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development ¹	118,359	0	20,358	0	138,717
Head of Finance & Section151 Officer	81,834	0	14,075	0	95,909
Head of Transformation HR & Corporate Services	87,847	0	15,110	0	102,957
Head of Climate, Environment & Waste	93,861	0	13,685	0	107,546
Total	723,260	0	121,942	0	845,202

	2022/23				
	Salary (including fees and allowances)	Benefits in Kind	Pension Contributions	Compensa- tion for Loss of Office	Total Remuneration including Pension Contributions
Chief Executive	138,766	0	23,590	0	162,356
Chief Operating Officer	115,959	0	19,713	0	135,672
Head of Housing	79,434	0	13,504	0	92,938
Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development ¹	115,959	0	19,713	0	135,672
Head of Finance & Section151 Officer	85,769	0	14,581	0	100,350
Head of Transformation HR & Corporate Services	82,440	0	14,015	0	96,455
Head of Climate, Environment & Waste	88,456	0	14,235	0	102,691
Total	706,783	0	119,351	0	826,134

¹ Shared Director with Cambridge City Council. 100% of Remuneration costs shown above. Costs shared 50:50.

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

The number of employees, excluding Senior Officers shown below, whose remuneration was £50,000 or more were:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
No of Employees	Remuneration Band	No of Employees
33	£50,000 - £54,999	31
11	£55,000 - £59,999	13
3	£60,000 - £64,999	11
2	£65,000 - £69,999	6
2	£70,000 - £74,999	3
0	£75,000 - £79,999	1
0	£80,000 - £85,000	0
0	£85,000 - £89,999	0
0	£90,000 - £94,999	1
0	£95,000 - £99,999	0
0	£100,000 - £104,999	0
1	£105000 - £109,999	0
52	Total	66

Remuneration for these purposes includes all sums paid to or receivable by an employee and sums due by way of expenses allowances (as far as these sums are chargeable to UK income tax) and the money value of any other benefits other than in cash. As remuneration includes redundancy and compensation for loss of office, the number of employees in each salary band can vary from year to year. Pension contributions payable by either the employee or employer are excluded.

Termination Benefits

Exit packages are those that have been agreed by the Authority, i.e. those packages for which the Authority is demonstrably committed and, have been paid in 2023/24 or are committed to be paid within 12 months. The costs included are those termination benefits defined and measured in accordance with the Code of Practice and include all relevant redundancy costs, pension contributions in respect of early retirement, ex gratia payments and other departure costs.

	2023/24			
	No of Compulsory Redundancies	No of Other Departures	Total No of Exit Packages	Total Cost of Exit Packages in Each Band £000
Exit Package Cost Band (inc. special payments)				
£0 - £20,000	0	7	7	54
£20,001 - £40,000	0	0	0	0
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	0	0
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	0	0
£100,001 - £120,000	0	0	0	0
Total Cost Included in Bandings and in the CIES	0	7	7	54

	2022/23			
	No of Compulsory Redundancies	No of Other Departures	Total No of Exit Packages	Total Cost of Exit Packages in Each Band £000
Exit Package Cost Band (inc. special payments)				
£0 - £20,000	5	5	10	27
£20,001 - £40,000	0	0	0	0
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	0	0
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	0	0
£100,001 - £120,000	1	0	1	119
Total Cost Included in Bandings and in the CIES	6	5	11	146

27 External Audit Fees

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

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
40	External audit fees	165
24	Certification of Grant Claims & Returns - Housing Benefits	15
4	Certification of Grant Claims & Returns - Housing pooling capital receipts	4
68	Total	184

Note 1 The 2022/23 audit fee presented in the table above of £40k is the scale of fees as determined by the PSAA, the final fee for 2021/22 is still to be determined.

28 Grants and Contributions

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

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
	Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	
(2,375)	New homes bonus	(1,508)
(441)	Other non-ringfenced government grants	(1,507)
(73)	Covid grants	0
(4,276)	Business Rates	(5,394)
(2,177)	Capital grants and other Contributions	(12,753)
(9,342)	Total Grants and Contributions	(21,162)
	Credited to Services	
(18,800)	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)- Housing benefit	(19,345)
(9)	Cabinet Office (CO)- Electoral registration	(33)
0	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUC)	0
(9)	Other government grants	(1,982)
(160)	Covid support grants	0
(3,439)	Contributions from local authorities	(4,413)
(22,417)	Total Grants and Contributions	(25,773)
(31,759)	Total	(46,935)

29 Related Party Declarations

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. The Council holds a Register of Interests in which all members are required to declare any interests in accordance with the code of conduct which is open to the public.

The Council has three subsidiary companies wholly owned by the Council, South Cambs Limited (trading as Ermine Street Housing), Cambourne Business Park Limited and Shire Homes Lettings Limited. The council is also a Relevant Legal Entity (RLE) in respect of South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership LLP (LLP) and holds or is treated as holding, directly or indirectly, the right to share 50% of voting rights and any surplus assets and of the LLP on a winding up. Transactions between these companies and the Council are accounted within the Council's group accounts (see Note G5).

Ermine Street Housing

Two employees P Campbell and J Membery and two members Councillor P Sandford and Councillor J Hobro are Directors of South Cambs Limited T/A Ermine Street Housing. During 2023/24, the Council charged £5,107,563 (£3,991,203 2022/23) for its services to Ermine Street Housing. Amounts owed at the end of the year by Ermine Street Housing to the Council total £101,534,421 (£101,846,088 2022/23) related to recharges for contracted services and short term loans taken out to purchase investment properties.

Shire Homes Limited

One employee (H Wood) and one member (Councillor P Fane) of the Council are the company directors. During 2023/24 expenditure of £369,783 (£320,752 2022/23) was paid to Shire Homes Lettings Limited for contracted services to manage the Council's private sector scheme and the Council charged £261,323 (£240,269 2022/23) for its services. At the end of 2023/24 the net amount of £147,446 (£116,257 2022/23) was outstanding to the Council by Shire Homes.

Cambourne Business Park Limited

Two employees A Ainsworth and P Maddock are the company directors. At the end of 2023/24 the net amount of £30,000 (£10,000 2022/23) was outstanding to the Council by Cambourne Business Park Limited

Care Network Cambridgeshire

One Member (Councillor Sue Ellington) of the Council is the company director of Care Network Cambridgeshire. During 2023/24, a grant of £8,000 (£18,500 2022/23) was paid by the Council.

South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership LLP

South Cambridgeshire District Council is the LLP Designated Member, one member (Councillor Richard Stobart) approved the report on 20 July 2023 for the year ended 31 March 2023 on behalf of the council.

Central Government

Central Government is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates and provides a significant amount of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many transactions that the Council has with other parties, for example Council Tax bills, housing benefits.

In 2023/24, there were no reported material related party transactions that are not disclosed elsewhere in the accounts.

30 Capital Expenditure and Financing

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

31 March 2023		31 March 2024		
		HRA	GF	Total
£000		£000	£000	£000
367,025	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	204,429	167,071	371,500
0	Adjustment to Opening CFR	0	0	0
	Capital Investment			
4,165	Loan to South Cambs Ltd	0	0	0
36	Intangible Assets		67	67
26,131	Property, Plant and Equipment	56,641	9,536	66,177
622	Investment Properties	0	0	0
0	Loan to Cambourne Business Park Ltd	0	30	30
4,583	Rev. Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute		957	957
35,537	Total Capital Investment	56,641	10,590	67,231
	Sources of Finance			
(5,550)	Capital receipts	(19,042)	(4,924)	(23,966)
(12,214)	Revenue	(5,299)	(1,461)	(6,760)
(2,799)	Capital Grants	(11,709)	(1,714)	(13,423)
(10,760)	Major repairs reserve	(8,591)	0	(8,591)
(997)	MRP from Capital Adjustment Account	0	(1,147)	(1,147)
(32,320)	Total Capital Financing	(44,641)	(9,246)	(53,887)
370,242	Total	216,429	168,415	384,844
	Explanation of movements in year			
3,217	Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by Government financial assistance)	12,000	1,344	13,344

The loans made to South Cambs Limited and SCIP, from cash balances, are recognised as capital in year, increasing the Council's underlying need to borrow.

31 Leases

Council as a lessee:

Finance Leases

The Council has two leases that are classified as finance lease. They are two travellers sites, Blackwell and Whaddon, which have been leased on a peppercorn rent over a lease term of 125 years from Cambridgeshire County Council (ending 08/05/2144).

The assets acquired under these leases are carried as property, plant and equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£000s	£000s
Other Land and Buildings		
Blackwell Site	1,067	865
Whaddon Site	1,067	900
Total	2,134	1,765

There were no Minimum Lease Payments to report in 2023/24 or 2022/23.

Operating Leases

Following a full review of the Council's related agreements there are no embedded leases to report for 2023/24 (£0k in 2022/23)

The Council as a lessor:

The Council has no finance lease as a lessor.

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 recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

	2022/23	2022/23
	£000s	£000s
Not later than one year	2,624	2,032
Later than one year and not later than five years	10,472	8,128
Later than five years	6,713	6,017
Total	19,809	16,177

32 Pensions

The Council participates in the national Local Government Pension Scheme which is a funded defined benefit (average career) scheme and which also provide historic unfunded discretionary benefits, both of which are administered by Cambridgeshire County Council. With the funded scheme, the Council (the employer) and employees both pay contributions into the pension fund with the employer's contribution calculated every three years at a level intended to balance the scheme assets and liabilities over a twenty year period.

The transactions below have been made in the CIES during the year.

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	£000
10,223	Service Cost	5,009
1,810	Net Interest Charged	0
12,033	Net Charge made to the CIES	5,009
	Re-Measurements in Other Comprehensive Income	
(19,594)	Return on Fund Assets in Excess of Interest	(11,455)
79,445	Changes in Financial Assumptions	(9,725)
0	Other	5,328
5,546	Change in Demographic Assumptions	(876)
65,397	Subtotal	(16,728)
0	Impact of Asset Ceiling	11,171
65,397	Re-Measurement of the Net Assets / (Defined Liability)	(5,557)
	Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet	
(158,904)	Present Value of the Funded Obligation	(161,468)
159,915	Fair Value of Plan Assets	179,995
1,011	Subtotal	18,527
0	Impact of asset ceiling	(11,171)
1,011	Net Surplus recognised in the Balance Sheet	7,356
(1,438)	Present value of Unfunded Obligations recognised on Balance sheet	(1,392)

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

Reconciliation of the fair value of the Scheme Liabilities

Total Liabilities		Total Liabilities
31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
(219,511)	Net pensions liability at 1 April	(169,737)
(5,915)	Interest Cost	(7,620)
5,588	Change in Demographic Assumptions	876
84,917	Change in Financial Assumptions	9,725
(26,340)	Change in Other Assumptions	(5,328)
(10,111)	Current Service Cost	(5,009)
(112)	Past Service Cost Including Curtailments	0
(1,438)	Contributions by Scheme Participants	(1,571)
4,834	Benefits	6,295
(1,649)	Unfunded Benefits	114
(169,737)	Net Pension Liability at 31 March	(172,255)

Reconciliation of the fair value of the Scheme Assets

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
162,150	Fair Value of the Plan Assets at 1 April	169,310
0	Other	(9,395)
4,146	Interest on Assets	7,620
1,204	Return on Assets less Interest	11,455
5,313	Employer Contributions including Unfunded	5,843
1,438	Contributions by Scheme Participants	1,571
(4,834)	Benefits Paid	(6,295)
(107)	Contribution in respect of unfunded benefits	(114)
169,310	Fair Value of the Plan Assets at 31 March	179,995

Determination of asset ceiling

For the local government pension scheme surplus, we are required by the Code of Accounting Practice to consider the impact of any asset ceiling on the recognition of the IAS19 asset on the balance sheet. The Council does not have an unconditional right to a refund from the local government pension scheme, therefore there is no economic benefit available due to refunds. The Council considers that

an economic benefit is available from the IAS19 surplus through possible reductions in future contributions. The effect of this is however reduced by the future service contributions the council is required to pay. These contributions represent a minimum funding requirement and reduce the recognised IAS19 asset accordingly. As the economic benefit of this element is less than the net defined benefit pension asset, the amount recognised in the balance sheet has been restricted to the lower of the two.

For the 2022-23 comparator year, as the economic benefit as a reduction in future contributions is higher than the net defined pension asset, there is no additional liability to recognise, and no adjustment is required to the Net Asset/ Liability for the effect of the asset ceiling.

Impact on the Authority's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant rate as possible. A strategy has been agreed with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 20 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The last triennial valuation was completed during 2022.

The scheme will need to take account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Services Act 2013. Under the Act, the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and other main existing public service schemes may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014 (or service after 31 March 2015 for other main existing public service pension schemes in England and Wales). The Act provides for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework, to establish new career average revalued earnings schemes to pay pensions and other benefits to certain public servants.

The estimated Employer contributions for the period to 31 March 2025 are £5,628,000 (2023/24 £5,316,000).

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 dependent on the assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc.

Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and discretionary benefits liabilities have been estimated by Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the fund being based on the latest full (triennial) valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022.

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

2022/23		2023/24
	Mortality Assumptions	
	Longevity at 65 for current pensioners in years:	
22.1	* Men	22.0
24.6	* Women	24.4
	Longevity at 65 for future pensioners in years:	
22.6	* Men	22.4
26.2	* Women	26.0
3.45%	Rate of increase in salaries	3.25%
2.95%	Rate of increase in pensions	2.75%
4.75%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.85%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumption in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases (or decreases) for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period.

In June 2023, the High Court handed down a decision in the case of Virgin Media Limited v NTL Pension Trustees II Limited and others relating to the validity of certain historical pension changes due to the lack of actuarial confirmation required by law. In July 2024, the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal brought by Virgin Media Ltd against aspects of the June 2023 decision. The conclusions reached by the court in this case may have implications for other UK defined benefit plans. SCDC and the administering authority are monitoring developments in terms of whether there is expected to be any impact on LGPS Funds and will consider if there are any implications for the pension scheme. As a result, SCDC does not consider it necessary to make any allowance for the potential impact of the Virgin Media case in its financial statements.

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

Quoted active market	Quoted non-active market	Total		Quoted active market	Quoted non-active market	Total
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
3,863	0	3,863	Cash and cash equivalents	3,882	0	3,882
			Equity inst: by industry type			
0	0	0	Consumer	2,039	0	2,039
0	0	0	Manufacturing	2,077	0	2,077
0	0	0	Energy and Utilities	216	0	216
0	0	0	Financial Institutions	1,990	0	1,990
0	0	0	Health and Care	1,677	0	1,677
0	0	0	Info. Technology	3,926	0	3,926
0	0	0	Other	197		
0	0	0	Sub-total equity	12,120	0	11,923
			Debt Securities: by sector			
0	5,413	5,413	UK Government	0	15,203	15,203
0	0	0	Other	0	0	0
0	5,413	5,413	Sub-total bonds	0	15,203	15,203
			Property: by type			
0	10,446	10,446	UK Property	0	14,445	14,445
0	0	0	Overseas Property	0	0	0
0	10,446	10,446	Sub-total property	0	14,445	14,445
			Private Equity:			
0	19,845	19,845	All (UK & Overseas)	0	21,794	21,794
0	19,845	19,845	Sub-total private equity	0	21,794	21,794
			Inv. Funds and Unit Trusts			
0	88,355	88,355	Equities	0	72,893	72,893
0	17,264	17,264	Bonds	0	25,665	25,665
0	14,059	14,059	Infrastructure	0	12,820	12,820
0	0	0	Other	0	0	0
0	119,678	119,678	Sub-total other inv. funds	0	111,377	111,377
			Derivatives:			
0	671	671	Other	0	1	1
0	671	671	Sub-total derivatives	0	1	1
3,863	156,053	159,916	Total	16,002	162,819	178,625

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

Fair value of scheme assets

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
%		%
0.0%	Equity Instruments	6.0%
3.0%	Debt Securities	9.0%
7.0%	Property	8.0%
12.0%	Private Equity	12.0%
76.0%	Investment Funds and Unit Trusts	63.0%
0.0%	Derivatives	0.0%
2.0%	Cash and cash equivalents	2.0%
100.0%		100.0%

The extent to which the expected future returns on assets are sufficient to cover the estimated net liabilities was considered by the actuaries in the 2017 actuarial review of the Pension Fund. The anticipated shortfall in the funding of the scheme has determined the future level of pension contributions which will be due in between triennial valuations.

Sensitivity Analysis as at 31 March 2024	Approximate % Increase to Defined Benefit Obligation	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	3,121
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	6,514
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	111
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase/Revaluation Rate (CPI)	2%	3,069

Sensitivity Analysis as at 31 March 2023	Approximate % Increase to Defined Benefit Obligation	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	2,815
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	6,414
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	272
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase/Revaluation Rate (CPI)	2%	2,587

33 Nature & extent of risks arising from financial instruments

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 Council has the following financial instruments:

- financial liabilities: trade payables and long term borrowing
- financial assets: loans and receivables comprising bank deposits, trade receivables, investments, shares and long term mortgages

The Council has given interest free loans, repayable on the sale/transfer of charged properties, which have not been classified as financial instruments. These loans are included in the balance sheet as long term debtors', the outstanding amount was £329,000 as at 31 March 2024 (£329,000 in 2022/23). No such loans have been made since 2012/13.

The Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks, the key risks are:

- Credit risk - the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council;
- Liquidity risk - the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments;
- Market risk - the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rate movements.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. Deposits are only made with banks and financial institutions which are included as counterparties in the Council's Investment Strategy, which regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria. The Council has a policy of tiered maximum investments with the uppermost limit not more than £10 million of its surplus balances to any one institution. With no historical experience of default, the exposure to credit risk on bank deposits and investments is not considered material. The main exposure to credit risk relates to housing rents where a provision for bad debts is made.

Where sums are owed by the Council's customers and contractual debtors the Council makes provision for doubtful debt, detailed in Note 16, based on an assessment of the risks for each type and the age of those debts. The Council does not generally extend credit beyond 21 days.

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

Balances Invested as at 31 March 2024	Credit Rating Criteria Met	Up to 1 Month	1 - 3 Months	4 - 6 Months	7 - 12 Months	Greater than 12 Months	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Banks UK	YES	1,710		5,000			6,710
Building Societies	YES						0
South Cambs Ltd	YES					100,000	100,000
SCIP	YES					13,034	13,034
Housing Assoc	YES						0
Local Authorities	YES					500	500
CLIC	YES					2,217	2,217
Money Market Funds	YES	5,100					5,100
Cambourne Business Park Limited	YES					30	30
Total		6,810	0	5,000	0	115,781	127,591

Balances Invested as at 31 March 2023	Credit Rating Criteria Met	Up to 1 Month	1 - 3 Months	4 - 6 Months	7 - 12 Months	Greater than 12 Months	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Banks UK	YES	7,595	2,000			5,000	14,595
Building Societies	YES						0
South Cambs Ltd	YES					100,000	100,000
SCIP	YES					13,034	13,034
Housing Assoc	YES						0
Local Authorities	YES	4,000	3,000	7,000	5,000	500	19,500
CLIC	YES					2,290	2,290
Money Market Funds	YES	2,365					2,365
Total		13,960	5,000	7,000	5,000	120,824	151,784

Debtors

The following analysis summarises the Council's analysis of its potential maximum exposure to credit risk (impairment allowance) in relation to debtors:

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
Customer Debt	Other Debtors		Customer Debt	Other Debtors
£000	£000		£000	£000
(1,622)	(1,148)	Balance at 1st April	(1,485)	(1,741)
123	(921)	(Increase)/decrease in provisions	123	(937)
14	328	Amounts used	49	1,346
(1,485)	(1,741)	Balance at 31st March	(1,313)	(1,333)

The Council does not normally extend credit beyond 21 days. At 31 March 2023, the total debtor balance can be analysed as follows:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
	Customer Debts:	
6,314	Less than 3 months	5,503
1,027	More than 3 months	498
7,341	Balance at 31st March	6,001

Investments

The risk is minimised through the Treasury Management Strategy, which requires that deposits are made with Debt Management Office, other local authorities, AAA rated money market funds or Banks and Building Societies having sufficiently high credit worthiness as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy. It must also be noted that although credit ratings remain a key source of information, the Council recognises that they have limitations and investment decisions are based on a range of market intelligence. A limit of £10m is placed on the amount of money that can be invested with a single counterparty excepting UK Central Government which is unlimited. The Council also sets a total group investment limit (£10m) for institutions that are part of the same banking group.

The table below summarises the nominal value of the Council's investment portfolio at 31 March 2024, and confirms that all investments were made in line with the Council's approved rating criteria when investment placed:

The above amounts include the money market fund which is included in cash and cash equivalents.

Notes to the Statement of Accounts

Liquidity Risk

All trade and other payables are due to be paid in less than one year. The PWLB loans have maturities of between 25 and 45 years as detailed in Note 13, interest being paid half yearly, a Repayment Reserve being used to manage the future repayment of principal.

Market Risk

The Council is exposed to risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its investments as most investments are at fixed rates. Movement in interest rates can have an impact on the Council's interest receipts from investments; for example, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Income and Expenditure Account will rise
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall (but the carrying amount will not change)

As most investments are at fixed rates, a sensitivity analysis for interest rate changes has not been carried out.

The treasury management team has an active strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the setting of the annual budget which is used to update the Council's medium term financial strategy periodically during the year, this allows any adverse changes to be accommodated.

Price Risk

The Council does not invest in equity holdings or in financial instruments whose capital value is subject to market fluctuations. It therefore has no exposure to losses arising through price variations.

Foreign Exchange Risk

The Council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies. It therefore has no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

34 Capital Commitments

Material capital commitments as at 31 March 2024 were £33.242m on Housing (£7.377m as at 31st March 2023).

35 Assets Held for Sale

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
	Cost or valuation	
20,350	At 1 April	0
0	Adjustments	0
0	Additions	0
0	Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0
0	Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the CIES	0
0	Derecognition - Disposals	0
(20,350)	Other movements / reclassifications within assets	0
0	Total	0

36 Intangible Assets

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
	Cost or valuation	
849	At 1 April	670
36	Additions- Purchase only	67
(215)	Amortisation	(139)
0	Other movements / reclassifications	83
670	Total	681

37 Contingencies

There were no material contingent assets to report for the Council as at 31 March 2024.

Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement

The HRA Income and Expenditure Statement shows the economic cost in the year for 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 the legislative framework; this may be different from the accounting cost. The increase or decrease in the year, on the basis on which rents are raised, is shown in the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement.

2022/23		Note	2023/24
£000			£000
	Income		
(31,473)	Dwelling Rents		(34,162)
(398)	Non Dwelling Rents		(435)
(1,273)	Charges for Services and Facilities		(1,398)
0	Revaluation Gains of non-current assets		0
	Contributions towards expenditure:		
(484)	General Fund		(422)
(67)	Other Sources		(117)
(33,695)	Total Income		(36,534)
	Expenditure		
5,902	Repairs and Maintenance		7,210
	Supervision and Management:		
3,114	General		2,963
2,138	Repairs and Maintenance		1,989
1,947	Special Services		1,753
312	Rents, Rates and Other Charges		431
	Depreciation and Amortisation:		
9,462	Depreciation		9,722
7,460	Impairments	H9	41,301
69	Treasury Management Costs		19
87	Inc./(Dec.) Provision for Bad/Doubtful Debts		97
30,491	Total Expenditure		65,485
(3,204)	Net Cost of Services as Included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		28,951
816	HRA services share of Corporate Expenses		848
0	HRA services share of Other Services (mortgage interest)		0
(2,388)	Net Cost / (Income) of HRA Services		29,799
(2,388)	HRA Share of the Income and Expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		29,799
(3,507)	Loss/(Gain) on Sale of HRA Non-Current Assets		(2,069)
7,193	Interest Payable and similar charges		7,230
(1,240)	Interest and Investment Income		(1,294)
216	Pensions Interest / Return on Assets		0
(776)	Capital Grants and Contributions		(11,708)
(502)	(Surplus) / Deficit for the Year on HRA Services		21,958

Movement on Housing Revenue Account Statement

The Housing Revenue Income and Expenditure Statement shows the Council's actual financial performance for the year in managing its housing stock, measured in terms of the resources consumed and generated over the last twelve months. However, Capital investment is accounted for as it is financed, rather than when the fixed assets are consumed.

The payment of a share of housing capital receipts to the Government is treated as a loss in the Income and Expenditure Account, but is met from the usable capital receipts balance rather than from council tax.

Retirement benefits are charged as amounts become payable to pension funds and pensioners rather than as future benefits earned.

The Housing Revenue Account Statement compares the Council's spending against the Income that it raised for the year, taking into account the use of reserves built up in the past and contributions to reserves earmarked for the future.

This reconciliation statement summarises the differences between the outturn in the Housing Revenue Income and Expenditure Statement and the Housing Revenue Account balance.

Note 7 details the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve and Deferred Capital Receipts.

2022/23		2023/24
£000	Increase / decrease in the Housing Revenue Account Balance	£000
(502)	(Surplus)/ deficit for the year on the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement	21,958
2,190	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute (including to or from reserves)	(22,134)
0	Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	0
1,688	(Increase) / decrease in the Housing Revenue Account Balance	(176)
(4,500)	Housing Revenue Account Surplus Brought Forward	(2,812)
(2,812)	Housing Revenue Account Surplus Carried Forward	(2,988)

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account

H1 Housing Stock Volumes

The Housing Revenue Account includes all the expenditure and income associated with the following stock of Housing Revenue Account dwellings:

2022/23		2023/24			
		Conversion	Additions	Disposals	Total
Total					
1,145	1 Bedroom	0	18	(3)	1,160
2,440	2 Bedroom	0	43	(6)	2,477
1,847	3 Bedroom	0	36	(6)	1,877
73	4+ Bedroom	0	13	(1)	85
5,505		0	110	(16)	5,599

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
5,448	Stock (Whole Property Equivalent) as at 1 April	5,505
	Less:	
(35)	Other Movements *	(16)
92	New Properties #	110
5,505	Stock as at 31 March	5,599
	Other movements / reclassifications within assets	
	Number of houses:	
5,135	Houses and Bungalows	5,217
370	Flats and Maisonettes	383
	Other	
5,505	Stock as at 31 March	5,600
5,505	Total	5,600

* Other Movements include; equity share and shared ownership sales, demolitions and non-RTB sales
New Properties include; New Builds and equity share and shared ownership acquisitions

H2 Housing Stock Values

The total balance sheet values of dwellings and other property and land within the HRA are

2022/23			2023/24	
Asset Value	Deprecia-tion		Asset Value	Deprecia-tion
£000	£000		£000	£000
628,777	8,844	Council Dwellings (HRA only)	618,703	(9,340)
	(8,844)	Depreciation adj. on revaluation		9,367
16,155	612	Other Land & Buildings	33,160	(274)
	(612)	Depreciation adj. on revaluation		215
1,585	0	Surplus assets held	1,120	0
360	60	Infrastructure	926	(90)
646,877	60		653,909	(122)

In 2023/24, depreciation on buildings is based on the asset lives as assessed by the Council's appointed valuers, Wilks, Head and Eve. Land is not depreciated. The dwellings are valued in accordance with Guidance on Stock Valuation for Resource Accounting issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. This requires the dwellings to be valued at open market value with vacant possession, which is then adjusted to reflect tenancies at less than open market rents by using an adjustment factor based on the ratio of local authority rents to open market rents for the relevant region. The adjustment factor for the eastern region is 38%.

The value of council dwellings (Housing Revenue Account) at 31 March 2024, based on vacant possession, was £1,641m.

H3 Gross Dwelling Rent Income

During 2023/24, 1.85% (1.75% in 2022/23) of all lettable dwellings were vacant.

Average rents were £121.92 (£112.79 in 2022/23) per week including affordable rents, an increase of £9.13 or 8.1% (£5.44 or 5.1% increase in 2022/23) on the previous year. 31.66% (31.38% in 2022/23) of all Council tenants received some help through rent rebates in 2023/24.

Rent arrears increased to £1,002,093 (£966,812 in 2022/23), which represents 2.93% (3.04% in 2022/23) of gross dwelling rent income.

The provision for bad and doubtful debts on these arrears amounted to £701,243 (£714,422 in 2022/23). Amounts written off during the year totalled £110,251 (£76,368 in 2022/23). Dwelling rents are shown after allowing for voids.

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account

H4 Rent Arrears on Dwellings

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
967	Arrears	1002
(714)	Provision for uncollectable amounts	(701)
253	Net arrears	301
3.04%	Arrears as a percentage of gross rents collectable	2.93%

H5 Pensions

This contribution, shown in the Statement of Movement on the Housing Revenue Income and Expenditure Account, reverses out the pensions liabilities apportioned to net operating expenditure and adds back in the payments to the pension scheme so that the adoption of International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS 19) Employee Benefits has no effect on the deficit/surplus for the year. In view of the uncertainty over future pension costs, an additional percentage of pensionable pay has been charged against the Housing Revenue Account and placed in a reserve for use in future years (Note 32).

H6 Housing Revenue Account Capital Receipts

The Council received £4,332,732 (£7,887,400 in 2022/23) in respect of HRA capital receipts during 2023/24.

This arose as a result of the sale of council houses including shared-ownership of £4,143,948 (£7,887,400 in 2022/23) and Land Sales £188,784 (£0 in 2022/23).

Of this the Council had £1,565,114 (£3,191,082 in 2022/23) available for house building projects and £12,090 (£31,200 in 2022/23) for the administration of the sales and £35,507 (£37,400 in 2022/23) Estate agent fees relating to shared ownership and land sales which left £2,720,021 (£4,627,718 in 2022/23).

Capital receipts relating to the HRA during the financial year were:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
0	Sale of Land	189
4,102	Right to Buy	1,650
3,785	Other	2,494
7,887	Total	4,333

H7 Capital Expenditure, Financing and Receipts

Capital expenditure and financing relating to the HRA during the financial year was:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000		£000
204,429	Opening capital financing requirement	204,429
	Expenditure:	
0	Acquisition and Improvement of land	0
12,628	New build- dwellings	24,485
0	Re-provision of existing dwellings	0
16	Acquisition of existing dwellings	23,535
8,761	Improvement of housing stock and other buildings	8,601
	Financing:	
(3,704)	Capital receipts and contributions	(19,042)
(6,471)	Revenue	(5,279)
(775)	Grants and Reserves	(11,709)
(10,455)	Major Repairs Allowance	(8,591)
204,429	Closing capital financing requirement	216,429

H8 Major Repairs Reserve

Previously, within the housing subsidy scheme, there was an annual allowance for major repairs which could only be used for expenditure on major repairs and/or improvements to Housing Revenue Account dwellings. The housing subsidy scheme and, therefore the Major Repairs Allowance, ceased at the end of 2011/12 with the advent of the Self Financing regime. In 2012/13 the Council was required to charge the Housing Revenue Account a notional amount for depreciation; calculated in a similar way to the major repairs allowance. The notional depreciation charge is reserved to fund similar major repairs and improvement works. The transition period continued until the end of 2016/17, with a full depreciation charge equivalent to the whole capital adjustment transfer being charged to the Housing Revenue Account from 2017/18 onwards.

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
(3,446)	Balance as at 1 April	(2,148)
(9,157)	Transfer to Capital Adjustment Account	(9,722)
10,455	HRA capital expenditure charged to Major Repairs Reserve	8,591
1,298	Total Expenditure	(1,131)
(2,148)	Balance as at 31 March	(3,279)

H9 Impairments

Impairment is a reduction in the value of non-current assets. When this occurs through the clear consumption of economic benefit or through market value reduction, it has been identified and is written off against any revaluation gains in the Revaluation Reserve for that group of assets until the gain is reduced to zero and then any balance is charged to Housing Revenue Income and Expenditure Account.

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
7,460	Impairments	41,301

Impairments for 2023/24 are significantly higher mainly due to housing market slowing down as a result of higher mortgage rates and due to negative valuation of the LAHF (Local Authority Housing Funds) homes. These homes were purchased at market value and were adjusted for the vacant factor for the East of England (38%) resulting in a negative valuation of £14m.

H10 Note of Reconciling Items for the Statement of Movement on HRA Balance

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
(502)	(Surplus)/Deficit for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Account	21,958
3,506	(Loss)/Gain on sale of HRA non-current assets	2,069
(804)	HRA share of contributions to the Pensions Reserve	100
	Reversal of Depreciation & Impairment	
(9,462)	Depreciation	(9,722)
(7,460)	Revaluation	(41,301)
776	Capital Grants and Contributions	11,709
9,462	Transfer from Major Repairs Reserve	9,722
(17)	Accumulated Leave Reversal	(10)
6,189	Capital Expenditure funded by the HRA	5,299
2,190	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute (including to or from reserves)	(22,134)
1,688	Net increase/(decrease) before transfers to/from res.	(176)
0	Transfers To Earmarked Reserves	0
1,688	Dec/(inc) in the HRA balance for the year	(176)
(4,500)	HRA balance brought forward	(2,812)
(2,812)	HRA balance carried forward	(2,988)

Collection Fund Statement

This account reflects the statutory requirement for the Council, as the billing authority, to establish and maintain a separate fund for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates).

2022/23				2023/24		
Non Domestic Rates	Council Tax	Collection Fund Total		Non Domestic Rates	Council Tax	Collection Fund Total
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
			Income			
	(136,126)	(136,126)	Council Tax		(146,272)	(146,272)
(91,794)		(91,794)	Non Domestic Rates	(104,138)		(104,138)
			Transitional Payment Protection (TPP)	(11,042)		(11,042)
(91,794)	(136,126)	(227,921)	Total Income	(115,180)	(146,272)	(261,452)
			Expenditure			
			Apportionment of previous years surplus/(deficit)			
(3,482)	0	(3,482)	Central Government	869	0	869
(627)	1,091	464	Cambridgeshire County Council	156	425	581
(70)	57	(12)	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority	17	21	38
	194	194	Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner	0	75	75
(2,786)	195	(2,591)	South Cambridgeshire District Council	695	75	770
			Precepts and Demands			
41,652	0	41,652	Central Government	52,596	0	52,596
7,497	96,160	103,657	Cambridgeshire County Council	9,467	103,883	113,350
833	4,905	5,738	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority	1,052	5,381	6,433
0	16,854	16,854	Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner	0	18,349	18,349
33,321	10,489	43,811	South Cambridgeshire District Council	42,078	11,131	53,209
0	6,516	6,516	Special Expenses- Parish Precepts	0	6,964	6,964
			Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority	0	808	808
			Charges to the Collection Fund			
		0	Write Offs / (write backs)			0
117	215	332	Impairment allowance for year	(699)	357	(342)
1,837	0	1,837	Provision for Appeals	6,358	0	6,358
240	0	240	Cost of Collection Allowance	252	0	252
1,794	0	1,794	Transitional Payment Protection (TPP)	0	0	0
1,137	0	1,137	Disregarded Amounts	1,546	0	1,546
81,463	136,677	218,140	Total Expenditure	114,387	147,469	261,856
(10,331)	550	(9,781)	Deficit / (Surplus) for the Year	(793)	1,197	404
6,879	(1,201)	5,678	Balance Brought Forward	(3,452)	(650)	(4,102)
(3,452)	(650)	(4,103)	Balance Carried Forward	(4,245)	547	(3,698)

Notes to Collection Fund Statement

Collection Fund Balances:

Attribution of deficit/(surplus) carried forward:

2022/23				2023/24		
Non Domestic Rates	Council Tax	Collection Fund Total		Non Domestic Rates	Council Tax	Collection Fund Total
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
			Proportional split			
			Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority	0	1	1
(1,726)	0	(1,726)	Central Government	(2,123)	0	(2,123)
(311)	(460)	(771)	Cambridgeshire County Council	(382)	387	5
(35)	(24)	(59)	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority	(42)	20	(22)
0	(82)	(82)	Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner	0	69	69
(2,072)	(565)	(2,643)	Total	(2,547)	477	(2,070)
(1,381)	(84)	(1,460)	South Cambridgeshire District Council	(1,698)	70	(1,628)
(3,452)	(650)	(4,103)	Deficit / (Surplus)	(4,245)	547	(3,698)

CF1 Council Tax

Council Tax income derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties, which have been classified into eight valuation bands, estimating 1 April 1991 values for this specific purpose. Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required to be taken from the Collection Fund by Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Police & Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and this Council for the forthcoming year and dividing this by the council tax base (the total number of properties in each band adjusted by a proportion to convert the number to a Band D equivalent and adjusted discounts: 67,330.9 for 2023/24, (65,432.0 for 2022/23). The basic amount of Council Tax for a Band D property £2,176.05 for 2023/24, (£2,062.05 for 2022/23) is multiplied by the proportion specified for the particular band to give an individual amount due.

2022/23		2023/24			
Equivalent Number of Band D Dwellings		Chargeable Dwellings	Chargeable Dwellings after Discount, Exemptions and Disabled Relief	Ratio to Band D	Band D Equivalents
3.6	Band A Disabled	5.8	5.8	5/9	3.2
1,356.6	Band A	2,013.5	2,013.5	6/9	1,342.3
5,211.7	Band B	6,857.5	6,857.5	7/9	5,333.6
17,262.2	Band C	19,591.5	19,591.5	8/9	17,414.7
13,149.8	Band D	12,349.9	12,349.9	9/9	14,217.8
13,272.1	Band E	11,091.0	11,091.0	11/9	13,555.7
11,151.5	Band F	7,881.0	7,881.0	13/9	11,383.7
7,307.5	Band G	4,462.5	4,462.5	15/9	7,437.5
760.0	Band H	381.3	381.3	18/9	762.5
69,475.0	Total Band D	64,633.8	64,633.8		71,450.9
(3,765.0)	Less Band D equivalents entitled to Council Tax Support				(3,833.8)
116.4	Ministry of Defence (MOD) contribution				119.5
65,826.4	Total Band D Equivalents				67,736.6
(394.4)	Less Adjustment for Collection Rate		99.4%		(405.7)
65,432.0	Council Tax Base				67,330.9

Income of £139.5m for 2023/24 (£128.4m for 2022/23) was receivable from council tax payers.

CF2 Non-Domestic Rates

Non Domestic Rates are organised on a national basis. The Government specifies an amount, 49.9p (small business) and 51.2p (others) in 2023/24, (49.9p (small business) 51.2p (others) in 2022/23) and, subject to the effects of transitional arrangements, local businesses pay rates calculated by multiplying their rateable value by that amount.

From 1 April 2013 Business Rates Retention was introduced whereby Local Authorities retain 50% of the Business Rates collected and pay the remainder over to Central government. The amount retained is shared between the Council (40%), Cambridgeshire County Council (9%) and Fire Authority (1%). In addition, the Government has set a level of Business Rates Funding deemed to be applicable to each area and every Council either receives a top up (where business rates are below this deemed level of funding) or pays a tariff (if business rates collected are above this deemed level of funding).

If the Council increases its business rates base and therefore income it is allowed to retain a proportion of this increased income whilst paying up to 50% to Central Government. This payment is known as a levy payment.

If a reduction of business rates income of more than 7.5% of its funding baseline has occurred then the government will make up any difference between this and the actual loss in the form of a safety net payment.

The total non-domestic rateable value at the year-end was £283,343,751 (£281,107,688 in 2022/23).

Group Accounts and Consolidation with the Council

The Council has 3 wholly owned subsidiaries South Cambs Limited (Ermine Street Housing), Shire Homes Lettings Limited and Cambourne Business Park Limited. As a result a set of Group Accounts for the Group as a whole are produced. The Accounts have been consolidated on a line by line basis, as per IFRS10. The impact of the Companies' activities upon the Reserves of the Group are detailed in note G1. Context of Group Accounts and Consolidation with the Council.

Group - Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this is different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is reflected in the 'Revenue Purpose' column of the Movement In Reserves Statement which shows how the Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure is allocated to each individual Reserve.

Restated 2022/23					2023/24		
Gross Spend	Gross Income	Net Spend			Gross Spend	Gross Income	Net Spend
£000	£000	£000		Note	£000	£000	£000
			Continuing Operations				
2,821	(444)	2,377	Chief Executive		3,460	(821)	2,639
11,078	(3,869)	7,209	Director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning		10,041	(4,454)	5,587
18,712	(9,310)	9,402	Head of Climate, Waste & Environment		18,368	(9,932)	8,436
28,914	(19,295)	9,619	Head of Finance		29,239	(21,254)	7,985
0	0	0	Monitoring Officer		109	0	109
6,894	(3,277)	3,617	Head of Housing		5,553	(3,846)	1,707
6,919	(4,653)	2,266	Head of Transformation, HR & Corporate Services		7,813	(4,136)	3,677
31,467	(33,856)	(2,389)	Housing Revenue Account		66,556	(36,972)	29,584
4,946	(8,693)	(3,747)	Subsidiary Companies	G1	8,025	(9,484)	(1,459)
111,751	(83,397)	28,354	Net Cost of Services		149,164	(90,899)	58,265
		(6,993)	Other Operating Expenditure and Income				5,996
		105	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure				(10,514)
		(33,050)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income				(46,334)
		2,247	Tax expenses of Subsidiary Companies				(591)
		(9,337)	(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services				6,822

Group Accounts

Restated 2022/23					2023/24		
Gross Spend	Gross Income	Net Spend			Gross Spend	Gross Income	Net Spend
		(14,869)	(Surplus) / Deficit on Revaluation of Property Plant & Equipment				(4,144)
		(65,397)	Actuarial (Gains) / Losses on Pension Assets / Liabilities				(5,557)
		(89,603)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(2,879)

Group - Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the authority, analysed into usable reserves (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other resources. The surplus or deficit on the provision of services line in the CIES shows the true economic cost of providing the authority's services. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves (GF)	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked Reserves (HRA)	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Un-applied	Subsidiary Companies	Total Usable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves
Movements in 2022/23	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 01 April 2022	(15,162)	(41,051)	(4,500)	(9,500)	(3,446)	(12,530)	(746)	(3,408)	(90,343)	(410,919)	(501,262)
Total Comprehensive Income and Exp.	50	-	(502)	-	-	-	-	(8,885)	(9,337)	(80,266)	(89,603)
Adjustment Between Accounting and Funding Basis Under Regulations	4,890	-	2,190	-	1,298	(27,691)	73	-	(19,240)	19,240	-
Net Increase / (Decrease) before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	4,940	-	1,688	-	1,298	(27,691)	73	(8,885)	(28,577)	(61,026)	(89,603)
Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	(7,822)	7,822	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase / (Decrease) in Year	(2,882)	7,822	1,688	-	1,298	(27,691)	73	(8,885)	(28,577)	(61,026)	(89,603)
Balance as at 31 March 2023	(18,044)	(33,229)	(2,812)	(9,500)	(2,148)	(40,221)	(673)	(12,293)	(118,920)	(471,945)	(590,865)

Movements in 2023/24	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Total Comprehensive Income and Exp.	(17,384)	-	21,958	-	-	-	-	2,248	6,822	(9,701)	(2,879)
Adjustment Between Accounting and Funding Basis Under Regulations	17,316	-	(22,134)	-	(1,131)	19,118	(234)	-	12,935	(12,932)	3
Net Increase / (Decrease) before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	(68)	-	(176)	-	(1,131)	19,118	(234)	2,248	19,757	(22,633)	(2,876)
Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	(1,867)	1,867	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase / (Decrease) in Year	(1,935)	1,867	(176)	-	(1,131)	19,118	(234)	2,248	19,757	(22,633)	(2,876)
Balance as at 31 March 2024	(19,979)	(31,362)	(2,988)	(9,500)	(3,279)	(21,103)	(907)	(10,045)	(99,163)	(494,578)	(593,741)

Group - Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the authority. The net assets of the authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the authority. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the authority 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 Reserves that may only be used to fund capital 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.

31 March 2023			31 March 2024
£000		Note	£000
	Long Term Assets		
689,914	Property, Plant & Equipment		704,396
156,945	Investment Properties	G2	170,195
670	Intangible Assets		681
21,546	Long Term Investments		16,618
747	Long Term Debtors		747
1,011	Pension Asset		7,356
870,833	Total Long Term Assets		899,993
	Current Assets		
12,021	Short Term Temporary Investments		5,115
333	Inventories		199
9,424	Debtors and Prepayments		13,811
20,557	Cash & Cash Equivalents		7,220
42,335	Total Current Assets		26,345
	Current Liabilities		
(66,536)	Short Term Creditors		(56,107)
(40,000)	Short Term Borrowing		(42,600)
(1,313)	Cash & Cash Equivalents		(734)
(3,219)	Provisions		(5,762)
(111,068)	Total Current Liabilities		(105,203)
	Long Term Liabilities		
(1,438)	Pensions Liability		(1,392)
(205,123)	Long Term Borrowing		(222,123)
(4,671)	Long Term Prov. (Tax) (Group only)		(3,876)
(211,232)	Total Long Term Liabilities		(227,391)
590,866	Total Assets Less Liabilities		593,742
(118,921)	Usable Reserves		(99,163)
(471,945)	Unusable Reserves		(494,579)
(590,866)	Total Reserves		(593,742)

Group - The 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

Group Accounts

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 authority.

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
23,916	Net Surplus/(Deficit) on Provision of Services	(6,822)
35,827	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	30,137
(42,677)	Adjustment for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(4,082)
17,066	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	19,233
(22,177)	Investing Activities	(31,225)
9,436	Financing Activities	(766)
4,325	Net Increase or (Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(12,758)
14,919	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	19,244
19,244	Cash and Cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	6,486

Group Notes

G1. Context of Group Accounts and Consolidation with the Council

The Council has three wholly owned subsidiaries South Cambs Limited (Ermine Street Housing) ,Shire Homes Lettings Limited and Cambourne Business Park Limited. As a result a set of Group Accounts for the Group as a whole are produced. The Accounts have been consolidated on a line by line basis, as per IFRS10. In preparing the Group Financial Statements the Council has aligned the accounting policies of all group entities with those of the Council.

The impact of the Companies' activities upon the Reserves of the Group are as follows;

	Cambourne Business Park	South Cambs	Shire Homes	SCIP	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Turnover	0	(8,193)	(1,286)	0	(9,479)
Service Expenses	0	7,822	1,286	0	9,108
Interest Payable	0	4,262	0	0	4,262
Interest and Investment Income Receivable	0	(41)	0	0	(41)
(Gain)/Loss on FV of Investment Properties	0	(1,030)	0	0	(1,030)
Tax Liability	0	(591)	0	0	(591)
Profit/(Loss) for the year after taxation	0	2,229	0	0	2,229
Useable Reserves					
Balance as at 01 April 2023	(337)	(11,937)	0	0	(12,274)
Profit/(Loss) for the year after taxation	0	2,229	0	0	2,229
Total company reserves position of Group Balance Sheet	(337)	(9,708)	0	0	(10,045)

The Assets & Liabilities of the Company's at the Balance Sheet Date are as follows:

	Cambourne Business Park	South Cambs	Shire Homes	SCIP	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Property, Plant, Equipment	356	180	0	0	180
Investment Properties	0	115,329	0	0	115,329
Long Term Investments	0	0	0	0	0
Short Term Debtors & Cash	9	651	207	0	858
Short Term Creditors	(31)	(102,599)	(183)	0	(102,782)
Short Term Leases	0	0	0	0	0
Long Term Borrowing	0	0	0	0	0
Long Term Provisions (Tax)	0	(3,876)	0	0	(3,876)
Long Term Leases	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets net of Council share	334	9,685	24	0	9,709

G2. Investment Properties

The group balance sheet includes properties which have been purchased by South Cambs Ltd for the purpose of earning rentals or for capital appreciation or both, properties for refurbishment, improvement and resale are classified as stock in hand and are included within Inventories.

The Council carries out a programme that ensures that all Investment Property are valued annually, at the end of each reporting period. Property, Plant and Equipment is required to be measured at fair value and is re-valued at least every five years.

Investment Property assets valuation relating to South Cambs Limited as at 31 March 2023 was undertaken by Wilks, Head and Eve, Professional Valuers

The following items of income and expense have been accounted for in respect of Investment Properties and have been recognised in the company Income and Expenditure Account and Group comprehensive income and expenditure account.

2022/23		Cambourne Business Park	SCDC	SC Ltd	Shire Homes	SCIP	2023/24
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
(8,229)	Rental Income	0	(2,079)	(8,099)	(817)	0	(10,995)
2,656	Direct Expenses	0	419	4,580	915	0	5,914
(5,573)	Total	0	(1,660)	(3,519)	98	0	(5,081)

The Council is not aware of any events or circumstances which indicate that the amounts stated in the balance sheet for non-current assets may not be realisable, as at the balance sheet date.

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

2022/23		Cambourne Business Park	SCDC	SC Ltd	Shire Homes	SCIP	2023/24
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
138,669	At 1st April	356	39,135	110,629	0	0	150,120
15,823	Acquisitions /Subsequent Expenditure	0	0	5,419	0	0	5,419
(24)	Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
18,481	Revaluation inc/(dec) in CIES	0	15,375	(719)	0	0	14,656
172,949	At 31st March	356	54,510	115,329	0	0	170,195
	Fair Value:						
138,669	At 1st April	356	39,135	110,629	0	0	150,120
172,949	At 31st March	356	54,510	115,329	0	0	170,195

Fair Value Measurement of Investment Properties

Investment properties are held at fair value. Investment properties are classified as Level 2 within the value hierarchy as defined within IFRS13. Level 2 inputs used in valuing the properties are those which are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly. The inputs used took the form of analysed and weighted market evidence such as sales, rentals and yields in respect of comparable properties in the same or similar locations at or around the valuation date.

The portfolio is valued in line with the accounting policy.

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The valuation is undertaken by the Professional Valuer, Wilks, Head and Eve, on a fair value basis in line with IFRS13 and in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Valuation-Professional Standards.

South Cambs Limited provides data to the valuer including current lease and tenant data. These valuations and the assumptions they have made have been discussed with officers representing the company. The valuation technique applied in respect of Investment Property is the market approach. The market approach is described at paragraphs B5 to B7 of IFRS13; it uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets.

There has been no change in the valuation technique used during the year for investment properties.

G3. Loans and Investments

The Council has undertaken fixed term investments of £101.302m (£95.835m 2021/22) with South Cambs Ltd a corresponding liability transaction has been shown on the balance sheet of South Cambs Ltd these transactions have been eliminated in the group accounts.

G4. Leases

The Council's leases have been reported in [Note 31](#). Payments of £52,291 in respect of vehicle contract hire were made in 2022/23 (£47,458 in 2021/22). South Cambs Ltd has operating leases with payments of £666,107 in 2022/23 (£619,967 in 2021/22) in respect of property leases. Shire Homes Lettings Limited had payments of £586,250 in 2022/23 (£584,336 in 2021/22) in respect of property leases.

The future minimum contract hire payments due under non-cancellable agreements in future years are:

2022/23		Cambourne Business Park	SCDC	SC Ltd	Shire Homes	SCIP	2023/24
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
(1,191)	Not later than 1 year	0	0	(499)	(703)	0	(1,202)
(2,020)	Later than 1 year, not later then 5 years	0	0	(404)	(755)	0	(1,159)
0	Later than 5 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	Future finance charges and other adj's	0	0	0	0	0	0
(3,211)	Total	0	0	(903)	(1,458)	0	(2,361)

G5. Related Party Transactions

The Council has three subsidiary companies wholly owned by the Council, South Cambs Limited (trading as Ermine Street Housing) , Shire Homes Lettings Limited and Cambourne Business Park Limited. Transactions between these companies and the Council are accounted within the Council's group accounts.

Ermine Street Housing

Two employees P Campbell and J Membery and two members Councillor P Sandford and Councillor J Hobro are Directors of South Cambs Limited T/A Ermine Street Housing.

Shire Homes Limited

One employee (H Wood) and one member (Councillor P Fane) of the Council are the company directors.

Cambourne Business Park Limited

Two employees A Ainsworth and P Maddock are the company directors.

The [Annual Governance Statement](#) (AGS) is published as a separate document on the Council's website.

AGS	Annual Governance Statement
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
CFR	Capital Financing Requirement
CIES	Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy
EY	Ernst & Young Auditors
GAAP	General Accepted Accounting Practice
GCP	Greater Cambridge Partnership
GF	General Fund
HRA	Housing Revenue Account
IAS	International Accounting Standard
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standard
IPSAS	Institute Public Sector Accounting Standards
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
LGPS	Local Government Pension Scheme
LASAAC	Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee
MIRS	Movement in Reserves Statement
MRP	Minimum Revenue Provision
MRR	Major Repairs Reserve
NNDR	Non-Domestic Rates
PSN	Public Services Network
PWLB	Public Works Loans Board
REFCUS	Revenue Expenditure Funded by Capital under Statute
SOLACE	Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers

Glossary of Terms

Accounting Period

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

Accounting Policies

The rules and practices adopted by the Council that determine how the transactions and events are reflected in the accounts.

Accruals

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

Amortisation

A measure of the cost of economic benefits derived from intangible fixed assets that are consumed during the period.

Annual Governance Statement

The annual governance statement is a statutory document that explains the processes and procedures in place to enable the council to carry out its functions effectively.

Asset

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

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

Audit of Accounts

An independent examination of the Council's financial affairs

Balances (or Reserves)

These are usable or unusable reserves. Usable reserves represent accumulated funds from prior years, that are available to the Council and can be spent. Some reserves may be earmarked for specific purposes and are for funding future defined initiatives or meeting identified risks or liabilities. The unusable reserves, which have been established for technical purposes are not available to spend and cannot be used to fund service provision.

Balance Sheet

This statement sets out an authority's financial position at the year-end. It shows the balances and reserves at an authority's disposal and its long-term indebtedness and the fixed and net current assets employed in its operations together with summarised information on the fixed assets held.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on the acquisition, construction, enhancement or replacement of a non-current asset such as land, buildings, and computer. It is expenditure that enhances and improves the use of the assets. It isn't expenditure that merely maintains the value of an existing asset.

Capital Adjustment Account

This account records the accumulated amount of set aside capital receipts and minimum revenue provision (the contribution from revenue to cover repayment of the borrowing that has been undertaken to fund capital expenditure) together with capital expenditure financed by way of capital receipts, grants and revenue contributions. Set against these amounts are adjustments to the revenue account for depreciation and capital expenditure written off to revenue during the year. This, therefore, ensures that only actual expenses are charged to revenue in year and are paid for by council tax payers.

Capital Financing

Funds used to pay for capital expenditure. There are various sources funding to finance capital expenditure including borrowing, leasing, revenue contributions, usable capital receipts, capital grants, capital contributions, revenue reserves and earmarked reserves.

Capital Financing Requirement

This measures the change in the underlying need for the council to borrow to finance capital expenditure. Where all capital expenditure is financed when it is incurred by resources generated by the council, e.g. revenue contributions, grants and capital receipts, the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) will not increase. However if borrowing is required to finance capital expenditure then the CFR will increase. The annual minimum revenue provision will be applied to reduce the CFR each year and capital receipts can also be used to reduce the CFR.

Capital Receipt

The proceeds from the disposal of land or other non-current asset. The government regulates the proportion of capital receipts that can be used to finance new capital expenditure. Capital receipts cannot ordinarily be used to finance revenue expenditure.

Cash Equivalents

Cash equivalents are investments that mature in 3 months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Cash Flow Statement

This statement summarises the cash flows of the authority for capital and revenue spending as well as the cash flows used to finance these activities.

CIPFA

This is the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. This organisation produces the Code of Practice that practitioners follow so that all local authorities prepare their accounts in a consistent and comparable way.

Collection Fund

This account reflects the statutory requirement for billing authorities to maintain a separate collection fund which shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to non-domestic rates and the council tax and illustrates the way in which these have been distributed to other authorities (preceptors) and the general fund.

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.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This is the statement that shows the accounting cost (surplus/deficit) in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It is not the amount funded from taxation. The Council raises taxation to cover the cost of expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may

be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Consistency

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

Contingent Gains

A contingent gain (or asset) is a possible economic gain arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the authority's control.

Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability is either:

- a possible obligation arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain events not wholly within the authority's control; or
- a current obligation arising from past events where it is not probable (but not impossible) that a transfer of economic benefits will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

It is considered that a contingent liability below £50,000 need not be disclosed, as any such amounts would not be significant.

Corporate and Democratic Core

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

Council Tax

A local tax on dwellings within the district, set by billing authority (South Cambridge District Council) and the precepting authorities (the county council, fire and rescue services, the police and town and parish councils). It is calculated by taking the revenue expenditure requirements for each authority divided by the council tax base for the year.

Creditors

Amounts owed by the Council for goods and services that it has received before 31 March, but that have not been paid for at that date.

Debtors

Amounts owed to the Council for goods and services that it has provided before 31 March, but where the associated income was not received at that date.

Defined Benefit Scheme

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contributions scheme. Usually, the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not

directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded (including notionally funded).

Depreciation

The measure of the wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of a fixed asset whether arising from use, passage of time or obsolescence through technological or other changes. The useful life is the period over which the local authority will derive benefit from the use of a fixed asset.

Events after Balance Sheet Date

Those events, both favourable and unfavourable, which occur between the balance sheet date and the date on which the responsible financial officer signs the Statement of Accounts.

Fair Value

The fair value of an asset is the price at which it could be exchanged in an arm's length transaction less, where applicable, any grants receivable towards the purchase or use of the assets.

Finance Leases

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

General Fund

This account where all the costs of providing the Council services (with the exception of the landlord services, the costs of which sit in the HRA and Local Council precepts) are charged to and paid for from Council Tax and government grants.

Going Concern

The concept that the authority will remain in operational existence for the foreseeable future, in particular that the revenue accounts and balance sheet assume no intention to curtail significantly the scale of operations.

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.

Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reflects a statutory obligation to account separately for local authority housing provision, as defined in particular in Schedule 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It shows the major elements of housing revenue expenditure such as maintenance,

administration, rent rebates and capital financing costs, and how these are met by rents subsidy and other income.

Impairment

A reduction in the carrying value of a non-current asset to below its carrying value (due to obsolescence, damage or an adverse change in the statutory environment).

Intangible Assets

Expenditure which may properly be defined as being capital expenditure, but which does not result in a physical asset being created. For expenditure to be recognised as an intangible asset it must yield future economic benefits to the council. One of the most common examples would be software licences.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) are a set of accounting standards developed by an independent, not-for-profit organisation called the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)

International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) are a set of accounting standards issued by the IPSAS Board for use by public sector entities around the world in the preparation of financial statements.

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 should be so classified only where an intention to hold the investment for the long term can clearly be demonstrated or where there are restrictions as to the investor's ability to dispose of the investment.

Investments that do not meet the above criteria should be classified as current assets.

Investment Properties

An interest in land and/or buildings:

- in respect of which construction work and development have been completed; and
- which are held for their investment potential, any rental income being negotiated at arm's length.

Liability

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

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

Long Term Debtors

These debtors represent the capital income still to be received, e.g. from the sale of an asset or the granting of a mortgage or a loan.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

This is the minimum amount that the Council must charge to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement each year to provide for the repayment of General Fund debt.

Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)

This financial statement presents the movement in usable and unusable reserves (the Council's total reserve balances).

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) also known as Business Rates

Non-domestic rates, or business rates, collected by the Council are the way that those who occupy non-domestic property contribute towards the cost of local services. Under the business rates retention arrangements introduced from 1st April 2013, authorities keep a proportion of the business rates paid locally (currently 50%). This money, together with revenue from council tax payers, fees and charges and certain other sums, is used to pay for the services provided by the Council.

Net Book Value (NBV)

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

Net defined benefit liability (asset) (Pension)

The present value during the period in the net defined benefit liability obligation less the fair value of the plan assets (adjusted for the asset ceiling).

Non-Operational Assets

Non-current assets held by a local authority but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples of non-operational assets are investment properties, assets that are surplus to requirements pending sale or redevelopment and assets under development or construction.

Operating Leases

Leases other than a finance lease.

Operational Assets

Non-current assets held and occupied, used or consumed by the local authority in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility. Operational assets comprise Council dwellings, other land and buildings, vehicles, plant and equipment, infrastructure and community assets.

Outturn

Outturn refers to actual income and expenditure balances as opposed to budgeted amounts.

Precept

The levy (demand for money) made by precepting authorities (the authorities with the power to instruct another local authority (the billing authority) to collect an amount from council tax on their behalf). Precepts are demanded by the County Council, Fire and Rescue services, the Police and Parish and town Councils.

Prior Years/Periods Adjustments

The material adjustments applicable to prior years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. They do not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Provisions

Provisions are required for any liabilities of uncertain timing or amount that have been incurred. Provisions are required to be recognised when:

- the local authority has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past;
 - it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; and
 - a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.
- A transfer of economic benefits or other event is regarded as probable if the event is more likely than not to occur. If these conditions are not met, no provision should be recognised.

A constructive obligation is an obligation that derives from an authority's actions where;

- by an established pattern of past practice, published policies or sufficiently specific current statement, the authority has indicated to other parties that it will accept certain responsibilities; and
- as a result, the authority has created a valid expectation on the part of those other parties that it will discharge those responsibilities.

Prudence

The concept that revenue is not anticipated until received in the form either of cash or of other assets, or a reliable estimate of the cash realisation can be assessed with reasonable certainty.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLb)

A Central Government Agency, which provides loans for one year and above to local authorities at interest rates only slightly higher than those at which the Government can borrow itself. Virtually all borrowing undertaken by local authorities comes from the PWLB.

Related Parties

Two or more parties are related parties when at any time during the financial period:

- one party has direct or indirect control of the other party; or
- the parties are subject to common control from the same source; or

- one party has influence over the financial and operational policies of the other party, to an extent that the other party might be inhibited from pursuing at all times its own separate interests; or
- the parties, in entering a transaction, are subject to influence from the same source, to such an extent that one of the parties to the transaction has subordinated its own separate interests.

Advice from CIPFA is that related parties to a local authority include Central Government, bodies precepting or levying demands on the Council Tax, members and chief officers of the Council and its pension fund.

Related Party Transaction

A related party transaction is the transfer of assets or liabilities or the performance of services by, to or for a related party, irrespective of whether a charge is made. Examples of related party transactions include:

- the purchase, sale, lease, rental or hire of assets between related parties;
- the provision of a guarantee to a third party in relation to a liability or obligation of a related party;
- the provision of services to a related party, including the provision of pension fund administration services;

transactions with individuals who are related parties of an authority or a pension fund, except those applicable to other members of the community or the pension fund, such as Council Tax, rents and payments of benefits.

This list is not intended to be comprehensive.

The materiality of related party transactions should be judged not only in terms of their significance to the authority but also in relation to its related party.

Remuneration

This is all sums paid to or receivable by an employee and any sums due by way of expenses and allowances (as far as those sums are chargeable to UK income tax) and the money value of any other benefits received other than in cash. Pension contributions payable by the employer are excluded.

Revaluation Reserve

This account was created on 31 March 2007. The purpose of which is to hold all revaluations occurring to fixed assets subsequent to that date.

Revenue Expenditure

Day to day payments on the running of Council services including salaries, wages, contract payments, supplies and capital financing costs.

Expenditure of a capital nature that does not result in a fixed asset being created. An example of such an item would be expenditure on a former HRA property held on a long lease by a third party. The expenditure is written off in the year that it is incurred.

Stocks

These are items of raw materials and stores a Council has procured and holds in

expectation of future use. Stock comprises the following categories:

- Goods or other assets purchased for resale;
- consumable stores;
- raw materials and components purchased for incorporation into products for sale;
- products and services in intermediate stages of completion;
- long-term contract balances; and
- finished goods.

The Code

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom known as 'The Code' incorporates guidance in line with IFRS, IPSAS and UK GAAP Accounting Standards. It sets out the proper accounting practice to be adopted for the Statement of Accounts to ensure they 'present fairly' the financial position of the Council. The Code has statutory status via the provision of the Local Government Act 2003. There are also accompanying guidance notes for practitioners.

Pensions Glossary

Actuarial Gains and Losses

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

- actual events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (known as experience gains and losses) or
- the actuarial assumptions have changed

Current Service Costs

The increase in the present value of a defined benefit scheme's liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

Curtailment

For a defined benefit scheme, an event that reduces the expected years of future service of present employees or reduces for a number of employees the accrual of defined benefits for some or all of their future service. Curtailments include:

- termination of employees' services earlier than expected, for example as a result of closing a factory or discontinuing a segment of a business, and
- termination of, or amendment to the terms of, a defined benefit scheme so that some or all future service by current employees will no longer qualify for benefits or will qualify only for reduced benefits.

Defined Benefit Scheme

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contribution scheme. Usually, the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded (including notionally funded).

Defined Contribution Scheme

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme into which an employer pays regular contributions fixed as an amount or as a percentage of pay and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the scheme does not have sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Discretionary Benefits

Retirement benefits that the employer has no legal, contractual or constructive obligations to award and which are awarded under the authority's discretionary powers, such as the Local Government (Discretionary Payments) regulations 1996.

Expected Rate of Return on Pension Assets

For a funded defined benefit scheme, the average rate of return, including both income and changes in fair value but net of scheme expenses, expected over the remaining life of the related obligation on the actual assets held by the scheme.

IAS19

International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS19) ensures that organisations account for employee retirement benefits when they are committed to pay them, even if the actual payment may be years into the future.

Interest Cost (Pensions)

For a defined benefit scheme, the expected increase during the period in the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

Investments (Pensions Fund)

The investments of the Pensions Fund will be accounted for in the statements of the fund. However authorities (other than town and community councils) are also required to disclose, as part of the transitional disclosures relating to retirement benefits, the attributable share of pension scheme assets associated with their underlying obligations.

Non-Distributed Costs

Non-distributed costs are defined as comprising:

- retirement benefit costs including past service costs, settlements and curtailments. To note, current service pension costs are included in the total costs of services;
- the costs associated with unused shares of IT facilities; and
- the costs of shares of other long-term unused but unrealisable assets.

Past Service Cost

For a defined benefit scheme, the increase in the present value of the scheme liabilities related to employee service in prior periods arising in the current period as a result of the introduction of, or improvement to, retirement benefits.

Pension Scheme Liability

The liabilities of a defined benefit pension scheme for outgoings due after the valuation date. Scheme liabilities measured during the projected unit method reflect the benefits that the employer is committed to provide for service up to the valuation date.

Projected Unit Method- Pension Fund Valuation

An accrued benefits valuation method in which the scheme liabilities make allowance for projected earnings. An accrued benefits valuation method is a valuation method in which the scheme liabilities at the valuation date relate to:

- the benefits for pensioners and deferred pensioners (i.e. individuals who have ceased to be active members but are entitled to benefits payable at a later date) and their dependents, allowing where appropriate for future increases, and
- the accrued benefits for members in service on the valuation date. The accrued benefits are the benefits for service up to a given point in time, whether vested rights or not. Guidance on the projected unit method is given in the Guidance Note GN26 issued by the Faculty and Institute of Actuaries.

Retirement Benefits

All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by employees that are payable after the completion of employment. Retirement benefits do not include termination benefits payable as a result of either:

- an employer's decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date, or
- an employee's decision to accept redundancy in exchange for those benefits, because these are not given in exchange for services rendered by employees.

Scheme Liabilities

The liabilities of a defined benefit scheme for outgoings due after the valuation date. Scheme liabilities measured using the projected unit method reflect the benefits that the employer is committed to provide for service up to the valuation date.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE AUTHORITY’S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Disclaimer of opinion

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of South Cambridgeshire District Council (“the Authority”) for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise Group and Authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements, Group and Authority Balance Sheets, Group and Authority Movement in Reserves Statements, Group and Authority Cash Flow Statements, Collection Fund, Housing Revenue Account and the related notes, including the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the accounting policies in note 1.

We do not express an opinion on the financial statements. Due to the significance of the matters described in the Basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion.

Basis for disclaimer of opinion

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (the “Amendment Regulations”) require the Authority to publish its financial statements and our opinion thereon for the year ended 31 March 2024 by 28 February 2025 (the “Backstop Date”).

We have been unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence over a number of areas of the financial statements as we have been unable to perform the procedures that we consider necessary to form our opinion on the financial statements ahead of the Backstop Date. These areas include, but were not limited to; property, plant and equipment; investment properties; pension assets; debtors and prepayments; short term creditors; pensions liability; the following income captions: fees, charges and other service income; government grants/contributions (services); government grants/contributions (central); income from council tax and business rates income and expenditure; the following expenditure captions: other service expenses; disclosure of the income and expenditure per continuing operations as presented in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement; disclosure of related party transactions and the balance of, and movements in, usable and unusable reserves for the year ended 31 March 2024 in relation to the Authority.

We have been unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence over any area of the Group financial statements financial statements as we have been unable to perform all the procedures that we consider necessary to form our opinion on the financial statements ahead of the Backstop Date.

In addition, we have been unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence over the disclosed comparative figures for the year ended 31 March 2023 due to the Backstop Date. Therefore, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments were necessary to the opening balances as at 1 April 2023 or whether there were any consequential effects on the Group’s and the Authority’s income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Any adjustments from the above matters would have a consequential effect on the Group’s and the Authority’s net assets and the split between usable reserves, including the Housing Revenue Account, and unusable reserves as at 31

March 2024 and 31 March 2023, the Collection Fund and on their income and expenditure and cash flows for the years then ended.

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect

As stated in the Disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we do not express an opinion on the financial statements due to the reasons described in the Basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report.

Other information

The Head of Finance is responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon. Any opinion on the financial statements would not cover the other information and we do not express an opinion or, except as explicitly stated below, any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge.

Due to the significance of the matters described in the *Basis for disclaimer of opinion* section of our report, and the possible consequential effect on the related disclosures in the other information, whilst in our opinion the other information included in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year is consistent with the financial statements, we are unable to determine whether there are material misstatements in the other information.

Head of Finance and Audit and Corporate Governance Committee’s responsibilities

As explained more fully in the statement set out on page 8, the Head of Finance is responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 and that give a true and fair view. They are also responsible for: such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the Group’s and the Authority’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they have been informed by the government of the intention to either cease the services provided by the Group and the Authority or dissolve the Group and the Authority without the transfer of their services to another public sector entity.

The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee of the Authority is responsible for overseeing the Authority’s financial reporting process.

Auditor’s responsibilities

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit of the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK), and to issue an auditor’s report. However, due to the significance of the matter described in the *Basis for disclaimer of opinion* section of our report, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial statements.

We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the Group in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard.

Auditors Report

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

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

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office in November 2024 on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the "NAO Code of Audit Practice"), we are required to report to you if we identify any significant weaknesses in the arrangements that have been made by the Authority to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

We have identified the following significant weaknesses:

Significant Weakness 1 – Preparation of Accounts (Governance)

The Authority have failed to publish approved accounts by the expected deadline for a number of years. Omissions of components and investments have historically been made to the financial statements. Within the 2023/24 financial statements, manual adjustments were made on the face of the accounts where insufficient evidence was received and incorrect consolidation procedures were performed.

The above issues in the accounts preparation can result in delays in financial reporting, significant transactions that may not be completely identified & reported on, and group accounts which may not reflect the actual underlying group position and structure.

We recommend that clear roles and responsibilities are assigned within the finance team with regards to account preparation, with deadlines and expectations clearly articulated and monitored by Councillors and Senior Officers.

Significant Weakness 2 – Recoverability of Investments (Improving Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness)

The lack of controls over the recording and monitoring of investments made by the Authority in subsidiaries and partnerships has led to omissions in the previous financial statements. A number of the investments do not have the appropriate documentation, such as formal agreements and up-to-date monitoring schedules.

As well as further omissions in future financial reporting over the investments, the lack of monitoring could also impact any potential impairment and recoverability risks over the repayment of the principals.

We recommend the introduction of a formal assets and liabilities register to be maintained by the Treasury team, detailing the principal values, repayment and due date. We also recommend maintaining adequate record keeping to a standard that an appropriate audit trail is in place in order to maintain control of the investment portfolio.

Respective responsibilities in respect of our review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are required under section 20(1) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively. We are also not required to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has achieved value for money during the year.

We planned our work and undertook our review in accordance with the NAO Code of Audit Practice and related statutory guidance, having regard to whether the Authority had proper arrangements in place to ensure financial sustainability, proper governance and to use information about costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary.

Statutory reporting matters

We are required by Schedule 2 to the NAO Code of Audit Practice to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 and Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make written recommendations to the Authority under Section 24 and Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in this respect.

THE PURPOSE OF OUR AUDIT WORK AND TO WHOM WE OWE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of the Authority, as a body, those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the members of the Authority, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DELAY IN CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF THE AUDIT

As at the date of this audit report, we have not yet completed our work in respect of the Authority's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Until we have completed this work, we are unable to certify that we have completed the audit of the financial statements of South Cambridgeshire District Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the NAO Code of Audit Practice.



Andrew Cardoza

for and on behalf of KPMG LLP
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27 February 2025