



**Statement of Accounts
2023/24**

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Narrative Report

Introducing East Devon

East Devon is the largest of the eight districts in Devon with a population of over 150,000, it has a dispersed and largely rural population with a mix of market and coastal towns. East Devon is a good place to live and renowned for its beautiful countryside. The district is recognised for its rich natural environment and over 100 square miles have been designated as a National Landscape. East Devon also has a stunning coastline that runs the length of its southern border, forming part of the designated "Jurassic Coast" World Heritage Site.

The natural environment is an important attraction of the district and the natural economy brings significant employment and business opportunity to East Devon which the Council supports in variety of ways.

The main settlements are the coastal resorts of Exmouth, Budleigh Salterton, Sidmouth and Seaton and inland settlements are Honiton, Ottery St Mary, Axminster and Cranbrook. There are good transport links including Exeter airport, the main airport for the south west region, and many residents travel from the district to work in places such as Exeter, Mid Devon and South Somerset.

Levels of home ownership are high with a significant proportion of houses in the top three most expensive Council Tax bands. Affordability of homes is an issue as East Devon has high house prices relative to wages and housing support features as a high priority for the Council.

Population

The population of East Devon has an older age profile, with the average median age of its residents being 50 years (England average median is 40 years) and around 30% of residents being over 65 years.

An ageing population has an impact on the provision of health care, housing requirements, the labour market and economic growth. The typical household in the district is a single family household and predominantly East Devon residents are from a white ethnic group.

Employment

The labour market in East Devon is good with low levels of unemployment. The proportion of those aged 16-64 who are economically active (in work or actively seeking and able to work) is around 80% and the proportion of the working age resident population qualified to RQF4 level 4 in East Devon is around 40%.

Currently the main types of employment are in the service industry which accounts for the majority of employment in East Devon with a large section of this being in the retail, hospitality and health sectors; all of which are predominantly lower paid sectors. Continued diverse development in the district is essential in order to attract a labour market which will fulfil the future demands of the district and provide quality job opportunities particularly for the young people of East Devon.

In the newer community of Cranbrook, there is a younger demographic profile. To reflect the higher proportion of the town's population being of working age, the requirement for job opportunities which are well-paid and less reliant on traditional sectors will be vital to support this thriving community.

Across the district, the Council will support opportunities to encourage new and diverse businesses and jobs growth alongside traditional sectors.

Governance Arrangements of the Council

The Governance arrangements of the Council are considered in depth within the Annual Governance Statement.

Council Plan

During the year the Council has continued to work hard for the people of East Devon, delivering the Council Plan which sets out our main priorities and forms the focus of all that we aim to achieve.

Our priorities and actions set out in the Council plan are:

Council priority one – Better homes and Communities for all

- Promoting better homes and stronger communities
- Promoting health and wellbeing across the community
- Promoting culture and community

Council priority two – A greener East Devon

- Carbon reduction
- Meeting high environmental standards
- Planning in our environment
- Promoting recycling and reducing waste
- Protecting and enhancing our natural environment in coast and country

Council priority three – A resilient economy

- Promoting the green economy
- Our financial stability
- Supporting employment
- Supporting our local economy

The plan lists our promises to achieve those ambitions for our district. The progress achieved on each promise is reported on quarterly and annually through the Council's committee structure.

Risk Management

The Council's risk management policy and guidance are in place to identify, evaluate and monitor risk status. There are clear accountability and review processes in place to support decision making through the understanding of risks, whether a positive opportunity or a threat and the likely impact.

The risk management policy and reporting identifies operational and strategic risks. Risks registers are subject to regular review by the named responsible person and is reported to the Audit & Governance Committee with details of mitigation against their impact and likelihood. The strategic risk register identifies key areas of risk including adequacy of financial resource planning and failure to ensure the Council's sustainability. The operational risks of the Council are reviewed regularly and the outcomes presented to the Audit & Governance Committee.

The operational risk register identifies the following risks for monitoring:

- Failure of LED Leisure through budget, legal or reputational issues
- Failure of performance under the Partnering Agreement by our responsive repair contractor leading to an inability to perform day to day repairs to tenant's homes
- Failure to maintain gas safety, fire risk, asbestos register, solid fuel servicing, and legionella testing to meet legal requirements
- Failure to maintain a five year housing land supply
- Failure of the contractors to deliver the service through staff shortages, strike action, company liquidation, legal prohibitions and/or other similar circumstances that render this contractor unable to continue with the contract

The strategic risk register identifies the following risks for monitoring:

- Business failure of a major contractor or significant partner
- Adequacy of financial resource planning to deliver the Council's priorities
- Major disruption in continuity of computer and telecommunications services
- Adequate emergency planning and business continuity
- Failure to ensure that our corporate property portfolio is fully compliant with legal requirements
- Failure to meet the requirements of data protection legislation and good information governance
- Failure to deliver the Enterprise Zone and the wider west end development programme
- Increased homelessness
- Failure to ensure the Council's sustainability
- Failure to adequately protect staff health and safety at work
- Retaining and strengthen a collective approach to decision making
- Climate change targets not achieved
- Recruitment and Retention Issues
- Reputational damage to the organization
- Risk of Service failure
- Impact of the economic situation on our residents
- Implementation of the Elections Act 2022 especially the new requirements for voter ID

Financial Overview

The Council's finances were impacted by the Comprehensive Spending Review in 2010 and subsequent Spending Reviews where the Government has cut local authorities funding as part of its programme in tackling national debt.

The Council continues to see significant cuts in government funding whilst also planning for more, with funding levels reduced since 2010/11; from a position where the Council received over £7m in 2010/11 the Council now receives no grant.

In addition to government spending cuts, there are the added pressures of inflationary cost increases, continued low investment income, an increasing call on services, members' ambitions to enhance and improve services and the wish to keep to moderate increases in Council Tax and other fees and charges.

This year has again been a challenging year due to the legacy impact of Covid-19 on council services and operations, some areas have continued to face increases in demand and drops in planned income. The Council has also seen significant issue with recruitment and retention.

Against this background the Council has delivered its spending plans and Council Plan outcomes through careful financial management and planning ahead. Careful decisions have been taken where service savings have been made, initiatives taken in the areas of; asset management, shared service provision, systems thinking principles, the persuasion of customers to use more convenient and cost effective means of transacting with the Council, procurement efficiencies and income generation. These initiatives have been implemented with the overall arching principle required by the Council to protect front line services.

The Council has facilitated and encouraged business and housing growth in the district to deliver its ambitions and which has also financially benefited the Council in additional government funding through extra Business Rate income and New Homes Bonus.

A balanced budget was agreed by Council and this was achieved by following the Council's Financial Plan which contained actions that reduced our spending levels or increased the income available to us enabling us to balance our books.

Looking ahead there are tough challenges for the Council in order to continue to produce balanced budgets, further details on projections going forward can be found in the Financial Plan and details of our Transformation Strategy which help us manage this position can be found on the council's website.

Outturn Position 2023/24

The Council set a balanced budget and details are given below of how the Council financially performed against the budget for the year.

These details are from the report as presented to the Council's Cabinet Committee providing the financial year end position and compares this to the budgets approved for the year.

General Fund Position

The Council's Revenue Account, known as the General Fund, bears the net cost of providing day-to-day services. These are the portfolio/service totals identified in the Council's Income & Expenditure Account.

The Council has again faced a challenging year with significant service demand and inflationary pressures in the supply of goods and services, such as temporary accommodation. Higher interest rates during 2023/24 have had a positive impact on our investment returns which have enabled the Council to mitigate against service pressures during 2023/24 but they will remain challenging for future years given the cost-of-living crisis and the impact this has on levels of demand and cost. The Council's General Fund balance at the end of the 2023/24 financial year is forecast to remain at £4.3m.

The 2023/24 budget was set by Council with a Council Tax Requirement of £9.974m. The following table shows the in year outturn variations versus set budgets with final General Fund surplus being £0.648m.

General Fund Position	£000	F/A
Original Budget Requirement	9,974	
Approved Budget Variations during reporting period	337	A
Revised budget Requirement	10,311	
Surplus in Year v Revised budget	(0.985)	F
Final Outturn Position 31/3/2024	9,326	
Final General Fund Surplus to allocate	(0.648)	F

General Fund Variation

Cost of Service Variation (£2.699m adverse)

The variation across the council's portfolio of services is shown in section Portfolio Net Expenditure Outturn.

Business Rates Income Variation (£2.152m favourable)

The business rates income, before earmarked reserve contributions in year, was £9.4m versus a budget of £7.3m. The figure included within the set budget for the year was £6.7m which was net of any contribution to the business rates volatility reserve. This budgeted figure can be broken down as £3.1m of baseline funding plus a £3.3m uplift and £0.3m of gain relating to the Devon Pool.

This year an additional £0.5m was provided for to cover East Devon's portion of the collection fund adjustment account deficit balance which stands at £1.2m (due to the reserve already holding £0.65m). Additionally, £1.9m of business rates income relating to the designated Enterprise zone has been allocated directly to the Enterprise zone reserve. The associated budget lines of business rates income versus revenue financing have been adjusted to reflect these entries.

Investments and Financing Variation (£2.079m favourable)

The interest income the council received was £3.153mm versus a budget of £1.137m. The continued rise of base rates and the associated impact on term deposit and money market rates resulted in a significant surplus to budget. The prediction at the time of budget setting was for a gradual decline in rates over the period however rates remain high resulting in this favourable position.

Central Government Grant Income (£0.054m favourable) **& Variations in the use of Earmarked Reserves** (£0.601 adverse)

The timing difference between the final announcement of some of the central government grants and the councils budget setting process has resulted in a favourable variation with the annual service grant greater than initially expected.

Two material variations against budget within earmarked reserve releases/contributions relate to a lower than anticipated release of Transformation reserve funding in the year to fulfil specific projects (£0.3m) and an expected release of Revs and Bens new burdens funding which wasn't required due to additional central government grant funding within the year (£0.3m).

Transfer of Final General Fund Surplus Balance to the Transformation Fund (£0.648 adverse)

It is proposed that the final surplus balance remaining be transferred to the Transformation fund (uncommitted revenue earmarked reserve).

This proposal leaves the General fund balance per the agreed upper limit of £4.3m at year end.

Portfolio Net Expenditure Outturn

The Portfolio Outturn for the year was £22.033m, £2.699m above the budget of £19.334k. The summary table of net expenditure and associated commentaries of material variations are below.

Portfolio Budget - Net Expenditure	Actuals 2023/24	Budget 2023/24	Variation	%age Var	Notes
Corporate Business	171,228	169,520	1,708	1%	1
Corporate Services	3,330,817	2,677,565	653,252	20%	2
Economy And Regenrtn Portfolio	516,257	454,014	62,243	12%	3
Environment Portfolio	4,238,133	4,345,821	-107,688	-3%	4
Finance	-695,997	-1,200,085	504,088	-72%	5
Strategic Development & P'Ship	373,784	-166,297	540,082	144%	6
Street Scene Portfolio	12,163,186	11,262,529	900,657	7%	7
Sustainable Homes & Communitie	1,935,657	1,791,117	144,540	7%	8
Portfolio Totals	22,033,065	19,334,184	2,698,882	12%	

Notes

1 No Material Variations

There is a budgeted £0.4m variation due to anticipated recoverable salary costs across the portfolio plus other unallocated staff related costs contributing £0.06m and an increase in the corporate bad debt provision of £0.04m. Overall Employee costs across the whole portfolio were materially within the set budget of £20.2m with permanent salaries showing savings of £0.8m offset by overspends in Agency staff costs of £0.6m and other less material movements.

3 An overspend of £0.2m within Building control due to lower than anticipated fee levels has been partially offset by less material savings elsewhere.

4 The variation has been driven by underspends in staffing costs across the Environment service.

5 Variations relating to the Housing Benefit subsidy contributed an additional £0.3m and lower than expected Car Park operations costs/income (£0.29m) has driven the majority of the deficit within Finance. These were offset by less material savings across finance.

6 Lower than expected planning fees income despite the change in fee structure in the latter part of the year has provided a deficit contribution of £0.3m. A further £0.2m variation to budget is due to Enterprise zone expenditure which is equally offset by increases in business rates income and the associated contribution to Enterprise zone earmarked revenue reserves.

7 There are 3 material variations within the street scene service. A deficit within Refuse and Recycling of £0.6m driven by the revised cost plus fees structure with Suez has been partially offset by better than anticipated performance within Green Waste (£0.2m). A further £0.3m deficit is due to anticipated savings within Public conveniences not being realised, however this is offset with agreed/anticipated use of earmarked reserves.

8 Higher levels of Homelessness Accommodation expenditure than predicted (£0.2m)

Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is the ring-fenced account for providing Council housing and associated services. This is shown separately on Income & Expenditure Statement.

HRA Outturn

The net expenditure outturn deficit for the year is £7.127m (before reserve and revenue contributions). The summary tables of income and expenditure and associated commentaries of material variations are below.

Year to Date				23/24 Outturn		
Actuals	Budget	Diff		Actuals	Budget	Diff
-	-	-	INCOME	-	-	-
19,498,769	19,911,900	413,131	Gross Property Rents	19,498,769	19,911,900	413,131
-209,149	-231,110	21,961	Garage Rents	-209,149	-231,110	21,961
-686,427	-658,510	-27,917	Other Income	-686,427	-658,510	-27,917
-	-	-		-	-	-
20,394,346	20,801,520	407,174		20,394,346	20,801,520	407,174

Year to Date				23/24 Outturn		
Actuals	Budget	Diff		Actuals	Budget	Diff
11,097,257	5,763,318	5,333,939	EXPENDITURE	11,097,257	5,763,318	5,333,939
			Repairs & Maintenance			
9,513,737	8,123,651	1,390,086	Supervision And Management	9,513,737	8,123,651	1,390,086
645,236	617,240	27,996	Other Expenditure	645,236	617,240	27,996
3,854,726	3,356,710	498,016	Capital Charges & Bad Debt	3,854,726	3,356,710	498,016
25,110,957	17,860,919	7,250,038	<i>(excl Depreciation)</i>	25,110,957	17,860,919	7,250,038

	23/24 Outturn		
	Actuals	Budget	Diff
Net Interest Expense	2,030,001	2,559,580	-529,579
Earmarked Reserve Release	-9,370,133	-40,000	9,330,133
Revenue Contn to Capital Financing	2,623,521	880,000	1,743,521
Total Financing	-4,716,611	3,399,580	8,116,191

A summary by cost driver is as follows:

- **Supervision and Management +£1.39m**

- £0.2m overspend in staff related costs with £0.68m in Agency staff costs only partially offset by savings in salaries and associated costs.
- £0.3m overspend on temporary accommodation costs when decanting tenants for significant works
- £0.4m overspend on Stock condition survey (this was a known overspend and was due to be reserve funded)
- £0.3m on technical consultancy support within the Property and Asset team
- £0.2m on non-rental void related charges

- **Income +£0.407m due to lost income from void properties**

- **Supplies, Services & Other Costs +£5.3m mainly due to responsive repairs**

- A £3.7m overspend in exclusions to the Integrated Asset Management Contract
 - £3m of jobs excluded from the Price per property (PPP) framework either due to the cost or type of job
 - £0.7m of jobs on properties excluded from the PPP framework
- £1.3m of planned works and decoration undertaken by Ian Williams
- £0.3m of disrepair legal fees and settlements

- **Interest income & charges -£0.530m from improved returns on investments**

- **Expenditure on Premises +£0.49m**

- £3.6m spent on voids versus an original budget of £1.8m with other major repairs budgets unspent to offset the significant increase in void volumes.

HRA Contribution from Reserves

The in year deficit was covered by a transfer from Earmarked reserves, leaving the HRA Balance at the adopted level of £3.1m.

HRA Capital Expenditure and Associated Funding

A table of the capital expenditure and associated funding streams can be found at the 2023/24 Capital Programme Outturn. In summary;

- A total of 6 acquisitions were completed within the year (£1.6m) versus 11 right to buy sales reducing the stock.
- In 23/24 the council applied and received £0.9m of Government grant funding to be used on affordable housing investment. The conditions of the grant are;
 - £20k of the total grant to be allocated to each property
 - 40% of the residual balance to be funded by the grant
 - The residual balance to be funded by the HRAIn 23/24 2 plots in Cranbrook were purchased and a 10% deposit was provided for a further 4 plots due to complete in 24/25 at a cost of £0.65m.
- During 23/24 there was £4.35m spent on capital related improvements to properties, blocks, major adaptations for disabilities and major voids works. The funding implications of this are;
 - £0.4m in non-ring fenced capital RTB receipts
 - £1.37m – the remaining HRA capital contribution after funding affordable housing
 - £2.5m in new borrowing
- The total revenue contribution to capital made from the Housing revenue account was £2.6m versus a budgeted figure of £0.88m.

HRA Year End Reserve Levels

The below table shows the final reserve levels should the allocations proposed be approved.

HRA RESERVES

REVENUE

Reserve Name	2022 Year End	Movement	2023 Year End	Comment
HRA Balance	-3,100	0	-3,100	Adopted level of £500 per dwelling plus £1m buffer
HRA Volatility Reserve	-1,600	1,600	0	Earmarked reserve in case of events impacting rental income
Capital Development Fund	-2,925	2,925	0	Revenue reserve earmarked for new homes & climate change development
Landlord Services Reserve	-124	124	0	Revenue reserve earmarked for Future Landlord Services Projects & C19 Catch up works
Planned Maintenance Reserve	-3,255	3,255	0	Revenue reserve earmarked for Stock Condition and Catch Up Costs
Fire Risk Assessment Reserve	-1,468	1,468	0	Revenue reserve earmarked for FRA Building works and Lift replacement
TOTAL USEABLE REVENUE RESERVES	-12,472	9,372	-3,100	

CAPITAL

Reserve Name	2022 Year End	Movement	2023 Year End	Comment
HRA Capital Receipts	-5,731	-366	-6,097	To be used to fund the 40% Government RTB funding of replacements only
Hra Retained Capital Receipts - Grants	0	-609	-609	
TOTAL USEABLE CAPITAL RESERVES	-5,731	-975	-6,706	

Capital Budget

The revised net capital budget (after grants and contributions) for 2023/24 was £27.2m; the outturn position is lower at £14.0m. This often reflect total scheme budgets and the majority to be re-profiled into future years as schemes come forward.

Capital Programme Outturn

Capital Programme Portfolio Summary 2023/24				
	Portfolio	Budget after revisions	Actual	(Under)/ Overspend
		2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
Line		£	£	£
1	Corporate Services	1,227,732	214,376	(1,013,356)
2	Community - Housing General Fund	1,451,383	987,694	(463,689)
3	Economy and Regeneration	7,546,117	1,534,577	(6,011,540)
4	Environment	2,681,262	885,266	(1,795,996)
5	Street Scene	14,136,651	2,065,348	(12,071,303)
6	Strategic Development	1,250,000	0	(1,250,000)
7	TOTAL GF GROSS EXPENDITURE	28,293,145	5,687,262	- 25,746,723
8	Community - HRA	3,856,710	10,452,729	6,596,019
9	TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE	32,149,855	16,139,991	(16,009,864)
10	Corporate Services	-	0	0
11	Community - Housing General Fund	(1,342,796)	(1,094,688)	248,108
12	Economy and Regeneration	(2,249,000)	0	2,249,000
13	Environment	(531,449)	(14,645)	516,804
14	Street Scene	(828,630)	(157,384)	671,246
15	Strategic Development	-	0	0
16	TOTAL GF EXTERNAL FUNDING	(4,951,875)	(1,266,717)	3,685,158
17	Community - HRA	-	(900,216)	(900,216)
18	TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING	(4,951,875)	(2,166,933)	2,784,942
19	Corporate Services	1,227,732	214,376	(1,013,356)
20	Community - Housing General Fund	108,587	(106,994)	(215,581)
21	Economy and Regeneration	5,297,117	1,534,577	(3,762,540)
22	Environment	2,149,813	870,621	(1,279,192)
23	Street Scene	13,308,021	1,907,965	(11,400,056)
24	Strategic Development	1,250,000	0	(1,250,000)
25	TOTAL GF NET EXPENDITURE	23,341,270	4,420,544.78	(18,920,725)
26	Community - HRA	3,856,710	9,552,513	5,695,803
27	TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE	27,197,980	13,973,058	(13,224,922)

Basis of preparation

The Accounts are presented on an International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) basis having been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom. References to material and materiality relates to the significance of transactions, balances and errors. Financial information is material if its omission or misstatement could influence the users of the accounts.

Explanation of the Financial Statements

The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 which require the accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee (LASAAC), Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 (the Code) supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

These accounts summarise the Council's transactions for the financial year and its position at the year end. The accounts comprises:

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

This Statement sets out the respective responsibilities of the Council and the Chief Financial Officer for the accounts.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement - Core Financial Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations but this may be different from the accounting cost. It includes Pension liabilities that are outside the control of the Council. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Movement in Reserves Statement - Core Financial Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'Usable Reserves' (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 shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account for Council tax and dwellings rent setting purposes. The Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves are undertaken by the Council.

Balance Sheet - Core Financial Statement

The Balance Sheet summarises the Council's financial position at 31 March 2024 showing the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council.

Reserves are reported in two categories:

Usable reserves: reserves that the Council may use to provide services, (subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use) for example – the Capital Receipts Reserve may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt.

Unusable Reserves: reserves that the Council is not able to use to provide services. These reserves include the Revaluation Reserve which holds unrealised gains and losses. This would only become available to provide services if the assets were actually sold. Other Unusable Reserves hold timing differences which are shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

Cash Flow Statement - Core Financial Statement

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

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) - Supplementary Financial Statements

The HRA is a record of revenue expenditure and income relating to the Council's housing stock. Its primary purpose is to ensure that expenditure on managing tenancies and maintaining dwellings is balanced by rents charged to tenants. Therefore the HRA is a statutory account which is ring-fenced from the rest of the General Fund so that rents cannot be subsidised from Council tax or vice versa.

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

Collection Fund - Supplementary Financial Statements

This account is maintained separately as a statutory requirement. The Collection Fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the Billing Authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and ratepayers and distribution to Local Authorities and the Government of Council tax and Non-domestic rates.

Annual Governance Statement

This gives a public assurance that the Council has proper arrangements in place to manage all of its affairs. It summarises the Council's responsibilities in the conduct of its business, the purpose and key elements of the system of internal control and the processes applied in maintaining, reviewing and developing the effectiveness of those control systems.

Inspection of the Accounts

Under provisions contained in Section 15 and 16 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2015 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Statement of Accounts will be made available for inspection.



Simon Davey CPFA
Director - Finance

The Statement of Responsibilities

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required to:

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

The Director for Finance's Responsibilities

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

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Director for Finance has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- complied with the Local Authority Code.
- kept proper accounting records which were up to date;
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.
- assessed the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
- used the going concern basis of accounting on the assumption that the functions of the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future; and
- maintained 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.

I certify that the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at the reporting date and of its expenditure and income for the year ended 31 March 2024.



Simon Davey CPFA
Director - Finance, Section 151 Officer

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

	2023/24			2022/23			
		Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure
	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corporate Business		170	-	170	250	-	250
Corporate Services		2,667	(2,308)	359	5,143	(6,375)	(1,232)
Economy		3,203	(2,091)	1,112	2,382	(2,146)	236
Environment – General		6,329	(1,001)	5,328	6,882	(1,069)	5,813
Environment - Street Scene		19,268	(3,891)	15,377	22,613	(3,707)	18,906
Finance		25,731	(26,527)	(796)	26,696	(27,657)	(961)
Strategic Development & Partnership		6,514	(6,142)	372	7,341	(17,414)	(10,073)
Sustainable Homes & Communities		5,117	(3,321)	1,796	4,806	(3,341)	1,465
Strata Solutions Ltd		2,794	-	2,794	2,987	(108)	2,879
Housing Revenue Account		29,561	(20,790)	8,771	18,641	(19,100)	(459)
Total Cost Of Services		101,354	(66,071)	35,283	97,741	(80,917)	16,824
Other Operating Expenditure	11			7,287			2,668
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	12			(981)			2,488
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	13			(29,390)			(32,468)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services				12,199			(10,488)
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets	34			(9,540)			(29,954)
Re-measurement of the net defined (benefit) / liability	19			(6,076)			(57,816)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(15,616)			(87,770)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(3,417)			(98,258)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Movement in Reserves Statement

	Note	General Fund Balance £'000	Earmarked GF Reserves £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Earmarked HRA Reserves £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Council Reserves £'000
1 April		(4,300)	(33,971)	(3,100)	(9,370)	(6,015)	(13,720)	(70,476)	(296,968)	(367,444)
Surplus or deficit on provision of services		2,928	-	9,271	-	-	-	12,199		12,199
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(15,616)	(15,616)
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income		2,928	-	9,271	-	-	-	12,199	(15,616)	(3,417)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	9	(8,681)	-	(884)	-	(104)	(275)	(9,944)	9,944	-
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		(5,753)	-	8,387	-	(104)	(275)	2,255	(5,672)	(3,417)
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	10	5,753	(5,039)	(8,387)	8,387	-	-	714	(714)	-
Increase/Decrease in Year		-	(5,039)	-	8,387	(104)	(275)	2,969	(6,386)	(3,417)
Balance at 31 March 2024		(4,300)	(39,010)	(3,100)	(983)	(6,119)	(13,995)	(67,507)	(303,354)	(370,861)
1 April		(4,300)	(20,852)	(3,100)	(11,219)	(3,186)	(8,011)	(50,668)	(218,518)	(269,186)
Surplus or deficit on provision of services		(10,056)	-	(432)	-	-	-	(10,488)	-	(10,488)
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(87,770)	(87,770)
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income		(10,056)	-	(432)	-	-	-	(10,488)	(87,770)	(98,258)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	9	(2,822)	-	1,696	-	(2,829)	(5,709)	(9,664)	9,664	-
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		(12,878)	-	1,264	-	(2,829)	(5,709)	(20,152)	(78,106)	(98,258)
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	10	12,878	(13,119)	(1,264)	1,849	-	-	3404	(344)	-
Increase/Decrease in Year		-	(13,119)	-	1,849	(2,829)	(5,709)	(19,808)	(78,450)	(98,258)
Balance at 31 March 2023		(4,300)	(33,971)	(3,100)	(9,370)	(6,015)	(13,720)	(70,476)	(296,968)	(367,444)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	£'000	£'000
Property, Plant & Equipment	24	409,937	402,682
Investment Properties	24	2,965	3,015
Intangible Assets	23	480	484
Long Term Investments	28	825	825
Long Term Debtors	29	2,533	3,904
LONG TERM ASSETS		416,740	410,910
Assets held for sale	25	78	78
Short Term Investments	28	35,937	31,649
Inventories		9	6
Short Term Debtors	29	12,891	17,762
Cash and Cash Equivalents	30	25,974	28,134
CURRENT ASSETS		74,889	77,629
Cash Overdrawn	28	(1,188)	(3,313)
Short Term Borrowing – loans	28	(17,447)	(4,270)
Short Term Creditors	31	(13,084)	(14,666)
Short term Provisions	32	(767)	(516)
Grants Receipts in Advance	21	(361)	(361)
CURRENT LIABILITIES		(32,847)	(23,126)
Long Term Borrowing – loans	28	(75,596)	(79,824)
Other Long Term Liabilities	19	(3,890)	(9,946)
Grants Receipts in Advance	21	(8,435)	(8,199)
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		(87,921)	(97,969)
NET ASSETS		370,861	367,444
General Fund Balance		(4,300)	(4,300)
Earmarked GF Reserves	10	(39,010)	(33,971)
Housing Revenue Account Balance		(3,100)	(3,100)
Earmarked HRA Reserves	10	(983)	(9,370)
Capital Receipts Reserve		(6,119)	(6,015)
Capital Grants Unapplied		(13,995)	(13,720)
Major Repairs Reserve		-	-
USEABLE RESERVES		(67,507)	(70,476)
Accumulated Absences Account	34	123	117
Available-for-Sale Financial Instruments Reserve	34	-	-
Capital Adjustment Account	34	(206,298)	(211,422)
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	34	862	(1,090)
Deferred Capital Receipts		-	0
Financial Instrument Adjustment Account	34	252	320
Pensions Reserve	34	3,890	9,946
Revaluation Reserve	34	(102,203)	(95,148)
Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	34	(30)	259
Financial Instrument Revaluation Account	34	50	50
UNUSEABLE RESERVES		(303,354)	(296,968)
TOTAL RESERVES		(370,861)	(367,444)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

The Statement of Accounts were authorised for issue by the Director of Finance, Section 151 Officer on 14 August 2024



The Cash Flow Statement

	Note	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Net (Surplus)/ Deficit on Provision of Services		12,199	(10,488)
Depreciation & Impairment	24	(6,015)	(5,268)
Changes in Market Value of Property, Plant & Equipment	24	(6,489)	(1,151)
Changes in Market Value of Investment Property	24	(116)	50
Changes in Market Value of Short Term Investments (Pooled Funds)	28	289	(131)
Disposal of Assets		(2,265)	(2,069)
Changes in Inventories		3	2
Changes in Debtors	29	(6,239)	602
Changes in Creditors	31	1,577	33,683
Changes in Provisions	32	(252)	393
Changes in Net Pension Liability		(19)	(5,995)
Changes in Short and Long-Term Borrowings		(166)	8
Changes in Grants and Contributions		(236)	136
Other non-cash Movements		(4,854)	12,220
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		(12,583)	21,992
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Purchase of Property, Plant & Equipment	24	14,182	10,147
Purchase of Investment Property	24	0	0
Purchase of short term investments		5,000	4,500
Proceeds from short term investments		(1,000)	(9,500)
Acquisition/Disposal of Intangible assets		0	0
Proceeds from the Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment		(1,631)	(285)
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		16,551	4,862
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Cash Receipts of short term and long term borrowing	28	(13,000)	0
Repayments of short term and long term borrowing		4,217	3,807
Changes in Council Tax and Business Rates Collected for Third Parties		4,850	(12,188)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		(3,933)	(8,381)
Net (Increase)/ Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Period		35	18,473
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Period		24,821	43,294
Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Period		(35)	(18,473)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Period	1.3	24,786	24,821
Items in net cash flow from operating activities include:			
Interest Receivable		(3,715)	(1,873)
Interest Payable		2,642	2,662
		(1,073)	789
Cash and Cash Equivalents	30	25,974	28,134
Cash Overdrawn	28	(1,188)	(3,313)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Period		24,786	24,821

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

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Note 1. Accounting Policies

1.1 General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2023/24 financial year and its position at the year end of 31 March 2024. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which those Regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices under Section 21 of the 2003 Act primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments. The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis; that is, on the assumption that the functions of the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

1.2 Accruals of Income and Expenditure

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, rather than when cash payments are made or received.

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption; they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

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. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in no more than 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. The Council therefore treats all fixed term deposits, which have no contractual provision for early redemption, and if they were redeemed early would suffer a penalty of at least a loss of interest, as investments. In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents include bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management.

1.4 Changes in Accounting Policies, Prior Period Adjustments and Estimates and Errors

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

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

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period. If the current year is material (even if the comparator is not) then a prior period adjustment will be carried out if it aids understanding for the reader.

1.5 Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding property, plant and equipment during the year:

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

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

The provisions for charges to revenue for non-current assets in the HRA were amended on 1 April 2012 following the introduction of HRA self-financing. The Major Repairs Reserve is increased and the HRA balance is decreased by a sum equal to depreciation on all HRA non-current assets so that the depreciation on non-dwelling assets is now a charge to the HRA.

1.6 Council Tax and Non-domestic Rates

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

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

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

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

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the statutory arrangements will not be made (fixed or determinable payments) the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows.

1.7 Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable during Employment

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

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are the amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service segment or, where applicable, to a corporate service segment at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises costs for a restructuring. Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement of Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits from the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post-Employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by Devon County Council.

The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the Devon County pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using the annualised yield at the 18 year point on the Merrill Lynch AA rated corporate bond curve which has been chosen to meet the requirements of IAS19 and with consideration of the duration of the Employer's liabilities.
- The assets of Devon County pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
 - quoted securities - current bid price
 - unquoted securities - professional estimate
 - unitised securities - current bid price
 - Property - market value.

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

- **Service cost comprising:**
 - current service cost - the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year; allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked.
 - past service cost - the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years, debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Corporate Costs.
 - net interest on the net defined benefit liability i.e. net interest expense for the Council is the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period - taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

- **Re-measurement comprising:**
 - the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in the pensions interest cost and expected return on pension assets – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
 - actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
 - the effect of asset ceiling – changes in the net pensions liability to reflect commitments to pay deficit recovery employer’s contributions.
- **Contributions paid to the Devon Pension Fund:**
 - Cash paid as employer’s contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

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

Discretionary Benefits

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

1.8 Events after the Reporting Period

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

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

1.9 Fair value measurement

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

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

The Council measures the fair value of an asset or liability using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that the participants act in their economic best interest.

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

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

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

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

1.10 Financial Liabilities

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

This means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest) and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement. Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the CIES, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain/loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts

charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

1.11 Financial Assets

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

- Amortised cost
- Fair value through profit or loss (FVPL)
- Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI); (a separate accounting policy is required for financial instruments held at fair value through other comprehensive income).

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

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

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

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

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

Expected Credit Loss Model

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost, either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the Council.

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

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss

Financial assets that are measured at FVPL are recognised on the balance sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value.

The Council recognises fair value gains and losses on its pooled Short-term Investment Funds, as they arrive, in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. This is a requirement under IFRS 9. There is a “statutory reversal” which means that the impact of this change in valuation does not hit the “bottom line” or taxpayers. The impact is reversed out and placed in an unusable reserve.

The fair value measurements of the financial assets are based on the following techniques:

- Instruments with quoted market prices – the market price
- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis

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

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

Any gains or losses that arise on the de-recognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure, along with any net gain or loss related to the asset that has accumulated in the unusable reserve.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income

The Council has acquired shares in certain entities to fulfil the service objectives of the Council. These equity instruments are not held for trading and under IFRS 9, the Council has elected to designate them as Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI) so that gains and losses will be recognised through Other Comprehensive Income on the face of the Income Statement. There is a “statutory reversal” which means that the impact of this change in valuation does not hit the “bottom line” or taxpayers. Any impact is reversed out and placed in an unusable reserve.

1.12 Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

Amounts recognised as due to the Council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset 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.

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

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

1.13 Intangible Assets

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

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

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

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

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

1.14 Joint Operations

Joint operations are arrangements where the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities relating to the arrangement. The activities undertaken by the Council in conjunction with other joint operators involve the use of the assets and resources of those joint operators.

In relation to its interest in a joint operation, the Council as a joint operator recognises:

- its assets, including its share of any assets held jointly
- its liabilities, including its share of any liabilities incurred jointly
- its revenue from the sale of its share of the output arising from the joint operation
- its share of the revenue from the sale of the output by the joint operation
- its expenses, including its share of any expenses incurred jointly.

1.15 Long term contracts

Long term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Surplus and Deficit on the Provision of Services with the value of the works and services received under the contract in the financial year.

1.16 Investment Property

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

Investment properties are measured initially at a cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use. Properties are not depreciated as assets are included in the Balance Sheet at Fair Value and are revalued annually at the year-end date. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

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

1.17 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

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

The Council as Lessor

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

1.18 Overheads and Support services

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

1.19 Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

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.

PPE Recognition

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

PPE Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- the purchase price
- a de minimus level of £20,000 has been agreed for Capital Expenditure. Any costs below are charged to revenue.
- any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management
- the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.
- Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment has major components whose costs is significant in relation to the total cost, the components are depreciated separately.

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

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

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

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost
- dwellings – fair value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH)
- surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective
- all other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

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

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

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

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

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

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

PPE Impairment

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

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

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

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

PPE Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives.

An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land and certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases and charged in the year of disposal, but not acquisition:

- dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer.
- vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the vehicle, plant, furniture and equipment as advised by a suitably qualified officer
- infrastructure – straight-line allocation as estimated by the valuer.

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment valued at greater than £1,000,000 has major components whose cost is more than 20% in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

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

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale.

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

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale, they are 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 or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

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

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

1.20 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

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

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

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

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

Contingent Liabilities

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

Contingent Assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council. Contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

1.21 Reserves

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance 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 kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, local taxation, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council – these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

1.22 Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

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

1.23 Value Added Tax (VAT)

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

1.24 Community Infrastructure Levy

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which was introduced by the planning Act 2008 and the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/948) as amended, is a discretionary charge which the Council charges on new development in the area from 1 September 2016.

CIL charges are based on a formula which relates the charge to the size of the development. The proceeds of the levy are spent on infrastructure to support the development of the district. East Devon District Council is the chargeable body and collects the levy on behalf of Town and Parish Councils.

CIL is recognised on an accruals basis at the commencement date of the development as part of Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

CIL income applied to meet the administrative expenses of the scheme is recognised immediately in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

1.25 Rounding

All figures contained within these accounts from the main statements through to all of the notes have been taken directly from working papers. It is the Councils policy not to adjust for immaterial casting differences within the notes or cross-casting differences between the main statements and disclosure notes.

Note 2. Accounting Standards issued, Not Adopted

Following the recommendation of CIPFA/LASAAC 2024/25 will hold the implementation of IFRS16 Leases in the Public Sector, with an effective date of 1 April 2024. This accounting standard will require the recognition of assets subject to leases as “right-of-use” assets on the balance sheet, along with corresponding lease liabilities for future years, the impact of which has not been quantified.

The other minor changes, that have no material impact on these Accounts, are:

- application of IFRS 16 to service concession arrangement (PFI PPP) liabilities on first time application
- Amendments to IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements - implications for covenants on the non-current status of liabilities
- Amendments to IAS 12 International Tax Reform: Pillar Two Model Rules - a temporary mandatory exception from accounting for deferred taxes arising from the new rules
- IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows - disclosures about supplier finance arrangements.

Therefore in compiling these accounts there are no material effects in relation to these standards.

Note 3. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out above, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government with continuing delays in the review of the various funding mechanisms. This review is likely to cause material impact on the finance of this Authority due to the expectation that income streams will be altered, reduced or even ceased in some cases. However, the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.
- The Council's leisure centres and leisure service is operated by LED Ltd, a charitable organisation that leases and operates the leisure centres previously run by the Council. It has been determined that the Council does not have control of the Trust, based upon the following facts and circumstances;
 - LED Leisure Management Limited is a registered charitable trust (a Community Benefit Society regulated by the FCA)
 - It is a separate legal entity from EDDC
 - The Council is able to appoint two Councillors to act as trustees on the Board of LED, this is a minority representation

- Strata Service Solutions Ltd is a registered company which has been established to assist the three authorities; Exeter City Council, East Devon District Council and Teignbridge District Council, in the provision and operation of shared ICT services. It is deemed to be a joint operation due to the inherent rights to the assets and obligations for liabilities each Council has relating to the joint arrangement, based upon the following facts and circumstances:
 - The three authorities have joint control of the entity. Each Council has one nominated Director and each Director has one vote. The Directors are responsible for the management of the Company's business, for which purpose they may exercise all the powers of the company with decisions made collectively and unanimously.
 - The Company is required by the Council to carry out the tasks as set out in the Business Plans and Service Plans and is limited to the business and objectives as set by the Council.
 - The Company's revenue derives from the financial allocations set and controlled by each of the Councils.
 - There are no current plans for Strata to do anything other than provide services to the three Councils. The Company has been established as an in-house mutual trading Council controlled company to assist them in the provision of services.
 - Joint operations are not consolidated into group accounts, instead each Council has recognised in its financial statement its share of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses pertaining to Strata Service Solutions Ltd.

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

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

The items for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment are as follows:

Property, Plant and Equipment

There are uncertainties on the estimates of useful lives over which assets are depreciated, as these are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets.

The effect if Results Differ from Assumptions would be that if the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls, conversely if useful lives were increased the carrying amount of assets would increase.

Investment Property & All Other Fair Value Asset Valuations

The Council engages an in house qualified RICS surveyor to provide valuations of land and property assets at year end, including investment property. The values of assets are adjusted to their current values by reviewing the sales of similar assets in the region, applying indexation and considering impairment of individual assets. The Council also engages an external qualified RICS surveyor to provide valuations regarding the Housing stock with valuations based on the use of beacon sites (the beacon method) to apply the market value of residential dwellings.

The effect if Results Differ from Assumptions, including changes in the assumptions of future income streams/growth, occupancy levels, ongoing property maintenance and other factors, would be a higher or lower fair value measurement for these assets.

Pension Liability

There are uncertainties on the estimation of the net pension liability which relies on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. The Effect if Results Differ from Assumptions would be a higher or lower measurement for the pension liabilities.

Note 5. Material Items of Income and Expense

There were no material items of income and expense that have not been disclosed elsewhere in the accounts.

Note 6. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

There were no events after the balance sheet date.

Note 7. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Portfolio	2023/24			2022/23		
	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund & HRA £'000	Adjustments between the Funding & Accounting Basis £'000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement £'000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund & HRA £'000	Adjustments between the Funding & Accounting Basis £'000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement £'000
Corporate Business	80	90	170	148	102	250
Corporate Services	3,854	(3,495)	359	1,613	(2,845)	(1,232)
Economy	1,484	(372)	1,112	1,276	(1,040)	236
Environment - General	4,093	1,235	5,328	4,064	1,749	5,813
Environment - Street Scene	10,895	4,482	15,377	8,608	10,298	18,906
Finance	(107)	(689)	(796)	(962)	1	(961)
Strategic Development & Partnership	(841)	1,213	372	(12,297)	2,224	(10,073)
Sustainable Homes & Communities	590	1,206	1,796	1,416	49	1,465
Strata Solutions Ltd	2,799	(5)	2,794	2,375	504	2,879
Housing Revenue Account	(1,927)	10,698	8,771	(6,848)	6,389	(459)
Net Cost Of Services	20,920	14,363	35,283	(609)	17,433	16,824
Other Income and Expenditure	(18,286)	(4,798)	(23,084)	(11,005)	(16,307)	(27,312)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	2,634	9,565	12,199	(11,614)	1,126	(10,488)

Note 7A. Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

	2023/24				2022/23			
	Adjustments for capital purposes £'000	Adjustments relating to pensions measurement £'000	Adjustments for other purposes £'000	Adjustments between the Funding & Accounting Basis £'000	Adjustments for capital purposes £'000	Adjustments relating to pensions measurement £'000	Adjustments for other purposes £'000	Adjustments between the Funding & Accounting Basis £'000
Corporate Business	-	(1)	91	90	-	14	88	102
Corporate Services	203	(29)	(3,669)	(3,495)	256	309	(3,409)	(2,845)
Economy	624	(28)	(968)	(372)	(478)	283	(844)	(1,040)
Environment - General	1,130	(40)	145	1,235	1,242	411	96	1,749
Environment - Street Scene	3,277	(60)	1,265	4,482	8,673	603	1,023	10,298
Finance	(41)	(59)	(589)	(689)	(128)	580	(452)	1
Strategic Development & Partnership	213	(47)	1,047	1,213	734	493	997	2,224
Sustainable Homes & Communities	988	(33)	251	1,206	969	326	(1,245)	49
Strata Solutions Ltd	-	(5)	-	(5)	236	268	-	504
Housing Revenue Account	8,330	(59)	2,427	10,698	3,460	578	2,351	6,389
Net Cost Of Services	14,724	(361)	-	14,363	14,965	3,864	(1,396)	17,433
Other Income and Expenditure		381	(5,179)	(4,798)	-	1,569	(17,876)	(16,307)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	14,724	20	(5,179)	9,565	14,965	5,433	(19,272)	1,126

Note 7A. Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis Continued

Adjustments for Capital purposes:

- Depreciation, impairments and revaluation gains and losses are added in the service lines;
- Statutory charges for capital financing are deducted from service lines i.e. Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions;
- Net gains on disposal of non-current assets are added to other operating expenditure;
- Capital Grants applied to capital expenditure are added to taxation and non-specific grant income.

Net change for Pensions adjustments:

- Employer contributions made by the Council are reversed from the service lines and replaced with current and past service costs as per IAS19
- Net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to Financing and investment income and expenditure.

Allocation of other income and expenditure:

- Interest payable and receivable reported under Corporate and Central is moved to Financing and investment income and expenditure;
- Trading operations reported under Development and Regulation are moved to Financing and investment income and expenditure;
- Disposals not linked to an asset are charged to the service line.

Other adjustments:

- Timing differences for Council tax and Business rate income charged to taxation and non-specific grant income;
- Internal recharges between management accounting lines and between the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account.
- Timing differences for premiums and discounts reported under Corporate and Central;
- Charge to service lines for Unpaid Absences.

The adjustments cover those set out in Note 9 and reclassifications of transactions that are managed by a particular service but are required to be reported corporately as Other Income and Expenditure in the CIES.

Note 8. Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Expenditure		
Employee Expenses	25,598	25,305
Benefit Payments	20,331	21,388
Depreciation & Amortisation	5,548	5,035
Capital Impairment	381	234
Capital Revaluation	6,465	1,170
Interest Payable	2,517	2,611
Internal Recharge Expenditure	16,065	13,772
Internal Recharge Income	(16,065)	(13,772)
Loss on Disposal of Capital	3,896	-
Other	50,064	54,403
Total expenditure	114,800	110,145
Income		
Government Grants	(32,368)	(42,259)
Rental Income	(22,284)	(21,506)
Council Tax Precept	(15,204)	(14,270)
Business Rates Related Income	(21,015)	(18,255)
Business Rates Tariff	11,614	10,436
Contributions to Capital Expenditure	(4,012)	(15,108)
Gain on Disposal of Capital	(1,631)	(4,409)
Other	(17,701)	(15,262)
Total income	(102,601)	(120,633)
Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	12,199	(10,488)

Note 8a. Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature and Segment

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

2023/24

Expenditure	Corporate Business	Corporate Services	Economy	Environment – General	Environment - Street Scene	Finance	Strategic Development & Partnership	Sustainable Homes & Communities	Strata Solutions Ltd	Housing Revenue Account	Other	Total
Employee Expenses	75	2,826	1,874	2,593	4,148	3,747	3,438	2,159	-	4,738	-	25,598
Benefit Payments	-	-	-	-	-	20,331	-	-	-	-	-	20,331
Depreciation & Amortisation	-	-	307	1,246	2,143	1	3	43	-	1,805	-	5,548
Capital Impairment	-	-	8	65	308	-	-	-	-	-	-	381
Capital Revaluation	-	-	168	(182)	(4)	(42)	-	-	-	6,525	-	6,465
Interest Payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2,515	2,517
Internal Recharge Expenditure	91	2,542	1,115	1,111	3,898	2,163	1,604	700	-	2,841	-	16,065
Internal Recharge Income	-	(6,211)	(2,084)	(965)	(2,632)	(2,751)	(558)	(450)	-	(414)	-	(16,065)
Loss on Disposal of Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,896	3,896
Other (including Strata)	4	3,510	1,815	2,461	11,407	2,282	2,025	2,665	2,794	14,066	7,035	50,064
Total expenditure	170	2,667	3,203	6,329	19,268	25,731	6,514	5,117	2,794	29,561	13,446	114,800
Income												
Government Grants	-	(1,831)	(110)	(536)	-	(20,716)	(4,037)	(1,686)	-	(400)	(3,052)	(32,368)
Rental Income	-	-	(903)	-	(538)	(156)	-	-	-	(20,687)	-	(22,284)
Council Tax Precept	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(15,204)	(15,204)
Business Rates Related	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(21,015)	(21,015)
Business Rates Tariff	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,614	11,614
Contributions to Capital Expenditure	-	(146)	(3)	(37)	(98)	(21)	41	-	-	(1)	(3,747)	(4,012)
Gain on Disposal of Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,631)	(1,631)
Other (including Strata)	-	(331)	(1,075)	(428)	(3,255)	(5,634)	(2,146)	(1,635)	-	298	(3,495)	(17,701)
Total income	-	(2,308)	(2,091)	(1,001)	(3,891)	(26,527)	(6,142)	(3,321)	-	(20,790)	(36,530)	(102,601)

Note 8a. Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature and Segment continued

2022/23

Expenditure	Corporate Business	Corporate Services	Economy	Environment – General	Environment - Street Scene	Finance	Strategic Development & Partnership	Sustainable Homes & Communities	Strata Solutions Ltd	Housing Revenue Account	Other	Total
Employee Expenses	91	2,364	1,947	2,724	4,254	3,975	3,346	2,212	-	4,391	-	25,305
Benefit Payments	-	-	-	-	-	21,388	-	-	-	-	-	21,388
Depreciation & Amortisation	-	-	269	1,135	1,877	1	2	39	-	1,712	-	5,035
Capital Impairment	-	-	15	107	111	-	-	-	-	-	-	234
Capital Revaluation	-	-	(458)	(0)	9	(129)	-	-	-	1,748	-	1,170
Interest Payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2,610	2,611
Internal Recharge Expenditure	88	1,968	974	858	3,483	1,951	1,480	362	-	2,609	-	13,772
Internal Recharge Income	-	(5,258)	(1,818)	(763)	(2,451)	(2,362)	(483)	(380)	-	(258)	-	(13,772)
Other (including Strata)	71	6,069	1,453	2,820	15,330	1,871	2,996	2,573	3,418	8,440	9,362	54,403
Total expenditure	251	5,143	2,382	6,882	22,613	26,695	7,341	4,805	3,418	18,642	11,972	110,145
Income												
Government Grants	-	(5,302)	(132)	(640)	(1)	(21,833)	(10,826)	(535)	-	(13)	(2,976)	(42,259)
Rental Income	-	-	(852)	-	(549)	(158)	-	(634)	-	(19,314)	-	(21,506)
Council Tax Precept	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(14,270)	(14,270)
Business Rates Related	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(18,255)	(18,255)
Business Rates Tariff	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,436	10,436
Contributions to Capital Expenditure	-	(1,003)	(45)	(38)	(26)	(168)	(4,551)	(1,171)	-	(3)	(8,104)	(15,108)
Gain/Loss on Disposal of Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(4,409)	(4,409)
Other (including Strata)	-	(70)	(1,117)	(392)	(3,131)	(5,499)	(2,037)	(1,001)	(108)	230	(2,137)	(15,262)
Total Income	-	(6,375)	(2,146)	(1,069)	(3,707)	(27,657)	(17,414)	(3,341)	(108)	(19,100)	(39,716)	(120,633)

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

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

General Fund Balance

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

Housing Revenue Account Balance

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

Major Repairs Reserve

The Council is required to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve, which controls an element of the capital resources limited to be used on capital expenditure by the HRA. The nil balance shows there are no capital resources yet to be applied at year end.

Capital Receipts Reserve

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

Capital Grants Unapplied

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

Note 9. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations continued

	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	Total Useable Reserves
2023/24	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Charges for Depreciation & impairment of non-current assets	(4,124)	(1,805)	-	-	-	(5,929)
Revaluation Gain/ Losses on PPE and Investment Property	(80)	(6,525)	-	-	-	(6,605)
Capital grants contributions applied	1,645	291	-	-	-	1,936
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (England and Wales)	(2,190)	-	-	-	-	(2,190)
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of gains/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(3,156)	(741)	-	-	-	(3,897)
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Expenditure and Income:						
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment = MRP	369	5	-	-	-	374
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	-	2,618	-	-	-	2,618
Adjustment primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:						
Capital grants & contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	275	-	-	-	(275)	-
Adjustment primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of gains/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	200	1,431	(1,631)	-	-	-
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	1,897	-	-	1,897
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government capital receipts pool	-	-	-	-	-	-
Repayment of loans	-	-	(370)	-	-	(370)
Adjustments primarily involving the Major Repairs Reserve::						
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA	-	3,843	-	(3,843)	-	-
Use of Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	-	3,843	-	3,843
Adjustments primarily involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from the finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	357	-	-	-	-	357
Adjustment primarily involving the Pensions reserve:						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(3,130)	(554)	-	-	-	(3,684)
Employer's pensions contributions & direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	3,432	613	-	-	-	4,045
Net interest Defined liability	(320)	(61)	-	-	-	(381)
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which Council tax income and residual community charge adjustment credited to the CIES is different from the Council tax income calculated in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(1,952)	-	-	-	-	(1,952)
Adjustment primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accrual basis is different from the remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(7)	1	-	-	-	(6)
Adjustments between accounting basis and Funding Basis under regulations						
	(8,681)	(884)	(104)	-	(275)	(9,944)

Note 9. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations continued

	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	Total Useable Reserves
2022/23	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Charges for Depreciation & impairment of non-current assets	(3,556)	(1,712)	-	-	-	(5,268)
Revaluation Gain/ Losses on Property Plant & Equipment	647	(1,748)	-	-	-	(1,101)
Capital grants contributions applied	2,138	612	-	-	-	2,750
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (England and Wales)	(8,596)	-	-	-	-	(8,596)
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of gains/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(157)	(2,182)	-	-	-	(2,339)
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Expenditure and Income:						
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment = MRP	118	9	-	-	-	127
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	636	757	-	-	-	1,393
Adjustment primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:						
Capital grants & contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	5,709	-	-	-	(5,709)	-
Adjustment primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of gains/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	284	4,125	(4,409)	-	-	-
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	1,580	-	-	1,580
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government capital receipts pool	-	-	-	-	-	-
Repayment of loans	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustments primarily involving the Major Repairs Reserve:						
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA	-	2,714	-	(2,714)	-	0
Use of Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	-	2,714	-	2,714
Adjustments primarily involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from the finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(134)	-	-	-	-	(134)
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(6,158)	(1,089)	-	-	-	(7,247)
Employer's pensions contributions & direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	2,872	511	-	-	-	3,383
Net interest Defined liability	(1,272)	(297)	-	-	-	(1,569)
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which Council tax income and residual community charge adjustment credited to the CIES is different from the Council tax income calculated in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	4,660	-	-	-	-	4,660
Adjustment primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accrual basis is different from the remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(13)	4	-	-	-	(17)
Adjustments between accounting basis and Funding Basis under regulations	(2,822)	1,696	(2,829)	-	(5,709)	(9,664)

Note 10. Transfers (to) / from Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the notable amounts set aside from the General Fund & HRA balances within Earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from reserves to meet General Fund & HRA expenditure during the year.

	1 April	Transfers In	Transfers out	31 March 2023	Transfers In	Transfers out	31 March 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Heat Distribution Project Reserve	(362)	(14,149)	-	(14,511)	(2,801)	-	(17,312)
Transformation Fund	(2,278)	(165)	(935)	(3,378)	(374)	-	(3,752)
Medium Term Financial Plan Risk Reserve	(2,936)	-	-	(2,936)	-	-	(2,936)
Enterprise Zone Reserve	(1,080)	(1,119)	171	(2,028)	(1,812)	-	(3,840)
NNDR 100% Pilot Reserve	(2,071)	-	1,075	(996)	-	138	(858)
Climate Change Reserve	(512)	(235)	-	(747)	(206)	-	(953)
Community Led Housing Reserve	(900)	-	178	(722)	-	69	(653)
Business Rates Volatility Reserve	(4,636)	-	3,986	(650)	(522)	-	(1,172)
Asset Maintenance Reserve	(748)	-	139	(609)	-	43	(566)
Consortium Payment Reserve	(350)	-	-	(350)	-	-	(350)
Housing Task Force Reserve	(490)	-	145	(345)	-	268	(77)
C19 Revs & Bens Burdens Reserve	(446)	-	413	(33)	-	-	(33)
LED Lesiure Centre Recovery Reserve	(388)	-	388	-	-	-	-
Homes for Ukraine Reserve	-	-	-	(1,369)	-	223	(1,146)
Planning Reserve	-	-	-	(111)	(535)	-	(646)
NGP Planning Reserve	-	-	-	(270)	(112)	-	(382)
Treasury Management Reserve	-	-	-	(275)	-	-	(275)
Strata	(280)	(401)	-	(681)	-	316	(365)
Other General Fund Reserves	(3,375)	(4,518)	1,908	(3,960)	(579)	845	(3,694)
General Fund Earmarked Reserves	(20,852)	(20,587)	7,468	(33,971)	(6,941)	1,902	(39,010)
Hra Planned Maintenance Reserve	(4,375)	-	1,264	(3,111)	-	3,111	-
Hra New Housing Dev Fund	(3,652)	-	585	(3,067)	-	2,084	(983)
Hra Business Plan Volatility	(1,600)	-	-	(1,600)	-	1,600	-
Hra FRA & Replacement Lifts Reserve	(1,468)	-	-	(1,468)	-	1,468	-
Other Housing Reserves	(124)	-	-	(124)	-	124	-
HRA Earmarked Reserves	(11,219)	-	1,849	(9,370)	-	8,387	(983)
Total Earmarked Reserves	(32,071)	(20,587)	9,317	(43,341)	(6,941)	10,289	(39,993)

Note 10. Transfers (to) / from Earmarked Reserves continued

General Fund Earmarked Reserve Descriptions

The **Heat Distribution Project Reserve** is for the development of the heating distribution across networks and forms part of the Council's strategy to deliver low carbon development.

The **Asset Maintenance Reserve** is for asset refurbishment in excess of normal planned maintenance and any backlogged maintenance.

The **Transformation Fund Reserve** is to fund 'invest to save' and performance improvement initiatives including transformation of working practices.

The **Business Rates Volatility Reserve** has been established for revenue funding in future years.

The **Business Rates 100% Pilot Reserve** holds the unspent balance of the benefit of the pilot to be spent on Economic Development items and projects in future years.

The **Medium Term Financial Plan Risk Reserve** can be used to fund services, if needed, whilst the Council reshapes its budget to meet the available resources at a point when it can determine the amount of savings required rather than take significant actions which effect services and staff when possibly they are not required to the extent or time predicted.

The **Community led Housing Reserve** was established from a specific government grant to support housing initiatives in future years.

The **Enterprise Zone Reserve** holds earmarked amounts of income received from business rates allocations less in year expenses that are due to fund future years Enterprise Zone specific expenditure.

The **Consortium Payment Reserve** is earmarked to fund the Councils growth linked future financing contribution towards the Cranbrook Consortium's infrastructure costs.

The **Strata Reserves** represents our share of the useable funds held from the Strata joint operation.

The other reserves comprise those established from external income to provide specific services in future years.

Note 11. Other Operating Expenditure

	2023/24	2022/23
Other Operating Expenditure	£'000	£'000
Town and Parish precepts	5,022	4,737
Payments to Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-	-
Gain/loss on disposal of non-current assets	2,265	(2,069)
	7,287	2,668

Note 12. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

	2023/24	2022/23
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	£'000	£'000
Interest Payable and similar charges	58	54
Interest on loans	2,584	2,608
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	381	1,569
Interest Receivable and similar income	(3,715)	(1,873)
(Gains) / Losses on Pooled Investment Funds	(289)	130
Impairment Losses	-	-
	(981)	2,488

Note 13. Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income and Expenditure

	2023/24	2022/23
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	£'000	£'000
Council tax income	(15,204)	(14,630)
Non Domestic Rates	(9,401)	(7,819)
Non ring-fenced government grants	(3,052)	(2,669)
Net income from Capital grants and contributions	(1,733)	(7,350)
	(29,390)	(32,468)

Note 14. Trading Services

The Council has established 4 trading units where the service manager is required to operate in a commercial environment and balance their budget by generating income from other parts of the Council or other organisations. All services are incorporated into the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement under the relevant service within Cost of Services. Details are as follows:

	2023/24			2022/23		
	Expenditure	Income	Net (Income)/ Expenditure	Expenditure	Income	Net (Income)/ Expenditure
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
The Council manages the Building Control Service . The trading objective is to break even.	639	(414)	225	685	(538)	147
The Council manages the Land Charges Service . The trading objective is to break even.	243	(288)	(45)	252	(287)	(35)
The Council lets 46 units in Industrial Estates located in various parts of the district. As part of the Council's economic development strategy, tenant leases are flexible to allow easy in/out arrangements.	209	(336)	(127)	135	(321)	(186)
The Council manages a Home safeguard Service providing alarms and support for vulnerable residents. The trading objective is to at least break even.	629	(794)	(165)	860	(984)	(124)
Total Cost of Services	1,720	(1,832)	(112)	1,932	(2,130)	(198)

Note 15. Community Infrastructure Levy

The Council elected to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from 1st September 2016. The levy is charged on new builds (chargeable developments within the Council's administrative area) with appropriate planning consent. The Council charges for and collects the levy, which is a planning charge. The income from the levy will be used to fund a number of infrastructure projects (these include transport, health, and education projects) to support the development of the area.

CIL is received without outstanding conditions; it is therefore recognised at the commencement date of the chargeable development in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with the accounting policy for government grants and contributions.

CIL income is recognised within the Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income category. For more details refer to note 21.

Note 16. Members' Allowances

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

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Members Allowances		
Allowances	437	373
Expenses	13	3
Total	450	376

Note 17. Officers' Remuneration

The following table shows the remuneration paid to the Council's senior employees. Excludes termination benefits.

2023/24	Salary (Including Allowances)	Expenses Reimbursed	Benefits in Kind	Remuneration Excluding Pension Contributions	Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Posts Employed for Full Year						
Director - Finance	107,995	-	-	107,995	23,435	131,430
Assistant Director - Growth, Development & Prosperity	79,924	-	-	79,924	17,344	97,268
Assistant Director - Revenues & Benefits	74,065	-	-	74,065	16,072	90,137
Assistant Director - Environmental Health	79,554	-	-	79,554	17,263	96,817
Assistant Director - Street Scene	71,040	-	-	71,040	15,416	86,456
Assistant Director - Planning Strategy & Development Management	79,748	-	-	79,748	17,305	97,053
Assistant Director - Countryside & Leisure	73,961	-	-	73,961	16,027	89,988
Assistant Director - Housing	73,435	-	-	73,435	16,070	89,505
Assistant Director - Place, Asset & Commercialisation	74,056	1,201	-	75,257	16,070	91,327
Posts Employed for Part Year						
Chief Executive (1)	84,741	-	-	84,741	19,055	103,796
Director - Housing and Environment (2)	39,158	-	-	39,158	7,781	46,939
Director - Governance & Licensing (3)	97,196	-	-	97,196	21,092	118,288
Director - Housing and Environment (4)	74,070	7,384	-	81,454	16,073	97,527
Assistant Director - Housing Task Force (5)	24,700	-	-	24,700	3,616	28,316
Assistant Director - Housing Task Force (6)	42,847	-	-	42,847	9,663	52,510
Assistant Director - Housing Regulated Services (7)	6,003	-	-	6,003	-	6,003

The remuneration for posts employed for part of the year related to the following periods:

'(1)Apr 23-Oct 23 (2) Apr 23- Aug 23 (3) End Apr 23 onwards (4) End Jul 23 onwards (5) Dec 23 onwards (6) Apr 23-Nov 23 (7) Mar 24 onwards.

Note 17. Officers' Remuneration continued

2022/23	Salary (Including Allowances) £	Expenses Reimbursed £	Benefits in Kind £	Remuneration Excluding Pension Contributions £	Pension Contributions £	Total Remuneration £
Posts Employed for Full Year						
Chief Executive	132,253	-	-	132,253	23,484	155,737
Director - Finance	93,541	-	-	93,541	16,700	110,241
Director - Housing and Environment	93,541	-	-	93,541	16,700	110,241
Assistant Director - Growth, Development & Prosperity	76,769	-	-	76,769	13,706	90,475
Assistant Director - Revenues & Benefits	70,138	-	-	70,138	12,551	82,689
Assistant Director - Street Scene	65,496	-	-	65,496	11,693	77,189
Assistant Director - Planning Strategy & Development Management	73,933	-	-	73,933	13,200	87,133
Assistant Director - Countryside & Leisure	69,503	-	-	69,503	12,188	81,691
Assistant Director - Housing	68,264	-	-	68,264	12,188	80,452
Assistant Director - Housing Task Force	65,844	-	-	65,844	12,174	78,018
Assistant Director - Place, Asset & Commercialisation	68,264	-	-	68,264	12,188	80,452
Posts Employed for Part Year						
Service Lead - Environmental Health & Car parks (1)	13,704	-	-	13,704	2,022	15,726
Director - Governance & Licensing (2)	66,862	-	-	66,862	11,937	78,799
Assistant Director - Environmental Health (3)	28,135	-	-	28,135	5,023	33,158

The remuneration for posts employed for part of the year related to the following periods:

(1) Apr 22 -May 22, (2) Apr 22 -Feb 23, (3) Nov 22 -Mar 23

Note 17. Officers' Remuneration continued

The following table shows the number of employees whose remuneration, excluding pension contributions, exceeded £50,000 for the year, including those that have been disclosed individually in the table of Senior Employees. Excludes termination benefits.

Remuneration	Number of Employees 2023/24	Number of Employees 2022/23
£50,000 - £54,999	18	11
£55,000 - £59,999	6	3
£60,000 - £64,999	2	2
£65,000 - £69,999	3	5
£70,000 - £74,999	6	2
£75,000 - £79,999	3	1
£80,000 - £84,999	1	-
£85,000 - £89,999	-	-
£90,000 - £94,999	-	2
£95,000 - £99,999	1	-
£100,000 - £104,999	-	-
£105,000 - £109,999	1	-
£110,000 - £114,999	-	-
£115,000 - £119,999	-	-
£120,000 - £124,999	-	-
£125,000 - £129,999	-	-
£130,000 - £134,999	-	1
£135,000 - £139,999	-	-
£140,000 - £144,999	-	-
£145,000 - £149,999	-	-
£150,000 - £154,999	-	-
Total Remuneration	41	27

Note 18. Termination Benefits

The following table shows the number of exit packages with total cost per band.

	Number of Compulsory Redundancies		Number of Other Departures Agreed		Total number of Exit Packages		Total Cost of Exit Packages £'000	
	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23
£0 - £20,000	-	-	3	-	3	-	18	-
£20,001 - £40,000	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	60
£40,001 - £60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£60,001 - £80,000	-	-	1	-	1	-	65	-
£80,000 - £100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£100,000 - £150,000	-	-	1	-	1	-	142	-
Over £150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	5	2	5	2	225	60

Note 19. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

19.1 Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the Council makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until Employees retire, the Council has an obligation to make post-employment benefit payments to retirees.

The Council participates in two post-employment schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by Devon County Council
This is a funded defined benefit based on career average revalued earnings, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.
- Arrangements for the award of discretionary post-retirement benefits upon early retirement
This is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. However, there are no investment assets built up to meet these pension liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet payments as they eventually fall due.

The principal risks to the Council of the Local Government Pension scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, and structural changes to the scheme, changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme.

19.2 Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

The council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are paid as pensions. However, the charge required against Council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the cost of post-employment benefits is reversed out of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

19.2 Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits continued

The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement		
Cost of Services:		
Current Service Cost	3,611	7,178
Past Service Cost/(Gain) – Including Curtailments	-	-
Administration Expense	73	70
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:		
Net Interest Expense	381	1,569
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	4,065	8,816
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure:		
Return on Plan Assets (excluding amounts included in net interest expense)	7,792	4,599
Actuarial (Gains) & Losses Arising on Changes in Demographic Assumptions	1,759	(452)
Actuarial Gains & Losses Arising on Changes in Financial Assumptions	1,212	(75,302)
Experience(Gain)/loss on defined benefit obligation	(365)	13,502
Other actuarial (Gains) & Losses on assets	-	(163)
Movement in asset ceiling	(4,322)	-
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	(6,076)	(57,816)
Movement in Reserves Statement		
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for Post-Employment Benefits in accordance with the Code	(4,065)	(8,816)
Employer's Contributions Payable to the Pension Scheme	4,045	3,383
Total	(20)	(5,433)

19.3 Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

The amount included in the Balance Sheet arising from the Council's obligation in respect of its defined benefit plans is as follows:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Pension Assets & Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet		
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(126,673)	(123,364)
Fair value of plan assets	127,680	114,039
Sub-total	1,007	(9,325)
Present value of the unfunded obligation	(575)	(621)
Impact of the asset ceiling	(4,322)	-
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	(3,890)	(9,946)

19.3 Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet continued

Assets and Liabilities in relation to Retirement Benefits

Reconciliation of present value of scheme liabilities and assets are set out below:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Present Value of Scheme Liabilities		
1 April	(123,985)	(177,558)
Current Service Cost	(3,611)	(7,178)
Interest Cost	(5,865)	(4,577)
Change in financial assumptions	1,212	75,302
Change in demographic assumptions	1,759	452
Experience (Losses)/Gains on defined benefit obligation	(365)	(13,502)
Contributions by Scheme Participants	(1,246)	(1,087)
Benefits Paid	4,790	4,098
Benefits Paid relating to unfunded	63	65
31 March	(127,248)	(123,985)

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Fair Value of Scheme Assets		
1 April	114,039	115,791
Interest on Assets	5,484	3,008
Return assets less interest	7,792	(4,599)
Actuarial Gains/(Losses)	-	163
Administration expenses	(73)	(70)
Employer Contributions including unfunded & prepayments	4,045	2,822
Contributions by Scheme Participants	1,246	1,087
Benefits Paid	(4,790)	(4,098)
Benefits Paid relating to unfunded	(63)	(65)
31 March	127,680	114,039

Impact on the Council's cash Flow

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Council has in the long run to pay post-employment (retirement) benefits.

Statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Council remains healthy:

- any deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees (i.e. before payments fall due), as assessed by the scheme actuary,
- finance is only required to be raised to cover discretionary benefits when the pensions are actually paid.

The total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the Council in the year to 31 March 2025 is £4.2m. The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation is 16 years.

19.3 Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet continued

Sensitivity Analysis

Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis, with the last triennial review and valuation completed at 31 March 2022. The fund liability may go up and down depending on assumptions applied.

Measurement of Pension Liability

The present value of the pension liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis and the value of the underlying assets. The actual liability of the Council will continue to be subject to volatility, as a result of a number of factors.

The estimated effects of the changes in the key individual assumptions in determining the net pension liability would impact the Council's pension liability as of 31 March 2024 as follows:

Sensitivity Analysis	£'m
0.1% increase in the real discount rate	0.12036
1 year increase in member life expectancy	0.12709
0.1% increase in the salary increase rate	0.12243
0.1% increase in the pension increase rate	0.12399

19.4 Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and Discretionary Benefits liabilities have been assessed by Barnett Waddingham, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for Devon County Council Pension Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary in the calculations are:

Principal Assumptions	2023/24	2022/23
	%	%
Discount Rate	4.9	4.8
Rate of inflation :CPI	2.95	2.9
Rate of increase in salaries	3.95	3.9

These assumptions are set with reference to market conditions. Under the IAS19 accounting standard the discount rate should be determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds. Our standard approach to derive the appropriate discount rate is known as the Single Equivalent Discount Rate (SEDR) methodology.

Sample cashflows for employers, at each year, are used to derive the single discount rate which results in the same liability value as that which would be determined using a full yield curve valuation (essentially each year's cashflows has a different discount rate). In carrying out this derivation the annualised Merrill Lynch AA rated corporate bond yield curve is used and it is assumed that the curve is flat beyond the 30 year point.

19.4 Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities continued

The Retail Prices Index (RPI) increase assumption is set using a Single Equivalent Inflation Rate (SEIR) approach. The SEIR adopted is such that the single assumed rate of inflation results in the same liability value (when discounted using the yield curve valuation described above) as that resulting from applying the BoE implied inflation curve. The BoE implied inflation curve is assumed to be flat beyond the 40 year point. Future pension increases are assumed to be based on the Consumer Prices Index (CPI).

Mortality Assumptions	2023/24 Years	2022/23 Years
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners		
Men	21.5	21.8
Women	22.7	22.9
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners		
Men	22.8	23.1
Women	24.1	24.4

The following assumptions have been made:

- Members will exchange half of their commutable pension for cash at retirement.
- Members will retire at one retirement age for all tranches of benefit, which will be the pension weighted average tranche retirement age.
- The proportion of the membership that had taken up the 50:50 option at the previous valuation date will remain the same.

The Local Government Pension Scheme's estimated asset allocation for East Devon District Council consists of the following categories, by proportion of the total assets held:

Estimated Asset Allocation	2023/24 %	2022/23 %
Gilts	23	21
Equity investments (UK and overseas)	55	69
Property and infrastructure	18	15
Cash	2	1
Alternative Assets and target return portfolio	2	0
Total	100	100

Impact of McCloud/ Sargeant Judgements

Regulations in respect of the McCloud and Sargeant judgements came into force on 1 October 2023. Where required an allowance for the McCloud remedy will have been made in the liabilities which is consistent with the method adopted at the last actuarial valuation.

Note 20. External Audit Costs

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

	2023/24	2022/23
External Audit Costs	£'000	£'000
External audit services carried out by Grant Thornton		
- Current year	37	70
- Under provision prior year	39	-
Pooling of capital receipts	8	-
Governance review	125	30
Certification of grant claims and returns		
- Current year	36	30
- Under provision prior year	-	4
Total External Audit Costs	245	134

Note 21. Grant Income

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Grants and Contributions credited to Services		
Elections & Electoral Registration Grants	(69)	(28)
Housing Benefits and Council tax Benefits Grants	(20,469)	(21,498)
Homelessness Prevention Grants	(1,593)	(2,817)
Countryside Projects Grants	(530)	(529)
Growth Point Delivery Team Grants	(3,287)	(10,420)
Disabled Facilities Contributions	(1,095)	(1,169)
COVID-19 Support Grants	(760)	(3,304)
Other Grants and Contributions	(1,513)	(686)
Total	(29,316)	(40,451)
	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Credited to Taxation and non-specific Grant income		
New Homes Bonus	(1,025)	(2,137)
Rural Service Delivery Grant	(265)	(237)
Other Grants	(1,762)	(296)
Total	(3,052)	(2,669)
	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Capital Grants And Contributions		
CIL & S106 Receipts	(401)	(6,316)
Other Grants and Contributions	(1,332)	(1,034)
Total	(1,733)	(7,350)

Note 22. Related Parties

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

22.1 Central Government

Central government has effective control over the general operations of the Council; it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. Council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants and contributions income from government departments are shown in Note 13 and Grant receivables at 31 March 2024 are shown in the Debtors Note 29.

22.2 Members and Officers

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances is shown in Note 16. There were no material third party transactions recorded during the year with Members or Officers of the Council.

22.3 Other Public Bodies and Entities

	2023/24		2022/23	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Government Departments				
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	(13,833)	323	(16,556)	415
Department for Work & Pensions	(20,573)		(21,526)	0
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	(506)		(470)	0
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero	(281)	129		
HMRC (VAT,NI,PAYE)	(7,482)	5,586	(5,286)	4,719
Environment Agency	(40)		(15)	0
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)		4,217	0	3,807
Other Public Bodies				
Devon County Council	(2,106)	435	(2,596)	409
Plymouth City Council (NNDR Pool)		17,289		14,365
Total	(44,821)	27,979	(46,449)	23,715

22.4 Other Related Parties

East Devon District Council is a Member of South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) which is a company limited by guarantee and is wholly owned and controlled by its members and is a Council controlled company for the purposes of Part V of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The liability of each member is limited to £1, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of it being wound up whilst a member or within one year ceasing to be a member. The business of SWAP is to provide internal audit services. During the year SWAP provided internal audit services to the Council.

Note 23. Interests in Joint Operations

East Devon District Council, together with Exeter City Council and Teignbridge District Council holds an interest in a joint operation called Strata Service Solutions Ltd. The proportions of ownership interests are; East Devon District Council (36.692%), Exeter City Council (35.936%) and Teignbridge District Council (27.372%). Each Council has equal voting rights, with decisions taken collectively and unanimously.

Strata Service Solutions Ltd was established on 1 November 2012. (company number 09041662) whose registered office is Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter, Devon, EX1 1JN.

The business of the Company is the operation and provision of a shared information communications technology service to each of the authorities including;

- A source of expertise regarding information technology
- A resilient and reliable ICT infrastructure
- A service desk that maintains and supports devices, operating systems and core applications
- Information security and information management services
- Developing and implementing business systems to meet Council business objectives
- A Street Name and Numbering function

The figures that have been consolidated into the Council's single entity Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement are:

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
Adjustments to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	£'000	£'000
Fees	(3,469)	(3,424)
Cost of sales	1,408	1,583
Admin expenses	2,089	1,962
Cost of Services	(372)	121
Net interest on the defined benefit liability	6	90
Interest receivable	(30)	(15)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	(396)	196
Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability	(166)	(3,665)
Total Comprehensive income and expenditure	(562)	(3,469)

Note 23. Interests in Joint Operations continued

The figures that have been consolidated into the Council's single entity Balance Sheet are:

	2023/24	2022/23
Adjustments to Balance Sheet	£'000	£'000
Property, plant & equipment	(68)	15
Intangible assets	(4)	27
Inventories	3	2
Short Term Debtors	270	2
Cash & cash equivalents	106	(126)
Short Term Creditors	(371)	218
Capital grants Receipts in advance	461	54
Pension Scheme Liability	165	3,307
Net assets	562	3,469
Financed by:		
Usable Reserves	(397)	(402)
Unusable Reserves	(165)	(3,067)
Total Reserves	(562)	(3,469)

Note 24 Property, Plant and Equipment

In accordance with the relief offered by the Update to the Code on infrastructure assets [Local Government Circular 09/2022 Statutory Override Accounting for Infrastructure Assets for Scottish Local Authorities] this note does not include disclosure of gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets because historical reporting practices and resultant information deficits mean that this may not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements.

The authority has chosen not to disclose this information as the previously reported practices and resultant information deficits mean that gross cost and accumulated depreciation may not be measured accurately and may not provide the basis for the users of the financial statements to take economic or other decisions relating to infrastructure assets.

Note 24 Property, Plant and Equipment continued

Property, Plant and Equipment
excluding Infrastructure Assets

2023/24	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land & Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Community Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total £'000
Cost/Valuation						
1 April	276,371	107,435	15,886	3,432	1,685	404,809
Additions	10,453	2,118	973	144	213	13,901
Accumulated depreciation and Impairment written out to GCA	(1,515)	(3,618)	-	-	-	(5,133)
Revaluation recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	6,950	4,595	-	(175)	-	11,370
Revaluation recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(6,525)	36	-	-	-	(6,489)
Disposals	-	(3,235)	(532)	(12)	-	(3,779)
Reclassifications (to Assets Held for Sale)	(743)	-	-	-	-	(743)
31 March	284,991	107,331	16,327	3,389	1,898	413,936
Accumulated Depreciation						
1 April	-	(3,928)	(10,647)	(90)	-	(14,665)
Depreciation charge	(1,517)	(2,188)	(1,532)	(2)	-	(5,239)
Accumulated depreciation written out to GCA	1,515	1,878	-	-	-	3,393
Accumulated impairment written out to GCA	-	1,740	-	-	-	1,740
Impairment recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	(1,819)	(2)	(9)	-	(1,830)
Impairment recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(296)	-	(85)	-	(381)
Disposals (Other)	-	173	438	12	-	623
Reclassifications (to Assets Held for Sale)	2	-	-	-	-	2
31 March	-	(4,440)	(11,743)	(174)	-	(16,357)
Net Book Value at 31 March 2024	284,991	102,891	4,584	3,215	1,898	397,579

The authority has determined in accordance with Regulation [30M England or 24L Wales] of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England/Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 that the carrying amounts to be derecognised for infrastructure assets when there is replacement expenditure is nil.

Note 24 Property, Plant and Equipment continued

Property, Plant and Equipment
excluding Infrastructure Assets

2022/23	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land & Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Community Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total £'000
Cost/Valuation						
1 April	264,338	88,619	14,185	2,569	1,180	370,891
Additions	6,248	1,129	1,180	742	504	9,803
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment written out to GCA	(1,444)	(2,433)	-	(1)	-	(3,878)
Revaluation recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	11,164	19,692	-	111	-	30,967
Revaluation recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(1,748)	586	-	11	-	(1,151)
Disposals	-	(158)	(14)	-	-	(172)
Reclassifications (to Assets Held for Sale)	(2,187)	-	-	-	-	(2,187)
Reclassifications	-	-	535	-	-	535
31 March	276,371	107,435	15,886	3,432	1,684	404,808
Accumulated Depreciation						
1 April	-	(3,308)	(8,718)	(89)	-	(12,115)
Depreciation charge	(1,449)	(1,924)	(1,276)	(2)	-	(4,651)
Reclassifications	5	-	-	-	-	5
Accumulated depreciation written out to GCA	1,444	2,020	-	-	-	3,464
Accumulated impairment written out to GCA	-	413	-	1	-	414
Impairment recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	(896)	(117)	-	-	(1,013)
Impairment recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(233)	-	-	-	(233)
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reclassifications (to Assets Held for Sale)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reclassifications	-	-	(535)	-	-	(535)
31 March	-	(3,928)	(10,646)	(90)	-	(14,664)
Net Book Value at 31 March 2023	276,371	103,507	5,240	3,342	1,684	390,144

Note 24 Property, Plant and Equipment continued

	2023/24	2022/23
Infrastructure Assets		
Net book value (modified historical cost)	£'000	£'000
1 April	12,538	12,578
Additions	215	344
Derecognition	-	-
Depreciation	(395)	(384)
Impairment	-	-
Other movements in cost	-	-
31 March	12,358	12,538

	2023/24	2022/23
Property, Plant and Equipment		
including Infrastructure Assets	£'000	£'000
Infrastructure Assets	12,358	12,538
Other PPE Assets	397,579	390,144
Total PPE assets	409,937	402,682

24.1 Investment Property

The Council classifies investment property as property which is held exclusively for revenue generation or for the capital gain that the asset is expected to generate. Such assets are not used directly to deliver Council services. Property that is used to facilitate the delivery of Council services, as well as to earn rental income or for capital appreciation, does not meet the definition of an investment property, such assets are accounted for as property, plant and equipment.

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000s	£'000s
Rental income & other income arising from Investment Property	(226)	(217)
Direct operating expenses arising from Investment Property	59	7
	(167)	(210)

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000s	£'000s
1 April	3,015	2,965
Additions	66	-
Net gain/loss from fair value adjustments	(116)	50
31 March	2,965	3,015

24.2 Depreciation

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

- Council Dwellings: 23 - 70 years. Any charge is reversed as part of the annual revaluation process. Depreciation is charged in year of disposal to disposal date, and not charged in year of acquisition
- Infrastructure: 5 -100 years
- Other Land and Buildings: 2 - 60 years
- Vehicles, Plant, & Equipment: 2 -25 years

24.3 Capital Commitments

The estimated maximum contractual commitments for capital expenditure for significant schemes (annual value over £250k) that had started, or where legal contracts had been entered into, as of 31 March 2024 the value is nil.

24.4 Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at current value is revalued at least every five years. The carrying amounts of assets subject to the 5 year rolling revaluation programme that are not revalued during the year are none-the-less reviewed to ensure that they are not materially different from their current value at year end.

With the exception of the Council Housing stock, which was valued by the District Valuer, all valuations were carried out internally. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and also CIPFA's Code of practice.

Valuations of vehicles, plant and equipment are based on historic cost less depreciation and residual values where there is an active second-hand market. For housing assets, the council uses a rolling revaluation programme in which one fifth of the authorities individual beacon sites will be visited each year, revaluing all beacons within the 5 year timeframe. The housing assets were valued as at the 31 March 2024.

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the current values are:

- there are no title issues which are likely to have an effect on the valuations since last undertaken;
- there are no planning proposals that are likely to have an effect on the value of the premises, unless planning permission has been granted within the year;
- a reasonable standard of repair has been assumed except for buildings with a limited economic life;
- land and properties are not contaminated;
- land and properties are not at risk from environmental matters.

	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land & Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000
Historic Cost:	-	-	16,327	20,369	3,389	1,898
Valued at fair value as at:						
2023/24	284,991	89,803	-	-	-	-
2022/23	-	7,421	-	-	-	-
2021/22	-	0	-	-	-	-
2020/21	-	3,827	-	-	-	-
2019/20	-	6,280	-	-	-	-
Total	284,991	107,331	16,327	20,369	3,389	1,898

Note 25. Assets Held for Sale

	2023/24	2022/23
Assets Held For Sale	£'000	£'000
1 April	78	78
Assets Transferred	741	2,182
Sold to Other Entities and Individuals	(741)	(2,182)
31 March	78	78

Note 26. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

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

	2023/24	2022/23
Capital Financing Requirement	£'000	£'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	104,148	94,819
Capital Investment:		
Property, Plant and Equipment	14,097	10,153
Investment Property	-	-
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	1,983	8,340
Capital Long Term Debtors - new loans	-	-
Capital Long Term Debtors – other	43	170
Capital Long Term - other	67	-
Capital Long Term Investments	-	-
Capital Long Term Investment Strata	203	256
Total Expenditure	16,393	18,579
Sources of Finance:		
Capital Receipts	(1,897)	(1,680)
Government Grants and Other Contributions	(1,936)	(2,750)
Direct Revenue Contributions	(2,618)	(1,393)
Use of Earmarked Reserves	(3,843)	(3,299)
Minimum Revenue Provision	(373)	(127)
Total Financing	(10,667)	(9,249)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	109,874	104,148

	2023/24	2022/23
Capital Financing Requirement	£'000	£'000
Increase/(Decrease) in underlying need to borrow (Supported by government financial assistance)	-	-
Increase/(Decrease) in underlying need to borrow (Unsupported by government financial assistance)	(1,127)	9,329
Assets Acquired Under Finance Lease	-	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	(1,127)	9,329

Note 27. Leases

27.1 Council as Lessee

The Council leases a number of land, buildings, vehicles, and office equipment under operating leases. The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases in future years are:

	2023/24	2022/23
Operating Leases - Council as Lessee	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	366	479
Later than one year and not later than five years	954	1,008
Later than five years	252	429
Total	1,572	1,916

27.2 EDDC as Lessor

The Council leases out property under operating leases for the provision of community services, such as sports facilities, tourism services and community centres and for economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses.

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

	2023/24	2022/23
Operating Leases - Council as Lessor - Future Minimum Lease Payments	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	614	649
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,801	1,800
Later than five years	10,938	11,254
Total	13,353	13,703

Note 28. Financial Instruments

The following categories of financial instruments are carried in the Balance Sheet.

Financial Assets	Note	2023/24		2022/23	
		Long Term	Short Term	Long Term	Short Term
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Investments					
Fair Value through Profit and Loss – Pooled Investment Funds	28.2.1	-	30,937	-	30,649
Fair Value through other comprehensive income – designated equity instruments	28.2.2	825	-	825	-
Amortised Cost – Fixed Interest	28.2.3	-	5,000	-	1,000
		825	35,937	825	31,649
Cash					
Amortised Cost – Cash Equivalents – Fixed Interest, Short Term Money Market Deposits and Cash at Bank	28.2.3	-	25,974	-	28,134
		-	25,974	-	28,134
Debtors					
Amortised Cost	28.2.3	2,533	5,381	3,904	10,381
Debtors that are not financial instruments	28.2.3	-	7,510	-	7,381
		2,533	12,891	3,904	17,762
Less: Debtors that are not financial assets	28.2.3	-	(7,510)	-	(7,381)
Total Financial Assets		3,358	67,292	4,729	70,164

Financial Liabilities	Note	2023/24		2022/23	
		Long Term	Short Term	Long Term	Short Term
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Borrowings					
Borrowing at amortised cost -PWL B	28.2.4	75,596	4,386	79,824	4,270
Borrowing at amortised cost -other	28.2.4	-	13,061	-	-
		75,596	17,447	79,824	4,270
Cash Overdrawn					
Amortised cost	28.2.4	-	1,188	-	3,313
		-	1,188	-	3,313
Short Term Creditors					
Amortised Cost	28.2.4	-	5,467	-	3,159
Short Term Creditors that are not financial instruments	28.2.4	-	7,617	-	11,507
		-	13,084	-	14,666
Less: Creditors that are not financial liabilities	28.2.4	-	(7,617)	-	(11,507)
Total Financial Liabilities		75,596	24,102	79,824	10,742

28.1 Financial Instruments Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are as follows:

77	2023/24		2022/23	
	Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Net gains/ losses on:				
• Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss	(289)	-	130	-
• Financial assets measured at amortised cost	-	-	-	-
Total net gains/ losses	(289)	-	130	-
Interest revenue				
• Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss	(1,431)	-	(615)	-
• Financial assets measured at amortised cost	(2,283)	-	(1,258)	-
Total interest revenue	(3,714)	-	(1,873)	-
Interest expense				
• Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	2,590	-	2,610	-
Total interest expense	2,590	-	2,610	-
Fees				
• Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss	42	-	42	-
• Financial assets measured at amortised cost	10	-	10	-
Total fees	52	-	52	-

28.2 Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities in the Balance Sheet

The 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.

Fair Value Hierarchy

The valuation of financial instruments has been classified in three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine values.

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

There have been no changes in valuation technique or movements in the fair value hierarchy in the year.

28.2.1 Financial Assets – Fair Value through Profit and Loss	Fair Value Level	2023/24		2022/23	
		Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Pooled Investment Funds	1	30,937	30,937	30,649	30,649
Total		30,937	30,937	30,649	30,649

Pooled Investment Fund assets are carried in the Balance Sheet at their fair value. These fair values are based on public price quotations as there is an active market for the instruments.

28.2.2

Investments in Equity Instruments designated at Fair Value through other comprehensive income	Fair Value Level	Nominal	Fair Value	Change in Fair Value during 2023/24	Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve (Note 34.8)
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Exeter Science Park Limited shares	2	825	825	-	-
South West Mutual Limited shares	2	50	-	-	50
Total		875	825	-	-

The designation of investments as Fair Value, Other Comprehensive Income, (FVOCI), requires any future fluctuations in fair value to be recognised in an unusable reserve call the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve. Any gain or loss will be recognised in usable reserves only when the investment is disposed of.

The Council holds shares in Exeter Science Park to promote economic generation. As the asset is not held for trading or income generation, rather a longer term policy initiative, the equity has been designated as fair value through comprehensive income. No dividends have been received from this investment.

The Council holds founder shares in South West Mutual Limited, which proposes establishing the first member-owned high street bank dedicated to the residents and small businesses of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset. As the asset is not held for trading or income generation, rather a longer term policy initiative, the equity has been designated as fair value through comprehensive income. No dividends have been received from this investment.

28.2 Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities in the Balance Sheet continued

The fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities that are carried at Amortised Cost

Short term investments, debtors, total borrowing and long-term creditors are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. The fair value is assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- For short-term debtors and short-term creditors and where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, the carrying amount is assumed to approximate fair value
- Long-term debtors comprising soft loans made by the Council: refer to section 28.4 for further details and the assumptions made in arriving at their fair value.
- The fair values for Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) borrowings have been calculated using new loan discount rates.

28.2.3	2023/24		2022/23		
Financial Assets - Amortised Cost	Fair Value Level	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Short-term Investments	2	5,000	5,000	1,000	1,000
Short-term Debtors	2	5,381	5,381	10,381	10,381
Long-term Debtors	2	2,533	2,533	3,904	3,904
Short-term Deposits and Cash	2	25,974	25,974	28,134	28,134
Financial Assets		38,888	38,888	43,419	43,419
Non-financial Assets - Short-term Debtors		7,510		7,381	
		46,398		50,800	

28.2.4	2023/24		2022/23		
Financial Liabilities - Amortised Cost	Fair Value Level	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Short-term Creditors	2	5,467	5,467	3,159	3,159
Short-term Borrowings - Cash overdrawn	2	1,188	1,188	3,313	3,313
Short-term Borrowings - Local Authorities	2	8,042	8,042	-	-
Short-term Borrowings – Financial Institutions	2	5,019	5,019	-	-
Short-term and Long-term Borrowings (PWLB)	2	79,982	66,674	84,094	72,558
Financial Liabilities		99,968	86,390	90,566	79,030
Non-financial Liabilities - Short-term Creditors		7,617		11,507	
		107,315		102,073	

As at 31.3.24 the fair value of the Borrowings is lower than the carrying amount, because the Council's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is lower than the rates available for similar loans in the market at the balance sheet date. This shows a notional future gain, based on economic conditions, arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders below current market

rates. The fair values at 31 March 2024 are generally lower than last year due to the higher interest rate environment this year, that impacts the prevailing market rates used in calculating fair value.

28.3. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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

28.3.1 Liquidity Risk

This is the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.

The Council has access to the money markets for short-term debt to cover revenue expenditure and to the money markets and PWLB for longer-term borrowing. The Council's short and medium term cash forecasting procedures are aimed at ensuring that sufficient funds mature at the right time to cover expenditure. There is no significant risk that the Council would be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

28.3.2 Refinancing and Maturity Risk

The Council maintains a significant investment portfolio. The prudential indicator limiting the amount of funds placed in investments for terms exceeding one year is a key factor limiting this risk.

Trade creditors and debtors are due to be settled within one year. The long-term debtors principally comprise amounts owed by Voluntary Organisations borrowed at below market rates (Soft Loans).

At the year-end, the Council borrowed £13,000,000 from externally lenders, for approximately one month, at fixed rates, to cover temporary cash needs.

All other current external borrowing by the Council is fixed-term from the PWLB at a preferential fixed rate and relates predominantly to Self-Financing loans for the HRA. The repayment of the Self-Financing loans is factored into the Housing Revenue Account 30-year plan and as such there is minimal risk that the Council will need to refinance these loans at a time of unfavourable interest rates.

The following table sets out the maturity analysis of Long-term Borrowing by the Council.

Duration	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Less than 1 Year	4,387	4,270
Between 1 and 2 Years	4,255	4,229
Between 2 and 5 Years	10,077	11,515
Between 5 and 10 years	23,722	19,710
More than 10 Years	37,541	44,370
Total	79,982	84,094

28.3.3 Credit Risk

The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its investments, and has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together the Council's prudential indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. As part of this strategy, the Council sets the prudential indicators which provide maximum and minimum limits for fixed and variable interest rate exposure.

The in-house Treasury Team monitors market and forecast interest rate movements, and selects the most advantageous investments allowed within the limits of the Council's treasury policies.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies cannot be easily assessed, generally, as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all the Council's deposits, but there was no evidence at the 31 March 2024 that this risk was likely to crystallise.

Recognition of Expected Credit Losses

The impairment requirements do not apply to the financial assets in 28.2.1, (Pooled Funds - Fair Value through Profit and Loss), as current market prices are considered to be an appropriate reflection of credit risk with all the movements in fair value, including those relating to credit risk, impacting on the carrying amount and being posted to the surplus or deficit on the provision of service as they arise.

The financial assets in 28.2.2, (Equity instruments designated at fair value through Comprehensive Income and Expenditure), are outside the scope of impairment.

Local authorities shall not recognise a loss allowance for expected credit losses on a financial asset where the counterparty for the financial asset is central government or a local authority for which relevant statutory provisions prevent default. Such financial assets include treasury deposits with the UK Government's Debt Management Agency Deposit Fund and other local authorities.

Financial assets measured at amortised cost (and when applicable, certain other financial assets and financial liabilities) are within the scope of impairment losses.

Expected credit loss in relation to financial assets held at amortised cost	Financial asset £'000	Expected credit loss £'000
Short term investments – deposits with local authorities	5,000	-
Short term deposits with banks and financial institutions	8,610	-
Short term deposits with UK Debt Management Agency Deposit Fund	250	-
Short term deposits with Local Authorities	16,600	-
Cash at bank and in hand	515	-
Long term debtors - soft loans	2,533	132
Short term debtors - soft loans	1,689	-
Other short term debtors	3,629	630

28.3.4 Market Risk

This is the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements.

The Council's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. A treasury management strategy is formally approved annually by the Council. This identifies all treasury risks and forms the basis of the day to day operating guidance when making decisions on placing any surplus funds; in other words, to whom, for how long, for how much, and so on). This treasury strategy can be found on the Council's website.

Pooled funds – For investments subject to statutory override for pooled investments, there has been a £0.289m unrealised gain taken to reserves; (prior year, £0.259m unrealised loss). See note 34.7 for more details. A separate earmarked reserve of £0.275m has been established to manage the risks of the fair value movements in these funds.

28.4 Soft loans made by the Council

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

Valuation Assumptions

The interest rates at which the fair values of soft loans have been made are arrived at by taking the Council's prevailing cost of borrowing and adding an allowance for the risk that the loans might not be repaid.

28.4 Soft loans made by the Council continued

2023/24 Soft Loans	1 April £'000	New loans granted £'000	New loans granted (rolled up interest) £'000	Loans repaid £'000	Loans re- financed £'000	Initial fair value adjustment £'000	Annual fair value adjustments £'000	31 March £'000	Nominal value 31 March £'000
Beer Community Land Trust	1,352	-	-	(270)	-	-	20	1,102	1,130
Exeter and Devon Airport Limited	617	-	17	-	-	-	-	634	634
Exeter Science Park Company Limited	1,139	-	25	-	-	-	31	1,195	1,231
Exmouth Museum	75	-	-	(3)	-	-	-	72	72
Kennaway House Trust	249	-	-	-	-	-	-	249	339
LED Ltd	1,142	-	-	(92)	-	-	17	1,067	1,164
	4,574	-	42	(365)	-	-	68	4,319	4,570
Other soft loans	42	-	-	(7)	-	-	-	35	35
ECL allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-	(132)	(132)	-
Total Soft Loans	4,616	-	42	(372)	-	-	(64)	4,222	4,605

2022/23 Soft Loans	1 April £'000	New loans granted £'000	New loans granted (rolled up interest) £'000	Loans repaid £'000	Loans re- financed £'000	Initial fair value adjustment £'000	Annual fair value adjustments £'000	31 March £'000	Nominal value 31 March £'000
Beer Community Land Trust	1,400	-	-	-	-	(68)	20	1,352	1,400
Exeter and Devon Airport Limited	812	(205)	10	-	-	-	-	617	617
Exeter Science Park Company Limited	1,085	-	25	-	-	-	29	1,139	1,206
Exmouth Museum	77	-	-	(2)	-	-	-	75	75
Kennaway House Trust	249	-	-	-	-	-	-	249	339
LED Ltd	1,214	-	-	(89)	-	-	17	1,142	1,256
	4,837	(205)	35	(91)	-	(68)	66	4,574	4,893
Other soft loans	51	-	-	(9)	-	-	-	42	42
Total Soft Loans	4,888	(205)	35	(100)	-	(68)	66	4,616	4,935

28.5 Temporary Loans – General Fund to HRA

One of the Housing Revenue Account's self-financing loans from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) matured at the end of March 2023 and was repaid. A further loan matured at the end of March 2024 and was repaid. In recent years, the Council's policy has been to refinance maturing HRA self-financing loans immediately on maturity. Due to prevailing high interest rates, the decision was taken to postpone refinancing with the PWLB. Instead, the General Fund has made temporary loans of £6.159m to the HRA. The loans will be interest bearing, at a rate determined by reference to PWLB lending rates and to the eventual term of the loans, which are intended to be temporary only. Interest of £0.146m has been charged in 2023/24; (prior year £nil). The loans are recorded in the Council's accounting system as an asset of the General Fund and a liability of the HRA but as there is no external counterparty involved, the net loans are recorded as a £nil balance in the Balance Sheet.

Note 29. Debtors and Payments in Advance

The following table provides an analysis of long term debtors.

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Material Soft Loans	4,187	4,574
Other Soft Loans	35	42
Total Soft loans	4,222	4,616
Less Soft Loans included in Short-term Debtors	(1,689)	(712)
Total Long-term Debtors	2,533	3,904

The following tables provide an analysis of short term debtors.

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Short Term Debtors		
Council Tax and Business Rates	751	574
Trade Receivables	9,838	12,856
Central & Local Government	2,932	4,994
Trade Receivables and Other Receivables	13,521	18,424
Less Impairment Allowances	(630)	(662)
Total Short Term Debtors	12,891	17,762

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Impairment Allowances		
Sundry Debtors	(140)	(98)
Housing Rents	(113)	(101)
Council Tax/Summons Fees	(52)	(45)
Business Rates/Summons Fees	(181)	(225)
Benefits Overpayments	(144)	(193)
Total Impairment Allowances	(630)	(662)

The following tables provide an aged analysis of the Council tax arrears and business rates arrears balances and the associated allowances for impairment.

	2023/24		
	Gross Debt	Provision	Net Debt
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Council Tax			
Up to one year	209	(16)	193
one to three years	149	(18)	131
Over 3 years	140	(18)	122
Total Council Tax	498	(52)	446

	2023/24		
	Gross Debt	Provision	Net Debt
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Business Rates			
Up to one year	223	(83)	140
one to three years	90	(44)	46
Over 3 years	89	(54)	35
Total Business Rates	402	(181)	221

Note 30. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash and bank	146	166
Strata Services Solutions Ltd cash at bank	369	263
Interest associated with short term deposits	-	5
Short term deposits	25,459	27,700
Total	25,974	28,134

Note 31. Creditors

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Short Term Creditors		
Council Tax and Business Rates	(2,342)	(2,441)
Trade Payables	(7,737)	(5,132)
Central & Local Government	(3,005)	(7,093)
Total Short Term Creditors	(13,084)	(14,666)

Note 32. Provisions

	1 April	Contribution	Usage	Re-class	31 March
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Fund Provisions					
Business Rates Appeals	(384)	(1,343)	959	-	(767)
Loan Loss Allowance	(132)	-	-	132	-
Total General Fund Provisions	(516)	(1,343)	(959)	132	(767)

The Business Rates Retention Scheme requires local authorities to forecast and make provision for the amount of money that they would expect to have to repay as a result of reductions in rateable value following a successful appeal. This is the Council's share of the estimated outstanding appeals, including backdated appeals, which are likely to be successful. The figure takes into account the Council's option to spread the cost over 5 years.

Note 33. Usable Reserves

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

Note 34. Unusable Reserves

The Council's Unusable Reserves are detailed below. .

34.1 Accumulated Absences Account

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Accumulated Absences Account		
1 April	117	100
Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(117)	(100)
Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	123	(17)
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	123	117
31 March	123	117

34.2 Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Collection Fund Adjustment Account		
1 April	(1,090)	3,570
Amount by which Council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from Council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	1,952	(4,660)
31 March	862	(1,090)

34.3 Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement. The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Council. The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains. Note 9 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

Capital Adjustment Account	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
1 April	(211,422)	(217,351)
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:		
Charges for depreciation and impairment of noncurrent assets	5,929	5,268
Revaluation gain/ (losses) on Property, Plant and Equipment	6,605	1,101
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under Statute	2,190	8,596
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	3,896	2,339
Loss on share of donated assets	(714)	239
	17,906	17,543
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(2,485)	(2,465)
Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	15,421	15,078
Capital financing applied in the year:		
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(1,897)	(1,680)
Use of Replacement Lifts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	(585)
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(3,843)	(2,714)
Capital grants and contributions credited to the CI&E Statement that have been applied to capital financing	(1,557)	(2,018)
Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(379)	(732)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(374)	(127)
Other financing movements	371	100
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund & HRA balances	(2,618)	(1,393)
	(10,297)	(9,149)
31 March	(206,298)	(211,422)

34.4 Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenditure relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statute.

	2023/24	2022/23
Financial Instrument Adjustment Account	£'000	£'000
1 April	320	317
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(68)	3
31 March	252	320

34.5 Pensions Reserve

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

	2023/24	2022/23
Pension Reserve	£'000	£'000
1 April	9,946	62,328
Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability	(6,076)	(57,815)
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	4,065	8,816
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(4,045)	(3,383)
31 March	3,890	9,946

34.6 Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains arising from valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment.

The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

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

The Reserve contains revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date form part of the Capital Adjustment Account

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Revaluation Reserve		
1 April	(95,148)	(67,659)
Upward revaluation of assets	(11,370)	(30,967)
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	1830	1,013
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(9,540)	(29,954)
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	2,270	1,936
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	215	528
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	2,485	2,465
31 March	(102,203)	(95,148)

34.7 Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account

The Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account deals with fair value gains or losses arising on the Council's investments in pooled investment funds that would otherwise be charged to revenue account. The Council is prohibited by statutory instrument from charging these to revenue account in the financial years from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2025.

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account		
1 April	259	128
Change in valuation charged to Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services of the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(289)	131
31 March	(30)	259

34.8 Financial Instruments Revaluation Account

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Financial Instruments Revaluation Account		
1 April	50	50
Change in valuation charged to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-	-
31 March	50	50

Note 35. Contingent Liabilities

None to be noted.

Note 36. Contingent Assets

None to be noted.

Housing Revenue Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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

	HRA Note	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Income			
Dwelling Rents (Gross)	1	(19,499)	(18,160)
Non Dwelling Rents (Gross)		(210)	(205)
Charges for Services & Facilities		(686)	(649)
Contributions Received Towards Expenditure		(395)	(86)
Total Income		(20,790)	(19,100)
Expenditure			
Repairs and Maintenance		11,100	6,365
Supervision and Management		7,832	6,794
Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges		27	29
Negative Subsidy – Payments to Secretary of State		0	0
Increase in Allowance for Bad and Doubtful Debts	2	12	5
Depreciation and Impairment of Fixed Assets	4	1,805	1,712
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure		605	226
Sums Directed by Secretary of State that are Expenditure in Accordance with the Code		0	0
Total Expenditure		21,381	15,131
Net Expenditure/(Income) of HRA Services as Included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement		591	(3,970)
Non-distributable Costs – Pensions Past Service Cost		163	128
HRA Share of Corporate and Democratic Core		1,495	1,510
Net Expenditure/(Income) of HRA Services		2,248	(2,332)
HRA Share of Operating Income and Expenditure Included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account			
(Gain)/Loss on Disposal of Non-Current Assets		(691)	(1,944)
(Gain)/Loss on Revaluation of Non-Current assets		6,525	1,748
Interest and Investment Income		(612)	(301)
Interest Payments		2,642	2,586
Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability		61	297
Capital Grants and Contributions Received		(900)	(612)
(Surplus)/Deficit for the Year on HRA Services		9,273	(557)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Statement of Movement on the Housing Revenue Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The HRA Income and Expenditure Statement shows the actual financial performance for the year, measured in terms of the resources consumed and generated over the last twelve months. However, the Council is required to raise rents on a different accounting basis, the main differences being:

- Capital investment is accounted for as it is financed, rather than when the property, plant and equipment are consumed.
- Retirement benefits are charged as amounts become payable to pension funds and pensioners, rather than as future benefits are earned.

These adjustments are reflected in the statement shown below.

	HRA Note	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
1 April		(3,100)	(3,100)
Movement in Reserves:			
Surplus/(Deficit) on Provision of Services		9,273	(557)
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure		6,173	(3,657)
Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Regulations:			
Capital Grants and Contributions Applied		0	0
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute		0	0
Depreciation and Impairment of Non-current Assets		(1,805)	(1,712)
Reversal of Employee Leave Accrual		0	0
Reversal Revaluation & Impairment (Gains)/Losses on Property Plant & Equipment		(6,525)	(1,748)
Amounts of non-current assets written off on sale as part of the gain on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		(741)	(2,182)
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		1,431	4,125
Revenue Contribution to Capital		2,908	1,369
Transfer to/(from) Major Repairs Reserve		3,843	2,714
Voluntary Revenue Provision		5	9
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and expenditure Statement		(513)	(1,259)
Employer's Pension Contributions to Pension Fund Payable in the year		511	511
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accrual basis is different from the remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements		1	(3)
Total Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Regulations		(884)	1,823
Net Increase/(Decrease) Before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		(884)	1,823
Transfer (to)/from Earmarked Reserves		(8,388)	(1,265)
Increase/(Decrease) in Year		(9,272)	558
31 March		(3,100)	(3,100)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

HRA Note 1. Rents

This is the total rent income collectable for the year after allowance is made for empty properties and irrecoverable amounts. Empty properties accounted for 3.65% (£739k) of the gross rents. In 2022/23 the figure was 3.76% (£709k).

The average weekly rent for dwellings was £90.63 (+10%) in 2023/24 (£82.24 in 2022/23). The average weekly rent for garages was £5.55 (immaterial change).

HRA Note 2. Rent Arrears

There was no material change in rent arrears and a £14,000 decrease in bad debt provision for the year ended 31 March 2024.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Rents - Current Tenants	285	281
Rents - Former Tenants	80	84
Total Arrears	365	365
Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	(113)	(127)
Total Housing Arrears	252	238
Arrears as a percentage of Total Rent Debit	1.29%	1.35%

HRA Note 3. Housing Stock

The Council was responsible for managing on average 4,138 dwellings during the year. The stock at the year-end was made up as follows:

	1 April 2023	Reclassified	Additions	Sales & Demolitions	31 March 2024
Flats & Maisonettes	1,203	0	1	(2)	1,202
Houses (including non-traditional)	1,950	0	7	(8)	1,949
Bungalows	976	0	0	(1)	975
House in multiple occupation	5	0	0	0	5
Other properties not used as dwellings	5	0	0	0	5
Total Dwellings	4,139	0	8	(11)	4,136

HRA Note 4. Housing Property, Plant and Equipment

The Housing Stock and other Housing Revenue Account Assets are included in the Balance Sheet at 31 March 2024 per table below. The 5 year rolling visitation revaluation program drove the revaluations made by the District Valuer.

2023/24	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Cost/Valuation</u>							
1 April	276,371	4,670	0	155	0	0	281,196
Additions	10,453	0	0	0	0	0	10,453
Depreciation written out to Gross Carrying Amount on Revaluation	(1,515)	(24)	0	0	0	0	(1,540)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	6,950	28	0	0	0	0	6,978
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(6,525)	0	0	0	0	0	(6,525)
Impairment recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reclassifications	(742)	0	0	0	0	0	(742)
Disposals (to Assets Held for Sale)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals (Other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
As of the end of the period	284,991	4,673	0	155	0	0	289,819
<u>Accumulated Depreciation</u>							
As of the beginning of the period	0	(621)	0	(3)	0	0	(624)
Depreciation charge	(1,517)	(288)	0	(2)	0	0	(1,807)
Reclassifications	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Depreciation written out to Gross Carrying Amount on Revaluation	1,515	24	0	0	0	0	1,540
Disposals (to Assets Held for Sale)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals (Other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
As of the end of the period	(0)	(885)	0	(5)	0	0	(889)
31 March	284,991	3,788	0	151	0	0	288,930

2022/23	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Cost/Valuation</u>							
1 April	264,338	4,769	0	155	0	0	269,262
Additions	6,247	0	0	0	0	0	6,247
Depreciation written out to Gross Carrying Amount on Revaluation	(1,444)	(425)	0	0	0	0	(1,868)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	11,164	326	0	0	0	0	11,490
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(1,748)	0	0	0	0	0	(1,748)
Impairment recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reclassifications	(2,187)	0	0	0	0	0	(2,187)
Disposals (to Assets Held for Sale)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals (Other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
As of the end of the period	276,371	4,670	0	155	0	0	281,196
<u>Accumulated Depreciation</u>							
As of the beginning of the period	0	(782)	0	(2)	0	0	(794)
Depreciation charge	(1,449)	(263)	0	(2)	0	0	(1,714)
Reclassifications	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Depreciation written out to Gross Carrying Amount on Revaluation	1,444	425	0	0	0	0	1,868
Disposals (to Assets Held for Sale)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals (Other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
As of the end of the period	(0)	(621)	0	(3)	0	0	(624)
31 March	276,371	4,049	0	152	0	0	280,572

HRA Note 5. Vacant Possession Value of HRA Dwellings

Council dwellings had a valuation of £782.8 million as at 31 March 2024 on the basis of existing use value assuming vacant possession. To comply with the requirements of the Resource Accounting regulations, a regional adjustment factor of [35]% has to be applied to the Existing Use Value for Social Housing (EUV-SH) valuation for all Council dwellings apart from the Houses in Multiple Occupation which have been kept at fair value. This is to reflect the fact that local Council housing is let at sub-market rents on secure tenancies. The reduction in value shows the economic cost to the Government of providing Council housing at less than open market rents.

HRA Note 6. Average Costs per Dwelling

The table below shows the average cost per dwelling of the principal expenditure types and an average rent income.

Type of Cost / Income	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Supervision & Management – General	1,894	1,641
Repairs & Maintenance	2,684	1,538
Rent un-rebated	(4,714)	(4,387)

HRA Note 7. Major Repairs Reserve

Regulation 7(5) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (as amended) establishes arrangements for the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR) under which the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) is effectively restricted to being applied towards new capital expenditure, the repayment of debt or meeting liabilities under credit arrangements. The regulation requires a credit to the MRR of an amount in respect of the depreciation charged to the Housing Revenue Account for the year. Together with the Item 8 Determination provisions for transferring the difference between the MRA and depreciation to the MRR, the net effect is to credit a net amount equal to the MRA each year to the MRR.

Major Repairs Reserve	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
1 April	-	-
Income		
Depreciation	(1,805)	(1,712)
Additional HRA Contribution	(2,038)	(1,002)
Expenditure		
Major Repairs Expenditure	3,843	2,714
31 March	-	-

HRA Note 8. Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure within the HRA and how it was funded is as follows:

	2023/24	2022/23
Capital Expenditure	£'000	£'000
Reroofing	48	1,139
New Affordable Housing	2,261	987
Aids & Adaptations	205	103
Kitchens & Bathrooms	34	86
Doors, Windows, Soffits and Fascias	74	27
Heating	18	70
Decent Homes and Other Capital Schemes	7,340	2,019
Green Homes Grant Schemes	472	1,816
Total Capital Expenditure	10,453	6,247
Financed by:		
Capital Receipts	(1,066)	(1,580)
Major Repairs Reserve	(3,843)	(2,714)
Capital Grants	(359)	(612)
Revenue Contributions	(2,618)	(757)
Contributions from Earmarked Reserves	-	(585)
Borrowing	(2,568)	-
Total Financing	(10,453)	(6,247)

HRA Note 9. Capital Receipts

Capital receipts during the year from disposals of land and houses within the HRA are as follows:

	2023/24	2022/23
Capital Receipts	£'000	£'000
Sale of HRA Dwellings -Right To Buy	(1,431)	(4,120)
Sale of HRA Other land and Buildings	-	-
Mortgage Repayments	-	-
Miscellaneous Sales	-	-
Total Capital Receipts	(1,431)	(4,120)

HRA Note 10. HRA share of contributions to/from the Pension Reserve

It has been estimated that 16% of the authority's salary costs relate to the HRA. The HRA's share of the overall pension deficit of £3.8m equates to £0.6m.

Collection Fund - Income and Expenditure Account 2023/24

	Business Rates £'000	Council Tax £'000	Total £'000
Income			
Council tax (net)	0	(139,850)	(139,850)
NDR collectable from business ratepayers	(32,916)	0	(32,916)
Total Income	(32,916)	(139,850)	(172,766)
Expenditure			
<u>Precepts, Demands and Shares</u>			
Central Government	18,247	0	18,247
Devon County Council	3,284	100,749	104,033
Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall	0	16,126	16,126
East Devon District Council (including towns & parishes)	14,598	14,996	29,594
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	365	5,967	6,332
<u>Contributions to previous year's estimated surplus/deficit</u>			
Central Government	702	0	702
Devon County Council	126	2,380	2,506
Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall	0	377	377
East Devon District Council	561	359	920
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	14	140	154
<u>Disregarded amounts</u>			
Enterprise Zone Growth	1,993	0	1,993
Renewable Energy Schemes	597	0	597
<u>Charges to Collection Fund</u>			
Transitional protection payments	(3,850)	0	(3,850)
Cost of Collection Allowance	263	0	263
Write offs	(3)	0	(3)
Adjustment to Bad Debt provision	8	133	141
Appeals charged to the collection fund	(959)	0	(959)
Adjustment to Appeals provision	1,919	0	1,919
Total Expenditure	37,864	141,227	179,091
Movement on fund balance	4,949	1,377	6,326
Balance at beginning of Year	(1,494)	(4,194)	(5,688)
In year correction of prior years' balance	0	0	0
Balance at end of Year	3,455	(2,817)	638
Shares of Balance			
Central Government	2,081	0	2,081
Devon County Council	(43)	(2,058)	(2,101)
Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall	0	(329)	(329)
East Devon District Council (including Parishes)	1,382	(310)	1,072
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service	35	(120)	(85)
	3,455	(2,817)	638

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Collection Fund - Income and Expenditure Account 2022/23

	Business Rates £'000	Council Tax £'000	Total £'000
Income			
Council tax (net)	0	(131,814)	(131,815)
NDR collectable from business ratepayers	(33,389)	0	(33,389)
Total Income	(33,389)	(131,814)	(165,203)
Expenditure			
<u>Precepts, Demands and Shares</u>			
Central Government	16,117	0	16,117
Devon County Council	2,901	94,641	97,542
Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall	0	14,992	14,992
East Devon District Council (including towns & parishes)	12,894	14,270	27,164
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	322	5,581	5,903
<u>Contributions to previous year's estimated surplus/deficit</u>			
Central Government	(5,877)	0	(5,877)
Devon County Council	(1,058)	695	(363)
Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall	0	109	109
East Devon District Council	(4,701)	103	(4,598)
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	(118)	41	(77)
<u>Disregarded amounts</u>			
Enterprise Zone Growth	1,119	0	1,119
Renewable Energy Schemes	557	0	557
<u>Charges to Collection Fund</u>			
Transitional protection payments	(67)	0	(67)
Cost of Collection Allowance	252	0	252
Write offs	26	0	26
Adjustment to Bad Debt provision	(392)	161	(231)
Appeals charged to the collection fund	(406)	0	(406)
Adjustment to Appeals provision	(352)	0	(352)
Total Expenditure	21,217	130,593	151,810
Movement on fund balance	(8,626)	(1,221)	(9,847)
Balance at beginning of Year	10,120	(2,973)	7,147
In year correction of prior years' balance	0	0	0
Balance at end of Year	1,494	(4,194)	(2,700)
Shares of Balance			
Central Government	393	0	393
Devon County Council	488	(3,068)	(2,580)
Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall	0	(484)	(484)
East Devon District Council (including Parishes)	598	(460)	138
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service	15	(182)	(167)
	1,494	(4,194)	(2,700)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Note 1. General

This account represents 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, Council tax and the distribution to the major preceptors and the General Fund. The account is consolidated with other accounts of the Council.

In 2013/14 there was a change to the method for distributing and accounting for business rates income. Prior to 1st April 2013 Non-Domestic Rates were collected by the Council and then completely paid over to the Government, who then redistributed these sums across the country in the form of the Non-Domestic rates grant.

From 1st April 2013 Business Rates Retention applies, whereby local authorities East Devon District Council (40%), Devon County Council (9%) and Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority (1%) retain 50% of the business rates collected for the area and pay the remaining 50% to central government. In addition the government has set a level of business rates funding deemed to be applicable to each area and every Council receives a top-up (if business rates collected are below this deemed level of funding) or pays a tariff (if business rates collected are above this deemed level of funding).

With the introduction of business rates retention if a Local Authority increases its business rates base, and thereby increases its business rate income, it is allowed to retain a proportion of this increased income, whilst paying up to a maximum of 50% across to central government. This payment where it occurs is known as a levy payment.

In 2018/19 the Council was successful in obtaining 100% business rate pilot status along with all other Devon authorities. This meant the government did not take their 50% element and instead this was retained locally in return for no central government funding for the year (no Revenue Support Grant and Rural Services Delivery Grant). In 19/20 the Council returned to the previously described allocations.

Note 2. Business Rates

Business Rates is a local tax that is paid by the occupiers of all non-domestic/business property.

Business rates are collected by the Council. Local businesses pay National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) based on their rateable value. The NNDR income raised in East Devon is distributed across East Devon District Council, Devon County Council, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority and Central Government in line with the distribution rules set out in legislation.

NNDR income was £32.9m in 2023/24 and the rateable value for the Council's area was £120.7m at 31 March 2024.

Note 3. Provision for Un-collectable Amounts

Provision has been made within the accounts for un-collectable amounts based on guidelines. At the end of the year the accumulated provision for bad debts was as follows:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Provision for Uncollectable Amounts		
Non Domestic Rates	452	563
Council tax	474	413
Total Provision	926	976

Note 4. Council Tax Base

The Council Tax Base, for tax setting purposes, is calculated by reference to the number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band, adjusted for dwellings where discounts apply and adjustments made for exempt properties and anticipated amendments. This is then converted to an equivalent number of band D dwellings which is the amount the Council estimates would actually be collected if a tax of £1 is set.

Band	Estimated equivalent no. of taxable properties after effect of discounts	Ratio	Band D Equivalent Dwellings
A (disabled)	8	5/9ths	4
A	3,937	6/9ths	2,625
B	9,775	7/9ths	7,603
C	13,984	8/9ths	12,430
D	11,699	9/9ths	11,699
E	10,105	11/9ths	12,351
F	6,113	13/9ths	8,830
G	3,866	15/9ths	6,443
H	158	18/9ths	316
	59,645		62,301
			Adjustment for collection rate and contributions in lieu (810)
			Contribution from MOD Properties 162
Council Tax Base 2023/24			61,653
Council Tax Base 2022/23			60,805

The Council tax payable at each band, excluding parish precepts, is shown below.

Band	Multiplier	East Devon District Council	Devon County Council	Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service	Total
A	6/9ths	107.85	1089.42	174.37	64.53	1,436.17
B	7/9ths	125.83	1,270.99	203.44	75.28	1,675.54
C	8/9ths	143.8	1452.56	232.5	86.04	1,914.90
D	9/9ths	161.78	1,634.13	261.56	96.79	2,154.26
E	11/9ths	197.73	1997.27	319.68	118.3	2,632.98
F	13/9ths	233.68	2360.41	377.81	139.81	3,111.71
G	15/9ths	269.63	2723.55	435.93	161.32	3,590.43
H	18/9ths	323.56	3268.26	523.12	193.58	4,308.52

Independent auditor's report to the members of East Devon District Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Disclaimer of opinion

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of East Devon District Council (the 'Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Statement of Movement in the Housing Revenue Account, the Collection Fund Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

We do not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements of the Authority. Because of 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 on these financial statements.

Basis for disclaimer of opinion

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 ('the Regulations') require the Authority to publish audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 by 28 February 2025 ('the backstop date'). The backstop date has been put in law with the purpose of clearing the backlog of historical financial statements. We have been unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence by the backstop date to conclude that the Authority's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 as a whole are free from material misstatement. We were also unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence over the corresponding figures or whether there was any consequential effect on the Authority's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2024 for the same reason.

We have concluded that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements arising from these matters could be both material and pervasive. We have therefore issued a disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements. This enables the Authority to comply with the requirement in the Regulations that they publish audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 by the backstop date.

Other information we are required to report on by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

Because of the significance of the matters described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we have been unable to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

Opinion on other matters required by the Code of Audit Practice

The Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the Authority's financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Because of the significance of the matters described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we have been unable to form an opinion, whether based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements and our knowledge of the Authority gained through our work in relation to the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, whether the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make a written recommendation to the Authority under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; 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 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or;
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matters.

Responsibilities of the Authority and the Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer

As explained more fully in the Statement of 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 Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer. The Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they have been informed by the relevant national body of the intention to dissolve the Authority without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit of the Authority's financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and to issue an auditor's report. However, because of the matters 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 those financial statements.

We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK).

The audit was defective in its ability to detect irregularities, including fraud, on the basis that we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence due to the matters described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – the Authority’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception – the Authority’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we have not been able to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matter except we identified and reported in our Annual Audit Report dated 7 February 2025.

Financial sustainability – Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- A significant weakness in the Authority’s arrangements for Financial Sustainability due to the budget setting. The Authority has unidentified savings/funding gaps in financial planning that substantially threaten operation of the HRA. There were significant inconsistencies between budgetary information and the Authority’s predicted financial outturn position in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. The HRA outturn for 2023/24 shows a significant budget overspend. We recommended the Authority needs to review all assumptions and models used in developing the 2024/25 budget to ensure it has an accurate and robust base budget.
- A significant weakness in the Authority’s arrangements for Financial Sustainability due to insufficient levels of reserves. There has been unsustainable use of reserves to plug the budget gaps to the extent that there are now no useable reserves left from which to plug the anticipated budget shortfall in 2024/25. We recommended the Authority needs to update and agree a sustainable HRA business plan as a matter of urgency and ensure that prudent levels of HRA reserves are maintained over the medium term by mitigating the impact of annual deficits on reserves. That plan should reflect the maintenance requirements of the housing stock condition survey, decarbonisation programme and other financial pressures

Governance – Preparation and audit of Accounts

A significant weakness in the Authority’s arrangements for effective governance due to historic capacity issues within the finance team. The draft 2023/24 financial statements were provided 2.5 months later than the committed deadline. The absence of external validation of the financial statements means there is a risk that decisions made by the Authority will not be based on clear and accurate financial information. We recommended the Authority should ensure that the annual draft accounts together with associated working papers are published in accordance with the national timetable.

Responsibilities of the Authority

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to 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 undertake our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024. This guidance sets out the arrangements that fall within the scope of 'proper arrangements'. When reporting on these arrangements, the Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under three specified reporting criteria:

- Financial sustainability: how the Authority plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;
- Governance: how the Authority ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the Authority uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

We document our understanding of the arrangements the Authority has in place for each of these three specified reporting criteria, gathering sufficient evidence to support our risk assessment and commentary in our Auditor's Annual Report. In undertaking our work, we consider whether there is evidence to suggest that there are significant weaknesses in arrangements.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for East Devon District Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed the work necessary in relation to consolidation returns, including Whole of Government Accounts (WGA), and the National Audit Office has concluded their work in respect WGA for the year ended 31 March 2024. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Use of our report

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 and as set out in paragraph 85 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members 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 Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Peter Barber

Peter Barber, Key Audit Partner
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor
Bristol

26 February 2025

Independent auditor's report to the members of East Devon District Council

In our auditor's report issued on 26 February 2025, we explained that we could not formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for East Devon District Council ('the Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice, until we had completed the work necessary in relation to consolidation returns, including Whole of Government Accounts (WGA), and the National Audit Office (NAO) had concluded their work in respect of WGA for the year ended 31 March 2024. The NAO has now concluded their work in respect of WGA for the year ended 31 March 2024 and confirmed that audit certificates that are open in relation to this can be issued. We are therefore satisfied all audit work necessary has been completed.

Disclaimer of opinion

In our auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2024 issued on 26 February 2025 we reported that, we did not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements of the Authority. Because of the significant matters described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion of our auditor's report, we were unable to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial statements.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements - the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception – the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we have not been able to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024.

In our auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2024 issued on 26 February 2025 we reported that we have nothing to report in respect of whether the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024 except on 7 February 2025 we identified the following:

Financial sustainability – Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- A significant weakness in the Authority's arrangements for Financial Sustainability due to the budget setting. The Authority has unidentified savings/funding gaps in financial planning that substantially threaten operation of the HRA. There were significant inconsistencies between budgetary information and the Authority's predicted financial outturn position in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. The HRA outturn for 2023/24 shows a significant budget overspend. We recommended the Authority needs to review all assumptions and models used in developing the 2024/25 budget to ensure it has an accurate and robust base budget.
- A significant weakness in the Authority's arrangements for Financial Sustainability due to insufficient levels of reserves. There has been unsustainable use of reserves to plug the budget gaps to the extent that there are now no useable reserves left from which to plug the anticipated budget shortfall in 2024/25. We recommended the Authority needs to update and agree a sustainable HRA business plan as a matter of urgency and ensure that prudent levels of HRA reserves are maintained over the medium term by mitigating the impact of annual deficits on reserves. That plan should reflect the maintenance requirements of the housing stock condition survey, decarbonisation programme and other financial pressures.

Governance – Preparation and audit of Accounts

A significant weakness in the Authority's arrangements for effective governance due to historic capacity issues within the finance team. The draft 2023/24 financial statements were provided 2.5 months later

than the committed deadline. The absence of external validation of the financial statements means there is a risk that decisions made by the Authority will not be based on clear and accurate financial information. We recommended the Authority should ensure that the annual draft accounts together with associated working papers are published in accordance with the national timetable.

No matters have come to our attention since that date that would have resulted in any additional exception reporting on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities of the Authority

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to 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 undertake our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024. This guidance sets out the arrangements that fall within the scope of 'proper arrangements'. When reporting on these arrangements, the Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under three specified reporting criteria:

- Financial sustainability: how the Authority plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;
- Governance: how the Authority ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the Authority uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

We document our understanding of the arrangements the Authority has in place for each of these three specified reporting criteria, gathering sufficient evidence to support our risk assessment and commentary in our Auditor's Annual Report. In undertaking our work, we consider whether there is evidence to suggest that there are significant weaknesses in arrangements.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – Audit certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of East Devon District Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

Use of our report

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 and as set out in paragraph 85 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members 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 Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Peter Barber

Peter Barber, Key Audit Partner
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor
Bristol

15 September 2025

Annual Governance Statement

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Corporate Governance

Corporate Governance is about how East Devon District Council (the Council) ensures that it is doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. Good governance ensures that the Council provides for effective leadership and management in the use of public money; ensures the delivery of high quality services to all taxpayers and citizens; and achieves the desired outcomes for service users and communities.

The Council acknowledges its responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of governance and has developed a Local Code of Corporate Governance that defines the principles that underpin the governance of the organisation. The Code can be accessed on the Council's website at <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/strategies-policies-and-performance/our-key-policies/code-of-corporate-governance/> or can be obtained by writing to the Council. The principles upon which it is based are summarised in this Statement.

2. The Annual Governance Statement

The Accounts & Audit (England) Regulations 2015 require the Council to prepare and publish an annual governance statement. This is a public document that reports on the extent to which the Council complies with its own code of corporate governance. The Annual Governance Statement explains how the Council makes decisions; manages its resources in line with the Council's priorities; and achieves the required outcomes for service users and communities.

In the Annual Governance Statement the Council:

- Acknowledges its responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of governance
- Summarises the key elements of the governance framework and the roles of those responsible for the development and maintenance of the governance environment
- Describes the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of its governance arrangements in the year, and on any planned changes in the coming period
- Provides details of how the Council has responded to any issue(s) identified in last year's governance statement
- Reports on any significant governance issues identified from this review and provides a commitment to addressing them

3. The Governance Framework

Scope of Responsibility:

The Council is responsible for ensuring that:

- Business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards
- Public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively

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

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

Purpose of the Governance Framework:

The Council's governance framework comprises the systems, processes, cultures and values by which the Council is directed and controlled and activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money. The framework aims to ensure that in conducting its business the Council:

- Operates in a lawful, open, inclusive and honest manner
- Makes sure that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively
- Has effective arrangements for the management of risk
- Secures continuous improvements in the way that it operates

The Governance Framework:

The governance framework sets out how the Council is operating in order to demonstrate compliance, ongoing improvement, its commitment to maintaining the highest ethical standards and levels of governance. The governance framework has been in place during the year and up to the date of approval of the statement of accounts.

The Council has based its governance framework on the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance 2016 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. The framework sets out seven core principles for good governance.

Appendix 1 provides a summary of key elements of the Council's governance framework and how they relate to the seven principles.

4. Review of Effectiveness

The Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control.

The review of effectiveness is informed by;

- The review of the effectiveness of internal control and compliance to the governance framework 2023/24 was undertaken by the Strategic Management Team in April/May 2024, through the completion of assurance statements.
- Internal Audit (SWAP) Annual Report and Opinion 2023/24 – Reported to the Audit & Governance Committee in July 2024 and provided reasonable assurance.
- External audit (Grant Thornton) – Grant Thornton presented their Interim Auditor's Annual Report 2022/23 to the Audit & Governance Committee in March 2024. This gave an update on progress against the recommendations and made further improvement recommendations. 2023/24 Value for Money opinion is expected to be reported to September 2024 Audit & Governance Committee.

The mechanisms for maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control throughout the year include;

- Cabinet is responsible for considering overall financial and performance management and receives comprehensive budget monitoring reports on a frequent basis and Council service performance reports. Performance reporting is currently under review with improvements to be introduced in 2024/25.
- Overview & Scrutiny Committees challenge the Cabinet Committee where necessary including the invite of appropriate Cabinet members and Lead Officers to attend to answer questions.
- The Standards Committee meets quarterly when required and at every meeting considers an update report on complaints against councillors which includes learning points and recommended actions. The Committee also keeps under review the Council's policies and procedures for maintaining high ethical standards.
- The Audit & Governance Committee meet five times a year to provide independent assurance to the Council in relation to the effectiveness of the risk management and internal control environment.
- The South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) provides an independent and objective assurance service (Internal Audit function) to the Council and completes a programme of reviews each year to inform an opinion on the internal control, risk management and governance arrangements. The service undertakes any fraud investigation and proactive fraud detection work which includes reviewing the control environment in areas where suspected fraud or irregularity has occurred.
- The Annual Governance Statement is considered by the Monitoring Officer, Chief Executive, Assistant Director SWAP and the Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee to ensure it reflects the understanding of these key individuals in terms of the Governance of the Council and to ensure any areas of concern or future improvements are identified.

5. Significant Governance Issues – Update on issues raised in prior year Annual Governance Statement

Issues raised in the prior year’s Annual Governance Statement are copied below with updates on progress.

Key Issue to be addressed	Responsible Officer	Update
<p>The Interim 2022/23 Auditors Annual Report followed up on 3 key recommendations identified in the interim 2021/22 Auditors Annual Report stating good progress continues to be made to address these issues in the time since we reported our findings, as observed by the Local Government Association in the report of their Corporate Peer Challenge and by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.</p> <p>Aside from the issues previously reported no other significant weakness were noted in the 2023/24 financial year.</p> <p>The report with recommendation progress, new recommendations and the Council’s response can be found here: Annual Auditor's Report 2022/23 (eastdevon.gov.uk)</p>	Executive Leadership Team	<p>Details are included in the reports: Auditors Annual Report template - Local Government - 21-22 (eastdevon.gov.uk)</p> <p>Annual Auditor's Report 2022/23 (eastdevon.gov.uk)</p> <p>Good progress has been made against all recommendations. This should be evidence in the 2023/24 Auditors Report due to be reported to the Audit & Governance Committee in September 2024.</p>
Internal Audit (SWAP) Limited Assurance – Disability Facility Grants and Better Care	Assistant Director – Environmental Health	<p>SWAP follow up report to A&G committee 2023/24.</p> <p>All 5 priority 2 recommendations complete</p>
Internal Audit (SWAP) Limited Assurance Housing Compliance - Asbestos	Assistant Director - Housing	<p>SWAP follow up report to A&G committee 2023/24.</p> <p>1 of 3 priority 2 recommendations complete, 2 are in progress.</p>
Assurance Statement - Safeguarding concerns.	Director for Health, Housing & Environment	<p>Implemented in 2023/24. Refresher training for staff, member training, lessons learnt exercise, establishing a Safeguarding Forum, and embedding of learning and good practice</p>
Assurance Statement – Business Continuity.	Director for Health, Housing & Environment	<p>Implementation 2023/24. Ongoing learning from Response & Recovery Planning as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Emergency Planning Officer appointed and reviewing emergency preparedness.</p>
Assurance Statement - Focus on damp & mould in social housing	Director for Health, Housing & Environment	<p>Implementation 2023/24. Learning from complaints, undertaking the Housing Ombudsman complaints self-assessment tool, attempt to</p>

		resolve issues at the first point of contact, reporting to the Housing Review Board.
Assurance Statement - Increase in Housing complaints and tenants taking dissatisfaction to the Housing Ombudsman	Director for Health, Housing & Environment	Implementation 2023/24. Learning from complaints, undertaking the Housing Ombudsman complaints self-assessment tool, attempt to resolve issues at the first point of contact, reporting to the Housing Review Board.
Assurance Statement - Financial & Procurement refresher training is required through services. A few examples of managers' not aware and high volume of contract standing orders exemptions being used where better planning would negate some of them.	Director for Finance	Training provided.
Assurance Statement - Risk management Policy needs updating and approving.	Director for Finance	Completed
Assurance Statement - Within the Section 106 planning obligations monitoring work we have identified that there are a high number of unpaid invoices and un-invoiced financial obligations where the trigger point has been hit. There is a need to chase up these invoices and invoice the remaining amounts.	Assistant Director Planning Strategy & Development Management	Council agreed additional resources to address these points, staff appointed and currently good progress being made.

6. Significant Governance Issues – Issues raised in this year’s Annual Governance Statement.

Key issues identified in the annual review in relation to improvements required in governance arrangements or internal control procedures are given in the table below.

Key Issue to be addressed	Responsible Officer	Progress
Internal Audit (SWAP) Limited Assurance Agency and Consultants - Implications of IR35	Corporate Lead - HR	SWAP follow up report to A&G committee 2024/25.
Internal Audit (SWAP) Limited Assurance Emergency Planning	Assistant Director – Environmental Health	SWAP follow up report to A&G committee 2024/25.
Internal Audit (SWAP) Limited Assurance Information Governance Policies	Director for Finance & Director for Governance	SWAP follow up report to A&G committee 2024/25. Policies approved by Cabinet July 2024
Internal Audit (SWAP) Limited Assurance Performance Management	Executive Leadership Team	SWAP follow up report to A&G committee 2024/25.
Internal Audit (SWAP) Limited Assurance Strategic Partnerships	Executive Leadership Team	SWAP follow up report to A&G committee 2024/25. Revised Strategy to A&G Sept 2024
Internal Audit (SWAP) Limited Assurance Countryside – use of Volunteers	Assistant Director – Countryside & Leisure	SWAP follow up report to A&G committee 2024/25.
Establishment Control	Corporate Lead – HR & Director for Finance	SWAP follow up report to A&G committee 2024/25. Supplementary audit requested in 2024/25 on establishment controls in HR/Payroll System
High cost of Leisure Provision – Current review with member oversight.	Assistant Director – Place, Assets & Commercialisation	Reports on progress through Councillor working Group and updates to Cabinet.
Assurance Statement Requirement to be overseen by the Information Governance Board about ensuring all of our systems are data protection compliant, particularly as far as retention periods are concerned. This work will take some time and is a corporate issue.	Executive Leadership Team – Led by Director for Governance	Progress to monitored through ELT
Other Extremely high levels of expenditure on HRA dwellings in 2023/24, particularly in the final 6	Director for Housing & Director for Finance	Monitoring reports on performance, works carried out and the financial position needs to tracked by ELT and members in 2024/25.

<p>months of the year increasing each month. A revised budget has been approved for 2024/25 but actual expenditure and commitments need careful monitoring. Further report to be presented in year to Cabinet on stock condition, investment requirements and options for the Council in terms of affordability.</p>		<p>Details need to be considered on further report.</p>
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Cllr Sam Hawkins

Cllr Sam Hawkins
Finance Portfolio Holder



Tracy Hendren
Chief Executive

Appendix 1 – Assessment of key controls 2023-24

<p>CORE PRINCIPLE A Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.</p>	
<p>Supporting Principles</p>	<p>Assessment of the effectiveness of key elements of the Council’s governance processes during 2023-24</p>
<p>Behaving with Integrity</p> <p>Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values</p> <p>Respecting the rule of law</p>	<p>The Council has a robust Constitution in place that sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures that are followed to ensure that these are efficient, proportionate, transparent and accountable. The Constitution was reviewed during 2023/24 and ongoing development in 2024/25.</p> <p>The Constitution contains the Code of Conduct for staff and members. Officers have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities through an approved scheme of delegation and through job descriptions and person specifications. All staff have been asked to confirm that they had read and understood the Code of Conduct and is included in the induction for new members and staff. Following external recommendations this will be reviewed to ensure compliance with best practice and further training to be given.</p> <p>Registers of gifts & hospitality and member & officer interests are maintained. Individual members' interests are published on the Council's website.</p> <p>The Council has effective arrangements in place for dealing with complaints against members of East Devon District Council. Allegations that a member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct were assessed initially by the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with an Independent Person, to decide whether the allegations merit investigation or another course of action. The complaints process has the Monitoring Officer carry out an initial assessment against basic criteria before a three-member Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee determines how a complaint progresses. Details of complaints and the findings of any investigations are reported to the Standards Committee.</p> <p>The Standards Committee comprises seven Members of East Devon District Council plus six non-voting independent Persons and regulates and oversees the Code of Conduct. The Committee took an active approach to ensuring high levels of good governance, ethical behaviour and transparency throughout the Council’s decision making processes.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee monitored and scrutinised the performance and decision making of the authority.</p> <p>All Legal and Financial advice supporting recommendations made to Council committees are documented. A revised committee report template is in draft to strengthen corporate input on key areas including risk and equality.</p>

	<p>The Council has an appointed Corporate Counter Fraud & Compliance Manager and a Strategy has been adopted by Council.</p> <p>The Council has a whistle-blowing, Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Anti-Bribery Policy.</p> <p>The Council has a designated Monitoring Officer whom ensures compliance with established policies, procedures, laws and regulations. After consulting with the Head of Paid Service and Chief Finance Officer the Monitoring Officer will report to the full Council if it is considered that any proposal, decision or omission would give rise to unlawfulness or maladministration. Such a report will have the effect of stopping the proposal or decision being implemented until the report has been considered. The Council also conforms to the requirements of the CIPFA statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government.</p> <p>Every contract that the Council enters into adheres to the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and follows Contract Standing Orders and requires high standards of transparency and ethics.</p>
<p>CORE PRINCIPLE B Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement</p>	
<p>Supporting Principles</p>	<p>Assessment of the effectiveness of key elements of the Council’s governance processes during 2023-24</p>
<p>Openness</p> <p>Engaging comprehensively with other organisations that the council needs to work with to improve services and outcomes</p> <p>Engaging with individual citizens and service users effectively citizens</p>	<p>The Council Plan sets out our main priorities.</p> <p>The new Council Plan adopted in early 2024 was formulated through extensive internal and external engagement including key partners and public consultation.</p> <p>Delivery of the Council Plan is supported by a performance framework with service plans and individual targets for staff agreed through the Performance Framework which is recorded and monitored through the Council’s performance management systems. Delivery of the Council Plan is monitored by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and some aspects by the Personnel Committee.</p> <p>These Committees drive the scrutiny process on behalf of the public with a view to improving the delivery of public services.</p> <p>The Council has a communication Plan, which is currently under review, which amongst other items sets out we will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - continue to keep our website up to date using our adopted principles so that the information clear and easy to find - write policies and strategies for intranet and web - involve residents in deciding what good public services means to them - make the most of opportunities for communities and councils to improve their local areas - tailor our communications to specific audiences using different ways to suit different people (for example, some people prefer social media whereas others prefer a

	<p>newsletter so we will take this into account and monitor how effective we are)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rigorous use of Communication and Consultation Plans at the outset of larger projects. <p>The Council complies with the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 and the Freedom of Information Act publication scheme and has a stated position towards transparency – improvements have been documented in the main statement relating to the contracts register.</p>
<p>CORE PRINCIPLE C Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits</p>	
<p>Supporting Principles</p>	<p>Assessment of the effectiveness of key elements of the council’s governance processes during 2023-24</p>
<p>Defining outcomes Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits</p>	<p>The Council Plan includes priorities and outcomes with our vision to make a positive difference to resident’s lives and our environment in East Devon.</p> <p>Delivery of the Council Plan is supported by a performance framework with service plans and individual targets for staff agreed through the Performance Framework which is recorded and monitored through the Council’s performance management systems</p> <p>A strategic Planning Committee is in place to oversee development of the Strategic Plan and its delivery.</p> <p>Contract Standing Orders sets out how the Council will procure goods, works and services by the most economic, efficient, effective and sustainable means to ensure that the needs of the community are met, within a clear framework of accountability and responsibility.</p> <p>The Council has an adopted Local Plan and is currently developing a new Plan.</p>
<p>CORE PRINCIPLE D Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes</p>	
<p>Supporting Principles</p>	<p>Assessment of the effectiveness of key elements of the council’s governance processes during 2023-24</p>
<p>Determining interventions</p> <p>Planning interventions</p> <p>Optimising achievement of intended outcomes</p>	<p>The Council operates a Cabinet system including delegation to Lead Members who are members of the Cabinet as defined in the Council’s Constitution with a range of thematic portfolios. This gives a clearly defined decision making process.</p> <p>The Council’s Constitution contains details of the respective roles and responsibilities of elected members, named officer roles and all officers employed by the Council. The Council’s Constitution lists statutory roles for officers which ensure legality, financial prudence and transparency in decisions and transactions.</p> <p>The Council operates an Overview and Scrutiny function. Members can “call in” decisions that have been made but not yet implemented, to enable them to consider whether the decision has been taken in accordance with the Council’s</p>

	<p>decision making principles. The Budget and Public Policy framework is detailed in the Council's Constitution.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee monitors and scrutinises the performance and decision making of the authority. They may make recommendations to the Full Council.</p> <p>The Council has a robust organisational approach to business planning and performance management. A Performance Framework exists with monthly and quarterly performance monitoring and publication including financial monitoring.</p> <p>The Council has an adopted Financial Plan (2024 – 2034). The Council annual budget approval involves significant Councillor involvement before adoption.</p>
CORE PRINCIPLE E	
Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it	
Supporting Principles	Assessment of the effectiveness of key elements of the Council's governance processes during 2023-24
<p>Developing the entity's capacity</p> <p>Developing the entity's leadership</p> <p>Developing the capability of individuals within the entity</p>	<p>A corporate Member's induction programme is in place and ongoing training for Members includes the member code of conduct, personal safety and procedures. Current training is focussing on safeguarding.</p> <p>The Council has investors in people Gold award recognising good policies and procedures are in place and working well which is externally validated.</p> <p>This includes having in place a performance framework covering all officers including an appraisal system with targeted, relevant training.</p> <p>There are regular team meetings, and one to ones. The Authority implements the national agreement on pay and conditions of service. The Authority has achieved its commitment to pay the Living Wage for its entire staff and has recently undertaken an independent review of grading structure to ensure it is a median pay employer.</p>
CORE PRINCIPLE F	
Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public management	
Supporting Principles	Assessment of the effectiveness of key elements of the Council's governance processes during 2023-24
<p>Managing Risk</p> <p>Managing Performance</p> <p>Robust Internal Control</p> <p>Strong Public Financial Management</p>	<p>The Council has an adopted Risk Management Policy with clear accountability and review processes in place. Audit & Governance receive half yearly updates on the risk register.</p> <p>The Council has an induction and development programme for Councillors. This is of vital importance, given the technical complexity of the Council's core operations, the decision making structure and the financial value of the transactions controlled by the Authority.</p>

	<p>All statutory Officers receive the training and support to carry out their duties effectively and as appropriate, participate in continuous professional development.</p> <p>The Cabinet meets on a monthly basis at set times to consider key matters including those on performance. Matters are published in the Forward Plan to enable the public to be aware of future decisions. All reports include reference to the Council Plan.</p> <p>In addition to the quarterly performance reports there are regular financial reports submitted to Cabinet detailing estimated outturn against the approved budget.</p> <p>The annual budget is supported by the Director for Finance commenting upon its deliverability and is supported by an appropriate reserves policy. The final accounts, of which this statement is an integral part, outline the Outturn of the Authority and are prepared in accordance with professional standards and subject to external audit.</p> <p>In order to demonstrate robust internal control the Authority has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Risk Management Framework linked into the Authority Structure; • An appropriate suite of Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policies; • A balanced budget supported by appropriate reserves • Standards Committee supported by independent Members <p>The Council carries out staff surveys to assess their views on the management of the organisation. The findings have been considered in the production of service plans and priorities.</p>
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<p>CORE PRINCIPLE G Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability</p>	
<p>Supporting Principles</p>	<p>Assessment of the effectiveness of key elements of the Council’s governance processes during 2023-24</p>
<p>Implementing good practice in transparency</p>	<p>The Council makes as much information as possible available on its website. Support is also available to those residents who cannot access the internet.</p>
<p>Implementing good practices in reporting</p>	<p>The Council publishes its statement of accounts on the website.</p>
<p>Assurance and effective accountability</p>	<p>The Council’s external auditors Grant Thornton issue the Value for Money conclusion with recommendations for improvement that are adopted and acted upon.</p> <p>The Strategic Management Team is responsible for responding to recommendations made by Internal Audit and External Audit.</p> <p>Progress made against the issues identified in the prior year Annual Governance Statement action plan have been</p>

monitored by the Strategic Management Team and the Audit & Governance Committee.

The Council has a Whistle-blowing Policy which is advertised both inside the Council and on the Council's website.

The Council has an Anti-Fraud, Theft and Corruption Policy approved by the Audit & Governance Committee.

The Council has a clear process for dealing with Freedom of Information (FOI) requests from the public. It complies with the Transparency Code and has a stated transparency agenda.

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.

Accruals

The accruals principle is that income is recorded when it is earned rather than when it is received, and expenses are recorded when goods or services are received rather than when payment is made.

Accumulated Absences Account

This account represents the value of any unused holiday, time off in lieu or flexi hours which have not been taken by officers as at the 31 March.

Assets

An item having value to the Council in monetary terms, categorised as:

- **Current assets** will be consumed within the next financial year (e.g.: cash and inventories).
- **Property, plant and equipment** provide benefits over their useful life for more than one year and can be tangible (e.g. sports centres) or intangible (e.g. computer software licences).
- **Community assets** are assets that the local Council intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life and may have restrictions on their disposal (e.g. works of art and picnic sites).
- **Infrastructure assets** that form part of the economic or social framework of the area and whose function is not transferable (e.g. highways, bridges and footpaths).
- **Under Construction** details capital expenditure to date on work in progress.
- **Surplus Assets** are property, plant and equipment held by a Council actively being marketed
- **Intangible assets** usually software

Audit of Accounts

An independent examination of the Council's financial affairs undertaken by the Appointed Auditor, Grant Thornton.

Balances

The total revenue reserves required to provide a working balance during the financial year, for example in periods when expenditure exceeds income.

Budget

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

Capital Adjustment Account

This records the timing difference between the costs of property, plant and equipment used and the capital financing set aside to pay for them.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on assets which have a long term value. Includes the purchase of land, purchase or cost of construction of buildings and the acquisition of plant, equipment and vehicles.

Capital Financing

The raising of money to meet the cost of capital expenditure. Capital expenditure may be financed by borrowing, leasing, and contributions from revenue accounts, the proceeds from the sale of capital assets, capital grants and contributions from developers or others.

Capital Receipts

Proceeds received from the sale of property and other property, plant and equipment.

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

CIPFA is the leading professional accountancy body for public services.

Collection Fund

A separate fund that records the income and expenditure relating to Council tax and non-domestic rates.

Community Assets

Non-current Assets the Council intends to hold in perpetuity and which have no determinable useful life. They may also have restriction on their disposal. An example is a cemetery.

Corporate Democratic Core

Those activities which the Council is engaged in specifically because it is an elected multi-purpose Local Authority. This includes the costs of corporate policy making, representing local interests, representatives and duties arising from public accountability.

Creditors

Amounts owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered but for which payment has not been made at 31 March.

Current Assets

Assets that can be expected to be consumed or realised during the next accounting period.

Current Liabilities

Amounts that will become due or could be called upon during the next accounting period.

Debtors

Sums of money due to the Council but not received at 31 March.

Depreciation

The allocation of the cost of the useful economic life of the Council's property, plant and equipment for the accounting period through general wear and tear, consumption or obsolescence.

Earmarked Reserves

Those elements of total Council reserves which are retained for specific purposes.

External Audit

The independent examination of the activities and accounts of Local Authorities to ensure the accounts have been prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and proper practices. Also to ensure the Council has made proper arrangements to secure value for money in its use of resources.

Finance Lease

A lease whereby all the risks and rewards of ownership of a fixed asset are with the lessee. In substance the asset belongs to the lessee.

General Fund

The main revenue fund of the Council. Income from the Council tax precept and Government grants are paid into the fund, from which the cost of providing services are met.

Government Grants

Payments by Central Government towards local Council expenditure. They are specific for a particular service; and are receivable in respect of both revenue and capital expenditure.

Housing Benefit

This is an allowance to persons receiving little or no income to meet, in whole or part, their rent. Benefit is allowed or paid by local authorities but Central Government refunds part of the cost of the benefits and of the running costs of the services to local authorities. Benefits paid to the Council's own tenants are known as rent rebates and that paid to private tenants as rent allowances.

Housing Revenue Account

Statutory ring-fenced account required to represent the landlord/tenant obligations for the Council in relation to managing and maintaining its housing stock in return for rental income from tenants.

Impairment

A reduction in the value of a fixed asset to below its carrying amount on the balance sheet due to damage, obsolescence or a general decrease in market value.

Income & Expenditure Account

The net cost for the year for services provided by the Council for which it is responsible and showing how the cost has been financed from precepts, grants and other income.

Interest

An amount received or paid for the use of a sum of money when it is invested or borrowed.

Liquid Resources

Cash and current Asset investments that can be easily converted to known amounts of cash without penalty, or can be traded on the active market.

Long Term Debtors

Sums of money due to the Council originally repayable within a period in excess of twelve months but where payment is not due until future years.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

The minimum amount that must be charged to a Council's revenue accounts and set aside as a provision for credit liabilities. It is calculated by applying a percentage of outstanding debt in accordance with the Council's approved policy.

Non Domestic Rates (NDR)

NDR is also referred to as business rates; is the levy on business property, based on a national rate in the pound applied to the 'rateable value' of the property. Authorities can voluntarily form a business rate retention pool, where all authorities in the pool can benefit from keeping a proportion of business rate revenue as well as growth on the revenue that is generated in their area to spend on local services.

Net Book Value

The value of property, plant and equipment included on the balance sheet, being the historical cost or a current revaluation less the cumulative amounts of depreciation.

Operating Lease

A lease where the risks and rewards, and therefore the ownership of the asset, remains with the lessor.

Precept

The amount levied by various Authorities that is collected by the District Council on their behalf. The major precepting authorities in East Devon are Devon County Council, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Tangible assets that are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services, for rental to others, or for administration purposes, and are expected to be used during more than one year.

Provision

This is an amount which is put aside to cover future liabilities or losses which are considered to be certain or very likely to occur, but the amounts and timing are uncertain.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

An arm of Central Government which is the major provider of loans to finance long term funding requirements for Local Authorities.

Reserves

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

Revaluation Reserve

These records net gains from revaluations made after 1 April 2007 not yet realised through sales.

Revenue Contributions

This refers to the financing of capital expenditure directly from revenue rather than from loans or other sources.

Revenue Expenditure

The day to day expenditure of the Council on such items as employees and equipment.

Revenue Expenditure Financed by Capital under Statute (REFCUS)

Expenditure which may properly be capitalised but which does not result in tangible property, plant and equipment owned by the Council.

Revenue Support Grant (RSG)

The major grant paid by central government to local authorities in aid of service provision.