
Strategic Finance

Statement of Accounts 2023-24



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Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

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Foreword to Narrative Report

Unlike many other councils who struggled to balance their books last year, we were able to remain focussed on continuing to deliver on the priorities set out in our corporate strategy. We have also been able to set up 2024/25 to be another successful year, increasing our investment by £42 million. In part this is thanks to our Energy from Waste plant which has not only stopped Gloucestershire's rubbish going to landfill by turning it into green energy, it also generated a £15 million boost to our 2024/25 budget.

It doesn't mean that we are immune to the challenges affecting other councils, but we are starting from a stronger position than many others, allowing us to take a far more measured and positive approach to addressing them.

In terms of specific achievements during 2023/24, thanks to our £100 million investment in our highways we have been able to make a real difference for everyone who uses Gloucestershire roads, resurfacing more than 212 of the county's roads and filling 50,000 potholes. We have also delivered the £12.4 million scheme at Gloucester's Llanthony Road, significantly improving traffic flow on a well-known pinch-point in the city and providing a new cycle lane into the city centre.

We have taken a significant step towards supporting more people to choose sustainable travel methods through the construction of the new, improved transport hub at Arle Court. Once complete, it will offer regular bus services to Cheltenham and Gloucester and better connections to local sustainable transport such as walking and cycling routes. We also continue to deliver on our ambitious plans to deliver a 26-mile cycle spine, which when completed will stretch from Bishops Cleeve to Stroud, supporting more and more people to choose cycling as a way to get around.

There has also been impressive progress in our tree planting programme, with a further 130,000 trees this planting season and more EV charging points have been installed across the county, with more to be rolled out on residential streets across the county in the coming year, allowing more people who drive an electric vehicle to charge up near to where they live.

Over the past 12 months we have seen the Robin, our bookable bus service, go from strength to strength and we will be building on that in the next twelve months as we extend the service to include Stroud, Tewkesbury, and South Cotswolds. As well as ensuring communities remain connected, we have also helped to make them safer by establishing a £600,000 Community Speedwatch Safety Fund to provide communities with the tools they need to combat speeding in their area.

As part of our commitment to make sure young people have access to good quality education provision, it was fantastic to be able to deliver a new 60-place special school in Stroud, Sladewood Academy, which opened its doors in September and offers pupils new breakout, therapy and intervention rooms, a new kitchen, and a dedicated pick-up and drop-off point for school transport. We also opened the brand-new Warden Hill primary school, providing education for 420 pupils in the most environmentally friendly primary school buildings in the county.

Due to the ongoing Russian invasion, we wanted to do all we could to provide more support and stability to hosts and their guests, particularly while the cost of living was rising. We therefore extended our Homes for Ukraine Scheme and increased the monthly 'thank you' payment to people hosting Ukrainian refugees to £600 a month.

We also doubled our investment into 'levelling up' initiatives and projects across the county. Having allocated £1.5 million in 2022 to support the areas of the county that needed it most, we committed a further £949,954 in 2023 towards addressing general levelling up issues, such as digital exclusion, cost of living, online harm, and community transport. A further £530,000 was allocated to the Build Back Better Councillor Scheme, giving each county councillor a further £10,000 to spend in their division.

A key part of supporting a prosperous future for the county is a strong local economy, plans for which we set out in our evolving new economic strategy, which will see us seize on further opportunities like the hosting of stage seven of the Tour of Britain which estimates suggest brought around £3.5 million into the Gloucestershire economy.

We have achieved so much over the past year and Gloucestershire is well positioned to go from strength to strength in the years ahead.



Cllr Mark Hawthorne
Leader



Peter Bungard
Chief Executive

Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources Narrative Report

Introduction

Welcome to Gloucestershire County Council's Statement of Accounts for 2023/24. The Statement of Accounts reports the income and expenditure on service provision for the financial year and the value of the Council's assets and liabilities at the end of the financial year. This is done in accordance with proper accounting practices, as defined in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code), and in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2022.

Our 2023/24 audited Statement of Accounts needs to be submitted to the Council's Audit & Governance Committee (our appropriate body) for approval on 27th September 2024, following a thirty working day public inspection period which will commence on 3rd June 2024.

In line with these timescales our 2023/24 Statement of Accounts, are prepared to adhere to the statutory deadlines, with the Statement of Accounts being available to our auditors, KPMG, on 31st May 2024. Continuing to produce a quality set of accounts has only been possible due to the hard work and dedication of staff in Strategic Finance and across the whole Council.

As in previous years, the financial statements demonstrate that the financial standing of the Council continues to be robust. We have employed good financial management disciplines, processes, and procedures during the year, and we continue to strive for on-going improvement and excellence.

This Narrative Report provides information about Gloucestershire, including the key issues affecting the Council and its accounts. It provides a summary of the financial position as at 31st March 2024 followed by an explanation of the financial statements, including information on significant transactions during 2023/24.

To comply with the Code, the information contained in the accounts is, by necessity, technical and very complex, hence the length of the accounts. The aim of this narrative report is not only to provide readers with a wider overview of the Council's financial position for the year ending 31st March 2024 but also to enable an understanding of the key issues. It does this by presenting an analysis of the budgeted and actual net expenditure for 2023/24 based on the management accounts, and then provides a summary of the key financial statements included within the statutory final accounts.

Our Context

Gloucestershire is a great place to live, work and do business. Most local people enjoy a high standard of living; and our levels of health and wellbeing are comfortably above the average for the country. Local people are generally well-educated, unemployment is low, and Gloucestershire's economy is strong and resilient.

Our natural environment is incredibly varied with 38 landscape character types, around 120 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and 3 Natural Landscapes (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) which covers 51% of the county's area, as well as nature reserves and other natural assets.

However, there are areas of the County where residents' outcomes fall well below national averages and where, as a result, local people are more likely to depend on the services we provide to meet their needs. 21,056 people (3.2% of the county's population) live in areas amongst the most deprived 10% in England.

As well as being one of its best assets, the rural nature of the County makes it difficult for some people to access the services they need, and three out of every twenty Gloucestershire households have no access to a car or van.

The population of Gloucestershire increased by 47,106 people (7.8%) between 2013 and 2022. The rate of growth was higher than nationally, with the population of England and Wales increasing by 5.7% between 2013 and 2022. The population is also changing. The number of older people is predicted to continue to rise sharply over the coming years, and the biggest increases will be seen in the number of over-85's. As this is the age group most likely to need support from the Council, this means that health and care services need to be ready to respond.

Meanwhile, the child population is increasing at a slower rate. For the five years 2023-2028 we expect to see a steady decrease in overall demand for primary places. However, there are likely to be some local increases, predominantly in more urban areas where there is new housing development. There will be a continuing rise in demand for secondary places, but lower numbers will start to feed in at Year 7 toward the end of the five year period 2023-2028. Demand for services for vulnerable children is increasing in line with national trends.

The number of working-age adults in the County is expected to increase but at a slower rate than older people and children, meaning that, as a proportion of the population as a whole, the number of people who are more likely to rely on the Council for support is increasing. For every 100 people of working age, there were around 65 dependents in 2018, this is projected to increase to 80 in 2043.

Gloucestershire's economy recovered well from the pandemic, however there are signs that the job market is beginning to slow. The number of people claiming unemployment related benefits stood at 2.6% of 16-64 year olds, up from 2.3% the previous year and higher than pre-pandemic levels. However, the claimant rate has consistently been lower than the regional and national averages, which stood at 2.7% and 3.9% respectively in April 2023. In addition, there are concerns about the level of economic inactivity with 15.7% of 16-64 year olds being economically inactive in the period Jan-Dec 2023 up from 15.2% in 2019.

While these issues are not unique to Gloucestershire, they do pose significant challenges. We need to be imaginative about how we deliver services, help people to stay healthier longer, build communities that are resilient and provide the help and support needed.

Council Strategy

The Council's vision, ambition and priorities for Gloucestershire are brought together in a Council Strategy – Building Back Better in Gloucestershire (2022 – 2026).

Vision and Ambitions

The Council's vision is:

To make the most of all that Gloucestershire has to offer, help improve the quality of life for every community, support businesses to be successful and make sure the county is a place where people want to live, work and visit.

This is underpinned by nine ambitions for Gloucestershire. These are to be:

- **A Magnet County** - A growing working age population, with more 18-40 year olds with high level qualifications choosing to live and work in the county.
- **An Innovative County** - More businesses starting up, growing, and investing in research and innovation.
- **A Skilled County** - More people with high-level skills and jobs in skilled occupations.
- **A Prosperous County** - Rising productivity and household incomes offering higher living standards.
- **An Inclusive County** - The economic and social benefits of growth to be felt by all communities, including rural, urban and our areas of highest deprivation. Opportunities to be available for all and good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.
- **A Healthy County** - People to have a good work/life balance and improved health and wellbeing.
- **A Connected County** - Improved transport and internet connections so that people and businesses can connect with each other more easily.
- **A Sustainable County** - More efficient use of resources, more use of sustainable energy and net zero emissions by 2045.
- **A Resilient County** - Active, resilient local communities that keep people safe, provide them with support and help them to make a positive contribution.

The Council's Priorities for 2022 to 2026 are as follows:

Tackling Climate Change

- Deliver a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan that reduces council emissions to net zero by 2030 and helps to reduce Gloucestershire's emissions to net zero by 2045.
- Support communities and businesses to do their bit, investing in 1000 electric vehicle charge points & to increase Gloucestershire's woodlands and biodiversity.
- Lead by example, putting climate change at the heart of our decisions and working in partnership across Gloucestershire's public sector to make the greatest impact.

Improving Our Roads

- Invest a further £100 million in road resurfacing over 4 years:
- Reduce the number of roads which require significant repair or replacement.
- Improve network resilience to adverse conditions.
- Improve customer satisfaction with road condition.
- Do more proactive planned works and fewer reactive repairs.
- Refresh our road safety policy and review speed limits where there is an evidenced safety concern.

Sustainable Growth

- Encourage the development of a single plan for Gloucestershire's future growth, through partnership working between all local authorities and other stakeholders.
- Secure the funding for the infrastructure needed to deliver this growth.
- Make sure that the skills, training, and education are directly linked to the future jobs being created.
- Support delivery of the Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy by ensuring growth is sustainable and supports development of green skills and jobs.

Levelling up our Communities

- Work with local partners to attract national Levelling Up Funding to regenerate our high streets, market towns and neighbourhoods.
- Listen to local communities about what they want to achieve and how.
- Work alongside neighbourhoods to develop plans that build on their strengths and attract local and national investment to help deliver them.
- Support local residents to develop new skills, careers, and job opportunities.
- Link local people to jobs by providing sustainable transport solutions and reducing barriers to employment.
- Shape local community services to make sure they can adapt to the needs and aspirations of local residents.
- Work with local schools and academies to improve the quality of local education provision.

Securing Investment for Gloucestershire

- Support the delivery of major transport investment.
- Progress the delivery of the Gloucestershire Sustainable Travel Corridor.
- Bid for funding to improve M5 Junction 9 and re-route the A46 to help deliver the Garden Town proposals.
- Work with the Western Gateway Partnership to secure improved rail connections that support business and leisure needs.
- Secure nationally important investment programmes to create improved job opportunities, including Cyber Central as part of the Golden Valley development.

Transforming Children's Services

- Continue to develop a comprehensive range of good quality education, early years and care provision that meets the needs of all young people, including those with additional needs.
- Improve our early intervention/early help offer delivered through a multi-agency Family Hub model.
- Support local schools to develop a high performing local education system that meets the needs of all pupils, particularly the most vulnerable.
- Continuously improve services through effective intervention and development of local provision. Build on our investments in local provision such as Trevone House and our £150 million investment in schools.
- Invest in social workers and other frontline staff by developing our comprehensive training and development offer, supported by the Children's Services Academy.

Transforming Adult Social Care

- Make early intervention and prevention, together with strength-based working, into all aspects of our work across the Adult Social Care System, and in our engagement with the developing Integrated Care System in the county.
- Build a world class 'model' of short term care (the 'Enhanced Independence Offer') together with the NHS and other partners.
- Deliver a Technology Strategy: exploring the potential of technology to support carers and improve the quality of care that people receive.
- Work with independent care providers to address capacity gaps and over provision, including use of central government funding to improve the terms and conditions of care sector staff.
- Respond to Government legislation which will begin a once in a generation transformation of adult social care.

Transforming Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service

- Deliver our Service Improvement Plan supported by additional investment and resources.
- Improve the culture of our service.
- Embed the Fire Professional Standards to make sure our staff and the communities we serve are safe and well.
- Deliver our Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) to reduce the risk of fire and other emergencies in the county.

Improving Customer Experience

- Make it easier and quicker for customers to find the advice or support they need.
- Wherever possible resolve issues/questions the first time a customer contacts us.
- Look to find the best possible solutions for our customers, even if that means looking beyond our own role or services.
- Develop a Customer Improvement Strategy, to make sure our staff – and customers - know what we expect from them.
- Regularly ask customers how we are doing and respond to what they tell us.
- Train and support staff to deliver a consistently positive/fair experience for all customers.
- Maintaining ways for customers to get help and information by phone and in person, including those that lack digital skills and online access.

During 2023/24, we have:

- Achieved £15.891 million of savings.
- Continued to modernise the workforce to respond to changing needs and challenges.
- Continued to make improvements to support our vision to become a council that empowers and enables its staff to work flexibly, whilst continuing to meet business needs and promoting a healthy work / life balance. These new ways of working were supported in 2023/24 through investment in video conferencing technology, refurbishment of office accommodation to better meet the requirements for how our buildings are used, and further training and support to help managers and teams to adopt new ways of working.

Funding for Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care budgets continued to be under significant pressure in 2023/24 both locally and nationally - this pressure continues to be enhanced by responding to the numbers of discharges from hospital during the financial year. Adult Social Care have worked jointly with the Integrated Care Board and NHS providers within the Integrated Care System (ICS) to manage the numbers and flows out of hospital into the most appropriate setting and ultimately home and the Discharge Fund and Market Sustainability & Improvement Fund have financially supported this.

Demographic changes indicate a continuing rise in demand for support to people with increasing complex needs. This continues to be managed through the Adult Transformation Programme and involves a range of partnerships, including other public bodies, provider organisations and the voluntary and community sector and supported through the Working as One Programme. Both Programme reflects the scale and pace of change required to ensure we can promote and support people to live independently within the County. Communicating our intentions and listening to the voice of those we support is central to enabling us to effectively do this. At the heart of this work is the frontline three tier conversation approach (Tier One – Help to help yourself, Tier Two – Help when you need it and Tier Three – Ongoing support for those that need it) which gives structure to the focus on helping people to help themselves. The Programme has been updated to reflect the ongoing assurance and reform agenda now and in the future. We continue to work even more closely with partners, under the ICS, District Councils, Provider organisations and the voluntary and community sectors as we emerge from the pandemic to ensure that the transformation programme remains on track.

Community Safety Directorate (CSD)

In relation to Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service (GFRS), His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) carried out a full inspection in the Autumn of 2023. The Service is examining the recently received report and is considering its response to it. During the last year the Service implemented a Cultural Change Plan to start to tackle the issues of concern from the previous HMICFRS inspection, this will however, be a process that takes time to fully embed. To ensure provision of the right emergency response, community prevention and safety needs across the county, a review, via data modelling, was commissioned and consultation on the proposed changes to the service is on-going. Progress towards improvement continues to be reported through the respective scrutiny and audit governance arrangements.

The Coroner's Service continued to deliver a compassionate and professional service to the bereaved with consistent levels of referrals, post mortem examinations and inquests. All actions from the Human Tissue Authority inspection were discharged and the mortuary team continued their high standards with no reportable incidents throughout the year.

Trading Standards recognised the need to address succession planning and building resilience into an aging workforce. Two members of staff were appointed and are training through the level six Trading Standards apprenticeship scheme. These officers work along with the existing, part qualified, trainees and add the capacity needed as the Service works towards meeting its statutory responsibilities.

People

The way in which the Council delivers its services continues to change including adopting different ways of working to enable a more agile workforce, whilst at the same time contributing to our climate change agenda. We continue to evolve our approach to the way our employees deliver and commission services and to the way we work making the best use of technology.

Workforce Headcount

The Council employed 4,323 individuals as of 1st April 2024, this includes 453 Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue service staff, but excludes all schools staff and casual staff. If a member of staff has two contracts with the Council, they are only counted once in the above figure. The Council Workforce Headcount statistics are published on its [website](#).

We have developed a new Workforce Strategy for 2024-27 which recognises that the Council is a major stakeholder and influencer on behalf of the people of Gloucestershire and we play a leading role amongst a wide range of partners in delivering public services. We have an ambition to transform and strengthen community services and this strongly influences our view of what comprises 'the workforce'.

The Council's services are overwhelmingly delivered through people, directly or indirectly, and so the effectiveness of those services will be chiefly influenced by how well our workforce is enabled, with the appropriate workplace culture, capacity, and capability to carry out their roles. It is our aim to innovate and adapt to achieve the delivery of our statutory responsibilities and to continually improve the quality of services delivered. Therefore, we will develop our workforce to be motivated and skilled to work creatively, flexibly, and efficiently, with our Council core values; accountability, integrity, empowerment, respect, and excellence, at the centre of what we do.

Consideration of the Equality Duty and Decision Making

Our Due Regard Process ensures that we consider the three aims of the public sector equality duty when we plan and deliver our work and when making decisions.

The general duty requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Our process ensures that decision makers consider these aims as part of their day to day working practices and our policies reflect that approach.

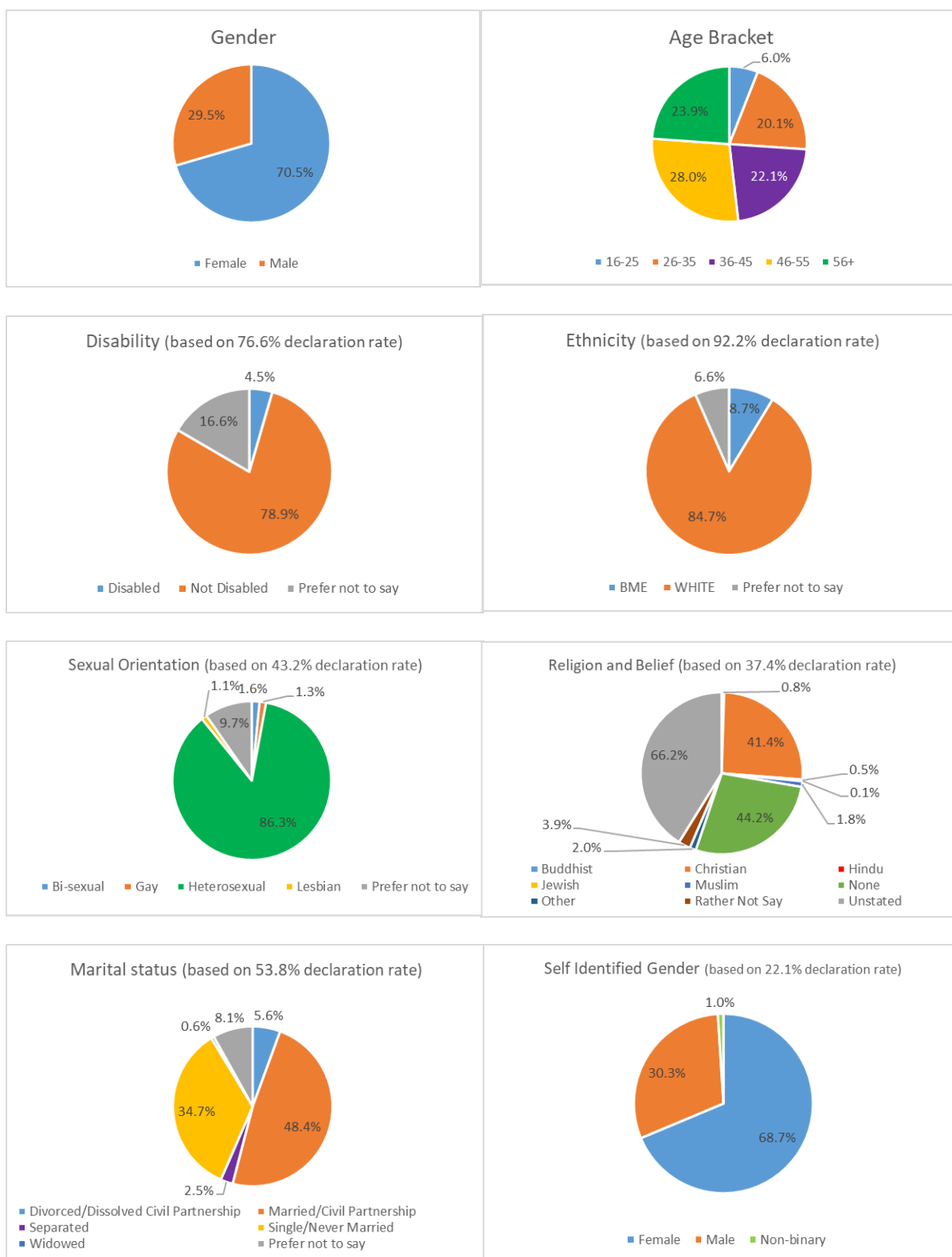
The Council's most recent annual Workforce Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Report (2023) is a snapshot based on the 3,978 employees as at 1st July 2023.

The 2023 Workforce Equality Report has been created using data held with our HR/Payroll software with a reporting date of 1st July 2023. Like most similar employers, Gloucestershire County Council's equality data is optional for staff to complete, and therefore the data contains gaps. Work is underway to make data captured at the point of recruitment more complete and to make it easier for staff to update their information whilst they are working for us.

The EDI report is run every year to establish any trends. Completion rates vary between the different protected characteristics which does impact the quality of the conclusions drawn in the report. Any recommendations made using the data in the report are intended to be proportional and therefore the disclosure rates are taken into consideration. In 2023, we compared data across three years, and we will continue to do so, this is to support further trend analysis and may be used as a key performance indicator for EDI initiatives. The 2023 data is also compared to the published data from the 2021 census by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

We have employees who have declared themselves transgender and non-binary. 22.1% of staff chose to declare a self-identified gender, this includes responses which are the same or different to the individual's sex at birth. As with last year, this figure is low and disclosing the data in this report could lead to the identification of individuals, which would not be legal. Gloucestershire County Council is committed to providing an inclusive, productive, comfortable, supportive and, most importantly, safe environment for transgender employees, before, during and after transition.

The Council's workforce profile (as at 1st July 2023) is illustrated in the following graphs, and is based on the data that is submitted by our workforce. We continue to encourage people to report openly so that our policies are as fully informed by staff feedback as they can be.



Further information from the Council's 2023 Workforce Equality and Diversity and Inclusion Report can be found on the Council's website at:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/equalities-and-our-duties-under-the-equality-act-2010/equality-information-and-analysis/>

Performance

Despite a continued challenging context, in terms of increasing costs, demand for our services and recruitment of some key staff, we are achieving the goals we have set ourselves, and delivering the priorities set out in our Council Strategy.

Adult Social Care

Preparation for Care Quality Commission (CQC) assurance over the last year has included extensive engagement with stakeholders as well as inviting the LGA to undertake a Peer Challenge of Adults (Sept 2023). Following this a re-framing of our priorities has commenced alongside development of our improvement plan. We have received our notification from CQC of a forthcoming inspection and have submitted our information return and self-assessment. We have also published our self-assessment, LGA peer challenge report and other related information on our website (CQC assessment of Gloucestershire Adult Social Care). We are expecting a CQC site visit any time before October 2024, for which we will be given 6-weeks' notice.

We have engaged with key stakeholders including independent care sector providers to share early findings and key messages from data collated for the development of our Market Position Statement. Feedback has been incorporated into the final document which will go to Cabinet in summer 2024.

Our permanent admissions to long term care for people aged over 65 are showing an increase month by month over the past 12 months; from 411 in March 2023 to 547 in March 2024. On average people wait 3 weeks for provision of care, once their assessment has been completed, which is unchanged for the last 6 months of the year.

We have been successful in our bid for Accelerated Reform Funding and have started planning for this project. The fund will be used to enhance our offer to carers and have a particular focus on coproducing information, advice and self-assessment tools as well as supporting carers accessing hospital services.

Overall, staff turnover has followed a reducing trend from 13.7% in Quarter 4 last year to 11.8% in Quarter 4 2023/24, although it remains higher than the organisation overall at 10.9%. The turnover rate for Social Workers and Senior Practitioners (ASYE, SW, SSW) has improved for three of the six localities but continued decline was seen for the remaining three localities for the fourth quarter.

Public Health and Communities

The proportion of people taking part in the Healthy Lifestyles programme who achieved a significant risk factor remains above target at 71% (against a target of 65%). This equates to 803 individuals, out of 1132 customers, achieving an improvement.

The proportion of adult alcohol misusers who successfully completed treatment and did not re-present within 6 months of completion, has followed a broadly declining trend over the last four quarters, from 39% to 34%. Out of 833 individuals, 285 alcohol misusers completed treatment and did not re-present. Performance remains marginally better than the peer group average (32.8%). Successful treatment for people using non-Opiates has averaged 28% over the last 7 quarters. Performance has been worse than target since June 2020 (33.2%) and is below the peer group average of 29.2%.

The proportion of children in Reception year with obesity (including severe obesity) decreased to 8.6% in 2022/23 from a peak of 13.5% in 2020/21 and is lower than pre-pandemic levels (10.3% in 2019/20). However, this is slightly higher than the peer group average at 7.6% (2022/23 academic year).

National Child Measurement Programme data consistently shows that across the UK the prevalence of obesity doubles between Reception Year and Year 6. For children in Year 6 in Gloucestershire, there has been a marginal reduction over the last two years from 21.1% to 20.4%. This remains higher than prior to the pandemic (19.3% in 2019/20) and is 137% higher than for children in Reception Year. Performance is in line with the peer group average (20.6%, 2022/23 academic year).

In Gloucestershire, there is a difference in the likelihood of being very overweight in childhood depending on your sex, level of deprivation, race, and rurality. The gap in inequality of health relating to weight widens between Reception and Year 6, with rates becoming markedly higher for those children living in more deprived areas.

Children and Young People

In June 2023, Ofsted completed a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of the identification and response of local partners to need and risk in Gloucestershire. Ofsted found that 'most children identified to be in need of help and protection receive a swift and appropriate response'. Ofsted also found the local multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements to be effective, with good local partner commitment to continuous learning and development of local safeguarding practice.

In response to Ofsted's JTAI findings, the continuous improvement plan (CIP) has been replaced by an Ambitions Plan (AP), supported by a re-configured continuous improvement Ambitions Board (CIB/AB), comprising of key partners and stakeholders to build on the positive JTAI outcome and provide challenge and oversight on our journey to 'good'.

Overall incoming demand during 2023/24 has been high, with an average of almost 8,500 contacts per quarter, compared with around 7,400 in 2022/23 and 6,900 in 2019/20. However, a reduction in contacts has been seen over the course of the year, from around 9,000 contacts in Quarter 1 2023/24, compared with just over 8,000 during Quarter 4.

At the end of March, there were 842 children in care. This has been steadily reducing from the peak of 885 Children in Care at the end of October and equates to a rate of 65.4 per 10,000 0-17 year olds, which is slightly higher than our peer group average (63.4, 2022/23) but lower than the overall rate for England (71.0, 2022/23).

In Education services, a Peer Challenge in SEND services in May, followed by an Ofsted inspection in December produced feedback suggesting our self-assessment was largely in line with their reports, meaning that while we know we have a need to improve some areas, we are largely aware and have plans in place to address them.

There has been growth in children with and Educational Health and Need Plan (EHCP) year on year. Between 2020/21 and 2021/22, we saw growth of 11% in the rate of children with an EHCP, with an increase of 10% between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and a further increase by 13% between 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Permanent exclusions are increasing over time. Over the latest rolling 12 month period, there were 164 permanent exclusions, compared with 120 in the previous rolling 12 months and 104 in the 12 months prior to that. This is an increase of 37% and 58% respectively compared with the previous two years.

Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure

Good performance is being reported overall, with 94% of indicators on track at the end of 2023/24 reporting year.

Annual production of energy from the Energy From Waste facility amounted to just over 127,500 MWhrs generated in 2023/24, exceeding target by over 11,500 MWhrs this year. The amount of residual waste per household, which is forecast based on collections throughout the financial year, had followed a reducing trend between the end of 2019/20 and 2022/23 (down from 454 Kgs per household to 423, down 7%). At the end of 2023/24, we have seen an increase in the annual outturn for residual household waste in Gloucestershire to 433 Kgs per household (up 2% compared with last year).

Just over half of household waste collected is sent for reuse, recycling, and composting (52% against a target of 51%). Performance has remained fairly static over time. The Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Strategy has set out intentions to work towards a 60% recycling target over the next 5 years.

We continue to perform better than target across all repair categories for timely completion of defects, with 99.6% of 2-hour repairs, and 99.9% of 24-hr and 28 days defect repairs completed within timescales. The planned structural maintenance programme was below target of 100% in Quarter 4 with 94.6% of the programme completed. However, this was due to extra funding added to the structural maintenance programme in-year.

A significant number of large infrastructure investment projects are underway or being developed in the county, delivering huge levels of investment. These are connected to our ambitions to build future skills and employment opportunity and can be found in the Council Strategy – Building Back Better in Gloucestershire.

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspected during September and November 2023, and the report was released on Friday 3 May 2024. The report showed that we have progressed in discharging actions from causes of concern in workplace culture and equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI).

Although the Inspectorate saw a lot of progress in our Service, they identified a further area of concern, which relates to arrangements for inspecting certain buildings and enforcement. Steps to address this are already underway and we will be recruiting additional roles to increase capacity in this area.

It was recognised that our Service is effective within our communities at preventing fire risks and improving community safety. Most importantly, it was noted that the Service responds well in emergencies and when the public need us we will be there.

In Quarter 4, we completed the highest rate of Safe and Well visits since March 2020 (2.04 per 1,000 population, 1,330 visits). In terms of overall performance during 2023/24, we completed 3,788 Safe and Well visits (95% of the 4,000 annual visit target).

Timeliness of responding to all attended dwelling fires (National definition) has worsened to 9 minutes 40 seconds (up from 9 minutes 12 seconds in the previous quarter). Timeliness is worse than the comparator group average (9 minutes 11 seconds) and target (9 minutes).

The Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) - reviewing our existing arrangements to ensure that we have the required number of resources, with the right people and equipment, at the right time, in the right location – went to Cabinet at the start of 2024 and will now go to public consultation.

Financial Performance

Economic climate

Sentiment in financial markets remained uncertain during 2023/24, and bond yields continued to be volatile. During the first half of the year, yields rose as interest rates continued to be pushed up in response to rising inflation. From October 2023 they started declining again before falling sharply in December as falling inflation and dovish central bank attitudes caused financial markets to expect cuts in interest rates in 2024. When it emerged in January that inflation was stickier than expected and the Bank of England was not inclined to cut rates soon, yields rose once again.

UK inflation continued to decline from the 8.7% rate seen at the start of 2023/24. By the last quarter of the financial year headline consumer price inflation (CPI) had fallen to 3.4% in February 2024, but was still above the Bank of England's 2% target at the end of the period. The core measure of CPI, i.e. excluding food and energy, also slowed in February to 4.5% from 5.1% in January, a rate that had stubbornly persisted for three consecutive months.

The UK economy entered a technical recession in the second half of 2023, as growth rates of -0.1% and -0.3% respectively were recorded for Q3 and Q4. Over the 2023 calendar year GDP growth only expanded by 0.1% compared to 2022. Of the recent monthly data, the ONS reported a rebound in activity with economy expanding 0.2% in January 2024. While the economy may somewhat recover in Q1 2024, the data suggests that prior increases in interest rates and higher price levels are depressing growth, which will continue to bear down on inflation throughout 2024.

Having begun the financial year at 4.25%, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased Bank Rate to 5.25% in August 2023 as the UK economy appeared resilient in the face of the dual headwinds of higher inflation and interest rates. Bank Rate was maintained at 5.25% through to March 2024.

Central government focus has continued to be on getting the economy going and reducing inflation. As a result, there has been no news on the long awaiting changes to local government finances. For the fourth year in a row the Council received a one-year roll over settlement. A one year policy paper was released in December 2023; however, it lacked the detail on the quantum of funding in the future due to the absence of a longer term spending review period, meaning that information about the future remains scarce. Added to this the uncertainty over the General Election which will take place on 4th July 2024.

The below list details 2023/24 budget setting principles, together with an update on the current situation for these key financial decisions:

- Council Tax referendum principle of 3% for 2023/24, with the Council setting a rate of 2.99%, for 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- An additional 2% flexibility for Council Tax to fund social care for both 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- Postponement of the Fair Cost of Care with the additional money announced in the 2022 Autumn Statement being redistributed back to Local Authorities from 2023/24 to fund the increasing costs of social care.
- Increased funding for Social Care providing a grant worth £36.0 million in 2023/24, up from £22million, increasing to £47.6 million for 2024/25. This grant increase is as a result of the postponement of the Fair Cost of Care.
- Continuation of the Improved Better Care Fund at a cash flat level of £20 million.

- The Fair Cost of Care grant for 2022/23 totalled £1.8 million. Since the postponement of the implementation of the Fair Cost of Care programme, The Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Grant has been renamed “The Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund”. The fund total for 2023/24 was £5.9 million and increased to £11.1 million for 2024/25.
- The Services Grant introduced from 2022/23 has been cut and totalled £2.9 million for 2023/24 and is cut to just £0.5 million for 2024/25.
- Continuing postponement of the Fair Funding Review, with a date of 2026/27 expected to be the earliest that this could now be implemented.
- Postponement / cancellation of the Government’s “aim” to localise 75% of Business Rates. There is no additional information on what is happening with this review.
- Continuing one-year roll over settlements with the earliest a potential new funding regime could be implemented being from 2026/27.

Revenue Budget and Outturn Position

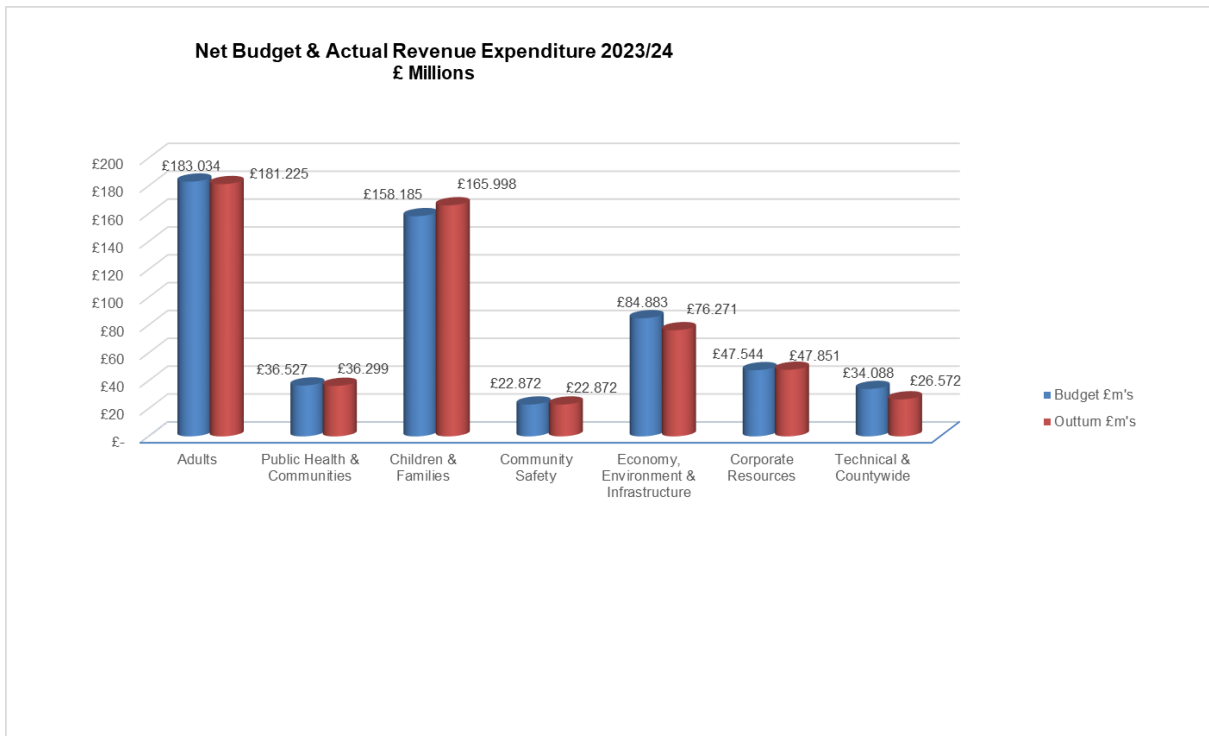
The approved budget for 2023/24 was £567.133 million which represented an increase in cash terms of £45.803 million, compared with the 2022/23 budget (£521.330 million). Under this Budget, Council Tax increased by 2.99% and an additional 2.00% Social Care Precept was applied, taking the overall increase to 4.99%.

During the year, the Council delivered £15.891 million of savings to address year on year funding reductions and fund unavoidable inflationary cost increases.

The revenue budget strategy for 2023/24 was to continue to maximise the delivery of efficiencies whilst protecting front line services. The Council is committed to robustly controlling budgets, repaying external maturing debt, and continuing to streamline back-office services all of which contribute to protecting front line services.

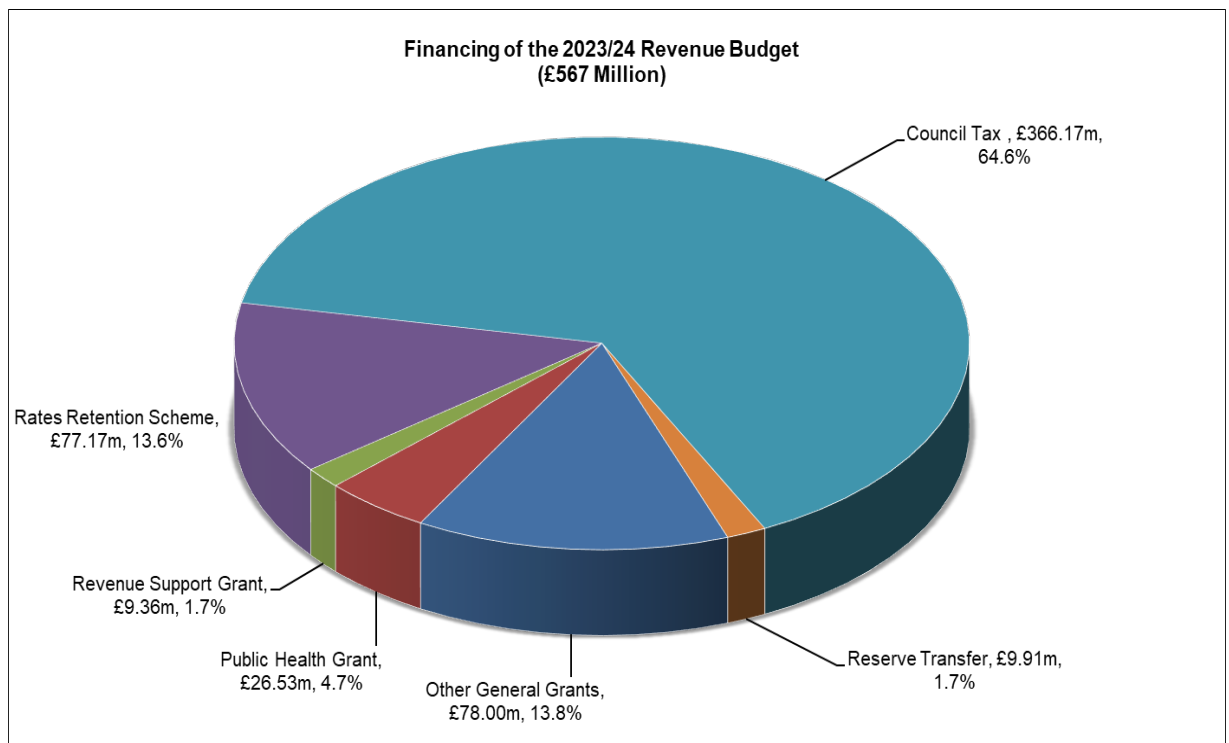
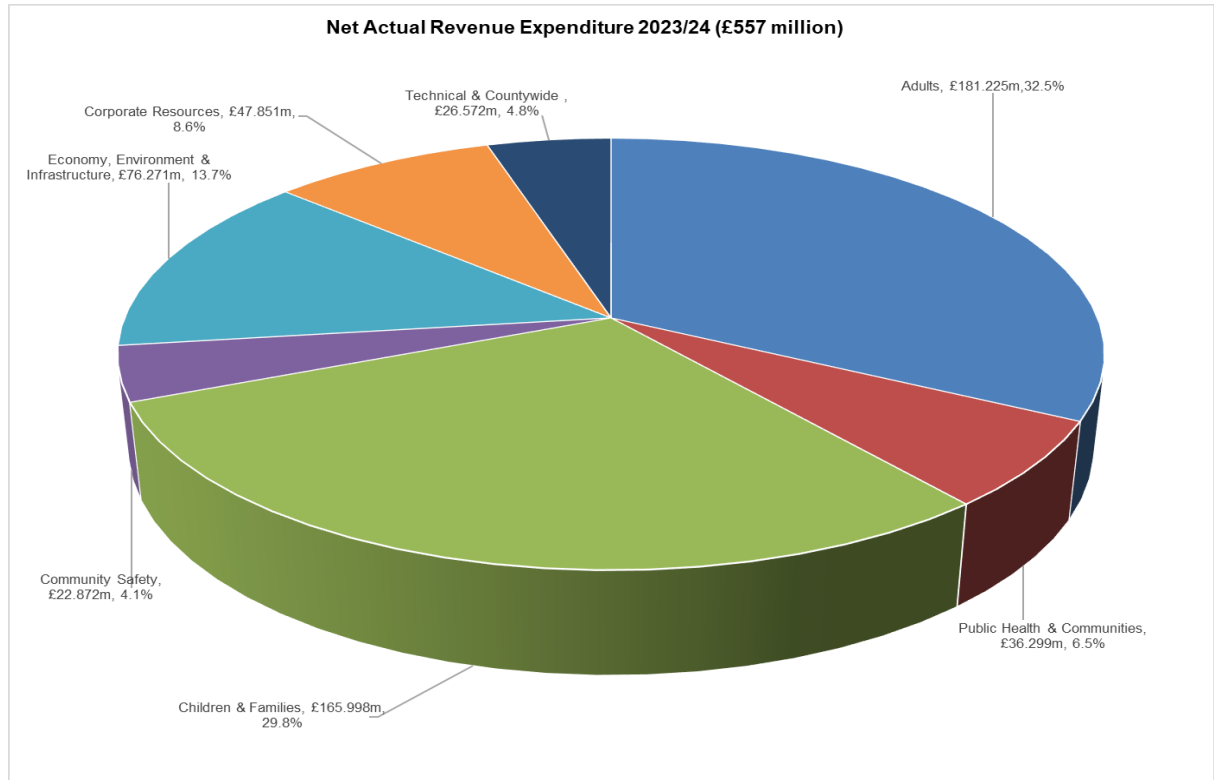
Following approved transfers to and from reserves, as set out in detail in Note 2 to the accounts, the 2023/24 outturn position was an under spend of £10,045k. All of which has been transferred into General reserves, bolstering the balance to 5.2% of net budget in line with audit recommendations.

Net budget and expenditure by service area is shown in the chart below.



Full details and explanations of the outturn position can be found in the detailed outturn report submitted to Cabinet in June 2024, which is available on the Council's website.

The outturn position for 2023/24 again provides a clear indication of the Council's strong financial stewardship during the year. Net actual expenditure by service area is shown in the chart below, which is followed by a chart showing the funding of this net expenditure.



Usable Revenue Reserves

Usable reserves represent money set aside to fund future expenditure plans or reduce taxation. Full details of all usable reserve movements in 2023/24 are shown in note 2 of the accounts, with the summary position outlined below:

Type of Revenue Reserves	Balance at 31st March 2023 £ Millions	Balance at 31st March 2024 £ Millions
Earmarked Revenue Reserves – Non Schools	136.241	124.303
Earmarked Reserves – Schools Excluding Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Deficit Account	26.486	25.708
General Fund Reserve	17.749	32.384
TOTAL REVENUE RESERVES	180.476	182.395

Overall total usable revenue reserves increased by £1.919 million during the year.

Earmarked Revenue Reserves - Non-Schools

Non-schools earmarked usable revenue reserves have decreased by £11.938 million from £136.241 million at the start of the year to £124.303 million at the end of the year. Earmarked reserves include grant reserves which have been recognised as income due to the lack of technical grant conditions. However, such grants are ring-fenced for a specific purpose and will only be available to use in line with purpose set for each specific grant.

Earmarked Reserves – Schools (excluding DSG deficit)

School Balances (excluding DSG deficit) have decreased by £0.778 million during the year.

Following a change in legislation and accounting standards in 2020/21, the Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit Reserve, remains separate from the Council's useable reserves. This deficit is now included within unusable reserves on the balance sheet. The reported grant deficit has increased by £17.167 million to £45.751 million at the end of the year. An action plan is currently being developed in association with the DfE and with the school's forum, to address future funding pressures.

General Fund Reserve

General Reserves have increased by £14.635 million to £32.384 million. This is due to the 2023/24 underspend of £10.045 million and a review of reserves during the year that resulted in the £10.489 million from the Pay and Prices Reserve being consolidated into the General Reserve. However, this was offset by £4.000 million of General Reserves being used to fund the 2023/24 budget and £2.178 million used to by various Service areas.

Capital Reserves

In addition, usable capital reserves used to support the approved capital programme are as follows:

Type of Capital Reserves	Balance at 31st March 2023 £ Millions	Balance at 31st March 2024 £ Millions
Capital Grants & Contributions Unapplied Reserves	91.272	95.810
Useable Capital Receipts Reserve	0.101	0.001
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVES	91.373	95.811

Total capital reserves have increased by £4.438 million during the year. This increase is due to the increased Capital Grants & Contributions which is used to fund the Council's approved capital programme during the year.

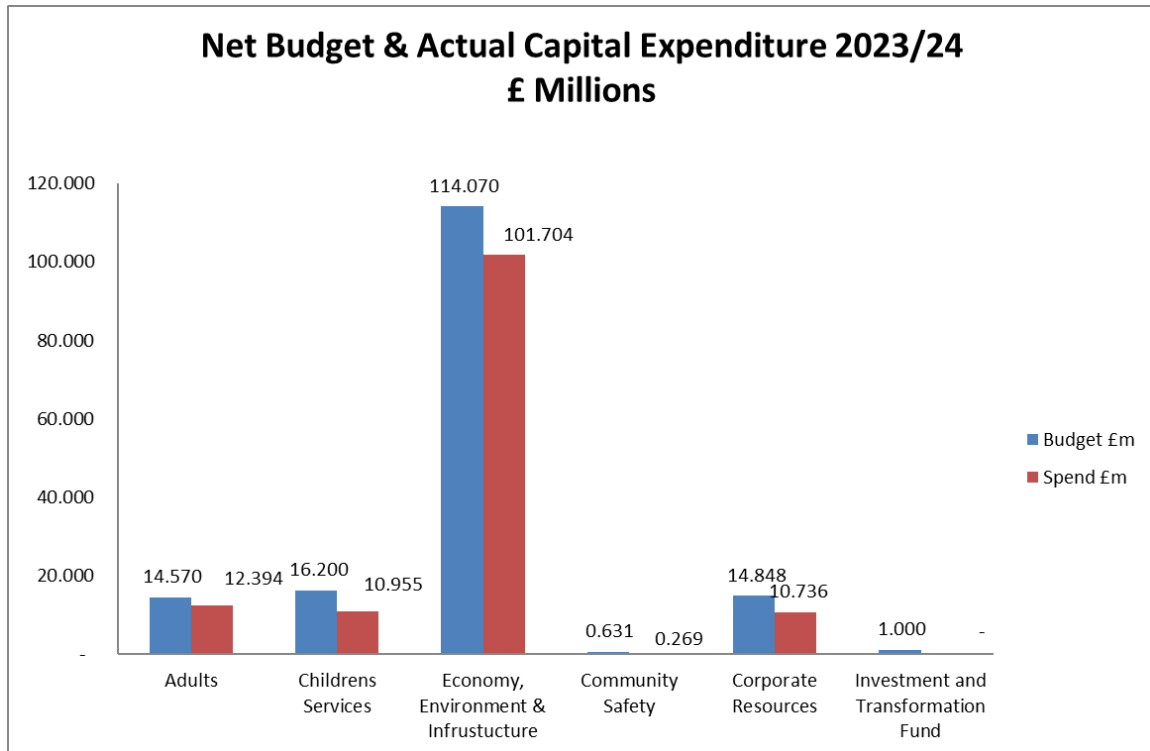
Full details and explanations of all reserve movements can be found in the detailed outturn report submitted to Cabinet in June 2024, which is available on the Council's website.

Capital Budget and Outturn Position

The capital budget strategy reflected the Council's priority of reducing long term debt by utilising capital receipts, external contributions, capital fund, capital grants and revenue contributions to fund the capital programme for 2023/24, thereby minimising the need for internal borrowing to £24.500 million.

The revised capital budget for 2023/24 totalled £161.319 million. Actual expenditure during the year was £136.059 million, giving an in-year under-spend of £25.260 million. This is purely in-year slippage which will be spent in the remaining capital programme years. This has not changed the overall value of the capital programme, although it has necessitated a re-profiling of the approved budget over future years.

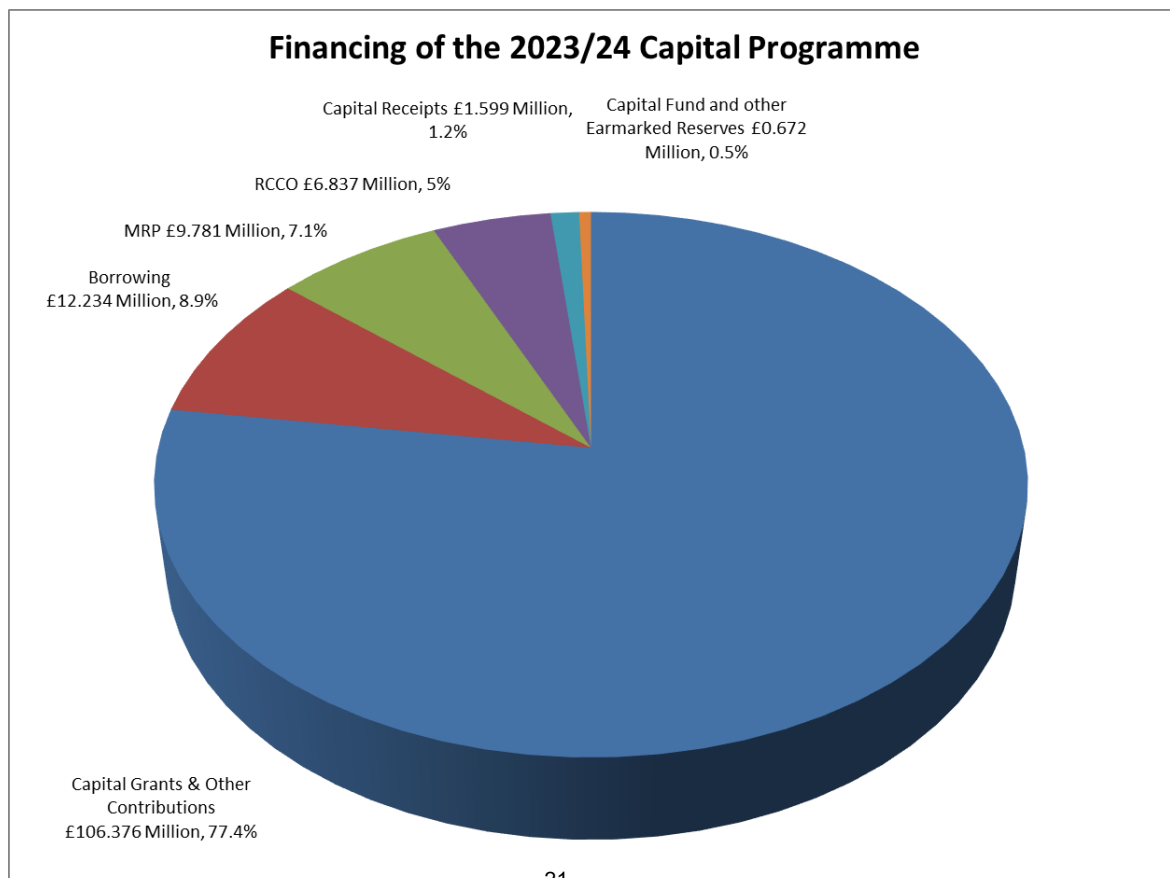
Net actual expenditure by service area is shown in the following chart:



* Corporate Resources also includes costs incurred prior to the sale of assets.

Full details and explanations of the capital outturn position can be found in the detailed outturn report submitted to Cabinet in June 2024, which is available on the Council's website.

The Council's 2023/24 capital expenditure was funded as follows:



The Government financial regulations require local authorities to charge a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) each year as a proxy for capital repayments. For 2023/24 the MRP for the Council was £9.781 million, a small increase of £0.733 million from 2022/23.

Managing debt effectively remains a priority of the Council. The Capital Financing Requirement which represents unfinanced debt outstanding, totalled £478.239 million at the end of 2023/24, an increase of £12.234 million compared with the position at the end of 2022/23.

Financial Statements

The objectives of financial statements are to provide information about the Council's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows, and to demonstrate accountability for the Council's resources.

The Council produces single entity financial statements, which also include the income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves, and cash flows of the schools deemed to be under the control of the Council.

A complete set of Financial Statements for the period comprise:

- Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement.
- Movement in Reserves Statement.
- Balance Sheet position setting out the Council's financial position as at 31st March 2024.
- Cash Flow Statement summarising the inflows and outflows of cash.
- Notes to the accounts, which summarise and provide further information on the financial activities of the Council including Accounting Policies.
- Gloucestershire Pension Fund Accounts, and although included in this publication, are separate from the accounts of the Council and are subject to a separate audit opinion.
- The accounts of the Fire Pension Fund.

The Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources, as the statutory Chief Financial Officer, is required to certify that the accounts present a true and fair view.

Primary Financial Statements

The primary financial statements are:

- Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement.
- Movement in Reserves Statement.
- Balance Sheet.
- Cash Flow Statement.

In terms of these four primary statements the key points to highlight are:

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES) - shows the true economic accounting cost in year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. The deficit on the provision of services for 2023/24 was £15.371 million, which is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement, compared to a deficit of £110.759 million in 2022/23.

The £15.371 million deficit on the provision of services for 2023/24 shown in the CIES represents the financial position in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). However, the reported outturn budget position was an under spend of £10.045 million. This may be more relevant for the Council's stakeholders than the CIES, which takes a wider financial perspective on the Council's performance. The outturn position only records those expenses which statute allows to be charged against the Council's annual budget. The amounts included in the CIES for items such as depreciation, impairments, capital grants and pension charges are not charged in the General Fund expenditure analysis. The Movement in Reserves Statement, and supporting note 1, together with the expenditure and funding analysis, note 4, provides reconciliation between the two positions.

Movement in Reserves Statement - shows the movement during the 2023/24 financial year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into useable reserves and other unusable reserves:

- Usable reserves represent money set aside to fund future expenditure plans or reduce taxation.
- Unusable reserves reflect the difference between the surplus or deficit made on the true economic cost of providing the Council's services and the statutory amounts required to be charged to the general fund balance for council tax setting purposes (i.e. adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations).

The overall decrease in the Council's reserves during 2023/24 is £186.321 million, made up of an increase of £6.358 million in useable reserves and a decrease of £192.679 million in unusable reserves, further information is detailed within Note 2. Unusable reserves decreased by £192.679 million, mainly due to a remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability within the defined benefit pension reserve, further information is detailed within Note 12. This is a liability that does not need to be met within the next year, but over the lifetime of scheme members.

Balance Sheet - shows the value of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council as at 31st March 2024. The balance sheet of the Council shows net assets of £1,147.085 million, which is matched by reserves (as set out in the Movement in Reserves Statement). This represents a decrease of £186.322 million from the 2022/23 position.

The decrease of £186.322 million in net assets is largely due to a remeasurement of the pension liability, resulting in an increase in the value of Long-Term Liabilities of £160.638 million.

Cash Flow Statement – shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities:

- Operating 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, grant income or from recipients of services provided by the Council. (Note 13).
- Investing activities - represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the future service delivery (Note 14).
- 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 (Note 15). During the year the cash and cash equivalent reduced from £74.564 million at the beginning of the year to £53.295 million at the end of the year. The decrease of £21.269 million in cash balances is due to more money being placed in fixed term deposits during the year. Details of balances are provided in Note 9.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

At the end of 2023/24, the Council is facing the following risks and challenges:

- Failure in corporate governance which leads to service, financial, legal, or reputational damage or failure.
- Material deterioration of council's in-year financial position and any additional unplanned overspend from previous financial year, with the potential to impact Statutory Services.
- Reductions and changes to funding for future financial years, potentially impacting, in particular, Statutory Services.
- The cumulative impact of service pressures, particularly the financial impact of the continuing high rate of inflation and the cost-of-living crisis, increased demand in Children and Adults social care and Educational High Needs, potential grant reductions and the under delivery of planned savings will result in major overspend positions in current financial year.
- Failure to ensure technology managed by ICT (including communications abilities) remains fit for purpose.
- Failure to protect the council's key information and data from Cyber Attack.
- Provider failures result in the council being unable to achieve its strategic objectives.
- Failure to maintain effective relationships with key partners and organisations and shared funding arrangements, impacting on our ability to meet statutory and local requirements.
- Failure to protect vulnerable adults in Gloucestershire from abuse and neglect in situations that potentially could have been predicted and prevented.
- Ineffective social care practice, management oversight and review processes resulting in drift and delay for children and young people in situations of harm.
- Failure to close the gaps in educational outcomes for vulnerable learners and their peers resulting in adverse impacts for children and families, increased cost/pressures on specialist provision and damage to reputation.
- Insufficient workforce capacity and/or instability adversely impacting on pace and sustainability of improvement and contributing to discontinuity in social engagement with children and families.
- Unable to support all those who can, to live independently at home, because demand for home care services outstrips available capacity. Resulting in the reliance on temporary respite/alternative bed-based care in lieu of home care.
- Failure to develop sufficient placement capacity to meet the needs of children looked after.
- Risk of legal action being taken against the Local Authority due to failure to complete a Deprivation of Liberty assessment within the stated timelines. Since a significant and sudden change in the law due to a Supreme Court Judgement in March 2014 there is an excessively high demand for best interest assessments to be carried out for Deprivation of Liberty (DoLS) authorisations.

- Difficulties in recruiting and retaining experienced workers in hard to fill roles leading to vacancies and/or high numbers of agency staff in some areas. This is particularly prevalent for social workers but is also increasingly a factor for other professional roles.
- Failure of the Council or a key partner to effectively respond to a major incident such as flooding that results in community disruption and failure to return to normal, within required timescales.
- Due to insufficient business continuity management arrangements failure of the Council or a key partner to effectively deliver their statutory services, resulting in community disruption and failure of corporate objectives.
- Insufficient workforce capacity and/or instability adversely impacting on pace and sustainability of improvement and contributing to increased risk to firefighter safety or capability to deliver emergency services to the community.
- Failure to comply with data protection and to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information.
- Failure to deliver the county council's climate change strategy, impacting our ability to deliver our organisation, partnership, and community activities, and to mitigate the impacts of a changing climate on Gloucestershire's natural environment, communities, business, and visitors.
- That the Council is unable to secure sufficient income from developer contributions to be able to deliver the county's infrastructure needs.
- Failure to ensure that expenditure on the High Needs block of the DSG is contained within available funding by the time the Statutory Override comes to an end (scheduled to end at the end of March 2026).

Each of these risks and challenges are recognised in the Council's risk register and a series of mitigation processes have been put in place to reduce these risks.

Pension Liabilities

The liability shown in connection with the defined benefit pension schemes is calculated in accordance with the requirements of International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 and has increased by £207.906 million from £183.522 million at the start of the year to £391.428 million at the year end. This is due to changed financial assumptions, primarily decreases to both the salary and pension increase rates of 0.25% compared with the previous year. The above assumptions resulted in decreases in liabilities together with decreases following an increase in the discount rate used to calculate estimated present value of pension liabilities by 0.1%, which is determined by the yield on corporate bonds. The higher the discount rate used, the lower the estimated present value of pension liabilities. Information on the current pension liabilities can be found in Note 30.

Investment Activity & Borrowing

During 2023/24 treasury management has been conducted according to the Strategy Statement approved by the Council in February 2023. In accordance with this strategy 28 fixed term investments were made during the year, at a value of £133.50 million. Total interest earned on all investments, including funds and overnight balances was £12.1 million.

As indicated earlier, the capital budget strategy aims to minimise the need for new borrowing, through the use of capital grants, capital receipts and contributions to fund capital expenditure. Debt redemption remains a priority of the Council with all maturing debt repaid. In June 2023 £8 million fixed rate loans with Barclays were repaid early, with the premium being written down over the remaining life of the redeemed loan.

At 31st March 2024 the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes as measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) was £478.239 million, an increase of £11.895 million compared with the position at the end of 2022/23. This increase is as a result of new borrowing in year held internally of £24.5 million offset by the minimum revenue provision for the year and adjustments for deferred liabilities.

The Future

- No further updates have been forthcoming on long awaited changes to the system by which the Council is funded (Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review). After the General Election on the 4th July 2024, it is highly unlikely to be considered in the near term, and the general feeling is that there will be no fundamental changes to our funding system until 2026/27 at the earliest. Whether this will still be a move to a 75% BRR system remains unclear.
- As a partner in the Integrated Care System, the Council seeks to work collaboratively to ensure the Gloucestershire Pound is spent efficiently and effectively on health and social care services for our community.

In the future the Council will continue to realign its ongoing Medium Term Financial Strategy and future spending plans with the Council Strategy. Considerable uncertainties remain about the level of future funding, the long-term impact of the continuing high rate of inflation, the cost-of-living crisis and future demand for social care. The Council will continue to work to address this uncertainty and ongoing challenges in formulating its Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Conclusion

The financial statements continue to reflect the Council's careful management of resources with a reasonable level of reserves being maintained, leaving the Council in a sound financial position to cope with future challenges and able to meet our liabilities as they fall due.

Additional Information

Further information on the financial statements presented in this document can be obtained from Jayne Fuller, Corporate Finance Manager (01452 328926). jayne.fuller@gloucestershire.gov.uk.



Nina Philippidis
Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources & Section 151 Officer.

Statement of 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 Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources (S151 Officer).
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources Responsibilities

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

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources 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.

In preparing the Statement of accounts, the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources has also:

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

Certification

I certify that the Statement of Accounts 2023/24 gives a true and fair view of the financial position and Income and Expenditure account of Gloucestershire County Council for the year ended 31st March 2024.



Nina Philippidis,
Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources
(Section 151 Officer)
20th November 2024

The Audit & Governance Committee of the County Council approved the Statement of Accounts on 27th September 2024.



Councillor John Bloxsom, Chairperson
20th November 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE AUTHORITY'S STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE AUTHORITY'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Gloucestershire County Council ("the Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2024 on pages 38 to 119 which comprise Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, Movement in Reserves Statement, Statement of Cash Flows, and the related notes, including the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the accounting policies in note 39.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2024 and of the Authority's income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the Authority in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

Going concern

The Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Corporate Resources has prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as they have not been informed by the government of the intention to either cease the Authority's services or dissolve the Authority without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements ("the going concern period").

In our evaluation of the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Corporate Resources' conclusions, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuity of services provided by the Authority over the going concern period.

Our conclusions based on this work:

- we consider that the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Corporate Resources' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate; and
- we have not identified, and concur with the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Corporate Resources' assessment that there is not, a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for the going concern period.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the above conclusions are not a guarantee that the Authority will continue in operation.

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud (“fraud risks”) we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of management, the Audit and Governance Committee and internal audit and inspection of policy documentation as to the Authority’s high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud, including the internal audit function, and the Authority’s channel for “whistleblowing”, as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud.
- Assessing the incentives for management to manipulate reported financial performance as a result of financial pressures in order to be able to set a balanced budget for future periods.
- Reading Authority and Audit and Governance Committee minutes.
- Using analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, and taking into account possible financial pressures at the Authority, we performed procedures to address the risk of management override of controls in particular the risk that Authority management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries. On this audit we did not identify a fraud risk related to revenue recognition due to our assessment that there was limited opportunity for manipulation of revenue reported given the nature of the funding provided to the Authority during the year.

We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

We performed procedures including:

- Identifying journal entries to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation. These included unexpected account combinations for cash, borrowings and expenditure.
- Assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement related to compliance with laws and regulations

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general sector experience and through discussion with the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Corporate Resources and other management (as required by auditing standards), and discussed with the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Corporate Resources and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

Firstly, the Authority is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements, including the financial reporting aspects of local government legislation. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Secondly, the Authority is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: health and safety, data protection laws, anti-

bribery, employment law, recognising the nature of the Authority's activities. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Corporate Resources and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Therefore if a breach of operational regulations is not disclosed to us or evident from relevant correspondence, an audit will not detect that breach.

Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Other information

The Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Corporate Resources is responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except as explicitly stated below, any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

- we have not identified material misstatements in the other information; and
- in our opinion the other information included in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year is consistent with the financial statements.

Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Corporate Resources' and Audit and Governance Committee's responsibilities

As explained more fully in the statement set out on page 28, the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Corporate Resources is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view. They are also responsible for: such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they have been informed by the government of the intention to either cease the services provided by the Authority or dissolve the Authority without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity.

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

Auditor's responsibilities

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

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

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

Except for the matter detailed below, we have nothing to report in respect of this.

Identified significant weakness – Financial sustainability

The Authority is operating with a growing deficit against its Dedicated Schools Grant. The Dedicated Schools Grant deficit in the current year has increased by £17m in 2023/24 to £45m. If the current statutory override was to be removed then the deficit would need to be met through use of General Fund balances, putting pressure on budgets and financial sustainability. We recommend that the Authority develops a robust recovery plan that clearly identifies key actions and milestones for implementation.

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

As explained more fully in the statement set out on page 28, the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Corporate Resources is responsible for ensuring that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are required under section 20(1) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

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

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

Statutory reporting matters

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

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

We have nothing to report in this respect.

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

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

DELAY IN CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF THE AUDIT

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

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



Sarah Brown

for and on behalf of KPMG LLP

Chartered Accountants

1 Snowhill

Snow Hill Queensway

Birmingham

B4 6GH

27 November 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE PENSION FUND'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Gloucestershire Pension Fund ("the Pension Fund") for the year ended 31 March 2024 on pages 121 to 158 which comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes to the Pension Fund financial statements, including the accounting policies in note N2.

In our opinion the Pension Fund financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Pension Fund during the year ended 31 March 2024 and of the amount and disposition at that date of its assets and liabilities; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the Gloucestershire County Council (as administering authority for the Pension Fund, the "Authority") in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

Going concern

The Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources has prepared the Pension Fund financial statements on the going concern basis as they have not been informed by the government of the intention to either cease the Authority's services or dissolve the Authority without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the Pension Fund financial statements ("the going concern period").

In our evaluation of the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources' conclusions, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuity of services provided by the Authority over the going concern period.

Our conclusions based on this work:

- we consider that the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the Pension Fund financial statements is appropriate; and
- we have not identified, and concur with the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources' assessment that there is not, a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for the going concern period.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the above conclusions are not a guarantee that the Authority will continue in operation.

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of management and the Audit and Governance Committee as to the Pension Fund's high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud, as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud.
- Reading Pension and Audit and Governance Committee minutes.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, we performed procedures to address the risk of management override of controls in particular the risk that Pension Fund management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries and the risk of bias in accounting estimates and judgements such as the valuation of investments. On this audit we did not identify a fraud risk related to revenue recognition because revenue in a pension scheme relates to contributions receivable as paid under an agreed schedules.

We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

We also performed procedures including:

- Identifying journal entries and other adjustments to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation. These included.
- Unusual debits or credits to cash, post closing journals and journals posted by senior finance personnel.
- Assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement related to compliance with laws and regulations

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the Pension Fund financial statements from our general sector experience and through discussion with the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources and other management (as required by auditing standards), the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the Pension Fund financial statements varies considerably.

The Pension Fund is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the Pension Fund financial statements, including the financial reporting aspects of local government legislation. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Whilst the Pension Fund is subject to many other laws and regulations, we did not identify any others where the consequences of non-compliance alone could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the Pension Fund financial statements

Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the Pension Fund financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the Pension Fund financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of

internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Other information

The Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources is responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the Pension Fund financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the Pension Fund financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except as explicitly stated below, any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our Pension Fund financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the Pension Fund financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work we have not identified material misstatements in the other information.

Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources' and Audit and Governance Committee's responsibilities

As explained more fully in the statement set out on page 51, the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Corporate Resources is responsible for the preparation of Pension Fund financial statements, that give a true and fair view. They are also responsible for: such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of Pension Fund financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; 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 government of the intention to either cease the services provided by the Authority or dissolve the Authority without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity.

The Audit and Governance Committee of the Authority is responsible for overseeing the Pension Fund's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Pension Fund financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the Pension Fund financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

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

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

Sarah Brown

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SBrown', with a stylized, cursive script.

for and on behalf of KPMG LLP

Chartered Accountants

1 Snow Hill
Queensway,
Birmingham
B4 6GH

27 November 2024

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

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

31 st March 2023				31 st March 2024		
Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000		Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000
299,636	-130,407	169,229	Adults	307,824	-115,389	192,435
44,390	-5,413	38,977	Prevention & Wellbeing	46,085	-6,642	39,443
584,888	-377,453	207,435	Children & Families	603,473	-394,842	208,631
157,516	-39,158	118,358	Economy, Environment & Infrastructure	158,328	-56,181	102,147
36,619	-6,581	30,038	Community Safety	30,583	-5,652	24,931
67,277	-10,746	56,531	Corporate Resources	74,751	-11,769	62,982
39,689	-1,094	38,595	Technical & Countywide	5,898	-2,769	3,129
1,230,015	-570,852	659,163	Cost Of Services	1,226,942	-593,244	633,698
340	-	340	Levies Payable	345	-	345
8,385.00	-	8,385	Gain(-)/Loss on Disposal of Non Current Assets (Note 39)	49,191	-	49,191
8,725	-	8,725	Other Operating Expenditure	49,536	-	49,536
27,856	-	27,856	Interest Payable on Debt	26,886	-	26,886
20,165	-	20,165	Net interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset)	8,250	-	8,250
9,791	-	9,791	Gain (-) or Loss on Pooled Investment Revaluation	-	-1,916	-1,916
-	-7,204	-7,204	Investment Interest income	-	-11,895	-11,895
57,812	-7,204	50,608	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	35,136	-13,811	21,325
-	-86,146	-86,146	Recognised Capital Grants and Contributions	-	-110,916	-110,916
-	-345,230	-345,230	Council Tax	-	-367,861	-367,861
-	-76,631	-76,631	National Non Domestic Rates	-	-83,675	-83,675
-	-95,688	-95,688	Non Service Related Government Grants	-	-122,940	-122,940
-	-4,042	-4,042	Fire Pensions Top Up Grant	-	-3,796	-3,796
-	-607,737	-607,737	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	-	-689,188	-689,188
1,296,552	-1,185,793	110,759	Surplus (-) or Deficit on Provision of Services	1,311,614	-1,296,243	15,371
21,073	-125,449	-104,376	Revaluation Gains (-) / Losses (Note 13)	-	-48,445	-48,445
450	-	450	Surplus or Deficit on Revaluation of Financial Instruments (Note 13)	-	-64	-64
-	-601,835	-601,835	Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset)	219,459	-	219,459
21,523	-727,284	-705,761	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	219,459	-48,509	170,950
1,318,075	-1,913,077	-595,002	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	1,531,073	-1,344,752	186,321

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and 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. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance. The 'Net increase/decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves' line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

Movement in Reserves 2022/23	General Fund Balance £'000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £'000	Total General Fund £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Reserves £'000
Balance at 31st March 2022 carried forward	23,052	179,492	202,544	5,198	98,088	305,830	432,575	738,405
<u>Movement in reserves during 2022/23</u>								
Surplus or Deficit (-) on Provision of Services	-110,759	-	-110,759	-	-	-110,759	-	-110,759
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	705,761	705,761
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	-110,759	-	-110,759	-	-	-110,759	705,761	595,002
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 1)	88,689	-	88,689	-5,097	-6,815	76,779	-76,779	-
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	-22,070	-	-22,070	-5,097	-6,815	-33,980	628,982	595,002
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	16,767	-16,767	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase/Decrease in 2022/23	-5,303	-16,767	-22,070	-5,097	-6,815	-33,980	628,982	595,002
Balance at 31st March 2023	17,749	162,725	180,474	101	91,273	271,850	1,061,557	1,333,407

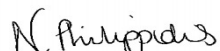
Movement in Reserves 2023/24	General Fund Balance £'000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £'000	Total General Fund £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Reserves £'000
Balance at 31st March 2023 carried forward	17,749	162,725	180,474	101	91,273	271,850	1,061,557	1,333,407
<u>Movement in reserves during 2023/24</u>								
Surplus or Deficit (-) on Provision of Services	-15,371	-	-15,371	-	-	-15,371	-	-15,371
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	-	-	-	-	-		-170,950	-170,950
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	-15,371	-	-15,371	-	-	-15,371	-170,950	-186,321
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 1)	17,291	-	17,291	-100	4,538	21,729	-21,729	-
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	1,920	-	1,920	-100	4,538	6,358	-192,679	-186,321
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	12,715	-12,715	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase/Decrease in 2023/24	14,635	-12,715	1,920	-100	4,538	6,358	-192,679	-186,321
Balance at 31st March 2024	32,384	150,010	182,394	1	95,811	278,208	868,878	1,147,086

Balance Sheet

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

As at 31st March 2023 £'000		Notes	As at 31 st March 2024 £'000
1,756,668	Property Plant and Equipment	3	1,792,542
934	Heritage Assets		934
129	Intangible Assets		64
93,349	Long Term Investments	5	95,004
47,269	Asset Related to Defined Benefit Pension Scheme	30	-
5,113	Long Term Debtors	5	5,113
1,903,462	Long Term Assets		1,893,657
111,739	Short Term Investments	5	104,196
230	Inventories	6	779
95,751	Short Term Debtors	8	107,234
74,564	Cash and Cash Equivalents	9	53,292
282,284	Current Assets		265,501
-44,480	Short Term Borrowing	5	-53,385
-147,733	Short Term Creditors & Revenue Receipts in Advance	11	-155,002
-5,268	Short Term Provisions	10	-3,577
-64,864	Capital Grants and Contributions Receipts in Advance	22	-70,097
-8,728	Provision for Accumulated Absences	10	-5,779
-271,073	Current Liabilities		-287,840
-56,273	Deferred Liability	35	-53,409
-2,318	Long Term Provisions	10	-3,599
-291,885	Long Term Borrowing	5	-275,797
-230,790	Liability Related to Defined Benefit Pension Scheme	30	-391,428
-581,266	Long Term Liabilities		-724,233
1,333,407	Net Assets		1,147,085
101	Useable Capital Receipts Reserve	2	1
17,749	General Fund Balance	2	32,384
254,000	Earmarked Reserves	2	245,822
271,850	Usable Reserves	2	278,207
1,061,557	Unusable Reserves	12,30,36	868,878
1,333,407	Total Reserves		1,147,085

The unaudited accounts were issued on 31st May 2024 and the audited accounts were authorised for issue on 20th November 2024.



Nina Philippidis, Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director of Corporate Resources (Section 151 Officer)

20th November 2024.

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council 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.

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
-110,759	Net Surplus or Deficit (-) on the Provision of Services	-15,371
153,737	Adjustments to Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements (note 13)	111,124
-87,970	Adjustments for items included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities (note 13)	-112,415
-44,992	Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	-16,662
31,049	Investing Activities (Note 14)	4,877
-10,246	Financing Activities (Note 15)	-9,484
-24,189	Net Increase or Decrease (-) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	-21,269
98,753	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	74,564
74,564	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the reporting period (Note 9)	53,295

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1. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

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

2022/23	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Un-applied Reserve	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:				
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Depreciation and revaluation losses (charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services) of non-current assets	-82,072	-	-	82,072
Lifecycle Costs- PFI	973	-	-	-973
Write Back of Deferred Income Liabilities	2,485	-	-	-2,485
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	-35,330	-	-	35,330
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	-10,422	-	-	10,422
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Statutory Provision for the financing of Capital Investment	9,048	-	-	-9,048
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund Balance	3,670	-	-	-3,670
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2,037	-2,037	-	-
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	7,132	-	-7,132
Transfer from Deferred capital receipts reserve following receipt of cash	-	-	-	-
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve:				
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	86,146	-	-86,146	-
Application of grants and contributions to capital financing transferred to capital adjustment account	-	-	92,961	-92,961
Donated assets fair value less consideration	-	-	-	-
Adjustment primarily involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	213	-	-	-213
Gain/loss on the revaluation of Financial instruments	-9,791	-	-	9,791
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-49,670	-	-	49,670
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	6,122	-	-	-6,122
Adjustment primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	-557	-	-	557
Adjustments primarily involving the Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit Reserve:				
Amount of which the accumulated deficit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from that chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	-11,541	-	-	11,541
Total Adjustments 2022/23	-88,689	5,095	6,815	76,779

* this figure is shown net and includes a prepayment clearing of £3.3m

2023/24

	Usable Reserves		Capital Grants	Movement in
	General Fund	Capital Receipts	Un-applied	Unusable
	Balance	Reserve	Reserve	Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:				
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Depreciation and revaluation losses (charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services) of non-current assets	-85,226	-	-	85,226
Lifecycle Costs- PFI	1,441	-	-	-1,441
Write Back of Deferred Income Liabilities	2,485	-	-	-2,485
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	-14,216	-	-	14,216
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	-50,690	-	-	50,690
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Statutory Provision for the financing of Capital Investment	9,781	-	-	-9,781
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund Balance	3,584	-	-	-3,584
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	1,499	-1,499	-	-
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	1,599	-	-1,599
Transfer from Deferred capital receipts reserve following receipt of cash	-	-	-	-
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve:				
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	110,914	-	-110,914	-
Application of grants and contributions to capital financing transferred to capital adjustment account	-	--	106,376	-106,376
Donated assets fair value less consideration	-	-	-	-
Adjustment primarily involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	-89	--	-	89
Gain/loss on the revaluation of Financial instruments	1,916	-	-	-1,916
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	11,553	-	-	-11,553
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	3,978	-	-	-3,978
Adjustment primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	2,948	-	-	-2,948
Adjustments primarily involving the Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit Reserve:				
Amount of which the accumulated deficit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from that chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	-17,167	-	-	17,167
Total Adjustments 2023/24	-17,289	100	-4,538	21,727

2. Usable Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund Balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure in 2023/24.

Earmarked Revenue Reserves	Balance at 1st April 2022 £'000	Transfers Out 2022/23 £'000	Transfers In 2022/23 £'000	Balance at 31st March 2023 £'000	Transfers Out 2023/24 £'000	Transfers In 2023/24 £'000	Balance at 31st March 2024 £'000
Strategic Waste Reserve	4,422	-1,670	-	2,752	-150	-	2,602
Fire Joint Training Centre	932	-83	-	849	-126	-	723
Fire PFI Reserve - GRFS	4,093	-	-	4,093	-314	48	3,827
Insurance Fund	11,431	-3,207	2,676	10,900	-2,893	2,990	10,997
Capital Fund	13,906	-12,162	5,087	6,831	-1,640	449	5,640
Transformation Reserve	12,838	-2,392	416	10,862	-5,503	644	6,003
County Elections	513	-513	209	209	-	169	378
Invest to Save	1,932	-1,132	217	1,017	-	69	1,086
Education Funding Risk Reserve	152	-7	-	145	-48	-	97
Economic Stimulus Reserve	1,108	-808	35	335	-	2,852	3,187
Public Health	2,884	-2,884	3,428	3,428	-3,503	3,882	3,807
Vulnerable Children Reserve	1,096	-1,089	-	7	-6,200	6,256	63
Adult Care Reserve	11,926	-91	-	11,835	-289	-	11,546
Growing our Communities Reserve	89	-	-	89	-89	-	-
People Services Reserve	271	-231	-	40	-40	-	-
Home to School Transport Reserve	164	-247	83	-	-	414	414
A417 Missing Link Reserve	115	-48	-	67	-67	-	-
Business Rates Reserve	11,491	-9,278	6,205	8,418	-929	16,164	23,653
Revenue Grant Reserves* See below	63,871	-45,363	29,083	47,591	-26,150	18,776	40,217
Economy, Environment & Infrastructure Reserve	9,430	-3,616	1,216	7,030	-1,149	754	6,635
Services to Families with Young Children	-	-	-	-	-	70	70
Traded Services Reserve	130	180	-22	288	-224	140	204
Shared Audit Services Reserve	152	-32	78	198	-78	34	154
LED Renewables Reserve	532	-171	-	361	-	-	361
Pay & Prices Reserve	-	-	16,358	16,358	-25,247	8,889	-
Other Reserves	322	-	-	322	-	22	344
Highways Act Commuted Sums Reserves	2,208	-21	29	2,216	-	79	2,295
Total Non School Earmarked Reserves	156,008	-84,865	65,098	136,241	-74,639	62,701	124,303
Schools Related							
School Balances	23,326	-23,326	26,427	26,427	-1,259	-	25,168
Other Schools Related	160	-160	59	59	-59	540	540
Total School Related	23,486	-23,486	26,486	26,486	-1,318	540	25,708
Total Earmarked Revenue Reserves	179,494	-108,351	91,584	162,727	-75,957	63,241	150,011
General Fund Reserve	23,052	-6,213	910	17,749	-6,178	20,813	32,384
Total Revenue Reserves	202,546	-114,564	92,494	180,476	-82,135	84,054	182,395
Earmarked Capital Reserves							
	Balance at 1st April 2022 £'000	Transfers Out 2022/23 £'000	Transfers In 2022/23 £'000	Balance at 31st March 2023 £'000	Transfers Out 2023/24 £'000	Transfers In 2023/24 £'000	Balance at 31st March 2024 £'000
Capital Grants & Contributions Unapplied Reserve	98,088	-92,961	86,146	91,273	-106,380	110,918	95,811
Useable Capital Receipts Reserve	5,198	-7,191	2,094	101	-1,616	1,516	1
Total Capital Reserves	103,286	-100,152	88,240	91,374	-107,996	112,434	95,812
Total Useable Reserves	305,832	-214,716	180,734	271,850	-190,131	196,488	278,207
*Summary of Revenue Grants and Contributions Reserves							
	Balance at 1st April 2022 £'000	Transfers Out 2022/23 £'000	Transfers In 2022/23 £'000	Balance at 31st March 2023 £'000	Transfers Out 2023/24 £'000	Transfers In 2023/24 £'000	Balance at 31st March 2024 £'000
CCG Joint Funding	24,743	-6,235	12,093	30,601	-11,279	7,100	26,422
Troubled Families Grant	1,249	-1,249	1,613	1,613	-1,613	2,572	2,572
Syrian Resettlement Grant	2,939	-2,939	3,133	3,133	-3,133	-	-
Emergency Services Mobile Communications Grant	606	-606	-	-	-	-	-
Improved Better Care Fund Grant	3,606	-3,606	1,891	1,891	-13	-	1,878
Covid COMF	7,843	-7,843	4,628	4,628	-4,628	1,202	1,202
Covid- Track & Trace Grant Funding	623	-623	339	339	-339	252	252
Covid- Emergency Funding	8,674	-8,674	-	-	-	-	-
Covid- S31 General Funding	-	-	1,748	1,748	-1,755	1,376	1,369
Council Tax 75% Covid Income Grant	2,957	-2,957	-	-	-	-	-
Covid NNDR Small Business Relief S31 Grant	4,581	-4,581	283	283	-	-	283
Covid Additional Relief Fund (CAMF)	1,367	-1,367	-	-	-	-	-
Various Miscellaneous Specific Service Grants	4,683	-4,683	3,355	3,355	-3,390	6,274	6,239
Total Revenue Grants and Contributions Reserve	63,871	-45,363	29,083	47,591	-26,150	18,776	40,217

Reserve Description

Strategic Waste

This is a smoothing reserve relating to the full contract life of the Energy from Waste project.

Fire Joint Training Centre

This is a smoothing reserve relating to the full life contract for the Fire Training Centre.

Fire PFI (GRFS)

This is a smoothing reserve relating to the full life contract for the Fire Stations PFI.

Insurance Fund

Levels are based on external professional actuarial review and advice to mitigate the Council's insurance liability.

Capital Fund

This reserve is used for capital financing and is fully committed to fund schemes approved under the Council's Capital Programme.

Transformation

This reserve funds the transformation required for the Council to make sustainable savings.

Council Elections

This reserve is to smooth the cost of funding the Council elections.

Invest to Save

This reserve is fully committed to invest to save projects e.g.: Salix loan grants initiative for energy saving projects.

Education Funding Risk

This reserve was established to smooth the impact from schools becoming academies.

Economic Stimulus

This reserve is fully committed to fund: Rural Broadband; Apprentices; Grow Gloucestershire; Saturn model.

Public Health

Ring fenced grant reserve was established in accordance with national grant conditions to carry forward any unspent balances from the annual grant received from Government.

Vulnerable Children

The reserve offsets demand-led pressures in Children's Services.

Adult Care

This reserve provides funding to mitigate demand risk in Adult Social Care, given the continuing concern about the volatility in demand and the pressure across the health and social care economy.

Growing Our Communities Fund

This fund will allow each Councillor to allocate £30,000 over a three year period to invest in key community projects.

People Services

The reserve offsets demand-led pressures in People Services.

Home to School Transport

This reserve is to smooth the impact changes in schools days year to year on home to school transport.

A417 Missing Link

This reserve has been established to support pre development work on the A417 project to be undertaken.

Business Rates

This reserve was established to cover the Council against a potential funding shortfall in business rate income, given the volatility of the scheme and the potential impact of Business Rate appeals on income. The reserve holds £2.975 million ringfenced for economic development projects within the County. Spending plans for this is via the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee. Transfers in include £9.4m which was approved as part of the Q1 report in Cabinet in September 2023, plus £3.19m approved Business Rates income, and £1.420m from Gloucestershire Business Rates retention pool.

Revenue Grants

A technical reserve for specific unapplied revenue grants and contributions, where conditions related to the monies have been met but expenditure has not been incurred. The monies remained ring fenced and fully committed. This reserve is prepared in accordance with the Accounting Code of Practice issued annually by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, which the Council is legally required to follow.

Economy, Environment & Infrastructure

Reserve has been established to carry forward specific budget under spends.

Traded Services

This reserve was established to mitigate against any loss in traded income and invest in services to generate more traded income.

Shared Audit Services

This reserve was established to hold specific reserves held under the Shared Audit Services.

LED Renewables

This reserve was established to provide budget support for the LED renewables project.

Pay & Prices Reserve

This Reserve was established to hold the identified uncommitted reserve balances to assist in funding the 2023/24 Revenue Budget. A transfer in of £8.320m as a result of additional electricity income from the Energy from Waste facility was approved as part of the Q1 report to Cabinet in September 2023. As part of the approved MTFS, £6.2m was allocated to offset pressures within Children's Services. A transfer out of £5.67m was approved to fund the 2023/24 budget. In November 2023 Cabinet approved a transfer out of £2.892m in respect of the 2023/24 pay award. The balance on the reserve of £10m was moved to General Fund at year end 2023/24, as highlighted in the MTFS document to Full Council in February 2024.

Other

A number of small miscellaneous reserves e.g.: Minerals & Local Waste; disputed capital receipts.

Highways Act Commuted Sums

Monies held to support costs of future highways maintenance.

School Balances and Other School Related

These reserves represent specific ring fenced balances held by individual schools and central ring fenced balances carried forward to support future years expenditure. The Dedicated School Grant Reserve is currently in a deficit position and therefore excluded from this analysis, but is held as an unusable reserve in accordance with new legislation and accounting standards. (See Note 12)

Capital Grant & Contributions

This technical reserve relates to unspent capital grants and contributions, which are fully committed to funding the Council's approved Capital Programme.

Capital Receipts

This reserve reflects unapplied capital receipts, which are fully committed to funding the approved capital programme.

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3. Non-current Assets

	Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment	PFI & PPP Assets included in PPE
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Gross book value at 31st March 2022	984,597	177,084	4,996	1,307	1,167,984	223,912
Additions	9,846	6,108	-	7,449	23,403	973
Revaluation inc/dec recognised in Revaluation Reserve	66,416	6,699	766	-	73,881	7,451
Revaluation inc/dec recognised in Surplus on the Provision of Services	-10,828	-	2	-	-10,826	-
Derecognition – Disposals	-10,572	-6,599	-	-	-17,171	-
Asset Reclassification and Transfers	-4,139	2,360	1,779	-	-	-
Other movements in cost or valuation	-76	-36	-	-	-112	-
Gross book value at 31st March 2023	1,035,244	185,616	7,543	8,756	1,237,159	232,336
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 31st March 2022	-395	-25,827	-	-	-26,222	-
Depreciation charge in year	-24,652	-12,254	-	-	-36,906	-10,585
Depreciation written out to Revaluation Reserve	24,461	6,034	-	-	30,495	10,585
Depreciation written out to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	407	-	-	-	407	-
Derecognition – Disposals	188	6,561	-	-	6,749	-
Asset Reclassification and Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	-9	34	-	-	25	-
At 31st March 2023	-	-25,452	-	-	-25,452	-
Net book value at 31st March 2023	1,035,244	160,164	7,543	8,756	1,211,707	232,336

In accordance with the Temporary Relief offered by the Update to the Code on infrastructure assets 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 would not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements.

Infrastructure Assets	2021/2022 £'000	2022/2023 £'000
Opening Net book value	483,504	513,706
Additions	61,127	64,921
Depreciation charge in year	-30,925	-33,666
Asset Reclassification and Transfers	-	-
Closing Net book value	513,706	544,961

Total Property Plant & Equipment reported on Balance Sheet	2021/2022 £'000	2022/2023 £'000
Land & Buildings; Vehicle, Plant, Furniture & Equipment; Surplus and Asset Under Construction	1,141,762	1,211,707
Infrastructure Assets	513,706	544,961
Non-current Assets - Net book value	1,655,468	1,756,668

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3. Non-current Assets

	Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment	PFI & PPP Assets included in PPE
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Gross book value at 31st March 2023	1,035,244	185,616	7,543	8,756	1,237,159	232,336
Additions	17,017	7,186	7	23,869	48,079	1,440
Revaluation inc/dec recognised in Revaluation Reserve	24,018	-6,584	4,642	2,079	24,155	-7,574
Revaluation inc/dec recognised in Surplus on the Provision of Services	-9,963	-	-	-	-9,963	-
Derecognition – Disposals	-51,905	-4,997	-	-	-56,902	-
Asset Reclassification and Transfers	-1,243	36	1,243	-36	-	-
Other movements in cost or valuation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross book value at 31st March 2024	1,013,168	181,257	13,435	34,668	1,242,528	226,202
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 31st March 2023	-	-25,452	-	-	-25,452	-
Depreciation charge in year	-26,747	-13,565	-	-	-40,312	-11,531
Depreciation written out to Revaluation Reserve	17,641	6,650	-	-	24,291	8,902
Depreciation written out to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	698	-	-	-	698	-
Derecognition – Disposals	1,219	4,993	-	-	6,212	-
Asset Reclassification and Transfers	109	-	-109	-	-	-
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31st March 2024	-7,080	-27,374	-109	-	-34,563	-2,629
Net book value at 31st March 2024	1,006,088	153,883	13,326	34,668	1,207,965	223,573

In accordance with the Temporary Relief offered by the Update to the Code on infrastructure assets 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 would not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements.

Infrastructure Assets	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Opening Net book value	513,706	544,961
Additions	64,921	75,201
Depreciation charge in year	-33,666	-35,585
Asset Reclassification and Transfers	-	-
Closing Net book value	544,961	584,577

Total Property Plant & Equipment reported on Balance Sheet	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Land & Buildings; Vehicle, Plant, Furniture & Equipment; Surplus and Asset Under Construction	1,211,707	1,207,965
Infrastructure Assets	544,961	584,577
Non-current Assets - Net book value	1,756,668	1,792,542

Non Current Asset Valuations

Land and Property

The Code requires all land and property to be formally revalued at least every five years. Revaluations are done on a two year rolling programme, this years valuation covers a full valuation of all School assets as at 31st December 2023, with a review of any movement between then and 31st March 2024. And a review of all Non-School assets as at 31st March 2024.

Operational land and property is included in the Balance Sheet on the basis of existing use value or, where this cannot be assessed because there is no market, depreciated replacement cost. With the exception of schools which are on a Modern Equivalent Asset basis, the valuation approach reflects the demand for space based on the number of children on roll.

Fair Value- Surplus Assets

Non-operational land and property is included on the basis of IFRS 13 Fair Value except assets under construction which are included on the basis of capital expenditure incurred by 31st March 2024. The valuations have been undertaken through a combination of the Council's internal valuers and where necessary, external valuers, all of which are RICS qualified, consistent with the current accounting policy. All the Council's surplus assets have been assessed as Level 3 for valuation purposes using the following fair value hierarchy:-

Level 1 - Fair value is only derived from quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities, e.g. bond prices

Level 2 - Fair value is calculated from inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, e.g. interest rates or yields for similar instruments

Level 3 - Fair value is determined using unobservable inputs, e.g. non-market data such as cash flow forecasts or estimated creditworthiness and calculated at highest and best use

Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment

Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are included at historical cost, less accumulated depreciation. Furniture and equipment charged to the capital account is included at historical cost and depreciated over the expected life. With the exception of the Energy from Waste Plant which treated the same as Land & Property and revalued each year due to it's materiality.

Infrastructure Assets

These assets, consisting of roads, bridges, street lighting, footpaths and footbridges, are included on the basis of historical costs incurred since 1st April 1974, depreciated over periods in accordance with the anticipated life of the various types of infrastructure.

Donated Assets

Donated assets are defined as assets transferred at nil value or acquired at less than fair value.

4. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The objective of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis is to demonstrate to council tax payers how the funding available to the Council (i.e. government grants, rents, council tax and business rates) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's services. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2022/23				2023/24		
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund Balance	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund Balance	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£000	£000	£000	Expenditure and Funding Analysis	£000	£000	£000
171,130	-1,901	169,229	Adults	194,648	-2,213	192,435
47,534	-8,557	38,977	Prevention & Wellbeing	39,522	-79	39,443
163,629	43,806	207,435	Children & Families	191,725	16,906	208,631
70,045	48,313	118,358	Economy, Environment & Infrastructure	109,019	-6,872	102,147
19,985	10,053	30,038	Community Safety	31,187	-6,256	24,931
42,165	14,366	56,531	Corporate Resources	63,616	-634	62,982
16,594	22,001	38,595	Technical & Countywide	-89,177	92,306	3,129
531,082	128,081	659,163	Net cost of Services	540,540	93,158	633,698
-509,012	-39,392	-548,404	Other income and expenditure	-542,460	-75,867	-618,327
22,070	88,689	110,759	(Surplus) or Deficit	-1,920	17,291	15,371
		202,544	Opening General Fund Balance 1 st April	180,474		
		-22,070	Surplus/(deficit) on General Fund	1,920		
		180,474	Closing General Fund Balance 31 st March	182,394		

2022/23

Adjustments from the General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note i)	Net change for the Pensions the Pensions Adjustments (Note ii)	Other Differences (Note iii)	Adjustments Between Funding and Accounting Basis
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adults	3,342	7,090	-12,333	-1,901
Prevention & Wellbeing	-	375	-8,932	-8,557
Children & Families	35,081	-	8,725	43,806
Economy, Environment & Infrastructure	52,044	3,555	-7,286	48,313
Community Safety	5,300	3,347	1,406	10,053
Corporate Resources	11,476	-	2,890	14,366
Technical & Countywide	9,185	19,179	-6,363	22,001
Net Cost of Services	116,428	33,546	-21,893	128,081
Other income and expenditure from the funding analysis	8,385	20,165	-67,942	-39,392
Difference between GF Surplus/Deficit and Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement Surplus/Deficit	124,813	53,711	-89,835	88,689

Note i Adjustments for Capital Purposes

Adjustments for capital purposes – this column adds in depreciation, impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the services line, and for:

Other operating expenditure – adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on the disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.□

Financing and investment income and expenditure – the statutory charges for capital financing i.e. Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.

Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure – capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The taxation and non specific grant income and expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

Note ii Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

Benefits pension related expenditure and income:

For services this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.

For Financing and investment income and expenditure – the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

Note iii Other Differences

Other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:

For financing and investment income and expenditure the other differences column recognises adjustments to the general fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts. The charge under taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and non domestic rates that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future surpluses or deficits on the collection fund.

Revenues From External Customers	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Adults	-34,092	-37,126
Children & Families	-9,384	-9,304
Economy, Environment & Infrastructure	-28,147	-31,168
Community Safety	-838	-677
Prevention & Wellbeing	-17	-169
Corporate Resources	-9,679	-9,934
Technical & Countywide	-37	-25
Total Revenue from External Customers	-82,194	-88,403

2023/24

Adjustments from the General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note i)	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (Note ii)	Other Differences (Note iii)	Adjustments Between Funding and Accounting Basis
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adults	-588	-1,625	-	-2,213
Prevention & Wellbeing	-	-79	-	-79
Children & Families	-261	-	17,167	16,906
Economy, Environment & Infrastructure	-6,053	-819	-	-6,872
Community Safety	-1,018	-5,238	-	-6,256
Corporate Resources	-634	-	-	-634
Technical & Countywide	90,707	4,458	-2,859	92,306
Net Cost of Services	82,153	-3,303	14,308	93,158
Other income and expenditure from the funding analysis	-61,723	-8,250	-5,894	-75,867
Difference between GF Surplus/Deficit and Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement Surplus/Deficit	20,430	-11,553	8,414	17,291

Note i Adjustments for Capital Purposes

Adjustments for capital purposes – this column adds in depreciation, impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the services line, and for:

Other operating expenditure – adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on the disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.□

Financing and investment income and expenditure – the statutory charges for capital financing i.e. Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.

Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure – capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The taxation and non specific grant income and expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

Note ii Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

Benefits pension related expenditure and income:

For services this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.

For Financing and investment income and expenditure – the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

Note iii Other Differences

Other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:

For financing and investment income and expenditure the other differences column recognises adjustments to the general fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts. The charge under taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and non domestic rates that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future surpluses or deficits on the collection fund.

Revenues From External Customers	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Adults	-37,126	-42,349
Children & Families	-9,304	-10,275
Economy, Environment & Infrastructure	-31,168	-48,670
Community Safety	-677	-465
Prevention & Wellbeing	-169	-36
Corporate Resources	-9,934	-10,966
Technical & Countywide	-25	-126
Total Revenue from External Customers	-88,403	-112,887

5. Financial Instruments

Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

Financial instruments, except those classified at amortised cost, are carried in the Balance Sheet at fair value. For most assets, including bonds, treasury bills and shares in money market funds and other pooled funds, the fair value is taken from the market price.

Financial instruments classified at amortised cost are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair values have been estimated by calculating the net present value of the remaining contractual cash flows at 31st March 2024, using the following methods and assumptions:

- Loans borrowed by the Council have been valued by discounting the contractual cash flows over the whole life of the instrument at the appropriate market rate for local authority loans.
- Discount rates for "Lender's Option Borrower's Option" (LOBO) loans have been reduced to reflect the value of the embedded options. The size of the reduction has been calculated using proprietary software.
- The fair values of other long-term loans and investments have been discounted at the market rates for similar instruments with similar remaining terms to maturity on 31st March.
- The fair values of finance lease and PFI scheme liabilities have been calculated by discounting the contractual cash flows (excluding non-lease elements) at the appropriate AA-rated corporate bond yield.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised for any financial instrument.
- The fair value of short-term instruments, including trade payables and receivables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount given the low interest rate environment.

Fair Values are shown in the tables below, split by the level in the fair value hierarchy:

Level 1 - fair value is only derived from quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities, e.g. bond prices

Level 2 - fair value is calculated from inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, e.g. interest rates or yields for similar instruments

Level 3 - fair value is determined using unobservable inputs, e.g. non-market data such as cash flow forecasts or estimated creditworthiness

		31st March 2023		31 st March 2024	
	Fair Value Level	Fair Value	Carrying Amount shown on Balance Sheet	Fair Value	Carrying Amount shown on Balance Sheet
Financial liabilities held at amortised cost:					
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Loans from PWLB	2	189,625	200,353	183,241	192,237
Non PWLB loans	2	50,241	41,586	50,904	43,788
Finance Leases and PFI Liabilities	2	46,736	94,425	48,721	93,157
Total Financial Liabilities held at amortised cost		286,602	336,364	282,866	329,182
Liabilities for which fair value is not disclosed *			211,593		215,587
Total Financial Liabilities			547,957		544,769
Recorded on the balance sheet as:					
Short term creditors**			147,733		155,002
Short term borrowing			44,480		53,385
Short term provisions			5,268		3,577
Deferred liabilities			56,273		53,409
Long term borrowing			291,885		275,797
Long term provisions			2,318		3,599
Total Financial Liabilities			547,957		544,769

* The fair value of short-term financial liabilities held at amortised cost, including trade payables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount.

** The creditors lines on the Balance Sheet include £86.9m creditors (£69.4m in 2022/23) that do not meet the definition of a financial liability as they relate to non-exchange transactions or receipts in advance.

The fair value of financial liabilities held at amortised cost is lower than their balance sheet carrying amount because the authority's portfolio of loans includes a number of loans where the interest rate payable is lower than the current rates available for similar loans as at the Balance Sheet date.

		31 st March 2023		31 st March 2024	
	Fair Value Level	Fair Value	Balance Sheet	Fair Value	Balance Sheet
Financial assets held at amortised cost:		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank/other deposits	2	30,241	30,270	5,207	5,210
Loans to local authorities	2	109,770	110,530	106,416	106,466
Cash in Hand		14,134	14,134	29,792	29,792
Total Financial Assets held at Amortised Cost		154,145	154,934	141,415	141,468
Financial assets held at fair value					
Money market funds	1		35,502		20,046
Equities & Property Funds FVP&L	1		84,516		86,213
Equities & Property Funds FVOCI	1		4,700		4,764
Total Financial Assets held at Fair Value			124,718		111,023
Assets for which fair value is not disclosed *			100,864		112,347
Total Financial Assets			380,516		364,838

Investment Classification:	31 st March 2023			31 st March 2024		
	Held at FV	Held at AC	Total	Held at FV	Held at AC	Total
<u>Financial Assets</u>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash & Cash Equivalent	35,430	39,134	74,564	20,000	33,292	53,292
Short Term	939	110,800	111,739	1,019	103,176	104,195
Long Term	88,349	5,000	93,349	90,004	5,000	95,004
Assets for which FV is not disclosed	-	100,864	100,864	-	112,347	112,347
Total Financial Assets	124,718	255,798	380,516	111,023	253,815	364,838

	31 st March 2023	31 st March 2024
	£'000	£'000
Recorded on the balance sheet as:-		
Long-term debtors	5,113	5,113
Long-term investments	93,349	95,004
Short-term debtors**	95,751	107,234
Short-term investments	111,739	104,196
Cash and cash equivalents	74,564	53,292
Total Financial Assets	380,516	364,839

* The fair value of short-term financial assets held at amortised cost, including trade receivables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount.

** The debtors lines on the Balance Sheet include £48.1m debtors (£52.6m in 2022/23) that do not meet the definition of a financial asset as they relate to non-exchange transactions or payments in advance.

The fair value of financial assets held at amortised cost is similar to their balance sheet carrying amount because the interest rate on similar investments is now similar to that obtained when the investment was originally made.

The Council holds shares costing £1 in Ubico Ltd. The fair value of the council's interest in the company at 31st March is considered to be nil, since it is a wholly local authority owned not-for-profit 'Teckal' company. As a 'Teckal' company it is treated as if it were an in house department and the shareholder councils are able to enter into service contracts with the company without undertaking an EU compliant procurement process. Further details can be found in note 17.

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

Financial Liabilities	Long Term		Short Term	
	31.03.23 £'000	31.03.24 £'000	31.03.23 £'000	31.03.24 £'000
Loans at amortised cost:				
Principal sum borrowed	198,728	184,228	41,050	49,550
Accrued interest	-	-	2,162	2,247
Total Borrowing	198,728	184,228	43,212	51,797
Liabilities at amortised cost:				
Finance leases	77,564	76,922	620	642
PFI arrangements	15,593	14,647	648	946
Total Other Liabilities	93,157	91,569	1,267	1,588
Liabilities at amortised cost:				
Trade Payables	-	-	78,407	94,247
Included in Creditors	-	-	78,407	94,247
Financial Guarantees	-	-	-	-
Loan Commitments	-	-	-	-
Included in Provisions	-	-	-	-
Total Financial Liabilities	291,885	275,797	122,886	147,632

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

Financial Assets	Long Term		Short Term	
	31.03.23 £'000	31.03.24 £'000	31.03.23 £'000	31.03.24 £'000
At amortised cost:				
Principal	5,000	5,000	110,002	100,000
Accrued interest	-	-	798	3,172
Loss Allowance	-	-	-	-
At FV through OCI:				
Principal	-	-	-	-
Accrued interest	-	-	-	-
Loss Allowance	-	-	-	-
Fair Value Adjustment	-	-	-	-
Equity Instruments elected FVOCI	4,700	4,764	-	-
At FV through P&L:				
Fair Value	83,649	85,239	939	973
Total Investments	93,349	95,003	111,739	104,145
At amortised cost:				
Principal	-	-	25,000	3,500
Accrued interest	-	-	-	51
Loss Allowance	-	-	-	-
At FV through P&L:				
Fair Value	-	-	35,430	20,000
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	-	-	60,430	23,551
At amortised cost:				
Trade receivables	-	-	49,024	59,134
Lease receivables	-	-	-	-
Loans made for service purposes	-	-	-	-
Accrued interest	-	-	-	-
Loss allowance	-	-	-	-
At FV through OCI:				
Fair Value	-	-	-	-
Included in Debtors	-	-	49,024	59,134
Total Financial Assets	93,349	95,003	221,193	186,830

Equity Instruments Elected to Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income

The Council has elected to account for the following investments in equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income because they are long-term strategic holdings and changes in their fair value are not considered to be part of the Council's annual financial performance.

	Fair Value		Dividends	
	31.03.23 £'000	31.03.24 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Fundamentum REIT	4,700	4,764	107	143

Expense, Income, Gains and Losses

	2022/23						2023/24				
	Financial Liabilities: Amortised Cost	Financial Assets: Amortised Cost	Financial Assets: Fair Value through Profit and Loss	Financial Assets: Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income	Total		Financial Liabilities: Amortised Cost	Financial Assets: Amortised Cost	Financial Assets: Fair Value through Profit and Loss	Financial Assets: Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Interest expense	27,856	-	-	-	27,856		26,886	-	-	-	26,886
Interest payable and similar changes	27,856	-	-	-	27,856		26,886	-	-	-	26,886
Interest and dividend income	-	-2,125	-4,945	-134	-7,204		-	-10,034	-1,719	-142	-11,895
Gains (-)/loss from changes in fair valu	-	-	9,791	-	9,791		-	-	-1,916	-	-1,916
Interest and investment income	-	-2,125	4,846	-134	2,587		-	-10,034	-3,635	-142	-13,811
Gain (-)/Loss on revaluation	-	-	-	450	450		-	-	-	-64	-64
Impact on Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	450	450		-	-	-	-64	-64
Net loss/gain(-) for the year	27,856	-2,125	4,846	316	30,893		26,886	-10,034	-3,635	-206	13,011

6. Inventories

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Maintenance Materials		
Balance outstanding at start of the year	977	230
Purchases	1,747	2,079
Stock used within the year	-2,494	-1,530
Balance at 31st March	230	779

7. Contractual Capital Commitments

A contractual capital commitment is where a significant new contract has been agreed during the financial year where a legal agreement has been entered into and can not easily be backed out of. The Council has a policy that a significant contract value would be £3m or above.

There has been no contractual commitments within the capital programme at this level during 2023-2024 financial year.

8. Debtors

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Central Government Bodies	20,221	20,140
Other Local Authorities	7,291	24,324
NHS Bodies	11,340	17,596
Public Corporations and Trading Funds	1,755	1,021
Other Entities and Individuals	55,144	44,153
Balance at 31st March	95,751	107,234

£107,234 includes £5,560 of Payments In Advance, mostly relating to Other Entities and Individuals

9. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents is made up of the following elements:

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Cash held by the Council, including schools	14,134	29,792
Cash held in call/money market accounts with same day access	35,430	20,000
Cash Equivalents - investments maturing within 3 months of acquisition	25,000	3,500
Balance at 31st March	74,564	53,292

10. Provisions

	Short Term Liabilities	Long Term Liabilities	Balance at 1 st April 2023	Applications	Additions	Amounts Written off in Year	Balance at 31 st March 2024	Short Term Liabilities	Long Term Liabilities
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Insurance Fund	-2,516	-1,810	-4,326	-42	-	-	-4,368	-2,796	-1,573
Adults:									
Contracts	-669	-210	-879	319	-	-	-560	-350	-210
Economy, Environment & Infrastructure:									
GSWBP Land Claims	-	-91	-91	-	-	-	-91	-	-91
Contracts	-2,083	-207	-2,290	1,206	-1,073	-	-2,157	-431	-1,725
Total	-5,268	-2,318	-7,586	1,483	-1,073	-	-7,176	-3,577	-3,599
Employee Accrual - IAS19 accumulated absences	-8,728	-	-8,728	-	2,949	-	-5,779	-5,779	-
Total	-8,728	-	-8,728	-	2,949	-	-5,779	-5,779	-

* Net movement shown

Insurance Fund

Whilst Insurance services are arranged through external partners, the current excess levels effectively means that all but the very largest claims are self insured. The Council therefore operates a stand alone insurance fund to cover the impact of any self insurance liabilities. The Provisions held specifically relate to known claims which had not been settled at year end.

Economy, Environment & Infrastructure - Contracts

These relate to amounts due to external providers under retention periods for a number of highways contracts. It is normal process for there to a defects period under contracts, where a small retention is held back from the final settlement, but is paid on satisfactory completion of this period, normally at the end of a twelve months.

Employee Accrual - IAS19 accumulated absences

Local Authorities are required to account for benefits payable during employment in accordance with IAS19. The provision held within the Accumulated Absences Account relates to estimated costs associated with short term benefits such as leave, flexible working hours and additional TOIL, which have been accumulated at the end of 2023/24 but will not be settled until 2024/25.

11. Creditors & Revenue Receipts in Advance

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Central Government Bodies	18,442	6,603
Other Local Authorities	19,551	45,152
NHS Bodies	3,312	6,969
Public Corporations and Trading Funds	318	226
Other Entities and Individuals	106,110	96,053
Balance at 31st March	147,733	155,003
£155,003k includes £38,345k of Receipts In Advance, mostly relating to Central Government Bodies, Other Local Authorities and Entities and Individuals		

12. Unusable Reserves**Revaluation Reserve**

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

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

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

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Balance at 1st April	439,500	526,650
Upward revaluation of assets	125,449	67,073
Downward revaluation of assets not charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-21,073	-18,627
Depreciation written out to the Capital Adjustment Account	-12,278	-15,255
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	-4,946	-24,116
Other movements	-2	-
Balance at 31st March	526,650	535,725

Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve

The financial instruments revaluation reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its investments that are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income.

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Balance at 1st April	150	-300
Change in year end valuation	-450	64
Balance at 31st March	-300	-236

Pooled Instrument Adjustment Account

The Pooled Instrument Adjustment Account contains the gains/losses made by the Council arising from increases/decreases in the value of investments that have quoted market prices or otherwise do not have fixed or determinable payments. They are instruments that are categorised as Fair Value through profit and loss but subject to a statutory override so that they do not impact in year on council tax payers.

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Balance at 1 st April	3,114	-6,677
Sale of Investments	-97	-
Change in year end valuation	-9,694	1,916
Balance at 31st March	-6,677	-4,761

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

Note 1 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Balance at 1 st April	759,542	765,210
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
Charges for depreciation of non-current assets	-70,591	-75,897
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	12,278	15,255
Amortisation of intangible assets	-	-65
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	-10,508	-9,266
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	-35,330	-14,216
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	-10,422	-50,690
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	4,949	24,116
Capital financing applied in the year:		
Write off of deferred charges	2,485	2,485
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	7,132	1,599
RCCO applied to capital financing	3,666	5,024
Voluntary Provision for financing of Capital Investment	-	-
Statutory Provision for the financing of Capital Investment	9,048	9,781
Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	92,961	106,376
Balance at 31st March	765,210	779,712

Defined Pension Fund Reserve

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

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Balance at 1st April	-735,687	-183,522
Remeasurement of net defined benefit liability	601,835	-219,459
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	-49,670	11,553
Balance at 31st March	-183,522	-391,428

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 local businesses compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the general fund from the collection fund.

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Balance at 1st April	-6,033	89
Amount by which council tax and non domestic rate income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and non domestic income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	6,122	3,978
Balance at 31st March	89	4,067

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 31st March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account.

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Balance at 1st April	-8,171	-8,728
Amount in which the settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year and the amount accrued at the end of this year differs.	-557	2,949
Balance at 31st March	-8,728	-5,779

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions. The Council uses the account to manage premiums and discounts paid or received on the early redemption of loans. Premiums or discounts are debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when they are incurred, but reversed out of the general fund balance to the account in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Over time, the expense is posted back to the general fund balance in accordance with statutory arrangements for spreading the burden on council tax.

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Balance at 1st April	-2,797	-2,584
Adjustments with the General Fund relating to the total of deferred premiums/discounts:		
Write down	213	183
Premiums Paid (deferred)	-	-271
Balance at 31st March	-2,584	-2,672

Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit Reserve

Following a change in legislation and accounting standards the Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit Reserve, no longer forms part of the Council's useable reserves. This is now included within unusable reserves on the balance sheet. The Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit Reserve absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund Balance. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account.

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Balance at 1st April	-17,043	-28,584
Transfer from Earmarked Reserve on Recognition		
Adjustments with the General Fund relating to the final accumulated deficit on the dedicated school grant activities in year	-11,541	-17,167
Balance at 31st March	-28,584	-45,751

13. Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

a) Adjust net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements as follows:

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Depreciation & Impairment	81,080	85,163
Amortisation	19	65
Increase/Decrease in Creditors	12,097	6,003
Increase/Decrease in Debtors	-13,934	-13,746
Increase/Decrease in Inventories	747	-549
Movement in Pension Liability	49,670	-11,553
Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	13,636	-4,949
Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	10,422	50,690
Total	153,737	111,124

b) Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities:

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Capital Grants credited to surplus or deficit on the provision of services	-86,146	-110,916
Premiums or discounts on the repayment of financial liabilities	213	-
Proceeds from the sale of property plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	-2,037	-1,499
Net cash flows from Operating Activities	-87,970	-112,415

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Interest received	6,600	9,436
Interest paid	-28,687	-27,101
Total	-22,087	-17,665

14. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	-87,270	-122,576
Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	-190,014	-115,000
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	2,037	1,499
Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	214,686	125,001
Other receipts from investing activities **	91,610	115,953
Net cash flows from Investing Activities	31,049	4,877

** the majority of this relates to capital grants shown in note 22

15. Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Cash receipts of short and long term borrowing	10,000	10,000
Repayments of short-term and long-term borrowing	-16,900	-16,000
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-balance sheet PFI contracts	-3,346	-3,484
Net cash flows from Financing Activities	-10,246	-9,484

16. Income and Expenditure Analysed by Nature

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Fees, Charges & Other Service Income	-201,361	-286,757
Interest and Investment Income	-7,204	-11,895
Valuation Gain on Financial Instruments	-	-1,916
Income from Council Tax	-345,230	-367,861
Government Grants and Contributions	-541,810	-513,102
Capital Grants and Contributions	-86,146	-110,916
Fire Pensions Top Up Grant	-4,042	-3,796
Gain on disposal of fixed Assets	-	-
Total Income	-1,185,793	-1,296,243
Employee Expenses	446,023	417,110
Other Service Expenses	688,069	710,734
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	81,098	85,227
Valuation Loss on Financial Instruments	9,791	-
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	35,330	14,216
Interest Payments	27,856	35,136
Loss on the disposal of fixed assets	8,385	49,191
Total Operating Expenses	1,296,552	1,311,614
Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	110,759	15,371

17. Pooled Budgets & Partnership Working

The Council has entered into partnership with NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006. This legislation allows health bodies and health-related council services to work together more effectively in the provision of services designed to meet the needs of users without concern for the boundaries of their organisations. The partnership agreement comprises an overarching agreement, together with specific sections covering the following service areas;

Provision of Adult Mental Health Services (Integrated Budget)

A partnership agreement with NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board is in place to commission mental health services for adults. In 2023/24 the Council's share of the gross expenditure of the partnership was £12.1 million (£10.5 million in 2022/23), gross income was nil (nil in 2022/23) and therefore the Council's net contribution was £12.1 million (£10.5 million in 2022/23).

Provision of Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (Integrated Budget)

A partnership agreement with NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board is in place to commission mental health services for children and young people. In 2023/24 the Council's share of the gross expenditure of the partnership was £0.65 million (£0.65 million in 2022/23), gross income was nil (nil in 2022/23) and therefore the Council's net contribution was £0.65 million.

Provision of Social Care Occupational Therapy (Integrated Budget)

A partnership agreement with NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB) is in place to commission occupational therapy services. In 2023/24 the gross expenditure of the partnership was £3.6 million (£3.4 million in 2022/23), gross income was nil (nil in 2022/23) and the Council's contribution was £2.5 million (£2.4 million in 2022/23). The ICB's contribution is funded through the Better Care Fund.

Provision of a Community Equipment Service (Pooled Budget)

A partnership agreement, with NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board to commission Community Equipment Services. A requirement of the Pool agreement is that income and expenditure must be charged to each partner in proportion to their financial contribution to the service.

In 2023/24 the gross expenditure of the partnership was £9.1 million (£10.2 million in 2022/23), gross external income was £1.05 million (£0.7 million in 2022/23), and the Council's contribution was £3.0 million (£2.7 million in 2022/23). A further £2.4 million was made available to the partnership from the Disabled Facilities Grant (£2.3 million in 2022/23).

The Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund (BCF) first came into operation on 1 April 2015. To administer the fund, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were required to establish joint arrangements with local authorities to operate a pooled budget for joint delivery of more integrated health and social care. This responsibility passed to Integrated Care Boards 1st July 2022.

In 2023/24 the total funding covered within the BCF was £57.0 million (£53.8 million in 2022/23), of which £17.0 million was allocated to the Council as Lead Commissioner (£16.2 million in 2022/23), and £7.4 million was allocated through the Disabled Facilities Grant (£6.8 million in 2022/23). The ICB was allocated £32.5 million as Lead Commissioner (£30.8 million in 2022/23).

Continuing Health Care & Funded Nursing Care

Support to the ICB in meeting its statutory responsibility to assess eligibility for funded nursing and continuing health care, and to commission care. Support is given through the Council's Integrated Brokerage Team.

Discharge Funds 1 and 2

In 2022/23 The Department of Health allocated to new tranches of funding to local authorities and ICBs, in order to reduce delays in discharge from hospital for patients who are clinically fit to leave. The funding was aligned with the BCF, and totalled £6.8 million, of which £4.0 million was allocated to the ICB, and £2.8 million to the Council.

Fastershire

Fastershire is a partnership between Herefordshire Council and Gloucestershire County Council which formed in 2012. The Council has jointly worked on the Fastershire Broadband Strategy approved by Cabinet in September 2014. Herefordshire Council acts as the lead authority for this partnership, and the Council provides additional revenue funding for the programme management and project team support. The Partnership covers a range of funding streams as summarised below:

Borders Broadband £15.570 million

Fastershire partnership entered into a Borders Broadband Contract with BT to build a future proof world class broadband network for the two counties. The project is being funded by Herefordshire Council, Gloucestershire County Council and Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), a government agency and BT.

The Council approved a commitment of £7.5 million to the project, which is reflected in the Council's approved capital programme for 2014/15 and 2015/16. This was match funding to enable the authorities to draw down the central government contribution via BDUK, which was £18.17 million for both counties.

The contract with BT ended in 2020/21 with the final expenditure of £12.3 million relating to Gloucestershire of which £8.1 million was funded from government grant and £4.2 million funded from the Council's Reserves. The BDUK government grant required a minimum match funding from the Council of £7.5 million therefore an additional £3.3 million of funding must be spent on Broadband investment as part of the Gloucestershire strategy going forward. Of the £3.3m the Council has spent £1.870m of which £0.616m relates to 2023/24, a provision balance of £0.690m which leaves £0.740 million as part of the Council's Economic Stimulus Reserve earmarked for spend against Broadband.

As part of the BT Contract the Council have received a £2.061m revenue payment in 2023/24 which can only be spent against future broadband related solutions.

South West Ultrafast £4.00 million

The Council was awarded a £2.00 million grant from the BDUK South West Ultrafast Broadband and £2.00 million has been matched funded by the Council fund, approved by Cabinet on 12th December 2015, which was administered through the Fastershire partnership.

Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) £9.66 million

The Fastershire partnership was awarded £9.66 million with the County Council receiving £5.46 million from BDUK (SEP) and match funding of £4.2 million was approved by Cabinet on 17th September 2014. To date the following contracts have been let for Gloucestershire.

Contract	Provider	Gloucestershire County Council Contribution
Stage 3.1	Gigaclear	1,500
Stage 2/3.3c	Gigaclear	4,230
Stage 3.3a	BT	346
Stage 3.3d	Gigaclear	1,873
Stage 3.3e	Gigaclear	604
Stage 4 MGBG		284
Stage 5 FCG		823
TBC		-
		9,660
BDUK Grant Funding		-5,460
Council Funded		-4,200
Total Council Match funding		-9,660

During 2023/24 Gloucestershire has benefitted from £1.931 million of Broadband investment of which £0.616 million was funded from the Council provision, £0.848m funded by Herefordshire Council awaiting assurance sign off before invoices can be raised and £0.467 million was funded through BDUK grants held by the Fastershire Partnership.

Shared Audit Services

The ARA shared service is an audit risk & assurance shared service hosted by the Council under a section 101 agreement, with Stroud District Council and Gloucester City Council as partners. Governance arrangements are completed through a Shared Service Board. All expenditure and income is within the Council's accounts, with the two partners being charged an annual fee based on agreed service provision. Fee income is also received from the provision of audit and other services to wider partners (such as Ubico Ltd and Academies) through agreed contracts.

In addition to the net spend, a dividend was released to the ARA partners in quarter 1 2023/24 based on a surplus position achieved by the shared service in 2022/23 and the section 101 agreement fee base percentages. The dividend released was £78,181.22 and split between Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucester City Council. The value of the dividend was agreed by the ARA Shared Service Board in June 2023.

Ubico Ltd

Ubico Limited was originally formed in 2012 as a company wholly owned by its shareholders, Cheltenham Borough Council and Cotswold District Council. The company is responsible for delivering the shareholders' environmental services within their respective council boundaries. The Forest of Dean District Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and West Oxfordshire District Council joined the partnership on 1st April 2015. Stroud District Council joined in January 2016, Gloucestershire County Council joined in August 2016 and Gloucester City Council joined in November 2021. Each of the eight authorities are now equal shareholders.

The Council procured supplies and services totalling net expenditure of £2.794 million from Ubico Limited during 2023/24, £0.287 million of which is included in the Council's balance sheet: £0.313 million as a short term creditor and £0.026 million as a short term debtor at year end. Sites, plant and equipment and other infrastructure are provided by the Council and are included within the Council's asset register. Vehicles used for haulage are provided by Ubico Limited under the terms of the contract.

Adoption West

On the 1 March 2019 the Council joined together with Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol and North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Councils to create a new regional adoption agency, called Adoption West. The aim of the collaboration is to deliver an adoption service that offers improved outcomes for both children, people who want to adopt and people whose lives are affected by adoption. During 2023/24 the Council made payments to Adoption West totalling £1.090 million.

Note 23 provides more information on related party transactions and arrangements for the Council.

18. Officer's Remuneration

The Council is required to list all post holders who earn between £50,000 and £150,000 or more for all or part of a year and who also fit the following criteria:

- They report directly to the Chief Executive, or;
- They are part of the Council's Senior Management Team, or;
- They hold posts required by statute.
- They hold posts that have significant influence and control over the Council's activities.

The senior employees who met the above criteria for 2022/23 and 2023/24 are as follows:

2022/23

	Salary, Fees and Allowances £	Compensation for loss of Office £	Other Taxable Benefits £	Employer's Pension Contributions £	Total £
Chief Executive - P Bungard (1)	145,069	-	-	-	145,069
Chief Fire Officer - M.Preece	134,349	-	-	38,692	173,041
Executive Director: Economy, Environment & Infrastructure - C. Chick	144,812	-	-	29,397	174,209
Director of Transport and Highways	99,785	-	-	20,256	120,041
Director of Economy and Environment (2)	-	-	-	-	-
Executive Director: Adults Social Care and Public Health - S. Scott	144,812	-	-	29,397	174,209
Director of Adults Social Care (3)	9,207	-	-	1,869	11,076
Director of Adults social care operations (4)	41,845	-	-	8,495	50,340
Director of Quality, Performance & Strategy (5)	41,845	-	-	8,495	50,340
Director of Public Health	101,330	-	-	14,571	115,901
Director of Integration (6)	58,673	-	-	8,604	67,277
Executive Director: Children's Services (7) - C. Spencer	154,859	-	-	497	155,356
A. James	149,912	-	-	-	149,912
Director of Children's Safeguarding	4,947	-	-	497	5,444
Director of Children's Partnerships (8)	117,675	-	-	25,122	142,797
Director of Education	106,503	-	-	20,502	127,005
Deputy Chief Executive and Executive director	110,175	-	-	22,366	132,541
Director of Finance (9)	144,812	-	-	29,397	174,209
Director of Digital and People	64,269	-	-	14,732	79,001
Director of Strategic Planning, Performance & Change and Monitoring Officer	110,175	-	-	22,366	132,541
	106,713	-	-	21,663	128,376
	1,836,908	-	-	316,421	2,153,329

- 1 The Chief Executive works 29.6 hours per week, the full time equivalent for this post is £181,337
- 2 The Director of Economy and Environment is a new role for 2022/23 financial year and was filled from 01/11/2022 via a Secondment. The cost of that secondment for the period was £55,467
- 3 The Director of Adults social care left the post on 05/05/2022, and this position was then removed. The full year equivalent for this post is £112,302
- 4 The Director of Adults social care operations is a new role for 2022/23 financial year and was filled from 31/10/2022. The full year equivalent for this post is £120,816
- 5 The Director of Quality, Assurance and Strategy is a new role for 2022/23 financial year and was filled from 31/10/2022. The full year equivalent for this post is £120,816
- 6 The Director of Integration is an employee of Gloucestershire Clinical Group and Gloucestershire County Council is liable for half of the costs associated with this role.
- 7 The Executive Director of Childrens Services left on 05/05/2023, and there was a handover period to the new postholder from 01/01/2023. The new postholder was paid above their normal role for the handover, from 01/01/2023 to 31/03/2023. This additional cost is included in the costs shown above, with a breakdown of cost per postholder shown below the total for the role.
- 8 The Director of Children's Partnerships started flexible retirement on the 01/03/2023, working 22.2 hours per week. The full time equivalent for this post is £132,540.
- 9 The Director of Finance was on sabbatical from 01/04/2022 till 31/08/2023. The full year equivalent for this post is £135,430. The Sabbatical period was covered by an interim which cost £90,240 for the period 01/04/2022 till 31/08/2023.

2023/24

	Salary, Fees and Allowances £	Compensation for loss of Office £	Other Taxable Benefits £	Employer's Pension Contributions £	Total £
Chief Executive - P Bungard (1)	150,120	-	-	-	150,120
Chief Fire Officer - M.Preece	149,880	-	-	43,165	193,045
Executive Director: Economy, Environment & Director of Transport and Highways	149,880	-	-	30,725	180,605
Director of Economy and Environment (2)	103,277	-	-	21,172	124,449
Executive Director: Adults Social Care and Public Health - S. Scott	-	-	-	-	-
Executive Director: Adults Social Care and Public Health - S. Scott	149,880	-	-	30,725	180,605
Director of Adults social care operations	106,562	-	-	21,845	128,407
Director of Quality, Performance & Strategy	102,464	-	-	21,005	123,469
Director of Public Health	110,448	-	-	15,882	126,330
Director of Integration (3)	45,962	-	-	9,422	55,384
Executive Director: Children's Services- A.James	138,353	-	-	28,362	166,715
Director of Children's Safeguarding and care (4)	87,107	-	-	17,857	104,964
Director of Children's Partnerships (5)	68,419	-	-	-	68,419
Director of Education	114,031	-	-	23,376	137,407
Deputy Chief Executive and Executive director of Corporate Resources (6)					
<i>S.Mawson</i>	74,940	-	-	15,363	90,303
<i>R.Ayliffe - Acting up Honorarium</i>	6,400	-	-	1,312	7,712
<i>P.Blacker - Acting up Honorarium</i>	3,042	-	-	624	3,666
<i>N.Philippidis</i>	13,241	-	-	2,714	15,955
Director of Finance	114,031	-	-	31,805	145,836
Director of Digital and People	114,031	-	-	23,376	137,407
Director of Strategic Planning, Performance & Change and Monitoring Officer	114,031	-	-	23,376	137,407
	1,916,099	-	-	362,106	2,278,205

- 1 The Chief Executive works 29.6 hours per week, the full time equivalent for this post is £187,651.
- 2 The Director of Economy and Environment was filled via secondment for the year, the cost of that secondment for the period was £133,120.
- 3 The Director of Integration is a joint employee of Gloucestershire County Council and ICB. Gloucestershire County Council is liable for half of the costs associated with this role. They started on 22/05/23, the full year equivalent costs for Gloucestershire County Council are £64,351.
- 4 The Director of Children's safeguarding and care was vacant until 26/06/23. The full year equivalent for this post is £137,203.
- 5 The Director of Children's partnerships took flexible retirement on the 01/07/24, and went part time, to 22.2 hours per week. The full time equivalent for this post is £137,407.
The Executive Director of Corporate Resources left the position on 30/09/2023. The Director of Strategic Planning, Performance & Change and the Director of Finance acted up to cover this post, for which they received Honorarium payments. These payments are shown separately above. This post was then filled from 26/02/2024. The full year equivalent cost for this post is £166,850.
- 6

The numbers within the bandings include the total remuneration (excluding employer's pension contributions) of the senior officers disclosed individually in the previous tables.

Salaries for teachers in Academy, Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools have not been included.

Under regulations, the Council is required to show the number of employees whose remuneration exceeded £50,000 (excluding employer's pension contributions) and this is shown in the table below.

The table reflects the total remuneration, including compensation for loss of office (redundancy), received by employees as at 31st March 2023, not just an employee's gross salary.

Remuneration band	Total Number of Employees			
	2022/23		2023/24	
	Schools	Non-Schools	Schools	Non-Schools
£50,000 - £54,999	66	94	82	212
£55,000 - £59,999	47	50	55	65
£60,000 - £64,999	38	33	41	43
£65,000 - £69,999	23	23	34	13
£70,000 - £74,999	19	9	13	22
£75,000 - £79,999	8	15	18	15
£80,000 - £84,999	6	6	7	10
£85,000 - £89,999	-	4	6	8
£90,000 - £94,999	3	1	1	2
£95,000 - £99,999	-	2	2	1
£100,000 - £104,999	-	2	-	1
£105,000 - £109,999	-	2	-	2
£110,000 - £114,999	1	2	-	3
£115,000 - £119,999	-	-	1	1
£120,000 - £124,999	-	1	-	2
£125,000 - £129,999	-	-	-	-
£130,000 - £134,999	-	3	-	-
£135,000 - £139,999	-	-	-	2
£140,000 - £144,999	-	3	-	-
£145,000 - £149,999	-	2	-	3
£150,000 - £154,999	-	-	-	1
£155,000 +	-	-	-	-
Total	211	252	260	406

The increase in employees falling within the £50,000 - £54,999 band is a result of the 2023/24 national pay award pushing more employees into this remuneration band.

The number of exit packages with total cost per band and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the tables below:

2022/23

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Number of compulsory redundancies	Number of other departures agreed	Total number of exit packages by cost band	Total cost of exit packages in each band £
£0 - £20,000	6	23	29	119,048
£20,001 - £40,000	1	1	2	58,662
£40,001 - £60,000	-	2	2	85,118
£60,001 - £80,000	-	-	-	-
£80,001 - £100,000	1	-	1	97,522
£100,001 - £150,000	-	-	-	-
£150,001 - £200,000	-	-	-	-
Total	8	26	34	360,350

In addition to that shown in the above table, a further £130,000 was paid to ex-agency employees during the 2022/23 financial year.

2023/24

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Number of compulsory redundancies	Number of other departures agreed	Total number of exit packages by cost band	Total cost of exit packages in each band £
£0 - £20,000	-	18	18	71,595
£20,001 - £40,000	-	4	4	101,494
£40,001 - £60,000	-	1	1	44,158
£60,001 - £80,000	-	-	-	-
£80,001 - £100,000	-	-	-	-
£100,001 - £150,000	-	-	-	-
£150,001 - £200,000	-	-	-	-
Total	-	23	23	217,247

19. Members' Allowances

The Council is required to report the total allowances paid during the year to Council Members. Full details of the allowances paid to each individual Councillor are published on the Council's website:

[Allowances and expenses paid to Members of the Council - Gloucestershire County Council](#)

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Basic Allowances	570	603
Special Responsibility Allowances	307	321
Travel & Subsistence Allowances	4	12
Total	881	936

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 for non-audit services provided by the Council's external auditors:

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	88	271
Additional fees associated with external audit services	71	-
Fees payable for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	10	10
Total	169	281

The table above sets out audit fees paid in and relating to the 2023/24 financial year. The £270,530 represents the scale fee for the 2023/24 financial year and the £71,000 represents amounts paid in the 2022/23 that relate to prior year audit periods.

21. Disclosure of Deployment of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

The council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG is ringfenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined in the School Finance and Early Years (England) Regulations. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2023/24 are as follows:

	Central Expenditure £'000	Individual Schools Budget £'000	Total £'000
Final DSG for 2023/24 before academy and high needs recoupment			589,563
Academy and high needs figure recouped for 2023/24			-275,802
Total DSG after academy and high needs recoupment for 2023/24			313,761
Plus: Brought forward from 2022/23			-
Less: Carry forward to 2024/25 agreed in advance			-
Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 23/24	113,922	199,839	313,761
In Year Adjustments	-993	-	-993
Final budget distribution for 2023/24	112,929	199,839	312,768
Less: Actual central expenditure	-130,096		-130,096
Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools		-199,839	-199,839
Plus: Local Authority contribution for 2023/24	-	-	-
In-year Deficit Carry Forward to 2024/25	-17,167	-	-17,167
Plus Carry-forward to 2024/25 agreed in advance			-
Carry-forward to 2024/25			-
DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2022/23			-28,584
Addition to DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2023/24			-17,167
Total of DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2023/24			-45,751
Net DSG position as end of 2023/24			-45,751

22. Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2023/24.

Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
National Non Domestic Rates Retained Income	-22,395	-29,006
Top Up Grant	-54,236	-54,669
Non Service Related Grants	-95,688	-122,940
Fire Pensions Top Up Grant	-4,042	-3,796
Total	-176,361	-210,411

Revenue Grants Credited to Services	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Department for Work & Pensions Grants	-9,555	-7,720
Department for Children's Schools & Families Grants	-37,768	-43,832
Department for Education Grants - DSG	-301,661	-312,768
Department of Health Grants	-1,865	-3,638
Community & Local Government Grants	-6,828	-8,719
Youth Justice Board Grant	-675	-720
Young Peoples Learning Agency Grants	-1,430	-1,518
Skills Funding Agency	-3,570	-3,998
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	-4	-108
Other Grants	-14,241	-13,553
Total	-377,597	-396,574

Capital Grants and Contributions credited to Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Department for Communities and Local Government Grants	-6,842	-
Department for Education Grants	-18,532	-20,076
Department for Transport Grants	-28,138	-40,989
Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities Grants	-4,352	-7,439
Homes England Grants	-15,262	-35,831
National Highways	-	-162
Sustrans Cycle Grant	-1,000	-
Local Enterprise Partnership - Growth Fund Grant	-1,326	-
NHS Contributions	-1,131	-3,594
Contributions from other Local Authorities	-4,170	-654
Other Grants and Contributions	-402	-852
Developer Contributions	-4,991	-1,321
Total	-86,146	-110,918

Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Government Grants	-8,824	-9,896
Non Government Contributions for Capital purposes	-48,506	-52,868
Accountable body	-7,534	-7,333
Total	-64,864	-70,097

23. Related Parties

The Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties, that is 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. Note 17 also provides more information on the Council's partnership working with other organisations including Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and Herefordshire Council.

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 the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties. Grants received from Government departments together with Grant receipts outstanding at 31st March 2024 are shown in Note 22.

Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2023/24 is shown in Note 19. Details of all member interests are recorded in the Register of Members' Interest, open to public inspection at Shire Hall during office hours or on the Council website. In 2023/24 there were transactions for £11,510 made to interests of Members of the Council.

Other Public Bodies (subject to common control by Central Government)

The Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Scheme is a related party of Gloucestershire County Council due to the Council being the administering body of the scheme and by virtue of the Pension Committee including 8 Council Members out of the 10 Committee members. The Committee is supported by Council staff who may be subject to influence from Council Members. The Pension Fund's "in-house" surplus cash balances are held in the Pension Fund's own bank account or money market funds. The Council administers the Pension Fund's named accounts within its Treasury Management department. A total average balance of £17.67 million (£9.33 million in 2022/23) was held in the Pension Fund accounts for 2023/24 gaining interest of £0.86 million (£0.21 million in 2022/23). The Council charged £3.56 million (£2.72 million in 2022/23) for administering the Pension Fund.

There is a contractual arrangement between the Council and Gloucestershire Care Partnership Limited (GCP) for the provision of places in care homes for older people, which involves sub-contracting its obligations to Order of St John Care Trust (OSJ) and Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA).

The Council is entitled to appoint one independent trustee to the Board of GCP and under the Articles of Association the Council must always have less than 20% of the voting rights.

Current provision under the arrangement is managed under a commercial contract. Future development of care facilities is managed by an Estates Committee, comprising an equal number of representatives from each party.

In 2023/24 payments of £17.1 million (£14.2 million in 2022/23) were made to the Order of St John Care Trust in relation to this contract. As of 2023/24 all payments made to Nursing and Residential Homes are now paid gross with the client contribution income being collected by the Council directly from the clients.

24. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below (including the value of assets acquired under finance leases and PFI/PPP contracts), 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.

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	457,553	466,005
Property, Plant and Equipment	88,414	123,283
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	35,330	14,216
Total to Finance	123,744	137,499
Sources of finance		
Capital Receipts	-7,132	-1,599
Capital Fund & other Earmarked Reserves	-188	-672
Capital Grants and other Contributions	-92,961	-106,376
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	-9,048	-9,781
Direct Revenue Contributions	-5,963	-6,837
	-115,292	-125,265
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	466,005	478,239
Explanation of movements in year		
Increase/decrease (-) in underlying need to borrowing	8,451	12,234
Increase/Decrease (-) in Capital Financing Requirement	8,451	12,234

Capital Expenditure 2023/24

	£'000	%
Adults	12,394	9.0
Children & Families		
Schools	9,309	6.8
Non Schools	1,646	1.2
Communities & Infrastructure		
Transport & Highways	99,721	72.5
Planning & Economic Development	144	0.1
Environment & Waste	1,333	1.0
Libraries & Registration	507	0.4
Community Safety		
Fire and Rescue	269	0.2
Corporate Services		
Asset Management Property Services	7,762	5.6
Capital Receipts Works before sale	116	
ICT Projects	2,858	2.1
PFI/EFW Lifecycle	1,440	1.0
	137,499	100

25. Leases

The Council accounts for leases in accordance with its Statement of Accounting Policies.

Council as Lessee**Finance Leases**

Other than those schemes undertaken through the Private Finance Initiative as reported in Note 26, there were no further finance leases identified by the Council during 2023/24.

Operating Leases

The Council has entered into operating leases to acquire the use of both property and vehicles. The future commitments due under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

	Expiry date of lease		
	Within 1 year	After 1 year but less than 5 years	After more than 5 years
	£'000	£'000	£'000
2022/23			
Property	562	1,679	2,601
Vehicles	156	98	-
Total	718	1,777	2,601
2023/24			
Property	702	2,108	2,150
Vehicles	183	161	-
Total	885	2,269	2,150

The expenditure charged to Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to the minimum payments for these leases was:

	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Property	592	723
Vehicles	145	154
Total	737	877

Council as Lessor**Finance Leases (IAS 17)**

The Council has looked at all leases (including those that terminated at 31st March 2024) where it is the lessor (landlord), to establish the correct classification under IFRS.

There were no finance leases identified to be included on the balance sheet.

Operating Leases

The Council leases out property under operating leases for purposes that include the provision of community services, care homes for older people and county farms for new starters in agriculture.

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

	Expiry date of lease		
	Within 1 year	After 1 year but less than 5 years	After more than 5 years
	£'000	£'000	£'000
2022/23			
Property	1,071	1,686	6,631
Total	1,071	1,686	6,631
2023/24			
Property	1,696	1,817	6,127
Total	1,696	1,817	6,127

The income relating to the minimum lease payments credited to Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year was:

	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Property	1,514	1,702
Total	1,514	1,702

The minimum lease payments receivable do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews.

26. Private Finance Initiatives and Similar Contracts**Fire Service Joint Training Centre PFI Scheme**

2023/24 was the twenty first year of a twenty-five year PFI contract for the design, build, financing and operation of a Joint Training facility in Avonmouth. The scheme is a joint PFI venture with Avon Fire Authority and Devon & Somerset Fire Authority whereby a significant proportion of the training required by the three services is provided at this facility.

Property, Plant and Equipment

The Council's share of the assets used to provide services at the Joint Training Centre are recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet. Movements in their value over the year are detailed in the analysis of the movement on the Property, Plant and Equipment balance in Note 3.

Payments

The Council makes an agreed payment each year which is increased annually by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year but which is otherwise fixed.

Payments remaining to be made under the PFI contract at 31st March 2024 (excluding any estimation of inflation and availability/performance deductions) are as follows:

2022/23		2023/24			
		Payment for Services	Reimbursement of Capital Expenditure	Interest	Total
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
816	Paid in 2022/23	630	135	70	835
Outstanding undischarged contract obligations:					
835	Payable within one year	651	147	58	856
3,552	Payable within two to five years	2,095	509	92	2,696
4,387	Total	2,746	656	150	3,552

Although the payments made to the contractor are described as unitary payments, they have been calculated to compensate the contractor for the fair value of the services they provide, the capital expenditure incurred and interest payable whilst the capital expenditure remains to be reimbursed. The liability outstanding to pay the liability to the contractor for capital expenditure incurred is as follows:

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Balance outstanding at start of year	907	790
Payments during the year	-117	-135
Balance outstanding at year-end	790	655

The asset value held as at the 31st March each year were:

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Opening Net Book Value	1,328	1,774
Depreciation	-222	-356
Revaluations	661	-
Additions	7	-
Balance	1,774	1,418

Fire Service Stations PFI Scheme

The building of four new Community Fire Stations, as well as a Life Skills Centre (SkillZONE) in Gloucestershire took place during 2011/12 and 2012/13. The PFI scheme runs for twenty-five and a quarter years to June 2037 and the fire stations become the property of the Fire & Rescue Service at the end of the contract agreement. Each station includes community facilities that can be hired by local groups and organisations. The SkillZONE centre in Gloucester is an educational facility aimed at teaching key safety messages to different parts of the community.

Property, Plant and Equipment

The Council's assets used to provide services at the Fire Stations and Life Skills Centre are recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet. Movements in their value over the year are detailed in the analysis of the movement on the Property, Plant and Equipment balance in Note 3.

Payments

The Council makes an agreed payment each year which is increased annually by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year but which is otherwise fixed.

Payments remaining to be made under the PFI contract at 31st March 2024 (including an estimation of inflation and excluding estimations of availability/performance deductions) are as follows:

2022/23		2023/24			
		Payment for Services	Reimbursement of Capital Expenditure	Interest	Total
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
4,008	Paid in 2023/24	2,224	513	1,371	4,108
	Outstanding undischarged contract obligations:				
4,108	Payable within one year	2,086	799	1,326	4,211
17,486	Payable within two to five years	10,279	3,038	4,607	17,924
24,433	Payable within six to ten years	15,540	5,390	4,114	25,044
23,290	Payable within eleven to fifteen years	11,184	5,710	1,137	18,031
69,317	Total	39,089	14,937	11,184	65,210

Although the payments made to the contractor are described as unitary payments, they have been calculated to compensate the contractor for the fair value of the services they provide, the capital expenditure incurred and interest payable whilst the capital expenditure remains to be reimbursed. The liability outstanding to pay the liability to the contractor for capital expenditure incurred is as follows:

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Balance outstanding at start of year	16,188	15,450
Payments during the year	-738	-513
Balance outstanding at year-end	15,450	14,937

The asset value held as at the 31st March each year were:

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Opening Net Book Value	34,391	32,125
Depreciation	-2,272	-2,273
Additions	79	370
Revaluations	-73	-
Closing Balance	32,125	30,222

Energy from Waste Facility

A service concession arrangement involves the grantor conveying to the operator for the period of the concession the right to provide services that give the public access to major economic and social facilities. They are arrangements whereby a public body grants contracts for the supply of public services, such as roads, to private operators. In practice, service concessions typically last for twenty five to thirty years or more and have complicated fact patterns.

In September 2012 a contract for the treatment of residual waste was awarded to Urbaser Balfour Beatty (UBB) to design, build, finance and operate an energy from waste (EfW) facility on behalf of the Council located at Javelin Park, near Gloucester. Following planning delays, the contract finally received permission in July 2015, and in January 2016 the existing contract with UBB was revised to take account of an updated project plan.

From October 2019 the facility became operational and at this point it is recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet. The contract period is for 25 years starting from the operational date with the option to extend by 5 years.

Under the contract the Council is required to ensure that all waste for disposal from the district councils within Gloucestershire is delivered to the contractor, who will take on the responsibility for recycling or recovering energy from the waste stream.

Property, Plant and Equipment

The Council's assets used to provide services at the Energy from Waste facility are recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet. Movements in their value over the year are detailed in the analysis of the movement on the Property, Plant and Equipment balance in Note 3.

Payments

The Council makes an agreed payment each year based on the tonnage of waste processed which is increased annually by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year. Payments remaining to be made under the contract arrangements at 31st March 2024 (including an estimation of tonnage, inflation and excluding estimations of availability/performance deductions) are as follows:

2022/23		2023/24		Interest	Total
		Payment for Services	Reimbursement of Capital Expenditure		
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
21,807	Paid in 2023/24	7,872	620	13,770	22,262
Outstanding undischarged contract obligations:					
22,015	Payable within one year	8,204	642	13,626	22,472
67,087	Payable within two to five years	26,014	2,319	40,015	68,348
115,511	Payable within six to ten years	49,412	5,864	62,959	118,235
122,590	Payable within eleven to fifteen years	57,226	14,311	54,619	126,156
131,336	Payable within sixteen to twenty years	67,276	33,990	34,289	135,555
70,204	Payable within twenty one to twenty five years	18,939	20,438	4,336	43,713
528,743	Total				514,479

Although the payments made to the contractor are described as unitary payments, they have been calculated to compensate the contractor for the fair value of the services they provide, the capital expenditure incurred and interest payable whilst the capital expenditure remains to be reimbursed. The liability outstanding to pay the liability to the contractor for capital expenditure incurred is as follows:

	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Balance outstanding at start of year	78,796	78,184
Balance outstanding at date of recognition	-	-
Payments during the year	-612	-620
Balance outstanding at year-end	78,184	77,564

The deferred revenue value held as at the 31st March each year were:

	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Balance outstanding at start of year	57,146	54,662
Balance outstanding at date of recognition	-	-
Amortisation	-2,484	-2,484
Closing Balance	54,662	52,178

The asset value held as at the 31st March each year were:

	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Opening Net Book Value at start of year	188,193	198,438
Opening Net Book Value at recognition	-	-
Depreciation	-8,090	-8,902
Additions	886	1,070
Revaluations	17,449	1,328
Closing Balance	198,438	191,934

Arrangements that contain a lease

The Council have examined arrangements that could contain a lease. This is where "a transaction does not take the legal form of a lease but conveys the right to use an asset in return for payment". None were identified.

27. Impairment Losses - Capital

Adjustment for impairment has not been considered necessary in respect of decline in value due to obsolescence or physical damage, or a commitment by the Council to undertake a significant reorganisation or due to a significant adverse change in the statutory or other regulatory environment in which the Council operates.

28. Termination Benefits

The Council terminated the contracts of a number of employees in 2023/24, incurring liabilities of £0.217 million (£0.360 million in 2022/23). Note 18 provides details of the number of exit packages and total cost per band.

29. Pensions Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes

Teachers employed by the Council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education. The Scheme provides teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement, and the Council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The Scheme is a multi employer defined benefit scheme. The Scheme is unfunded and the Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. The Council is not able to identify its share of underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2023/24, the Council paid £21.80 million to the Teachers' Pensions Agency (TPA) in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, at 23.68% of pensionable pay from 1st April 2023 to the 31st March 2024. The figures for 2022/23, the Council paid £21.28 million, at 23.68% of pensionable pay from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. There were no contributions remaining payable at year-end

The Council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis, and fully accrued in the pensions liability. Detail can be found in Note 30.

Under the new arrangements for Public Health, staff performing public health functions who were compulsorily transferred from the Primary Care Trusts (PCT) to local authorities and who had access to the NHS Pension Scheme on 31st March 2013 retained access to that Scheme on transfer at 1st April 2013.

The NHS pension scheme is an unfunded, defined benefit scheme and it is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. In the NHS, the scheme is accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Council is not able to identify its share of underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

30. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Accounting standards IAS19 and IFRIC 14 require that subject to certain conditions, 'the surplus should be recognised as an asset on the employer's Balance Sheet' but only to the extent that an employer can gain an economic benefit from it.

IFRIC 14 stipulates that a 'Minimum Funding Requirement' may limit the ability of the entity to reduce future contributions. In effect it requires employers to establish if they are subject to a minimum funding requirement and if so carry out a calculation to determine the 'cap' on the amount that can be recognised. The authority currently makes a Minimum Funding Requirement (Primary Contributions) of 20.5% of Payroll costs.

To calculate the 'Cap' an actuarial calculation has been carried out of 'the net present value of future service costs less net present value of future contributions, in perpetuity', based on the IAS19 Results Schedule as at 31 March 2024 for Gloucestershire County Council.

The calculation assumes a projected current service cost of 19.6% of payroll costs and a Minimum Funding Requirement/contribution rate of 20.5% this results in no Cap being applied.

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 a commitment to make the payments that needs to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Council participates in several post employment schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by Gloucestershire County Council – this is a funded defined benefit Career Average Revalued Earnings scheme (CARE) , meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions 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 pensions liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due.
- The Council also participates in the unfunded Firefighters Pension Scheme and these are disclosed separately within these accounts.

The Gloucestershire pension scheme is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the pensions committee. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pensions Fund Regulations. The investment managers of the fund are appointed by the pensions committee.

The principal risks to the Council of the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, structural changes to the scheme (i.e. large-scale withdrawals from the scheme), changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge to the General Fund the amounts required by statute as described in the accounting policies note.

Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

The Council recognise the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge the Council is required to make against Council Tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. 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:

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Local Government Pension Scheme		Unfunded - Firefighters' Pension Scheme	
	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Cost of Services:				
Service Cost Comprising:				
Current service cost	81,051	40,937	4,200	1,500
Past service costs	221	137	200	-
Losses / Gains (-) on settlements	-771	-3,042	-	-
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure				
Net interest on the defined pension liability	13,065	-650	7,100	8,900
Total Post Employment Benefits Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	93,566	37,382	11,500	10,400
<hr/>				
Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Local Government Pension Scheme		Unfunded - Firefighters' Pension Scheme	
	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:				
Return on plan assets (excluding the amount charged in the net interest expense)	-67,074	93,928	-	-
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	18,516	8,932	3,100	100
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	705,635	79,996	88,700	9,200
Other experience	-135,742	-45,878	-11,300	-4,800
Effect of asset ceiling	-	-360,937	-	-
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	521,335	-223,959	80,500	4,500

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Unfunded - Firefighters' Pension Scheme	
	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
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	-51,969	6,653	2,300	4,900
	-51,969	6,653	2,300	4,900

Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:

Employers' contributions payable for unfunded teachers scheme & LGPS benefits (discretionary)	41,568	49,049	6,700	6,400
Employers' contributions payable to scheme for unfunded LGPS benefits (Discretionary)	3,795	3,886	-	-
Total employers contributions	45,363	52,935	6,700	6,400

Firefighters pension and lump sum benefit payments			7,600	7,400
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Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme - Funded		Local Government Pension Scheme - unfunded	
	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	-1,397,685	-1,407,928	-40,990	-38,195
Fair value of plan assets	1,444,954	1,604,933	-	-
Other movements in the liability (asset)	-	-360,937	-	-
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	47,269	-163,932	-40,990	-38,195

	Unfunded - Firefighters' Pension Scheme	
	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	-189,800	-189,300
Fair value of plan assets	-	-
Other movements in the liability (asset)	-	-
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	-189,800	-189,300

Reconciliation of the Movements in the Fair Value of Scheme (Plan) Assets:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Unfunded - Firefighters' Pension Scheme	
	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	1,473,868	1,444,954	-	-
Interest Income	39,809	68,579	-	-
Remeasurement Gain / Loss (-):				
The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	-71,973	93,928	-	-
The effect of changes in foreign exchange rates	-	-	-	-
Contributions from employer	45,363	52,935	6,700	6,400
Contributions from employees into the scheme	10,571	11,613	1,100	1,200
Benefits paid	-48,077	-57,817	-7,800	-7,600
Benefits paid for unfunded LGPS benefits (Discretionary)	-3,795	-3,886	-	-
Assets distributed on settlement	-812	-5,373	-	-
Closing fair value of scheme assets	1,444,954	1,604,933	-	-

Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities (Defined Benefit Obligation):

	Funded liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme		Unfunded liabilities: Firefighters' Pension Scheme	
	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening balance at 1 st April	-1,940,721	-1,438,675	-265,500	-189,800
Current service cost	-81,051	-40,937	-4,200	-1,500
Interest cost	-52,874	-67,929	-7,100	-8,900
Contributions from scheme participants	-10,571	-11,613	-1,100	-1,200
Remeasurement Losses / Gains (-):				
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	18,516	8,932	3,100	100
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	705,635	79,996	88,700	9,200
Expected pension increase order	-	-	-8,500	-4,800
Other experience	-130,843	-45,878	-2,800	-
Past service costs (Including curtailments)	-221	-137	-200	-
Liabilities assumed on entity combinations				
Benefits paid	48,077	57,817	7,800	7,600
Benefits paid for unfunded teachers scheme & LGPS benefits (Discretionary)	3,795	3,886	-	-
Liabilities extinguished on settlements, where relevant	1,583	8,415	-	-
Closing balance at 31st March	-1,438,675	-1,446,123	-189,800	-189,300

Reconciliation of Asset Ceiling:

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Asset Ceiling restriction of surplus b/f 01/04/2023	-	-
Change in the irrecoverable surplus due to interest charged to P/L	-	-
Change in the irrecoverable surplus recognised as a remeasurement in other comprehensive income	-	-360,937
Asset Ceiling restriction of surplus c/f 31/03/2024	-	-360,937

As the minimum funding contributions are higher than the future service cost no surplus is recognisable in year ending 2023/24. Therefore, the funded surplus has been limited by £197,005k to nil. Also, an additional liability of £163,932k is recognised due to future deficit recovery contributions the council is committed to as at the balance sheet date.

During prior year the difference between the present value of future service costs and future service contributions was greater than the current surplus therefore the full surplus was recognisable in 2022/23.

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

	2022/23			2023/24		
	Quoted prices in active markets £'000	Quoted prices not in active markets £'000	TOTAL £'000	Quoted prices in active markets £'000	Quoted prices not in active markets £'000	TOTAL £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	13,828	-	13,828	39,571	-	39,571
Equity Instruments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonds by Sector:						
Corporate (investment grade)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corporate (non-investment grade)	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK Government	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total bonds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Real Estate:						
UK Property	50,665	45,867	96,532	57,997	40,864	98,861
Overseas Property	-	25,248	25,248	-	31,388	31,388
Sub-total real estate	50,665	71,115	121,780	57,997	72,252	130,249
Private equity:						
All	-	27,498	27,498	-	38,397	38,397
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts:						
Equities	-	924,626	924,626	-	968,148	968,148
Bonds	92,385	155,788	248,173	117,545	172,623	290,168
Infrastructure	-	51,591	51,591	-	67,089	67,089
Other	-	57,459	57,459	-	69,740	69,740
Sub-total investments funds and Unit Trusts	92,385	1,189,464	1,281,849	117,545	1,277,600	1,395,145
Derivatives:						
Forward foreign exchange contracts	-	-	-	1,570	-	1,570
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total derivatives	-	-	-	1,570	-	1,570
Total Assets	156,878	1,288,077	1,444,955	216,683	1,388,249	1,604,932
			Fair Value of Scheme			
			2022/23	2023/24		
			£'000	£'000		
Equity Instruments by Company size:-:						
FTSE 100				-	-	
FTSE 250				-	-	
Pooled UK Smaller Companies				-	-	
Sub-total equity instruments				-	-	

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 Firefighters' Pension Schemes liabilities have been assessed by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31st March 2022. The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Unfunded liabilities:	
	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24
Mortality assumptions:				
Longevity (yrs) at 65 (60 for Fire) for current pensioners:				
Men	21.6	21.4	25.9	25.8
Women	24.4	24.2	28.5	28.7
Longevity (yrs) at 65 (60 for Fire) for future pensioners: (Figures assume members aged 45 as at 31.03.22 for the LGPS and as at 31.03.20 for Fire)				
Men	22.3	22.1	27.3	27.2
Women	25.7	25.5	29.8	30.0
Rate of increase in salaries	3.45%	3.25%	3.20%	3.10%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.95%	2.75%	2.95%	2.75%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities #	4.75%	4.85%	4.75%	4.85%

Under IAS19 requirements the long-term expected rate of return on all asset types is the discount rate.

The basis of the annual IAS19 actuarial valuation is undertaken on an agreed roll forward methodology of the Council's share of assets and liabilities from the latest valuation date, which was 31st March 2022. This is then adjusted for as required for future investment returns and employee benefits accordingly. This generally excepted estimation technique could result in potential variations from actual fund levels of up to 2% or 3% per annum.

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

Sensitivity Analysis

Change in assumptions at 31 March 2024	Approximate Increase %	Approximate monetary amount £'000
--	------------------------	-----------------------------------

Local Government Pension Scheme - Increase to Employer Liability

0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	24,543
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	57,845
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	2,076
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2%	22,916

Fire Fighters Pension Scheme - Increase to Employer Liability

0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	9%	17,250
1 year increase in member life expectancy	3%	5,680
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	590
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	8%	14,750

Fire Fighters Pension Scheme - Increase to Projected Current Service Cost

0.5% decrease in real Discount Rate	35%	460
1 year increase in member life expectancy	3%	40
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	-
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	15%	200

Impact on the Authority's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at a constant a rate as possible. The County Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 17 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. A triennial valuation was undertaken on 31 March 2022. The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 provided for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework to establish new career average revalued earnings schemes to pay pensions and other benefits to certain public servants in relation to service after 31st March 2014 for the Local Government Pension Scheme or service after 31st March 2015 for other main existing public service pension schemes in England and Wales.

The Council expects to pay £48.9m in contributions to the LGPS scheme.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members:

		Duration 2022/23	Duration 2023/24
LGPS	Duration as at previous formal valuation - 31.03.22	17.0	17.0
Fire	Updated duration effective as at previous formal valuation - 31.03.20	17.0	17.3
Fire - Injury	Updated duration effective as at previous formal valuation - 31.03.20	19.7	20.0

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

31. Contingent Liabilities

Contingent liabilities are disclosed by way of a note when there is a possible obligation which may require a payment or a transfer of economic benefits.

Pension Guarantees

The Council has guaranteed to cover the liabilities associated with the pensions of ex-employees following the transfers of council services to external bodies. These arrangements are monitored and assessed to ensure that any provision for possible liabilities are made. Following this assessment it is not considered to be necessary to include any costs associated with these guarantees within the 2023/24 accounts.

Pyke Quarry, Oak Quarry and Fosse Cross

Work by the Council has identified a contingent liability in respect of Pyke Quarry and Oak Quarry, restored landfill sites, and Fosse Cross, a closed landfill site. At the Pyke Quarry and Oak Quarry sites there are Household Recycling Centres. Should the Council vacate these sites, Pyke Quarry would need extensive restoration, however at Oak Quarry there would be the removal of fixtures and fittings only. At Fosse Cross the Council has a budget for maintenance of the site only as it owns the land. The work for restoration of the two sites is estimated to be £0.73 million

32. Nature and extent of risks arising from Financial Instruments

The Council complies with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management and Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, both revised in December 2021.

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

The Treasury Management Strategy includes an Investment Strategy in compliance with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Guidance on Local Government Investments. This Guidance emphasises that priority is to be given to security and liquidity, rather than yield. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy and its Treasury Management Practices seek to achieve a suitable balance between risk and return or cost.

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

- Credit risk – The possibility that the counterparty to a financial asset will fail to meet its contractual obligations, causing a loss to the Council.
- Liquidity risk – The possibility that the Council might not have the cash available to make contracted payments on time.
- Market risk – The possibility that an unplanned financial loss will materialise because of changes in market variables such as interest rates or equity prices.

Credit Risk

The Council manages credit risk by ensuring that treasury investments are only placed with organisations of high credit quality as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy. These include commercial entities with a minimum long-term credit rating of A-, the UK government, other local authorities, and organisations without credit ratings upon which the Council has received independent investment advice. Recognising that credit ratings are imperfect predictors of default, the Council has regard to other measures including credit default swap and equity prices when selecting commercial entities for investment.

A limit of £30m is placed on the amount of money that can be invested with a single counterparty (other than the UK government), and £60m in any group of funds under the same management. The Council also sets limits on investments in certain sectors and no more than £150m in total can be invested for a period longer than one year.

Deposits are made with other local authorities, housing associations, banks, building societies and other financial institutions. The banks and financial institutions must satisfy a minimum credit rating and the Council sets limits on the amounts that can be invested in both an individual institution and also with a type of institution in total.

The table below summarises the credit risk exposures of the Council's treasury investment portfolio by credit rating and remaining time to maturity. This excludes money held in the Council's bank account.

	31/03/2023		31/03/2024	
	Short Term £m	Long Term £m	Short Term £m	Long Term £m
Banks and Building Societies Rated A- or Higher	25.2	-	-	-
Unrated Local Authorities	110.6	5.0	101.5	5.0
Unrated Housing Associations	-	-	-	-
Covered Instruments	-	-	5.2	-
Total	135.8	5.0	106.7	5.0
Credit risk not applicable *:				
Money Market Funds	35.5	-	20.0	-
Cash Plus Money Market Funds	-	-	-	-
Pooled Funds	0.9	88.3	1.0	90.0
Total	172.2	93.3	127.7	95.0

* Credit risk is not applicable to shareholdings and pooled funds where the Council has no contractual right to receive any sum of money.

In addition to treasury investments already made the Council is exposed to the risk of loss on the following contractual commitments to lend in the future:

	31/03/2023 £'000	31/03/2024 £'000
Unrated housing associations	10,000	20,000

Loss allowances on treasury investments have been calculated by reference to historic default data published by credit rating agencies multiplied by 86% (2022/23:112%) to adjust for current and forecast economic conditions. A delay in cash flows is assumed to arise in the event of default. Investments are determined to have suffered a significant increase in credit risk where they have been downgraded by three or more credit rating notches or equivalent since initial recognition, unless they retain an investment grade credit rating. They are determined to be credit-impaired when awarded a "D" credit rating or equivalent. At 31st March 2024, £2k (2022/23: £7k) of loss allowances related to treasury investments. No adjustments have been made for this loss allowance as it is immaterial.

The Council's debtors, including any payments in advance made by the Council represent a customer base with the potential for risk exposure to non-recovery of the debt. However a large proportion of the total debt relates to Government bodies and other debts which are not considered to be a risk. Therefore, in practice, the calculation of the risk exposure (bad debt provision) is confined to debtor invoices raised that are then subjected to recovery procedures. As at the end of March 2024 the breakdown is shown below.

Generally the recovery process commences when an invoice is 14 days overdue, with a reminder automatically being sent. The following provides an aged-debt analysis of our outstanding debtor invoices.

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Less than a month	-	7,010
One to three months	3,209	8,870
Three to six months	2,188	2,949
More than six months	8,591	12,070
	13,988	30,899

Liquidity Risk

The Council has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets and the Public Works Loans Board and other local authorities, and at higher rates from banks and building societies. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments. It is however exposed to the risk that it will need to refinance a significant proportion of its borrowing at a time of unfavourably high interest rates. This risk is managed by maintaining a spread of fixed rate loans and ensuring that no more than 25% of the Council's borrowing matures in any one financial year. The current maturity for both assets and liabilities is as follows:

	2022/23			2023/24		
	Treasury Related		Finance Lease	Treasury Related		Finance Lease
	Liabilities £'000	Assets £'000	Liabilities £'000	Liabilities £'000	Assets £'000	Liabilities £'000
Less than one year	43,212	172,169	1,268	51,797	127,696	1,588
Between one and two years	6,500	93,349	3,262	-	95,004	3,376
Between two and five years	15,000	-	4,903	15,000	-	4,819
Between five and ten years	15,000	-	12,471	26,000	-	14,840
Between ten and twenty years	47,958	-	63,493	36,958	-	68,534
Between twenty and thirty years	94,269	-	9,028	91,269	-	-
Between thirty and forty years	20,000	-	-	15,000	-	-
	241,939	265,518	94,425	236,024	222,700	93,157

The Council has £33.05 million (2022/23: £35.05 million) of "Lender's option, borrower's option" (LOBO) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the rate payable; the Council will then have the option to accept the new rate or repay the loan without penalty. In the event that the lender exercises its option, the Council is likely to repay these loans. The maturity date is therefore uncertain, however as all these loans are under a six monthly call they are included in the "less than one year" category.

The Council holds £32.5 million (2022/23: £35.4 million) of liquid financial assets that can be withdrawn at short notice if required to meet cash outflows on financial liabilities. This includes cash held in the Council's bank account.

Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

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

- Borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise.
- Borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities will fall.
- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise.
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

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

The treasury management strategy ensures that interest rate exposure feeds into the setting of the annual budget, and is used to monitor the budget during the year. If interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be:

	31/03/2023 £'000	31/03/2024 £'000
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	-	-
Impact on I&E of interest receivable on variable rate investments from a 1% rise in interest rate	359	217
Decrease in fair value of investments held at FVPL from a 1% rise in interest rate	-723	-1004
Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-364	-787
Decrease in fair value of investments held at FVOCI	-	-
Impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-364	-787
Impact on Fair Value of 1% rise of fixed rate investments*	-543	-357
Impact on Fair Value of 1% rise of fixed rate borrowing*	-27,771	-25,705
Impact on Fair Value of 1% fall of fixed rate borrowing*	34,555	31,866

*No impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

Price Risk

The market prices of the Council's fixed rate bond investments and its units in pooled bond funds are governed by prevailing interest rates and the market risk associated with these instruments is managed alongside interest rate risk.

The Council's investment in a pooled property fund is subject to the risk of falling commercial property prices. This risk is limited by the Council's maximum principal exposure to property investments of £30m. A 5% fall in commercial property prices at 31st March 2024 would result in a £1.3 million (2022/23: £1.7 million) charge to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services which is then transferred to the Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account.

The Council's investment in pooled equity funds is subject to the risk of falling share prices. This risk is limited by the Council's maximum exposure in pooled funds of £150m. A 5% fall in share prices at 31st March 2024 would result in a £1.77m (2022/23: £1.58 million) charge to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services which is then transferred to the Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account.

The Council's investment in a real estate investment trust (REIT) is subject to the risk of falling residential property prices. This risk is limited by the Council's maximum exposure to REITs of £30m. A 5% fall in residential property prices at 31st March 2024 would result in a £0.252 million (2022/23: £0.279m) charge to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure which would be reflected in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

Foreign Exchange Risk

The Council has minimal exposure to foreign exchange rates with all conversions carried out at spot rates with minimal financial risk.

33. Trust Funds

At 31st March 2024 the Council administered 4 trust funds on behalf of the trustees. These funds do not represent assets of the Council and they have not been included in the Balance Sheet.

	Balance at 31 st March 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 st March 2024 £
Libraries				
2 trusts providing funding for books for libraries	2,804	-	-	2,804
Gloucestershire Heritage Trust Ltd				
Preserves and renovates specific buildings and areas which are of historic interest	7,004	-	-	7,004
Gloucestershire War Relief				
The awarding of grants relating to service in the Great War	411	-	-	411
Total	10,219	-	-	10,219

34. Insurance

The Council arranges external insurance subject to the following excess levels: public / employer's / official's indemnity liability policies, £0.375 million.

Property Risks (Fire / lightning / explosion / earthquake / riot / civil commotion / storm / floods and escape of water damage) to all Council Properties £0.100 million excess and own accident damage to GCC vehicles £0.20 million excess. This effectively means that all but the very largest claims are self-insured.

The Insurance Fund is made up of annual premiums charged to services. The fund consists of a provision representing the estimated cost of known outstanding claims, with the remaining balance being held as a reserve to meet the cost of potential future claims.

35. Deferred Liabilities

The amount of deferred liabilities recorded by the Council are as follows:-

Deferred Liabilities	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
PFI Joint Fire Training Centre - Amounts held with the equalisation fund on behalf of Avon Fire Authority and Devon & Somerset Fire Authority	1,611	1,231
Energy from Waste Contract - Deferred third party income	54,662	52,178
Total	56,273	53,409

36. Collection Fund Adjustment Account

Within Gloucestershire, precept collection of council tax and non-domestic rates for the Council is managed by the District Councils. Regulations require the Council to account for precept collection on an accruals basis. The Council is therefore required to include its share of any collection balances within the formal Statement of Accounts.

The following statement outlines the balances held as at 31st March 2023:

	Arrears after Impairment Allowance for Doubtful/Bad Debt (Debtors)	Overpayments and Prepayments (Creditors)	Collection Fund Surplus (-) /Deficit	Cash (shown as Debtor or Creditor)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Council Tax Collection	20,728	-7,256	-2,607	-10,865
Non-Domestic Rates Collection	1,133	-3,672	2,518	21
Total	21,861	-10,928	-89	-10,844

The following statement outlines the balances held as at 31st March 2024:

	Arrears after Impairment Allowance for Doubtful/Bad Debt (Debtors)	Overpayments and Prepayments (Creditors)	Collection Fund Surplus (-) /Deficit	Cash (shown as Debtor or Creditor)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Council Tax Collection	21,508	-6,770	-4,374	-10,364
Non-Domestic Rates Collection	2,803	-799	307	-2,311
Total	24,311	-7,569	-4,067	-12,675

37. Gain/Loss on the Disposal of Non Current Assets

The £49.191 million gain/loss reported on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes the loss of £48.916 million following the transfer of fourteen schools to academy status during 2023/24. Five schools converted to Academy status in 2022/23 totalling a loss of £9.905 million.

38. Revenue from Contracts with Service Recipients

Following a review of fees & charges Income summarised in note 4, with the adoption of IFRS 15, the Council has identified material contractual arrangements in relation to Adult Social Care provision under deferred payments (where care users use the value of their home to help pay care home costs) and client contributions (based on an assessment of how much care users must contribute towards the cost of their care).

The following amounts were recognised as income within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for these contracts:

	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Client Contributions	-31,505	-36,970
Deferred Payments	-3,520	-3,734
Total Income	-35,025	-40,704

There were no material arrangements identified with performance obligations, so the income has been recognised on the date the Council provided the goods or services for all contracts with service recipients. Further details of the income received by the Council through other contract arrangements are included within the fees, charges and other services income line within Note 16, Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature.

The following amounts were included as debtors in the balance sheet for adult social care contracts with service recipients:

	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Client Contributions	2,580	3,114
Deferred Payments	6,460	7,321
Total Income	9,040	10,435

39. Statement of Accounting Policies

Introduction

Accounting policies are the principles, bases, conventions, rules, and practices applied by the Council. They specify how the financial effects of transactions and other events are reflected in the financial statements through recognising, selecting measurement bases for, and presenting assets, liabilities, gains, losses, and changes in reserves. All the accounting policies adopted, that are material in the context of the Council's 2023/24 financial statements, are described below.

General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2023/24 financial year and its position at the year-end on 31st March 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Council Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) (referred to as "the Code" in the following notes) and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. 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. These accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

Accruals of Income and Expenditure

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. The bases of recognition are as follows:

- 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 rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- When 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.
- Exceptionally, in some cases actual payments are brought into account as they arise rather than being strictly apportioned between financial years e.g. electricity and gas charges. The effect on the income and expenditure account is not material.
- Non cheque book schools are accounted for on a cash basis.

Prior Period Adjustments, changes in accounting policies and estimates and errors

Prior period adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policies or to correct 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.

Change 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.

Basis for Redemption of Debt

The Council has historic debt from financing a proportion of its capital investment through raising loans. In accordance with statutory requirements the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement has been charged with an amount that is sufficient to redeem a specified statutory percentage of outstanding debt. The statutory figure is called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The Council charges a fixed amount per annum for debt taken prior to 2016 and calculates the MRP on an asset life basis for debt taken after this.

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 highly liquid investments that are readily converted to known amounts of cash within a short timescale, are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value and are available to meet short term cash commitments. Those investments that will mature within three months from the date of acquisition are treated as cash equivalents, however, those held for strategic purposes are treated as long term investments to reflect the Council's policy of holding them for a minimum of five years.

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

Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

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

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service.
- Revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are insufficient accumulated gains in the revaluation reserve against which the losses can be written off.
- Amortisation of intangible non-current assets attributable to the service.

The Council is not allowed 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.

Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by the MRP contribution in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

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 its control. 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.

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 its control. Contingent liabilities also arise 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.

Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

The district councils in Gloucestershire are acting as agents of the County Council in collecting council tax and business rates. The cash collected from council taxpayers and business rates payers belongs proportionately to the district councils and the major preceptors. There is therefore a debtor / creditor position between each district council and the County Council to recognise that the net cash paid in the year is not the same as the share of cash collected. The Council recognises its share of council tax and business rates debtor and creditor balances, impairment allowances for doubtful debts and provisions for losses on appeal in its Balance Sheet. The Cash Flow Statement of the Council includes the net council tax and business rates cash received from the Collection Fund in the year.

The council tax and NDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) 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 CIES 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.

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.

Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Balance sheet events have been considered up to the time the Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue.

An adjustment will be made for events after the balance sheet date that provides evidence of the conditions that existed at the balance sheet date. An adjustment will not be made for events that occurred after the balance sheet date that is indicative of conditions that arose after the balance sheet date. However, if the non-adjusting event would have a material effect, disclosure will be made in the notes to the accounts describing the nature of the event and the estimated financial effect.

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 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 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 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. These payments are charged on an accrual basis to the relevant directorate in the Cost of Services 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 in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the Pension Fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post Employment Benefits

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the Council offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until the employee retires, the Council has a commitment to make the payments that need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

Employees of the Council are members of seven separate pension schemes:

- The Local Government Pensions Scheme.
- The Firefighter's Pensions Scheme.
- The New Firefighter's Pension Scheme.
- The Modified Firefighters Pension Scheme.
- The Firefighters Pension Scheme 2015.
- The Teachers' Pension Scheme.
- The NHS Pension Scheme for employees that have transferred in respect of Public Health.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Scheme for civilian employees is administered by the Council. The assets of the scheme are separately held in a Committee Administered Fund with the Council acting as trustees. It is a statutory scheme, administered in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, as amended and a separate annual audit is carried out by the appointed external auditors.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme hence:

- The liabilities of the LGPS attributable to the Council are included in the balance sheet on an actuarial basis, using the projected unit method, i.e.: an assessment of future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumption about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc. and projected earnings of employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate that is based upon indicative rate of return on a high rated corporate bond equivalent to the Scheme's liabilities.
- The Assets of the LGPS attributable to the Council are included in the balance sheet at their fair value.
- The Change in net pensions liability is analysed into the following components:
 - Service Costs comprising:
 - Current Service Cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year is 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 is debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
 - Net Interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net increase expense for the Council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) arises from the passage of the time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Remeasurements comprising:
- The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in the net interest on the defined benefit liability (asset) – 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 coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions are charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure
 - Contributions paid to the Gloucestershire 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 the pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards.

In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for 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 Pension 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 earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

The Council has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise because 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.

Firefighter's Pension Schemes

The Firefighter schemes are unfunded defined benefit schemes administered by the Council. There are no assets built up to meet the pension liabilities and cash has to be generated to meet actual pension payments as they eventually fall due. Annual pension costs are met from defined employee contributions and charges to the Fire and Rescue Service revenue account. The accounting for these schemes complies with the Code and the IAS19 adjustments are detailed in the notes to the accounts.

Teachers Pension Scheme

The Teachers Pension Scheme is an unfunded, multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme. The Council is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme. In compliance with the Code, the Council is reporting the Scheme as if it were a defined-contribution scheme.

NHS Pension Scheme

The NHS Pension Scheme is an unfunded, multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme. The Council is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme. In compliance with the Code, the Council is reporting the Scheme as if it were a defined-contribution scheme.

Exceptional Items

When items of income and expense are material, their nature and amount is disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the notes to the accounts, depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the Council's financial performance.

Financial Instruments

A Financial Instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another. Non-exchange transactions, such as those relating to taxes and government grants, do not give rise to financial instruments. The term financial instrument covers both financial assets and liabilities.

All financial instruments held by the Council are reviewed in accordance with the Code. Arrangements to establish the subsequent carrying value and recognition of any gains and losses, and accounting entries are made as applicable. All adjustments are detailed in the notes to the accounts.

Financial Liabilities

A financial liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the Council and can be represented by a contractual obligation to deliver cash or financial assets or an obligation to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that is potentially unfavourable to the Council. Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) 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.

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

Regulations allow the impact on the General Fund balance of premiums and discounts from the restructure of debt, to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the term remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or the discount receivable. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the CIES to the net charge required against the General Fund balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Financial Assets

A financial asset is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the Council that is represented by cash, equity instruments or a contractual right to receive cash or other financial assets or a right to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that is potentially favourable to the Council. The financial assets held by the Council during the year are accounted for under the following classifications:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss (FVPL), and
- fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

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

All of the Council's Strategic Pooled Funds are considered to be long term investments as the Council intends to hold these instruments for a minimum of five years.

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 subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) 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 CIES is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

Expected Credit Loss Model

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost where material, 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 significantly since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month expected losses.

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. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

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 and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES.

Financial Assets Measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

Financial assets that are measured at FVOCI are recognised on the balance sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arise in other comprehensive income.

The Council irrevocably elected to present changes in the fair value of the following equity investments in other comprehensive income as permitted by IFRS 9:

- Fundamentum Real Estate Investment Trust

Foreign Currency Translation

The Council does not generally deal in transactions denominated in a foreign currency but when transactions do take place in foreign currency they are converted into sterling at the exchange rate applicable when the transaction took place.

Any assets or liabilities held in foreign denominations at the balance sheet date are reconverted at the spot rate applicable at the balance sheet date. Resulting gains or losses are recognised in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES.

Government Grants and Contributions

Revenue grants received are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and are accounted for on an accruals basis when the conditions for their receipt have been met, and there is reasonable assurance that the grant or contribution will be received. Specific grants are credited to the Cost of Services, whilst grants received to cover general expenditure are credited to the Taxation and Investment Income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions where conditions attached 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 or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ring fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where the Council has met all conditions attached to capital grants and contributions, the income is credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This income is 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. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are non-current assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled by the Council through custody or legal rights. The Council's intangible assets consist of purchased software licences which are capitalised at cost.

Inventories and Work in Progress

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Long-term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services with the consideration allocated to the performance obligations satisfied based on goods or services transferred to the service recipient during the financial year.

Certain stocks have not been valued (e.g. office stationery).

Joint Operations

Jointly controlled operations are activities undertaken by the Council in conjunction with other ventures that involve the use of the assets and resources of the ventures rather than the establishment of a separate entity. The Council recognises on its Balance Sheet the assets that it controls and the liabilities that it incurs, debiting and crediting the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement accordingly with the appropriate share of income and expenditure related to the activity of the operation.

Better Care Fund & Pooled Budget Arrangements

There is a Section 75 joint agreement relating to the commissioning of health and social care services in Gloucestershire, which includes The Better Care Fund. It is a joint budget arrangement between the Council, and the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group. Within the Section 75 agreement there are budgets controlled by the Clinical Commissioning Group, budgets controlled by the Council, pooled budgets (jointly controlled) and aligned budgets.

Where services are controlled by the County Council the income and expenditure is reflected within the Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This also includes the Council's proportion of jointly controlled budgets. Where services are hosted by the Council, but controlled by the Clinical Commissioning Groups, the income and expenditure is not reflected in the Council's accounts.

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 and Equipment (PPE) 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.

Finance Leases - The Council as Lessee

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

Lease payments are apportioned between:

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

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

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

Finance Leases - The Council as Lessor

Where the Council grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the start of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet 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. The gain credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt. Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Operating Leases - The Council as Lessee

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

Operating Leases - The Council as Lessor

Where the Council grants an operating lease over PPE, 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.

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 PPE.

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of PPE is capitalised on an accrual's 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.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising the purchase price and any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended. The Council does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction.

Revaluation of all the Council's PPE is undertaken using a two-year rolling programme with any material changes to asset valuations being adjusted in the interim periods.

Of the £1,006m Land & Building assets on the 31st of March 2024, £825m were formally valued during 2023/24.

Valuations are co-ordinated internally by the Council's Valuation Service Team, with valuations carried out through a combination of the Council's internal valuers and, where necessary, external valuers (RICS qualified). The Valuation Service Team ensures all valuations are carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Non-operational PPE, classified as surplus assets, are now measured at fair value estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective, in accordance with the Code, following the adoption of IFRS 13.

When asset values rise above the amount at acquisition, we add the difference to the Revaluation Reserve. When asset values go down, the reduction is charged to any available Revaluation Reserve balance held for that asset, with the remainder being charged to the relevant service line in the CIES. This charge is then reversed out in the MIRS so that there is no impact on council tax.

Impairment

Assets are assessed at 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 in the following way:

- Where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).
- Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

Depreciation and Amortisation

All PPE with a finite useful life (determined at the time of purchase or revaluation) are reduced in value (depreciated) using the straight-line method according to the following rates:

<i>Buildings</i>	Permanent	Up to 100 years
	Leased	Period of lease
<i>Infrastructure</i>	Roads and street lighting	18 - 25 years
	Bridges	120 years
	Footpaths and footbridges	25 years
	Vehicles, plant, furniture, and equipment	Up to 25 years

Intangible assets are amortised over their useful economic lives using the straight-line method as shown below:

Purchased software licences	Up to 20 Years
Internally developed software	Up to 10 Years

Depreciation is calculated on the following basis:

- Assets which are bought from a third party are depreciated for a full year in the year after the year of purchase. All other assets created as a result of capital expenditure during the year are depreciated for a full year in the year after the year of purchase on the following basis:
- Land is not depreciated.
- Heritage Assets are not depreciated.
- Assets under construction, being capital works in progress where the uncompleted asset does not have a material benefit to the Council, are not depreciated.
- Where an item of PPE has major components, whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item the components are depreciated separately. All assets over £1m are considered for componentisation. If on consideration a component is assessed to have a substantially different economic useful life and to be greater than 25% of the total cost of the asset, it is componentised, and depreciated separately. The basis for depreciation for any componentised asset is assessed on an individual basis and applied accordingly over the life of the asset. Components that are individually less than 25% of the total cost of the asset are not treated as separate components for accounting purposes.
- Revaluation gains are 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.
- Surplus Assets, held for disposal (up to 99 years) are not depreciated.

Infrastructure Assets recognition and measurement

Expenditure on the acquisition or replacement of components of the network is capitalised on an accrual basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Highways network infrastructure assets are generally measured at depreciated historical cost. However, this is a modified form of historical cost - opening balances for highways infrastructure assets were originally recorded in balance sheets at amounts of capital undischarged for sums borrowed as at 1 April [1994 England and Scotland], [1996 Wales] which was deemed at that time to be historical cost. Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by the carrying amount of the asset being written down to the recoverable amount.

Infrastructure Assets disposals and derecognition

When a component of the Network is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the component in the Balance Sheet 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).

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

Where a part of the network is replaced, an adaptation provided in a separate update to the Code assumes that from the introduction of the IFRS based Code when parts of an asset are replaced or restored the carrying amount of the derecognised part will be zero because parts of infrastructure assets are rarely replaced before the part has been fully consumed.

Accounting for Schools

In determining these accounting policies, the Council has considered the treatment of land and buildings separately and referred to the requirements and considerations within the following publications and standards:

- The Code.
- IFRS 10 Consolidated Financial Statements.
- IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment as adopted by the Code.
- The IASB Conceptual Framework on Local Authority Reporting.
- IFRS 16 Leases
- IFRS16 Maintained Schools Finance Lease Class Consent 2024
- The Education Act.
- The School Standards and Framework Act.

The Code concluded that schools are separate entities and that under IFRS 10, maintained schools (but not free schools or academies) meet the definition of entities controlled by local authorities which should be consolidated in group accounts. However, rather than requiring local authorities to prepare group accounts, the Code requires local authorities to account for maintained schools within their single entity accounts. This includes school income and expenditure as well as assets and liabilities.

Maintained schools' assets held under finance lease arrangements, where material, are recognised within the Council's accounts in accordance with the Code and IFRS 16.

From 1st April 2024 IFRS 16 leases ended the distinction between operating and finance leases for accounting purposes. Under the Education Act 2002, all leases will be classed as borrowing and will require the Secretary of State for Education's consent, however governing bodies do not need to make a specific request for consent where a lease falls under the general consent granted by the Secretary of State for Education. The types of assets granted general consent is listed in 'The IFRS16 Maintained Schools Finance Lease Class Consent 2024' document. Any leased assets not included in the document will need to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education for consent. These may include leases relating to land and buildings.

Academies and Free Schools

These are owned and managed completely independently of the Council with all funding apart from high needs top up funding being provided directly by central government. The Council has granted long leases as part of the Academies transfer which includes a peppercorn rent, the Net Present Value (NPV) of future minimum lease payments will be nil and the finance lease receivable will be nil.

No revenue or capital amounts are therefore recognised in the Councils accounts for these entities.

No adjustment is made in the Council's financial statements for maintained schools that are in the process of conversion as it is still possible for them to pull out of the conversion process. Their assets are therefore treated and recognised on the basis explained under the maintained schools' section below until the actual conversion date. This means assets of schools converting on a 1st April date are still recognised in the previous financial year's statements.

Maintained Schools

Locally maintained schools consist of the following type of schools: Community, Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Foundation Schools.

All locally maintained schools are deemed to be entities controlled by the Council. For this reason, schools' transactions (i.e. income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves, and cash flows) that would be recognised by a 'school as an 'entity' are consolidated into the Council's statement of accounts. A 'school as an entity' should be understood to mean the management of the school (i.e. the governing body, including the head teacher, and the resources controlled by the school management).

This means that, for all locally maintained schools, the Council recognises:

- Their income and expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (within the Children's and Education Services line) in accordance with accounting policy on accruals of income and expenditure.
- Any unspent resources held by Schools within an earmarked revenue reserve, in line with the Council's reserves policy.
- Their current assets and liabilities within the Balance Sheet, under the appropriate heading and in accordance with the Council's accounting policies specific to that asset / liability.

With regard to PPE, the Council recognises the assets of locally maintained schools in its financial statements if, and only if:

- As a result of a past event, it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the items will flow to the Council and/or to a 'school as an entity'.
- The costs of the item can be measured reliably.

Although there are cases where a maintained school's land and building assets are not legally owned by the Council, and the owning entity has the right to take them back (described by CIPFA as "mere licences"), we are unaware of any instances where this right has been exercised. There is therefore an expectation of continued use of both land and building assets for the provision of education through the school. In a number of cases the Council has also incurred capital costs on the school buildings and there is an expectation within education regulations that where this is the case a period of notice would need to be given if the owning entity wanted to take back the land or buildings.

Even in cases where the Council does not actually own the freehold of Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Foundation schools through legal title itself, the Council retains a residual interest in the proceeds on disposal of land or buildings of any Voluntary Aided school, Voluntary Controlled school, and Foundation School under the provisions of Schedule 22 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

The local authority (in so far as their powers enable them to do so) have a duty to contribute towards the spiritual, moral, mental, and physical development of the community by securing that efficient primary education, secondary education and further education are available to meet the needs of their area.

The local authority also has the right to remove delegated powers from a maintained school where it is deemed necessary due to mismanagement, or to safeguard the pupils.

The above examples clearly show that all maintained schools contribute towards meeting the Council's service objectives and that the Council is involved in the control of those schools, and they should therefore form part of our statement of accounts.

Land and buildings of Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Foundation Schools are recognised in the Council's statement of accounts.

2022-23 Number of Schools	Maintained Schools included in the Fixed Asset Register	2023-24 Number of Schools
3	Alternative Provision Schools	2
85	Community Mainstream Schools	80
4	Community Special Schools	4
19	Foundation Schools	19
36	Voluntary Aided Schools	27
41	Voluntary Controlled Schools	41
188	Total on Balance Sheet	173

2022-23 Number of Schools	Academies and Free Schools not included in the Fixed Asset Register	2023-24 Number of Schools
24	Academies Sponsor Led	27
75	Academy Converters	86
1	University Technical College	1
3	Academy Special School Converters	3
3	Academy Special Schools Sponsor Led	3
1	Free Alternative Provision Schools	1
1	Free Special Schools	2
4	Free Mainstream Schools	4
112	Total off Balance Sheet	127

300	Total Maintained Schools, Academies and Free Schools	300
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Private Finance Initiative (PFI) scheme

PFI contracts are agreements to receive services, where responsibility for making available the Property Plant & Equipment (PPE) needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. Where the Council is deemed to control the services ownership of the PPE will pass to the Council at the end of the contract. The Council carries the PPE used under the contracts on the Balance Sheet.

The original recognition of the PPE is balanced by the recognition of a liability for the amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the assets. PPE recognised on the Balance Sheet are valued and depreciated in the same way as other assets owned by the Council. Services received under the contract are recorded under the relevant expenditure headings as operating expenses.

The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year are analysed into five elements, using appropriate estimation techniques where necessary:

- a) Payment for the fair value of services received, debited to the relevant service within the CIES,
- b) Payment for the finance cost, an interest charge on the outstanding balance sheet liability, debited to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the CIES,
- c) Contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES,
- d) payment towards liability – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write-downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease) and,
- e) lifecycle replacement costs – proportion of the amounts payable is posted to the Balance Sheet as a prepayment and then recognised as additions to property, plant, and equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out.

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation which 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. In these instances, services have been charged expenditure in anticipation of the liability having been met. 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 and 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.

A specific bad debt provision is estimated by considering the probability of recovery of individual debtor invoices. The specific provision is based upon all known information about the debtor including financial position of the debtor, the age of the invoice and current credit control status of the invoice.

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.

Reserves

In addition to its general revenue balances, the Council has maintained specific reserves for future expenditure and to protect against unexpected events. These are created by transferring amounts out of the general fund balance. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service and included within the reported surplus or deficit on the provision of services in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then transferred back into the general fund balance, through the movement in reserves statement, so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

Earmarked reserves include grant reserves which have been recognised as income due to the lack of technical grant conditions. However, such grants are ring-fenced for a specific purpose and will only be available to use in line with purpose set for each specific grant.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, local taxation, retirement, and employee benefits. These reserves do not represent usable resources to the Council and are explained further in the appropriate policies and notes to the accounts.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

Expenditure incurred during the year which may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation or enhancement 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 is made which reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of Council Tax.

Service Concessions

Service concessions are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available the property, plant and equipment needed to provide the services passes to the contractor. The recognition point is the same as for assets under construction, when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the asset will flow to the organisation and the cost of the asset can be reliably measured.

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.

40. Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted

The Code requires consideration of the impact of standards that have been issued but not yet adopted. This is to enable users to evaluate the risk of these new standards on the Council's current financial position. Several standards have been issued but are not yet applied, and the main one is listed below.

- **IFRS 16 Leases**

CIPFA/LASAAC has again deferred the implementation of IFRS 16 for Local Government until 1st April 2024, however local authorities have a choice to adopt this standard before this date. The accounting standard requires that where Local Authorities have lease arrangements where they are the lessee, to recognise these on their balance sheet as a right of use asset with corresponding lease liabilities. Exemption does exist for leases of small value and of short-term duration.

The Council has chosen not to adopt this standard in 2023-24 and are continuing to undertake a review to assess this further.

41. Critical Judgements in applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out, 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:

- The Council recognises school land and buildings for Community Schools, Voluntary Controlled, Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools on its Balance Sheet, where it is probable that the future economic benefits or service flow to the Council, and costs can be measured reliably. The Council has not recognised assets relating to Academies, as it is of the opinion that these assets are not controlled by the Council. School assets are recognised as a disposal from the Council's Balance Sheet on the date on which a school converts to Academy status, not on the date of any related announcement, nor is any impairment recognised by the Council prior to conversion. The Council has applied the existing use value (EUV) as opposed to the depreciated replacement cost (DRC) method of valuation to value Shire Hall. This treatment is reviewed annually (including valuation methodology and reasoning) to ensure it is applicable.
- Under IFRIC 14 a defined benefit liability is calculated as the net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation minus the fair value at the end of the reporting date of the plan assets. If the fair value of the plan assets exceeds the calculated obligations (an asset), IAS 19 contains a restriction over the amount of the asset that can be recognised. In effect it requires a calculation of the 'Asset Ceiling' this being based on the future current and past service costs less expected contributions. The authority has commissioned the actuary to carry out this calculation for us and the result was that there is no restriction on the Surplus recognised.
- Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO). A LOBO is a type of loan instrument where borrowing is undertaken, initially at a fixed rate of interest. Periodically, at specific points, the lender has the option to alter the interest rate charged. Should the lender exercise the option to alter the interest rate, the borrower then has the option to continue with the loan instrument at the new rate or alternatively to terminate the agreement and pay back the sum borrowed with no other penalty. The Council currently have LOBO arrangements totalling £33.05 million and these provide the lender the option to amend the interest rates every 6 months. The Council has reviewed the classification of these arrangements and considered the current economic outlook, recent court rulings and the fact that a number of Banking institutions have amended their portfolio to remove such LOBO arrangements from their Balance Sheets. As the lender has the right to demand repayment on the call date, the Council considers that sufficient doubt remains over the call of these options.

To ensure sufficient liquidity is available, these loans are classified as short-term loans within the financial statements.

42. Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty

In preparing the accounts there are areas where estimates are used. These include:

- Useful life and valuations of properties, which are estimated by qualified valuers.
- Fair values of financial assets and liabilities, which are estimated by our treasury advisors.
- Provisions, which are estimated using latest available information.
- Bad debt levels, which are estimated using past trends and experience.
- The liability for future pension payments, which are estimated by qualified actuaries.

The items for which there is significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

- **Property, Plant and Equipment – (Funding Implications)**

Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Council will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets. If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase in these circumstances. A 20% increase in the annual depreciation charge for assets would currently equate to £8 million.

A variation of 5% in the value of the Council's Land & Building assets (Net Book Value at 31 March 2024 of £1,006 million) would be approximately £53.3 million.

A reduction in the estimated valuations would result in a reduction to the Revaluation reserve and/or a loss charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

An increase in estimated valuation would result in the reversal of any negative revaluation previously charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and/or increase to the Revaluation reserve and/or gains charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

- **Pensions**

The estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rates 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. Details of the effect of any such changes are provided within Note 32.

Gloucestershire Pension Fund Statement of Accounts 2023-24

Gloucestershire Pension Fund

Fund Account for the year ended 31st March 2024

2022/23			2023/24	Note
£'000		£'000	£'000	
Contributions				
-88,045	employer contributions	-113,954		N18
-22,895	member contributions	-24,950		N18
-110,940			-138,904	N7
Transfers in from other pension funds				
-7,639	individual transfers from other schemes or funds	-6,502		
-	group transfers from other schemes or funds	-		
-7,639			-6,502	N28
Other income				
-133	recoveries for services provided		-251	N20
Benefits				
81,628	pensions	91,368		N30
14,195	commutation of pensions and lump sum retirement benefits	17,447		
2,991	lump sum death benefits	2,250		
98,814			111,065	N7
Payments to and on account of leavers				
278	refunds to members leaving scheme or fund	432		
-1	payments for members joining state scheme or fund	-6		
9,941	individual transfers to other schemes or funds	10,799		
-	group transfers to other schemes or funds	-		N28
10,218			11,225	
-9,680	Net (additions) / withdrawals from dealings with members		-23,367	
27,656	Management Expenses		30,221	N20
17,976	Net (additions) / withdrawals including fund management expenses		6,854	
Returns on investments				
-14,965	Investment income	-26,803		N13
-	Taxes on income	-		N3 & N13
50,862	Profit(-) and losses on disposal of investments and changes in market value of investments	-344,711		N4
35,897	Net returns on investments		-371,514	
53,873	NET INCREASE (-) / DECREASE IN THE NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS DURING THE YEAR		-364,660	
3,110,843	Opening net assets of the scheme		3,056,970	
3,056,970	Closing net assets of the scheme		3,421,630	

Gloucestershire Pension Fund

Net Assets Statement as at 31st March 2024

2022/23		2023/24	Note
£'000		£'000	
Investment assets			
2,738,503	Pooled investment vehicles	3,118,600	N10
262,294	Pooled property investments	264,246	
11,873	Derivative contracts	3,351	N2 & N15
3,428	Other investments - Venture Capital/Private Equity	2,695	
29,982	Cash held on behalf of the investment managers	24,912	N25
926	Other investment balances	823	
3,047,006		3,414,627	N12
Long term investment assets			
697	Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd.	722	
697		722	
Investment liabilities			
-3,747	Derivative contracts	-4,507	N2 & N15
-	Other investment balances	-3,392	
-3,747		-7,899	N12
3,043,956	Total net investments	3,407,450	
Long term assets			
184	Contributions due from employers	109	
184		109	N12 & N22
Current assets			
5,180	Contributions due from employers	6,946	
1,561	Other current assets	423	
3	Payments in advance	5	
7,932	Cash balances	9,042	N2, N21, N25
14,676		16,416	N12 & N22
Current liabilities			
-146	Unpaid benefits	-45	
-1,700	Other current liabilities	-2,271	
-	Receipts in advance	-29	
-1,846		-2,345	N12 & N23
3,056,970	Net assets of the scheme available to fund benefits at the reporting period end	3,421,630	N4, N5, N12 & N16

The Fund's financial statements do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the period end but rather summarise the transactions and net assets of the scheme.

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is disclosed at Note N24.
The notes on the following pages form part of these Financial Statements.

Index of the Notes to the Accounts

- N1. Introduction
- N2. Summary of significant accounting policies
- N3. Taxation
- N4. Investment movements summary
- N5. Management of fund assets
- N6. Actuarial position of the Fund
- N7. Analysis of contributions receivable and benefits payable
- N8. Investment Strategy Statement
- N9. Related party transactions
- N10. Contingent liabilities and contractual commitments
- N11. Stock lending
- N12. Financial asset analysis
- N13. Investment income
- N14. Separately invested additional voluntary contributions (AVC's)
- N15. Derivatives
- N16. Investments exceeding 5% of Total Net Assets
- N17. Agency services
- N18. Contributions breakdown
- N19. Custody of investments
- N20. Management expenses
- N21. Cash
- N22. Current & long term assets
- N23. Current liabilities
- N24. Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits
- N25. Nature and extent of risks arising from Financial Instruments
- N26. Fair value hierarchy
- N27. Financial instrument disclosure
- N28. Bulk transfers in and out of the Pension Fund
- N29. Accounting Standards that have been issued but have not yet been adopted
- N30. Taxation where lifetime or annual allowances are exceeded
- N31. Events after the reporting date

Gloucestershire Pension Fund

Notes to Pension Fund Accounts

N1. Introduction

The County Council is the administering body for the Gloucestershire Pension Fund which is a contributory defined benefit scheme. This is not only for County Council employees but also for District Councils within the County and other local bodies providing public services. A full list of all employing bodies who are members of the Fund are shown in the Pension Fund's Annual Report alongside the detailed accounts of the Gloucestershire Pension Fund.

The Fund is governed by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and administered in accordance with the following secondary legislation:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 (as amended)
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 (as amended)

The Fund exists to provide pensions and certain other benefits to former employees. The Pension Fund is not a Gloucestershire County Council fund and is subject to its own audit; therefore balances are not included in the Gloucestershire County Council Consolidated Balance Sheet. The Fund is administered by the Pension Committee, which is a committee of Gloucestershire County Council. The Pension Board was set up with effect from the 1st April 2015 to assist the Pensions Committee in securing compliance with the relevant laws and Regulations and to help the Pension Committee ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Fund.

Membership Breakdown

Membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme is voluntary and employees are free to choose whether to join the scheme, remain in the scheme or make their own personal arrangements outside the scheme.

Organisations participating in the Pension Fund include the following:

- Scheduled bodies, which are automatically entitled to be members of the Fund.
- Admitted bodies, which participate in the Fund under the terms of an admission agreement between the Fund and the employer.

Admitted bodies include voluntary, charitable and similar not-for-profit organisations, or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following outsourcing to the private sector.

Fire fighters, police and teachers have their own separate nationally administered schemes.

Membership details are set out below:

	31st March 2023	31st March 2024
Number of employers	222	241
Number of employees in the scheme		
County Council	10,084	9,811
Other employers	9,519	10,005
	<u>19,603</u>	<u>19,816</u>
Number of pensioners		
County Council	11,123	11,637
Other employers	7,889	8,230
	<u>19,012</u>	<u>19,867</u>
Deferred pensioners		
County Council	12,010	11,903
Other employers	9,086	9,313
	<u>21,096</u>	<u>21,216</u>
Total number of members in pension scheme	<u>59,711</u>	<u>60,899</u>

In addition, to the membership numbers above, there were 7,835 (6,708 2022/23) undecided or unprocessed leavers.

Undecided leavers are those members who are no longer accruing service and to whom a refund of contributions or transfer out may be due.

Unprocessed leavers are those members which represent cases where we are aware that a member has left, but that case has not yet been processed.

Funding

Benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. Contributions are made by active members of the Fund in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 and range from 5.5% to 12.5% of pensionable pay for the financial year ending 31st March 2024. Employers' contributions are set based on triennial actuarial funding valuations. The last such valuation was at 31st March 2022, and took effect on the 1st April 2023. When setting contribution rates the actuary takes into account the funding target, the time horizon over which the funding target is to be achieved and the strength of the employer covenant; further information can be found within the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement. During 2023/24 employer contribution rates ranged from 0% to 40.0% of pensionable pay.

Benefits

Prior to 1st April 2014, pension benefits under the LGPS were based on final pensionable pay and length of pensionable service. From 1st April 2014, the scheme became a career average scheme, whereby members accrue benefits based on their pensionable pay in that year at an accrual rate of 1/49th. Accrued pension is updated annually in line with the Consumer Prices Index. A range of other benefits are also provided including early retirement, disability pensions and death benefits, as explained on the LGPS website - see www.lgpsmember.org.

N2. Summary of significant accounting policies**Basis of preparation**

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2023/24 financial year and its position at year end as at 31st March 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector. The accounts summarise the transactions of the Fund and reports on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. The accounts do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year. The actuarial value of promised retirement benefits, valued on an International Accounting Standard (IAS19) basis, is disclosed at Note 24 of these accounts. The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

The net Pension Fund liability is recalculated every three years by the appointed actuary, with annual updates in the intervening years. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines.

The critical judgement is made by senior management of the Pension Fund, with advice from the actuary, of the assumptions to be used in the valuation but because they are assumptions, they could be a source of estimation uncertainty and are also covered in the following section. The Pension Fund Liability is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions and these have been summarised in Note N24.

These actuarial revaluations are used to set future contribution rates and underpin the Fund's most significant investment management policies.

Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities at the year-end-date and the amounts reported for the revenues and expenses during the year. Estimates and assumptions are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, the nature of estimation means that the actual outcomes could differ from the assumptions and estimates. Income and expenditure have been accounted for on an accruals basis.

The items within the Financial Statements as at 31st March 2024, for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming year, are highlighted below:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits (Note 24)	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, salary increases, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and returns on fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Fund with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in the individual assumptions have been disclosed within Note 24.
Private Equity, Infrastructure and Private Debt Note 26	Private equity, Infrastructure and Private Debt are valued at fair value in accordance with International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation guidelines. Investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	Those investments where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the valuation is not based on observable market data is classed at level 3 in the Fair Value Hierarchy. Private Equity, Infrastructure and Private Debt investments classed as level 3 total £416.053m. The Fund has determined that the valuation methods used are likely to be accurate to within the ranges set out in the Sensitivity of Assets valued at Level 3 table within Note 26. This table also sets out the consequent potential impact on the closing value of investments held at 31st March 2024.
Pooled Property Funds Note 26	Pooled Property Funds are valued in accordance with Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyor's standards and fair value processes driven by International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation guidelines. Some Property Pooled Funds are not publicly listed or have redemption restrictions and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	Those investments where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the valuation is not based on observable market data is classed at level 3 in the Fair Value Hierarchy. Pooled Property Funds classed as level 3 total £154.641m. The Fund has determined that the valuation methods used are likely to be accurate to within the ranges set out in the Sensitivity of Assets valued at Level 3 table within Note 26. This table also sets out the consequent potential impact on the closing value of investments held at 31st March 2024.

Revenue and expense recognition**Contribution income**

Contributions have been accounted for on an accruals basis where amounts due have been determined in time for inclusion in the accounts. Additional employers' contributions in respect of ill-health and early retirements are accounted for in the year the event arose. Employer deficit contribution lump sum payments are accounted for in the year the payment is made. Any amount due in year but unpaid will be classed as a current financial asset. Amounts not due until future years are classed as long-term financial assets.

Benefits payable and refunds of contributions

Benefits payable and refunds of contributions have been brought into the accounts on the basis of all valid claims approved during the year.

Transfers to and from other schemes

Individual transfer values are accounted for when they are paid or received. Bulk transfer value calculations are made towards the end of the bulk transfer process and based on payment being made on a specific day. Bulk transfer values are accrued when the value has been determined.

Management expenses

Pension Fund expenses have been accounted for in accordance with the CIPFA guidance *Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Costs*. A more detailed breakdown of management expenses can be found in Note 20.

a) Investment management expenses

Investment Management Expenses is comprised of expenses which are incurred in relation to the management of pension fund assets. Broadly, these are based on the market value of the investments in the investment manager's portfolio and therefore increase or reduce as the value of these investments change. Where an investment manager's fee has not been received by the reporting period end date, an estimate based upon the market value of the mandate at the end of the reporting period has been used. Where fees are netted off investment market values by investment managers, these expenses are grossed up to increase the change in value of investments. Identification of management fees is undertaken within the Cost Transparency Initiative reporting framework.

Federated Hermes deducts its fees from a combination of assets held and income distributions and is included within Investment Management Expenses. Fees due under the Blackrock Currency Hedge Fund are paid quarterly based on the valuation of assets held, and have been accrued. Technology Venture Partners (TVP) and Yorkshire Fund Managers Ltd. (YFM) deduct their fees from the value of the assets under their management. Fees for TVP and YFM have not been included as they are the legal responsibility of the managers and not the Fund. Management costs for Arcmont are deducted from distributions. Brunel's investment managers and Golub deduct their fees from the value of the pooled funds under their management. The investment manager for Brunel's passive global equity pooled fund encashes units to cover their fees and all these fees have also been included within Investment Management Expenses.

b) Acquisition and transaction costs of investments

Acquisition costs of investments (e.g. stamp duty) and transaction costs are included within Investment Management Expenses with a corresponding offset against Profit on Disposal of Investments. In addition to the transaction costs disclosed, indirect costs are incurred through the bid/offer spread on investments within pooled investment vehicles. A more detailed breakdown of management expenses, including transaction costs, can be found in Note 20.

c) Administration expenses

All administrative expenses are accounted for on an accrual basis. All staff costs associated with administration is charged to the Fund. Associated management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to this activity and charged as expenses to the Fund. Further information on administrative expenses can be found in Note 20.

d) Oversight & governance expenses

All Oversight and Governance expenses are accounted for on an accrual basis. All staff costs associated with Oversight and Governance is charged to the Fund. Associated management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to this activity and charged as expenses to the Fund. The cost of investment advice from external consultants is included in Oversight & Governance. Further information on Oversight and Governance expenses can be found in Note 20.

Investment Income

Dividends are accounted for when the holding is declared ex-dividend. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is recognised as a current financial asset. Investment income arising from the underlying investments of Pooled Investment Vehicles is reinvested within the Pooled Investment Vehicle and reflected in the unit price.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash in hand (bank) and demand deposits (money market funds) which also includes amounts held by the Fund's custodian on behalf of its investment managers.

Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and are subject to minimal risk of changes in value.

Cash balances held in accordance with the County Councils' Treasury Management Strategy and those held with the Fund's custodian, State Street Bank & Trust Company, on behalf of investment managers, are in instant access accounts.

The Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS 19 Post-Employment Benefits and relevant actuarial standards.

As permitted under the Code, the Fund has included a note disclosing the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the Net Asset Statement in Note 24.

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place giving rise to a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed or otherwise by the occurrence of future events.

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place prior to the year-end giving rise to a possible financial obligation whose existence will only be confirmed or otherwise by the occurrence of future events. Contingent liabilities can also arise in circumstances where a provision would be made, except that it is not possible at the balance sheet date to measure the value of the financial obligation reliably.

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the Net Asset Statement but are disclosed by way of narrative in the notes.

Valuation of assets

The SORP requires securities to be valued on a Fair Value Basis therefore assets and liabilities, where there is an active and readily available market price, are valued at the bid price. Where assets do not actively trade through established exchange mechanisms, a price is obtained from the manager of the investment asset through their quarterly reports. Further details of their approach to establishing fair value can be found within Note 26, Basis of Valuation table. Any amounts due or payable in respect of trades entered into but not yet completed at 31st March each year, accrued dividend income, Fund debtors and creditors and cash and cash instruments are accounted for as financial instruments held at amortised cost. Investments held in foreign currencies are shown at market value translated into sterling at the exchange rates prevailing as at 31st March 2024. Purchases and sales during the year which require settlement in a foreign currency are converted from/to sterling at the exchange rate prevailing on the trade date. Pooled investment vehicles are valued at closing bid price if both bid and offer prices are published; or if single priced, at the closing single price. In the case of pooled investment vehicles that are accumulation funds, change in market value also includes income which is re-invested in the fund, net of applicable withholding tax. The Pooled Property Investments are independently valued either in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors valuation standards or by a fair value process driven by International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation guidelines. Private Equity and Infrastructure funds are valued using the latest financial statements published by the respective fund managers and in accordance with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Guidelines. The valuation standards followed by the managers are in accordance with the industry guidelines and the constituent management agreements. Such investments may not always be valued on year end valuation as information may not be available, and therefore will be valued based on the latest valuation provided by the managers adjusted for movements to the year end. A detailed breakdown of investments can be found under Note 12.

Financial assets are included in the financial statements on a fair value basis at the reporting date. A financial asset is recognised in the Net Assets Statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this date any gains or losses arising from the changes in the fair value of the asset are recognised in the Fund Account.

The values of investments as shown in the Net Assets Statement have been determined at fair value in accordance with the requirements of the Code and IFRS 13 (see Note 26). For the purposes of disclosing levels of fair value hierarchy, the Fund has adopted the classification guidelines recommended in Practical Guidance on Investment Disclosures (PRAG/Investment Association).

Gloucestershire Pension Fund together with nine other shareholders each hold a 10% share in Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd (company number 10429110). As such, no fund is deemed to have a significant influence and this long term investment is accounted for at fair value. The asset was initially measured at cost and is subsequently revalued for any impairment.

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 use the valuations for the Fund's assets based on the figures provided by the Fund's custodian, State Street Bank & Trust Company.

Derivatives

Derivative contracts are valued at fair value and are determined using exchange prices at the reporting date. The fair value is the unrealised profit or loss at the current bid or offer market quoted price of the contract. Derivative contract assets, those with a positive value, are valued at bid price and derivative contract liabilities, those with a negative value, are valued at the offer price. The amounts included in change in market value are the realised gains and losses on closed derivatives contracts and the unrealised gains and losses on open derivatives contracts.

N3. Taxation

The Fund is a registered public service scheme under Section 1(1) of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004 and is exempt from UK capital gains tax on the proceeds of investments sold and UK income tax on interest received. Corporation Tax is deducted from UK equity dividends; tax deducted from property unit trusts can be reclaimed. Withholding tax is payable on income from overseas investments. This tax is recovered wherever local tax laws permit.

N4. Investment movements summary**2023/24**

Asset Class	Market Value at 31st March 2023	Purchases during the year at cost and derivative payments	Sales proceeds during the year and derivative receipts	Change in market value during the year	Market Value at 31st March 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bonds	-	-	-	-	-
Pooled Investments	2,738,503	125,194	-90,804	345,707	3,118,600
Pooled Property Funds	262,294	22,202	-7,377	-12,873	264,246
Private Equity/Venture Capital	3,428	-	-200	-533	2,695
	3,004,225	147,396	-98,381	332,301	3,385,541
Derivative contracts:					
Futures	-	-	-	-	-
Forward currency contracts	8,126	67,960	-89,705	12,463	-1,156
	8,126	67,960	-89,705	12,463	-1,156
Long term investment assets					
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd.	697	0	0	25	722
	697	0	0	25	722
Net Investment Assets	3,013,048	215,356	-188,086	344,789	3,385,107

In addition to the investments there was £36,523k (£43,922k 2022/23) in cash, cash equivalents and accruals. Cash movements, currency adjustments and other end of year settlements totalled -£78k (£108k 2022/23). As a result the total profit (-) and losses on disposal of investments and changes in market value of investments was £344.7m (£50.9m 2022/23).

2022/23

Asset Class	Market Value at 31st March 2022	Purchases during the year at cost and derivative payments	Sales proceeds during the year and derivative receipts	Change in market value during the year	Market Value at 31st March 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bonds	-	-	73	-73	-
Pooled Investments	2,773,831	521,365	-527,051	-29,642	2,738,503
Pooled Property Funds	246,138	77,284	-31,535	-29,593	262,294
Private Equity/Venture Capital	3,853	-	-11	-414	3,428
	3,023,822	598,649	-558,524	-59,722	3,004,225
Derivative contracts:					
Futures	-	-	-	-	-
Forward currency contracts	-	-	-	8,126	8,126
	-	-	-	8,126	8,126
Long term investment assets					
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd.	71	-	-	626	697
	71	-	-	626	697
Net Investment Assets	3,023,893	598,649	-558,524	-50,970	3,013,048

In addition to the investments there was £43,922k (£86,950k 2021/22) in cash, cash equivalents and accruals. Cash movements, currency adjustments and other end of year settlements totalled £108k (-£511k 2021/22). As a result the total profit (-) and losses on disposal of investments and changes in market value of investments was £50.9m (-£197.5m 2021/22).

The change in market value of investments comprises all increases and decreases in the market value of investments held at any time during the year, including profits and losses realised on sales of investments during the year.

The closing market value of the derivatives in the previous tables represents fair value as at the year end date. In the case of derivative contracts, which are traded on exchanges, this value is determined using exchange prices at the reporting date. Forward foreign exchange contracts are over the counter contracts and are valued by determining the gain or loss that would arise from closing out the contract at the reporting date and entering into an equal and opposite contract as at that date. The profit or loss arising is included within the cash and accruals figure.

All derivative contracts settled during the period are reported within the table as purchases and sales.

N5. Management of fund assets

The market value of investments managed by each external manager at the end of the financial year was:

	2022/23		2023/24	
	£'000	%	£'000	%
Investments managed by the Brunel regional asset pool				
Brunel Global High Alpha Fund	410,614	13.5	494,965	14.5
Brunel Global Sustainable Fund	398,646	13.0	451,295	13.2
Brunel ACS UK Equity Fund	356,985	11.7	394,185	11.5
Legal & General Investment Management	309,790	10.1	375,707	11.0
Brunel Sterling Corporate Bonds Portfolio	326,278	10.7	355,151	10.4
Brunel Property Fund	262,294	8.6	264,246	7.7
Brunel Multi Asset Credit Portfolio	218,537	7.1	244,239	7.1
Brunel Private Equity and Infrastructure Portfolio	171,720	5.6	228,107	6.7
Brunel Emerging Equity Fund	189,321	6.2	196,713	5.7
Brunel Diversifying Returns Fund	241,939	7.9	192,987	5.6
Brunel Private Debt Fund	59,190	1.9	88,356	2.6
Cash, cash instruments and accruals with Brunel	30,817	1.0	22,244	0.7
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd. (Shareholding)	697	0.0	722	0.0
	2,976,828	97.3	3,308,917	96.7
Investments managed outside of the Brunel regional asset pool				
Schroders Greencoat Wessex Gardens L.P.	-	-	42,102	1.2
Golub Capital Partners International	35,383	1.2	34,633	1.0
Arcmont Asset Management Ltd.	20,100	0.7	20,160	0.6
Technology Venture Partners	3,428	0.1	2,695	0.1
BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Ltd. *	8,126	0.3	-1,156	0.0
	67,037	2.3	98,434	2.9
Total - External Managers	3,043,865	99.6	3,407,351	99.6
In-house cash and accruals	13,014	0.4	14,180	0.4
Cash instruments with Custodian	91	0.0	99	0.0
	3,056,970	100.0	3,421,630	100.0

Where the value of an investment exceeds 5% of the total value of net assets, details have been disclosed in Note 16.

* Blackrock provide currency hedging for the Fund and the market value of -£1,156k represents the unrealised loss of the forward currency contracts as at 31st March 2024.

N6. Actuarial position of the Fund

- In line with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations, actuarial valuations of the Fund are required to be undertaken every three years for the purpose of setting employer contribution rates for the forthcoming triennial period. The latest valuation undertaken by Hymans Robertson LLP, the Funds actuary, as at 31st March 2022 established the minimum contribution payments for the three years until 31st March 2026. The next valuation will take place as at March 2025.

The key elements of the actuarial valuation are:

- to ensure the long-term solvency of the Fund, i.e. that sufficient funds are available to meet all pension liabilities as they fall due for payment
- to ensure that employer contribution rates are as stable as possible
- to minimise the long-term cost of the scheme by recognising the link between assets and liabilities and adopting an investment strategy that balances risk and return
- to reflect the different characteristics of employing bodies in determining contribution rates where it is reasonable to do so
- to use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately to the council tax payer from an employer defaulting on its pension obligations

The aim is to achieve 100% solvency over a period not exceeding 20 years depending on the type of employer and to provide stability in employer contribution rates by spreading any increases in rates over a period of time. Solvency is achieved when the funds held, plus future expected investment returns and future contributions, are sufficient to meet expected future pension benefits payable.

- The market value of the Fund's assets at the March 2022 triennial valuation date was £3,111m (£2,379m March 2019) and represented 110% (102% March 2019) of the Fund's accrued liabilities.
- The table below summarises the whole fund Primary and Secondary Contribution rates at the 2022 valuation. The 2019 valuation results of the Fund are shown for comparison.

	Last Valuation 31st March 2019		This Valuation 31st March 2022	
Primary Rate (% of pay)	20.9%		21.8%	
Secondary Rate (£)	2020/21	30,652,000	2023/24	20,698,000
	2021/22	26,850,000	2024/25	20,082,000
	2022/23	24,353,000	2025/26	19,463,000

- Individual employers' rates will vary depending on the demographic and actuarial factors particular to each employer. Full details of the contribution rates payable can be found in the 2022 actuarial valuation report on the Fund's website. The Actuary has made an assessment of the contributions that should be paid into the Fund by participating employers for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2026 in order to maintain the solvency of the Fund.
- The contribution rate has been calculated using the projected evolution of each employers' assets and benefit payments and the main actuarial assumptions used are as follows:

	Funding Basis	
	2019	2022
Rate of return on investments (Discount Rate)	4.2% pa	4.2% pa
Rate of general pay increases	2.6% pa	3.2% pa
Rate of increase to pensions in payment	2.3% pa	2.7% pa

- The estimate of the pension fund liability is subject to significant variations, based on changes to the underlying assumptions used - please see table above.
- Full actuarial valuation reports are published on the Pension pages of the County Council's website
- See Note 24 for details of the Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits.

N7. Analysis of contributions receivable and benefits payable

	2022/23		2023/24	
	Contributions receivable £'000	Benefits payable £'000	Contributions receivable £'000	Benefits payable £'000
Gloucestershire County Council <i>[Administering authority]</i>	52,377	51,724	60,790	56,899
Scheduled bodies (199 23/24) (185 22/23)* <i>[Bodies admitted by right]</i>	53,475	40,254	77,526	45,367
Admitted bodies (41 23/24) (36 22/23)* <i>[Bodies admitted by agreement]</i>	**5,088	6,836	**588	8,799
	110,940	98,814	138,904	111,065

Scheduled bodies now include 133 (118 22/23) schools who have converted to academy status.

* These numbers relate to active employers with active members.

** Contributions Receivable for Admitted Bodies for 2023/24 contained £4,175k deficit payments (£412k deficit credit 22/23) in relation to employers who left the scheme, resulting in lower overall contributions received from admitted bodies.

N8. Investment Strategy Statement

The Fund's Investment Strategy Statement (ISS) as required by the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 can be found on the Fund's website <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/pensions/gloucestershire-local-government-pension-scheme-lgps-fund/>. It includes a statement on the Fund's approach to pooling its investment assets as required under the Regulations.

N9. Related party transactions

Gloucestershire County Council, as Administering Authority for the Fund, incurred the following costs in relation to the administration of the Fund and was subsequently reimbursed by the Fund for these expenses. The Council is also the single largest employer of members of the Pension Fund. All monies owing to and due from the Fund were paid or accrued for in the year.

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Administrative expenses	2,727	3,557

Part of the Pension Fund's cash holdings are invested on the money markets by the Treasury Management team of Gloucestershire County Council, see notes N2, N21 and N25.

Of the County Council's key management personnel, some of the Director of Finance (and in 2022/23 the Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director of Corporate Resources) remuneration costs were charged to the Fund to reflect time spent supporting the Fund. These consisted of salary, fees and allowances of £14,634 (£13,914 2022/23), employers' pension contributions of £3,863 (£3,882 2022/23) and employers' national insurance contributions of £1,863 (£1,769 2022/23).

The Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director and Director are members of the Fund as contributing Gloucestershire County Council employees. This does not impact on their role as Finance Director and S151 officer, which is clearly defined.

The Pensions Committee is the decision making body for the Fund and Gloucestershire County Council nominates 7 voting committee members. Councillor Gray is also a County Councillor but is the District Council's representative on the Pension Committee.

Each member of the Pension Committee is required to declare their interests at each meeting.

Mr. P. Clark, the Scheme Member Representative, is a non-voting member of the Pension Committee. Mr. Clark is a contributing member of the Pension Fund and this does not impact on his Pension Committee role.

Ms. J. Atkinson is a non-voting member of the Pension Committee. She is employed by a Pension Fund employer, Severn Vale School, and is also a contributing member of the Pension Fund. This does not impact on her Pension Committee role.

Cllr. J. Bloxson is in receipt of a local government pension.

Four members of the Pension Committee were also District Council members as at 31st March 2024 and these are detailed below:

Member	District Council
Cllr. M. Babbage	Cheltenham Borough Council
Cllr. D. Brown	Gloucester City Council
Cllr. D. Gray	Tewkesbury Borough Council
Cllr. C. Turner	Stroud District Council

Cllr. L. Stowe represented the Gloucestershire Pension Fund on the Brunel Oversight Board and acted as the Shareholder representative to the Brunel Pension Partnership during 2023/24. Cllr. Colin Hay took over the role on the Brunel Oversight Board from June 2024. Cllr. Stowe, as Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, is corporate shareholder representative for Gloucestershire County Council for UBICO Limited which is an employer in the Fund. A family member of Cllr. Stowe is a Councillor at Cotswold District Council which is also an employer in the Fund

A member of Cllr. C. Hay's family is leader of Cheltenham Borough Council which is an employer in the Pension Fund.

A member of Cllr. D. Brown's family is an employee of Gloucester City Council which is an employer in the Pension Fund.

The Pension Board was created on the 1st April 2015. Some of the Board are members of the Fund as contributing employees. This does not impact on their roles as members of the Pension Board given the nature of the Board's functions.

Transactions between employers and the Fund are disclosed in note N7.

Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd. (Company Number 10429110)

Brunel was formed on the 14th October 2016 and oversees the investment of pension fund assets for Avon, Buckinghamshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Environment Agency, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Somerset and Wiltshire Funds.

Each of the ten local authorities, including Gloucestershire County Council own 10% of Brunel. As part of Gloucestershire's investment in Brunel the Fund provided regulatory capital. This is subject to regular review by the regulator which could result in additional calls for capital.

Pension Fund transactions with Brunel are as follows:

	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Income	4	-
Expenditure	1,141	1,250
Debtors	-	-
Payments in Advance	-	-

In addition to his role as Pension Committee member, Cllr. L. Stowe represented the Fund on the Brunel Oversight Board. Cllr. C. Hay took over this role on the Brunel Oversight Board from June 2024.

In 2021/22 the Pension Fund, together with the nine other Funds in Brunel, entered into a Pension Cost Recharge Agreement whereby each Fund agreed to reimburse Brunel with its share of regular ongoing pension related cashflows via its Annual Operating Charge. As part of this arrangement the Fund also agreed to pay or receive its share of any exit payment or credit should Brunel cease to be a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme. At the end of September 2023 the Fund's share of the possible charge was £0k (2022/23 £10k).

N9a Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Fund are the Section 151 Officer and the Head of Pensions. A proportion of the Section 151 Officer's costs have been charged to the Fund to reflect time spent supporting the Fund and those costs are included with those of the Head of Pensions in the table below.

	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Short-term benefits	95	111
Post-employment benefits	-	-
Other long-term benefits	24	26
Termination benefits	-	-
Share-based payments	-	-
	119	137

N10. Contingent liabilities and contractual commitments**Investment commitments**

The Fund has investment commitments with four managers (Arcmont, Golub, Schroders Greencoat Wessex Gardens and Brunel Pension Partnership) where the investment manager has not yet drawn down all monies due. These commitments relate to investments in private debt, private equity and infrastructure and are requested as and when the respective investment manager identifies an investment opportunity or requires further funding. The amounts requested can therefore be irregular in both size and timing. In addition the Fund has made a commitment to a Social and Affordable Housing portfolio totalling £165m. The Fund is currently undertaking due diligence on three selected fund managers and anticipate drawing down monies during 2024/25.

During 2023/24 the Fund made a new commitment to a renewable infrastructure fund managed by Schroders Greencoat Wessex Garden of £60m, of which £42m has already been drawn down. It is anticipated that the remaining funds will be drawn down in 2024/25.

Brunel anticipates that commitments in Private Equity and Infrastructure Cycle 1 should be drawn down by 2026, Cycle 2 by 2028 and Cycle 3 by 2029. Commitments in Private Debt Cycle 2 should be drawn down by 2025 and Cycle 3 by 2027.

Of the Golub Capital Partners commitment, 87.5% has been drawn down. Golub do not anticipate any further draw downs but reserve the right to still do so. The change in the outstanding liability is due to changes in the exchange rate as Golub is denominated in US dollars. The commitment draw down period ended on the 1st July 2023 and Golub should return monies as investments mature by 2026/27. The fund will continue until July 2028 (the tenth anniversary of the final closing date), unless terminated sooner or extended as provided in its agreement.

In relation to the Fund's private debt fund managed by Arcmont, 82% of the Fund's total commitment has been drawn down. The Arcmont fund's investment period ended in July 2020 and the fund had been due to expire in July 2023. However the Pension Fund has agreed to an extension so that the fund will expire in July 2026 to enable Arcmont to maximise unrealised assets.

The following table shows the Fund's total commitment and the remaining liability, following drawdowns, at the year end.

	Original Commitment	Outstanding liability 2022/23	Outstanding liability 2023/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Arcmont Asset Management Ltd. (private debt)	50,000	9,665	9,170
Golub Capital Partners International (private debt)	40,000	5,063	4,939
Schroders Greencoat Wessex Gardens L.P. (renewable infrastructure)	60,000	-	18,000
Social and Affordable Housing Portfolio (three fund managers selected)	165,000	-	165,000
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd. (private equity) Cycle 1	43,000	16,720	10,884
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd. (private equity) Cycle 2	70,000	47,520	31,830
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd. (private equity) Cycle 3	16,000	16,000	14,990
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd. (infrastructure) Cycle 1	43,000	10,270	3,620
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd. (infrastructure) Cycle 2	130,000	57,280	35,270
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd. (infrastructure) Cycle 3	20,000	17,180	14,630
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd. (private debt) Cycle 2	120,000	64,090	43,634
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd. (private debt) Cycle 3	38,000	34,660	28,150
	795,000	278,448	380,117

Pension bonds

During 2023/24, seven (nine 2022/23) admitted body employers in the Pension Fund held insurance bonds to guard against the possibility of being unable to meet their pension obligations. These bonds are drawn in favour of the Pension Fund and payment will only be triggered in the event of employer default. No such defaults have occurred in 2023/24 (2022/23 nil).

Contingent liability

In 2021/22 the Pension Fund, together with the nine other Funds in Brunel, entered into a Pension Cost Recharge Agreement whereby each Fund agreed to reimburse Brunel with its share of regular ongoing pension related cashflows via its Annual Operating Charge. As part of this arrangement the Fund also agreed to pay or receive its share of any exit payment or credit should Brunel cease to be a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme. At the end of September 2023 the Fund's share of the possible charge was £0k (2022/23 £10k).

N11. Stock lending

Brunel operates a stock lending programme in relation to the underlying assets in three of the Fund's pooled funds. At 31st March 2024 the market value of shares out on loan was £15.6m (2022/23 £16.5m) and the value of collateral held £16.6m (2022/23 £17.4m) equal to 106.33% (2022/23 105.6%) of stock out on loan. Income of £60k (2022/23 £102.6k) was reinvested into the pooled funds.

These investments continue to be recognised in the Fund's financial statements. During the period the stock is on loan, the voting rights of the loaned stocks pass to the borrower

N12. Financial asset analysis

	2022/23	2023/24	Note
	£'000	£'000	
Investment Assets			
Pooled investment vehicles			
Equities	1,665,355	1,912,865	
Bonds	544,815	599,390	
Diversified Growth	241,939	192,987	
Private Equity	55,714	81,437	
Infrastructure	116,006	188,772	
Private Debt	114,674	143,149	
	2,738,503	3,118,600	N10
Other investments			
Pooled Property Investments	262,294	264,246	
Venture Capital/Private Equity	3,428	2,695	
	265,722	266,941	
Derivative Contracts			
Forward Foreign Exchange Contracts	11,873	3,351	
	11,873	3,351	N15
Cash (Managers)			
Cash instruments	4,489	21,248	
Cash deposits	25,493	3,664	
	29,982	24,912	
Other investment balances			
Debtors			
Outstanding settlement of investment sales	11	44	
Accrued dividend income and tax reclaims due on dividend income	915	779	
	926	823	
Long term financial assets			
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd.	697	722	
	697	722	
Total Investment Assets	3,047,703	3,415,349	
	2022/23	2023/24	Note
Investment Liabilities	£'000	£'000	
Derivative Contracts			
Forward Foreign Exchange Contracts	-3,747	-4,507	
	-3,747	-4,507	N15
Other Investment Balances			
Creditors			
Outstanding settlement of investment transactions	-	-3,392	
	-	-3,392	
Total Investment Liabilities	-3,747	-7,899	
Long Term Assets			
Contributions due from employers	184	109	
	184	109	N22
Current Assets			
Contributions due from employers	5,180	6,946	
Other current assets (debtors)	1,561	423	
Payments in advance	3	5	
Cash balances	7,932	9,042	N21
	14,676	16,416	N22
Current Liabilities			
Unpaid benefits	-146	-45	
Other liabilities (creditors)	-1,700	-2,271	
Receipts in advance	-	-29	
	-1,846	-2,345	N23
TOTAL	3,056,970	3,421,630	

N13. Investment income

Investment income arises from the following investment categories:

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Bonds	-225	-
Pooled investment vehicles	7,709	16,960
Pooled property investments	7,153	7,467
Interest on cash deposits	303	2,308
Other income from stock lending, underwriting and class actions	25	68
	14,965	26,803
Withholding tax	-	-
	14,965	26,803

N14. Separately invested additional voluntary contributions (AVC's)

Gloucestershire Pension Fund provides additional voluntary contribution (AVC) schemes for its members with The Prudential Assurance Company Limited and Phoenix Life Limited. The AVC's are invested separately in funds managed by them. These are in the form of with-profits, unit-linked and deposit accounts and secure additional benefits on a money purchase basis for those members electing to pay additional voluntary contributions. Members participating in this arrangement receive an annual statement confirming amounts held to their account and movements in the year. These amounts are not included in the Pension Fund Accounts in accordance with Regulation 4 (1) (b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 (as amended).

Value of separately invested additional voluntary contributions

	31st March 2023 £'000	31st March 2024 £'000
The Prudential Assurance Company Limited	6,335	6,685
Phoenix Life Limited	19	20
	<u>6,354</u>	<u>6,705</u>

Contributions paid by members in the Prudential scheme during 2023/2024 totalled £676,368 (2022/2023 £636,158) which included additional death in service premiums totalling £737 (2022/2023 £746).

N15. Derivatives

The Fund uses derivatives to reduce currency risk within the pooled equity funds by way of forward currency contracts managed by BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Ltd. which commenced in February 2023. In addition, the Sterling Corporate Bonds and Multi-asset Credit pooled funds are allowed the modest use of derivatives primarily for currency and interest rate hedging purposes. Due to the nature of pooled funds where units are purchased in the fund itself rather than the underlying assets, details of derivative contracts are at fund level and not disclosed.

A derivative is a generic term for financial instruments used in the management of portfolios and is a financial contract between two parties, the value of which is determined by the underlying asset. Derivatives include futures, forwards, swaps and options.

Derivative Contract Analysis

	Contract type*	2022/23 Economic Exposure £'000	2023/24 Economic Exposure £'000	Expiration	2022/23 Market Value £'000	2023/24 Market Value £'000
INVESTMENT ASSETS						
Forward foreign exchange contracts	OTC	963,814	694,584	Less than 3 months	11,873	3,351
Total Derivative Assets		963,814	694,584		11,873	3,351
INVESTMENT LIABILITIES						
Forward foreign exchange contracts	OTC	495,643	1,156,025	Less than 3 months	-3,747	-4,507
Total Derivative Liabilities		495,643	1,156,025		-3,747	-4,507
Net Futures					8,126	-1,156

* Contract type OTC (over the counter)

A breakdown of the open forward foreign exchange contracts at 31st March 2024 is given below:-

Open Forward Currency Contracts at 31st March 2024

Settlement	Currency bought	Local Value	Currency sold	Local Value	Asset Value	Liability Value
		000		000	£000	£000
Up to three months	GBP	435,559	USD	548,139	1,717	
Up to three months	GBP	15,691	CHF	17,452	353	
Up to three months	GBP	54,459	EUR	63,249	331	
Up to three months	GBP	34,564	JPY	6,569,739	201	
Up to three months	GBP	5,152	SEK	67,260	173	
Up to three months	GBP	37,210	JPY	7,057,360	157	
Up to three months	GBP	15,571	CHF	17,567	84	
Up to three months	GBP	4,944	SEK	65,601	83	
Up to three months	GBP	12,064	AUD	23,280	42	
Up to three months	GBP	12,155	AUD	23,452	36	
Up to three months	GBP	5,743	DKK	49,734	35	
Up to three months	GBP	1,062	NOK	14,198	26	
Up to three months	GBP	3,105	HKD	30,526	15	
Up to three months	GBP	2,565	JPY	487,621	14	
Up to three months	GBP	1,014	NOK	13,724	12	
Up to three months	GBP	19,151	CAD	32,709	12	
Up to three months	GBP	608	ILS	2,763	10	
Up to three months	GBP	328	NZD	672	10	
Up to three months	GBP	1,958	SGD	3,318	9	
Up to three months	CAD	4,999	GBP	2,918	7	
Up to three months	GBP	5,377	DKK	46,866	6	
Up to three months	GBP	19,189	CAD	32,796	5	
Up to three months	GBP	618	ILS	2,842	4	
Up to three months	GBP	320	NZD	670	2	
Up to three months	GBP	2,019	SGD	3,438	2	
Up to three months	GBP	103	CHF	115	2	
Up to three months	GBP	330	DKK	2,868	1	
Up to three months	GBP	410	EUR	479	1	
Up to three months	HKD	3,419	GBP	345	1	
Up to three months	CAD	87	GBP	51	-	
Up to three months	NZD	2	GBP	1		-
Up to three months	ILS	79	GBP	17		-
Up to three months	GBP	89	AUD	172		-
Up to three months	SGD	120	GBP	71		-
Up to three months	NZD	112	GBP	53		-
Up to three months	GBP	53,664	EUR	62,770		-
Up to three months	ILS	249	GBP	54		-1
Up to three months	NOK	474	GBP	36		-1
Up to three months	SGD	597	GBP	352		-1
Up to three months	HKD	4,540	GBP	461		-2
Up to three months	NOK	2,662	GBP	197		-2
Up to one month	NZD	670	GBP	320		-3
Up to three months	DKK	6,858	GBP	790		-3
Up to three months	SEK	1,659	GBP	127		-5
Up to three months	AUD	3,781	GBP	1,959		-5
Up to one month	SGD	3,318	GBP	1,955		-9
Up to three months	SEK	8,091	GBP	609		-9
Up to one month	ILS	2,763	GBP	607		-10
Up to three months	GBP	3,423	HKD	33,945		-10
Up to one month	CAD	32,709	GBP	19,146		-12
Up to one month	NOK	13,724	GBP	1,014		-12
Up to one month	HKD	30,526	GBP	3,103		-15
Up to three months	CHF	2,898	GBP	2,571		-16
Up to three months	GBP	4,973	USD	6,304		-17
Up to three months	JPY	901,006	GBP	4,753		-22
Up to three months	EUR	9,176	GBP	7,884		-32
Up to one month	DKK	49,734	GBP	5,736		-35
Up to one month	AUD	23,452	GBP	12,147		-35
Up to one month	CHF	17,567	GBP	15,521		-82
Up to one month	SEK	65,601	GBP	4,939		-82
Up to one month	JPY	7,057,360	GBP	37,047		-134
Up to three months	USD	69,486	GBP	55,179		-182
Up to one month	EUR	63,249	GBP	54,403		-329
Up to one month	USD	548,139	GBP	435,628		-1,716
Up to three months	GBP	427,197	USD	541,835		-1,725
Open forward currency contracts at 31st March 2024					3,351	-4,507
Net forward currency contracts at 31st March 2024						-1,156
Prior year comparative						
Open forward currency contracts at 31st March 2023					11,873	-3,747
Net forward currency contracts at 31st March 2023						8,126

N16. Investments exceeding 5% of Total Net Assets

At 31st March 2024 the Pension Fund held seven (2022/23, seven) investments that each exceeded 5% of the total value of the net assets of the scheme. These seven investments totalled £2,461,003k out of a total market value for the Fund of £3,421,630k . These are detailed as follows:

<u>Investments exceeding 5% of Total Net Assets</u>	2022/23		2023/24	
	£'000	%	£'000	%
Brunel Global High Alpha Equity Fund	410,614	13.4	494,965	14.5
Brunel Global Sustainable Fund	398,646	13.0	451,295	13.2
Brunel UK Equity Fund	356,985	11.7	394,185	11.5
Legal & General FTSE Paris Aligned Developed Equities Index Fund	309,790	10.1	375,707	11.0
Royal London Pooled Pension Company - Brunel Sterling Corporate Bond Fund	326,278	10.7	355,151	10.4
Brunel Emerging Markets Equity Fund	189,321	6.2	196,713	5.7
Brunel Diversifying Returns Fund	241,939	7.9	192,987	5.6
	2,233,573	73.0	2,461,003	71.9

N17. Agency services

The Pension Fund pays discretionary pension awards to former employees on behalf of some Pension Fund employers. The amounts paid are not included within the Fund Account but are provided as a service and fully reclaimed from the employer bodies. The sums are disclosed below.

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Discretionary Payments	1,094	1,165

N18. Contributions breakdown

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
From Employers:		
Normal contributions	72,002	82,262
Augmentation contributions	-	-
Deficit recovery contributions	13,745	33,544
Section 75 debt (cessation of employer)	412	-4,175
Other	1,886	2,323
	88,045	113,954
From Members:		
Normal contributions	22,735	24,776
Additional voluntary contributions	160	174
	22,895	24,950

The Fund's actuary undertakes a funding valuation every three years for the purpose of setting employer contribution rates for the forthcoming triennial period. The primary contribution rate, the rate which all employers in the Fund pay was set at 20.9%, in addition most employers will also pay a secondary contribution rate depending on their own particular circumstances. Full details of the contribution rates payable for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 can be found in the 2022 Actuarial Valuation Report and the Pension Fund's Annual Report. Both documents can be found at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/pensions/gloucestershire-local-government-pension-scheme-lgps-fund/.

The employers' monthly contributions are expressed as a percentage of pensionable pay. Deficit recovery payments are either based on a percentage of pensionable pay or paid as a lump sum. Both monthly contributions and deficit funding payments have been identified above. The deficit recovery contributions relate to past service benefit accrual and are payable over an agreed recovery period, not exceeding 20 years.

During 2023/24, three scheduled bodies made the decision to pay lump sum deficit contributions totalling £15.5m to the Fund to benefit from earning greater investment returns in the short term resulting in reduced contribution payments owing in future years.

Employers who leave the scheme may need to pay outstanding deficit payments and this is included under Section 75 debt. A revision to the Regulations in May 2018 and a further, more recent revision permits, at the discretion of the Pension Fund, the payment of an exit credit to an employer. Exit credit payments are also included within Section 75 debt.

Other contributions are those contributions paid by an employer to compensate the Pension Fund for early retirement or the recovery of ill health retirement costs.

These payments follow the principles outlined in the Funding Strategy Statement. Early retirement costs are usually paid in one lump sum or may be spread by no more than three years for scheduled bodies with tax-raising powers. When a payment is spread there is an extra cost to reflect the delay in total payment. There are currently no early retirement costs being spread. At 31st March 2024, £234k (2022/23 £31k) was due to the Pension Fund for early retirements and has been accrued.

The majority of employers are covered by an ill health insurance policy and claims are made as they arise. Excess ill health retirement costs, not covered by the insurance policy, are invoiced for where necessary. At 31st March 2024, £1,124k (2022/23 £305k) was due to the Pension Fund for ill health retirement costs and has been accrued.

It had been agreed previously that an employer who left the Fund in 2008/09 could spread the payment of their deficit over a number of years. The total amount was credited to the Pension Fund and an accrual made for the outstanding amount. The accrual is rolled forward each year and adjusted for deficit payments made.

N19. Custody of investments

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 use the valuations for the Fund's assets provided by our custodian, State Street Bank & Trust Company. This reflects the position of the custodian who is ultimately the master book of record. Custodian records are regularly reconciled with the Fund Managers' records. Using the custodian's valuations ensures that the various portfolios are priced consistently, so that the same stocks, in different portfolios, are valued on the same basis. Investments held in custody by State Street Bank & Trust Company on behalf of the Pension Fund, are ring-fenced from the assets of the Bank and segregated within its books as belonging to the Gloucestershire Pension Fund.

N20. Management expenses

Pension Fund expenses have been accounted for in accordance with the *CIPFA guidance Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Costs*.

<u>Management expenses</u>	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Investment management expenses *	24,991	26,732
Administration expenses	1,845	2,346
Oversight & governance	820	1,143
	27,656	30,221

* Please see a more detailed breakdown of the investment management expenses below.

Investment management expenses**2023/24**

	Management Fees	Performance fees	Transaction Costs	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Pooled Investment Vehicles	13,244	1,091	4,564	18,899
Pooled Property Investments	5,022	95	1,267	6,384
Derivative Contracts	131	-	-	131
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd.	1,250	-	-	1,250
	19,647	1,186	5,831	26,664
Custody Fees				64
Tax and Legal Costs				4
				26,732

Investment management expenses**2022/23**

	Management Fees	Performance fees	Transaction Costs	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Pooled Investment Vehicles	11,789	641	6,097	18,527
Pooled Property Investments	4,119	65	1,066	5,250
Derivative Contracts	17	-	-	17
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd.	1,136	-	-	1,136
	17,061	706	7,163	24,930
Custody Fees				53
Tax and Legal Costs				8
				24,991

Investment management expenses are generally set on a fixed fee basis, calculated using the market value of each portfolio. The cost of investment management expenses varies with the value of assets under management.

The increase in investment management expenses during the period of £1.7m is mainly due to an increase in amounts invested in private equity, infrastructure and private debt, asset classes which have a higher fee structure. Together with an increase in the market value on which some management fees are calculated and an increase in property fund expenses. The Fund has fully adopted the Cost Transparency Initiative (CTI) reporting template to account for all management expenses incurred on funds invested during the year which includes direct, indirect and implicit costs. This has a zero net effect overall, with an offsetting increase in reported profit in year.

Transaction costs

When an asset is purchased or sold, a cost is incurred for broker commission and stamp duty, when appropriate, based on a small percentage of the value of assets being transacted. When an asset is directly held these costs are easily identified, when a pooled fund is held these indirect costs are less transparent as details of the underlying investments and transactions are not generally disclosed. The Fund has adopted the Cost Transparency Initiative which increases transparency of all related costs (direct, indirect and implicit). This has a zero net effect overall as the costs are offset against an increase in reported profit in year.

Administration expenses and Oversight & Governance expenses

Administration Expenses increased due to additional staff and higher computer costs. Whilst the increase in Oversight & Governance was due to increased actuarial fees arising from employer requests, detailed below, an increase in professional fees incurred prior to investing in new asset classes in addition to professional fees incurred in the enhancement of responsible investing by the Fund.

Within Oversight and Governance costs there were actuarial expenses of £217,285 (£95,855 2022/23) generated by specific employer requirements, these were recharged back to the employer. The corresponding income is included within Recoveries for Services Provided in the Fund Account.

In addition to the recharged actuarial expenses, recoveries for services provided includes £34,050 (£37,318 2022/23) for pension and fee reimbursements.

Audit fees

Audit fees of £78,862 for 2023/24 were incurred in relation to KPMG LLP, the auditors appointed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd.(PSAA) for external audit services. A further payment of £35,030 was due to be paid to Grant Thornton UK LLP our previous auditor, for additional audit costs as agreed within the PSAA contract for 2022/23. In 2022/23, £56,480 together with £24,845 paid for prior year invoices totalling £81,325 was paid to Grant Thornton UK LLP. Associated charges of £48,000 were also due to KPMG for the provision of IAS19/FRS102 reporting assurances as part of the external audit process of 8 employers of the Pension Fund for 2023/24.

N21. Cash

From the 1st April 2010 the Pension Fund has had its own bank account. At 31st March 2024 in-house cash of £9.0m (£7.9m in 2022/23) was invested through the County Council's short-term investment procedures. During the year the average investment balance was £17.7m (£9.3m 2022/23) earning interest of £860k (£211k 2022/23).

N22. Current & long term assets

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Current assets		
Contributions due - Employees	991	1,155
Contributions due - Employers	4,189	5,791
Sundry debtors	1,561	423
Payment in advance	3	5
	6,744	7,374
Cash balances	7,932	9,042
	14,676	16,416

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Long term assets		
Long term debtors	184	109

It had been agreed that an employer who left the Fund could spread the payment of their deficit over a number of years. The total amount was credited to the Pension Fund and an accrual made for the outstanding amount. The accrual is rolled forward each year and adjusted for deficit payments made. A payment of £74,841 is due to the Pension Fund within the next twelve months and is included in Current Assets.

N23. Current liabilities

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Benefits payable	-146	-45
Sundry creditors	-1,700	-2,271
Receipts in advance	-	-29
	-1,846	-2,345

N24. Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits

In addition to the triennial funding valuation (See Note 6), the Fund's Actuary, Hymans Robertson LLP, also undertakes a valuation of the Pension Fund liabilities on an IAS19 basis each year. The promised retirement benefits at 31st March 2024 have been projected using a roll forward approximation from the latest formal funding valuation as at 31st March 2022. The approximation involved in the roll forward model means that the split of benefits between the three classes of member may not be reliable. However the Actuary is satisfied that the total figure is a reasonable estimate of the actuarial present value of benefit promises.

Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits:

	31 st March 2023	31 st March 2024
	£m	£m
Active members	1,067	1,142
Deferred members	622	615
Pensioners	1,236	1,203
Total	2,925	2,960

The figures include both vested and non-vested benefits, although the latter is assumed to have a negligible value. No allowances have been made for unfunded benefits.

It should be noted that the above figures are appropriate only for the preparation of the Fund's accounts. They should not be used for any other purpose (i.e. comparing against liability measures on a funding basis or a cessation basis).

Assumptions

The assumptions used are those adopted for the Administering Authority's IAS19 report and are different as at 31st March 2024 and 31st March 2023. It is estimated that the impact of the change in financial assumptions to 31st March 2024 is to decrease the actuarial present value by £162m (22/23 decrease of £1,542m). It is estimated that the impact of the change in demographic assumptions is to decrease the actuarial present value by £18m (22/23 decrease by £35m).

Significant Actuarial Assumptions Used**Financial assumptions:**

Year Ended	31 st March 2023	31 st March 2024
	% pa	% pa
Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2.95	2.75
Salary Increase Rate	3.45	3.25
Discount Rate	4.75	4.85

Demographic assumptions:

The longevity assumptions have changed since the previous IAS26 disclosure for the Fund.

Life expectancy is based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2022 model, with a 25% weighting of 2022 data, 0% weighting of 2021 (and 2020) data, standard smoothing (Sk7), initial adjustment of 0.25% and a long term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are summarised below.

Longevity assumptions as at 31st March 2024	Males	Females
	Years	
Current Pensioners	21.4	24.2
Future Pensioners **	22.1	25.6

Longevity assumptions as at 31st March 2023	Males	Females
	Years	
Current Pensioners	21.6	24.4
Future Pensioners **	22.2	25.8

** Future pensioners are assumed to be aged 45 at the latest formal valuation as at 31st March 2022.

All other demographic assumptions are unchanged from last year and are as per the latest funding valuation of the Fund.

Sensitivity Analysis

CIPFA guidance requires the disclosure of the sensitivity of the results to the methods and assumptions used. The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the obligations are set out below:

Change in assumption at 31st March 2024	Approximate increase to promised retirement benefits	Approximate monetary amount
	%	£m
0.1% p.a. decrease in the Discount Rate	2	53
0.1% p.a. increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0	2
0.1% p.a. increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2	51
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4	118

Change in assumption at 31st March 2023	Approximate increase to promised retirement benefits	Approximate monetary amount
	%	£m
0.1% p.a. decrease in the Discount Rate	2	52
0.1% p.a. increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0	5
0.1% p.a. increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2	48
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4	117

N25. Nature and extent of risks arising from Financial Instruments

The Gloucestershire Pension Fund's ("The Fund") objective is to generate positive investment returns for a given level of risk. Therefore the Fund holds financial instruments such as collective investment schemes (or pooled funds), cash and cash equivalents and debtors and creditors (which arise as a result of its operations). The value of all these financial instruments in the financial statements approximates to their fair value.

The Fund's primary long-term risk is that the Fund's assets will fall short of its liabilities i.e. promised benefits payable to members. Therefore the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction on the value of the Fund and to maximise the opportunity for gains across the whole fund portfolio. The Fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (price risk, currency risk and interest rate risk) and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the Fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cash flows.

The Fund's investments are managed on behalf of the Fund via Brunel and its appointed Investment Managers. In addition the Fund also has a small number of directly appointed pooled funds. Each Investment Manager is required to invest the assets managed by them in accordance with the terms of their investment guidelines or pooled fund prospectus. The Gloucestershire Pension Fund Committee ("Committee") has determined that the investment management structure is appropriate and is in accordance with its investment strategy. The Committee regularly monitors each investment mandate and considers and takes advice on the nature of the investments made and associated risks.

The Fund's investments are held by State Street Bank & Trust Company, who act as custodian on behalf of the Fund.

Because the Fund adopts a long term investment strategy, the high level risks described below will not alter significantly during the year unless there are significant strategic or tactical changes in the portfolio.

Market Risk

Market risk represents the risk that the fair value of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices, interest rates or currencies. The Fund is exposed through its investments in equities, bonds and investment funds, to all these market risks. The aim of the investment strategy is to manage and control market risk within acceptable parameters, while optimising the return from the investment portfolio.

In general, excessive volatility in market risk is managed through the diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical, industry sectors, individual securities, investment mandate guidelines and Investment Managers. The risk arising from exposure to specific markets is limited by the strategic asset allocation, which is regularly monitored by the Committee as well as appropriate monitoring of market conditions and benchmark analysis.

Other Price Risk

Other price risk represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices, caused by factors other than interest rate or foreign currency movements, whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument, its issuer or factors affecting all such instruments in the market.

Market price risk arises from uncertainty about the future value of the financial instruments that the Fund holds. All securities investments present a risk of loss of capital. Except for shares sold short, the maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments. Possible losses from shares sold short are unlimited. The Investment Managers mitigate this price risk through diversification in line with their own investment strategies and mandate guidelines.

Other Price Risk - Sensitivity Analysis

The sensitivity of the Fund's investments to changes in market prices has been analysed using the volatility of return experienced by each investment portfolio during the year to 31st March 2024. The volatility data is broadly consistent with a one-standard deviation movement in the value of the assets. The analysis assumes that all other variables remain constant.

Movements in market prices would have increased or decreased the assets, as held by the Fund's custodian, at 31st March 2024 by the amounts shown below:

As at 31st March 2024	Value	Volatility of	Value on	Value on
	£'000	return	Increase	Decrease
		%	£'000	£'000
UK Bonds	355,151	7.0	380,011	330,290
Overseas Bonds	244,239	7.0	261,336	227,142
UK Equities	394,185	16.0	457,255	331,115
Multi National Equities	1,518,680	16.7	1,772,300	1,265,060
Diversified Growth Fund	192,987	7.9	208,233	177,741
UK Property	201,850	15.6	233,339	170,361
Overseas Property	62,396	15.6	72,130	52,662
Venture Capital/Private Equity/Infrastructure	272,904	31.2	358,050	187,758
Private Debt	143,149	8.8	155,746	130,552
	3,385,541		3,898,400	2,872,681
Total Gloucestershire Fund	3,385,541	11.5%	3,774,878	2,996,204

Cash equivalents of £355k have been included in UK Bonds and £6,815k in Overseas Bonds. Both of these asset classes are invested in pooled funds.

The above table does not include investment manager cash, cash instruments and debtors or the Brunel Pension Partnership shareholding, derivative contracts, long term and current assets and current liabilities of £36,089k as these are not subject to price risk.

As at 31st March 2023	Value	Volatility of	Value on	Value on
	£'000	return	Increase	Decrease
		%	£'000	£'000
UK Bonds	326,278	7.5	350,749	301,807
Overseas Bonds	218,537	7.5	234,927	202,147
UK Equities	356,985	18.2	421,956	292,014
Multi National Equities	1,550,309	17.4	1,820,063	1,280,555
UK Property	201,450	15.5	232,675	170,225
Overseas Property	60,844	15.5	70,275	51,413
Venture Capital/Private Equity/Infrastructure	175,148	31.2	229,794	120,502
Private Debt	114,674	9.6	125,683	103,665
	3,004,225		3,486,122	2,522,328
Total Gloucestershire Fund	3,004,225	12.3%	3,373,745	2,634,705

Cash equivalents of £8,157k have been included in UK Bonds and £16,543k in Overseas Bonds. Both of these asset classes are invested in pooled funds.

The above table does not include investment manager cash, cash instruments and debtors or the Brunel Pension Partnership shareholding, derivative contracts, long term and current assets and current liabilities of £52,745k as these are not subject to price risk.

Interest Rate Risk

The Fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. These investments are subject to interest rate risk, which represents the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. This risk will affect the value of both fixed interest and index linked securities. The amount of income receivable from cash balances will also be affected by fluctuations in interest rates.

The Funds exposure to interest rate movements, as a result of its investments in fixed interest pooled funds, as at the 31st March 2024 is set out below along with the interest rate sensitivity analysis data.

Interest Rate Risk Sensitivity Analysis

Government yields took a pause for breath in March, sliding downwards, after a sharp rise to start the year. Government yields were on the back foot as markets continue to re-price central bank interest rate cuts. US treasury 10-year yields inched lower to 4.21% from 4.25%, while German Bund 10-year yields fell to 2.30% from 2.41%. In the UK, the benchmark 10-year gilt fell to 3.94% from 4.12% at the end of March, meaning the FTSE UK Conventional Gilt All-Stocks index returned 1.73% for the month. Both Brunel bond portfolios have credit risk through underlying investments. Risk is managed through diversification across sectors, countries, seniority and credit rating. The Sterling Corporate Bond portfolio focusses exclusively on Sterling denominated assets and is predominantly investment grade. Whereas the Multi-Asset Credit Portfolio focusses on sub investment grade securities and is unconstrained by country, sector and seniority.

Changes in interest rates do not impact on the value of cash and cash equivalents but they will affect the interest income received on those balances.

The analysis that follows assumes that all other variables, in particular, exchange rates, remain constant and shows the effect in the year on the values of a +/- 100bps (1%) change in interest rates on a time-weighted basis.

Assets exposed to interest rate risk	Carrying amount as at 31st March 2024	Change in the year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+100BPS (1% increase)	-100BPS (1% decrease)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
2023/24			
Cash held directly by the Fund	9,042	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents held on behalf of the Fund	24,912	-	-
Bond Portfolio - Fixed Interest Securities	599,390	-27,894	27,894
	633,344	-27,894	27,894

In the above table, cash equivalents of £6,460K are included in the Bond Portfolio - Fixed Interest Securities, which are held in pooled funds.

Assets exposed to interest rate risk	Carrying amount as at 31st March 2023	Change in the year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+100BPS (1% increase)	-100BPS (1% decrease)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
2022/23			
Cash held directly by the Fund	7,932	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents held on behalf of the Fund	29,982	-	-
Bond Portfolio - Fixed Interest Securities	544,815	-23,499	23,499
	582,729	-23,499	23,499

In the above table, cash equivalents of £24,700k are included in the Bond Portfolio - Fixed Interest Securities, which are held in pooled funds.

Foreign Currency Risk

Foreign currency risk represents the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to currency risk on both monetary and non-monetary investments denominated in a currency other than Sterling. For a Sterling based investor, when Sterling weakens, the Sterling value of foreign currency denominated investments rises. As Sterling strengthens, the Sterling value of foreign currency denominated investment falls. The Fund uses derivatives to reduce currency risk within the pooled equity funds by way of forward currency contracts managed by BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Ltd. which commenced in February 2023.

Currency Risk Sensitivity Analysis

Following analysis of historical data, by the Fund's performance measurement service, the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange rate movements is considered to be 6.5% (as measured by one standard deviation).

This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant.

A 6.5% strengthening/weakening of the Pound against the various countries in which the Fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets available to pay benefits as follows:

2023/24 Currency exposure - Asset type	Asset value as at 31st March 2024	Change to net assets available to pay benefits	
	£'000	£'000	£'000
		+6.5%	-6.5%
UK Equities*	1,995	2,125	1,865
Global Equities	1,455,076	1,549,656	1,360,496
Global Bonds	-	-	-
Overseas Private Debt	34,633	36,884	32,382
Overseas Property	62,396	66,452	58,340
Venture Capital /Private Equity/ Infrastructure	85,441	90,995	79,887
Diversified Growth	15,641	16,658	14,624
Cash/Cash equivalents	1,142	1,216	1,068
	1,656,324	1,763,986	1,548,662

* Amount of overseas currency within the Brunel UK Equity Pooled Fund

2022/23 Currency exposure - Asset type	Asset value as at 31st March 2023	Change to net assets available to pay benefits	
	£'000	£'000	£'000
		+6.3%	-6.3%
UK Equities*	1,111	1,181	1,041
Global Equities	1,248,678	1,327,345	1,170,011
Global Bonds	-	-	-
Overseas Private Debt	35,391	37,621	33,161
Overseas Property	60,844	64,677	57,011
Venture Capital /Private Equity/ Infrastructure	149,596	159,021	140,171
Diversified Growth	21,079	22,407	19,751
Cash/Cash equivalents	701	745	657
	1,517,400	1,612,997	1,421,803

* Amount of overseas currency within the Brunel UK Equity Pooled Fund

Credit Risk

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. This is often referred to as counterparty risk.

In essence the Fund's entire investment portfolio is exposed to some form of credit risk, with the exception of the derivatives positions, where the risk equates to the net market value of a positive derivative position. However, the careful selection and monitoring of counterparties including brokers, custodian and investment managers minimises any credit risk that may occur through the failure to settle transactions in a timely manner. The Fund's contractual exposure to credit risk is represented by the net payment or receipt that remains outstanding, and the cost of replacing the derivative position in the event of a counterparty default. The residual risk is minimal due to the various insurance policies held by the exchanges to cover defaulting counterparties.

Bankruptcy or insolvency of the custodian may affect the Fund's access to its assets. However, all assets held by the custodian are ring-fenced as "client assets" and therefore cannot be claimed by creditors of the custodian. Brunel, on behalf of the Fund, manages the risk by monitoring the credit quality and financial position of the custodian.

Credit risk on over the counter derivative contracts is minimised as counterparties are recognised financial intermediaries with acceptable credit ratings determined by a recognised rating agency.

The Fund's bond pooled funds have significant credit risk through their underlying investments. This risk is managed through diversification across sovereign and corporate entities, credit quality and maturity of bonds. The market prices of bonds incorporate an assessment of credit quality in their valuation which reflects the probability of default (the yield of a bond will include a premium that will compensate for the risk of default).

The Fund believes it has managed its exposure to credit risk within an acceptable level and its default experience over the last five financial years is not significantly out of line with the industry.

Another source of credit risk is the cash balances held to meet operational requirements or by the managers at their discretion. Internally held cash is managed on the Fund's behalf by the Council's Treasury Management Team in line with the Fund's Treasury Management Policy which sets out the permitted counterparties and limits. The Fund invests surplus cash held with the custodian in diversified money market funds.

Through its securities lending activities, the Fund is exposed to the counterparty risk of the collateral provided by borrowers against the securities lent. This risk is managed by restricting the collateral permitted.

Foreign exchange contracts are subject to credit risk in relation to the counterparties of the contracts which are primarily banks. The maximum credit exposure on foreign currency contracts is any net profit on forward contracts, should the counterparty fail to meet its obligations to the Fund when it falls due.

The credit risk within the bond pooled funds can be analysed using standard industry credit ratings and the analysis as at 31st March 2024 is set out below with comparatives from the position as at 31 March 2023.

Credit Analysis

31st March 2024	AAA £'000	AA+ to AA- £'000	A+ to A- £'000	BBB+ to BBB- £'000	BB+ to BB- £'000	B+ to B- £'000	CCC+ to C- £'000	Unrated £'000
UK Corporate Bonds	6,044	31,995	91,365	197,306	22,397	5,688	711	-
Global Bonds	1,638	3,490	12,821	37,513	64,935	93,498	14,602	8,927
	7,682	35,485	104,186	234,819	87,332	99,186	15,313	8,927
% of Fixed Interest Pooled Funds	1.3	6.0	17.6	39.6	14.7	16.7	2.6	1.5

Cash equivalents held in the Bond Portfolio pooled funds of £6,460k have not been included in the credit analysis table above but are included in the market value of the Bond Portfolio pooled funds in Note 12.

31st March 2023	AAA £'000	AA+ to AA- £'000	A+ to A- £'000	BBB+ to BBB- £'000	BB+ to BB- £'000	B+ to B- £'000	CCC+ to C- £'000	Unrated £'000
UK Corporate Bonds	7,031	19,914	73,645	169,431	18,260	9,894	-	19,946
Global Bonds	13,311	222	6,363	31,875	46,782	75,404	20,280	7,757
	20,342	20,136	80,008	201,306	65,042	85,298	20,280	27,703
% of Fixed Interest Pooled Funds	3.9	3.9	15.4	38.7	12.5	16.4	3.9	5.3

Cash equivalents held in the Bond Portfolio pooled funds of £24,700k have not been included in the credit analysis table above but are included in the market value of the Bond Portfolio pooled funds in Note 12.

Cash Balances

The management of Pension Fund cash balances not held by the Custodian is delegated to Gloucestershire County Council's Treasury Management team to manage in accordance with their Treasury Management Strategy, which reflects the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Public Services. Pension Fund cash is invested separately from Gloucestershire County Council monies.

The Fund's cash holding under both its treasury management arrangements and Custodian arrangements at 31st March 2024 is shown below:

Account Name	Rating*	Balances as at 31st March 2023	Rating*	Balances as at 31st March 2024
		£'000		£'000
Aberdeen Standard Liquidity Fund	AAAm	2,636	AAAm	-
Federated Short Term Sterling Prime Fund	AAAm	1,274	AAAm	-
Lloyds Current Account	A-1	4,022	A-1	9,042
Total Balances managed in house		7,932		9,042
State Street SSGA Global Asset MMF	AAAm	352	AAAm	968
State Street Liquidity Funds	AAAm	4,137	AAAm	20,280
State Street Bank & Trust Company	AA-	25,493	AA-	3,664
Total Balances held by Custodian		29,982		24,912

* Ratings quoted are all Standard and Poors as at 31st March 2024 and 2023

Credit risk may also occur if an employing body not supported by central government does not pay contributions promptly, or defaults on its obligations. The Pension Fund has not experienced any actual defaults in recent years and in the past the Fund has obtained a guarantee before admitting new employers so that all pension obligations are covered in the event of that employer facing financial difficulties. More recently the Fund has also admitted certain employers on a pass-through basis where the risks inherent in participating in the LGPS are shared between the new employer and the letting employer who is supported by central government. Contributions due as at 31st March 2024 was £6,872k (2022/23 £5,180k) and as at 16th May 2024 £1,221k remained outstanding.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Council therefore takes steps to ensure that the Pension Fund has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments. A substantial portion of the Fund's investments consist of readily realisable securities, in particular equities and fixed income investments, even though they are held in pooled funds. However, the main liability of the Fund are the benefits payable, which fall due over a long period and the investment strategy reflects the long term nature of these liabilities. Therefore the Fund is able to manage the liquidity risk that arises from its investments in less liquid asset classes such as property which are subject to longer redemption periods and cannot be considered as liquid as the other investments. The Fund maintains a cash balance to meet working requirements and has immediate access to its cash holdings.

Refinancing risk

Refinancing risk relates to the Fund being required to replenish a significant proportion of its financial instruments at a time of unfavourable interest rates. Refinancing risk within the Pooled Bond Funds is mitigated through credit and liquidity analysis of all investments and diversification by issuer and maturity. The Brunel property portfolio managed on behalf of the Pension Fund is not leveraged or subject to refinancing risk. However, the underlying investments within this portfolio are leveraged and so may be subject to refinancing risk. This risk is mitigated by covenants written into the Fund documentation. There are no other financial instruments that have refinancing risk as part of its treasury management and investment strategies.

N26. Fair value hierarchy**Basis of valuation**

The basis of the valuation of each class of investment asset is set out below. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year. All assets have been valued using fair value techniques.

Description of asset	Valuation hierarchy	Value at 31st March 2024 £'000	Basis of valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Cash instruments held on behalf of the investment managers	Level 1	21,248	Net Asset Value	Interest rates	Not required
Cash Deposits	Level 1	12,706	Cash held in foreign currencies are shown at market value translated into sterling at the exchange rates prevailing as at 31st March 2024	Not required	Not required
Investment income and tax reclaims due	Level 1	779	Investment income is accounted for when a holding is declared ex-dividend and tax reclaims accounted for when tax is deducted from investment income. Income and tax reclaims due in foreign currencies are shown at market value translated into sterling at the exchange rates prevailing as at 31st March 2024	Not required	Not required
Amounts receivable for investment sales	Level 1	44	Amounts receivable due in foreign currencies are shown at market value translated into sterling at the exchange rates prevailing as at 31st March 2024	Not required	Not required
Amounts payable for investment transactions	Level 1	- 3,392	Amounts payable due in foreign currencies are shown at market value translated into sterling at the exchange rates prevailing as at 31st March 2024	Not required	Not required
Derivative Contracts - Forward foreign exchange contracts - Net	Level 2	- 1,156	Market forward exchange rates at the year-end	Exchange rate risks	Not required
Pooled investment vehicles	Level 2	2,705,242	Closing bid price where bid and offer prices are published Closing single price where single price published.	NAV based pricing set on a forward pricing basis and prices published frequently.	Not required
Pooled Property investments	Level 2	109,605	Closing bid price where bid and offer prices are published Closing single price where single price published	NAV-based pricing set on a forward pricing basis. Ease of redemption	Not required
Pooled Property investments	Level 3	154,641	Closing bid price where bid and offer prices are published Closing single price where single price published	NAV-based pricing set on a forward pricing basis. Ease of redemption	Valuations could be affected by changes in the structure of the holdings such as changing from a closed ended fund to an open ended fund.

Description of asset	Valuation hierarchy	Value at 31st March 2024 £'000	Basis of valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Private equity	Level 3	84,132	Fair value basis applied in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and International Private Equity Valuation guidelines.	EBITDA multiple, Revenue multiple, Discount for lack of marketability, Control premium	Valuations could be affected by material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the Pension Fund's own reporting date, by changes to expected cash flows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts
Private Debt	Level 3	143,149	The fair value of funds managed by Arcmont and Golub is determined by the enterprise value of a portfolio company, the nature and realisable value of any collateral, its ability to make payments and its earnings, discounted cash flows, market environment and changes in the interest rate environment. For the Private Debt fund managed by Brunel, a fair value basis is applied in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and International Private Equity Valuation guidelines.	Initial recognition cost, principal repayments, effective interest method, Impairment reductions	Valuations could be affected by material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the Pension Fund's own reporting date, by changes to expected cash flows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts
Infrastructure	Level 3	188,772	Fair value basis applied in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and International Private Equity Valuation guidelines.	Future free cash flows from underlying investments. Cost of capital of underlying investments	Valuations could be affected by material events occurring after the preparation of the independent reports, and by changes to expected cash flows

Fair Value Hierarchy

The Fund is required to classify its investments using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the subjectivity of the inputs used in making an assessment of fair value. Fair value is the value at which the investments could be realised within a reasonable timeframe. This hierarchy is not a measure of investment risk but a reflection of the ability to value the investments at fair value. Asset and liability valuations have been classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values. Transfers between levels are recognised in the year in which they occur. The fair value hierarchy has the following levels:

- Level 1 – Unadjusted quoted prices in an active market for identical assets or liabilities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the measurement date. Products classified as Level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted fixed interest securities and quoted index linked securities.
- Level 2 – Inputs other than quoted market prices under Level 1, for example, when an instrument is traded in a market that is not considered to be active, or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value.
- Level 3 – At least one input that could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data.

The following table provides an analysis of the financial assets and liabilities of the Pension Fund grouped into levels 1 to 3, based on the level at which the fair value is observable.

	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant unobservable inputs	Total
Values at 31st March 2024	Level 1 £'000	Level 2 £'000	Level 3 £'000	£'000
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss				
Pooled investment vehicles	-	2,705,242	-	2,705,242
Pooled property investments	-	109,605	154,641	264,246
Private Equity	-	-	84,132	84,132
Infrastructure	-	-	188,772	188,772
Private Debt	-	-	143,149	143,149
Derivative contracts	-	3,351	-	3,351
Cash instruments held on behalf of the investment managers	21,248	-	-	21,248
Cash deposits	12,706	-	-	12,706
Investment income and tax reclaims due	779	-	-	779
Amounts receivable for investment sales	44	-	-	44
	34,777	2,818,198	570,694	3,423,669
Non-financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	-	-	-	-
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	-3,392	-4,507	-	-7,899
Amounts payable for investment purchases	-	-	-	-
Net Investment Assets	31,385	2,813,691	570,694	3,415,770
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd.				722
Debtors/Creditors*				5,138
Total Net Investment Assets	31,385	2,813,691	570,694	3,421,630

	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant unobservable inputs	Total
Values at 31st March 2023	Level 1 £'000	Level 2 £'000	Level 3 £'000	£'000
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss				
Pooled investment vehicles	-	2,452,109	-	2,452,109
Pooled property investments	-	101,537	160,757	262,294
Private Equity	-	-	59,142	59,142
Infrastructure	-	-	116,006	116,006
Private Debt	-	-	114,674	114,674
Derivative contracts	-	11,873	-	11,873
Cash instruments held on behalf of the investment managers	4,489	-	-	4,489
Cash deposits	33,425	-	-	33,425
Investment income and tax reclaims due	915	-	-	915
Amounts receivable for investment sales	11	-	-	11
	38,840	2,565,519	450,579	3,054,938
Non-financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	-	-	-	-
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	-	-3,747	-	-3,747
Amounts payable for investment purchases	-	-	-	-
Net Investment Assets	38,840	2,561,772	450,579	3,051,191
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd.				697
Debtors/Creditors*				5,082
Total Net Investment Assets	38,840	2,561,772	450,579	3,056,970

* Debtors and creditors have been added to this table to reflect the total net assets of the Fund.

Transfers between Levels 1 and 2

There have not been any movements between level 1 and 2 classifications made in year.

Sensitivity of assets valued at level 3

Having consulted with independent advisors, who model 5,000 possible outcomes of future behaviours of each economic variable and asset return, the Fund has determined that the valuation methods described above are likely to be accurate to within the following ranges, and has set out below the consequent potential impact on the closing value of investments held at 31st March 2024.

2023/24	Assessed valuation range (+/-)	Value at 31st March 2024	Value on increase	Value on decrease
		£'000	£'000	£'000
UK Pooled Property Investments	15.6%	115,006	132,947	97,065
Overseas Pooled Property Investments	15.6%	39,635	45,818	33,452
Private Equity/Infrastructure	31.2%	272,904	358,050	187,758
UK Private Debt	8.8%	99,067	107,785	90,349
Overseas Private Debt	8.8%	44,082	47,961	40,203
Total		570,694	692,561	448,827

2022/23	Assessed valuation range (+/-)	Value at 31st March 2023	Value on increase	Value on decrease
		£'000	£'000	£'000
UK Pooled Property Investments	15.5%	116,232	134,248	98,216
Overseas Pooled Property Investments	15.5%	44,525	51,426	37,624
Private Equity/Infrastructure	31.2%	175,148	229,794	120,502
UK Private Debt	9.6%	75,977	83,271	68,683
Overseas Private Debt	9.6%	38,697	42,412	34,982
Total		450,579	541,151	360,007

All movements in the assessed valuation range of the above investments derive from changes in the underlying profitability of component companies, the range of the potential movement quoted is caused by how this profitability is measured and the economic circumstances in which the component company operates.

Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements within Level 3**2023/24**

	UK Pooled Property Investments	Overseas Pooled Property Investments	Private Equity/Infra- structure	Overseas Private Debt	UK Private Debt	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Market Value 31st March 2023	116,232	44,525	175,148	38,697	75,977	450,579
Transfers into Level 3	2,261	-	-	-	-	2,261
Transfers out of Level 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchases during the year and derivative payments	5,906	422	94,818	6,397	24,645	132,188
Sales during the year and derivative receipts	-1,134	-119	-4,503	-4,995	-1,302	-12,053
Unrealised gains/(losses)	-8,259	-5,194	7,427	-406	-253	-6,685
Realised gains/(losses)	-	1	14	4,389	-	4,404
Market Value 31st March 2024	115,006	39,635	272,904	44,082	99,067	570,694

2022/23

	UK Pooled Property Investments	Overseas Pooled Property Investments	Private Equity/Infra- structure	Overseas Private Debt	UK Private Debt	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Market Value 31st March 2022	14,425	10,031	101,247	33,228	43,799	202,730
Transfers into Level 3	118,394	-	-	-	-	118,394
Transfers out of Level 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchases during the year and derivative payments	14,453	32,154	61,223	-	-	107,830
Sales during the year and derivative receipts	-9,323	-72	-6,447	-	-	-15,842
Unrealised gains/(losses)	-22,922	2,388	19,035	5,469	32,178	36,148
Realised gains/(losses)	1,205	24	90	-	-	1,319
Market Value 31st March 2023	116,232	44,525	175,148	38,697	75,977	450,579

When assigning holdings to a level in the fair value hierarchy, consideration is given to the Fund's ability to exit the holding. For holdings not traded on a recognised exchange but where a published price exists and investors are entitled to redeem their holding without restriction, holdings are assigned to level 2. Where there are restrictions on redemption, holdings are assigned to level 3.

N27. Financial instrument disclosure

2023/24	Fair value through profit and loss £'000	Assets at amortised cost £'000	Liabilities at amortised cost £'000
Financial assets			
Pooled investment vehicles	3,118,600	-	-
Pooled property investments	264,246	-	-
Venture Capital/Private equity	2,695	-	-
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd.	722	-	-
Derivative contracts	3,351	-	-
Cash	24,912	9,042	-
Other investment balances	-	823	-
Debtors	-	428	-
	3,414,526	10,293	-
Financial liabilities			
Derivative contracts	-4,507	-	-
Other investment balances	-	-3,392	-
Creditors	-	-	-2,271
Receipts in advance	-	-	-29
Borrowings	-	-	-
	-4,507	-3,392	-2,300
	3,410,019	6,901	-2,300
2022/23	Fair value through profit and loss £'000	Assets at amortised cost £'000	Liabilities at amortised cost £'000
Financial assets			
Pooled investment vehicles	2,738,503	-	-
Pooled property investments	262,294	-	-
Venture Capital/Private equity	3,428	-	-
Brunel Pension Partnership Ltd.	697	-	-
Derivative contracts	11,873	-	-
Cash	29,982	7,932	-
Other investment balances	-	926	-
Debtors	-	1,564	-
	3,046,777	10,422	-
Financial liabilities			
Derivative contracts	-3,747	-	-
Other investment balances	-	-	-
Creditors	-	-	-1,700
Borrowings	-	-	-
	-3,747	-	-1,700
	3,043,030	10,422	-1,700

N27 (a) Net gains and losses on financial instruments

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Financial assets		
Fair value through profit and loss	-50,862	344,711
Amortised cost - realised gains on de-recognition of assets	-	-
Amortised cost - unrealised gains	-	-
Financial liabilities		
Fair value through profit and loss	-	-
Amortised cost - realised losses on de-recognition of assets	-	-
Amortised cost - unrealised losses	-	-
	-50,862	344,711

All realised gains and losses arise from the sale or disposal of financial assets which have been derecognised in the financial statements.

The Fund has not entered into any financial guarantees that are required to be accounted for as financial instruments.

N28. Bulk transfers in and out of the Pension Fund**Transfers to or from other pension funds**

During 2023/24 no bulk transfer values were paid in respect of groups of employees moving between funds (£0m 2022/23). The Fund experienced an increase in individual transfers out of the Fund from £9.9m to £10.8m (£6.9m to £9.9m 2022/23) and a decrease of individual transfers into the Fund from £7.6m to £6.5m (£6.9m to £7.6m 2022/23).

N29. Accounting Standards that have been issued but have not yet been adopted

The Code requires consideration of the impact of standards that have been issued but not yet adopted. This is to enable users to evaluate the risk of these new standards on the Pension Fund's current financial position.

Amendments to IAS1 (Classification of Liabilities as Current and Non-Current together with amendments to Non-Current Liabilities with Covenants), IAS12 (International Tax Reform - Pillar Two Module Rules), IAS7 & IFRS 7 (Supplier Finance Arrangements), and IFRS16 (Leases including amendments to Sale & Leaseback arrangements, which will be adopted by the Council in 2024,) have been issued. It is not anticipated that any of these regulation amendments will have a material impact on the Pension Fund.

N30. Taxation where lifetime or annual allowances are exceeded

Where a member's benefit entitlement exceeds the United Kingdom Inland Revenue tax limits (Lifetime Allowance or the Annual Allowance), the member is liable for taxation. This tax can be paid by the member or has to be paid by the Pension Fund on behalf of the member in exchange for a reduction in benefit entitlement. The Pension Fund has paid £44k on behalf of members during 2023/24 (£96k 2022/23). Any lifetime or annual allowance tax paid on behalf of members is recovered from their future pension payments. No accruals are made for the recovery of this tax element on the grounds of materiality and the very long-term nature of its recovery. The Lifetime Allowance was abolished on the 6th April 2023.

N31. Events after the reporting date

There were no events after the reporting date.

Fire Pensions Accounts

Fund Account for the year ended 31st March 2024

2022/23 Restated £000		1992 FPS £000	2006 NFPS £000	Modified Scheme £000	2015 Care Scheme £000	Total £000
	Contributions Receivable					
	Fire Authority					
-2,655	Contributions in relation to pensionable pay	-	-	3	-2,775	-2,772
-	Early retirements					-
-	Other: Ill health retirement					-
	Firefighters' contributions					
-1,184	Normal	13	-	-7	-1,250	-1,244
-	Other: Added Years	-3				-3
	Transfers in					
-221	Transfers in from other schemes		-	-	-	-
-	Additional Grant for Holiday Payments	-				-
	Benefits Payable					
6,744	Pensions	7,194	45	74	36	7,349
-	Commutations & lump sum retirement benefits	-95	20	60	18	3
1,358	Lump sum death benefits	463				463
	Payments to and on account of leavers					
-	Refunds of contributions				-	-
-	Transfers out to other schemes					-
4,042	Net amount payable for the year	7,572	65	130	-3,971	3,796
-4,042	Top-up grant receivable / payable to Central Government	-7,572	-65	-130	3,971	-3,796
-		-	-	-	-	-

Net Assets Statement for the year ended 31st March 2024

2022/23 £000		FPS £000	NFPS £000	Modified Scheme £000	2015 Care Scheme £000	Total £000
	Net current assets and liabilities					
	Current Assets					
-	Contributions due from employer					
8,032	Pension top-up grant receivable from central government	-7,572	-65	-130	3,971	-3,796
-	Recoverable overpayments of pensions					
	Current Liabilities					
-	Unpaid pension benefits					
-3,990	Amount payable to central government				-3,971	-3,971
-	Other current liabilities					
-4,042	Amount owing to general fund	7,572	65	130		7,767
-		-	-	-	-	-

Notes

1. The Firefighters Pension Scheme is a defined benefit occupational pension scheme which is guaranteed and backed by law. From 1st April 2015, the Scheme changed from a Final Salary Scheme to a Career Average Revalued Earnings Scheme (CARE). The Firefighters pension fund is administered by the County Council. There are currently four pension schemes for fire officers, all of which are unfunded defined benefit final salary schemes. Unfunded means that there are no investment assets held to meet the pension liabilities as they fall due. The four schemes are:-

1992 Firefighters Pension Scheme (FPS- Closed to new members)

2006 New Firefighters Pension Scheme (NFPS - Closed to new members)

2006 Modified Firefighters Pension Scheme (Closed to new members)

2015 Firefighters Pension Scheme

Members starting after 1 April 2015, and members of the 1992 and 2006 Final Salary Schemes will move into the new 2015 Scheme, unless protections apply.

The fund is financed by contributions paid in by existing firefighters and the Fire Service with any balance receivable from or payable to the Home Office through the payment of the Fire Pensions Top Up Grant.

2. Employees and employers contribution levels are based on percentages of pensionable pay set nationally by the DCLG/WG and are subject to triennial revaluation by the Government Actuary's Department.

3. Pension benefits are payable from the fund in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions and include ordinary and ill-health awards. Any ongoing injury awards are not payable from the fund.

4. The fund has been prepared to meet the requirements of the "Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21. There are no administration charges included in the accounts and the fund's financial statements do not take into account any liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the period end.

5. The liability under IAS 19 is disclosed in note 32 of the Notes to the Accounts

Glossary of terms

Accounting Policies

Those principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices that specify how the effects of transactions and other events are reflected in Financial Statements through recognising, selecting measurement bases for, and presenting Assets, Liabilities, Gains, Losses and changes to Reserves. Accounting policies do not include estimation techniques.

Accounting Standards

The Code of Practice prescribes the accounting treatment and disclosures for all normal transactions of a Council. It is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), International Standards (IAS) and International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) plus UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP) and Financial Reporting Standards (FRS).

Accrual

An amount to cover income or spending that has not yet been paid but which belongs to that accounting period.

Actuary

An adviser on financial questions involving probabilities relating to mortality and other contingencies. Every three years the Scheme appointed actuary reviews the Assets and the Liabilities of the Fund and reports to the Group Director of Enabling & Transition on the financial position. This is known as the triennial actuarial valuation.

Actuarial Gains and Losses

For a Defined Benefit Pension Scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains and losses), or the actuarial assumptions have changed.

Admitted Body

An organisation that chooses and is allowed by the Scheme to be admitted to the LGPS using an Admission Agreement in order to provide access to the Scheme for some or all of its employees.

Amortisation

The writing down in book value of Intangible Assets to reflect the Asset's usage.

Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC's)

Contributions over and above a member's normal contributions which the member elects to pay in order to secure additional benefits.

Capital Expenditure

Includes spending on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Assets either directly by the Council or indirectly in the form of grants to other persons or bodies. Expenditure not falling within this definition must be charged to the General Fund as Revenue Expenditure.

Class of Tangible Fixed Assets

The classes of Tangible Fixed Assets required to be included in the accounting statements are:

Operational Assets

- Land and buildings
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment
- Infrastructure assets
- Community assets

Non-operational Assets

- Assets under construction
- Surplus assets held for disposal.

Code of Practise (CODE)

A publication produced by CIPFA that provides comprehensive guidance on the content of a Council's Statement of Accounts.

Consistency

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

Contingent Asset

A Contingent Asset is a possible asset arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the Council's control.

Contingent Liability

A Contingent Liability is either a possible obligation arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the Council's control, or a present obligation arising from past events where it is not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Creditors

Amounts owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered but for which payment has not been made by the end of the financial year.

Debtors

Amounts due to the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered but which remain unpaid at the end of the financial year.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

A specific Government grant which funds schools and schools related expenditure. The grant is ringfenced and can only be used in support of the School's budget.

Deferred Charges

Expenditure which may properly be deferred, but which does not result in, or remain matched with, assets controlled by the Council.

Depreciation

The measure of the cost or revalued amount of the benefits of the Fixed Asset that have been consumed during the period. Consumption includes the wearing out, using up or other reduction in the useful life of a Fixed Asset whether arising from use, effluxion of time or obsolescence through either changes in technology or demand for the goods and services produced by the Asset.

Derivative

A security whose price is dependent upon, or derived from, one or more underlying Assets. The derivative itself is merely a contract between two or more parties. It's value is determined by fluctuations in the underlying Asset. The most common underlying Assets include stocks, bonds, commodities, currencies, interest rates and market indexes.

Disclosure

Information that must be shown in the accounts under the CIPFA code of practice (CODE).

Discretionary Benefits

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

Estimation Techniques

The methods adopted by an Entity to arrive at estimated monetary amounts corresponding to the measurement bases selected for Assets, Liabilities, Gains, Losses and changes to Reserves. Estimation techniques implement the measurement aspects of Accounting Policies. An Accounting Policy will specify the basis on which an item is to be measured; where there is uncertainty over the monetary amount corresponding to that basis, the amount will be arrived at by using an estimation technique.

Events After the Balance Sheet Date

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the Balance Sheet date and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue.

Exceptional Items

Material items which derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the council and which need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their size or incidence to give fair presentation of the Accounts.

Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs/ET's)

A fund that tracks a selection or 'basket' of related securities within a Stock Market Index but can be traded on an Exchange like a stock or share.

Fair Value

The amount for which an Asset could be exchanged or a Liability settled at arms length between knowledgeable parties.

Finance Lease

A finance lease involves payment by the lessee (the user) of the full cost of the asset together with a return on the finance provided by the lessor, usually payable over the anticipated life of the asset.

Funding Level

The relationship at a specified date between the actuarial value of Assets and the Actuarial Liability, normally expressed as a funding ratio or percentage.

Futures Contracts

A contract which binds two parties to complete a sale or purchase at a specified future date at a price which is fixed at the time the contract is effected. Exchange Traded Futures Contracts have standard terms and margin payments are required.

Going Concern

The concept that the Council will remain in operational existence for the foreseeable future, in particular that the Accounts and Balance Sheet assume no intention to curtail significantly the scale of operations.

Government Grants

The assistance by Government and Inter-Government Agencies and similar bodies, whether local, national or international, in the form of cash or transfers of assets to a Council in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the council.

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP)

The minimum pension which a salary related Occupational Pension Scheme must provide in respect of contracted out contributions paid between April 1978 and 1997 as a condition of contracting out.

IFRS

These standards are issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. They are adapted under the auspices of CIPFA so as to apply to local authorities and consolidated in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19

International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 outlines the accounting requirements for employee benefits, including short-term benefits (e.g. wages and salaries, annual leave), post-employment benefits such as retirement benefits, other long-term benefits (e.g. long service leave) and termination benefits. The standard establishes the principle that the cost of providing employee benefits should be recognised in the period in which the benefit is earned by the employee, rather than when it is paid or payable, and outlines how each category of employee benefits are measured, providing detailed guidance in particular about post-employment benefits.

International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) 12

The objective of IFRIC 12 is to clarify how certain aspects of existing International Accounting Standards are to be applied to service concession arrangements. A service concession arrangement is an arrangement whereby a government or other public sector body contracts with a private operator to develop (or upgrade), operate and maintain the grantor's infrastructure assets such as roads, bridges, tunnels, airports, energy distribution networks, prisons or hospitals. The grantor controls or regulates what services the operator must provide using the assets, to whom, and at what price, and also controls any significant residual interest in the assets at the end of the term of the arrangement.

Inventories

The amount of unused or unconsumed stocks held in expectation of future use. When use will not arise until a later period, it is appropriate to carry forward the amount to be matched to the use or consumption when it arises.

Impairment

A loss in the value of a Fixed Asset arising from physical damage such as a major fire or a significant reduction in market value. In addition a reduction in value where there is insufficient unrealised gains in the revaluation reserve for that asset. A loss in the value of a financial instrument arising from market conditions.

Infrastructure Assets

Fixed assets that are not able to be transferred and expenditure on which is recoverable only by continued use of the asset created. Examples of Infrastructure Assets are highways and footpaths.

Investment Management

Investment management is the professional asset management of various securities (e.g. shares or bonds) and other assets (e.g. real estate) in order to meet specified investment goals for the benefit of the investors.

Liquid Resources

Current Asset investments that are readily disposable by the council without disrupting its business and are either readily convertible to known amounts of cash at or close to the carrying amount, or traded in an active market.

Long-term Contracts

A contract entered into for the design, manufacture or construction of a single substantial asset or the provision of a service (or a combination of assets or services which together constitute a single project), where the time taken substantially to complete the contract is such that the contract activity falls into different accounting periods. Some contracts with a shorter duration than one year should be accounted for as long-term contracts if they are sufficiently material to the activity of the period.

Managed Fund

An arrangement where the assets of a scheme are invested on similar lines to the operation of unit trusts by an external investment manager.

Market Value

The price at which an asset might reasonably be expected to be sold in an open market.

Net Book Value

The amount at which Fixed Assets are included in the Balance Sheet, i.e. at their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

Non-Operational Assets

Fixed Assets held by a council but not used or consumed in the delivery of services or for the service or strategic objectives of the council. Examples of Non-Operational Assets include investment properties and assets that are surplus to requirements, pending their sale.

Operating Leases

A method of obtaining the use of an asset where the rewards and risks of ownership of the asset remain with the leasing company and the annual rental is charged directly to the revenue account

Operational Assets

Fixed assets held and occupied, used or consumed by the council in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility or for the service or strategic objectives of the Council.

Options

The right but not the obligation to buy (call option) or sell (put option) a specific security at a specified price (the exercise or strike price), at or within a specified time (the expiry date). This right is obtained by payment of an amount (known as the premium) to the writer (seller) of the option, and can be exercised whatever happens to the security's market price.

Over The Counter (OTC)

A market that is conducted between dealers by telephone and computer and not on a listed exchange.

Past Service Cost

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

Pensionable Pay

The earnings on which benefits and/or contributions are calculated under the scheme rules.

Pension Interest Cost and Expected Return on Pensions Assets

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

Pooled Investment Vehicle

A fund in which a number of investors pool their assets which are managed on a collective basis. The assets of a pooled investment vehicle are denominated in units that are revalued regularly to reflect the values of underlying assets. Vehicles include open ended investment companies, real estate investment trusts and unit trusts.

Prior Period Adjustments

Those material adjustments applicable to prior years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. A fundamental error is one that is of such significance as to destroy the validity of the financial statements. They do not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

Projected Unit Method

An Accrued Benefits funding method in which the actuarial liability makes allowance for projected earnings. The standard contribution rate is that necessary to cover the cost of all benefits which will accrue in the control period following the valuation date by reference to earnings projected to the dates on which benefits become payable.

Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)

A Government agency providing long and short term loans to local authorities at interest rates only slightly higher than those at which Government itself can borrow.

Quoted Investments

Investments that have their prices quoted on a recognised stock exchange.

Realised Gains/ (Losses)

Profit/(losses) on investments when they are sold at more/(less) than the purchase price.

Related Parties

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

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

Examples of related parties of the Council include:

- Central Government
- Local Authorities and other bodies precepting or levying demands on the Council Tax
- It's subsidiary and associated companies
- It's joint ventures and joint venture partners
- It's Members
- It's Chief Officers, and
- It's Pension Fund.

For individuals identified as related parties, the following are also presumed to be related parties:

- Members of the close family, or the same household, and
- Partnerships, companies, trusts or other entities in which the individual, or a member of their close family or the same household, has a controlling interest.

Related Party Transaction

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

- The purchase, sale, lease, rental or hire of assets between related parties
- The provision by a pension fund to a related party of assets of loans, irrespective of any direct economic benefit to the pension fund
- The provision of a guarantee to a third party in relation to a liability or obligation of a related party
- The provision of services to a related party, including the provision of pension fund administration services
- Transactions with individuals who are related parties of an authority or a pension fund, except those applicable to other members of the community or the pension fund, such as council tax, rents and payments of benefits.

Remuneration

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

Reserves

Amounts set aside in one year's accounts to be spent in future years. Some reserves are earmarked for specific purposes and other general revenue balances are available to meet future revenue and capital expenditure.

Retirement Benefits

All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by employees that are payable after the completion of employment. Retirement benefits do not include termination benefits payable as a result of either an employer's decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date, or an employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits, because these are not given in exchange for services rendered by employees.

Scheduled Bodies

Local authorities and similar bodies whose staff are entitled automatically to become members of the Local Authority Pension Fund.

Tangible Fixed Assets - Property Plant & Equipment

Tangible Assets that yield benefits to the council and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

Transfer Value

The amount of a transfer payment, i.e. the payment made from a pension scheme to another pension scheme in lieu of benefits, which have accrued to the member or members concerned, to enable the receiving arrangement to provide alternative benefits.

Trust Funds

Funds administered by the Council on behalf of others for such purposes as prizes, charities and specific projects.

Unitised Insurance Policy

Investors are issued with a life policy representing title. Investors' 'holdings of units' represent a means of calculating the value of their policy. The Life Fund/Company holds the pool of investments and is the owner of all the assets. The activities of Life Companies are regulated by the FSA.

Unit Trust

Unit Trusts are collective funds, which allow private investors to pool their money in a single fund, thus spreading risk, getting the benefit of professional fund management and reducing dealing costs. Unit trust trading is based on market forces and their Net Asset Value - that is, the value of their underlying assets divided by the number of units in issue. The activities of unit trusts are regulated by the FSA.

Unquoted Investments

Investments which are dealt in the market but are not subject to any listing requirements and are given no official status.

Useful Life

The period over which the council will derive benefits from the use of a fixed asset.

Unrealised Profit

This is the anticipated profit that would be generated from selling the asset.

Venture Capital

The term used to describe a subset of private equity covering the seed to expansion stages of investment.

Abbreviations

CFR	Capital Financing Requirement
CPI	Consumer Price Index
DCLG	Department of Communities and Local Government
DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
FPS	Firefighters Pension Scheme
FSA	Financial Services Authority
GCC	Gloucestershire County Council
GFRS	Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service
GSWBP	Gloucester South West Bypass
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
IAS	International Accounting Standard
ICO	Information Commissioner's Office
IFRIC	International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
ISB	Individual School Budget
LAMS	Local Authority Mortgage Scheme
LASAAC	Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee
LGPS	Local Government Pension Scheme
LOBO	Lender Option Borrower Option (Loans)
MRP	Minimum Revenue Provision
NFPS	New Firefighters Pension Scheme
NHS	National Health Service
NPV	Net Present Value
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PFI	Public Finance Initiative
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PPE	Property Plant and Equipment
PWLB	Public Works Loans Board
RCCO	Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay
RPI	Retail Price Index
RSG	Revenue Support Grant
SORP	Statement of Recommended Practice
TOIL	Time Off in Lieu
TPA	Teachers' Pensions Agency
WG	Welsh Government

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