

Statement of Accounts 2023/24



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Chief Financial Officer's Narrative Report

Introduction

Welcome to the Narrative Report and Statement of Accounts for Stroud District Council.

This narrative report will tell the story of our Council over the past year. The contents include details of our political makeup, senior management, financial and non-financial performance over the course of the year as well as a summary of the some main points of consideration for the years ahead.

Financially, the 2023/24 has been a strong one for the District Council. General Fund and Housing Revenue Account services have both been delivered within agreed budgets. Increased income from business rates retention, the Business Rates Pool and high investment returns have also allowed for allocations to reserves at the end of the financial year. In February 2024 Councillors were also able to agree a balanced budget for 2024/25 whilst also increasing budget allocations to a number of priority services.

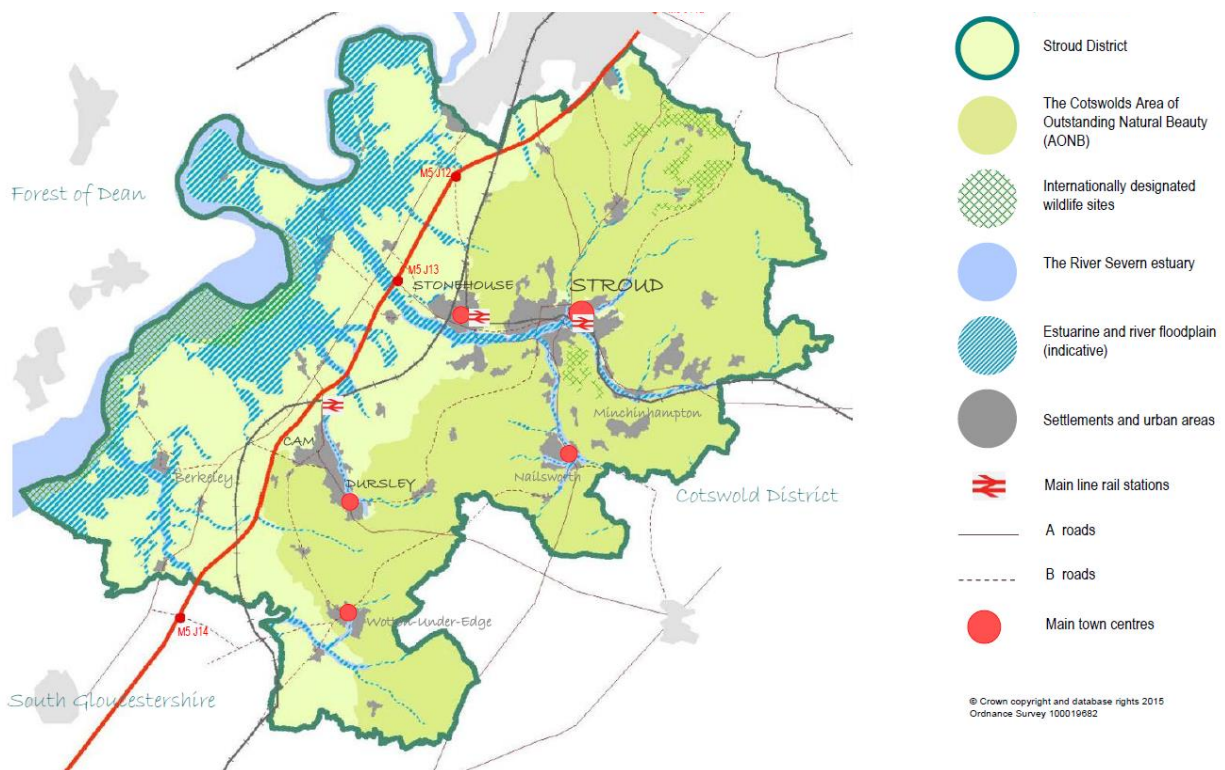
The political groupings making up the administration of the Council have been consistent throughout the last year with minor changes in group numbers but no changes in overall control. Across the Summer and Autumn of 2023 this allowed the priorities of the Council to be restated in the Council Plan. This Plan represents a comprehensive set of ambitions that Council Officers and Elected Members can comprehensively work towards.

There have been a number of significant achievements throughout the year including the installation of low carbon heating systems at both of the Council owned Leisure Centres, the creation of a Community Crowdfunding Scheme and the purchase of additional homes to house those fleeing conflict. The refreshed Council Plan will provide an opportunity to build on these achievements in the years to come.

The narrative report that follows provides a snapshot of the current position of the District Council and tells a summarised story of the year 2023/24 and the position going forward. I hope you find it an interesting read and that it gives you a better understanding of your District Council.

About the District

The District of Stroud is located in the County of Gloucestershire and covers an area of approximately 45,325 hectares (453 km² or 175 miles²). Stroud lies about 20 miles north of Bristol and immediately south of Gloucester and Cheltenham. Gloucestershire sits at the periphery of England’s southwest and has close links with the Midlands, as well as South Wales. Stroud District shares boundaries with Cotswold District, Gloucester City, Tewkesbury Borough and the unitary authority of South Gloucestershire. Our neighbour to the west is the Forest of Dean, which sits on the opposite bank of the River Severn estuary. Much of the eastern half of the District falls into the Cotswold National Landscape (formerly an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).



- Stroud District has a population of 123,505 (ONS – Mid Year 2022) living in 55,935 dwellings.
- Stroud’s population is expected to grow to 134,499 by 2040 (ONS Population Projections)
- The draft local plan has set out a strategy for distributing an additional 12,600 homes by 2040

Political Structure

The Council consists of 51 elected members representing 28 wards across the District. Elections are normally held every four years.

There was one by-election early in the financial year which resulted in a vacant seat, previously held by the Conservative Party, being won by the Green Party.

The Council was administered throughout the year by a Co-Operative Alliance of the Green and Liberal Democrat Parties as well as two groups of Independent Councillors. There was some movement of Councillors between the Groups during the year but no change to the overall administration. There was one vacancy at for the latter part of the financial year due to the sad passing of Cllr Norman Kay, the Vice-Chair of Council.

The political makeup at the end of the year was as follows:

Administration	
Green	14
Independent Left	4
Community Independents	4
Liberal Democrats	3
Independent	1
Total	26
Opposition	
Labour	4
Conservative	18
Conservative (No Group)	1
Independent	1
Total	24
Vacancy	1

All out Council elections were then held in May 2024 resulting in changes to the political makeup and overall administration. There are no longer any Independent Groups whilst the Green and Labour parties saw increases in seat numbers. There was a significant decrease in seats for the Conservative Party. The Council now has a minority Green Party administration with Councillor Catherine Braun re-elected as Leader at the Council meeting on May 23rd 2024.

Post Election Councillors	
Green	22
Labour	20
Conservative	7
Liberal Democrats	2
Total	51

The Council has adopted the Committee system as its political management structure. The list of Committees and chairs during the 2023/24 year was as follows:

Strategy and Resources	Councillor Catherine Braun (Green)
Community Services and Licensing	Councillor Beki Aldam (Green) (previously Cllr Chris Brine)
Housing	Councillor Mattie Ross (Independent Left)
Environment	Councillor Chloe Turner (Green)
Audit and Standards	Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy (Conservative – No Group)
Development Control	Councillor Martin Baxendale (Green)

The list of Committee Chairs for the 2024/25 year will be as follows:

Strategy and Resources	Councillor Catherine Braun (Green)
Community Services and Licensing	Councillor Beki Aldam (Green)
Housing	Councillor Gary Luff (Green)
Environment	Councillor Chloe Turner (Green)
Audit and Standards	Councillor Bob Hughes (Labour)
Development Control	Councillor Martin Baxendale (Green)

Senior Management

The Council has a Strategic Leadership Team, reporting to the Chief Executive Kathy O'Leary.

During the 2023/24 year the team consisted of:

Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer – Claire Hughes (Shared with Cheltenham Borough Council)

Strategic Director of Place – Brendan Cleere

Strategic Director of Change and Transformation - Adrian Blick

Strategic Director of Communities – Keith Gerrard

Strategic Director of Resources – Andrew Cummings

In January 2024 the role of Strategic Director of Change and Transformation came to an end and Adrian Blick returned to his substantive role as Head of Technology.

In April 2024 Claire Hughes left to join Cheltenham Borough Council full time. The role of Monitoring Officer is now part of the support provided to Stroud District Council by the One Legal partnership and Hayley Sims was appointed as Monitoring Officer at the Council Meeting in May 2024.

The three statutory positions of the Council are therefore currently held by the following officers;

Head of Paid Service – Kathy O' Leary

Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) - Andrew Cummings

Monitoring Officer – Hayley Sims.

In April 2024 Council agreed the creation of a Deputy Chief Executive Post. This will be filled by one of the existing Strategic Directors and is therefore not an increase in the size of the team.

Our Vision and Priorities

The Council has a clear corporate vision, and this is supported by the Council Plan which sets out in detail our key priorities.

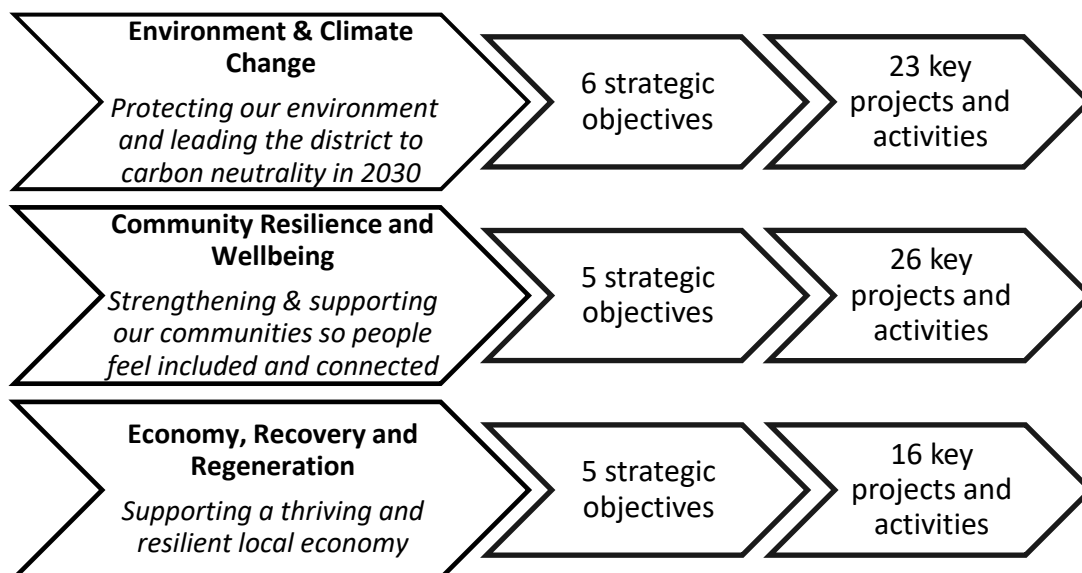
Our vision as a Council is:

Leading a community that is making Stroud district a better place to live, work and visit for everyone

The Council Plan 2021 – 2026 is built on three tiers consisting of our priorities, our objectives and the key projects and activity the Council will undertake to achieve our objectives. This plan was refreshed in October 2023 reflecting the progress that had been made since the introduction of the plan in 2021. This refresh noted that 20 key actions had completed, and 10 additional actions were added. As part of the refresh comprehensive analysis was undertaken as to the progress on the existing actions which can be seen at this [link](#).

There were three new themes of work introduced into the Council Plan as a result of developing areas of work since its original introduction. These were supporting international migrants, supporting our Communities through the Cost of Living Crisis and also the work being undertaken to meet the requirements of the Social Housing Regulations Act. The new actions resulting from these themes are

- Co-ordinate accommodation and support services for migrants arriving in the district and link to other statutory and voluntary services to support the health and wellbeing of migrant households.
- Work with strategic and operational partners to improve food resilience, access and equity including support for those affected by the cost of living.
- Ensure our council homes meet legislative and regulatory compliance standards.

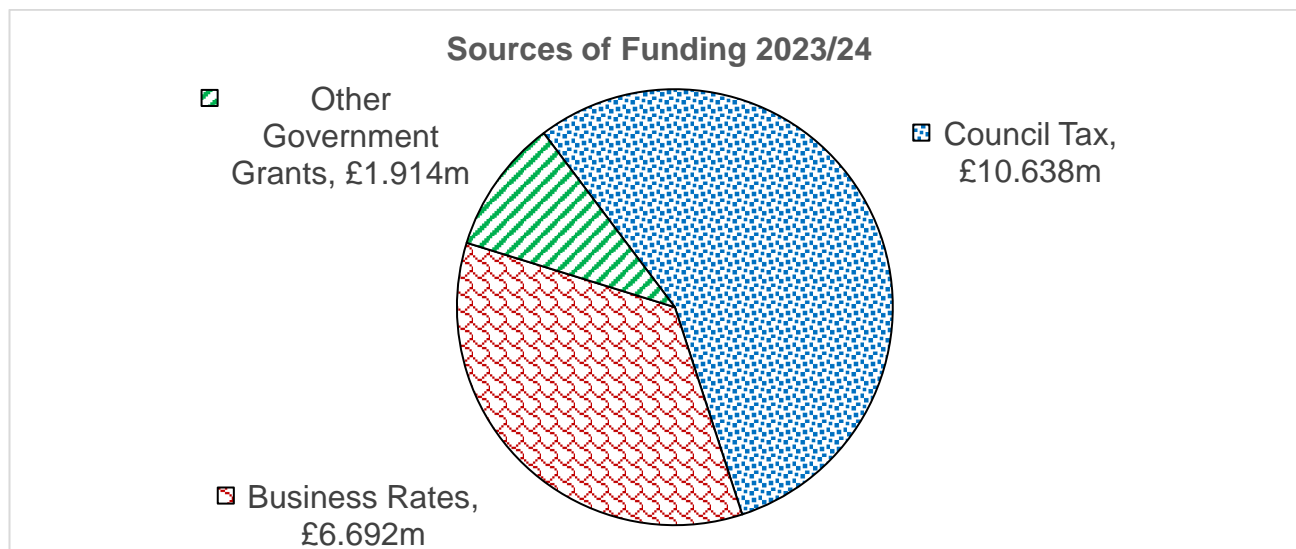


In order to ensure consistency of delivery, the Council Plan is structured to include sub-actions and milestones, as well as performance indicators related to each action. A Lead Officer is assigned to each Council Plan project and performance is reported quarterly to every Policy Committee.

In-Year Financial Performance

The final General Fund revenue budget for 2023/24, including corporate items and reserve transfers, was £18.117m. The final outturn position for the year is £17.528m including net transfers from reserves of £0.412m. Total funding was £19.244m, generating an underspend of £1.716m.

Funding was received in the following amounts:



The detailed outturn position is shown in the following table:

	2023/24 Revised Budget £m	2023/24 Outturn £m	2023/24 Reserve Transfers £m	2023/24 Outturn Variance £m
GENERAL FUND				
Community Services and Licensing	5.030	4.066	0.737	(0.227)
Development Control	0.443	0.734	0.000	0.291
Environment	6.528	6.262	0.273	0.008
Housing General Fund	1.354	0.920	0.396	(0.038)
Strategy and Resources	10.407	8.280	0.898	(1.229)
Support Service Charges to HRA	(2.650)	(2.322)	0.000	0.328
Net Revenue Expenditure	21.111	17.940	2.304	(0.867)
Funding from Govt Grants/Council Tax	(18.117)	(19.244)	0.000	(1.127)
Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(2.994)	(0.412)	(2.304)	0.278
Total General Fund	0.000	(1.716)	0.000	(1.716)

The Council outturn variance can be summarised in the following table:

Service Area	Variance (under)/ overspend £k
Community Services and Licensing	
Housing Benefit subsidy	309
Council Tax collection	(118)
Leisure - grant income	(165)
Capital cost of decarbonisation in leisure centres	178
Development Control Committee	
Development control	291
Environment	
Waste and recycling	184
Garden waste income	(178)
Cross Committee	
Utilities	(492)
Strategy & Resources	
Car park income	174
Investment income	(1,017)
Business Rates income	(1,085)
Support charges to HRA	328
Other variances (net)	(125)
Total	(1,716)

The Council's outturn report giving full details of budget performance across the year will be presented to the Strategy and Resources Committee in July 2024. The full report will be published on the Council's website.

There has been a net increase in General Fund earmarked reserves in the year of £1.304m. This includes allocation of the £1.716m underspend to project and specific risk reserves.

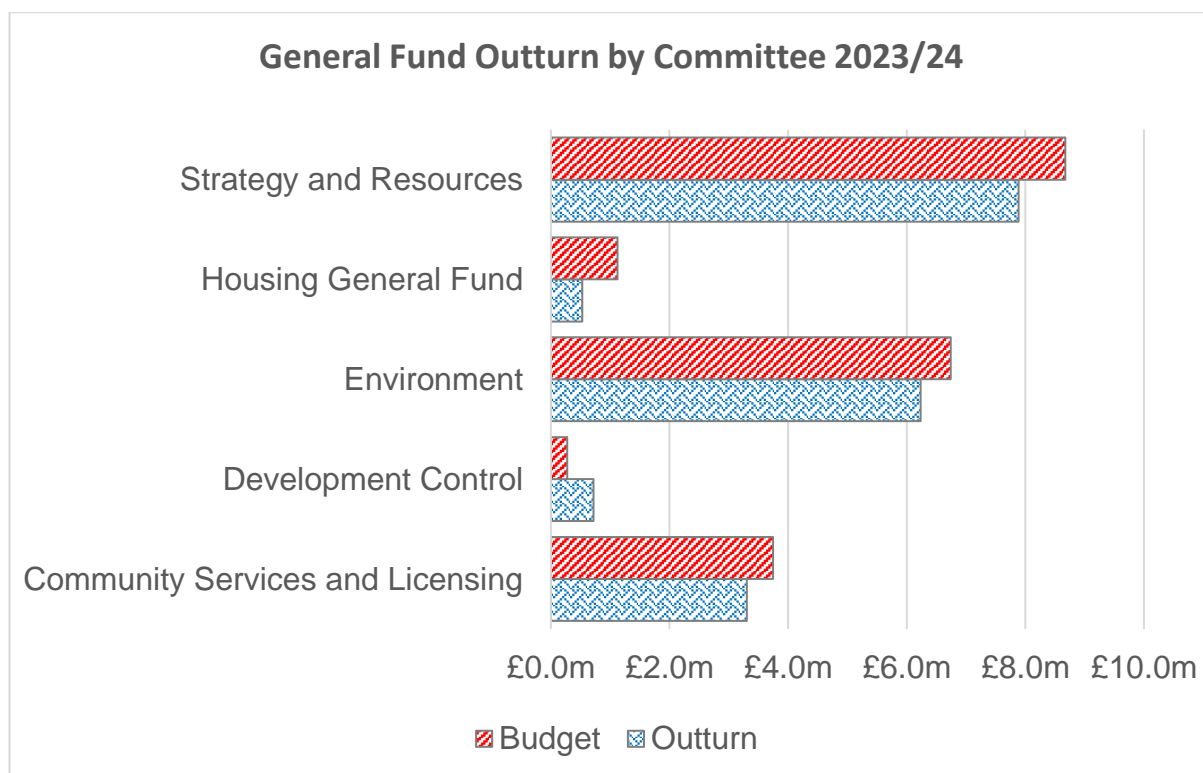
There has been no change in the Council's bottom-line General Fund balance which currently stands at £2.169m. The adequacy of this bottom line position is reviewed each year as part of the Budget-Setting process, and considering the strong earmarked reserve position, this balance has remained stable for many years.

A summary of the General Fund reserve position is shown in the table. Full details of reserve movements are also included in the outturn report.

Earmarked Reserve	Balance 1 April 2023 £k	In year movement £k	Balance 31 March 2024 £k
Business rates pilot	1,080	(126)	954
Business rates safety net	3,633	0	3,633
Capital	3,023	(430)	2,593
Climate change	651	35	686
Collection Fund Smoothing reserve	605	(114)	491
Culture, arts and leisure reserve	545	159	704
General Fund carry forwards	1,246	(117)	1,129
Homelessness prevention	342	(88)	254
Investment risk	820	673	1,493
MTFP equalisation	6,588	259	6,847
Projects	1,344	946	2,290
Transformation	280	(14)	266
Waste management	751	20	771
Other earmarked reserves	1,497	101	1,598
General Fund Balance	2,169	0	2,169
Total General Fund Reserves	24,574	1,304	25,878

Table contains rounding (see Glossary) which can affect the arithmetic accuracy of the figures.

The following chart shows a comparison of budget against actual outturn for each of the Service Committees.



Business Rates Pooling

All of the Gloucestershire Local Authorities operate a Business Rates pool which allows authorities to share in the risks and rewards of the business rates retention system and allows additional growth to be retained in the County. This retained growth is allocated in the following proportions:

- 20% to the Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF).
- 20% of the remaining balance goes to Gloucestershire County Council.
- The remainder is split between District Councils.

The SEDF has historically been administered by the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) and distributed to strategic growth projects around the county. The GEGJC has now disbanded with the last meeting having been held on 25th September 2023. Responsibility for administering the SEDF has now passed to the newly formed Gloucestershire City Region Board which will meet for the first time in June 2024.

The total pool growth retained across the County in 2024/25 was £4.05m of which Stroud District Council received £0.594m, representing a significant source of funding for Council priorities. As a result of the inherent financial risk the pool gain does not form part of base budgets and is instead allocated as part of the outturn process. This protects the base General Fund budget from the inherent risks of pooling and also allows an opportunity to support the overall financial position of the Council at year end. Funding has been allocated in 2024/25 to support the Council Plan and to fund actions arising from a Cultural Strategy which will be considered by Councillors in Summer 2024 to support major Council projects.

The Gloucestershire pool is continuing to operate into the 2024/25 year and similar levels of income are expected. Indeed, further gains from business rates pooling can therefore be expected until such point as an anticipated review of local government finance “resets” business rate growth.

Housing Revenue Account

The Council owns and maintains its own council housing stock and manages 4,991 properties with a balance sheet value of £317m (2022/23 £311m).

In 2023/24 the HRA had an underspend against budget of £1.853m. The main reasons for the variance are:

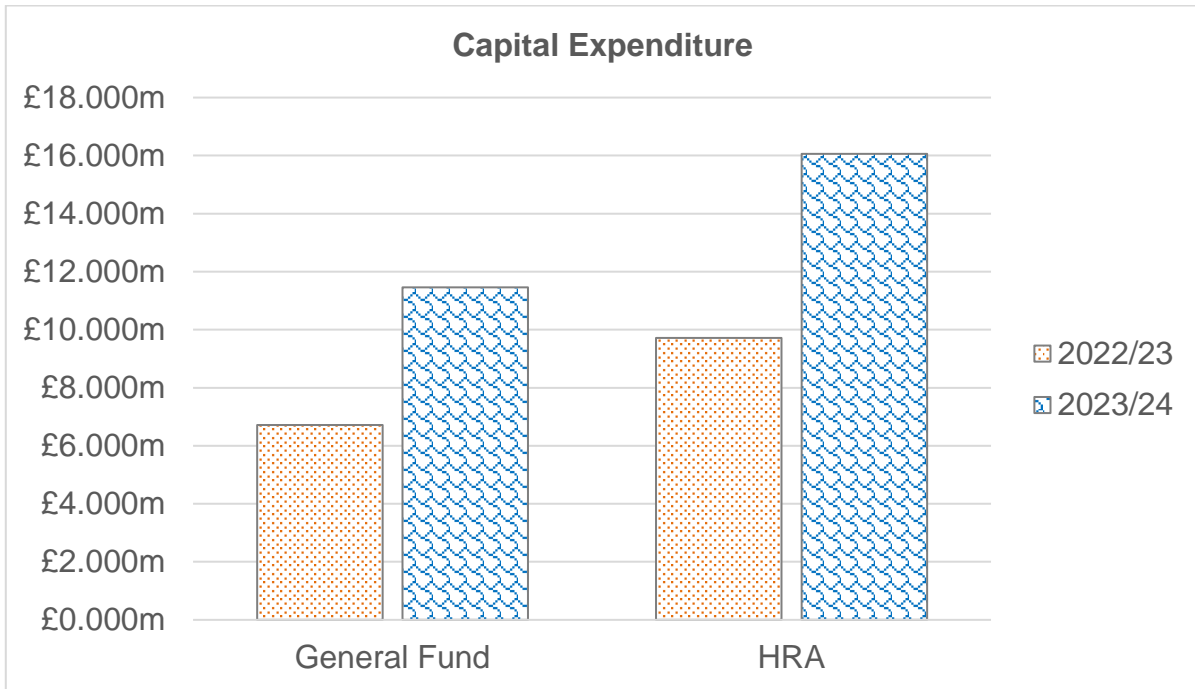
Service Area	Variance (under)/overspend £k
Dwelling rents and other income	109
Provision for non payment of rents	(117)
Vacancy savings	(483)
Welfare pot	(198)
Repairs and maintenance	(117)
Utilities	(370)
Grounds maintenance	118
Investment income	(401)
Support charges to General Fund	(328)
Other variances (net)	(66)
Total	(1,853)

The HRA outturn position for 2023/24 shows a transfer from general reserves of £0.226m, a net transfer to earmarked reserves of £1.079m and a net transfer of £0.706m has been made to the Major Repairs Reserve. The following table shows the position of HRA reserves for 2023/24.

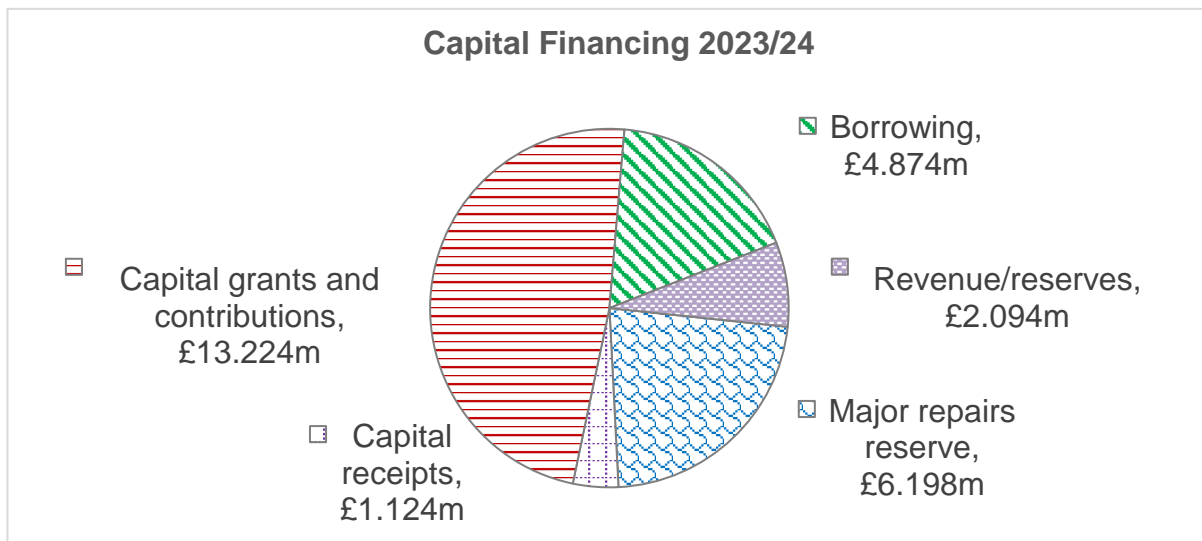
HRA Balances 2023/24	Opening balance £k	Net transfers to/(from) £k	Closing balance £k
General Reserves	4,118	(226)	3,892
Earmarked Reserves	7,436	1,079	8,515
Major Repairs Reserve	3,447	706	4,153
Total balances	15,001	1,559	16,561

Capital Outturn

General Fund capital expenditure for 2023/24 was £11.458m (£6.714m in 2022/23). Major General Fund capital projects included decarbonisation of The Pulse, Stratford Park Leisure Centre and the Museum in the Park (£5.471m), grants for energy and heating in private sector housing (£1.813m), the Canal Phase 1B (Stonehouse to Saul Junction) (£1.674m), Multi Service Contract vehicle purchases (£0.839m), and Disabled Facilities Grants (£0.560m). HRA Capital spend was £16.057m (£9.720m in 2022/23). This includes major works on dwellings (£9.058m) and the purchase of affordable housing (£5.564m).



The Capital Programme is financed through a number of different sources – capital receipts (including Right to Buy council house sales), external grants and contributions, General Fund capital reserve, other earmarked reserves and borrowing.



Pension Fund performance

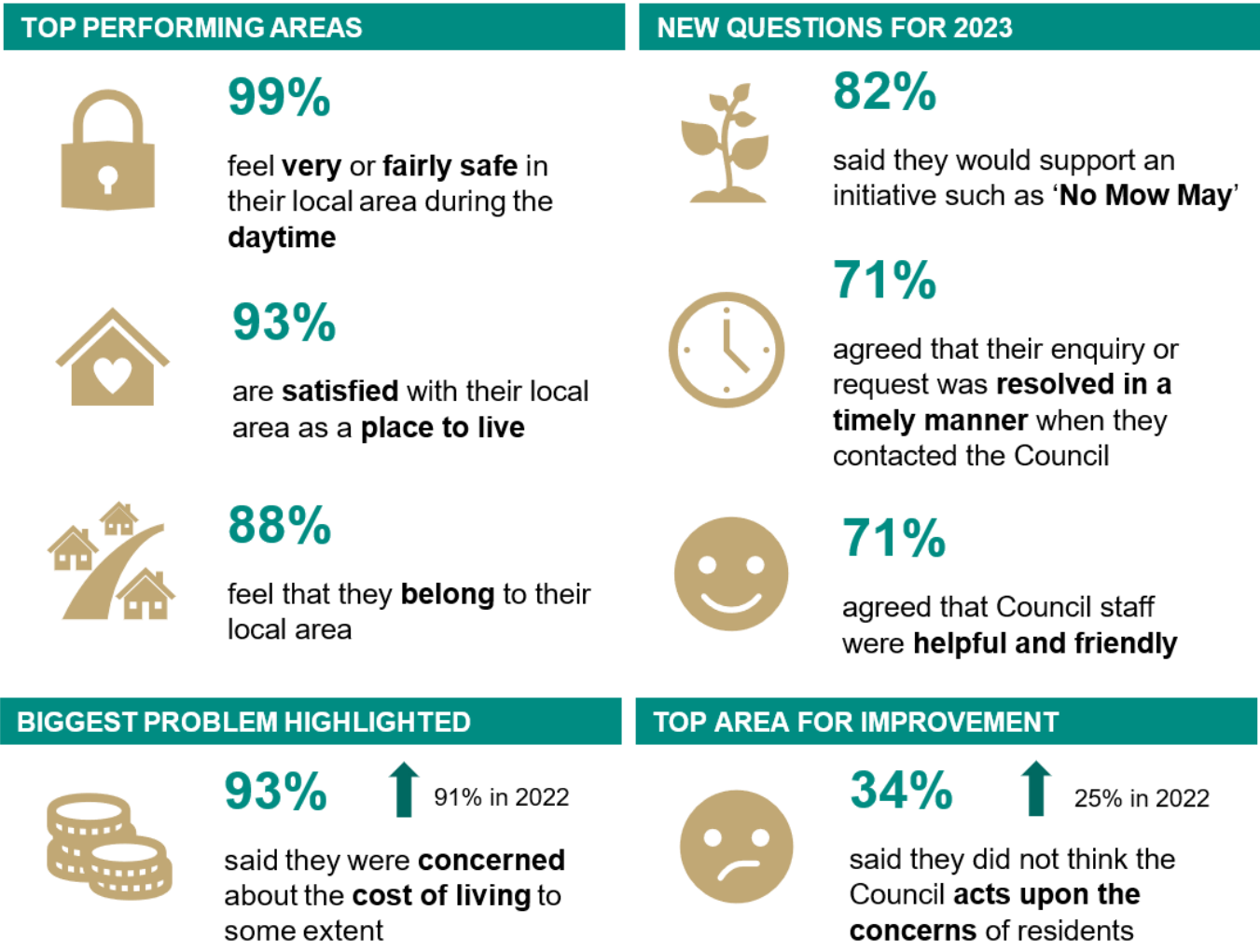
The balance sheet position of the Council’s pension fund surplus has moved by £19.415m to a deficit of £15.576m (£3.839m surplus 2022/23). The majority of this change is a result of changes in financial assessments made by the Pension Fund actuaries. Although it has no direct impact on funds available for the provision of services.

Non-Financial Performance

The Council recognises the vital importance of capturing non-financial performance. It has continued to perform strongly in year and has now embedded a performance management system to effectively record and report on non-financial performance. This system monitors Key Performance Indicators across a whole range of Council services and now includes individual service plans for every Council Service. In addition, the system is used to store the Strategic Risk Register.

The Strategic Risk Register is a key part of the Council’s governance processes and is considered at every meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee. Its primary purpose is to display the major risks which may impact on Council services. The register at the end of the 2023/24 financial year can be found on the Council website at the following [link](#).

The Council again undertook its annual budget survey of residents which continues to show high levels of satisfaction with Council services.



STROUD DISTRICT IS PERFORMING BETTER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

■ Stroud District ■ Local Government Association National Polling Survey June 2023

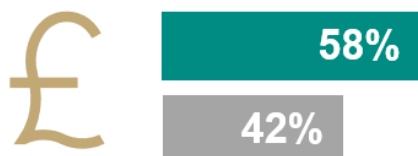
Satisfaction with the local area as a place to live



Satisfaction with the way the Council runs things



Agreement the Council provides value for money



Informed about the services and benefits the Council provides



As in previous years the Council will be producing a summary report based on the detailed findings and identifying specific areas of action and improvement.

Key highlights of Council activity in the year include:

- Agreed to bring the Leisure Centre at Stratford Park back under SDC control
- Completed the purchase of 20 new homes for those fleeing conflict
- Established a Market Towns Vitality Fund to support local high streets
- Agreed funding for the rollout of electric vehicles chargers in Council Car Parks
- Installed air source heat pumps at Stratford Park Leisure Centre, The Museum in the Park and the Pulse Leisure Centre.
- Achieved the award of best Social Housing Retrofit Programme at the Retrofit Academy Awards
- Agreed to introduce a crowdfunding platform to help community projects collect the funding they require

Throughout the year every policy Committee receives performance updates on progress made against key items within the Council Plan. All of these can be found on the webpages for each Committee on the Council website, stroud.gov.uk.

A key element of the Council Plan is the commitment to Carbon Neutrality as part of our 2030 Strategy. At the March 2024 Environment Committee the annual report on progress on this strategy was received. The key headlines were

- 21% Reduction in Scope 1 Emissions compared to 2022
- 3.54 Kilometers of Stream restored
- 24 public EV charge points approved
- 187 new natural flood management interventions
- 99,465 Solar Panels approved through planning permission
- Awarded a score of “B” in 2023’s CDP Cities Assessment

The full report can be found at the following [link](#).

The Council is proud of its record in supporting its workforce with matters relating to workforce wellbeing, and diversity in the workplace. During the year the Council was shortlisted for two awards at the Local Government Chronicle Workforce awards. These were for “Best Wellbeing Innovation” and “Best, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Employer”. The Council was not the ultimate winner but recognition in two categories was regarded as a significant achievement.

The Council also works to support equality, diversity and inclusion in the wider community. The Community Representation Taskforce is a group of eight representatives from across the Stroud district community who were recruited following the 2021 public consultation on Blackboy Clock and Statue in Stroud. Together, the Taskforce have developed an interpretation plaque to be erected outside Blackboy House, both to contextualise Blackboy Clock and to highlight Stroud’s involvement in the Transatlantic slave trade.

The Taskforce have also been working on a video project made up of clips of community groups throughout the district, to showcase that Stroud district is a welcoming and inclusive place that champions equality, diversity and inclusion for all residents, communities, and visitors. The final video will be launched as part of an event and will go on to form part of a resource to demonstrate the importance of a welcoming and inclusive community.

Both the plaque and video project will be delivered by Summer 2024.

The Council’s “Local Plan” is currently at Public Inspection Stage. In the Summer of 2023 there were a number of issues raised by the Inspectors which the Council has endeavoured to respond to, along with local partners. Currently the inspection is a pause stage, agreed by the Inspectors, while the Council works on an agreed Joint Action Plan. The Council and its partners are required to have completed these actions in the Joint Action Plan by December 2024 and this will be a major area of work in the coming months.

The Outlook for the Future

The Council continues to be in a strong financial position, particularly with regard to the high-profile challenges experienced by some local authorities. In the General Fund the reserves position is strong and the outlook for the next two years, as included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, is a balanced budget. The Housing Revenue Account has challenges in the Medium Term to ensure that costs remain affordable but the outturn from 2023/24 showing a net overall increase in Housing Reserves will help to stabilise that position.

With a general election required to take place during the 2024/25 year there is the potential for a significant impact upon the national funding picture for Local Authorities. A reform of local government finance has long been expected and it seems clear that this will be something to be considered by any government winning the next General Election. Stroud District Council is well placed to respond to any changes coming from a good financial base, and with a clear set of political priorities. Indeed any change which resulted in more certainty over funding streams would only further strength the Council's position.

Having refreshed the Council Plan in 2023 there is now an opportunity to go further and undertake a more thorough analysis of the plan during the 2024/25 year. With elections now having taken place, and certainty on the political makeup in the short term having been agreed now is a good opportunity to ensure the Council is working towards the needs of our residents and businesses.

The May 2024 elections returned an almost unprecedented 34 Councillors who are new Councillors for the District. This will inevitably take time and effort across the Council to ensure an effective and smooth transition. In preparation for the election the Council's member development working group put a significant focus on the induction programme for new members. Over the next few months a comprehensive induction programme will aim to give the new Councillors all the support required for them to be effective in their roles. This induction, coupled with the refresh of the Council Plan, will mean that the Council continues to serve residents well and deliver on the overarching priorities.

November 2024 will see the return of Stratford Park Leisure Centre to District Council control after many years of outsourcing. This provides an excellent opportunity to make improvements to the centre and to bring services in line with the successful Council run centre at the Pulse in Dursley. There are of course challenges and risks in such a significant change and as a result there is a Leisure Oversight Board, of Members and Officers, working together on the project. This change of operation will be one of the major changes to Council services in 2024 and all necessary efforts are being made to ensure a successful transition.

Overall Position

With a newly elected cohort of Councillors, a newly refreshed Council Plan due again for another reconsideration and a strong financial base, this is a moment of opportunity for the Council in Stroud District. Over the next 12 months Members and Officers will work together on the effective delivery of Council priorities whilst working to shape additional projects and priorities for the years ahead.

Summary of the Core Financial Statements

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's financial performance and cash flows for the 2023/24 financial year from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 and its position at the financial year-end of 31 March 2024. The Council is in a strong financial position and the accounts have been prepared on an ongoing concern basis.

There are five core financial statements:

Expenditure and Funding Analysis (page 20)

This statement shows how the Council's annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, council tax and business rates) compared with those resources consumed or earned by the Council in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (page 22)

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing the Council's services.

Movement in Reserves Statement (page 23)

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. Usable reserves increased by £5.224m in 2023/24, (2023/24 £64.587m, 2022/23 £59.363m,), with unusable reserves decreasing by £8.181m (2023/24 £239.850m 2022/23 £248.031m).

Balance Sheet (page 25)

This statement shows the assets and liabilities of the Council. The Total Net Worth of the Council decreased by £2.957m in the year (2023/24 £304.437m, 2022/23 £307.394m).

Cash Flow Statement (page 26)

This statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents in the year. There was an decrease in cash and cash equivalents of £10.243m (2023/24 £6.497m, 2022/23 £16.739m).

These are further supported by **supplementary financial statements** for:

Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement (page 89)

This statement shows the economic cost in the year of providing Housing services through the HRA.

Collection Fund Statement (page 95)

This statement shows the Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) income received in the year less precepts and charges to the collection fund. Overall, the NNDR element has moved by £1.561m, from a deficit to a surplus (2023/24 £404m surplus, 2022/23 £1.157m deficit). There is also a decrease in the Council Tax deficit of £0.449m (2023/24 £0.041m deficit, 2022/23 £0.490m deficit).

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 ensure that the Section 151 Officer has responsibility for the administration of those affairs.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Section 151 Officer's responsibilities

The Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Council's 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 Council Accounting in the United Kingdom* (the 'Code').

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

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

The Section 151 officer has also:

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

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

Signed:

Date:



Andrew Cummings
Section 151 Officer

30 May 2024

Core Financial Statements

Core Financial Statements, Notes to the Core Financial Statements and Supplementary Financial Statements may contain roundings (see Glossary) which affects the arithmetic accuracy of the figures.

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

2022/23			2023/24			
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis (Note 7)	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis (Note 7)	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
<i>Figures in £000s</i>						
Expenditure on Council Services						
3,306	-2,337	5,642	Community Services Committee	4,066	-1,985	6,051
717	-788	1,506	Development Control Committee	734	-538	1,272
6,233	-4,579	10,812	Environment Committee	6,262	-4,314	10,576
527	-1,662	2,189	Housing Committee - General Fund	920	-2,979	3,899
-207	-484	277	Housing Committee - Housing Revenue Account	-853	-798	-55
7,888	4,642	3,246	Strategy & Resources Committee	8,283	5,645	2,638
18,464	-5,208	23,672	Net cost of services	19,412	-4,969	24,381
-17,043	3,773	-20,816	Other income and expenditure	-21,570	11,912	-33,482
1,421	-1,435	2,856	Surplus (-) or deficit on Provision of Services	-2,158	6,943	-9,101
-37,548			Opening General Fund and HRA balance	-36,128		
1,421			Surplus or deficit on General Fund and HRA balance in year	-2,158		
-36,128			Closing General Fund and HRA Balance	-38,286		
General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account Balance	Total Balances		General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account Balance	Total Balances
-26,202	-11,347	-37,548	Opening balance	-24,574	-11,554	-36,128
1,628	-207	1,421	Surplus (-) / deficit	-1,305	-853	-2,158
-24,574	-11,554	-36,128	Closing balance	-25,878	-12,407	-38,286

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

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

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2022/23				2023/24			
Gross expenditure	Gross income	Net expenditure		Gross expenditure	Gross income	Net expenditure	
<i>Figures in £000s</i>							
Expenditure on Council Services							
26,000	-20,358	5,642	Community Services Committee	27,307	-21,256	6,051	
2,568	-1,062	1,506	Development Control Committee	2,332	-1,060	1,272	
15,321	-4,509	10,812	Environment Committee	15,468	-4,892	10,576	
3,245	-1,056	2,189	Housing Committee - General Fund	4,785	-886	3,899	
24,655	-24,378	277	Housing Committee - Housing Revenue Account	26,266	-26,321	-55	
5,783	-2,537	3,246	Strategy & Resources Committee	4,213	-1,576	2,638	
77,572	-53,900	23,672	Surplus (-) / Deficit on Operations	80,371	-55,990	24,381	
4,807	-2,116	2,691	Other Operating Expenditure	11	5,160	-767	4,393
6,482	-1,762	4,720	Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	12	3,507	-2,808	699
-	-28,227	-28,227	Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	13	-	-38,574	-38,574
		2,856	Surplus (-) / Deficit on Provision of Services			-9,101	
		-10,824	Surplus (-) / deficit on revaluation of property, plant & equipment assets	26		-11,856	
		-46,096	Actuarial remeasurement gains (-) / losses on pension assets / liabilities	33		23,915	
		-56,920	Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			12,059	
		-54,064	Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			2,958	

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and 'unusable reserves'. The statement shows how the movements in year of the authority'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 (HRA) balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

Movement in Reserves Statement 2023/24

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
<i>Notes</i>	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2023	24,574	11,554	3,447	14,073	5,715	59,363	248,031	307,394
Surplus or (deficit) on provision of services (accounting basis)	7,046	2,055	-	-	-	9,101	-	9,101
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-12,059	-12,059
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	7,046	2,055	-	-	-	9,101	-12,059	-2,958
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations 9	-5,742	-1,201	706	1,902	458	-3,877	3,877	-
Increase / (Decrease) in Year	1,305	853	706	1,902	458	5,224	-8,182	-2,958
Balance at 31 March 2024	25,878	12,407	4,153	15,974	6,173	64,587	239,850	304,437

General Fund and HRA balance analysed over	General Fund £000	HRA £000	Total £000
Amounts earmarked	23,709	8,515	32,224
Amounts uncommitted	2,169	3,892	6,062
Total General Fund and HRA balance as at 31 March 2024	25,878	12,407	38,286

Movement in Reserves Statement 2022/23

		(a) General Fund Balance £000	(b) Housing Revenue Account £000	(c) Major Repairs Reserve £000	(d) Capital Receipts Reserve £000	(e) Capital Grants Unapplied £000	(f) Total Usable Reserves £000	(g) Unusable Reserves £000	(h) Total Authority Reserves £000
Balance at 31 March 2022		26,202	11,347	4,556	10,042	3,139	55,286	198,045	253,331
Surplus or (deficit) on provision of services (accounting basis)		-1,399	-1,457	-	-	-	-2,856	-	-2,856
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure		-	-	-	-	-	-	56,920	56,920
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure		-1,399	-1,457	-	-	-	-2,856	56,920	54,064
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	9	-229	1,664	-1,109	4,030	2,576	6,933	-6,933	-
Increase / (Decrease) in Year		-1,628	207	-1,109	4,030	2,576	4,077	49,987	54,064
Balance at 31 March 2023		24,574	11,554	3,447	14,073	5,715	59,363	248,031	307,394

		General Fund £000	HRA £000	Total £000
General Fund and HRA balance analysed over				
Amounts earmarked	10	22,404	7,436	29,840
Amounts uncommitted		2,169	4,118	6,287
Total General Fund and HRA balance as at 31 March 2023		24,574	11,554	36,128

Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet			
31 March 2023 £000		Notes	31 March 2024 £000
364,893	Property, Plant & Equipment	14	382,120
140	Heritage Assets	15	140
8,957	Long-term Investments	18	8,657
222	Long-term Debtors	18	203
3,839	Other Long-term Assets	33	-
378,051	Long-term Assets		391,119
29,302	Short-term Investments	18	30,155
89	Assets Held for Sale	22	380
16,320	Short-term Debtors	20	18,612
16,739	Cash and Cash Equivalents	21	6,497
62,450	Current Assets		55,644
-19,917	Short-term Creditors	23	-20,064
-241	Grants Receipts in Advance (Revenue)	35	-55
-9,224	Grants Receipts in Advance (Capital)	35	-3,033
-29,382	Current Liabilities		-23,152
-2,125	Long-term Creditors	23	-2,107
-883	Provisions	24	-774
-100,717	Long-term Borrowing	18	-100,717
-	Other Long-Term Liabilities	33	-15,576
-103,724	Long-term Liabilities		-119,174
307,394	Net Assets		304,437
59,363	Usable Reserves	25	64,587
248,031	Unusable Reserves	26	239,850
307,394	Total Reserves		304,437

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. Usable reserves are those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitation on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). Unusable reserves are reserves that the Council may not use to provide services. This category 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'.

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 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.

Cash Flow Statement

31 March 2023		Notes	31 March 2024
£000			£000
2,856	Net surplus (-) or deficit on the provision of services		-9,101
-10,190	Adjust net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	27	-3,956
4,890	Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		3,044
<u>-2,444</u>	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		<u>-10,012</u>
8,366	Investing Activities	28	20,255
2,000	Financing Activities	29	-
7,922	Net increase (-) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		10,243
24,661	Net cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		16,739
<u>16,739</u>	Net cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	21	<u>6,497</u>

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. 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 (England) Regulations 2015, which those regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices under Section 21 of the 2003 Act primarily comprise the *Code of Practice on Local Council Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24* supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

(b) Accruals of Income and Expenditure

Activity is accounted for in the year 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 have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

(c) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

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

(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.

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

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period. There are none to be disclosed in this Statement of Accounts.

(e) Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

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

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

The Council is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement, equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance - Minimum Revenue 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.

(f) Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

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

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

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

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

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the statutory arrangements will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows.

(g) Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

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

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of decisions by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. They are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service segment in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Council is demonstrably committed to the termination of 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 the pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for

pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

(h) Post-employment Benefits

Most employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Gloucestershire County Council. This scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the Gloucestershire 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 projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 4.85% (4.75% in 2022/23) at the IAS19 valuation date (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds – iBoxx AA corporate bond index).
- The assets of the Gloucestershire 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 the following components:

Service Cost comprising:

- Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked.
- Past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from 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 liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the authority – the change during the period in the net defined liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

Re-measurements comprising:

- Return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pension Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pension liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions or changes relating to the Asset Ceiling – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Contributions paid to the Gloucestershire 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 that the General Fund Balance is 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 Pension Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

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

(i) Events After the Balance Sheet Date

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date 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.

(j) 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 are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

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

Financial Assets

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

- Amortised cost.
- Fair value through profit or loss (FVPL).
- Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) [separate accounting policy is required where an authority holds financial instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income].

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

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the

instrument. For most of the financial assets held by the Council, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the CIES is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

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

Expected Credit Loss Model

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

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

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss

Financial assets that are measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arise in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

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

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

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

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

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

(k) Foreign Currency Translation

If the Council entered into a transaction denominated in a foreign currency, the transaction would be converted into sterling at the exchange rate applicable on the date the transaction

was effective. If amounts in foreign currency were outstanding at the year-end, they would be reconverted at the spot exchange rate at 31 March. Resulting gains or losses would be recognised in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

(I) 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.
- The grants or contributions will be received.

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

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

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

Community Infrastructure Levy

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

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

(m) Heritage Assets

Heritage assets are defined as assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

Assets owned by the Council at 31 March 2024 that fit the definition of heritage assets are:

- Nailsworth Fountain
- Stroud from Rodborough Fort, painting c1850 by A N Smith
- The Arch, Paganhill
- Warwick Vase
- Woodchester Mansion

These assets are held at cost. The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment, e.g. where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise as to its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's general policies on impairment – see note (s) in this summary of significant accounting policies. Should a heritage asset be disposed of the proceeds would be accounted for in accordance with the Council's general provisions relating to the disposal of property, plant and equipment. Disposal proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements and are accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts.

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

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

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

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

(o) Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Council is required to consider all its interests (including those in local authorities and similar bodies) and to prepare a full set of Group Financial Statements where they have material interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. The canal phase 1A project required that significant sums of money were managed by the Council to deliver this major infrastructure scheme by the end of 2017, which included £12.7m of grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Council is now working on the implementation of phase 1B, which is a £25m project to link to the national canal network. Many of the land aspects of this project are managed separately by the Stroud Valleys Canal Company. The Council has membership of the Company, but does not have access to benefits or exposure to the risk of a potential loss so there is no group relationship.

Ubico Ltd. was originally formed in 2012 as a company wholly owned by its shareholders. Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Gloucester City Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, West Oxfordshire District Council and Stroud District Council are the current owners. Each of the eight local authorities are equal 12.5% shareholders. The company is responsible for delivering the shareholders' environmental services such as refuse and recycling within their respective council boundaries. Stroud District Council joined in January 2016 and in July 2016 Ubico Ltd. took over delivery of the waste and recycling service from Veolia Ltd. Since Stroud District Council does not exercise control or joint control or significant influence over the company, its accounts have not been consolidated into the group accounts, however full disclosure notes are provided.

(p) Inventories and Long-term Contracts

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

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

(q) Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases when 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 building elements are considered separately for classification. Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

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

Lease payments are apportioned between:

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

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

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

Operating leases

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

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

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

or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal), matched by a lease (long-term debtor) asset in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

- A charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property – applied to write down the lease debtor (together with any premiums received).
- Finance income (credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

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

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

Operating Leases

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

(r) Overheads and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to the Committee that benefits from the supply or service in accordance with the Council's arrangements for accountability and financial performance.

(s) Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

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

The Council's capitalisation de minimis is £20,000, except where the sum of the assets is significant, such as public conveniences and car parks. Additionally, items below the de minimis limit may be capitalised and included on the asset register if, for example, they are deemed portable and attractive.

Assets are componentised if the cost of the component is more than 25% of the cost of the whole asset, and the cost of the component is more than £0.5m. This is subject to the overriding requirement that not componentising would result in a material misstatement of depreciation.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- The purchase price.
- Any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

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

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

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

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

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost.
- Dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH).
- Council offices – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

- Surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant’s perspective.
- All other classes of asset – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Impairment

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

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

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

Depreciation

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the life of the property as estimated by the valuer.
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – straight-line allocation of the value of each class of assets in the Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer.
- Infrastructure – straight-line allocation up to 30 years.

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

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

Disposals and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

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

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

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

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

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

2023/24 is the second, and final, year in which an agreement in place with Government which allows all housing capital receipts to be retained. In previous years, a proportion of capital receipts relating to housing disposals has been payable to the Government.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of the 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.

Capitalisation of Salaries

The Council may capitalise salaries where employees work full-time on a project. In the case of computer software installations, the cost of software consultants' time will be included within the overall cost of a capital scheme.

(t) Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

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

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

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

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

Contingent Liabilities

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

arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

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

Contingent Assets

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

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

(u) Reserves

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

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

(v) Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute

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

(w) Value Added Tax (VAT)

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

2. Accounting Standards Issued, not Adopted

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

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

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

3. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

Other than critical assumptions covered in Note 4, in applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- The Council has applied its judgement that there is no group relationship arising from the Canal works. The Council was successful in October 2020 in being awarded £8.9m funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to deliver a £25m Phase 1B canal restoration project, which will see the Stroudwater Navigation linked to the national canal network. Phase 1A of the canal restoration project from The Ocean in Stonehouse to Bowbridge in Stroud was concluded in 2017 and included £12m of HLF funding. The restored canal is owned and managed by the Stroud Valleys Canal Company (SVCC). A group relationship between the Council and the SVCC does not exist because the Council does not have access to benefits or exposure to risk of a potential loss from the restored canal.
- Stroud District Council has a 12.5% shareholding in a not-for-profit local authority company called Ubico Ltd., which provides environmental services (street cleaning, refuse collection, recycling and grounds maintenance). The fair value of the Council's interest in the company at 31 March 2024 is considered to be nil, since it is a wholly local authority owned not-for-profit 'Teckal' company. The company (registration No. 07824292) is limited by share capital and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The liability in respect of the shares is set out in the Memorandum of Association and is limited to £1 per member of the company, of which there are eight at 31 March 2024. There is no group relationship.

The Council purchases vehicles that are utilised by Ubico Ltd. in the provision of services to the Council. As substantially all the rights of ownership are retained by the Council and the vehicles are used exclusively for the benefit of Stroud District Council,

they have been accounted for as assets within Property, Plant and Equipment. Those vehicles have a net book value of £2.3m.

- There is 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. The Council has been reviewing property assets and transferring them to other local organisations where the opportunity arises.

4. Assumptions made about the Future and other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

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

As well as the items described in Note 3, 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:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Pensions Liability	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, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries, Hymans Robertson LLP, is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.5% increase in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension liability of £10.240m (2022/23 £9.950m). However, the assumptions interact in complex ways. During 2023/24, the Council's actuaries advised that their remeasurements had increased the net pension liability by £23.915m (decrease of £46.096m 2022/23) The overall increase was £22.292m (decrease of £43.399m 2022/23).
PPE	Valuations of property, plant and equipment are carried out in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice.	A 0.5% under or over estimation of the value of PPE equates to £1.915m of the £383m PPE net book value.
Arrears	At 31 March 2024 the Council had a short-term debtor balance of	If collection rates were to deteriorate, an additional bad debt provision would have to be made.

	£20.841m and a bad debt provision of £2.229m or 10.7% of the debt.	See notes 18, 19 and 20 for further details of debt outstanding.
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5. Material Items of Income and Expense

The nature and amount of material items not separately disclosed on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are as follows:

- Increase in net pension fund liabilities of £19.415m (see note 33).
- HRA capital programme which includes new build properties and acquisitions was £16.1m (2022/23 £9.7m). For more detail see note 4 of the HRA financial statements on page 92.

6. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

There are no material events after the Balance Sheet date to disclose.

7. Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2023/24

	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (a)	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (b)	Other Differences (c)	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure on Council Services				
Community Services Committee	-1,237	195	-942	-1,985
Development Control Committee	-	80	-618	-538
Environment Committee	-2,884	128	-1,558	-4,314
Housing Committee - General Fund	-2,666	36	-348	-2,979
Housing Committee - Housing Revenue Account	-3,562	456	2,308	-798
Strategy & Resources Committee	1,658	515	3,472	5,645
Net cost of services	-8,692	1,409	2,314	-4,969
Other income and expenditure from the expenditure and funding analysis	-	210	11,702	11,912
Difference between General Fund Surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-8,692	1,619	14,016	6,943

Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2022/23

	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (a) £000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (b) £000	Other Differences (c) £000	Total Adjustments £000
Expenditure on Council Services				
Community Services Committee	-1,331	-375	-631	-2,337
Development Control Committee	-	-138	-650	-788
Environment Committee	-2,535	-269	-1,774	-4,579
Housing Committee - General Fund	-1,251	-57	-354	-1,662
Housing Committee - Housing Revenue Account	-1,174	-725	1,415	-484
Strategy & Resources Committee	468	-329	4,503	4,642
Net cost of services	-5,824	-1,893	2,509	-5,208
Other income and expenditure from the expenditure and funding analysis	-	-804	4,577	3,773
Difference between General Fund Surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-5,824	-2,697	7,086	-1,435

(a) Adjustments for Capital Purposes

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 authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.

For Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure -- the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

(c) Other Differences

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

For **Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure** the other differences column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.

The charge under **Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure** represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and NDR 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.

8. Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature		
	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Expenditure		
Employee benefits expenses	20,294	18,593
Other services expenses	40,635	42,308
Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	13,272	14,529
Revaluations of property and assets	5,258	5,259
Interest payments	4,594	3,190
Precepts and levies	4,807	5,160
Total Expenditure	88,860	89,038
Income		
Fees, charges and other service income	-33,859	-35,518
Interest and investment income	-1,696	-2,789
Gain (-) or loss on disposal of assets	-2,116	-767
Income from council tax and non-domestic rates	-19,977	-23,082
Grants and contributions	-28,357	-35,983
Total Income	-86,004	-98,139
Surplus (-) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,856	-9,101

9. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

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

Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations 2023/24

2023/24	Usable Reserves					Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
	General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £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>						
Pensions costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	-1,163	-456	-	-	-	1,619
Council tax and NDR (transfers to or from Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	-779	-	-	-	-	779
Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	18	18	-	-	-	-37
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)	6,827	12,660	-	-	-	-19,487
Reversal of Gains/losses on investments	301	-	-	-	-	-301
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	5,205	12,222	-	-	-	-17,427
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources						
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	-13	-3,031	-	3,044	-	-
Administrative costs of non-current asset disposals (funded by a contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	-	18	-	-18	-	-
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain / loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-	2,259	-	-	-	-2,259
Posting of HRA resources from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve	-	-6,904	6,904	-	-	-
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	-1,029	-	-	-	-	1,029
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	-1,042	-7,658	6,904	3,026	-	-1,230
Adjustments to Capital Resources						
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-	-1,124	-	1,124
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-6,198	-	-	6,198
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	-9,249	-4,325	-	-	458	13,116
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	-655	-1,440	-	-	-	2,094
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	-9,904	-5,765	-6,198	-1,124	458	22,533
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	-5,742	-1,201	706	1,902	458	3,877

Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations 2022/23

2022/23	Usable Reserves					Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
	General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplie d £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>						
Pensions costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	1,993	704	-	-	-	-2,697
Council tax and NDR (transfers to or from Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	-2,630	-	-	-	-	2,630
Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	-43	-17	-	-	-	60
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)	6,414	10,322	-	-	-	-16,737
Reversal of Gains/losses on investments	1,793	-	-	-	-	-1,793
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	7,528	11,009	-	-	-	-18,537
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources						
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	-	-4,890	-	4,890	-	-
Administrative costs of non-current asset disposals (funded by a contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	-	33	-	-33	-	-
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	26	2,716	-	-	-	-2,742
Posting of HRA resources from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve	-	-6,615	6,615	-	-	-
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	-1,050	-	-	-	-	1,050
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	-1,024	-8,757	6,615	4,858	-	-1,692
Adjustments to Capital Resources						
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-	-827	-	827
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-7,724	-	-	7,724
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	-5,992	-197	-	-	2,576	3,613
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	-740	-391	-	-	-	1,131
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	-6,733	-588	-7,724	-827	2,576	13,296
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	-229	1,664	-1,109	4,030	2,576	-6,933

10. Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves

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

Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves 2023/24							
	Balance 31 March 2022	Transfers From 2022/23	Transfers To 2022/23	Balance 31 March 2023	Transfers From 2023/24	Transfers To 2023/24	Balance 31 March 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General Fund:							
<i>Project reserves:</i>							
Brexit reserve	53	-53	-	-	-	-	-
Building control shared service	51	-65	-	-14	-61	-	-75
Brimscombe Port Redevelopment	459	-538	78	-	-71	94	23
Business rates pilot	1,353	-274	-	1,080	-126	-	953
Capital	3,552	-529	-	3,023	-430	-	2,594
Climate change	475	-113	289	651	-155	190	686
Recovery	312	-57	-	255	-74	-	181
Culture, arts and leisure reserve	69	-77	553	545	-91	250	704
General Fund carry forwards	716	-566	1,096	1,246	-990	873	1,129
Homelessness prevention	240	-	102	342	-88	-	254
Projects	907	-387	824	1,344	-211	1,157	2,290
Repairs and replacement	570	-60	99	609	-	105	715
Street cleaning funding	17	-	-	17	-	-	17
Transformation	100	-	180	280	-191	177	266
Waste management	911	-180	20	751	-	20	771
<i>Specific Risk Reserves:</i>							
Collection Fund Smoothing reserve	3,235	-2,868	238	605	-114	-	491
Investment risk	310	-	510	820	-	673	1,493
Legal counsel	50	-	-	50	-	-	50
Local Plan Reserve	31	-31	-	-	-	94	94
Neighbourhood planning grant	12	-12	-	0	-	14	15
Opportunity land purchase	250	-	-	250	-	-	250
Planning appeal costs	100	-100	50	50	-	-	50
Redundancy	250	-	-	250	-	-	250
Welfare reform	30	-	-	30	-	-	30
<i>Medium Term Risk Reserves:</i>							
Business rates safety net	3,133	-	500	3,633	-	-	3,633
MTFP equalisation	6,847	-259	-	6,588	-	259	6,847
Total earmarked reserves - General Fund	24,032	-6,167	4,539	22,404	-2,601	3,905	23,709
HRA:							
HRA earmarked reserve	6,787	-1,964	2,613	7,436	-1,157	2,236	8,515
Total earmarked reserves - HRA	6,787	-794	2,613	7,436	-1,157	2,236	8,515
Total earmarked reserves	30,819	-6,961	7,152	29,840	-3,758	6,141	32,224

11. Other Operating Expenditure

Other Operating Expenditure		
2022/23	2023/24	
£000	£000	
4,635	Parish Council Precepts	4,974
171	Levies	187
-2,116	Gains (-) / losses on the disposal of non-current assets	-767
2,691	Total Other Operating Expenditure	4,393

12. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure		
2022/23	2023/24	
£000	£000	
3,507	Interest payable and similar charges	3,474
1,087	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	-284
-1,696	Interest receivable and similar income	-2,789
-66	Clean Energy Cashback	-19
1,793	Financial assets change in fair value	301
94	Bad debt provision	17
4,720	Total Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	699

13. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income		
2022/23	2023/24	
£000	£000	
-14,914	Council tax income	-15,687
-5,063	Non-domestic rates	-7,395
-2,061	Non-ringfenced government grants	-1,917
-6,189	Capital grants and contributions	-13,575
-28,227	Total Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	-38,574

14. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment						
Movements in 2023/24	Council dwellings	Council dwellings under construction	Other land & buildings *	Vehicles, plant furniture & equipment	Infra-structure assets	Total property, plant & equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2023	311,033	2,944	49,623	12,882	228	376,710
Additions	15,145	912	5,544	845	-	22,446
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases / decreases (-) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	5,570	-	2,473	-	-	8,043
Revaluation increases / decreases (-) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	-12,883	-	856	-	-	-12,027
Derecognition - disposals	-850	-	25	-	-	-825
Derecognition - disposals recognised in revaluation reserve	-313	-	-1,032	-	-	-1,345
Transfers	-582	243	69	-	-	-270
At 31 March 2024	317,121	4,097	57,556	13,727	228	392,729
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment						
At 1 April 2023	-	-	-2,695	-8,981	-136	-11,812
Adj to opening balance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge	-6,826	-	-1,405	-1,325	-11	-9,567
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	-	-	3,731	-	-	3,731
Depreciation written out to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	6,826	-	203	-	-	7,029
Transfers	-	-	12	-	-	12
At 31 March 2024	-	-	-153	-10,307	-150	-10,609
Net Book Value						
At 31 March 2024	317,121	4,097	57,404	3,420	78	382,120
At 31 March 2023	311,033	2,944	46,928	3,901	92	364,893

*Other land and buildings includes £54k net book value of Community Assets, and £150k net book value of Surplus Assets.

The table above includes net transfers of £258k to Assets Held for Sale.

Property, Plant and Equipment						
Movements in 2022/23	Council dwellings	Council dwellings under construction	Other land & buildings *	Vehicles, plant furniture & equipment	Infra-structure assets	Total property, plant & equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2022	300,335	6,303	47,155	11,978	228	365,999
Additions	8,150	1,408	2,150	982	-	12,690
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases / decreases (-) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	10,393	-	431	-	-	10,824
Revaluation increases / decreases (-) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	-10,350	-	230	-78	-	-10,198
Derecognition - disposals	-1,768	-	-25	-	-	-1,793
Derecognition - disposals recognised in revaluation reserve	-494	-	-281	-	-	-775
Transfers	4,767	-4,767	-37	-	-	-37
At 31 March 2023	311,033	2,944	49,623	12,882	228	376,710
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment						
At 1 April 2022	-	-	-1,337	-7,503	-125	-8,965
Depreciation charge	-6,592	-	-539	-1,488	-11	-8,630
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-898	-	-	-898
Depreciation written out to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	6,592	-	79	10	-	6,681
At 31 March 2023	-	-	-2,695	-8,981	-136	-11,812
Net Book Value						
At 31 March 2023	311,033	2,944	46,928	3,901	92	364,893
At 31 March 2022	300,335	6,303	45,818	4,475	103	357,028

*Other land and buildings includes £54k net book value of Community Assets, and £376k net book value of Surplus Assets.

The table above includes net transfers of £37k to Assets Held for Sale.

Depreciation

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

- Council Dwellings: 33 years.
- Buildings: 20 to 50 years.
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment: 3 to 15 years.
- Infrastructure: 20 to 30 years.

Capital Commitments

There are two capital contractual commitments greater than £300k as at 31 March 2024, both for the purchase of vehicles to be used by Ubico Ltd on the multi service contract. One is to the value of £2.552m with Dennis Eagle Ltd and another with Isuzu for the value of £0.639m.

Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme to ensure that all Property, Plant and Equipment measured at current value is revalued at least every five years, and those valuations are materially correct. In 2023/24 Vickery Holman have valued property assets including Ebley Mill, The Pulse, Gossington Depot, Stratford Park Leisure Centre and Museum in the Park. The Council's internal valuers have revalued the council houses.

Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Revaluations are as at 31 March 2024.

The basis of the valuations of property assets is shown in the Accounting Policies.

15. Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets				
	Heritage Properties	Painting	Warwick Vase	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or valuation At 31 March 2024	20	80	40	140

There were no transactions involving the purchase, donation, disposal or impairment during the five financial years from 2019/20 to 2023/24.

The Council's painting 'Stroud from Rodborough Fort' and the Warwick Vase are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. Heritage properties are included at historic cost.

Nailsworth Fountain - a drinking fountain erected in 1862 in memory of a local solicitor, William Smith. He worked throughout his life to improve the supply of drinking water in Nailsworth. In 1938 it was moved to a new location in Old Market, and in 1963 moved again a few yards for road widening.

Stroud from near Rodborough Fort - circa 1848 painted by Alfred Newland Smith (1812–1876) depicting an extensive panoramic landscape with two groups of people in the foreground – a genteel group in fashionable clothing, and women carrying wheat sheaves; with the town of Stroud and the wider countryside stretching out beyond, depicting views of a viaduct, Stroud railway station, St. Lawrence's Church, the Great Western Railway, Holy Trinity Church and the Old Workhouse.

The Arch, Paganhill - a memorial to commemorate the abolition of slavery erected in 1834. It was built as a gateway at the end of the drive to Farmhill Park by staunch abolitionist Henry Wyatt, who owned Farmhill Park. It is inscribed 'Erected to commemorate the abolition of slavery in the British Colonies the first of August AD MDCCCXXXIV'.

Warwick Vase - a Grade II listed structure, which up until 2003 sat in the Orangery in Stratford Park. It was vandalised in 2003 and moved to a secure location. The listing description includes 'Urn in Stratford Park. Late c18th, sculpted stone, after antique. Very elaborate.' The vase is a copy of the original Warwick Vase unearthed in Italy around 1780 by the then Lord of Warwick. The piece was copied many times.

Woodchester Mansion - is a Grade I listed house in the Victorian Gothic style. It is absolutely unique because it is unfinished. Work started on the mansion in the mid-1850s. The architect was a young local man called Benjamin Bucknall. It is situated at the western end of Woodchester Park, with the village of Woodchester to the eastern end.

16. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

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

Capital Expenditure and Financing		
	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	117,058	119,147
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment	12,690	22,419
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	3,743	4,961
Sources of Finance		
Capital receipts	-827	-1,124
Government grants and other contributions	-3,612	-13,116
Sums set aside from revenue	-8,810	-6,604
Direct revenue contributions	-45	-1,689
Minimum Revenue Provision	-1,050	-917
Voluntary Revenue Provision	-	-112
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	119,147	122,965
Explanation of movement in year		
Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	2,089	3,818
Increase / decrease(-) in Capital Financing Requirement	2,089	3,818

17. Leases

Council as Lessee

- **Finance Leases**

The Council has no assets acquired by finance lease on its Balance Sheet.

- **Operating Leases**

The Council leases in vehicles for dog wardens, pest control and the property care services and the Museum is leasing two buildings.

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

Future Minimum Lease Payments		
	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Not later than one year	122	122
Later than one year and not later than five years	184	80
Later than five years	85	77
Total Future Minimum Lease Payments	391	279

The expenditure charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to these leases was £122k 2023/24 (£122k 2022/23).

Council as Lessor

- **Finance Leases**
The Council has no finance leases as a lessor.
- **Operating Leases**
The Council provides vehicles to Ubico Ltd. for the delivery of waste collection and recycling services.

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

Authority as Lessor		
	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Not later than one year	-502	-460
Later than one year and not later than five years	-1,428	-1,538
Later than five years	-124	-
Total Authority as Lessor	-2,054	-1,998

The income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to these leases was £502k in 2023/24 (£939k in 2022/23).

18. Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments

The following categories of financial instrument are carried in the Balance Sheet:

Categories of Financial Instruments				
	Long-term		Current	
	31 March 2023	31 March 2024	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Investments				
Financial assets at amortised cost	-	-	29,302	30,155
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	8,957	8,657	-	-
Total Investments	8,957	8,657	29,302	30,155
Debtors				
Financial assets at amortised cost	222	203	5,854	5,312
Assets not defined as financial instruments	-	-	10,466	13,300
Total Debtors	222	203	16,320	18,612
Borrowings				
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	-100,717	-100,717	-	-
Total Borrowings	-100,717	-100,717	-	-
Creditors				
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	-2,125	-2,107	-5,303	-6,391
Liabilities not defined as financial instruments	-	-	-14,614	-13,673
Total Creditors	-2,125	-2,107	-19,917	-20,064

Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

Financial liabilities, financial assets represented by loans and receivables and long-term debtors and creditors are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost.

The 2023/24 Code of Practice sets out the fair value valuation hierarchy that authorities are required to follow, to increase consistency and comparability in fair value measurements and related disclosures. Authorities are required to disclose the methods used and any assumptions made in arriving at fair values. The valuation basis adopted for investments and borrowing uses **Level 2 Inputs** – i.e. inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the financial asset/liability, except for Property Fund and Multi-Asset fund investments which use **Level 1 Inputs** – i.e. unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical shares.

The following valuation basis has been applied:

Valuation of fixed term deposits (maturity investments)

Valuation is made by comparison of the fixed term investment with a comparable investment with the same/similar lender for the remaining period of the deposit.

Valuation of property fund and multi-asset fund investments

Property funds and multi-asset funds prices are quoted in active markets.

Valuation of PWLB loans

For loans from the PWLB the Debt Management Office provides a transparent approach to allow the exit cost of PWLB loans to be calculated for disclosure purposes.

Valuation of non-PWLB loans payable

For non-PWLB loans the PWLB redemption rates provide a reasonable proxy for rates that market participants have used when asked about early redemption costs for market loans.

Inclusion of accrued interest

The purpose of the fair value disclosure is primarily to provide a comparison with the carrying value in the Balance Sheet. Since this will include accrued interest as at the Balance Sheet date, accrued interest is included in the fair value calculation. This figure is calculated up to and including the valuation date.

Discount rates used in NPV calculation

The rates for valuation were obtained from the market on 31 March 2024, using bid prices where applicable.

Assumptions regarding interest calculation do not have a material effect on the fair value of the instrument.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

Fair Values - Liabilities				
	31 March 2023		31 March 2024	
	Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial liabilities	100,717	83,326	100,717	77,192
Long-term creditors	2,125	1,767	2,107	1,752
Short-term creditors	5,303	5,303	6,391	6,391

The fair value of financial liabilities is shown as lower than the carrying amount because the interest rate was higher at the Balance Sheet date than when the fixed rate PWLB loans commenced. The prior year comparison shows that the fair value of financial liabilities was higher than the carrying amount as interest rates were historically low. The fair value of long-term creditors is lower than the carrying amount due to the time value of money.

Fair Values - Receivables

	31 March 2023		31 March 2024	
	Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Loans & receivables	33,039	33,039	25,109	25,109
Long-term debtors	222	185	203	169

Short-term creditors and loans and receivables are carried at cost as this is a fair approximation of their value.

Fair Values - Financial Assets

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
Lothbury Property Fund	3,399	2,988
Hermes Property Fund	1,921	1,799
Royal London Multi-Asset Fund	2,678	2,860
CCLA	963	1,010
TOTAL	8,961	8,657

During 2019/20 the Council conducted a selection process involving a cross-party group of Members for long term financial investments in property and multi-asset funds. A total of £9m was invested. A further £1m was invested in CCLA multi-asset fund during 2020/21. Any change in capital value at year end is taken through the CIES and reversed out to an unusable reserve (see Financial Instrument Adjustment Account Note 18).

Lothbury Property Fund has issued a Material Valuation Uncertainty Clause regarding the April valuation of the fund due to the valuation of student accommodation properties. This is not judged to be material given the Council's share of the fund.

19. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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

- **Credit Risk** – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council.
- **Liquidity Risk** – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.
- **Re-financing Risk** – the possibility that the Council might be requiring to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms.
- **Market Risk** – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of interest rates and stock market movements.

Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets and are structured to implement suitable controls to minimise these risks. The procedures for risk management are set out through a legal framework based on the Local Government Act 2003 and associated regulations. These require the Council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services and investment guidance issued through the Act. Overall, these procedures require the Council to manage risk in the following ways:

- By formally adopting the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice.
- By the adoption of a Treasury Policy Statement and treasury management clauses within financial regulations / standing orders / constitution.
- By approving annually in advance prudential and treasury indicators for the following three years limiting:
 - The Council's overall borrowing.
 - Maximum and minimum exposures to the maturity structure of its borrowing.
 - Maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond a year.
- By approving an investment strategy for the forthcoming year setting out criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with Government guidance.

These are required to be reported and approved before the start of the year to which they relate. These items are reported with the Annual Treasury Management Strategy, which outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the Council's financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is also reported after each year, as well as a mid-year and quarterly updates.

The Annual Treasury Management Strategy which incorporates the prudential indicators was approved by Council on 16 February 2023 and is available on the Council website. The key issues within the strategy were:

- The Authorised Limit for 2023/24 is £149m. This is the maximum limit of external borrowings or other long-term liabilities.
- The Operational Boundary is £144m. This is the expected level of debt and other long-term liabilities during the year.

These policies are implemented by a treasury team, within the Finance section. The Council maintains written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies (Treasury Management Practices – TMPs) covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk, and the investment of surplus cash. These TMPs are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed annually.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, as laid down by Link Asset Services, the Council's treasury management advisers. The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum sum to be invested with a financial institution or group.

The credit criteria in respect of financial assets held by the Council are as detailed below:

- A financial institution must be included as a creditworthy counterparty on Link Asset Services weekly listing.
- There is an individual bank and group limit of £8m. Outside the UK the Council will only make deposits with banks in AA- rated countries. Investments can be for a maximum three-year duration.

Customers for goods and services are assessed, taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors, but formal individual credit limits are not set.

The Council's maximum exposure during 2023/24 to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies was £57m. It cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Experience has shown that, whilst rare, it can happen that such entities can fail to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Council's deposits, but there was no new evidence at 31 March 2024 that this risk was likely to crystallise.

The Council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits.

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk on other financial assets, based on experience of default and uncollectability over the last five financial years, adjusted to reflect current market conditions.

Potential Maximum Exposure to Credit Risk					
	Amount at 31 March 2024 £000	Historical experience of default %	Historical experience adjusted for market conditions at 31 March 2024 %	Estimated maximum exposure to default & uncollectability at 31 March 2024 £000	Estimated maximum exposure to default & uncollectability at 31 March 2023 £000
Bonds	-	-	-	-	-
Customers	18,612	4.5%	8.0%	1,489	1,306
				1,489	1,306

Liquidity Risk

The Council has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is readily available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets and Public Works Loans Board. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to meet its commitments under financial instruments. The Council has eighteen PWLB loans that mature in more than five years.

Maturity - Liabilities

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
Less than one year	19,917	20,064
Between one and two years	-	-
Between two and five years	2,125	2,107
More than five years	100,717	100,717
	122,759	122,888

All trade and other payables are due to be paid in less than one year.

Refinancing Risk

This risk relates to both the maturing of longer-term financial liabilities and longer-term financial assets. The approved treasury indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits placed on investments of greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Council's approved treasury and investment strategies address the main risks and the treasury team addresses the operational risks within the approved parameters. This includes:

- Monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or rescheduling of the existing debt.
- Monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure sufficient liquidity is available for the Council's day-to-day cash flow needs, and the spread of longer-term investments provide stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer-term cash flow needs. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is below.

Maturity Analysis - PWLB

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
Less than one year	-	-
Between one and two years	-	-
Between two and five years	-	-
Between five and ten years	6,000	6,000
More than ten years*	94,717	94,717
Total	100,717	100,717

*PWLB maturities are during the period up until 2066.

Market Risk

This is the risk that the Council will be adversely affected by market movements in the value of its investments.

The Council is protected from this risk through not holding investments with the intention of trading; where tradeable investments are held it is policy to hold them until maturity, or for the medium to long term in the case of property funds and multi-asset funds. This has the effect of nullifying or greatly reducing market risk.

Interest Rate Risk

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

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

Borrowings are not carried at fair value, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, or Other 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 and affect the General Fund Balance. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. During periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate loans will be repaid early to limit exposure to losses. Risk of loss may be ameliorated if a proportion of government grant payable on financing costs moves with prevailing interest rates or the Council's cost of borrowing, and provides compensation for a proportion of any higher costs.

The treasury management team has an active strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the setting of the annual budget and which is used to revise the budget during the year. This allows any adverse changes to be accommodated. The analysis will also advise whether new borrowing taken out is fixed or variable.

According to this assessment strategy, as at 31 March 2024, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be:

1% Interest Higher	
	2023/24 £000
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings liabilities (no impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure)	10,148

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

Price Risk

The Council does not invest in equity shares. If it did, these would be classified as 'available for sale' and all movements in price would impact on gains and losses recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

20. Debtors

Debtors		
	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Trade receivables	5,856	5,312
Prepayments	900	1,104
Other receivables	9,563	12,196
Total Debtors	16,320	18,612

21. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents		
	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Cash held by the Authority	3	2
Bank current accounts	-582	-505
Short-term deposits with banks	17,318	6,999
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	16,739	6,497

22. Assets Held for Sale

Assets Held for Sale		
	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Balance outstanding at 1 April	174	89
Assets newly classified as held for sale:		
Other land and buildings	37	258
Revaluation gains	52	122
Assets declassified as held for sale:		
Assets sold	-174	-89
Balance outstanding at 31 March	89	380

23. Creditors

Creditors				
	Current		Non-Current	
	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Trade payables	6,706	5,634	-	-
Other payables	13,211	14,430	2,125	2,107
Total Creditors	19,917	20,064	2,125	2,107

24. Provisions

Provisions		
	NNDR £000	Total £000
Balance at 31 March 2023	883	883
Additional provisions made in 2023/24	306	306
Amounts used in 2023/24	-415	-415
Unused amounts reversed in 2023/24	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2024	774	774

The NNDR provision is for the estimated cost of National Non-Domestic Rating appeals.

Provisions

	NNDR	Total
	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2022	1,151	1,151
Additional provisions made in 2022/23	883	883
Amounts used in 2022/23	-1,151	-1,151
Unused amounts reversed in 2022/23	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2023	883	883

25. Usable Reserves

Usable Reserves

31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
2,169 General Fund	2,169
22,404 Earmarked General Fund Reserves	23,709
4,118 Housing Revenue Account	3,892
7,436 Earmarked HRA Reserves	8,515
3,447 Major Repairs Reserve	4,153
14,073 Capital Receipts Reserve	15,974
5,715 Capital Grants Unapplied	6,173
59,363 Total Usable Reserves	64,587

26. Unusable Reserves

Unusable Reserves

31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
88,600 Revaluation Reserve	98,179
157,401 Capital Adjustment Account	161,496
-1,039 Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	-1,339
3,838 Pensions Reserve	-18,458
-605 Collection Fund Adjustment Account	174
-164 Accumulating Absences Adjustment Account	-201
248,031 Total Unusable Reserves	239,850

Revaluation Reserve

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

- 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.

Revaluation Reserve	
31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2024 £000
79,501	88,600
Balance at 1 April	
11,836	12,576
Upward revaluation of assets	
-1,013	-719
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets	
10,824	11,856
not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	
-898	-861
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	
-827	-1,417
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	
-1,725	-2,278
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	
88,600	98,179
Balance at 31 March	

Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements, for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or 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 enhancement.

The account contains accumulated gains and losses on investment properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Council. The account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on property, plant and equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

Note 9 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

Capital Adjustment Account

31 March 2023 £000		31 March 2024 £000
160,809	Balance at 1 April	157,401
	<i>Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</i>	
-2,937	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	-9,567
-10,057	Revaluation (losses)/gains on PPE	-4,958
-3,743	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	-4,961
-2,742	Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-2,259
-19,479		-21,746
1,725	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	2,278
-17,753	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	-19,468
	<i>Capital financing applied in the year:</i>	
827	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	1,124
7,724	Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	6,198
3,613	Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	13,116
1,050	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	917
-	Voluntary provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	112
1,131	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	2,094
14,346		23,562
157,401	Balance at 31 March	161,496

Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve

The financial instruments revaluation reserve contains the gains and losses made by the authority 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.

Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve			
31 March 2023		31 March 2024	
£000	£000	£000	£000
	754		-1,039
			Balance at 1 April
-		232	
			Upward revaluation of investments
-1,793		-533	
			Downward revaluation of investments
	-1,793		-301
			Balance at 31 March
	-1,039		-1,339

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 contributions to the pension fund or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall between 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.

Pension Reserve	
31	31
March	March
2023	2024
£000	£000
-39,561 Balance at 1 April	3,838
46,096 Actuarial gains or losses on pensions assets and liabilities	-23,915
-6,603 Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-2,511
3,906 Employers pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	4,130
3,838 Balance at 31 March	-18,458

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

Collection Fund Adjustment Account	
31	31
March	March
2023	2024
£000	£000
-3,234 Balance at 1 April	-605
<i>Amount by which income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements:</i>	
29 Council tax	76
2,601 Non-domestic rates	703
-605 Balance at 31 March	174

Accumulated Absences Account

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

31 March 2023 £000		31 March 2024 £000
-224	Balance at 1 April	-164
224	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	-
-164	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	-37
60	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	-37
-164	Balance at 31 March	-201

27. Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

Cash Flow Statement - Non-Cash Items Included in Surplus (-) / Deficit on Provision of Services

31 March 2023 £000		31 March 2024 £000
-1,813	Depreciation charges	-2,538
-11,256	Impairments and revaluations	-11,987
3,288	Increase (-) / decrease in creditors	-147
61	Increase (-) / decrease in long term creditors	18
2,895	Increase (-) / decrease in grants in advance	6,377
3,664	Increase / decrease (-) in debtors	2,292
-65	Increase / decrease (-) in long-term debtors	-18
268	Increase (-) / decrease in provisions	108
-2,697	Non-cash charges for retirement benefits	4,500
-2,742	Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	-2,259
-1,793	Fair value of long term investments	-301
-10,190	Non-cash items in Net Surplus (-) / Deficit	-3,956

28. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities

31 March 2023 £000		31 March 2024 £000
12,690	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	22,446
184,981	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	101,355
-4,890	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	-3,044
-184,415	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	-100,502
8,366	Net cash flows from investing activities	20,255

29. Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities

31 March 2023 £000		31 March 2024 £000
2,000	Repayments of short- and long-term borrowing	-
2,000	Net cash flows from financing activities	-

30. Members' Allowances

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

Members' Allowances		
	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Allowances	403	409
Expenses	3	2
Total Members' Allowances	406	411

31. Officers' Remuneration

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

Officers' Remuneration				
	Year	Salary, Fees & Allowances	Pension Contribution	Total
		£	£	£
Chief Executive	2023/24	126,414	25,283	151,697
	2022/23	122,139	24,061	146,200
Strategic Director of Resources	2023/24	94,111	18,822	112,933
	2022/23	90,844	17,896	108,740
Strategic Director of Transformation & Change	2023/24	83,563	16,713	100,276
	2022/23	88,848	17,503	106,351
Strategic Director of Place	2023/24	94,111	18,822	112,933
	2022/23	90,881	17,903	108,784
Strategic Director of Communities	2023/24	92,020	16,280	108,300
	2022/23	88,700	16,428	105,128
Corporate Director (Monitoring Officer)	2023/24	92,020	18,404	110,424
	2022/23	38,866	7,657	46,522

The Corporate Director (Monitoring Officer) is a shared post with Cheltenham Borough Council. Stroud District Council, as the employer, incurs the full cost and is reimbursed 50% of the expenditure by Cheltenham Borough Council.

The Strategic Director of Change and Transformation moved back into the Head of Technology role from 1st February 2024.

The Council's other employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer pension contributions) were paid the following amounts:

Remuneration Band	2022/23 Number of employees	2023/24 Number of employees
£50,000 - 54,999	9	2
£55,000 - 59,999	1	11
£60,000 - 64,999	9	7
£65,000 - 69,999	-	1
£70,000 - 74,999	-	-
£75,000 - 79,999	-	-
£80,000 - 84,999	-	1

32. Termination Benefits

The Council terminated the contracts of 3 employees in 2024/25, incurring a liability of £47k (1 employee, £7k in 2022/23).

Termination Benefits									
Exit package cost	Compulsory		Other		Total exit		Total cost of exit		
	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	
0 - 20	-	-	1	2	1	2	7	4	
20 - 40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
40 - 60	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	43	
60 - 80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
80 - 100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
100 - 120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL	-	1	1	2	1	3	7	47	

33. Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

Participation in Pension Scheme

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 be payable until employees retire, the Council has a commitment to make the payments that need to be disclosed at the time the employees earn their future entitlement.

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by Gloucestershire County Council. This was a funded defined benefit final salary scheme until 31 March 2014, and is a defined benefit career average scheme from 1 April 2014. The Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.

Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

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

Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
<i>Cost of Services</i>		
Current service cost	5,516	2,662
Past service costs (including curtailments)	-	133
<i>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure</i>		
Net interest expense	1,087	-284
Total Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	6,603	2,511
Other Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	5,718	-7,979
Actuarial gains and losses on changes in demographic assumptions	-1,036	-718
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	-59,897	-6,724
Asset ceiling adjustment	-	35,593
Other experience	9,119	3,743
Total Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-39,493	26,426
Movement in Reserves Statement		
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	43,399	-22,292
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:		
Employer contributions payable to the scheme	3,906	4,134

Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet		
	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	-117,048	-153,415
Fair value of plan assets	120,887	137,839
Net liability arising from the defined benefit obligation	3,839	-15,576

The present value of unfunded benefits is £617k (£657k 2022/23).

Reconciliation of the Movements in the Fair Value of Scheme Assets

Reconciliation of the Movements in the Fair Value of Scheme Assets		
	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	122,677	120,887
Interest income	3,320	5,819
<i>Remeasurement gain / (loss):</i>		
The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	-5,718	7,979
Contributions from employer	3,906	7,011
Contributions from employees into the scheme	802	865
Benefits paid	-4,100	-4,722
Closing fair value of scheme assets	120,887	137,839

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

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

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Opening balance at 1 April	162,237	117,048
Current service cost	5,516	2,662
Interest cost	4,407	5,535
Contributions from scheme participants	802	865
<i>Remeasurement (gains) and losses:</i>		
Actuarial (gains) / losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	-1,036	-718
Actuarial (gains) / losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	-59,897	-6,724
Other	9,119	3,743
Asset ceiling adjustment	-	35,593
Past service cost - including curtailments	-	133
Benefits paid	-4,100	-4,722
Closing balance at 31 March	117,048	153,415

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Council has in the long run to pay post-employment (retirement) benefits. The total liability of £153.415m is part of the net worth of the Council as recorded in the Balance Sheet, resulting in a negative overall pensions reserve balance of £18.458m.

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

The total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the Council for the year to 31 March 2025 are £2.547m. In 2017/18 and 2023/24, the Council paid lump sum pension deficit payments scheduled for the following two financial years early to benefit from a discounted lump sum amount. In 2020/21 the Council declined the opportunity to pay lump sum deficit payments in advance. Expected contributions for the Discretionary Benefits Scheme in the year to 31 March 2025 are £60k.

Local Government Pension Scheme Assets Comprised

Local Government Pension Scheme Assets Comprised								
Asset Category	31 March 2023				31 March 2024			
	Quoted prices in active markets £000	Quoted prices in not active markets £000	Total £000	% of Total Assets	Quoted prices in active markets £000	Quoted prices in not active markets £000	Total £000	% of Total Assets
Private Equity:								
All	-	2,302	2,302	2%	-	3,299	3,299	2%
Real Estate:								
UK Property	4,241	3,839	8,080	7%	4,983	3,511	8,494	6%
Overseas Property	-	2,113	2,113	2%	-	2,697	2,697	2%
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts:								
Equities	-	77,398	77,398	65%	-	83,189	83,189	60%
Bonds	7,733	13,041	20,774	17%	10,100	14,833	24,933	18%
Hedge Funds	-	-	-	0%	-	-	-	0%
Commodities	-	-	-	0%	-	-	-	0%
Infrastructure	-	4,319	4,319	4%	-	5,765	5,765	4%
Other	-	4,810	4,810	4%	-	5,993	5,993	4%
Cash and Cash Equivalents:								
All	1,158	-	1,158	1%	3,400	-	3,400	2%
Totals	13,132	107,821	120,953	100%	18,483	119,287	137,770	100%

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

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

Assumptions		
	2022/23	2023/24
Mortality assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
Men	21.5	21.4
Women	23.9	23.7
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
Men	22.6	22.4
Women	25.7	25.4
Rate of inflation	2.95%	2.75%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.45%	3.25%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.95%	2.75%
Discount rate	4.75%	4.85%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analysis below is based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume 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.

Change in Assumptions at 31 March 2024

	Estimated % increase to Employer Liability	Estimated monetary amount £000
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	2,048
* 1-year increase in member life expectancy	4%	4,713
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	207
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2%	1,878

*The principal demographic assumption is the longevity assumption (i.e. Member life expectancy). For sensitivity purposes, the actuaries estimate that a one-year increase in life expectancy would approximately increase the Employer 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 predominantly apply at younger or older ages).

Funding Strategy Statement

The Gloucestershire County Council Pension Fund has a Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) prepared in collaboration with the fund's actuary, Hymans Robertson LLP, after consultation with the fund's employers and investment adviser. The latest FSS is effective from March 2023.

An objective of the FSS is an investment strategy that is set for the long-term solvency of the fund, using a prudent long-term view to ensure sufficient funds are available to pay members' benefits as they fall due. Normally a full review of the investment strategy is carried out after each actuarial valuation, and is reviewed annually to ensure it remains appropriate to the fund's liability profile.

A balance needs to be maintained between risk and reward, and this has been considered by the use of Asset Liability Modelling. This is a set of calculation techniques applied by the fund's actuary, to model a range of potential future solvency levels and contribution rates.

Modelling demonstrates that retaining the present investment strategy, coupled with constraining employer contribution rates, meets the need for stability of contributions without jeopardising the Administering Authority's aim of prudent stewardship of the fund.

The next FSS review will be at the time of the next actuarial valuation in 2025.

Impact on the Authority's Cash Flows

An objective of the Administering Authority is to keep employers' contribution rates as constant as possible. Funding levels are set for a three-year period. The results from the latest triennial valuation as at 31 March 2022 were completed in October 2022.

Stroud District Council anticipates employer contributions of £2.547m to the scheme in 2024/25. In addition a lump sum payment covering 2023-24 to 2025-26 of £4.321m paid in advance in April 2023 for a discount, of which one third relates to 2024/25.

34. External Audit Costs

The authority has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the statement of accounts:

External Audit Costs		
	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
External audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	60	149
Additional costs for audit of prior year	58	49
Total External Audit Costs	118	198

35. Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2023/24 and 2022/23:

Grant Income, Contributions and Donations		
	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Total Non Ringfenced Government Grants		
DLUHC - New Homes Bonus Scheme	1,432	893
DLUHC - New Burdens	209	45
DLUHC - Services Grant	170	100
DLUHC - Lower Tier Services Grant	113	-
DLUHC - Funding Guarantee Grant	-	720
DLUHC - Revenue Support Grant	-	159
Government Covid Grants	77	-
Other Grants	61	-
Total Non Ringfenced Government Grants	2,061	1,917
Capital Grants & Contributions:-		
Better Care Fund	255	590
CCG Health Through Warmth	150	86
Warm & Well	199	6
Heritage Lottery Fund	1,034	1,056
Green Homes and Home Upgrade Scheme	640	1,813
Canal	535	-
Environment Agency Stroud Valleys	-	60
Community Infrastructure Levy	3,077	711
BEIS Social Housing Decarbonisation	197	1,820
Salix Decarbonisation Grant	-	4,691
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	-	65
Rural England Prosperity Fund	-	100
Local Authority Housing Fund	-	2,505
Other Capital Grants and Contributions	102	72
Total Capital Grants & Contributions	6,189	13,575

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Grants and Contributions Credited to Services		
DWP Housing Benefit Grant	15,681	16,162
DWP Discretionary Housing Payments / In & Out of Work	58	58
DWP Housing Benefit Administration Grant	277	269
DLUHC Flexible Homelessness Support Grant	250	391
DLUHC Business Rate Collection	160	173
DLUHC Domestic Abuse	46	36
Council Tax Hardship Grant	98	160
Council Tax Rebate (Energy) Scheme (discretionary)	167	-
New Burdens Funding	46	17
Other Government Grants	89	32
Household Support Funding	362	300
GCC Recycling Credits	937	889
Environment Agency Stroud Valleys	19	81
Carbon Neutral 2030 Grant Funding	175	-
Other LA Covid Grants (Including COMF)	641	176
Holiday Activity Fund	46	81
Clinical Commissioning Group Grants	30	-
Homes For Ukraine Funding	429	578
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)	187	270
Contributions towards the Canal Project	-	33
Climate Change Projects	-	45
Healthy Living	-	17
Land Drainage	-	12
Neighbourhood Planning Grant	-	40
Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund	-	165
Rough Sleeping	-	17
Strengthening Local Communities Grant	-	140
Stratford Park Leisure Centre	-	11
Other Grants and Contributions	408	339
Total Grant and Contributions Credited to Services	20,107	20,491
Total Grants and Third Party Contributions	28,357	35,983

The Council has received some grants and contributions that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that may require monies to be returned to the contributing organisation. The balances at year end are as follows:

Grants Receipts in Advance

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Grants Receipts in Advance (Revenue)		
Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)	241	55
Total Grants Receipts in Advance (Revenue)	241	55
 Grants Receipts in Advance (Capital)		
Social Housing Decarbonisation	1,631	491
Home Upgrade Grant	3,773	-
Green Homes LADS	785	-
Brownfield Release Fund	421	421
Better Care Fund	145	277
Local Authority Housing Fund	544	-
S106 Developers Contributions	1,925	1,844
Total Grants Receipts in Advance (Capital)	9,224	3,033

There has been grant funding where the Council has acted as an agent, passporting grants to businesses and individuals in accordance with Government guidelines. These payments and grant income have not been included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but are summarised in the following table for information.

Acting as Agent on behalf of Government

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Grants Received		
Social Housing Decarbonisation Grants to Registered Provider	1,304	260
Council Tax Energy Support to Residents	5,955	91
Other grants	25	11
Total Grants Acting as Agent	7,283	362

36. Related Parties

The Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties. Related parties are bodies or individuals who 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 the majority of its funding in the form of grants, and prescribes the terms of many

transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are set out in note 35.

Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of Members' allowances paid in 2023/24 and 2022/23 is shown in note 30. A number of Members have declared interests in related parties which are mainly local organisations; however, they are not material in nature.

The Register of Members' Interests is on the Council's website, or is open to public inspection at Ebley Mill during office hours, on application.

Officers/Other Public Bodies

Senior Officers have not disclosed any material transactions with related parties and the Council has no material pooled budget arrangements with other public bodies.

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Council

There are no entities controlled or significantly influenced by the Council.

The Council is a Member of the Stroud Valleys Canal Company (SVCC) and is entitled to nominate a Director to the Board of Directors. The company was formed in 2009 to hold land associated with the Canal Restoration Project led by the Council and to maintain and operate the canal post-restoration. All payments to SVCC during 2023/24 relate to the Agreement between the respective parties dated 16 March 2012.

Also, the Council is one of eight equal shareholders of Ubico Ltd. The other owners are Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Gloucester City Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and West Oxfordshire District Council. The company is responsible for delivering the shareholders' environmental services such as refuse and recycling within their respective council boundaries. Stroud District Council joined in January 2016 and in July 2016 Ubico Ltd took over collection of waste and recycling from Veolia Limited. Since Stroud District Council does not exercise control or joint control or significant influence over the company, its accounts have not been consolidated into group accounts; however, full disclosure notes are provided to the Council.

37. Contingent Liabilities

The Council has no contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2024 or 31 March 2023.

38. Contingent Assets

The Council has no contingent assets as at 31 March 2024 or 31 March 2023.

Supplementary Financial Statements

Housing Revenue Account

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

Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Account

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
Income		
-22,450	Dwelling rents	6 -24,111
-191	Non-dwelling rents	8 -157
-1,175	Charges for services and facilities	-1,484
-200	Transfers from General Fund	-220
-362	Contribution towards expenditure	-349
-24,378	Total income	-26,321
Expenditure		
6,554	Repairs and maintenance	6,028
5,286	Supervision and management	4,990
2,410	Special services	2,506
10,326	Depreciation, impairment and revaluation	11 12,660
79	Increased provision for bad or doubtful debt	10 83
24,655	Total expenditure	26,266
277	Net cost of HRA services as included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-55
333	HRA share of corporate and democratic core	376
610	Net cost of HRA services	321
HRA share of operating income and expenditure included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
-2,142	Gain (-) or loss on sale of HRA non-current assets	13 -754
3,379	Interest payable and similar charges	3,379
-456	HRA interest and investment income	-601
262	Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	-74
-197	Capital grants and contributions receivable	-4,325
1,457	Surplus (-) / deficit for the year on HRA services	-2,055

Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement

2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
-4,560 Balance on the HRA at 1 April	-2,948
1,457 Surplus (-) / deficit for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure	-2,055
-1,664 Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under	1,201
-207 Net increase (-) or decrease before transfers to or from reserves	-853
1,819 Transfers to or from reserves	1,079
1,612 Increase (-) or decrease in year on HRA	226
-2,948 Balance on the HRA at 31 March	-2,722

This statement reconciles the outturn on the HRA Income and Expenditure Account 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.

Note to the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account

2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Difference between any other item of income and expenditure determined	
- in accordance with the Code and those determined in accordance with statutory HRA requirements (if any)	-
197 Capital grants and contributions receivable	4,325
2,142 Gain or loss (-) on sale of HRA non-current assets	754
-704 HRA share of contributions to or from the Pensions Reserve	456
391 Capital expenditure funded by the HRA	1,440
6,615 Transfer to / from (-) Major Repairs Reserve	6,904
-10,305 Transfer to / from (-) the Capital Adjustment Account	-12,678
-1,664 Net additional amount required to be credited (-) or debited to the HRA balance for the year	1,201

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

1. Housing Stock

The Council was responsible for managing an average of 4,993 dwellings during the year. 14 dwellings were sold under the right-to-buy legislation, compared to a total of 25 sales in the previous year. There were 20 dwellings added through acquisitions and 7 dwellings were transferred to development sites for future redevelopment. The value of the additions and other disposals is shown as part of the 'Movement in HRA fixed assets' table as 'development sites'. The table below summarises movements in stock during the year.

Movement in Housing Stock												
2022/23						2023/24						
1 April	Right-to-buy sales	Other disposals	Transfers	Additions	31 March	Number by type of dwellings	1 April	Right-to-buy sales	Other disposals	Transfers	Additions	31 March
1,247	-1	-	-	9	1,255	Bungalows	1,255	-1	-	-	-	1,254
1,497	-2	-	-	4	1,499	Flats	1,499	-4	-	-	-	1,495
2,195	-22	-1	-	11	2,183	Houses	2,183	-8	-2	-7	20	2,186
14	-	-	-	-	14	Maisonettes	14	-1	-	-	-	13
45	-	-2	-	-	43	Shared ownership	43	-	-	-	-	43
4,998	-25	-3	-	24	4,994	Total Housing Stock	4,994	-14	-2	-7	20	4,991

The total Balance Sheet value of the land, houses and other property within the HRA, including independent living dwellings, is shown below:

Movement in HRA Fixed Assets							
<i>Figures in £000s</i>	Balance 1 April 23	Additions in year	Disposals	Revaluation	Depreciation and impairment	Transfers	Balance 31 March 24
Operational assets							
Council dwellings	311,033	15,145	-1,163	-487	-6,826	-582	317,121
Community assets	23	-	-	-	-	-	23
Development sites	2,943	912	-	-	-	243	4,097
Other land and buildings	5,596	-	-1,008	-42	-24	-33	4,488
Vehicles Plant and equipment	162	-	-	-	-54	-	108
Non-operational assets							
Asset held for sale	89	-	-89	40	-	60	100
Total Net Fixed Assets	319,845	16,057	-2,259	-490	-6,904	-312	325,937

In 2023/24 the Council Dwelling stock was revalued and decreased in value by £0.487m (revaluation increase of £2.289m, plus depreciation reversal of £6.826m, less capital spend on existing dwellings of £9.602m, net increase of £6.635m in 2022/23). Two pieces of non dwelling land were transferred from the Housing Revenue Account to the General Fund, in line with Council decisions.

2. Vacant Possession Value of Dwellings

The open market vacant possession of dwellings including land within the HRA at 31 March 2024, at March 2024 prices, is £906m (March 2023 £889m). The value of dwellings net of the social element factor (35%) is £317m. The difference of £589m between the vacant possession value and Balance Sheet value of dwellings within the HRA shows the economic cost of providing council housing at less than open market rents.

3. Major Repairs Reserve (MRR)

An analysis of the gross movements on the MRR is shown below. Note that the Council does not operate a housing repairs account.

Major Repairs Reserve	
2022/23 £000	2022/23 £000
-4,556	-3,447
Balance at 1 April	-3,447
-6,615	-6,904
Transferred in	-6,904
7,724	6,198
Financing of Capital expenditure	6,198
-3,447	-4,153
Balance at 31 March	-4,153

4. Capital Expenditure

A summary of total capital expenditure on land, houses and other property within the HRA is shown below:

Funding HRA Capital Expenditure										
Spend 2022/23	Financing 2022/23				Capital schemes <i>Figures in £000s</i>	Spend 2023/24	Financing 2023/24			
	Capital receipts	Capital grants	Borrowing	Revenue funding			Capital receipts	Capital grants	Borrowing	Revenue funding
7,759	-	197	-	7,562	Major Works Programme	8,930	-	1,821	-	7,109
162	-	-	-	162	Investment Technology	-	-	-	-	-
1,408	808	-	600	-	New Build and Development	6,598	1,116	2,505	2,977	-
391	-	-	-	391	Independent Living Modernisation	529	-	-	-	529
9,720	808	197	600	8,115	Total capital expenditure	16,057	1,116	4,326	2,977	7,638

5. Capital Receipts

A summary of total capital receipts from the disposals of houses and other property within the HRA is shown below:

HRA in year Capital Receipts	
2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
4,298	1,910
Council house sales	1,910
-33	-18
Less: Cost of sales	-18
593	1,121
Other receipts	1,121
4,858	3,013
Total capital receipts	3,013
-	-
Less: Pooled receipts paid to Government	-
4,858	3,013
Total usable capital receipts	3,013

6. Rent Income

This is the total dwelling rent collectable for the year after allowance for empty property. At 31 March 2024 there were 125 vacant properties for rent representing 2.5% of the total (on 31 March 2022 the figures were 103 and 2.1%). The average weekly rent at 31 March 2024 was £113.26, an increase of £7.74 or 7.33%, over the previous year. This change is a composite figure that includes stock improvements, addition of new builds, inflation and the effect of sales.

7. Rent Arrears

During the year the amount of rent arrears, which include £348k in respect of former tenants, has decreased by £106k (16%). See also note 10.

Analysis of rent arrears	
2022/23	2023/24
£000	£000
22 Court costs	17
293 Current rent arrears	211
367 Former tenant arrears	348
682 Gross arrears at 31 March	576

8. Non-dwelling Rents

Non-dwelling income is primarily from garage and shop rents.

9. Pensions Accounting

Under IAS 19 accounting rules, services must bear the full cost of pension liabilities. This also applies to HRA services. However, charges to or from the HRA are subject to a statutory determination and no regulation allows this IAS 19 charge to be made, therefore it is necessary to credit the HRA with these additional pension costs so that no further charge falls on the rents.

10. Allowance for Bad Debt

The cumulative allowance for uncollected rent payments and other debts was £0.871m at 31 March 2024 (£0.850m at 31 March 2023).

11. Depreciation, Impairment and Revaluation

The HRA incurs capital charges in respect of depreciation in accordance with the Item 8 Credit and Item 8 Debit (General) Determination for 2023/24.

The depreciation charge is based upon a 33-year life of the operational dwellings, less an allowance for residual land value. The depreciation charge for dwellings is £6.826m (£6,592m in 2022/23). The depreciation charge for other buildings is £0.078m (£0.024m in 2022/23).

The debit of £12.660m to the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement includes net downwards revaluations of properties of £0.490m (net of adjustments for depreciation and component replacement), with £5.266m transferring to the revaluation reserve (upwards net revaluations of £7.069m, with £10.779m transferred from the revaluation reserve in 2022/23).

Depreciation, Impairment and Revaluation

2022/23	2023/24
£000	£000
-7,069 Revaluation per note 1 above	490
<u>10,779</u> Revaluation charged to revaluation reserve	<u>5,266</u>
3,710 Revaluation charged to CIES	5,755
<u>6,616</u> Depreciation	<u>6,904</u>
<u>10,326</u> Balance at 31 March	<u>12,660</u>

12. Capital Expenditure Funded by Revenue Under Statute

There has been no capital expenditure funded by revenue under statute (e.g. grants) attributable to the HRA during the year.

13. Gain (-) / Loss on Sale of HRA Fixed Assets

This includes the costs of the team administering the Right to Buy sales of HRA properties to the tenants (see note 1). The costs are charged against the capital receipt that they generate and are reversed in the Statement of Movement on the HRA Balance.

Collection Fund

2022/23				2023/24			
Business rates £000	Council tax £000	Total £000		notes	Business rates £000	Council tax £000	Total £000
-	-95,396	-95,396	Income				
			Council tax receivable	16	-	-101,123	-101,123
-26,773	-	-26,773	Net rates payable by ratepayers	18	-34,179	-	-34,179
			Expenditure				
			Apportionment of previous year surplus / deficit (-)				
-3,423	-	-3,423	Central Government		-42	-	-42
-2,739	-85	-2,824	Stroud District Council		-34	-86	-120
-685	-376	-1,061	Gloucestershire County Council		-9	-16	-25
-	-72	-72	Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner		-	-20	-20
			Precepts / shares				
13,201	-	13,201	Central Government		18,385	-	18,385
10,561	10,334	20,895	Stroud District Council		14,708	10,658	25,366
2,640	67,403	70,043	Gloucestershire County Council		3,677	70,865	74,542
-	13,007	13,007	Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner		-	13,723	13,723
-	4,636	4,636	Parish and Town Councils		-	4,974	4,974
			Charges to collection fund				
115	-	115	Less: Write-offs / Write-ons (-) of uncollectable amounts		102	-	102
-244	365	121	Less: Increase / decrease (-) in bad debt provision		-139	587	448
-672	-	-672	Less: Increase / decrease (-) in provision for appeals		-271	-	-271
157	-	157	Less: Cost of collection		162	-	162
-	-	-	Interest		-	-	-
-4	-1	-5	Less: Transitional protection payments		-5,395	-	-5,395
1,312	-4	1,308	Less: Disregarded amounts		1,474	-11	1,463
-6,554	-189	-6,743	Surplus (-) / deficit for the year		-1,561	-449	-2,010
7,711	679	8,389	Balance at 1 April		1,157	490	1,646
1,157	490	1,646	Balance at 31 March		-404	41	-364

Notes to the Collection Fund

14. General

The Collection Fund (England) is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement to local authorities, and the government of council tax and non-domestic rates shows the transactions of the billing council in relation to the collection from taxpayers and distribution.

15. Council Tax Base

The Council's tax base represents the number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band (adjusted for dwellings where discounts, premiums and exemptions apply) converted by a prescribed ratio to give an equivalent number of "band D" dwellings. The band D equivalent is adjusted by 1.5% to cover appeals, changes in discounts and bad debts that arise. The tax base for 2023/24 was calculated as follows:

Council Tax Base			
Band	Estimated number of properties after effect of discounts	Ratio	Band D equivalent dwellings
DISR A	21.43	5/9	11.91
A	4,685.27	6/9	3,123.51
B	10,096.96	7/9	7,853.19
C	11,188.66	8/9	9,945.48
D	7,828.13	9/9	7,828.13
E	6,676.09	11/9	8,159.67
F	3,956.32	13/9	5,714.68
G	2,471.77	15/9	4,119.62
H	229.00	18/9	458.00
	<u>47,153.63</u>		<u>47,214.18</u>
	Less: Adjustment for collection rate (1.5%)		<u>-708.21</u>
	Council Tax Base		<u>46,505.95</u>

16. Council Tax Income

The council tax base can be reconciled to the income from council tax as follows:

Income from Council Tax		
	2022/23	2023/24
Total council tax base (<i>see note 15</i>)	46,441.54	46,505.95
Multiplied by average band D tax rate	£2,053.77	£2,154.98
	£000	£000
Total property income	-95,380	-100,219
Add: Transitional relief	1	-
Add: Other adjustments	-17	-904
Income from Council Tax	-95,396	-101,123

17. Council Tax Rates

Council Tax Rates by Precepting Body and Band									
Precepting body	Band								
	disr A	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
District council	127.32	152.78	178.24	203.71	229.17	280.10	331.02	381.95	458.34
County council	846.54	1,015.85	1,185.16	1,354.47	1,523.78	1,862.40	2,201.02	2,539.63	3,047.56
Police authority	163.93	196.72	229.51	262.29	295.08	360.65	426.23	491.80	590.16
Average parish	59.42	71.30	83.18	95.07	106.95	130.72	154.48	178.25	213.90
Total	1,197.21	1,436.65	1,676.10	1,915.54	2,154.98	2,633.86	3,112.75	3,591.63	4,309.96

(Note: band 'disr A' is for band A properties that receive relief)

18. Income from Business Ratepayers

The Council collects National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) for its area based on local rateable values provided by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), multiplied by a uniform business rate set nationally by Central Government.

Local authorities retain a proportion of the total collectable rates due. In 2023/24, Stroud's local share is 40% with the remainder due to Central Government (50%) and Gloucestershire County Council (10%).

The net business rates for 2023/24 were estimated before the start of the year at £36.769m (£14.708m to Stroud, £3.677m to Gloucestershire County Council and £18.385m to Central Government). In addition, a share of the estimated collection fund deficit from 2022/23 of £0.085m has been charged to the collection fund and distributed according to the relevant shares. Stroud's share of the estimated deficit paid was £0.034m.

Net Rates Payable by Ratepayers

	£000	£000
	2022/23	2023/24
Gross rates payable by ratepayers	38,220	51,123
<i>Less:</i>		
Transitional relief	-4	-5,394
Mandatory reliefs	-7,165	-6,003
Unoccupied property relief	-1,244	-1,915
Discretionary reliefs (unfunded)	-174	-133
Discretionary reliefs (funded through s31 grant)	-2,860	-3,499
Total cost of reliefs	-11,447	-16,944
 Net Rates Payable by Ratepayers	26,773	34,179

Net rates payable is then adjusted for estimates of uncollectable debts, appeals provisions and any sums directly allocated to authorities to give a total non-domestic rating income in 2023/24 of £34.179m (£26.773m in 2022/23).

For 2023/24, the total non-domestic rateable value at the year-end is £103.197m (£83.061m in 2022/23). The national multipliers for 2023/24 were 49.9p for qualifying Small Businesses, and the standard multiplier being 51.2p for all other businesses (49.9p and 51.2p respectively in 2022/23).

19. Business Rate Net Share

The income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for business rates is £7.394m (2022/23 £5.062m). This comprises as follows:

	£000	£000
	2022/23	2023/24
SDC local share	10,560	14,708
<i>Add:</i> Share actual prior year deficit / surplus (-)	3,085	463
<i>Less:</i> Share of estimated prior year deficit (-) / surplus	-2,744	-34
<i>Less:</i> Share of current year deficit (-) / surplus	-463	162
	10,438	15,299
<i>Less:</i> Tariff payment to Government Levy	-7,978	-10,259
	-1,278	-2,469
<i>Add:</i> Section 31 grant	3,122	3,829
Renewable energy schemes	319	381
 Net income from business rates	4,623	6,781
<i>Add:</i> Gloucestershire BR pool surplus / deficit (-)	439	613
Net income from business rates	5,062	7,394

20. Apportionment of Collection Fund Balances

The year-end balances on the Collection Fund are apportioned between the major preceptors and will be distributed in future years. The balances at the end of 2023/24 are as follows:

Share of Collection Fund		
	£000	£000
	Council tax	Business rates
Stroud District Council	-6	162
Gloucestershire County Council	-29	40
Gloucestershire Police	-6	-
Central Government	-	202
Total surplus / deficit (-)	-41	404

With a new Non-Domestic rating list and effects of Covid-19 having reduced, Stroud District Council now has an overall Collection Fund surplus figure of £0.364m (£0.545m deficit 2022/23).

21. Council tax and Business Rate Provision for Bad Debts

A Council Tax provision was made during 2023/24 amounting to £587k (£365k 2022/23). This was calculated using CIPFA Guidelines. The total amount of the provision at 31 March 2024 is £1.371m and represents 24% of the £5.771m debt outstanding (£1.065m, 19% and £5.506m at 31 March 2023).

The Business Rate provision for bad debts is £0.865m and represents 32% of the £2.705m outstanding amount (£1.004m, 37% and £2.741m at 31 March 2023).

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Keep free for opinion

Keep free for opinion

Keep free for opinion

Keep free for opinion

Glossary

The following are expressions and terms used in these accounts that are not explained elsewhere. Words referred to in *italics* are contained in the glossary.

Accounting Policies	The specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by an entity in preparing and presenting financial statements.
Actual	Financial transactions that have occurred in the year.
Actuary	Person professionally trained in the technical aspects of pensions, insurance and related fields. The actuary estimates how much money must be contributed to an insurance or pension fund in order to provide future benefits.
Appropriation	Transfer to or from a <i>revenue</i> or capital reserve.
Asset Ceiling	Under IFRIC 14 actuaries may calculate an asset ceiling, which limits the amount of the net pension asset that can be recognised to the lower of (1) the amount of the net pension asset or (2) the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds or reductions in future contributions to the plan.
Balances	The amount remaining at the end of the year after income and expenditure has occurred. May refer to the amount available to meet expenditure in future years.
Budget	A statement defining the Council's policy over a specified period in terms of finance.
Business Rates Retention (BRR)	A change in the administration of business rates funding whereby a greater proportion of business rates income may be retained locally.
Capital Charges	Where a service owns a fixed asset to provide those services [operational assets] or holds an asset for future development or investment [non-operational assets] it bears a cost of its use. This represents depreciation (where appropriate). Maintenance of the asset is a <i>revenue</i> cost.
Capital Expenditure	Spending on assets that have a long-term use such as purchase or improvement of land, buildings and equipment. Where the asset is not owned by the Council that expenditure is <i>revenue expenditure funded by capital under statute</i> .
Capital Receipts	Income from the sale of capital assets such as land and council houses. Capital receipts can only be used (subject to certain legal exceptions) to finance new <i>capital expenditure</i> .
Change in Accounting Estimate	Is an adjustment of the carrying amount of an asset or a liability or the amount of the periodic consumption of an asset that results from the assessment of the present status of, and expected future benefits and obligations associated with, assets and liabilities. Changes in accounting estimates result from new information or new developments and, accordingly, are not correction of errors.

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)	CIPFA is the professional body of accountants and auditors working in local government and public services. Membership of the Institute is by way of examination and entitles members to use the letters CPFA (Chartered Public Finance Accountant) after their names. The Institute provides financial and statistical information services and advises central government and other bodies on local government and public finance matters. It also publishes accounting requirements and accounting standards, including those relating to the production of statement of accounts.
Collection Fund	Stroud District Council collects council tax and business rates on behalf of a number of public bodies – Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner and town and parish councils. Also, the Council is lead authority of the Gloucestershire Business Rates Pool. The Collection Fund account is separate to the Council's normal funds, belonging collectively to these bodies.
Corporate and Democratic Core (CDC)	Comprises two divisions of service: democratic representation and management (DRM) and corporate management (CM). If anything does not fall within the definitions given for either DRM or CM, then it cannot be within CDC. DRM concerns corporate policy-making and all other member-based activities. CM concerns those activities and costs that relate to the general running of the Council. These provide the infrastructure that allows services to be provided, whether by the Council or not, and the information required for public accountability. Activities relating to the provision of services, even indirectly, are overheads on those services, not CM.
Curtailment	A curtailment for a defined benefit pension scheme is an event that reduces the expected years of future service of present employees or reduces for a number of employees the accrual of the defined benefit for some or all of their future service. Curtailments include: Termination of employees' services earlier than expected, for example as a result of discontinuing a segment of business. Termination or amendment of the terms of a defined benefit scheme so that some or all future service by current employees will no longer qualify for benefits or will only qualify for reduced benefits.
Depreciation	Charges reflecting the decline in the value (not cost) of assets as a result of their usage or ageing.
Estimate	Often used instead of the word <i>budget</i> , and is a forecast of income and expenditure for the year.
Forecast Gloucestershire Business Rates Pool (GBRP)	An estimate of income and expenditure in a financial year. Set up to maximise business rates income retained within the county. Currently, Gloucestershire County, Cheltenham Borough, Cotswold District, Forest of Dean District, Gloucester City, Tewkesbury Borough and Stroud District councils.

General Fund	The account that records and finances Council <i>revenue</i> expenditure, other than <i>HRA</i> .
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	A separate statutory account dealing with the <i>revenue</i> income and expenditure arising from the provision of Council-owned and managed dwellings.
IAS 19	International Accounting Standard 19 <i>Employee Benefits</i> is the accounting requirement as regards pensions that local authorities must fully recognise in the publication of their statement of accounts.
Intangible Asset	Expenditure on assets that gives access to a future economic benefit that is controlled by the Council such as software licences.
Impairment	Values of individual assets and categories of assets that are reviewed for evidence of reductions in value.
Investment Assets	Interest in land and/or buildings which is held for its investment potential, any rental being negotiated at arm's length.
Material	Omissions or misstatements of items are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the decisions or assessment of users made on the basis of the financial statements. Materiality depends on the nature or size of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances. The nature or size of the item, or combination of both, could be the determining factor.
Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)	The Council's rolling five-year estimate of all effects on the <i>General Fund</i> , including inflation, government grants, service changes, base rate changes and the <i>tax base</i> .
Net Cost	The cost of continuing operations after deducting specific grants and income from fees and charges.
National Non-domestic Rates 1 (NNDR1)	An annual estimate of business rate income submitted to government by a billing authority.
NNDR3	An annual declaration of actual business rate income submitted to government by a billing authority.
Non-distributed Costs	Elements that are excluded from recharge to the total cost of a service but limited to: past service costs, settlement costs, curtailments, unused share of IT facilities and cost of shares of other long-term unused but unrealisable assets.
Overspend	Where <i>actual</i> expenditure is more than the <i>budget</i> .
Precept	A levy made by the Police and Crime Commissioner, county council, district council or parish/town councils on the <i>Collection Fund</i> to provide the required income from council taxpayers and business ratepayers on their behalf.
Prospective Application	Of a change in accounting policy and of recognising the effect of a change in an accounting estimate, respectively, are: Applying the new accounting policy to transactions, other events and conditions occurring after the date at which the policy is changed, and

	Recognising the effect of change in the accounting estimate in the current and future periods affected by the change.
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	An institution that borrows money on behalf of the government and lends it to public bodies that meet its borrowing criteria.
Retrospective Application	Is applying a new accounting policy to transactions, other events and conditions as if that policy had always been applied.
Retrospective Restatement	Is correcting the recognition, measurement and disclosure of amounts of elements of financial statements as if a prior period error had never occurred.
Revenue Expenditure Funded by Capital Under Statute	Expenditure which does not result in, or remain matched with, assets controlled by the Council, such as housing improvement grants. They do not appear on the Council's Balance Sheet.
Revenue	This word is used in two different contexts: 1) sources of income, and 2) expenditure that is not of a <i>capital</i> nature such as general running costs including salaries and capital financing costs.
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	A grant paid by or to central government to or from local authorities to support general <i>revenue</i> expenditure and not for specific services.
Right-to-Buy (RTB)	Legislation allows tenants of local council dwellings to buy their property, at a discount, after a qualifying period as local council tenants. The net income from the sale is a <i>capital receipt</i> .
Rounding	Figures in the Statement of Accounts are generally presented in thousands and are rounded using the convention 2.5 = 3 and 2.4 = 2. Applied with consistency this can lead to obvious and simple arithmetic errors, for example 2.4 + 2.4 = 4.8 becomes 2 + 2 = 5. Where possible the arithmetic integrity of the figures is maintained by making simple adjustments. Sometimes, however, the interrelation of figures within the Statement of Accounts does not permit simple adjustment. In this Statement of Accounts the following sentence is appended where a table contains figures that do not strictly add up, 'Table contains rounding (see Glossary) which can affect the arithmetic accuracy of the figures'.
Settlement	An irrevocable action that relieves the employer (or defined benefit scheme) of the primary responsibility for the pension obligation and eliminates risks relating to the obligation and the assets used to effect the settlement. Settlements include: A lump-sum cash payment to scheme members in exchange for their rights to receive specified pension benefits, The purchase of an irrevocable annuity contract sufficient to cover vested benefits, and The transfer of scheme assets and liabilities relating to a group of employees leaving the scheme.
Tax Base	Used to measure the taxable value of properties in a council's area based upon numbers of properties in each tax band.
Underspend	Where <i>actual</i> expenditure is less than the <i>budget</i> .

Feedback form – your views

We would like to know what you think about this Statement of Accounts in order to make future statements more usable for readers. They are made available on the Council’s www.stroud.gov.uk

Please note that the majority of information in the Accounts is prescribed by regulations that the Council is obliged to follow.

Please take a few minutes to answer the questions below, cut along the dotted line, and send the form to:

Financial Services, Stroud District Council, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud GL5 4UB
Alternatively, comments can be made to:

Andrew Cummings, Strategic Director of Resources
Tel: 01453 754115 Email: finance@stroud.gov.uk

You can give your name and address if you wish.

Do you think the Statement of Accounts is easy to read? Yes No

Do you think it is informative? Yes No

How could we improve the Statement of Accounts?

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Do you have any further comments on the services provided by Stroud District Council or the information in these Accounts?

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Your name

Your address.....
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Telephone..... Email.....

Thank you