

Babergh District Council

Statement of Accounts 2023/24 - Final



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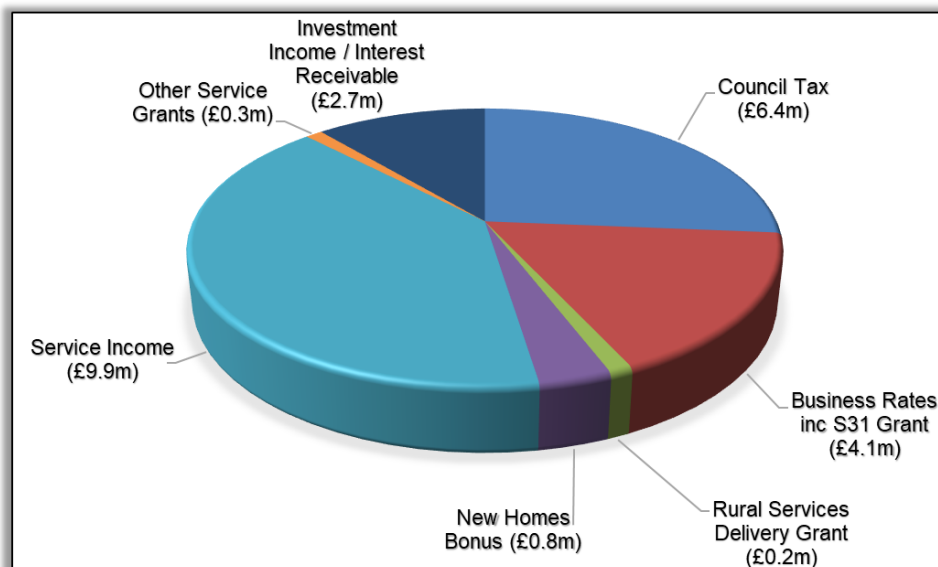
Narrative Report

1. Financial Performance

The General Fund

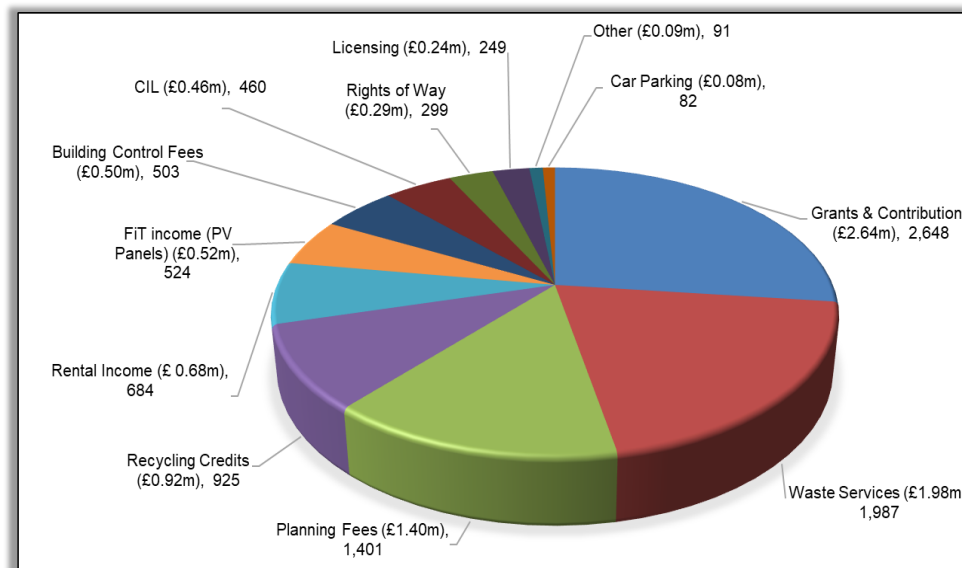
Income

In 2023/24 the Council's income was **£24.5m**, of this 40% from Service Income, 26% was from Council Tax, 16% From Business Rates, 11% from Investment Income, 3% from New Homes Bonus, 1% from the Rural Services Delivery Grant and 1% from other Service Grants.



Service Income

The following chart shows the breakdown of the £9.6m Service Income by service area. The largest areas are 27% from other grants and contributions, 20% from Waste Services, 14% from Planning Fees and 9% from Recycling credits.

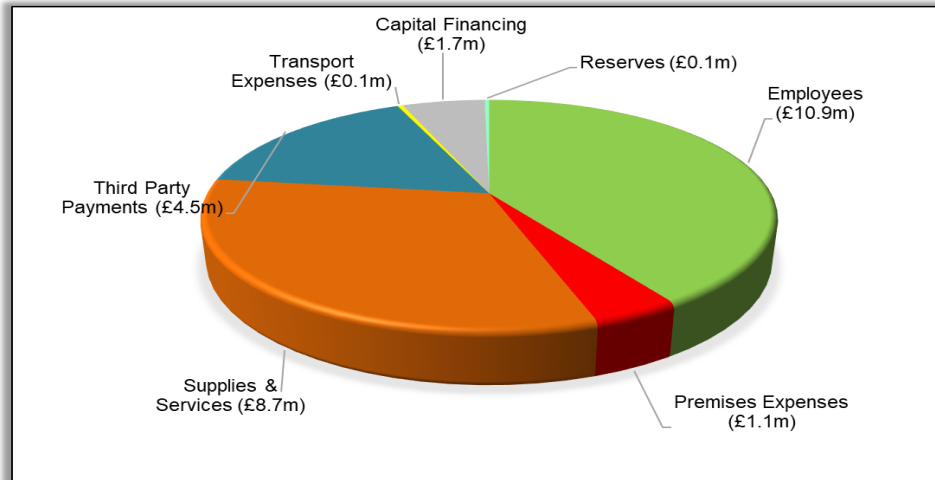


Narrative Report

1. Financial Performance

Expenditure

In 2023/24 the Council spent **£27.02m**, of which 41% was on employee costs, 32% supplies and services, 17% on third party payments, and 10% on other costs.



Actual compared to budget

The overall position of the Council's Revenue General Fund for 2023/24 is a deficit of £151k compared to a budgeted surplus of £22k, an adverse variance of £173k. It is proposed that the deficit is funded from the Strategic Priorities Reserve.

The outturn deficit of £151k compares to a forecast deficit of £417k at the end of Quarter 3, which is a beneficial decrease of £266k from Q3 to the outturn at Q4.

There is a balance of £10.8m in earmarked reserves as at the end of March 2024 (See Note 8). It should be noted that the decisions made by Council in February 2024 to repurpose £3m of these reserves to create an

Expected Credit Loss reserve and a Financial Resilience Reserve will not take effect until the 2024/25 financial year so are not included in this outturn report. A breakdown of the £1.369m net transfer from earmarked reserves is broken down below:

Transfers to reserves:

- Neighborhood Planning Grants **£0.029m**
- Joint Local Plan **£0.054m**

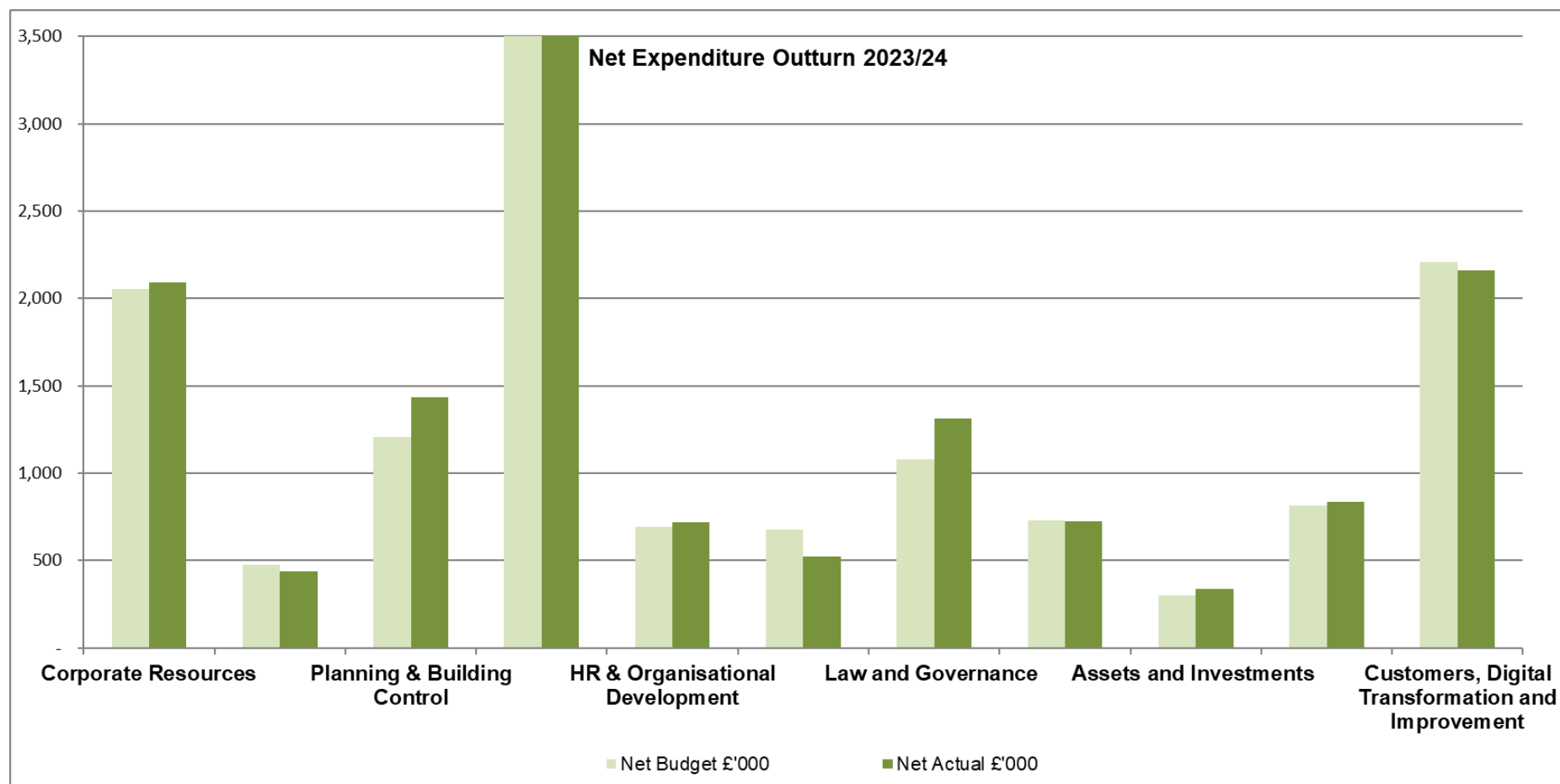
Transfers from reserves:

- Carry Forwards **£0.073m**
- Strategic Priorities **£0.435m**
- Business Rates Retention Pilot **£0.05m**
- Government Grants **£0.026m**
- Commuted Maintenance Payments **£0.02m**
- Elections Fund **£0.070m**
- Elections Equipment **£0.010m**
- Homelessness **£0.147m**
- Temporary Accommodation **£0.220m**
- Planning (Legal) **£0.095m**
- Community Housing Fund **£0.014m**
- Well-being **£0.091m**
- Waste **£0.114m**
- Covid-19 **£0.074m**
- Climate Change & Biodiversity **£0.076m**

Narrative Report

1. Financial Performance

A breakdown of net expenditure by Service Area compared to budget is given in the following chart



Narrative Report

1. Financial Performance

Reserves

The Council holds a General Fund balance, at an agreed minimum level of £1.2m. In addition, there is a further £10.8m in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans. Details of Earmarked Reserves are shown in Note 8 of the Core Statements on page 37.

Capital Programme

Capital expenditure for 2023/24 totals **£7.33m** against a revised programme of £9.265m. The timing of some of the larger schemes is difficult to predict when setting the budget therefore most of the unspent budget will be carried forward to cover the delayed expenditure in future years. A breakdown of the expenditure and how this is financed is shown in this table.

Table 2 Capital Programme 2023/24			
	Revised Budget	Actual	Variance (Favourable) / Adverse
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure - General Fund			
Housing	830	776	(54)
Operations	307	348	41
Public Realm	288	299	11
Economic Development & Regeneration	215	269	54
Sustainable Communities	405	296	(109)
Leisure Contracts	109	162	53
Assets and Investments	5,688	3,777	(1,911)
Finance & Procurement	356	313	(43)
CIL Funded Infrastructure Grants	1,019	1,029	10
Corporate Resources	48	62	14
Total Capital Programme expenditure	9,265	7,331	(1,934)
Financed from:			
Reserves	51	34	(17)
Non-supported borrowing	6,960	5,185	(1,775)
Capital receipts	277	-	(277)
Grants/contributions	1,977	1,977	0
S106 Funding	-	135	135
Revenue	-	-	-
Total	9,265	7,331	(1,934)

Narrative Report

1. Financial Performance

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA-Housing Services)

Financial Context

The financial position of the HRA for 2023/24 should be viewed in the context of the updated 30-year business plan.

The Housing Service continuously identifies savings, efficiencies and income generation opportunities that will achieve a sustainable business plan into the future. The business plan sets out the aspiration of the Council to increase the social housing stock by either buying existing dwellings or building new ones.

Actual compared to budget

The original budget set for the HRA for 2023/24 showed a deficit of £602k. The final figure for 2023/24 is a deficit of **£320k**, a net favorable variance of £282kk for the year resulting in additional resources available for investment.

The detailed outturn report for 2023/24 was presented to Cabinet in August 2024.

A summary of the key HRA variations is provided in the following table:

Reserves

The Council holds a HRA working balance at an agreed minimum level of **£1m**. In addition, there is a further **£14,741m** in the strategic priorities reserves and £116k in other earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans. Details are shown in Note 8 of the Core Statements on page 37.

Babergh District Council 2023/2024 Outturn				
	Budget	Outturn	Variance	%
	£'000	2023/24	(underspend) / overspend	variance
		£'000	£'000	
Dwelling Rents	(18,740)	(18,716)	24	0%
Service Charges	(607)	(644)	(37)	6%
Non Dwelling Income	(238)	(226)	12	-5%
Other Income	(67)	(45)	22	-32%
Interest Received	(10)	(329)	(319)	3190%

Total Income	(19,662)	(19,960)	(298)	2%
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Housing Management	5,158	4,484	(673)	-13%
Building Services	4,999	5,890	890	18%
Repairs and Maintenance (all areas except Trades Team)	1,030	1,447	417	41%
Depreciation	4,817	5,588	771	16%
Interest payable	3,068	2,796	(272)	-9%
Revenue Contribution to Capital	1,092	-	(1,092)	-100%
Bad Debt Provision	100	76	(24)	-24%
Total Expenditure	20,264	20,280	16	0%

Deficit / (Surplus) for Year	602	320	(282)	
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BDC Reserves 2023/2024	Balance at 1 April 2023	Transfers to	Transfers from	Balance at 1 April 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Working Balance	(1,000)			(1,000)
Strategic Reserves	(15,061)		320	(14,741)
Building Council Homes Programme (BHCP) Reserve	(20)			(20)
Big 20	(96)			(96)
TOTAL RESERVE BALANCES	(16,177)	-	320	(15,857)

Narrative Report

1. Financial Performance

Capital Programme

Capital expenditure for 2023/24 totals **£8.5m** against a revised programme of £17.2m. There was £8.7m slippage in the capital programme spend.

Table 2 Capital Programme 2023/24			
	Revised Budget	Actual	Variance (Favourable / Adverse)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure - HRA			
Planned Maintenance	4,649	3,561	(1,088)
Other Maintenance Work	2,033	3,527	1,494
ICT Projects	207	97	(110)
Neighborhood Improvements	1,868	5	(1,863)
Disabled Adaptations to Council Dwellings	449	537	88
Horticulture and Play Equipment	350	-	(350)
New Build Programme and Acquisitions	7,655	778	(6,877)
Total Capital Programme expenditure	17,211	8,505	(8,706)
Financed from:			
Borrowing	10,499	-	(10,499)
Capital Receipts	612	2,917	2,305
Grants and Contributions	190	-	(190)
Major Repair Reserve	4,818	4,263	(555)
Direct Revenue Financing	1,092	1,324	232
Total	17,211	8,504	(8,707)

Narrative Report

1. Financial Performance

The impacts of COVID19 for 2023/24 continue to remain a risk for the Council's finances as the pandemic continues to have an impact nationally and locally. The long-term effects and speed of recovery is still unknown at this stage, but the Council has the reassurance of being able to call upon the money being carried forward from 2023/24 as required.

The Council has assessed the impact on its financial position, liquidity and performance during 2022/23, 2023/24 and beyond. This is included in Note 35 Accounting Policies, part A. General Principles. The assessment has included modelling scenarios that consider the impact on:

Reductions in income

Increased expenditure

Cashflow and liquidity

General fund balances and reserves

The Council has also considered known and expected government funding and determined that it has sufficient liquidity from its ability to access short term investments and sufficient general fund balances and reserves to continue to deliver services. As a result, the Council is satisfied that it can prepare its accounts on a going concern basis.

Narrative Report

2. Treasury Management

The CIPFA prudential code sets out the governance arrangements for borrowing and lending. It states what the authorised limit and operational boundary are for its total external debt, excluding investments, separately identifying borrowing from other long-term liabilities.

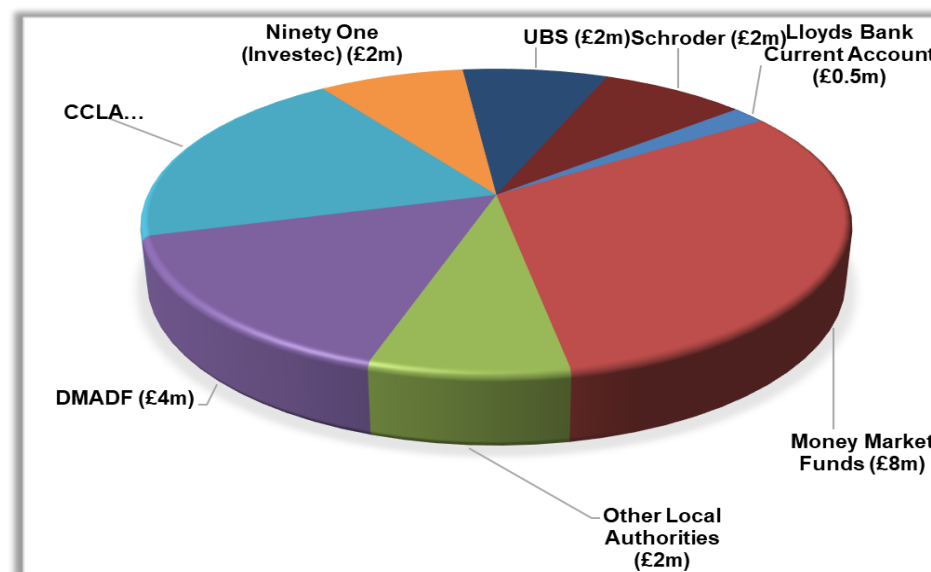
The Councils are legally obliged to set an authorised limit for external debt each year and to keep it under review. In line with statutory guidance, a lower “operational boundary” is also set and acts as a warning that action may be required to ensure that debt does not breach the authorised limit.

The operational boundary is set equal to the Councils’ CFR, which represents the total borrowing need resulting from capital expenditure. The Councils have set an authorised limit of £15m above the operational boundary for each year to allow for working capital fluctuations or borrowing in advance of planned capital expenditure

In terms of the investment of surplus funds during the year, these were made with counterparties with high credit ratings as determined in the Council’s Treasury Management Strategy.

At 31 March 2024, the amount of surplus funds invested is as follows:

Further details on treasury management activity are shown in Notes 14 and 34 to the Core Statements.



Narrative Report

3. Pensions

International Accounting Standard 19 'Employee Benefits' (IAS 19) requires the Council to disclose certain information within its Statement of Accounts and this appears in Note 32 to the Core Statements.

Included within that information is the net deficit on the proportion of the Suffolk County Council Pension Fund attributable to Mid Suffolk District Council. This is the difference between future liabilities and assets as

valued at 31 March 2024 and amounts to £14.784m. This will be addressed by future contributions to the Pension Fund.

The last formal three-yearly actuarial valuation was carried out at 31 March 2024. The valuation report sets out the rates of employers' contributions for the three years starting 1 April 2024. This was 26% for 2022/23.

The next formal valuation is at 31 March 2025.

Narrative Report

4. Future Challenges

In recent years the Government policy frameworks have been reducing core funding for Local Government as part of its deficit reduction strategy and increasingly incentivising funding to councils to deliver local economic and housing growth and to facilitate the development of strong, safe, healthy and self-sufficient communities. This is continuing, so encouraging and supporting both business and housing growth is essential to the financial future of the Council.

Across the country, many councils are facing significant financial problems due to years of erratic national policy changes. In 2012, councils had to take out a loan to buy their own properties, creating a significant amount of debt to be self-financed through rental income. At the time, rents provided councils with enough money to start repaying the debt and continue investing. However, the Government later restricted rent rises – a welcome measure for tenants, but there was no additional income for housing authorities to maintain investment.

Given the deficit in public finances, there will be difficult times ahead with regard to reducing government grants, which could be as much as 35% - 40% over the next four years.

This will result in continuing pressures to find further savings, efficiency and additional income. We will continue to work closely with partners to develop a joint approach to service delivery and reducing costs.

Both councils are already among more than 100 council landlords to sign up to a new report calling for the Government to take urgent action to restore lost income and unlock local authority capacity.

Narrative Report

5. Explanation of Accounting Statements

Core Statements	Supplementary Financial Statements
<p>Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS) shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed between usable 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 CIES. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance and the HRA for council tax setting and council house rent setting purposes.</p> <p>The net increase/decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and HRA Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves.</p>	<p>Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA) and additional notes to the Core Statements (Notes 5a, 5b and 6) shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, council tax and non-domestic rates) by Councils in comparison with those resources consumed or earned in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.</p>
<p>Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) shows the cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. It includes the cost of council housing services (HRA). It should be noted that Councils raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with various regulations, which may differ from the way it has to be shown in accounting terms in the CIES. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.</p>	<p>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) shows the economic cost in the year of providing housing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from rents and government grants. The Council charges rents to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations, which may be different from the accounting cost. The surplus or deficit for the year is shown in the Movement on the HRA Balance.</p>
<p>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 reserves held by the Council.</p> <p>There are two types of reserves. There 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 – these can largely only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt).</p> <p>In addition, there are significant unusable reserves, which cannot be used to provide services. This includes reserves relating to capital financing adjustments and unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold.</p>	<p>Collection Fund reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and distribution to local authorities and the Government of council tax and non-domestic (business) rates.</p>

Narrative Report

5. Explanation of Accounting Statements

Core Statements	Supplementary Financial Statements
<p>Cash flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the year. It shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as either operating, investing or financing activities.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 capital cash flows (i.e. borrowing) by the Council.</p>	<p>Group Accounts – The Council acquired 100% shareholding in its subsidiary BDC (Suffolk Holdings) Limited on 9 June 2017 and is required to reflect this in Group Accounts, which are produced in the same format as the statements explained above.</p> <p>The Group Accounts are shown on page 111 to page 116.</p>

The 2023/24 statement of accounts has been prepared on a going concern basis.

6. Further Information

The Council publishes a number of important documents to inform the public about the work of the Council. These (including the annual Statement of Accounts and the annual Budget) can be viewed and downloaded via the Council and Finance page of the Council's website: www.babergh.gov.uk

Further information about the accounts is available from the Council's Director – Finance & Procurement:

Melissa Evans FACCA

Babergh District Council

Endeavour House

8 Russell Road

Ipswich IP1 2BX

Email: melissa.evans@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. The designated officer at 31 March 2024 was the Director – Finance & Procurement
- manage its affairs to secure the economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets and
- approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Director, Corporate Resources Responsibilities

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

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Director, Corporate Resources has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent and
- complied with the Local Authority Code.

The Director, Corporate Resources has also:

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

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



Melissa Evans

Director – Finance & Procurement
Babergh District Council

Dated 25 February 2025

Section 2

Core Financial Statements

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Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, council tax and non-domestic rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by Councils in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It is not a Core Statement to the Accounts.

It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's directorates and services. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (shown on page 19).

The split of the closing General Fund and HRA balances is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement, in the next table.

2022/23				2023/24		
Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
			General Fund			
435	164	599	Assets & Investments	332	63	395
1,883	99	1,982	Economic Development & Regeneration	1,468	39	1,507
8,379	(3,973)	4,406	Corporate Resources	6,693	(2,599)	4,094
1,932	161	2,093	Customers, Digital Transformation & Improvement	2,190	132	2,322
3,074	1,716	4,790	Environment & Commercial Partnerships	4,092	528	4,620
514	551	1,065	Housing	747	176	923
989	93	1,082	Law & Governance	1,393	(5)	1,388
(3,116)	658	(2,458)	Planning & Building Control	(267)	(94)	(361)
1,065	137	1,202	Communities & Wellbeing	874	14	888
742	205	947	Senior Leadership Team	721	3	724
(1,413)	-	(1,413)	Charge to HRA & Capital	(1,480)		(1,480)
1,036	(87)	949	HRA	320	(2,763)	(2,443)
15,520	(276)	15,244	Net Cost of Services	17,083	(4,506)	12,577
(12,839)	(763)	(13,602)	Other Income and Expenditure	(15,454)	3,795	(11,659)
2,681	(1,039)	1,642	(Surplus) on Provision of Services	1,629	(711)	918
(32,248)			Opening General Fund And HRA Balances at 1 April	(29,567)		
2,681			Plus (Surplus) on General Fund And HRA Balances in Year	1,629		
(29,567)			Closing General Fund And HRA Balances at 31 March	(27,938)		

Movement in Reserves Statement

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end in the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'.

The Statement shows how the movements in the year of the Council's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax or rents for the year.

The Net Increase/Decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

	General Fund Balance £'000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £'000	HRA Balance £'000	Earmarked HRA Reserves £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Authority Reserves £'000
Opening Balance at 1 April 2022	(1,199)	(13,839)	(1,000)	(16,213)	(3,877)	(13,331)	(49,459)	(174,879)	(224,338)
Movement in reserves during 2022/23									
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(790)	-	2,434	-	-	-	1,644	(55,864)	(54,220)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	2,432	-	(1,396)	-	(634)	(3,753)	(3,351)	3,351	-
Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	1,642	-	1,038	-	(634)	(3,753)	(1,707)	(52,513)	(54,220)
Transfer to/(from) Earmarked Reserves (Note 8)	(1,642)	1,642	(1,038)	1,038			-	-	-
(Increase)/Decrease in 2022/23	-	1,642	-	1,038	(634)	(3,753)	(1,707)	(52,513)	(54,220)
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	(1,199)	(12,197)	(1,000)	(15,175)	(4,511)	(17,084)	(51,166)	(227,392)	(278,558)
Movement in reserves during 2023/24									
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	2,356	-	(1,438)	-	-	-	918	4,264	5,182
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	(1,041)	-	1,756	-	(146)	(637)	(69)	69	-
Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	1,315	-	318	-	(146)	(637)	849	4,333	5,182
Transfers to / (from) reserves (Note 8)	(1,316)	1,316	(318)	318			-	-	-
(Increase)/Decrease in 2023/24	(1)	1,316	0	318	(146)	(637)	849	4,333	5,182
Balance at 31 March 2024	(1,200)	(10,881)	(1,000)	(14,857)	(4,657)	(17,721)	(50,317)	(223,059)	(273,376)

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 and rents. Councils raise taxation and rents to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost.

The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis (shown on page 17) and the Movement in Reserves Statement (shown on page 18).

2022/23				2023/24			
Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000		Note	Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
			General Fund				
743	(144)	599	Assets & Investments		828	(433)	395
2,147	(165)	1,982	Economic Development & Regeneration		1,895	(389)	1,506
17,381	(12,973)	4,408	Corporate Resources		17,718	(13,624)	4,094
2,094	(1)	2,093	Customers, Digital Transformation & Improvement		2,322	-	2,322
8,825	(4,035)	4,790	Environment & Commercial Partnerships		8,219	(3,599)	4,620
2,739	(1,674)	1,065	Housing		3,074	(2,151)	923
1,350	(268)	1,082	Law & Governance		1,702	(314)	1,388
4,401	(6,859)	(2,458)	Planning & Building Control		3,366	(3,727)	(361)
1,422	(220)	1,202	Communities & Wellbeing		1,174	(286)	888
962	(15)	947	Senior Leadership Team		740	(16)	724
(1,413)	-	(1,413)	Charge to HRA & Capital		(1,480)		(1,480)
			HRA		17,535	(19,978)	(2,443)
19,576	(18,627)	949					
			Cost of Services		57,093	(44,517)	12,576
60,227	(44,981)	15,246					
			Other Operating Expenditure	9	2,238		2,238
1,917	-	1,917	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	10	6,371	(3,291)	3,080
4,094	(3,051)	1,043	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure	11	8,096	(25,072)	(16,976)
7,197	(23,759)	(16,562)					
			(Surplus) on Provision of Services - A		73,798	(72,880)	918
73,435	(71,791)	1,644					
		(29,936)	(Surplus) on revaluation of property, plant and equipment assets	19a			(20,331)
		1,801	(Surplus)/Deficit from investments in equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	19f			291
		(27,729)	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	19c			24,304
		(55,864)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure - B				4,264
		(54,220)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure (A+B)				5,182

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities held by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council.

Reserves are reported in two categories, usable reserves, (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), and unusable reserves that the Council is not able to use to provide services.

The category of unusable reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

The unaudited accounts were issued on 06 January 2025.



Melissa Evans

Director – Finance & Procurement

Babergh District Council

Dated 25 February 2025

2022/23 £'000	Note	2023/24 £'000
343,140	Property, Plant and Equipment	365,047
2,600	Investment Property	2,585
263	Intangible Assets	767
-	Long Term Investments	(295)
45,134	Long Term Debtors	47,372
391,137	Long Term Assets	415,476
440	Assets held for sale	-
10,321	Short Term Investments	15,402
62	Inventories	61
11,490	Short Term Debtors	7,509
4,053	Cash and Cash Equivalents	6,789
26,366	Current Assets	29,761
(31,863)	Short Term Borrowing	(41,000)
(13,938)	Short Term Creditors	(13,194)
(1,571)	Provisions	(1,390)
(47,372)	Current Liabilities	(55,584)
(93,279)	Long Term Borrowing	(93,279)
(5,606)	Capital Grants & Contributions Received in Advance	(8,214)
7,313	Defined Benefit Pension Scheme Liability	(14,784)
(91,572)	Long Term Liabilities	(116,277)
278,559	Net Assets	273,376
(51,169)	Usable reserves	(50,317)
(227,390)	Unusable reserves	(223,059)
(278,559)	Total Reserves	(273,376)

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 £'000		Note	2023/24 £'000
1,644	Net (Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services		918
(4,962)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	20	(36,187)
3,689	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	20	5,681
371	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		(29,588)
9,745	Investing Activities	21	18,389
(4,447)	Financing Activities	22	8,463
5,669	Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(2,736)
(9,722)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		(4,053)
(4,053)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	16	(6,789)

Section 3

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

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Note 1 - Accounting Standards that Have Been Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 (the Code) requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted. This applies to the adoption of the new or amended standards within the 2024 to 2025 code. At the balance sheet date, the following new standards and amendments to existing standards have been published in the Code but will be implemented from 1 April 2024 at the earliest, and therefore there is no impact on the Council's 2023/24 accounts.:

- IFRS 16 Leases will require local authorities that are lessees to recognise most leases on their balance sheets as right-of-use assets with corresponding lease liabilities (there is recognition for low-value and short-term leases). CIPFA/LASAAC has deferred mandatory implementation of IFRS16 until 1 April 2024, although authorities can choose to implement earlier if they choose. The Council has decided to defer implementation until 1st April 2024. The effects have previously been calculated and are not considered to be material to either the Council's accounts or its financial position.
- Classification of liabilities as Current or Non-current (Amendments to IAS 1)
 - Specify that an entity's right to defer settlement must exist at the end of the reporting period.
 - Clarify that classification is unaffected by management's intentions or expectations about whether the entity will exercise its right to defer settlement.
 - Clarify how lending conditions affect classification, and
 - Clarify requirements for classifying liabilities an entity will or may settle by issuing its own equity instruments.
- Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback (Amendments to IFRS 16) issued in September 2022. The amendments to IFRS 16 add subsequent measurement requirements for sale and leaseback transactions.
- Non-current Liabilities with Covenants (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in October 2022. The amendments improved the information an entity provides when its right to defer settlement of a liability for 12 months is subject to compliance with covenants.
- International Tax Reform: Pillar Two Model Rules (Amendments to IAS 12) issued in May 2023. Pillar Two applies to multinational groups with a minimum level of turnover. The amendments introduced:
 - A temporary exception to the requirements to recognise and disclose information about deferred tax assets related to Pillar Two income taxes, and
 - Targeted disclosure requirements for affected entities.
- Supplier Finance Arrangements (Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7) issued in May 2023. The amendments require an entity to provide additional disclosures about its supplier finance arrangements. The International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) developed the new requirements to provide users of financial statements with information to enable them to:
 - Assess how supplier finance arrangements affect an entity's liabilities and cash flows, and
 - Understand the effect of supplier finance arrangements on an entity's exposure to liquidity risk and how the entity might be affected if the arrangements were no longer available to it.

Note 2 - Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 35, the Council has had to make certain judgments about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events.

The impact of these is shown throughout the Notes to the Accounts with those relating to financial instruments in Notes 34 and critical assumptions are shown in Note 3.

Local Government Funding:

There continues to be a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for Local Government. However, the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.

Group Accounts:

The Council has an interest in other entities which fall within the group boundary of the Council on the grounds of control and significant influence, in line with The Code. The Council's interest in BDC (Suffolk Holdings) Limited is material to the Council's overall financial position. Therefore, Group Accounts have been prepared to consolidate the Council's interest in the subsidiary.

Note 3 - Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

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

The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2024 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results different from Assumptions
Valuations	
Asset valuations are periodically reviewed to ensure that the Council does not materially misstate its non-current assets and investment properties. However, the valuation of property will inevitably be an estimate and property values can be volatile. Should evidence emerge in 2024/25 that causes the Council to amend these estimates, the estimated fair value of its property and dwellings could change.	<p>A reduction in estimated valuations would result in reductions to the Revaluation Reserve and / or a loss recorded as appropriate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES).</p> <p>For example, a 10 per cent reduction in the net book value of Council Dwellings (total NBV £323.9m) would result in a reduction of £32.3 million (Revaluation Reserve of £20.3 million and a £12 million charge to the CIES).</p> <p>Conversely, an increase in value would result in increases to the Revaluation Reserve and / or reversals of previous negative revaluations to the CIES and / or gains being recorded as appropriate in the CIES. Depreciation charges for operational buildings will change in direct proportion to the change in estimated fair value. The net book value of noncurrent assets subject to potential revaluation is £356m.</p>

Note 3 - Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results different from Assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment	
<p>Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance 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. The Depreciation policy is shown in Note 35 at Section P.</p>	<p>If the useful life of assets change, depreciation reduces or increases, and the value of the assets shown in the Balance Sheet will increase or decrease accordingly.</p> <p>It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for council houses would increase by £147k for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.</p>
Business Rate Appeals	
<p>Since the introduction of the Business Rates Scheme on 1 April 2013, local authorities are liable for successful appeals against Business Rates charged to businesses in 2017/18 and previous financial years. A provision has therefore been made for this based on the valuation office ratings list of appeals and an analysis of successful appeals to date.</p> <p>Appeals which arose before 31 March 2015 can be backdated to the 2010 rating list, and the provision reflects the estimated outcome of those. Any further appeals, made since 1 April 2015, will only be effective from that date.</p> <p>Following the 2017 revaluation a Check, Challenge and Appeal process was introduced. Appeals which arose before 31 March 2024 can be backdated to the 2017 rating list, and the provision reflects the estimated outcome of those.</p>	<p>This provision has been difficult to estimate as the number of successful appeals is unknown, as is the number of businesses likely to appeal against their change in business rates. If underestimated there will be higher write off costs than provided for and this will therefore reduce the income within the Collection Fund. However, as the opportunity to appeal values in the 2017 rating list has now passed, one element of uncertainty in estimation of the provision has now decreased. Consequently, the level of the provision can be reduced, increasing the surplus / reducing the deficit on the Collection Fund. Future years will see increased levels of uncertainty in the provision due to the introduction of the 2023 rating list on 1 April 2023.</p>

Note 3 - Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results different from Assumptions
Fair Value Measurements	
<p>When the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (i.e. Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using valuation techniques. Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible judgement is required in establishing fair values. These judgements typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. However, changes in the assumptions used could affect the fair value of the Council's assets and liabilities.</p> <p>Where Level 1 inputs are not available, the Council employs relevant experts to identify the most appropriate valuation techniques to determine fair value (e.g. interest rates or yields for similar instruments).</p> <p>Information about the valuation techniques and inputs used in determining the fair value of the Council's assets and liabilities is disclosed in Note 14 and Note 34.</p>	<p>Significant changes in any of the unobservable inputs would result in a significantly lower or higher fair value measurement for the investment properties and financial assets. The risks associated with financial instruments are documented in Note 34.</p>
Fair Value measurement of Investment Property	
<p>The Council's external Valuer, Wilks Head & Eve, uses valuation techniques to determine the fair value of investment property. This involves developing estimates and assumptions consistent with how market participants would price the property. Valuers base their assumptions on observable data as far as possible, but this is not always available. In that case, they use the best information available.</p> <p>The investment property valuation is shown in Note 37.</p>	<p>Estimated fair values may vary from the actual process that could be achieved in an arm's length transaction at the reporting date.</p>
Pensions Liability	
<p>Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages and mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. Hymans Robertson LLP is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.</p> <p>Further information can be found in Note 32.</p>	<p>During 2023/24 the Council's actuaries advised that the net pensions liability had decreased by £22.1m resulting in an overall asset value of £8.2m.</p> <p>Further sensitivity analysis on pension liabilities are in Note 32.</p>

Note 4 – Events after the Reporting Period

Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2024, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

There are no events identified after the reporting period.

Note 5a – Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This note provides a reconciliation of the main adjustments to the Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances to arrive at the amounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2023/24	Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis			
Adjustments from General Fund and HRA to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note A)	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments (Note B)	Other Statutory and Non Statutory Differences (Note C)	Total Adjustments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Fund				
Assets & Investments	67	(7)	3	63
Economic Development & Regeneration	52	(15)	2	39
Corporate Resources	1,246	(6)	(3,839)	(2,599)
Customers, Digital Transformation & Improvement	129	-	3	132
Environment & Commercial Partnerships	620	(93)	-	527
Housing	217	(49)	8	176
Law & Governance	-	(12)	7	(5)
Planning & Building Control	-	(88)	(6)	(94)
Communities & Wellbeing	23	(14)	5	14
Senior Leadership Team	-	(7)	10	3
HRA	5,422	(127)	(8,058)	(2,763)
Net Cost of Services	7,776	(418)	(11,865)	(4,507)
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(742)	(406)	4,943	3,795
Difference between General Fund and HRA (Surpluses) / Deficits and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	7,034	(824)	(6,922)	(712)

Note 5a – Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

2022/23	Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis			
Adjustments from General Fund and HRA to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note A) £'000	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments (Note B) £'000	Other Statutory and Non Statutory Differences (Note C) £'000	Total Adjustments £'000
General Fund				
Assets & Investments	(85)	59	190	164
Economic Development & Regeneration	1	91	7	99
Corporate Resources	510	(357)	(4,125)	(3,972)
Customers, Digital Transformation & Improvement	139	-	22	161
Environment & Commercial Partnerships	1,046	627	43	1,716
Housing	217	320	14	551
Law & Governance	-	82	11	93
Planning & Building Control	-	617	41	658
Communities & Wellbeing	23	108	6	137
Senior Leadership Team	-	185	20	205
HRA	9,472	548	(10,107)	(87)
Net Cost of Services	11,323	2,280	(13,878)	(275)
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(1,002)	504	(265)	(763)
Difference between General Fund and HRA (Surpluses) / Deficits and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	10,321	2,784	(14,143)	(1,038)

Explanation of the major adjusting items

A - Adjustments for Capital Purposes

This column adds in depreciation and 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 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.

B - Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

Net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income:

- **For services** this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the Council 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.

C - Other Statutory and Non-Statutory 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.

Note 5b – Segmental Income

Income received on a segmental basis, as included in the Expenditure & Funding Analysis, is analysed in this table.

The segments are based on the Council's management structure.

Services	2023/24 Income from Services £'000	2022/23 Income from Services £'000
General Fund		
Assets & Investments	(433)	(366)
Economic Development & Regeneration	(389)	(165)
Corporate Resources	(13,624)	(15,521)
Customers, Digital Transformation & Improvement	-	(1)
Environment & Commercial Partnerships	(3,599)	(4,035)
Housing	(2,151)	(1,674)
Law & Governance	(314)	(268)
Planning & Building Control	(3,727)	(6,871)
Communities & Wellbeing	(286)	(220)
Senior Leadership Team	(16)	(15)
HRA	(19,978)	(17,818)
Total income analysed on a segmental basis	(44,517)	(46,954)

Note 6 – Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

This note shows how the Council's expenditure and income is analysed by nature:

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Expenditure		
Employee benefits expenses	13,941	15,617
Other services expenses	44,422	40,405
Support service recharges	(276)	(276)
Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	6,697	12,455
Interest payments	6,777	3,318
Precepts and levies	3,297	3,125
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-	-
(Gain)/Loss on the disposal of assets	(1,059)	(1,208)
Total Expenditure	73,799	73,436
Income		
Fees, charges and other service income	(30,909)	(32,092)
Interest and investment income	(3,291)	(2,829)
Income from Council Tax & Non Domestic Rates	(20,185)	(19,041)
Government grants and contributions	(18,496)	(17,829)
Total Income	(72,881)	(71,791)
(Surplus) on Provision of Services	918	1,645

Note 7 - Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

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

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

General Fund Balance

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of a Council are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the Council are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund Balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice.

The General Fund Balance therefore summarises the resources that the Council is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the Council is required to recover) at the end of the financial year. This balance is not available to be applied to funding HRA services.

Housing Revenue Account Balance

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

Major Repairs Reserve

The Council is required to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve, which controls an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure on HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the capital resources that have yet to be applied at the year-end.

Capital Receipts Reserve

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

Capital Grants Unapplied Account (Reserve)

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

Note 7 - Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

2022/23						2023/24					
General Fund Balance	HRA Balance	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserves	Movement in Unusable Reserves	General Fund Balance	HRA Balance	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserves	Movement in Unusable Reserves
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
						Adjustments to the revenue resources					
						<i>Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:</i>					
(2,137)	(648)	-	-	-	2,785	Pensions costs (transferred to (or from) the pensions reserve)	828	127	-	-	(955)
(1,410)	-	-	-	-	1,410	Financial instruments (transferred to the pooled investment funds adjustments account)	(160)	-	-	-	160
2,561	-	-	-	-	(2,561)	Council tax and NDR (transfers to or from collection fund adjustment account)	127	-	-	-	(127)
(59)	20	-	-	-	39	Holiday pay (transferred to the accumulated absences reserve)	447	86	-	-	(533)
		-	-	-	-	Equal pay settlements (transferred to the unequal pay back pay account)	-	-	-	-	-
(2,280)	(11,213)	-	-	-	13,493	Reversal of entries included in the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the capital adjustment account):	(5,822)	(6,776)	-	-	12,598
(3,325)	(11,841)	-	-	-	15,166	Total adjustments to revenue resources	(4,580)	(6,563)	-	-	11,143
						Adjustments between revenue and capital resources					
122	2,982	-	(3,104)	-	-	Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the capital receipts reserve	92	2,731	-	(2,823)	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	Administrative costs of non-current asset disposals (funded by a contribution from the capital receipts reserve)	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	Payments to the government housing receipts pool (funded by a transfer from the capital receipts reserve)	-	-	-	-	-
-	4,830	(4,830)	-	-	-	Posting of HRA resources from revenue to the major repairs reserve	-	5,588	(5,588)	-	-
1,475	-	-	227	-	(1,702)	Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the capital adjustment account)	1,747	-	-	-	(1,747)
-	-	-	(229)	-	229	Loans Repaid	-	-	-	(238)	238
2	2,633	-	-	405	(3,040)	Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the capital adjustment account)	1,063	-	-	-	(1,063)
1,599	10,445	(4,830)	(3,106)	405	(4,513)	resources	2,902	8,319	(5,588)	(3,061)	(2,572)
						Adjustments to capital resources					
-	-	-	2,472	-	(2,472)	Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-	2,917	(2,917)
-	-	4,830	-	-	(4,830)	Use of the major repairs reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	5,588	-	(5,588)
4,158	-	-	-	(4,158)	-	Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	637	-	-	-	(637)
-	-	-	-	-	-	Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	-	-	-	-	-
4,158	-	4,830	2,472	(4,158)	(7,302)	Total adjustments to capital resources	637	-	5,588	2,917	(637)
2,432	(1,396)	-	(634)	(3,753)	3,351	Total adjustments	(1,041)	1,756	-	(144)	66

Note 8 – Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts transferred from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund and HRA expenditure in 2023/24.

	Balance 31 March 2022 £'000	Transfers 2022/23		Balance 31 March 2023 £'000	Transfers 2023/24		Balance 31 March 2024 £'000
		Out £'000	In £'000		Out £'000	In £'000	
General Fund							
Carry Forwards	(420)	345	(73)	(148)	73	-	(75)
Strategic Priorities	(1,703)	576	(776)	(1,903)	435	-	(1,468)
Business Rates Retention Pilot	(812)	54	(35)	(793)	5	-	(788)
Business Rates Equalisation	(4,967)	1,421	-	(3,546)	-	-	(3,546)
Government Grants	(261)	-	-	(261)	26	-	(235)
Commutated Maintenance Payments	(936)	139	(550)	(1,347)	2	-	(1,345)
Elections Fund	(70)	-	(20)	(90)	70	-	(20)
Elections Equipment	(35)	-	-	(35)	10	-	(25)
Homelessness	(277)	63	(77)	(291)	147	-	(144)
Temporary Accommodation	(238)	32	(14)	(220)	220	-	-
Planning (Legal)	(668)	11	(85)	(742)	95	-	(647)
Neighbourhood Planning Grants	(48)	29	(30)	(49)	-	(29)	(78)
Community Housing Fund	(141)	18	-	(123)	14	-	(109)
Strategic Planning	(93)	-	(130)	(223)	-	-	(223)
Joint Local Plan	(100)	-	-	(100)	-	(54)	(154)
Planning Enforcement	(93)	-	-	(93)	-	-	(93)
Well-being	(176)	91	-	(85)	91	-	6
Waste	(230)	14	(164)	(380)	114	-	(266)
Covid-19	(1,674)	188	(15)	(1,501)	74	-	(1,427)
Climate Change & Biodiversity	(309)	59	-	(250)	76	-	(174)
Rough Sleepers	(88)	99	(28)	(17)	-	-	(17)
Inflationary Pressures Reserve	(500)	500	-	-	-	(53)	(53)
Total General Fund	(13,839)	3,639	(1,997)	(12,197)	1,452	(136)	(10,881)
Housing							
Big 20	(96)	-	-	(96)			(96)
Strategic Priorities	(16,097)	1,038	-	(15,059)	318		(14,741)
Building Council Homes Programme (BCHP)	(20)	-	-	(20)			(20)
Total Housing	(16,213)	1,038	-	(15,175)	318	-	(14,857)
Total Earmarked Reserves	(30,052)	4,677	(1,997)	(27,372)	1,770	(136)	(25,738)

Note 8 – Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves

The earmarked reserves detailed in this table have been created for the following purposes:

General Fund

Carry Forwards

Agreed budget underspends in the current year to be spent in the following financial year.

Transformation Fund

This fund was created during 2013/14 to meet part of the costs of the resources that are attributable to transformation and provide ongoing investment. This is to meet costs for developing programmes and projects and detailed business cases for investment. It will be allocated to projects and programmes of activity that demonstrate viable business cases and returns on investment in terms of savings, generating income or improved outcomes in line with the strategic priorities.

Business Rates Retention Pilot

Established to support a number of growth initiative projects, both Capital and Revenue, following the 100% retention business rates pilot in 2018/19.

Business Rates Equalisation

Established in 2013/14, because of the huge change in the basis of funding for the new rates retention scheme, as well as the impact of the Suffolk pooling arrangements. Will be used to neutralise the impact of any year-on-year fluctuations in growth or reduction of business rate income.

Government Grants

A reserve established for grants committed to future budgeted expenditure.

Commutated Maintenance Payments

A fund to help meet revenue expenditure requirements for the maintenance of bridges, open spaces and other amenities that comply with the provisions of a S106 agreement with a developer. It should be noted that additional S106 monies are held within capital receipts in advance for use on capital schemes such as play areas and affordable housing.

Elections Fund

To balance out expenditure on district elections held every four years. Annual contributions spread the expenditure equally year on year.

Elections Equipment

Established to enable the purchase of specific equipment on an ad hoc basis to support elections e.g. polling booths.

Homelessness

Previously part of Government Grants, this reserve has been established to help facilitate the many implications arising from the new homeless legislation, the most significant being new prevention duties.

Temporary Accommodation

Established to fund the renewals of furnishing and kitchen fittings at all temporary accommodation establishments.

Planning (Legal)

Due to its unpredictable nature, Planning (Legal) was established to ensure that the core budget remains stable utilising the reserve to smooth year on year changes.

Neighbourhood Planning Grants

Established to allow for the timing differences associated with the receiving and spending of Neighbourhood Planning Grants.

Community Housing Fund

A reserve established from the receipt of Community Housing Fund and Custom Build grant monies which is committed to future budgeted expenditure.

Note 8 - Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserve

General Fund

Strategic Planning

A reserve established for Strategic Planning related grants that are committed to future budgeted expenditure. For example, brownfield sites.

Joint Local Plan

This reserve has been established to ensure that the core budget for the Joint Local Plan remains stable utilising the reserve to smooth year on year changes.

Planning Enforcement

A reserve established to fund any future legal costs.

Well-being

Established in 2019/20 to support the creation of community capacity and enable communities to do more for themselves.

Waste

Established to smooth year on year changes such as the cost of materials recycling within the Waste Service, so that the core budget can remain stable.

Covid-19

Established in 2020/21 to ensure that the Council had specific funds set aside to respond to the financial impacts of the pandemic and to manage the timing difference between the receipt of support from the Government and when it is required to cover additional expenditure or loss of income.

Climate Change & Biodiversity

Established in 2020/21 to fund projects in order to support the Council's stated ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Rough Sleepers

Established to allow for the timing differences associated with the receiving and spending of grants relating to rough sleepers.

Inflationary Pressure Reserve

Established to mitigate the effects of the current high levels of inflation incurred in the provision of council services.

HRA

Big 20

Established in 2018/19 to fund any new initiatives for projects to increase income or make savings.

Strategic Priorities

A reserve established to help meet future HRA spending priorities.

Building Council Homes Programme (BCHP) Reserve

A reserve established in 2018/19 to support the Council's new build development project utilising the grant received from the "Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government".

Note 9 - Other Operating Expenditure

Other operating expenditure reported includes all levies payable, total payments made to the Government Housing Receipts Pool in line with statutory arrangements for certain property sales within the Housing Revenue Account and gains/losses generated from in year disposals of non-current assets.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Parish council precepts	3,297	3,125
Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-	-
(Gains)/Loss on the disposal of non current assets	(1,059)	(1,208)
Total	2,238	1,917

Note 10 - Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

Financing and investment income and expenditure includes interest receivable and payable on the Council's investment portfolio.

The Council's net rental income on the properties it holds purely for investment purposes is also included. It also includes the interest element of the pension fund liability.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Interest payable and similar charges	6,777	3,318
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	(406)	504
Interest receivable and similar income	(3,120)	(2,824)
Changes in the fair value of investment property (see Note37)	15	236
Net other income from investment property (See Note 37)	(186)	(186)
Impairment of financial instruments	-	(5)
Total	3,080	1,043

Note 11 - Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure

This note consolidates all non-specific grants and contributions receivable that cannot be directly attributable to service expenditure and therefore not included in the gross income amount relevant to the service area.

All capital grants and contributions are credited to non-specific grant income even if service specific.

The note also identifies the Council's proportion of council tax and non-domestic rates used to fund in year service activities.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Council Tax Income	(9,626)	(9,342)
Non-domestic rates income	(14,060)	(13,056)
Non-domestic rates Tariff payment to central government	7,953	7,195
Non-ring-fenced government grants	(160)	(1,329)
Capital grants and contributions	(1,083)	(30)
Total	(16,976)	(16,562)

Note 12 - Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Cost or Valuation	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000
2023/24								
Movements on Balances								
At 1 April 2023	300,804	26,296	12,508	188	865	3,137	3,762	347,560
Additions	7,671	270	751	4	-	-	681	9,377
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	15,362	1,194	-	-	-	-	-	16,556
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	(875)	(693)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,568)
Derecognition - Disposals	(1,375)	-	(139)	-	-	-	-	(1,514)
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets reclassified	2,300	-	-	-	-	-	(2,300)	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Assets Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	323,887	27,067	13,120	192	865	3,137	2,143	370,411

Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000
2023/24								
Movements on Balances								
At 1 April 2023	(37)	(3)	(4,302)	(76)	(2)	-	-	(4,420)
Depreciation charge	(5,359)	(573)	(1,041)	(4)	-	-	-	(6,977)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	4,350	396	-	-	-	-	-	4,746
Depreciation written out to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,028	107	-	-	-	-	-	1,135
Derecognition - disposals	21	-	132	-	-	-	-	153
Derecognition - other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	3	(73)	(5,211)	(80)	(2)	-	-	(5,363)
Net Book Value At 31 March 2024	323,890	26,994	7,909	112	863	3,137	2,143	365,048

Note 12 - Property, Plant and Equipment

Cost or Valuation	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000
2022/23								
Movements on Balances								
At 1 April 2022	268,361	26,479	11,530	188	840	3,719	6,088	317,205
Additions	5,778	471	2,505	-	-	-	5,840	14,594
Revaluation increases recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	26,565	(205)	-	-	-	(82)	-	26,278
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	(5,741)	(282)	-	-	-	93	-	(5,930)
Derecognition - Disposals	(1,787)	(117)	(2,081)	-	-	-	-	(3,985)
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	(9)	(9)
Assets reclassified	7,628	(50)	554	-	25	-	(8,157)	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Assets Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	(593)	-	(593)
At 31 March 2023	300,804	26,296	12,508	188	865	3,137	3,762	347,560

Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000
2022/23								
Movements on Balances								
At 1 April 2022	(17)	(3)	(5,441)	(72)	-	-	-	(5,533)
Depreciation charge	(4,638)	(470)	(925)	(4)	-	-	-	(6,037)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	3,468	343	-	-	-	-	-	3,811
Depreciation written out to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,121	120	-	-	-	-	-	1,241
Derecognition - disposals	29	3	2,066	-	-	-	-	2,098
Derecognition - other	-	4	(2)	-	(2)	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	(37)	(3)	(4,302)	(76)	(2)	-	-	(4,420)
Net Book Value								
At 31 March 2023	300,767	26,293	8,206	112	863	3,137	3,762	343,140

Note 12 - Property, Plant and Equipment

Capital Commitments

On 31 March 2024 the Council has entered into a number of contracts for the purchase, construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment and other capital projects in 2023/24 that total £5.03m, most of which is for housing. Similar commitments at 31 March 2024 were £1.63m. The major commitments are shown in this table.

2023/24 amounts	£'000
New Build of Council Dwellings / Social Housing	3,834
HRA Planned Maintenance and other works	954
Disabled Facilities and Related Grant	213
Vehicle and Plant Renewals	30
Total	5,031

Revaluations

Valuations are carried out by qualified valuers and, for land and buildings, 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.

Under IAS 16, the Council is required to revalue its assets at 5 yearly intervals, or sooner where there is a material change in any year. An annual impairment review is also carried out. The Council's valuers, Wilks Head & Eve, carried out desktop valuations for both the Housing Revenue Account and General Fund properties as at 31 March 2024.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our valuers have indicated that although the market is now more stable there has been an impact due to economic effects and borrowing costs. However, there are other external factors, such as the increased costs of building materials and transport, which will have a continued impact on cost indices. Some of these have been significantly further impacted by the inflationary pressures, particularly fuel, because of the Ukraine war. This will affect future valuations.

The next full valuation for Housing Revenue Account properties is due on 31 March 2026 and for General Fund Properties on 1 April 2024.

Carried at Historical Cost	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000
Carried at Historical Cost	-	213	12,508	188	-	-	3,762	16,671
Fair Value as at:								
31 March 2023	300,804	26,070	-	-	-	3,137	-	330,011
31 March 2017	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	13
Prior 2015					865			865
Total Cost or Valuation	300,804	26,296	12,508	188	865	3,137	3,762	347,560

Note 12 – Property, Plant & Equipment

Fair Value Measurement of Surplus Assets Fair Value Hierarchy

The fair value of the Council's surplus assets has been based on the market approach using current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant information for similar assets in the local Council's area. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold and the level of observable inputs are significant, leading to the properties being categorised at Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value of surplus assets are shown in this table.

Recurring Fair Value Measurements using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets Level 1 £'000	Other significant observable inputs Level 2 £'000	Significant unobservable inputs Level 3 £'000	Fair Value at 31 March £'000
2023/24				
Development Land and Buildings	-	3,137	-	3,137
Total Cost or Valuation	-	3,137	-	3,137
2022/23				
Development Land	-	3,137	-	3,137
Total Cost or Valuation	-	3,137	-	3,137

Note 13 - Intangible Assets

The Council accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of Property, Plant and Equipment. The intangible assets include purchased licenses and specialist stock condition data for Housing Revenue Account properties.

All software is assigned a finite useful life of five years, based on an assessment of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the Council. The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis.

The amortisation charged to revenue in the year was charged to the ICT Administration cost centre.

The movement on Intangible Asset balances during the year :	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance at start of year:		
Gross carrying amount	1,600	2,228
Accumulated amortisation	(1,337)	(2,050)
Net carrying amount at start of year	263	178
Additions:		
Purchases	602	174
Other disposals	(348)	(802)
Amortisation for the period	(77)	(88)
Other changes	327	801
Net carrying amount at end of year	767	263
Comprising		
Gross carrying amount	1,854	1,600
Accumulated amortisation	(1,087)	(1,337)
Balance at end of year:	767	263

Note 14 - Financial Instruments

A - Financial Instruments - Classifications

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

Financial Liabilities

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

The majority of the Council's financial liabilities held during the year are measured at amortised cost and comprised:

- long-term loans from the Public Works Loan Board
- short-term loans from other local authorities
- trade payables for goods and services received

Financial Assets

A financial asset is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the Council that is represented by cash, 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 held under the following classifications.

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

- cash in hand
- bank current and deposit accounts with Lloyds bank
- loans to small companies and housing associations
- trade receivables for goods and services delivered

Fair value through other comprehensive income (where cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest and the Council's business model is to both collect those cash flows and sell the instrument; and equity investments that the Council has elected into this category) comprising:

- equity investments in BDC (Suffolk Holdings) Ltd held for service purposes

Fair value through profit and loss (all other financial assets) comprising:

- money market funds managed by specialist fund managers
- pooled equity, property and multi asset funds managed by Schroders, Investec, CCLA and UBS fund managers held as strategic investments.

Financial assets held at amortised cost are shown net of a loss allowance reflecting the statistical likelihood that the borrower or debtor will be unable to meet their contractual commitments to the Council.

Note 14 - Financial Instruments

B – Financial Instruments - Balances

The financial liabilities that are carried in the Balance Sheet are shown in this table.

The total short-term borrowing includes £563k (2022/23 was £553k) which represents accrued interest and principal repayments on long-term borrowing that are due within 12 months.

Financial Liabilities	Long Term		Short Term	
	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Loans at amortised cost:				
Principal sum borrowed	93,279	93,279	41,000	31,563
Accrued interest	-	-	881	299
Total Borrowing	93,279	93,279	41,881	31,862
Liabilities at amortised cost				
Trade payables	-	-	5,820	4,622
Included in Creditors	-	-	5,820	4,622
Total Financial Liabilities	93,279	93,279	47,701	36,484

The financial assets included in the Balance Sheet are analysed across the following categories.

The categories include:

FVOCI – Fair Value through Other Income and Expenditure

FVPL – Fair Values through Profit and Loss

Financial Assets	Long Term		Short Term	
	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Loans and receivables:				
Principal at amortised cost	47,372	44,359	1,271	868
Accrued interest	-	-	545	636
Loss allowance	-	(973)	-	(2)
At fair value through other comprehensive income				
Equity Investments elected FVOCI	-	-	9,404	-
At fair value through profit & loss:				
Investments held for trading	-	-	-	9,563
Accrued interest	-	-	-	106
Total Investments	47,372	43,386	11,327	11,171
Loans and receivables:				
Cash (including bank accounts)	-	-	6,787	4,053
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	-	-	6,787	4,053
Loans and receivables:				
Trade receivables	648	1,748	7,504	7,228
Included in Debtors	648	1,748	7,504	7,228
Total Financial Assets	48,020	45,134	25,618	22,452

Note 14 - Financial Instruments

C – Equity instruments elected to fair value through other comprehensive income

The Council has elected to account for their 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.

The fair value of the investments is zero for 2023/24 (Zero for 2022/23).

	Fair Value		Dividends	
	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
BDC (Suffolk Holdings) Ltd	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

D - Offsetting Financial Assets and Liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are set off against each other where the Council has a legally enforceable right to set off and it intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. This table shows those instruments that have been offset on the balance sheet.

	2023/24			2022/23		
	Gross assets (Liabilities) £'000	(Liabilities) assets set off £'000	Net position on Balance sheet £'000	Gross assets (Liabilities) £'000	(Liabilities)) assets set off £'000	Net position on Balance sheet £'000
Bank accounts in credit	-	(1,401)	-1,401	1,243	-	1,243
Short Term Deposits	13,000	-	13,000	3,000	-	3,000
Total Financial assets	13,000	(1,401)	11,599	4,243	-	4,243

E - Financial Instruments - Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are shown in this table:

	Financial Liabilities Amortised Cost £'000	Financial Assets Amortised Cost £'000	Financial Assets Elected to Fair Value Through OCI £'000	Fair Value through Profit & Loss £'000	2023/24 Total £'000	2022/23 Total £'000
Interest expense	4,217	-	-	-	4,217	3,318
Impairment losses	-	-	-	-	-	-5
Fees paid	-	-	-	-	-	17
Interest payable and similar charges	4,217	-	-	-	4,217	3,330
Interest income	(2,947)	-	-	-	(2,947)	(2,824)
Interest and investment income	(2,947)	-	-	-	(2,947)	(2,824)
Net impact or surplus/deficit on provision of services	1,270	-	-	-	1,270	506
Gains on revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Losses on revaluation	-	-	290	160	450	(3,211)
Impact on other comprehensive income	-	-	290	160	450	(3,211)
Net Gain/(Loss) for the year	1,270	-	290	160	1,720	(2,705)

Note 14 - Financial Instruments

F - Financial Instruments - Fair Values

Financial assets classified as available for sale and all derivative assets and liabilities 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. The fair values of other instruments have been estimated calculating the net present value of the remaining contractual cash flows on 31 March 2024, using the following method and assumptions:

- Shares in BDC (Suffolk Holdings) Ltd have been valued from the company's balance sheet net assets

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 31 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.
- 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 31 March 2024.

- 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 and stable interest rate environment.

Fair values are shown in the table below, split by their 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

Note 14 - Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

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

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

	Fair Value Level	Balance Sheet 2023/24 £'000	Fair Value 2023/24 £'000	Balance Sheet 2022/23 £'000	Fair Value 2022/23 £'000
Financial Liabilities held at Amortised cost:					
Long term loans from PWLB	2	93,375	82,118	93,377	80,966
Sub - Total		93,375	82,118	93,377	80,966
Liabilities for which fair value is not disclosed		46,724	-	36,387	-
Total Financial Liabilities		140,099	82,118	129,764	80,966
Recorded on balance sheet as:					
Short term creditors		5,820		4,622	
Short term borrowing		41,000		31,863	
Long term borrowing		93,279		93,279	
Total Financial Liabilities		140,099		129,764	

Financial Assets

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

	Fair Value Level	Balance Sheet 2023/24 £'000	Fair Value 2023/24 £'000	Balance Sheet 2022/23 £'000	Fair Value 2022/23 £'000
Financial assets held at fair value:				Restated	
Money market funds	1	8,000	8,000	3,000	3,000
Bond, Equity and property funds	1	9,403	9,403	9,563	9,563
Shares in unlisted companies	2	-	-	-	-
Financial assets held at amortised cost:					
Loans to companies	2	-	-	44,251	44,251
Sub Total		17,403	17,403	56,814	56,814
Assets for which fair value is not disclosed		59,385		10,771	
Total Financial Assets		76,788	17,403	67,585	56,814
Recorded on balance sheet as:					
Long term debtors		47,372		45,134	
Long term investments		-		-	
Short term debtors		7,225		8,077	
Short term investments		15,402		10,321	
Cash and Cash Equivalents		6,789		4,053	
Total Financial Assets		76,788		67,585	

Note 15 - Debtors

This note shows the recoverable amount owed to the Council by short-term debtors (i.e. due to be received within one year) in each class, net of impairment allowances.

The significant changes in the debtors for central government and other local authorities (namely Suffolk County Council) is their proportion of the deficit on the Collection Fund (council tax and business rates). This is shown in CF Note 1 of the Supplementary Statements – Notes to the Collection Fund, on page 106.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Trade Receivables	1,389	1,102
Prepayments	690	797
Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefits	575	451
Central Government	2,332	2,312
Housing Tenants	809	491
Other Local Authorities	1,356	1,285
Other Entities and Individuals	358	5,053
Total Debtors	7,509	11,491

Note 16 - Cash and Cash Equivalents

This note shows how the balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents is made up of its various elements. These consist of cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Bank current accounts	(1,402)	1,243
Short-term deposits with Money Market Funds	8,000	3,000
Cash in Transit	191	(190)
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	6,789	4,053

Note 17 - Creditors

This note shows the amount owed by the Council to short-term creditors (i.e. due to be paid within one year) in each class.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Trade Payables	(4,391)	(3,224)
Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefits	(415)	(532)
Central Government	(4,579)	(6,571)
Other Local Authorities	(1,635)	(1,491)
Other Entities and Individuals	(2,174)	(2,119)
Total Creditors	(13,194)	(13,937)

Note 18 – Provisions

Non-Domestic Rate Appeals

The Local Government Finance Act 2012 introduced a non-domestic rates retention scheme that enables local authorities to retain a portion of the rates generated in their area. These arrangements came into effect on 1 April 2013. As part of this process each Council has assumed the liability for refunding ratepayers who have successfully appealed against the rateable value of their properties on the rating list.

The provision relates to Babergh's share (40%) of billing authorities' estimates of the provision required for potential refunds relating to retrospective alterations to the rating list for those appeals that are already lodged with the Valuation Office as at 31 March 2024. This includes amounts under the Check, Challenge and Appeal process and potential outcomes following the legal cases for ATMs and doctors' surgeries.

Babergh has not opted to spread the cost of these appeals (prior to 2013/14) over 5 years. This work has been supported by Wilks Head and Eve LLP, Sixth Floor, Fairgate House, 78 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1HB. This includes amounts that were paid over in respect of 2012/13 and prior years to Central Government.

Accumulated Absence

An employer must accrue a liability for compensated absences payable to employees for their future absences, only if the following conditions are met:

- The payment obligation for future absences is based on employee services already rendered.
- The amount of the obligation can be reasonably estimated.

Outstanding Legal Cases / MMI

In 1992 Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI), one of the Council's insurers at the time stopped accepting new business. MMI and its policy holders, including local authorities, organised a scheme of arrangement which provided for the company to be wound up in an orderly manner in the event that there was a shortfall in the amount of assets held by MMI. Under the scheme of arrangement MMI could claim back from its major policy holder's

	Balance at 31 March 2023 £'000	(Additions) / Reductions in year £'000	Amounts used in year £'000	Balance at 31 March 2024 £'000
Outstanding Legal Cases/MMI Levy	(201)	-	-	(201)
Non Domestic Rate Appeals	(1,137)	130	94	(913)
Accumulated Absence	(232)	(275)	232	(275)
Total	(1,570)	(145)	326	(1,389)

part of any claims which it had paid them from 1 October 1993 onwards by way of a levy.

Following a meeting of the Board of Directors of MMI on 13 November 2012, MMI wrote to its policy holders to advise that the Board had decided to trigger the scheme of arrangement and control of the company then passed to the administrators, Ernst and Young. Ernst and Young advised that they intended to make an initial levy of 15% of claims paid since October 1993. In addition, any future claims that it settles on behalf of MMI will also be subject to a 15% reduction, with the shortfall being met by the respective policyholders.

In April 2016 Ernst and Young (who were appointed as administrators) notified the Council of an increase in the levy to 25%. The initial levy of 15%, totaling £50k, was paid by the Council in February 2014. In April 2016 Ernst and Young indicated that the amount of the levy will be increased by a further 10% to 25%. The level within the provision will be maintained at £50k to allow for any future changes above the 25%.

Note 19 - Unusable Reserves

All the Council's unusable reserves are described below and the movements in the year are disclosed.

Summary	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
a - Revaluation Reserve	(116,573)	(98,373)
b - Capital Adjustment Account	(127,683)	(127,074)
c - Pensions Reserve	14,784	(7,313)
d - Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(712)	(585)
e - Accumulated Absences Account	275	232
f - Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	5,475	5,184
g - Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	1,376	1,216
Total Unusable Reserves	(223,058)	(226,713)

Note 19a - Revaluation Reserve

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

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

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 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 (CAA).

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance at 1 April	(98,373)	(69,855)
Upward revaluation of assets	(45,551)	(36,931)
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	25,200	6,995
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(20,351)	(29,936)
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	1,653	1,028
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	498	390
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	2,151	1,418
Balance at 31 March	(116,573)	(98,373)

Note 19b - Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account (CAA) 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 additions to those assets under statutory provisions.

The CAA is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or subsequent costs as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert current and 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 additional costs.

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties.

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

Note 7 to the Core Statements provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance at 1 April	(127,074)	(128,016)
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	6,465	10,726
Amortisation of intangible assets	77	88
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	2,170	1,247
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	1,814	1,897
	10,526	13,958
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(2,130)	(1,418)
Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	8,396	12,540
Capital financing applied in the year:		
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(2,917)	(2,472)
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(5,588)	(4,830)
Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	(1,084)	(696)
HRA Debt Repayment	-	-
Third Party Loans	238	229
Impairment of Financial Instruments	-	(5)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(1,747)	(1,702)
Provision for Expected Credit Loss on loan to Babergh Growth Ltd	3,021	680
Capital expenditure charged against GF Earmarked Reserves	(1,063)	(405)
Capital expenditure charged to HRA Reserves	-	(2,633)
	(9,140)	(11,834)
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	135	236
Balance at 31 March	(127,683)	(127,074)

Note 19c - Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs.

However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to 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 in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them.

The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

Details on the charge for the year are shown in Note 32 of the Core Financial Statements.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance at 1 April	(7,313)	17,631
Remeasurement of net defined liability/(asset)	(9,325)	(28,615)
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	1,875	5,365
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(2,703)	(2,580)
Changes in the effect of the pension asset ceiling	32,250	886
Balance at 31 March	14,784	(7,313)

Note 19d - 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 taxpayers and non-domestic ratepayers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance at 1 April	(585)	1,976
The 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	(127)	(2,561)
Balance at 31 March	(712)	(585)

Note 19e - Accumulated Absences Account

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

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance at 1 April	232	194
Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(232)	(194)
Amount accrued at the end of the current year	275	232
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	43	38
Balance at 31 March	275	232

Note 19f - Financial Instruments 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.

The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost,
- disposed of and the gains are realised.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance at 1 April	5,184	3,383
Upward revaluation of Equity Instruments	-	-
Downward revaluation of investments	291	1,801
Balance at 31 March	5,475	5,184

Note 19g – Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account

The Pooled Investment Fund Adjustment Account was established to mitigate the impact of fair value movements through profit and loss (FVPL) of pooled investment funds.

Where there are fair value gains or losses on a pooled investment fund, the Council, under a statutory override (SI 2018/2107), must charge that amount to an account established, charged and used solely for the purpose of recognising fair value gains and losses in accordance with this regulation.

The balance increases when gains are made by the Council arising from increases in fair value and reduced when revalued downwards. There are no adjustments for impairment losses, sales or disposals.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance at 1 April	1,216	(194)
Upward revaluation of investments	(30)	-
Downward revaluation of investments	190	1,410
Balance at 31 March	1,376	1,216

Note 20 - Cash Flow Statement: Operating Activities

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:		
Interest received	(3,291)	(2,747)
Interest paid	6,777	3,130
	3,486	383
The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following non-cash movements:		
Depreciation and amortisation	(9,563)	(6,125)
Impairment and (downward valuations)/reversals	(135)	(6,330)
(Increase)/decrease in creditors	744	8,416
Increase/(decrease) in debtors	(3,981)	2,392
Increase/(decrease) in inventories	(1)	1
Movement on pension liability	(22,097)	(2,785)
Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	(1,814)	(1,304)
Other non-cash items	660	773
	(36,187)	(4,962)
The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following items that are investing and financing activities:		
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	2,823	3,104
Other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing activities	(628)	202
	2,195	3,306
Net cash flows from operating activities	(30,506)	(1,273)

Note 21 - Cash Flow Statement: Investing Activities

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	12,268	15,202
Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	3,568	13,026
Other payments for investing activities	5,376	10
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(2,823)	(3,104)
Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	-	(12,050)
Other receipts from investing activities	-	(3,339)
Net cash flows from investing activities	18,389	9,745

Note 22 - Cash Flow Statement: Financing Activities

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Cash receipts from short and long term borrowing	(9,137)	(33,999)
Repayments of short-term and long-term borrowing	17,600	29,552
Net cash flows from financing activities	8,463	(4,447)

Note 23 - Members' Allowances

The Council paid the following amounts to Members of the Council during the year.

The Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) was appointed to review and make recommendations to the Council regarding members allowances following the introduction of a Leader/Cabinet Governance Model in May 2017 and in accordance with legal requirements under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Further details of the Council's Scheme and schedules for Member's Allowances can be found in the Transparency pages on the Council's website at:

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/the-council/finance/senior-officers-remuneration/babergh-member-allowances/>

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Basic Allowances	216	171
Special Responsibility Allowance	153	92
Expenses	8	9
Total	377	272

Note 24 - Officers' Remuneration

Following the integration with Mid Suffolk District Council in June 2013, the two Councils share both staff and services. The Extended Leadership Team comprises a Chief Executive, a Deputy Chief Executive, and nine Directors.

Postholders continue to be employed by the Council which employed them prior to the introduction of the Extended Leadership Team.

This table showing the remuneration (inclusive of salary and expense payments made, as well as pension fund contributions) paid to the Council's senior employees applies to Babergh District Council employees only.

Remuneration for the other senior officers is published in Mid Suffolk's District Council's Statement of Accounts. A senior employee, for the purpose of this additional disclosure has been interpreted as the Extended Leadership Team. The Director - Corporate Resources is also the S151 Officer for Mid Suffolk District Council.

	Year	Salary, Fees and Allowances £	Expenses / Benefits in Kind £	Pension Contribution £	Exit Package £	Total £
Joint Chief Executive	2023/24	147,717	-	38,406	-	186,123
	2022/23	142,200	-	32,706	-	174,906
Joint Deputy Chief Executive	2023/24	111,074	-	28,879	-	139,953
	2022/23	101,925	-	23,443	-	125,368
Director - Assets and Investments	2023/24	95,492	-	24,828	-	120,320
	2022/23	91,925	-	21,383	-	113,308
Director - Operations (left 10.07.2022)	2023/24	-	-	-	-	-
	2022/23	21,721	-	4,776	657	27,154
Director - Operations (from 01.11.2022)	2023/24	95,232	-	24,760	-	119,992
	2022/23	37,052	-	8,522	-	45,574
Director - Corporate Resources (Section 151 Officer) (from 04.05.2022)	2023/24	86,142	-	22,397	-	108,539
	2022/23	73,585	-	18,051	-	91,636
Director - Customer Services	2023/24	86,142	-	22,735	-	108,877
	2022/23	79,925	-	18,383	-	98,308
Director - Economic Development and Regeneration	2023/24	91,898	-	23,894	(405)	115,387
	2022/23	91,925	-	21,143	-	113,068
Director - Housing (left 10.07.2022)	2023/24	-	-	-	-	-
	2022/23	22,153	-	5,095	-	27,248

Note 24 - Officers' Remuneration

This table also sets out how Mid Suffolk reimburses Babergh for its share of these costs for the relevant period in 2023/24. Costs are shared equally between the Councils, with the exception of the role of the Director – Assets and Investment, which is shared 37.5% Babergh and 62.5% Mid Suffolk. In addition, other transactions are disclosed in Note 27, Related Parties.

The amounts shown in this table (relating to Babergh employees) are different to those included in the senior officers' remuneration (see previous page) as they include employers National Insurance contributions.

	2023/24 Expenditure by Babergh £	2023/24 Expenditure by Mid Suffolk £	2022/23 Expenditure by Babergh £	2022/23 Expenditure by Mid Suffolk £
Senior Management				
Joint Chief Executive	205,375		194,231	
Joint Deputy Chief Executive	154,107		138,976	
Strategic Director (left 06.06.2022)		-		11,124
Director - Corporate Resources (left 30.04.2022)		-		13,286
Director - Corporate Resources (from 01.05.2022)	119,171		101,071	
Director - Customer Services	120,987		108,585	
Director - Assets and Investments	132,243		125,328	
Director - Planning for Growth		123,707		108,467
Director - Operations (left 10.07.2022)	-		28,294	
Director - Operations (from 01.11.2022)	131,968		50,164	
Director - Economic Development and Regeneration	126,758		125,088	
Director - Housing (left 10.07.2022)	-		29,962	
Director - Housing (from 12.11.2022)		136,599		49,616
Director - Law and Governance (left 09.10.2022)		-		62,927
Total Expenditure	990,609	260,306	901,699	245,420
Net Adjustment between Councils	(378,376)	378,376	(340,108)	340,108
Total	612,233	638,682	561,591	585,528

Note 24 - Officers' Remuneration

The Council's other employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions) are shown in this table. These numbers relate solely to those staff directly employed by the Council and exclude any officers who received more than £50,000 from Mid Suffolk District Council and whose costs may have been shared between the two Councils.

	2023/24 Number of employees	2022/23 Number of employees
£50,000 - £54,999	9	11
£55,000 - £59,999	7	4
£60,000 - £64,999	5	2
£65,000 - £69,999	6	2
£70,000 - £74,999	1	1
TOTAL	28	20

Note 25 - External Audit Costs

The Council has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts and certification of grant claims by the Council's External Auditors, Ernst & Young LLP.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Fees payable to the external auditor with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	34	120
Fees payable to the external auditor for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	84	23
Total	118	142

Note 26 – Grant Income

The Council debited payments and credited grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, as shown in this table.

This note consolidates all non-specific grants and contributions receivable that cannot be directly attributable to service expenditure and therefore not included in the gross income amount relevant to the service area.

The note also identifies the Council's proportion of council tax and non-domestic rates used to fund in year service activities.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure:		
Revenue Grants and Contributions:		
Council Tax Income	(9,768)	(9,344)
Council Tax TIG & Hardship (Net)	142	2
Non-Domestic Rates Levy Payable	974	790
Non-Domestic Rates Income	(11,391)	(10,487)
Non Domestic Rates S31 Grants	(3,643)	(3,359)
Non-Domestic Rates Payable to Central Government (Tariff)	7,953	7,195
Revenue Support Grant	-	-
Rural Services Support Grant	-	(238)
New Homes Bonus	-	(802)
Lower Tier Support Grant	-	(110)
Neighbourhood Planning Pilots	-	-
Other Revenue Grants	(160)	(179)
Total Revenue Grants	(15,893)	(16,532)
Capital Grants and Contributions:		
Other Capital Grants	(218)	-
Disabled Facilities Grants	(730)	-
Public Sector Decarbonisation	-	-
Suffolk LEP	-	-
Homes England Grants	-	-
Warm Homes	-	-
Brownfield Land Release Grant	-	(30)
S106 Contributions	(135)	-
Total Capital Grants	(1,083)	(30)
Total Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure	(16,976)	(16,562)
Grants and Contributions Credited to Services:		
HB Subsidy & Admin Grant	(11,926)	(11,940)
Covid19 Government Grants	-	(75)
Disabled Facilities Grant	-	(596)
S106 Contributions	-	(71)
Homelessness Grants	-	(451)
Homes England Grants	-	-
Leisure Grants	-	-
Misc Other Grants	-	(344)
Total Grants and Contributions Credited to Services	(11,926)	(13,477)

The Council has received a number of grants, contributions and donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies or property to be returned to the giver. The amount shown in the balance sheet is detailed in this table.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Grants Receipts in Advance:		
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance		
S106 Contributions	(4,125)	(4,260)
Disabled Facilities Grant	(1,199)	(760)
	(5,324)	(5,020)
Other Grants Receipts in Advance		
Local Authority Housing Fund	(2,304)	(383)
Brownfield Land Release Grant	(180)	(180)
Other Grants	(403)	(23)
Total Grants	(8,211)	(5,606)

Note 27 - Related Parties

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

Central Government

Central Government has significant influence over the general operations of the Council. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework, within which the Council operates, provides a significant proportion of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are set out in the Core Financial Statements Note 6 Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature and Note 26 Grant Income.

Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies and strategy. The total of members' allowances and expenses paid in 2023/24 is shown in Note 23 to the Core Financial Statements.

Babergh / Mid Suffolk Integration

Integration between Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council commenced with the appointment of a Joint Chief Executive in May 2011. Full integration in terms of staff and services has been in place since June 2013.

During 2013/14, it was agreed that all costs would generally be shared 50:50 between the two Councils. Evidence of this can be seen within the Officers Remuneration note, (Note 24) and the Termination Benefits note (Note 31).

There continue to be two separate groups of Members as the Councils are two separate legal entities. There is currently a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a Joint Audit and Standards Committee and a Joint HR Panel.

A total of £4,725k of employee related expenditure was recharged to the Council by Mid Suffolk, and the Council recharged £5,924k of employee related expenditure to Mid Suffolk.

A total of £4,122k of non-employee related expenditure was recharged to the Council by Mid Suffolk, and the Council recharged £2,260k of non-employee related expenditure to Mid Suffolk.

Suffolk County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Council pays precepts for council tax to Suffolk County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and various parish councils. The Council also pays a share of non-domestic rates to the County Council. Details of these transactions are given in the Income and Expenditure Statement for the Collection Fund.

Suffolk County Council Subsidiaries

Suffolk County Council has a number of wholly owned subsidiaries including Vertas Group Ltd, Concertus Design and Property Consultants Ltd and Opus People Solutions Ltd. During 2021/22, the Council incurred expenditure of £237k (£252k in 2020/21).

Shared Revenues Partnership

From 1 April 2011 the Shared Revenues Partnership (SRP) was set up to deliver a Shared Revenues and Benefits Service for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and Ipswich Borough Council. Each Council has delegated its authority for this function to a Joint Committee, comprising of Members from each Council, which oversees the running of SRP.

Note 27 - Related Parties

The cost of delivering the partnership is reviewed annually and is based on cost drivers such as number of businesses, number of billing items (council tax) and number of housing benefit documents. Babergh's share represents net expenditure of £1,014k in 2021/22 (£1,003k in 2020/21).

Shared Legal Services

From 1 November 2016 the Shared Legal Services team was created to deliver a strong, skilled legal service that proactively seeks out new knowledge and different ways of working for Babergh, Mid Suffolk and West Suffolk Councils. Expenditure is shared on the following basis: Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils 57%, West Suffolk Council 43%.

Abbeycroft Leisure

Abbeycroft Leisure is a charitable trust and provides leisure services, through a normal service provision agreement that is set out in the Annual Delivery Plan, for a management fee. From 1st October 2018, South Suffolk Leisure Trust merged with Abbeycroft Leisure, also a charitable trust, to become known as Abbeycroft Leisure. The Council has management board nomination rights which are less than 20% of the total management board. These nominees are not Council representatives speaking on behalf of the Council, nor can they prematurely be dismissed by the Council.

Sudbury Citizens Advice Bureau

The Council provided a grant of £54k (2020/21 was £54k) to Sudbury Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) during the year. The Council has no significant interest in the organisation and has no entitlement to any surpluses of this Not-for-Profit organisation.

During the year transactions with the various related parties were as follows:

	2021/22 £'000	2020/21 £'000
Abbeycroft Leisure	228	736
Grants & Contributions to Parish Councils, Community Councils, Village Halls and Theatres	221	193
Suffolk County Council	1,276	1,097
Suffolk County Council - subsidiaries	237	252
Police & Crime Commissioner	1	1
Sudbury Citizens Advice Bureau	54	54
Total	2,017	2,331

Note 27 – Related Parties

Entities Controlled or significantly influenced by the Council

The Council has a wholly owned subsidiary company, BDC (Suffolk Holdings) Limited, incorporated on 9 June 2017 over which it exerts control. This holding company owns 50% shares of CIFCO Capital Limited over which the Council exerts significant influence.

Their principal activities are the purchase of commercial property for investment purposes.

The following officers and members hold positions on the boards of the companies controlled or significantly influenced by the Council:

BDC (Suffolk Holdings): -

Councillor David Busby – Director (from 9 June 2017)

Councillor Brian Riley - Director (From 1 June 2023)

Councillor Deborah Margaret Saw (From 1 June 2023)

Councillor John Patrick Lee Ward (from 1 June 2023)

CIFCO Capital Ltd (50% Shareholding): -

Emily Atack – Director

Councillor Michael Holt – Director (to 31 March 2021)

Councillor Richard Meyer – Director (from 18 July 2019)

Other Directors who are not officers/members of the Council:

Henry Cooke (from 12 June 2017)

Sir Christopher Haworth (from 12 June 2017)

Mark Sargeantson (from 12 June 2017)

Babergh Growth Ltd (50% Shareholding): -

The holding company also owns 50% shares Babergh Growth Ltd which was incorporated on 19 March 2019.

The principal activities are for the development of building projects.

The following officers and members hold positions on the board.

Emily Atack – Director

Councillor David Busby – Director (from 18 April 2019)

Other Directors who are not officers/members of the Council:

Daniel Squirrell-Hughes– Director (from 18 April 2019)

Richard Gawthorpe – Director (from 18 April 2019)

The Group Accounts are shown on page 111 to page 116.

Note 28 - Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in this table, together with the resources that have been used to finance it.

Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the Council, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Council that has yet to be financed.

The CFR is analysed in the second part of this table.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	170,064	165,585
Capital investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment	9,474	14,594
Investment Properties	120	168
Intangible Assets	504	174
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	2,170	1,247
Mortgages/Loans	-	10
Loans to Joint Venture	3,568	1,026
Sources of finance		
Capital receipts	(2,917)	(2,472)
Government grants and other contributions	(2,112)	(696)
Sums set aside from revenue:		
Direct Revenue Contributions	-	(3,038)
Earmarked Reserves	(34)	
Major Repairs Reserve	(5,588)	(4,830)
Minimum Revenue Provision for the repayment of debt	(1,508)	(1,475)
Third Party Loan Repayments	(238)	(229)
Contributions re prior year capital outlay	-	-
Repayment of Borrowing	-	-
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	173,503	170,064
Explanation of movements in year		
Increase in underlying need to borrowing (unsupported by government financial assistance)	5,185	6,183
Minimum Revenue provision for the repayment of debt	(1,746)	(1,704)
Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	3,439	4,479

Note 29 - Leases

The Council as Lessee

Operating Leases

The Council leases in property under an operating lease. This is with Suffolk County Council and relates to the shared use, with Mid Suffolk District Council, of part of Endeavour House in Ipswich since November 2017.

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

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
The future minimum lease payments payable under non-cancellable lease in future years are:		
Expires not later than one year	176	176
Expires later than one year and not later than five years	356	532
Expires later than five years	-	148
	532	856

The Council as Lessor

Operating Leases

The Council leases out land and buildings under operating leases for the following purposes:

- for the provision of community services
- for economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses

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

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
The future minimum lease payments receivable under non-cancellable leases in future years are:		
Not later than one year	419	419
Later than one year and not later than five years	453	436
Later than five years	1,371	1,824
Total	2,243	2,679

Note 30 - Impairment Losses and Reversals

Valuations by the Council's valuers at 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2024 resulted in a net impairment of £4,689k in the year (see Note 12 to the Core Financial Statements). This is mainly due to decreases in the value of council dwellings (£4,642k) and a leisure centre (£146k) and an increase in value of an economic development site in the financial year.

These changes are reflected in both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account and in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Note 31 - Termination Benefits

As part of the integration with Mid Suffolk District Council it has been agreed that the costs generally will be shared in the ratio 50:50. There may be exceptions to this, where staff costs are fully incurred by one Council only or the basis of apportionment is something other than 50:50. The 2023/24 accounts reflect two occasions where a member of staff left the organisation and where costs were shared 50:50 with Mid Suffolk.

	2023/24				2022/23			
	Number of Employees	Redundancy Costs £	Pension Contribution £	Total £	Number of Employees	Redundancy Costs £	Pension Contribution £	Total £
Voluntary Redundancies								
£0 - £19,999	5	60,677	-	60,677	2	24,872	-	24,872
Total	5	60,677	0	60,677	2	24,872	-	24,872

This table sets out how the Council reimburses Mid Suffolk for its share of their costs.

Shared Exit Package Costs	Number of Employees Babergh	Number of Employees Mid Suffolk	Total Expenditure Babergh £	Total Expenditure Mid Suffolk £
2023/24				
£0 - £19,999	5	2	60,677	13,596
£20,000 - £39,999		5		149,192
Total Cost	5	7	60,677	162,788
Net Adjustment between Councils			54,960	(54,960)
Total Cost to each Council			115,637	107,828

Note 32 - Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Benefit Schemes

Participation in the pension scheme

Local Government Pension Scheme - Transactions relating to post-employment benefits	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
Cost of Services:		
Current service cost	4,861	4,632
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:		
Net interest expense	504	596
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	5,365	5,228
Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest expense)	(2,872)	6,649
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	39,065	7,145
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	2,765	579
Other experience	(10,343)	(243)
Sub-total: Actuarial gains and (losses)	28,615	14,130
Changes in the effect of limiting the net defined benefit asset to the pension asset ceiling	(7,313)	-
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	21,302	14,130
Movement in Reserves Statement		
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	5,365	5,228
Actual amount charged against the General Fund		
Balance for pensions in the year:		
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	(2,580)	(2,223)

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

(for those benefits) that need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), administered locally by Suffolk County Council. This is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay

Local Government Pension Scheme - Salary Bandings for Employee Contributions	2022/23
Up to £14,600	5.50%
£14,601 - £22,900	5.80%
£22,901 - £37,200	6.50%
£37,201 - £47,100	6.80%
£47,101 - £65,900	8.50%
£65,901 - £93,400	9.90%
£93,401 - £110,000	10.50%
£110,001 - £165,000	11.40%
Over £165,000	12.50%

contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.

The following table shows the current bandings of employees' pensionable pay and percentage contributions required.

Transactions relating to post-employment benefits

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge 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 and Housing Revenue Account via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

Note 32 - Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Benefit Scheme

Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

	2022/23	2021/22
	Fair Value of Scheme Assets	Fair Value of Scheme Assets
	£'000	£'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,092	948
Bonds (by sector)		
Corporate Bonds (investment grade)	19,519	19,470
Sub-total Bonds	19,519	19,470
Private Equity		
All	901	1,049
Sub-total Private Equity	901	1,049
Property		
UK Property	7,453	7,784
Sub-total Property	7,453	7,784
Other Investment Funds		
Equities	42,863	41,674
Bonds	2,222	3,567
Hedge Funds	3,503	4,452
Sub-total Other Investment Funds	48,588	49,693
Other Quoted Assets:	Assets in Non Active Markets	Assets in Non Active Markets
	£'000	£'000
Quoted Prices for:		
Private Equity	3,324	3,201
Infrastructure	9,729	6,882
Other	2,779	2,638
Sub-total Other Quoted Assets:	15,832	12,721
Total Assets	93,384	91,665

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

Local Government Pension Scheme - Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(85,185)	(109,296)
Fair value of plan assets	93,384	91,665
Sub-total	8,199	(17,631)
Effect of the pension asset ceiling (see note below)	(7,313)	-
Net Asset (liability) arising from defined benefit obligation	886	(17,631)

Reconciliation of the Movements in Fair Value of the Scheme (Plan) Asset

Local Government Pension Scheme - Reconciliation of the movements in Fair Value of the Scheme (Plan) Assets	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets 1 April	91,665	83,717
Interest income	2,476	1,672
Remeasurement gains and (losses):		
Return on plan assets (excluding net interest)	(2,872)	6,649
Allowance for Pension Increase	2,055	-
Employer contributions	2,580	2,223
Contributions from employees into the scheme	710	584
Benefits paid	(3,230)	(3,180)
Closing fair value of scheme assets 31 March	93,384	91,665

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

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised of:

Local Government Pension Scheme - Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities (Defined Benefit Obligation)	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Opening balance 1 April	(109,296)	(112,473)
Current service cost	(4,861)	(4,632)
Interest cost	(2,980)	(2,268)
Contributions by scheme participants	(710)	(584)
Remeasurement gains and (losses): -		
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	2,765	579
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	39,065	7,145
Other	(12,398)	(243)
Benefits paid	3,230	3,180
Closing balance at 31 March	(85,185)	(109,296)

Note 32 - Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Benefit Schemes

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.

The Scheme liabilities have been assessed by Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Suffolk County Council Fund being based on the latest full triennial valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2019.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

Sensitivity Analysis

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.

The following table shows the sensitivity of the results to changes in assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities:

Local Government Pension Scheme - Basis for estimating assets and liabilities	2022/23	2021/22
Mortality assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
Men	23 years	22 years
Women	24 years	24 years
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
Men	24 years	23 years
Women	26 years	26 years
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0%	3.9%
Rate of increase in pensions	3.0%	3.2%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.8%	2.7%

A one year increase in life expectancy would approximately increase the Employer's Defined Benefit Obligation by around 3-5%. In practice the actual cost of a one year increase in life expectancy will depend on the structure of the revised assumption (i.e. if improvements to survival rates predominantly apply at younger or older ages).

Local Government Pension Scheme - Sensitivity Analysis:	Increase in Assumptions to Employer Liability %	Increase in Assumptions to Employer Liability £'000
Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme		
Change in assumptions at year ended 31 March 2023 :		
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	1,361
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	3,407
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	112
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	1%	1,269

Note 32 - Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Benefit Schemes

Under International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS19) Employee Benefits, if the council's defined benefit obligation becomes an asset, then the amount that can be recognised in the accounts is restricted to the amount of the pension asset ceiling.

The pension asset ceiling is the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan. This recognises that any asset arising at the date of the balance will most likely lead to a refund to the employer, or reduced contributions for a period of time.

The accounts must recognise the lower of the pension asset ceiling or the net defined benefit asset.

The pension asset ceiling is calculated by working out the difference between the net present value of employer's future service costs and the net present value of future employer's contributions. If the net present value of future service costs is less than the net present value of future contributions, then the asset ceiling is set at £0.

Impact on the Council's Cash Flow

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over 20 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed on 31 March 2025, the most recent valuation being 31 March 2022, and this will be considered for the 2023/24 pension contributions.

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

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 17 years in 2023/24 (19 years in 2022/23).

The total employer contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the Council in the year to 31 March 2024 are £2.622m.

Calculation of the pension asset ceiling for 2022/23	2022/23 £'000
Net present value of employer future service costs over future working lifetime	21,178
Net present value of future employer contributions over future working lifetime	(20,292)
Amount by which future contributions exceed future service costs	886
Asset ceiling	886
Present value of defined benefit obligation less fair value of plan assets	8,199
Effect of the pension asset ceiling	(7,313)

Note 33 - Contingent Liabilities and Assets

Contingent Liabilities:

The Council has no contingent liabilities.

Contingent Assets:

The Council has no contingent assets.

Note 34 - Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

Financial Instruments - Risks

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 Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government 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 main risks that the Council is exposed to are:

- **Credit Risk:** The possibility that a counterparty to a financial asset might fail to pay amounts due, causing a loss to the Council.
- **Liquidity Risk:** The possibility that the Council might not have the cash available to meet its commitments to make payments.
- **Market Risk:** The possibility that an unplanned financial loss will arise because of changes in market variables such as interest rates or equity prices.

Credit Risk: Treasury Investments

The Council manages credit risk by ensuring that 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.

Credit Rating	2023/24		2022/23	
	Long term £'000	Short term £'000	Long term £'000	Short term £'000
AAA	-	4,000	-	3,000
A+	-	(1,199)	-	1,066
Unrated pooled funds	-	9,669	-	9,669
Unrated companies	46,724	1,894	43,386	1,489
Total investments	46,724	14,364	43,386	15,224

A limit of £2m /10% of the total portfolio is placed on the amount of money that can be invested with a single counterparty (other than the UK government). The Council also sets limits on investments in certain sectors. No more than £2m /10% in total can be invested for a period longer than one year. The table below summarises the credit risk exposures of the Council's investment portfolio by credit rating and remaining time to maturity.

Note 34 - Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

Credit Risk: Trade and Lease Receivables

The Council's credit risk on lease receivables is mitigated by its legal ownership of the assets leased, which can be repossessed if the debtor defaults on the lease contract.

Loss allowances on trade and contract assets have been calculated by reference to the Council's historic experience of default. Receivables are determined to have suffered a significant increase in credit risk where they are 30 or more days past due and they are determined to be credit-impaired where they are 90 or more days past due.

Receivables are written off to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services when they are six years past due, but steps are still taken to collect sums owing.

The following analysis summarises the Council's trade and lease receivables, by due date. Only those receivables meeting the definition of a financial asset are included.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Neither past due nor impaired	978	621
Past due < 3 months	38	24
past due 3 - 6 months	137	87
Past due 6 - 12 months	69	44
Past due 12+ months	167	106
Total receivables	1,389	882

Liquidity Risk

The Council has ready access to borrowing at favourable rates from the Public Works Loan Board and other local authorities, and at higher rates from banks and building societies.

There is no perceived risk that the Council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments. It is however exposed to the risk that it will need to refinance a significant proportion of its borrowing at a time of unfavourably high interest rates. This risk is managed by maintaining a spread of fixed rate loans and ensuring that no more than 50% of the Council's borrowing matures in any one financial year.

The maturity analysis of financial instruments is as follows:

Time to maturity (Years)	2023/24			2022/23		
	Liabilities £000s	Assets £000s	Net £000s	Liabilities £000s	Assets £000s	Net £000s
Not over 1	(46,819)	29,136	12,991	(36,484)	22,171	(14,313)
Over 1 but not over 2	(6,574)		(6,574)	(6,574)	-	(6,574)
Over 2 but not over 5	(7,785)		(7,785)	(7,785)	-	(7,785)
Over 5 but not over 10	(25,949)		(25,949)	(25,949)	-	(25,949)
Over 10 but not over 20	(47,646)		(47,646)	(47,646)	-	(47,646)
Over 20 but not over 40	(4,082)		(4,082)	(4,082)	-	(4,082)
Over 40	(1,244)	41,811	40,568	(1,244)	42,041	40,797
Uncertain date	-	5,840	5,840	-	3,373	3,373
Total	(140,099)	76,788	(32,637)	(129,764)	67,585	(62,179)

Note 34 - Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

Credit Risk: Loans, Financial Guarantees and Loan Commitments

The Council has lent money to CIFCO Ltd to invest in commercial property at market rates of interest. If CIFCO Ltd default on loan repayments the Council has the right to repossess assets and recover funds.

The Council manages the credit risk inherent in its loans for service purposes, financial guarantees and loan commitments in line with its published Investment Strategy.

Loss allowances on loan commitments have been calculated by reference to predicted future repayments of interest and principal discounted to adjust for current and forecast economic conditions. They are determined to have suffered a significant increase in credit risk when there are changes in circumstances of CIFCO Ltd being able to make repayments and they are determined to be credit-impaired when loan repayments are not made.

Borrower	Exposure Type	Balance sheet	Risk exposure	Balance sheet	Risk exposure
		2023/24 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Local Companies	Loans at market rates	(1)	(1)	18	18
Subsidiary	Loan commitment at market rates	47,984	47,984	45,209	45,209
Total		47,983	47,983	45,227	45,227

Note 34 - Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

Market Risks: Interest Rate Risk

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

- borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense will rise
- borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities borrowings will fall
- investments at variable rates – the interest income credited will rise
- investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Investments classed as “loans and receivables” and loans borrowed are not carried at fair value, so changes in their fair value will have no impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments measured at fair value will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure or Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services as appropriate.

The Treasury Management Strategy aims to mitigate these risks by setting upper limits on its net exposures to fixed and variable interest rates. On 31 March 2024, £93.8m (2022: £94.4m) of principal borrowed was exposed to fixed rates and £32m (2022: £26m) to variable rates.

If all interest rates had been 1% higher (with all other variables held constant) the financial effects are shown in the table below.

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

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	217	218
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(180)	(182)
Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	37	36
Decrease in fair value of investments held at FVPL	(95)	(84)
Impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(95)	(84)
Decrease in fair value of loans and receivables	(93)	(93)
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings/liabilities	(5,839)	(6,228)

Market Risks: Price 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 exposure to property investments of £5m per fund. A 5% fall in commercial property prices would result in a £0.272m charge to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services until the investment was sold.

The Council's investment in a pooled equity fund is subject to the risk of falling share prices. This risk is limited by the Council's maximum exposure to equity investments of £2m per fund. A 5% fall in share prices would result in a £0.130m charge to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services until the investments were sold.

Note 35 - Accounting Policies

A General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2023/24 financial year and its position at the year end of 31 March 2024. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and these regulations require it to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices.

These practices primarily comprise the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the Local Government Act 2003.

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.

B Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from 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

- Where revenue and expenditure has 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 off and a charge made to revenue for income that might not be collected.

The Council applies a £1,000 de-minimis policy on accruals at year-end. This means the Council does not record accruals for transactions under £1,000 except for the following:

- transactions relating to grant funding
- transactions going through our automated ordering system
- other minor exceptions

The application of the £1,000 de-minimis policy does not materially affect the accounts of the Council.

C Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management. They include short term investments in Money Market Funds. See Note 16 (Cash and Cash Equivalents) to the Core Statements.

Note 35 - Accounting Policies

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

Prior period adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policies or to correct a material error. Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, i.e. in the current and future years affected by the change and do not give rise to a prior period adjustment. Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

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

E Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Service revenue accounts and support services are charged 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 no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off
- amortisation of intangible assets attributable to the service.

The Council is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement (equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in

accordance with statutory guidance). Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance (Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)), by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

Contracts related to assets under construction are accounted for using the percentage of completion method. Contract revenue is matched with contract costs incurred in reaching the state of completion at the Balance Sheet date.

F Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

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

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.

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

Note 35 - Accounting Policies

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, the asset is written off and a charge made to the Collection Fund.

G Employee Benefits – International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS 19)

Benefits Payable during Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled wholly within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave 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 leave etc. 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 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 by a credit to the Accumulated Absences Adjustment Account through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs. Further details can be found at Note 19e.

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 through voluntary redundancy. Costs incurred as a result are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service segments within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Council is demonstrably committed to either terminating the employment of an officer or group of officers or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

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 standard. Within 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

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (if they take up the option to be part of the scheme), which is administered by Suffolk County Council. The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions) earned as employees working for the Council.

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

- The defined benefit liabilities of the Suffolk County Council Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates etc., and expectations of projected earnings for current employees.
- Scheme liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices. The discount rate employed for the 2023/24 accounts is 4.75% which is based on the yield available on long-dated, high quality corporate bonds, as measured by a Corporate Bond yield curve constructed as follows:
 - Use the “Hymans Robertson” corporate bond yield curve (based on the constituents of the iBoxx AA Corporate bond index)

Note 35 - Accounting Policies

- The assets of the Suffolk County Council Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
 - quoted securities - current bid price
 - unquoted securities - professional estimate
 - unitised securities - current bid price
 - property - market value.
- The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into three main components:

Service Cost comprising:

- Current service cost: the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year, allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked.
- Past service cost: the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years, debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Net Interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the Council: the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Re-measurements comprising:

- The return on plan assets excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset): charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

- Actuarial gains and losses: changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions. These are charged to the Pensions Reserve and shown as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

Contributions:

- Contributions paid to the Suffolk County Council Pension Fund: cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards.

In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the 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 Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact on 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 as a result of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Note 35 - Accounting Policies

For more information on Retirement Benefits and IAS19 see Note 32 of the Core Statements.

H Events after the Reporting Period

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

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

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

I Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (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.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cash flow characteristics.

The Council holds financial assets measured at:

- Amortised cost - These represent loans and loan-type arrangements where repayments or interest and principal take place on set dates and at specified amounts. The amount presented in the Balance Sheet represents the outstanding principal received plus accrued interest. Interest credited to the CIES is the amount receivable as per the loan agreement.
- Fair Value Through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI) – assets are measured and carried at fair value. Gains and losses are recognised as they arise in Other Comprehensive Income.
- Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVPL) - assets are measured and carried at fair value. Gains and losses due to changes in fair value (both realised and unrealised) are recognised as they arise in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost and FVOCI, either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors). Changes in loss allowances (including balances outstanding at the date of de-recognition of an asset) are debited/credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES.

Note 35 - Accounting Policies

Changes in the value of assets carried at fair value are debited/credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES as they arise.

Interest and Dividends are credited to the CIES when they become receivable by the Council.

J Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

Amounts recognised as due to the Council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. A condition exists if the grant stipulates a return of the funds if it is not used as directed.

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

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

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):

The Council has elected to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The levy is charged on new builds (chargeable developments for the Council) with appropriate planning consent. The Council charges for and collects the levy, which is a planning charge. The income from the levy will be used to fund a number of infrastructure projects including rail facilities, Leisure Centre refurbishment, Primary and high school extensions, alterations and extensions to Health facilities. It will also be used for adaptations to local village halls and community facilities to deliver necessary infrastructure to support development growth of both Districts (as set out in the Councils Infrastructure Delivery Plan).

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

K Intangible Assets

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

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

Note 35 - Accounting Policies

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

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only revalued where the fair value of the assets held by the Council can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible asset held by the Council meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES).

An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the CIES. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the CIES.

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

Depreciation is calculated on the basis of a useful life of 5 to 7 years (except Stock Condition Survey, which is 10 years).

L Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Council has a 100% shareholding in its subsidiary BDC (Suffolk Holdings) Limited. This holding company has a 50% shareholding in CIFCO Capital Limited and a 50% shareholding in Babergh Growth Ltd. This relationship has created a requirement for the Council to prepare Group Accounts.

In the Council's single entity accounts, its interest in these companies are classified as financial assets and measured at cost less provision for any losses.

M Inventories

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value, except where inventories are acquired through a non-exchange transaction in which case their cost is deemed to be fair value as at the date of acquisition.

N Leases

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

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

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

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

The Council has no finance leases where it is the lessee.

Operating Leases

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 property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a rent-free period at the commencement of the lease).

Note 35 - Accounting Policies

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

The Council has no finance leases where it is the lessor.

Operating Leases

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

O Overheads and Support Services

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

P Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

The Council has set a minimum level of expenditure of £10,000.

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

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

The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition will not increase the cash flows of the Council. In the latter case, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Council.

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

- Infrastructure – depreciated historical cost
- Council Dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH)
- Surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective
- Vehicles, plant and equipment – depreciated historical cost.

Note 35 - Accounting Policies

These assets have short useful lives and any difference from current replacement cost would be insignificant

- Assets under construction and community assets, which are mainly parks and open spaces, are included in the Balance Sheet at historical cost
- All other assets, including Heritage Assets – current value, using a valuation method appropriate for the asset in its existing use.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly (by desktop valuations) to ensure that their Balance Sheet value is not materially different from their current value at the year end, but as a minimum a full valuation is undertaken every five years. Valuations of land and buildings are carried out in accordance with the specific bases and methods of valuation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

- Where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the Balance Sheet value 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 insufficient balance, the Balance Sheet value of the asset is written down against the available balance and then charged to the relevant service line(s) in the CIES.

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

Impairment

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

Where impairment losses are identified they are accounted for:

- Where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the Balance Sheet value 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 balance sheet value of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the CIES.
- Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the CIES, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

Depreciation

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

Note 35 - Accounting Policies

Depreciation is charged on the opening balance at the balance sheet date. This will result in no depreciation charged in the year of acquisition, but a full year charge in the year of disposal and is calculated on the following bases:

- Council dwellings, other buildings and surplus assets – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the Valuer
- Infrastructure - straight line allocation over 30 years
- Vehicles, plant and equipment - straight line over its useful life, as advised by a suitably qualified officer
- IT and Communications - 5 years

Where an asset of significant value, for example the leisure centres, includes a number of components with significantly different asset lives, e.g. plant and equipment (services) then these components are treated as separate assets and depreciated over their own useful economic lives

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

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment has major components with different useful lives and a cost that is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. The Council has established a threshold of £500,000 for individual General Fund assets to determine whether an asset needs to be componentised. For these assets a component is required to have a value of more than 20% of the total asset value to be depreciated separately.

Council dwellings are not componentised beyond land, buildings and PV Panels as the value of components is not considered to be significant in relation to the total cost of the asset and the difference

in depreciation, which would result if componentisation was applied, is not considered to be material.

The componentisation policy applies retrospectively. Componentisation for HRA assets will remain under review.

Hadleigh Leisure Centre, Kingfisher Leisure Centre and the car parks at Station Road, Sudbury and North Street, Sudbury are depreciated on a component basis as per the agreed £500,000 de-minimis policy. The properties have been split into components taking into account the nature of the individual property. The car parks are split into land and surface.

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the Balance Sheet value of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then stated in the Balance Sheet at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell.

Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the CIES Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously recognised losses in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

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

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

Note 35 - Accounting Policies

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

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

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

Q Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount, but where the timing of the transfer is uncertain.

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

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

Provisions for housing rent bad debts, housing benefit overpayments and sundry debtor arrears have been made. A provision has also been made in the Collection Fund for uncollectable Council Taxes and Non-Domestic Rates.

Contingent Liabilities

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

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

Contingent Assets

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

Note 35 - Accounting Policies

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.

R Reserves

The Council sets aside specific amounts as earmarked reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by transferring amounts out of the General Fund Balance or Housing Revenue Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year to score against the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES.

The reserve is then transferred back into the General Fund Balance or Housing Revenue Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against council tax or rents for the expenditure.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, local taxation, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits that do not represent usable resources for the Council. These reserves are explained in more detail in Note 19 to the Core Statements.

S Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)

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

T VAT

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

U Joint working with Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC)

Costs or savings that arose through integration with Mid Suffolk District Council during 2023/24 were shared between the two Councils using an agreed basis determined as part of the budget setting process. All service areas were consulted and a basis was identified for cost sharing for each individual employee.

The basis for cost sharing will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure accuracy.

V Fair Value Measurement

The Council measures some of its non-financial assets such as surplus assets and investment properties and some of its financial instruments such as equity shareholdings at fair value at the Balance Sheet date.

Fair Value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

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

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

Note 35 - Accounting Policies

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

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

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

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

W Investment Properties

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

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use.

Investment Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year-end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

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

X Basis of consolidation for Group Accounts

The Group Accounts have been prepared using the Group Accounts requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice. Companies that are within the Council's group boundary have been included in the Council's Group Accounts to the extent that they are either quantitatively or qualitatively material to users of the financial statements.

This will give the reader the ability to see the complete economic activities of the Council and its exposure to risk through interests and participation in their activities.

The Council's subsidiary, BDC (Suffolk Holdings) Limited and its joint ventures, CIFCO Capital Limited and Babergh Growth Ltd, have been consolidated on a line by line basis, subject to elimination of intra-group transactions from the statements, in accordance with The Code.

No amendments have been necessary to the accounts of the group since the accounting policies are the same.

Note 36 - Interest in Companies

The Council holds an interest in BDC (Suffolk Holdings) Limited which was incorporated on 9 June 2017, and the company registration number is 10812722. It issued 100 of £1 ordinary shares to the Council.

This company has a 50% shareholding in CIFCO Capital Ltd and a 50% shareholding in Babergh Growth Ltd. (incorporated on 19 March 2019).

The Council has prepared Group Accounts which can be found on pages 111 to 116. The statements are intended to present financial information about the parent company (the Council) and to reflect the Council's share of the holding company's net assets.

Note 37 – Investment Properties

During 2016/17 the Council purchased Borehamgate shopping centre in Sudbury. This has been classified as an investment property.

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

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

This table summarises the movement in the fair value of the investment property over the year:

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Rental Income from Investment Property	(222)	(222)
Direct operating expenses arising from Investment Property	36	36
Net (Gain) / Loss	(186)	(186)

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance at start of the year	2,600	2,668
Additions:		
Subsequent expenditure	-	168
Gain (Loss) on Revaluation	(15)	(236)
Balance at year end	2,585	2,600

Fair Value Hierarchy

Details of the Council's investment properties and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2024 and 2022 are shown in this table:

There were no transfers between Levels 1, 2 or 3 during the year.

	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1) £'000	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2) £'000	Other significant observable inputs (Level 3) £'000	Fair Value 31 March £'000
2023/24				
Commercial Units	-	2,585	-	2,585
2022/23				
Commercial Units	-	2,600	-	2,600

Note 37 – Investment Properties

Valuation Techniques used to Determine Level 2 Fair Values for Investment Properties

Significant Observable Inputs – Level 2

The fair value for the commercial units has been based on the market approach using current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant information for similar assets in the local Council's area. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold and the level of observable inputs are significant, leading to the properties being categorised at Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Highest and Best Use of Investment Properties

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

Valuation Techniques

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

Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the investment property are recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services – Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line.

Valuation Process for Investment Properties

The fair value of the Council's investment properties will be measured annually at each reporting date. The property was purchased during 2016/17. All valuations are carried out by qualified valuers, in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The Council's valuer (Wilks Head & Eve) works closely with finance officers reporting directly to the Council's Assistant Director, Corporate Resources regarding all valuation matters.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted global financial markets and the measures taken to tackle this continue to affect economies and real estate markets globally.

However, as at the valuation date (31 March 2024) we continue to be faced with an unprecedented set of circumstances caused by COVID-19 and an absence of relevant/sufficient market evidence on which to base certain judgements.

Valuations for the retail sector are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per the RICS Red Book Global. Consequently, less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the valuation of investment properties.

Note 38 – Assets Held for Sale

During 2023/24 the Council decided to sell part of its holding in Belle Vue House in Sudbury. The package marketed consisted of Belle Vue House, the car park and the former swimming pool. These assets were not sold until 2023/24, so they were transferred from Surplus Assets to Assets Held for Sale in the 2023/24 balance sheet where they are shown at their fair value of £439k as at 31 March 2024.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance at start of the year	439	-
Assets newly classified as held for sale:		
Property, Plant and Equipment		-
Revaluation losses	-	(154)
Property, Plant and Equipment	-	593
Intangible Assets		
Other assets/liabilities in disposal groups		
Assets sold	(439)	-
Transfers from non current to current assets		
Other movements		
Balance at year end	-	439

Note 39 – Going Concern

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis; that is, on the assumption that the functions of the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future from the date that the accounts are authorised for issue.

The Covid-19 pandemic had limited impact on Mid Suffolk District Council in 2023/24, with costs and income pressures being predominately met from external funding carried forward. Any Covid-19 impacts beyond 2023/24 are forecast to be manageable within existing budgets and reserves.

Prolonged and sustained high levels of inflation and a recession have impacted the Council during 2023/24. However, as at 31 March 2024, the Council had the following balances and Earmarked Reserves available to largely enable it to absorb any shock to its income streams in the short to medium term:

Date	General Fund	Housing Revenue Account	General Fund Earmarked Reserves
31/3/2023	£1.2m	£16.18m	£12.2m
31/3/2024	£1.2m	£15.86m	£10.9m
Estimated 31/3/2025	£1.2m	£9.61m	£5.8m

The Council has also considered known and expected government funding and determined that it has sufficient liquidity from its ability to access short term investments and sufficient general fund balances and reserves to continue to deliver services. As a result, the Council is satisfied that it can prepare its accounts on a going concern basis.

Section 4

Supplementary Statements

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Housing Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Statement

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Income and Expenditure Statement shows the economic cost in the year of providing housing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from rents and government grants.

Councils charge rents to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The increase or decrease in the year, on the basis on which rents are raised, is shown in the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement.

2022/23 £'000		HRA Note	2023/24 £'000
	Expenditure		
	Repairs, Maintenance and Management:		
5,352	- Repairs and Maintenance	1	6,982
4,294	- Supervision and Management	2	4,715
140	Rents, rates and other charges		106
9,473	Depreciation, Impairment and Revaluation losses of Non-current Assets:	3	5,422
11	Debt Management Costs		11
87	Increase / Decrease in Bad Debt allowance	4	76
19,357			17,312
	Income		
	Gross Rental Income:		
(17,562)	- Dwelling Rents	5	(18,941)
(240)	- Non-Dwelling Rents	5	(264)
(655)	Charges for Services and Facilities	6	(742)
(135)	Contributions towards expenditure	7	(27)
(18,592)			(19,974)
	Net Income of HRA Services as included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
765			(2,662)
185	HRA share of Corporate and Democratic Core	8	215
950	Net Income for HRA Services		(2,447)
	HRA share of the operating income and expenditure included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
(1,211)	(Gain) / Loss on the disposal of non current assets	10	(1,377)
2,795	Interest payable and similar charges	11	2,796
(171)	Interest receivable and similar income	11	(329)
101	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability / (asset)	12	(81)
(30)	Capital grants and contributions receivable		-
2,434	Surplus for the year on HRA services		(1,438)

Housing Revenue Account Movement on the HRA Statement

The overall objectives for the Movement on the HRA Statement and the general principles for its construction are the same as those generally for the Movement in Reserves Statement, into which it is consolidated.

The statement takes the outturn on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement and reconciles it to the surplus or deficit for the year on the HRA Balance, calculated in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

2022/23 £'000		HRA Note	2023/24 £'000
(1,000)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous reporting period		(1,000)
2,434	Surplus for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement		(1,438)
(1,396)	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute (Note 7 to the Core Statements)		3,037
1,038	Net increase before transfers to reserves		1,599
(1,038)	Transfers to / (from) earmarked reserves	19	(1,599)
-	Increase in year on the HRA		-
(1,000)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the current reporting period		(1,000)

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account

HRA Note 1 – Repairs and Maintenance

This line covers the expenditure of the Council for the year in respect of the repair and maintenance of dwellings and other properties within the HRA account. This includes works to property such as painting or the replacement of broken windows. It does not include work such as re-roofing or the installation of double glazing as this is capital expenditure.

HRA Note 2 – Supervision and Management

This line represents the expenditure of the Council for the year in respect of the supervision and management of dwellings (the stock of Council dwellings), including tenancy management, rent collection, and grounds maintenance, etc.

HRA Note 3 – Depreciation, Impairments and Revaluation Losses

The Council is required to charge depreciation, impairment and revaluation losses on all HRA properties calculated in accordance with proper practices, including non-dwelling properties.

The depreciation charge in respect of 'Other HRA Property' is included in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of services but is reversed out of net operating expenditure as a transfer from the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR) so as not to impact on housing rents.

Impairment is charged to the line for HRA in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Impairment of dwellings is reversed out in the Movement in Reserves Statement and therefore does not affect the overall working balance of the HRA.

HRA accounting authorities are required to show depreciation charges for all of the HRA's non current assets, as follows:	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Dwellings	5,359	4,638
Other Land and Buildings	199	164
Other HRA property	29	29
Impairment of Dwellings and Other Land and Buildings charged to the Income and Expenditure Account	9,014	8,648
Reversal of Impairments charged to Income and Expenditure in prior years	(9,179)	(4,006)
Total	5,422	9,473

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account

HRA Note 4 – Movement in the Allowance for Bad Debts

This table shows the change in rent arrears during the year, and the overall increase in the allowance for bad debts:

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000	Movement £'000
Total Arrears			
Rent arrears - current tenants	586	555	31
Rent arrears - former tenants	183	117	66
Total Arrears at end of year	769	672	97
Bad Debt Provision at start of year	153	100	53
Write offs in the year	(8)	(34)	26
Increase / (Decrease) in Provision in the year	76	87	(11)
Bad Debt Provision at end of year	221	153	68

HRA Note 5 - Dwelling and Non – Dwelling Rents

Dwelling Rents

This line comprises the income of the Council receivable for the year from rents in respect of dwellings within the HRA. The Code's requirement for this item to be disclosed 'gross' means that the total includes rent remitted by way of rebate, which is financed by a compensating credit from the General Fund.

The requirement for a 'gross' disclosure means that the figure excludes any amounts in respect of rent foregone on void properties and discretionary rent-free periods. The average rent per week in 2023/24 was £97.51. (2022/23 was £93.51).

Non - Dwelling Rents

This line includes the income of the Council receivable for the year from rents and charges in respect of other property within the account, such as land, garages and shops etc.

HRA Note 6 - Charges for Services and Facilities

This represents the income of the Council for the year in respect of services or facilities provided by the Council in connection with the provision of dwellings and other properties within the account.

These charges relate to heating, warden and other communal services provided to residents in sheltered accommodation. They also include charges to tenants for community alarm systems and central heating servicing but exclude payments for welfare services that are outside the scope of the HRA.

HRA Note 7 – Contribution towards expenditure

This line covers contributions received, mainly from the General Fund and outside bodies or persons, towards expenditure which has been properly debited to the HRA, such as those in respect of benefits or amenities provided under housing powers but shared by the wider community. Where service charges are received from leaseholders, they can be applied to net down the relevant expenditure, rather than credited as part of this item, provided that the expenditure was incurred directly on the leasehold property and can be identified separately from that incurred on HRA property.

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account

HRA Note 8 – HRA Share of Corporate and Democratic Core

The Net Cost of Services in the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement is generally prepared in accordance with the total cost requirements of the Service Reporting Code of Practice (SeRCOP). However, the statutory requirement for the HRA to be debited with the expenditure actually incurred by the Council during the year means that an additional debit is required to charge the HRA with elements of Corporate and Democratic Core costs that can either:

- be identified directly to HRA services, or
- be fairly apportioned to HRA services in line with SeRCOP's seven general principles of overhead apportionment.

The debit is made to the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement after a sub-heading for the Net Cost of HRA Services included in the whole Council Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, so that the entry for the HRA in the latter can be read across straightforwardly to the HRA Statement. However, the aggregate HRA Net Cost of Services is then presented to include this debit.

HRA Note 10 – Gain or Loss on Disposal of Non-Current Assets

Non-Current Assets identified as surplus are required to be valued at Fair Value, and for Housing "Right to Buy" disposals the applicable discounts are applied after revaluation. Both the capital receipt arising from the asset sale and the carrying value of the asset at the point of disposal are then taken to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, and any difference between the two amounts is recognised as a gain or loss on disposal.

It is important to highlight that gains and losses are not a charge on HRA tenants, and the impact is reversed out in the Movement in Reserves Statement to ensure there is no real impact on fund balances for the year.

HRA Note 9 – HRA share of other amounts included in the whole Council Net Cost of Services but not allocated to specific services

In addition to a share of Corporate and Democratic Core costs that can be allocated to the HRA, there may be other items of expenditure excluded from total cost that should reasonably be debited against the HRA Net Cost of Services in order to satisfy statutory requirements. These include non-distributed costs, e.g. past service costs and settlements relating to post-employment benefits that can fairly be related to HRA activity.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Cost of selling Council Dwellings	22	40
Carrying value of disposed assets	1,354	1,771
Receipts	(2,753)	(3,022)
(Gain) on disposal of Housing Non Current Assets	(1,377)	(1,211)

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account

HRA Note 11 - Interest Payable and Receivable

Interest Payable and Similar Charges

This represents the real interest charges to the HRA in respect of financing capital expenditure. Throughout the year interest is charged directly to the HRA for long term borrowing and charged to the General Fund for short term borrowing. The Item 8 adjustment then distributes the relevant interest charge for short term borrowing to the HRA.

Interest and Investment Income

This represents interest receivable on balances. As with short term borrowing, all investment income is credited to the General Fund in the year and then distributed to the HRA as part of the Item 8 adjustment.

HRA Note 12 - Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability / Asset

Allocations to the HRA of a share of the Council's overall IAS 19 pensions interest cost is based on an apportionment of costs between the General Fund and HRA. For a fuller explanation of the pension scheme, see Note 32 Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Benefit Schemes, within the Notes to the Core Statements.

HRA Note 13 - Housing Stock

This table analyses the total of the Council's housing stock by type of dwelling.

	2021/22 No.s	2020/21 No.s
The stock of dwellings has changed as follows:		
Opening stock of dwellings	3,410	3,404
Add: additions/conversions	72	25
Less: sales - Right to Buy (RTB)	(24)	(13)
- Non-RTB	(3)	-
Less: properties lost to conversion, disposal and deletion	-	(6)
Closing stock of dwellings	3,455	3,410
Analysis of closing stock numbers:		
Houses and Bungalows	2,793	2,778
Flats	662	632
Total	3,455	3,410
In addition the Council owns a share of 44 shared ownership properties		

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account

HRA Note 14 – Non-Current Assets at Balance Sheet Value

This table shows the Balance Sheet values of all the HRA Non-Current assets on 31 March 2024.

The Council's Valuer (Wilks Head & Eve) carried out a desktop valuation of HRA properties as at 31 March 2024.

The pandemic and the measures taken to tackle COVID-19 continue to affect economies and real estate markets globally. Nevertheless, as at the valuation date property markets are mostly functioning again, with transaction volumes and other relevant evidence at levels where an adequate amount of market evidence exists upon which to base opinions of value. Accordingly, the valuation is not reported as being subject to 'material valuation uncertainty' as defined by VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Valuation – Global Standards.

The net increases in value resulted in a reversal of the previous years' impairment losses of £4.462m. Revaluation losses that were less than previous revaluation gains have been absorbed within the Revaluation Reserve.

A full valuation of Council dwellings is required every five years; the next full valuation is due on 31 March 2026.

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000
Operational Assets		
Dwellings - Balance Sheet Value	323,887	300,767
Other Land and Buildings	5,211	4,966
Community Assets	180	180
Intangible Assets	127	49
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	116	127
Non-Operational Assets		
Surplus Assets not Held for Sale	1,124	1,124
Assets under construction	987	2,554
Total Balance Sheet Value of HRA Non Current Assets	331,632	309,767

HRA Note 15 – Council Dwellings at Vacant Possession Value

The vacant possession value of Council dwellings on 31 March 2024 is based on valuations for 1 April 2022. It is £697m for 2023/24 (£689m for 2022/23).

The only assets valued at vacant possession now are Council dwellings (including special units), shared ownership properties and sheltered accommodation. The vacant possession value is the Council's estimate, based on information from the Council's Valuer, of the total sum that it would receive if all the assets were sold on the open market.

The Balance Sheet Value for the dwellings is the 'Existing Use Social Housing Value' (EUSHV) and reflects the fact that the dwellings are occupied by secure tenants.

The Vacant Possession Value for the dwellings is equivalent to the open market value. The difference between the two values is a discount of 62%, based on guidance issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), and reflects the economic cost of providing Council housing at less than the open market value.

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account

HRA Note 16 - Capital Expenditure

This table summarises the HRA capital programme and how it was financed.

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Capital Expenditure:		
Dwellings	7,670	5,778
Assets under Construction	733	5,640
Other (including IT Infrastructure)	102	71
Total	8,505	11,489
Financed by:		
Borrowing	-	(1,524)
Useable Capital Receipts	(2,917)	(2,472)
Revenue Contributions	-	(2,633)
Major Repairs Reserve	(5,588)	(4,830)
Contributions	-	(30)
Total	(8,505)	(11,489)

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HRA Note 17 - Capital Receipts

This table summarises the number and types of assets sold, and the total capital receipts generated during 2023/24.

	2023/24 No's	2022/23 No's
Number of disposals:		
Right to Buy	7	17
Open Market Sale	1	
Shared Ownership	17	11
Repayment of Discount	-	2
	25	30
Receipts from disposals	£'000	£'000
Right to Buy	935	2257
Open Market Sale	172	
Shared Ownership	1,797	765
Other Land and Buildings	-	-
Total Receipts	2,904	3,022

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account

HRA Note 18 - Major Repairs Reserve

The Council is required under statute to maintain a Major Repairs Reserve (MRR) to help finance major capital projects.

Credits to the Major Repairs Reserve

- (a) an amount equal to HRA dwellings depreciation for the year
- (b) transfers from the HRA required by statutory provision

Item (a) has to be debited to the Capital Adjustment Account and item (b) to the HRA Balance and included as a reconciling item in the Statement of Movement on the HRA Balance and in the Reserves Adjustments, which can be seen in Note 7 to the Core Statements.

Debits to the Major Repairs Reserve

- (a) capital expenditure on land, dwellings and other property within the HRA, where this is to be funded from the MRR
- (b) any repayment, made in the year, of the principal of any amount borrowed where the repayment was met by payment out of the MRR
- (c) transfers to the HRA required by statutory provision.

Items (a) and (b) have to be credited to the Capital Adjustment Account and item (c) to the HRA Balance and included as a reconciling item in the Statement of Movement on the HRA Balance and in the Reserves Adjustments, which can be seen in Note 7 to the Core Statements.

This table summarises the movement on the Major Repairs Reserve:

	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	-	-
Charged in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(5,588)	(4,830)
Transfer to Capital Adjustment Account	5,588	4,830
Balance at 31 March	-	-

HRA Note 19 - HRA Reserves

The deficit on this year's HRA activity of £1,599k (2022/23 £1,038k surplus) has been transferred from the Strategic Priorities Reserve.

The Collection Fund Statement

The Collection Fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for the Council (as billing authority) to maintain a separate Collection Fund.

The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and distribution to local authorities and the Government of council tax and non-domestic rates.

The County Council and all the Suffolk billing authorities have entered into a countywide non-domestic rates pool arrangement, which includes provision for the risks and benefits to be shared on an agreed basis.

Council Tax 2022/23 £'000	Non Domestic Rates 2022/23 £'000		Note	Council Tax 2023/24 £'000	Non Domestic Rates 2023/24 £'000
		Income:			
(68,600)	-	Income from Council Tax	3	(72,148)	-
(2)	-	Transfers from the General Fund		(142)	-
-	(21,022)	Income from Non Domestic Ratepayers	2		(22,615)
-	(4,856)	Contributions towards previous year's estimated Collection Fund Deficit		-	-
(68,602)	(25,878)			(72,290)	(22,615)
		Expenditure:			
		Precepts and Demands			
50,187	1,992	Suffolk County Council	4	53,030	2,363
8,639	-	Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner	4	9,306	-
9,310	7,968	Babergh District Council	4	9,770	9,452
-	9,960	Central Government	4		11,815
68,136	19,920			72,106	23,630
		Charges to the Collection Fund			
-	16	Transitional Protection Payments		-	(2,486)
		Impairment of Debts and Appeals:			
218	169	Increase/(Decrease) in Bad Debt Allowance		203	317
-	(2,030)	Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions for Appeals		-	(561)
-	134	Cost of Collection		-	135
-	1,056	Disregards- Enterprise Zones		-	1,185
-	110	Energy Scheme credited to General Fund		-	77
		Interest on Refunds for Appeals			9
		Contributions towards previous year's estimated Collection Fund Surplus		160	(63)
846	-			72,469	22,243
69,200	19,375				
		Movement on Fund Balance - (Surplus) / Deficit	1	179	(372)
598	(6,503)				
(626)	5,099	(Surplus) / Deficit Brought Forward 1 April	1	(28)	(1,404)
(28)	(1,404)	(Surplus) / Deficit Carried Forward 31 March		151	(1,776)

Notes to the Collection Fund

CF Note 1 – Movement on the Collection Fund Balance

The collection of council tax and non-domestic rates is in substance an agency arrangement and the cash collected belongs proportionately to the Council, the Government and major preceptors. The Council's share of the fund balance is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account. Balances belonging to major preceptors and the Government are shown in the accounts within debtors or creditors as appropriate. The balance on the Council Tax fund will be taken into account in setting future council tax levels.

Council Tax

	Balance 31 March 2022 £'000	Movement 2022/23 £'000	Balance 31 March 2023 £'000	Movement 2023/24 £'000	Balance 31 March 2024 £'000
Preceptors					
Babergh District Council	(85)	82	(3)	23	20
Suffolk County Council	(460)	440	(20)	131	111
Police and Crime Commissioner	(81)	76	(5)	25	20
(Surplus) / Deficit	(626)	598	(28)	179	151

Non-Domestic Rates

	Balance 31 March 2022 £'000	Movement 2022/23 £'000	Balance 31 March 2023 £'000	Movement 2023/24 £'000	Balance 31 March 2024 £'000
Preceptors					
Central Government	2,549	(3,251)	(702)	(186)	(888)
Suffolk County Council	510	(650)	(140)	(38)	(178)
Babergh District Council	2,040	(2,602)	(562)	(148)	(710)
(Surplus) / Deficit	5,099	(6,503)	(1,404)	(372)	(1,776)

Notes to the Collection Fund

CF Note 2 – Non-Domestic Rates

The Council collects non-domestic rates in the district. From 1 April 2013 the non-domestic rates retention scheme was introduced which means that the total amounts collected from non-domestic ratepayers are no longer paid into a national pool administered by the Government. Instead, they are shared between non-domestic rates preceptors and the Government with the surplus or deficit adjusted in the following year. The Council's share of this redistribution is shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The valuation list was revised in April 2017. The next revaluation of all non-domestic properties is due in April 2023.

The actual income of £21.02m, shown in the accounts, differs to the estimate of £19.92m due to changes in rateable values, allowances made during the year and the additional reliefs granted because of the ongoing impact of COVID19.

The total non-domestic rateable value at the year-end and the national non-domestic rate multiplier for the year	2023/24	2022/23
Total Rateable Value of Business Properties in March	£72.978	£66.872m
National Rate in the £	51.2p	51.2p
Small Business Rate Multiplier	49.9p	49.9p

CF Note 3 - Income from Council Tax

The Council estimated its tax base for 2023/24 as 37,604.41 (2022/23 was 39,052.22) as shown in this table.

To meet the demands of Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, Babergh District Council and Parish/Town Councils, a council tax of £68.136m (£63.421m for 2022/23) was levied on the tax base, providing an average Band D Council Tax of £1,953.53.

The actual income of £68.602m, shown in the accounts, differs to the estimate of £68.136m due to the additional allowance for non-payment and the increased allowance for LCTRS in the budget, changes in dwelling numbers, discounts allowed during the year and actual reliefs granted because of the ongoing impact of COVID19.

Council Tax Band	Chargeable Dwellings	Factor	Band D Equivalents
Disabled A	7.50	5/9ths	4.17
A	4,256.75	6/9ths	2,837.83
B	10,939.71	7/9ths	8,508.66
C	8,067.86	8/9ths	7,171.43
D	7,154.17	9/9ths	7,154.17
E	4,458.98	11/9ths	5,449.87
F	2,366.50	13/9ths	3,418.28
G	1,624.50	15/9ths	2,707.50
H	176.25	18/9ths	352.50
Total	39,052.22		37,604.41
Less Council Tax Reduction Scheme			(2,551.80)
Adjustment for Collection Rate for Year which was estimated at 99.5%			(174.38)
Taxbase (Band D Equivalent)			34,878.23
			2022/23
Average Band D Council Tax			£1,953.53
Babergh's Share			£177.34

Notes to the Collection Fund

CF Note 4 - Precepts and Demands

Council Tax

The precepts for Suffolk County Council (£50.187m) and the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner (£8.639m) are charged to the Collection Fund.

Precepts by Parish and Town Councils are charged to the Council's General Fund and included in Babergh District Council's demand on the Collection Fund of £8.756 m in 2023/24 (£8.756m in 2022/23).

For 2023/24 the total of the Parish Precepts was £3.125m (£2.943m for 2022/23).

Non-Domestic Rates

From 1 April 2022, demands on the non-domestic rates collection fund were from central government (£9.96m), Suffolk County Council (£1.99m) and the District Council, at the rate of 50%, 10% and 40% respectively.

Of Babergh's £9.96m (£9.296m in 2022/23), £7.195m was paid over to the Suffolk Pool (an element of this is then retained by Suffolk County Council and the rest paid over to Central Government) as a tariff payment, leaving a £2.765m payment to the Council's General Fund in 2023/24.

Actual income and expenditure for the year is then reflected in the Fund Balance (see CF Note 1 above). There is a surplus shown for the year. In response to the changes in the economic situation caused by Covid-19, the government continued allowing business rate discounts in 2023/24. To reflect this loss of rating income, Section 31 grants were made to councils. For Babergh, these grants were £3.359m (for 2022/23 £3.647m).

Group Accounts and Explanatory Notes

Introduction

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 sets out comprehensive requirements for Group Accounts requiring Councils to consider all their interests in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures.

The purpose of Group Accounts is to provide a picture of Babergh District Council and the group of companies which are either controlled or are significantly influenced by the Council.

The Group Accounts show the Council's exposure to risk through interests in other entities and participation in their activities.

While the Group Accounts are not primary statements, they provide transparency and enable comparison with other entities that have different corporate entities.

The Group Accounts include the following:

- **Group Movement in Reserves:**
This shows the movement in the year on the Council's single entity usable and unusable reserves together with the Council's share of the Group Reserves.
- **Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:**
This summarises the resources that have been generated and consumed in providing services and managing the group during the year. It includes all day-to-day expenses and related income on an accruals basis.
- **Group Balance Sheet:**
This reports the Council Group financial position at the year end.
- **Group Cash Flow Statement:**
This shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Group during the year. The statement shows how the Group generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cashflows as operating, financing and investing activities.

- **Notes to the Group Accounts:**
This shows where the balances are materially different to those in the single entity accounts.

Results of Subsidiary

The following notes provide additional details about the Council's involvement in the entities consolidated to form the Group Accounts.

BDC (Suffolk Holdings) Limited was incorporated as a private limited company on 9 June 2017 as a commercial investment vehicle for the Council.

The Council owns 100% of the shareholding, has full voting rights and can appoint and remove directors. The Council's chief executive officer is the company secretary and three councillors are board members.

The holding company owns 50% of the shareholding of CIFCO Capital Limited, which has two councillors on its board of five directors.

The holding company also owns 50% of the shareholding of Babergh Growth Limited, which has two councillors on its board of five directors. It was incorporated on 19 March 2019.

All the boards must provide regular reports of the activities and results to the holding company board.

For 2023/24, the holding company's results showed a deficit of £1,801k (2022/23 was a surplus of £1,801k). These were due to one-off costs of acquiring additional assets during 2023/24 (including stamp duty and fees) and an adjustment in portfolio valuation following the annual year-end revaluation reflecting a decrease in the value of the portfolio.

The company appointed Ensors Chartered Accountants who have prepared the draft accounts for the period ending 31 March 2024.

The company's registered office is c/o Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2BX.

Group Accounts and Explanatory Notes

Group Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement summarises the differences between the outturn on the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account and the movement on the General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account.

It also shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves.

The Surplus or (Deficit) On the Provision of Services Line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	General Fund Balance £'000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £'000	HRA Balance £'000	Earmarked HRA Reserves £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Authority Reserves £'000	Authority's share of Reserves of Joint Ventures £'000	Total Reserves (Including Group) £'000
Opening Balance at 1 April 2022	(1,199)	(13,839)	(1,000)	(16,213)	(3,877)	(13,331)	(49,459)	(178,039)	(227,498)	3,158	(224,340)
Movement in reserves during 2022/23											
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(790)	-	2,434	-	-	-	1,644	(55,864)	(54,220)	-	(54,220)
Adjustments between Group Accounts and Council Accounts	1,801	-	-	-	-	-	1,801	(1,801)	-	-	-
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	2,432	-	(1,396)	-	(634)	(3,753)	(3,351)	3,351	-	-	-
Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	3,443	-	1,038	-	(634)	(3,753)	94	(54,314)	(54,220)	-	(54,220)
Transfers to / (from) reserves	(3,443)	1,642	(1,038)	1,038	-	-	(1,801)	-	(1,801)	1,801	-
(Increase)/Decrease in 2022/23	-	1,642	-	1,038	(634)	(3,753)	(1,707)	(54,314)	(56,021)	1,801	(54,220)
Closing balance at 31 March 2023	(1,199)	(12,197)	(1,000)	(15,175)	(4,511)	(17,084)	(51,166)	(232,353)	(283,519)	4,959	(278,560)
Movement in reserves during 2023/24											
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	2,356	-	(1,438)	-	-	-	918	4,264	5,182	-	5,182
Adjustments between Group Accounts and Council Accounts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(1,041)	-	1,756	-	(146)	(637)	(68)	68	-	-	-
Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	1,315	-	318	-	(146)	(637)	850	4,332	5,182	-	5,182
Transfers to / (from) reserves	(1,315)	1,316	(318)	318	-	-	1	-	1	(1)	-
(Increase)/Decrease in 2023/24	-	1,316	0	318	(146)	(637)	851	4,332	5,183	(1)	5,182
Closing balance at 31 March 2024	(1,199)	(10,881)	(1,000)	(14,857)	(4,657)	(17,721)	(50,315)	(228,021)	(278,336)	4,958	(273,378)

Group Accounts and Explanatory Notes

Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost of providing service for the group in accordance with International Financial Reports Standards. Councils raise taxation and other charges to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations which may differ from the accounting cost.

2022/23				2023/24		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
			General Fund			
743	(144)	599	Assets & Investments	828	(433)	395
2,147	(165)	1,982	Economic Development & Regeneration	1,895	(389)	1,506
17,381	(12,973)	4,408	Corporate Resources	17,718	(13,624)	4,094
2,094	(1)	2,093	Customers, Digital Transformation & Improvement	2,322	-	2,322
8,825	(4,035)	4,790	Environment & Commercial Partnerships	8,219	(3,599)	4,620
2,739	(1,674)	1,065	Housing	3,074	(2,151)	923
1,350	(268)	1,082	Law & Governance	1,702	(314)	1,388
4,401	(6,859)	(2,458)	Planning & Building Control	3,366	(3,727)	(361)
1,422	(220)	1,202	Communities & Wellbeing	1,174	(286)	888
962	(15)	947	Senior Leadership Team	740	(16)	724
(1,413)	-	(1,413)	Charge to HRA & Capital	(1,480)	-	(1,480)
19,576	(18,627)	949	HRA	17,535	(19,978)	(2,443)
-	-	-				
60,227	(44,981)	15,246	Cost of Services	57,093	(44,517)	12,576
1,917	-	1,917	Other Operating Expenditure	2,238	-	2,238
4,094	(3,051)	1,043	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	6,371	(3,291)	3,080
7,197	(23,759)	(16,562)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure	8,096	(25,072)	(16,976)
73,435	(71,791)	1,644	(Surplus) on Provision of Services	73,798	(72,880)	918
		1,801	Associates & Joint Ventures accounted for on an equity basis			-
		3,445	Group (Surplus) on Provision of Services - A			918
		(29,936)	(Surplus) on revaluation of property, plant and equipment assets			(20,331)
		(27,729)	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)			24,304
		(57,665)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure - B			3,973
		(54,220)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure (A+B)			4,891

Group Accounts and Explanatory Notes

Group Balance Sheet

The group balance sheet shows the value of assets and liabilities recognised by the group.

These are funded by the usable and unusable reserves of the Council.

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
343,140	Property, Plant and Equipment	365,047
2,600	Investment Property	2,585
263	Intangible Assets	767
-	Long Term Investments	(295)
45,134	Long Term Debtors	47,372
391,137	Long Term Assets	415,476
440	Assets held for sale	-
10,321	Short Term Investments	15,402
62	Inventories	61
11,490	Short Term Debtors	7,509
4,053	Cash and Cash Equivalents	6,789
26,366	Current Assets	29,761
(31,863)	Short Term Borrowing	(41,000)
(13,938)	Short Term Creditors	(13,194)
(1,571)	Provisions	(1,390)
(47,372)	Current Liabilities	(55,584)
(93,279)	Long Term Borrowing	(93,279)
(5,606)	Capital Grants & Contributions Received in Advance	(8,214)
7,313	Defined Benefit Pension Scheme Liability	(14,784)
(91,572)	Long Term Liabilities	(116,277)
278,559	Net Assets	273,376
4,959	Usable reserves - (Profit) & Loss	-
(51,169)	Usable reserves	(50,317)
(225,922)	Unusable reserves	(223,059)
(272,132)	Total Reserves	(273,376)

Group Accounts and Explanatory Notes

Group Cash Flow Statement

The group cash flow statement shows the changes in the cash and cash equivalents of the Group, classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities for the Group.

Operating cash flow shows the funding and expenditure on services for the group.

Investing activities shows the extent to which cash outflows are made to contribute to future service delivery of the group.

Cash flows from financing activities show payments and receipts for investing and borrowing activities.

2022/23 £'000		Note	2023/24 £'000
3,445	Net (Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services		918
(6,763)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	G2	(36,187)
3,689	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		5,681
371	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		(29,588)
9,745	Investing Activities		18,389
(4,447)	Financing Activities		8,463
5,669	Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(2,736)
(9,722)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		(4,053)
(4,053)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		(6,789)

Notes to the Group Accounts

Where added value is provided, additional disclosures are presented below in respect of the Group Accounts. These are referenced with a **G** and can be referred to against the main statements of the Group Accounts on pages 111 to 116.

Where there are no changes to values from the accounts of Babergh District Council then no additional notes have been prepared as these are referred to in the notes in the single entity accounts.

Note G1 - Accounting Policies for the Group

The Group Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

The Council has consolidated its interests in the entities over which it exercises control or significant influence because they are material to the Council's balance sheet.

The results of the Council's subsidiary have been consolidated on a line-by-line basis. Intra-group transactions have been eliminated before consolidation.

The Accounting Policies used in the preparation of the Group Accounts are the same as for the single entity accounts of Babergh District Council, as set out in Note 35 of the Notes to the Core Statement of Accounts.

Note G2 – Cash Flow Statement: Operating Activities

	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000
The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:		
Interest received	(3,291)	(2,747)
Interest paid	6,777	3,130
	3,486	383
The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following non-cash movements:		
Depreciation and amortisation	(9,563)	(6,125)
Impairment and (downward valuations)/reversals	(135)	(6,330)
(Increase)/decrease in creditors	744	8,416
Increase/(decrease) in debtors	(3,981)	2,392
Increase/(decrease) in inventories	(1)	1
Movement on pension liability	(22,097)	(2,785)
Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	(1,814)	(1,304)
Other non-cash items	660	(1,028)
	(36,187)	(6,763)
The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following items that are investing and financing activities:		
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	2,823	3,104
Other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing activities	(628)	202
	2,195	3,306
Net cash flows from operating activities	(30,506)	(3,074)



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Disclaimer of Opinion

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of Babergh District Council ('the Council') and its subsidiaries (the 'Group') for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements comprise the Council and Group Movement in Reserves Statement, Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, the related notes 1 to 39 to the Council financial statements including material accounting policy information and including the Expenditure and Funding Analysis, the related notes G1 to G2 to the Group financial statements, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement, and the related notes HRA 1 to HRA 19 and the Collection Fund and the related notes CF1 to CF4.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

We do not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements of the Group and the Council. Because of the significance of the matter described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Basis for disclaimer of opinion

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (Statutory Instrument 2024/907) which came into force on 30 September 2024 required any outstanding accountability statements for years ended 31 March 2015 to 31 March 2023 to be approved not later than 13 December 2024 and the accountability statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 to be approved not later than 28 February 2025 ('the backstop date').

The audits of the financial statements for the years ended 31 March 2021, 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 for Babergh District Council were not completed for the reasons set out in our disclaimers of opinion on those financial statements dated 9 December 2024.

Due to the disclaimers of opinion on the prior years, delays in receiving draft financial statements and associated audit evidence and the limited time between the backstop dates we did not have the required resources available to complete the detailed audit procedures that would be needed to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to issue an unmodified audit report on the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Therefore, we are disclaiming our opinion on the financial statements.

Matters on which we report by exception

Notwithstanding our disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements we have nothing to report in respect of whether the annual governance statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information forthcoming from the audit, performed subject to the pervasive limitation described above, or our knowledge of the Group and the Council.

We report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- 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 (as amended)
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Matters on which we report by exception

In respect of the following, we have matters to report by exception:

- We report to you, if we are not satisfied that the Group and the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024.

On the basis of our work, having regard to the Code of Audit Practice 2024 and the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024, we have identified the following significant weakness in the Group and the Council's arrangements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Significant weakness in arrangement relating to Governance and Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness

During 2022/23, Internal Audit concluded in their review that there was a limited assurance over the Council's contract management processes. Specifically,

- There was an absence of a comprehensive Performance and Contract Management Framework, a lack of established monitoring processes for the Senior Leadership Team or Council Committees, and no clear contract management procedures.
- Additionally, there was an absence of a formal Procurement Strategy while the existing documentation, including the Commissioning and Procurement Manual, required significant review and updating.
- The review also found that there was insufficient scrutiny of procurement exemptions and a lack of annual monitoring reports to the Joint Audit and Standards Committee. There was also no formal process to identify and manage off-contract spend.

We also reported this significant weakness for the years ended 31 March 2021, 2022 and 2023. The Council has reported in its Annual Governance Statement that further work is needed to improve internal controls over contract management.

In forming our assessment, we have considered and reviewed:

- The Internal Audit 2020/21 Progress Report issued in November 2020
- The advisory review of contract management report issued by Internal Audit in November 2022
- The 2022/23 Annual Internal Audit Report issued by the Head of Internal Audit in July 2023
- The 2023/24 Joint Annual Governance Report issued by the Council in July 2024
- The 2023/24 Annual Internal Audit Report issued by the Head of Internal Audit in August 2024

Inadequate controls over contract management exposes the Council to non-compliance with laws and regulations, specifically in relation to procurement process, and potential financial losses as a result of litigation claims from tenderers, as well as potentially reputational risks and the achievement of poor value for money.

Noting that the implementation of these measures is currently underway, we recommend the Council:

- Put arrangements in place to ensure robust oversight of contract management processes.
- Implement clear and effective strategies, policies and procedures to ensure compliance with procurement-related laws and regulations.

This issue is evidence of weaknesses in proper arrangements under the following reporting criteria:

- Governance, including how the Council ensures it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risk in relation to the procurement and contract management.
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness, including where the Council commissions or procures services, how it uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services and how it assesses whether it is realising the expected benefits.

Significant weakness in arrangement relating to Governance

Due to delays caused by staffing pressures and the decision to prioritise the Council's budget setting process and medium-term financial planning, the Council did not publish its draft Statement of Accounts for year ended 31 March 2024 by the statutory deadline of 31 May 2024, as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The unaudited statements were published on 6 January 2025. This is the fourth successive year that the Council has not met the statutory deadline for publication of its draft accounts.

We have also reported this significant weakness for the year ended 31 March 2023.

In forming our assessment, we have considered and reviewed:

- The publication date of the draft Statement of Accounts for year ended 31 March 2021 to 31 March 2024.
- The Council's committee papers from 27 November 2023 which set out the ongoing delays and the Council's plan for addressing the issues in the preparation of the Statement of Accounts.

Failure to improve the Council's processes to report financial information timely will impact its ability to meet statutory financial reporting deadlines, to restore timely financial reporting in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024, to make informed decisions and properly manage its risks.

We recommend the Council:

- Review the capacity within the finance team to ensure that the Statement of Accounts is prepared timely and that the Council meets its statutory reporting requirements

The issue above is evidence of weaknesses in proper arrangements for governance, including ensuring the Council has effective processes and systems in place to support its statutory financial reporting requirements.

Responsibility of the Director - Finance & Procurement

As explained more fully in the '*Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts*' set out on page 15, the Director - Finance & Procurement is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, 2023/24, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for such internal control as the Director - Finance & Procurement determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director - Finance & Procurement is responsible for assessing the Group and the Council'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 the Group and the Council either intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit of the Group and the Council's financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and to issue an auditor's report.

However, because of the matter described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these financial statements.

We are independent of the Group and the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and the Code of Audit Practice 2024 and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice 2024, having regard to the guidance on the specified reporting criteria issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024, as to whether Babergh District Council had proper arrangements for financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined these criteria as those necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether Babergh District Council put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024.

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

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) to satisfy ourselves that the Council 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 Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

Certificate

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until the NAO, as group auditor, has confirmed that no further assurances will be required from us as component auditors of Babergh District Council. Until we have completed these procedures, we are unable to certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of Babergh District Council, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 85 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Group and the Councilmembers as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

MARK HODGSON
ERNST & YOUNG LLP

Date: 25th February 2025

Mark Hodgson (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
Cambridge

Glossary of Terms

Accruals

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

Accrued Retirement Benefits (Pensions)

The retirement benefits for service up to a given point in time, whether vested rights or not.

Actuarial Gains and Losses (Pensions)

For a defined benefit scheme, the changes in deficits or surpluses that arise because events have not coincided with actuarial assumptions used in the last valuation (experience gains or losses) or because actuarial assumptions have changed.

Agency Services

These are services that are performed by or for another Council or public body, where the principal (the Council responsible for the service) reimburses the agent (the Council carrying out the work) for the costs of the work.

Amortisation

The process of decreasing or accounting for an amount over a period of time. Amortisation of capital expenditures of certain assets under accounting rules, particularly intangible assets, in a manner analogous to depreciation.

Appropriations

Amounts transferred to or from revenue or capital reserves.

Asset

An item owned by the Council which has an economic value e.g. land and buildings, debts or cash.

Asset Ceiling for Pension Asset (Defined Benefit Pension Schemes)

The present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan. This recognises that any asset arising at the date of the balance will most likely lead to a refund to the employer, or reduced contributions for a period of time.

Budget

A financial statement of the Council's plans for any given year.

Capital Adjustment Account

A complex balance, it is debited with the historical cost of acquiring, creating or enhancing assets over the life of those assets, and of Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital under Statute over the period of benefit (usually one year), and is credited with resources set aside to finance capital expenditure.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on the acquisition of new assets or expenditure, which adds to, and not merely maintains, the value of an existing fixed asset.

Capital Financing Charges

This is the annual charge to the revenue account in respect of interest and principal repayments and payments of borrowed money.

Capital Grants

Grants received towards capital spending on a particular service or project.

Capital Receipts

Proceeds from the sale of capital assets such as land or buildings. They are available to finance new capital outlay and to repay existing debt e.g. Right to Buy capital receipts which can only be spent on providing new housing provision (known as 1-4-1 replacement).

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

CIPFA is the leading professional accountancy body for public services.

Community Assets

Assets the Council intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life and that may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples include parks and historic buildings.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

An income stream introduced in April 2016 following changes to planning legislation. Provides a charging schedule that maximises the funding for infrastructure within the District but does not prevent or stall development.

Contingent Liabilities or Assets

These are amounts potentially due to or from individuals or organisations which may arise in the future but which at this time cannot be determined accurately, and for which provision has not been made in the Council's accounts.

Creditors

Amounts owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered, for which payment has not been made at the date of the balance sheet.

Current Assets

Assets where the value may change because the volume held can vary through day-to-day activity, e.g. cash, debtors and stock.

Current Liabilities

Amounts which will become payable in the next accounting period (e.g. creditors, cash overdrawn).

Current Service Costs (Pensions)

The increase in the present value of a defined benefit pension scheme's liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the current period, i.e. the ultimate pension benefits "earned" by employees in the current year's employment.

Curtailment (Pensions)

For a defined benefit scheme, an event that reduces the expected years of future service of current staff or reduces for a number of staff the accrual of defined benefits for some or all of their future service.

Debtors

Sums of money due to the Council, that have not been received at the balance sheet date.

Defined Benefit Scheme (Pensions)

A scheme to provide retirement benefits, the value of which are independent of the contributions payable, and that are not directly related to the underlying investments.

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)

Formerly the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), a Department of Central Government with an overriding responsibility for determining the allocation of general resources to Local Authorities.

Depreciation

The measure of the wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of a fixed asset.

De Minimis

A threshold which anything falling below is too small to be of concern.

Direct Revenue Financing

A charge to the revenue account to finance capital expenditure.

Discretionary Benefits (Pensions)

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.

Earmarked Reserves

The Council holds a number of reserves earmarked to be used to meet specific, known or predicted future expenditure.

Expected Rate of Return on Pension Assets

For a funded, defined benefit scheme, the average rate of return, net of any charges, expected to be earned on assets held by the scheme over the remaining life of the related obligation to pay future retirement benefits.

External Audit

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

Fair Value

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

Finance Lease

A finance lease is one that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a fixed asset to the lessee.

Financial Instruments

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset in one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument in another, for example, a market loan. The term "financial Instrument" covers both financial assets and financial liabilities and includes the most straightforward of financial assets and liabilities such as trade receivables (debtors) and trade payables (creditors) and the most complex ones such as derivatives and embedded derivatives.

General Fund

This is the main revenue fund of the Council and includes the net cost of all services financed by local taxpayers and Government grants.

Government Grants

Payments by Central Government towards Local Authority spending. They may be specific to a particular service e.g. Housing Benefits Grant; or general (see Revenue Support Grant).

Group Accounts

Report the full extent of the assets, liabilities, income and expenditure of the Council and the companies which the Council either control or significantly influence. The Council has consolidated the interests which are financially material to the Council, to provide a full picture of the Council's arrangements for good governance.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

The statutory account which sets out the revenue expenditure and income arising from providing, maintaining and managing Council dwellings. These costs are financed by tenants' rents. Other services are charged to the General Fund.

Impairment

A reduction in the value of a fixed asset below its carrying amount on the balance sheet as a result of the consumption of economic benefits (such as physical damage due to fire or flood) or the fall in the price of a specific asset. A general reduction in asset values is accounted for as impairment through valuation loss.

Income

Amounts that the Council receives, or expects to receive, from any source. Income includes fees, charges, sales and grants that are specific and special. The term income implies that the figures concerned relate to amounts due in a financial year irrespective of whether they have been received in that period.

Infrastructure Assets

Fixed assets which generally cannot be sold and from which benefit can be obtained only by continued use of the asset created. Examples are highways and footpaths.

Interest Cost (Pensions)

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

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

Defined Accounting Standards that must be applied by all reporting entities to all financial statements in order to provide a true and fair view of the entity's financial position, and a standardised method of comparison with financial statements of the other entities.

Investment Property

An asset that is used solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both. For example, the Council-owned industrial estates.

Investments (Pensions)

The Council's share of pension scheme assets associated with its liability to pay future retirement benefits.

Long Term Debtors

Amounts due to the Council more than one year after the Balance Sheet date.

Market Value

This is generally applied to the valuation of non-current assets. It is the value that could be achieved if the asset was offered for sale with no restrictions that could affect its value.

Material/Materiality

Materiality relates to the significance of transactions, balances and errors. Financial information is material if its omission or misstatement could influence the users of the accounts.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

The minimum amount the Council is required by statute to set aside on an annual basis for the repayment of debt.

Net Book Value (NBV)

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

New Homes Bonus (NHB)

A grant paid by Central Government to the Council to reflect and incentivize housing growth in the District. It is based on the amount of additional Council Tax revenue raised for new build homes, conversions, and long-term empty homes brought back into use.

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) (also known as Business Rates)

NDR is the levy on non-domestic property, based on a national rate in the pound applied to the 'rateable value' of the property. The Government determines national rate poundage each year which is applicable to all Local Authorities. The income arising is collected and shared between central government, Suffolk County Council and the District Council on the basis of a predetermined formula.

Non-Current Assets (previously fixed assets)

Intangible and tangible assets that yield benefits to the Council and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

Past Service Cost (Pensions)

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

Post Balance Sheet Events

Events, both favourable and unfavourable, which occur between the Balance Sheet date and the date on which the Statement of Accounts are authorised for issue by the Chief Financial Officer.

Precept

The amount levied by various authorities that is collected by the Council on their behalf. Suffolk County Council, the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner and various Local Councils within the District are precepting authorities and the District Council is the billing authority.

Provisions

Amounts set aside to meet liabilities or losses which it is anticipated will be incurred but where the amount and/or the timing of such costs are uncertain.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

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

Reserves

Amounts set aside for general contingencies, to provide working balances or earmarked to specific future expenditure.

Retirement Benefits (Pensions)

All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by staff that are payable after completion of the engagement.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provision but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset that has been charged as expenditure to the CIES. For the Council, the most significant type of REFCUS is the payment of home improvement grants to private householders.

Revenue Expenditure

The day-to-day spending and income of the Council on such items as staff, goods, services and equipment.

Scheme Liabilities (Pensions)

The liabilities to pay future retirement benefits, measured using the projected unit method, of a defined benefit scheme for outgoings falling due after the valuation date.

Section 31 (S31) Grant

Grants paid to the Council by Central Government for small business rate relief and new discretionary rate reliefs.

Settlement (Pensions)

An irrevocable action that relieves the employer of the primary responsibility for a pension obligation.

Treasury Management Strategy (TMS)

A strategy prepared with regard to legislative and CIPFA requirements setting out the framework for treasury management activity for the Council.