

Statement of AccountsMedway Council | 2023/24



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The Statement of Accounts for Medway Council have been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and primarily, the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 ("the Code") issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as adopted for the UK public sector under the oversight of the Financial Reporting Advisory Body (FRAB).



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Narrative Report

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Introduction

Chief Operating Officer and Section 151 Officer, Phil Watts

I am proud to present Medway Council's annual Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024. This Statement provides information so that members of the public, including electors and residents, Council Members, partners and other interested parties can:

- understand the overarching financial position of the Council;
- have confidence that the public money with which the Council has been entrusted has been used and accounted for in an appropriate manner;
- be assured that the financial position of the Council is sound and secure.

The accompanying Narrative Report is designed to provide context and enable interested parties to understand Medway the place, how the Council operates and its strategic direction, how we are performing and how we work to ensure the economical, efficient and effective use of the resources available. It also provides explanations of the core financial statements, their purpose and the relationship between them.

The Statement has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2023/24.

Alongside many other local authorities, particularly those with upper tier responsibilities, 2023/24 brought exceptional financial challenges and local government finance has been raised to the top of the agenda across the sector. In Medway we continued to experience significant and growing pressures across Adults Social Care, Children's Social Care and the cost of SEND transport in Education during the 2023/24 year. These outstripped the additional funding available from government and that available to the Council from local taxation, resulting in an outturn position that was overspent by £6.706million, detailed in the Outturn report being presented to the Cabinet on 11 June 2024.

In the Autumn of 2023, we commissioned the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to conduct a Resilience Review to help identify opportunities to reduce costs, increase income and improve service delivery. CIPFA's report concluded that 'Medway is in a grave situation in relation to its financial sustainability', however, it did not identify any governance or financial failures. The report stated that Medway Council's room for manoeuvre is severely limited and it would not be possible to set out a balanced budget next year without some form of government intervention/support. Based on this recommendation, the council wrote to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request Exceptional Financial Support. The Secretary of State confirmed that he is 'minded to' approve the Council's request for a capitalisation direction, and on this basis the Council was able to set a balanced budget (including a capitalisation direction of £14.727million) for 2024/25. The Council is now working to deliver its Financial Improvement and Transformation Plan in order to return to a sustainable financial position over the medium term.

Organisational Overview, External Environment and Governance

About the Council

Medway Council is a unitary authority, providing all local government services for more than a quarter of a million people. We look after frontline services such as education, social care, housing, planning, rubbish collection, events and festivals alongside the work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure services in Medway run smoothly and are cost effective.

Governance

During 2023/24 the community was represented by 59 elected Members, working on behalf of the 24 wards throughout Medway. The leadership of the Council was provided by the Labour and Co-operative Group, with the political composition as follows as at 31 March 2024:

Labour and Co-operative Group: 31

Conservative Group: 21Independent Group: 3

Independent member: 4

The Council appointed Councillor Vince Maple as Leader for a four-year term at the Annual Council meeting on 24 May 2023. The Council has adopted the Leader and Cabinet model as its political management structure. The Leader appointed Councillor Teresa Murray as Deputy Leader and eight other Members to form a Cabinet.

Decision Making

The Council's decision making arrangements are set out within the Constitution. The Cabinet is responsible for implementing the Council's budget and policies as well as forming partnerships with other key organisations. The Full Council is responsible for setting the

budget, considering recommendations from the Cabinet and making some decisions such as changes to the constitution. Other decisions, such as those about planning applications, are made by Committees. The Leader and Cabinet are held to account by Overview and Scrutiny Committees which are made up of councillors from all the political groups on the Council. The Mayor chairs Full Council meetings and has a traditional ceremonial role.

Chief Officer Structure

Councillors are supported by the Corporate Management Team (CMT), which is headed by the Council's Chief Executive, Richard Hicks. CMT are responsible for setting and monitoring overall direction and ensuring high performance in the delivery of Council services. Including the Chief Executive, CMT is made up of fourteen members;

- Chief Executive
- Director of People and Deputy Chief
 Executive Children and Adults Services,
- Director of Public Health.
- Assistant Director Children's Services,
- Assistant Director Adult Services,
- Assistant Director Schools and SEND,
- Director of Place,
- Deputy Director Front Line Services,
- Assistant Director Regeneration,
- Assistant Director Culture and Community,
- Assistant Director, Legal and Governance,
- Chief Operating Officer
- Chief Organisational Culture Officer, and
- Head of Communications and Marketing.

The Monitoring Officer is responsible for ensuring council decisions and activities comply with laws and regulatory frameworks, and reports on this through the Annual Governance Statement. Codes of conduct are in place for Councillors and Officers that define the high ethical values and standards of

behaviour expected from elected members and officers, to make sure that public business is conducted with fairness and integrity.

Our Council Strategy

The Council's Strategy was refreshed for 2023/24 ahead of the development of the new One Medway Council Plan with the new administration following the elections in May 2023. For 2023/24 the Strategy set out our three key priorities to which our available resources are concentrated:

- People supporting residents to release their potential;
- Place Medway: A place to be proud of; and
- Growth Maximising regeneration and economic growth – growth for all.

People

We want to ensure healthy and active communities, by supporting all of our residents, especially young people, to realise their potential through the provision of services and initiatives that will help Medway become an even healthier and safer place to live.

Our work to support resilient families is centred around improving everyone's health and reducing inequalities, developing and improving Children's Services and continuing to strengthen our Early Help offer will support families to give their children the best start in life.

To ensure all children achieve their potential in schools, we are working to raise aspiration and ambition through raising standards in education settings, improving the percentage of children in settings that are good or outstanding and engaging with young people. Implementing the actions of the School Effectiveness Strategy will improve the quality of leadership, governance and teaching and help all children to achieve their potential.

We want to ensure older and disabled people live independently in their homes for as long as possible. We will support the people of Medway to live full, active lives; to live independently for as long as possible, and to play a full part in their local communities. We will continue to strengthen our arrangements to safeguard vulnerable adults.

Organisational Overview, External Environment and Governance (continued)

Place

We want Medway to be a place that residents and businesses are proud of. Maintaining a clean and green environment, enabling residents, visitors and businesses to move around Medway easily by tackling congestion hotspots will enhance the public realm and street scene.

We want to put Medway on the map. Built around our culture, tourism and regeneration strategies. By building on what makes Medway unique - the river, our heritage and sporting legacy - Medway on the Map promotes Medway as a great place to live, work, learn and visit.

Growth

We work to support a strong diversified economy. We want to ensure that Medway's regeneration drives economic development to encourage new and existing businesses to grow in Medway, which will benefit residents through the creation of the new jobs and homes they need. By attracting high tech and science based businesses to relocate and grow in Medway, we are creating high skilled employment opportunities for our graduates, to retain local talent and create a strong mixed economy.

We work to promote jobs, skills and employability by equipping people with the skills needed to secure opportunities in Medway's future economy. The Medway Skills Board, established in 2017, and Medway Adult Education learning programme, will boost local skills levels for those furthest from employment.

By adopting a council-wide approach, we will support people and vulnerable families to access housing and get a foot on the housing ladder. Working with landlords and agents will support households to sustain their accommodation and prevent homelessness.

We will work to deliver new homes to meet the needs of Medway residents, through a council-wide approach. Progressing Medway's local plan and working with developers will enable housing development on appropriate sites to meet our Medway's successful growth.

We are tackling congestion hotspots through transport and public realm improvements to enable residents, visitors and businesses to move around Medway easily.

Our Values

Our Strategy is supported by the Council Plan, which sets out the outcomes we want to achieve towards delivering on our priorities, along with the specific programmes of work we will complete and details of how we will measure our success.

The Council Plan also sets out our Values which underpin the delivery of everything we do:

Financial Resilience

We will deliver efficient and effective services for Medway residents, businesses, and visitors. We will ensure that robust financial systems and processes are in place to manage financial risks and opportunities, and to secure a stable financial position that enables us to operate for the foreseeable future.

Digital Enablement

We will use digital as an enabler of everything we do by transforming the way we provide services, the way we work and the way we communicate. We will reach out to residents and businesses who lack the skills, infrastructure, and confidence to go online by providing them with support and assistance.

Creativity and innovation

We will create a culture of creativity and innovation establishing a legacy of local pride, improving

diversity and inclusion, and identifying new ways of providing services around the needs of our residents.

Tackle Climate Change

We will take action to tackle the local and global threat of climate change, both internally and in partnership with local organisations and residents, and to minimise its environmental impact by cutting carbon, waste, and pollution.

Working together to empower communities

We will work together and in partnership with everyone that has an impact on the lives of our residents and businesses. We will strengthen collaboration between members of our communities, businesses, universities and the voluntary sector to maximise resources and knowledge.

Child-friendly

We will improve the lives of children by ensuring their voices, needs, priorities and rights are an integral part of our strategies, policies, programmes and decisions.

Cost of Living support for residents

Following the pandemic, into the beginning of the cost of living crisis, the government provided support for residents, including through a series of iterations of a grant that is now the Household Support Fund. During 2022/23 the Council delivered £4.525m in support to vulnerable residents through this scheme.

Our people

At 31 March 2024 we had 2,085 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff employed to deliver services for Medway and achieve the objectives in our Council Plan. We are committed to supporting, developing and engaging with our staff and offer a wide range of professional qualification and skills-based training to ensure our specialist teams are adequately skilled to deliver high quality services. As a result, our

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workforce is vibrant and dedicated to our objectives and journey, and our low turnover ensures we retain experience. We are committed to succession planning and investing in learning and development of the workforce for the future, including our awardwinning Apprenticeship Academy, which maximises the use of the Apprenticeship Levy for Medway.

During 2022/23 we began the MedPay Review, aiming to ensure that the Council:

- retains a talented workforce.
- · attracts and recruits a skilled workforce
- supports career progression
- tackles the challenge of staff leaving and skills shortages
- continues to pay people above the National Living Wage
- has a transparent and consistent approach to applying policy for market enhancements and retention payments based on regular market condition assessments.

The review has delivered a new benchmarking system to enable salary comparisons across relevant sectors, an automated job evaluation system, using National Joint Council (NJC) scheme to job evaluate job roles, a new policy for Skills Shortage and Retention Allowances and Full Council have agreed changes the pay scale. Following a pilot phase, two further phases are now underway to cover all permanent staff on MedPay terms and conditions and leadership frameworks are being developed for service managers alongside the current cohorts.

Alternative Service Delivery Models Shared Services

Medway Council launched its first shared service, delivering a Building Control Service for the areas of Medway, Gravesham and Swale in 2007, but followed this up with a number of other shared services with Gravesham Borough Council. During 2022/23 Medway hosted shared service arrangements with Gravesham to provide Audit and Counter Fraud Services, Legal Service and Payroll

and HR services. Since 2018/19 Gravesham have hosted a shared Licencing Service for Medway. We will continue to explore opportunities to share services where this benefits our residents.

Medway Development Company

Medway Council is making considerable investments into its urban spaces and the development of new housing is an integral part of this process. With Medway becoming increasingly attractive, the Council as a significant land holder can play an important role in helping to alleviate this pressure. New homes also reinforce economic growth for local businesses and good quality housing can revitalise areas. Subsequently, Medway Council created Medway Development Company Ltd in 2017 to bring forward housing sites. Having a directly owned company gives Medway Council the ability to control how new developments are delivered and relate to the regeneration initiatives that are being driven forward, but also to maximise its financial returns by delivering the schemes directly. Medway Council is the sole shareholder of Medway Development Company, with that role being undertaken by Cabinet. The MDC Board, comprising of two Council appointed Directors and two non-executive Directors. has met regularly to oversee the progress of projects in line with the company's Business Plan, which was approved by Cabinet in April 2018.

Two subsidiaries are also now set up Medway
Development Company (Private Rental Sector –
MDC PRS) Limited chaired by Councillor Doe and
Medway Development Company (Land and Property
– MDC L&P) Limited chaired by Councillor Gulvin.
MDC PRS was established to allow the option, in the
right circumstances, for units to be rented to
customers in the private market. MDC L&S was
established following advice from Jones Laing
Lasselle (JLL) and from the Council's Legal team
about a simplified ownership and sale of units once
complete.

In February 2021 the Cabinet agreed to provide loans at commercial rates to the new subsidiary of MDC, MDC (Land & Projects) to enable the company

to purchase land from the Council and advise Cabinet about the level of financial risk of the overall venture.

Kyndi (named Medway Commercial Services (MCG) to 21 March 2021)

Kyndi was established in 2016 as Medway Commercial Group Ltd to deliver the Council's successful CCTV and telecare services on a more commercial basis. The company then took on other areas of business, including the Council's previously in-house temporary staff agency and certain education related services traded with schools. In Autumn 2020, following a restructure and the appointments of a completely new Board and Management Team, the business was rebranded to Kyndi. Kyndi's service offer comprises two market segments:

- CCTV services through the CCTV partnership and direct provision for third parties including an 'out of hours' call centre model; and
- Telecare services to both corporate clients and private individuals.

The Temporary Staff Recruitment Agency previously operated by Kyndi was transferred back to Medway Council from 1 April 2022.

Medway Council holds 100% of the shares in Kyndi and the company now operates through one subsidiary to enable the company to trade with both the Public and Private Sector:

- Kyndi Care Ltd which trades with the private sector;
- Medway Public Services Limited (MPS), which has now been being wound up (Cabinet decision number 134/2020 refers).

Medway Norse

In March 2013, Cabinet agreed for the joint venture (JV) company, Medway Norse, to be established for the provision of facilities management (FM) services from 1 June 2013. It was established to:

 Provide services to the Council more efficiently, giving better value for money;

- Grow the business through taking on external contracts;
- Increase employment opportunities for local people.

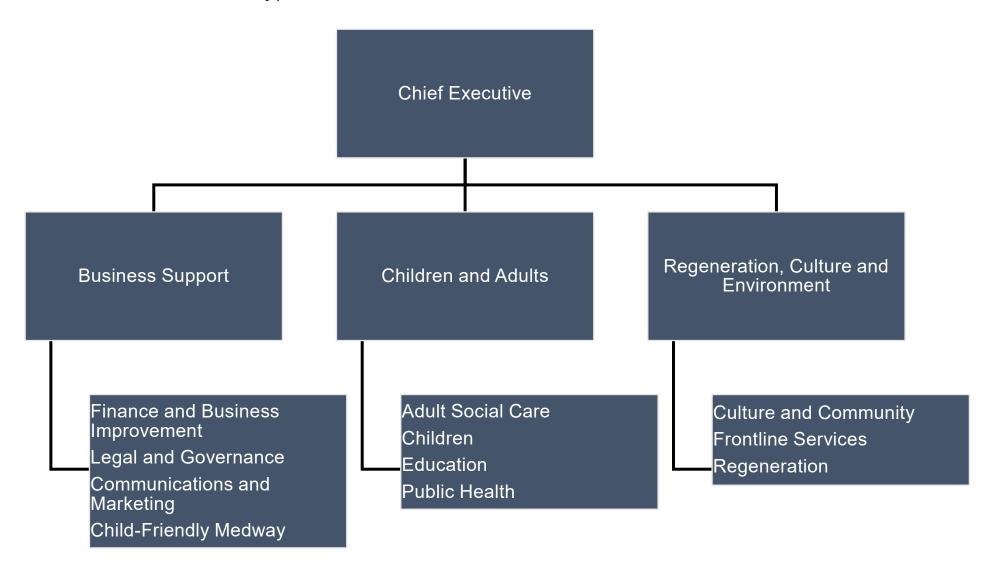
In 2014, the joint venture also took on responsibility for the grounds maintenance contract and for an initial phase of school transport for children with special educational needs attending three schools (now five). In October 2019, Medway Norse took over responsibility for the waste collection and street cleansing activities, increasing the joint venture's gross turnover to over £25million per annum. Like all significant employers Medway Norse faces a number of challenges including inflationary pressures and increases in the national living wage, however the generation of additional business and delivery of cost saving measures means the JV continues to be profitable. Under the terms of the joint venture agreement, Medway Council receives 50% of any profit received.

Other Partnership Working

We cannot achieve our vision for Medway on our own and we continue to enjoy strong working relationships with a wide variety of partners across public, private and voluntary and community sector organisations.

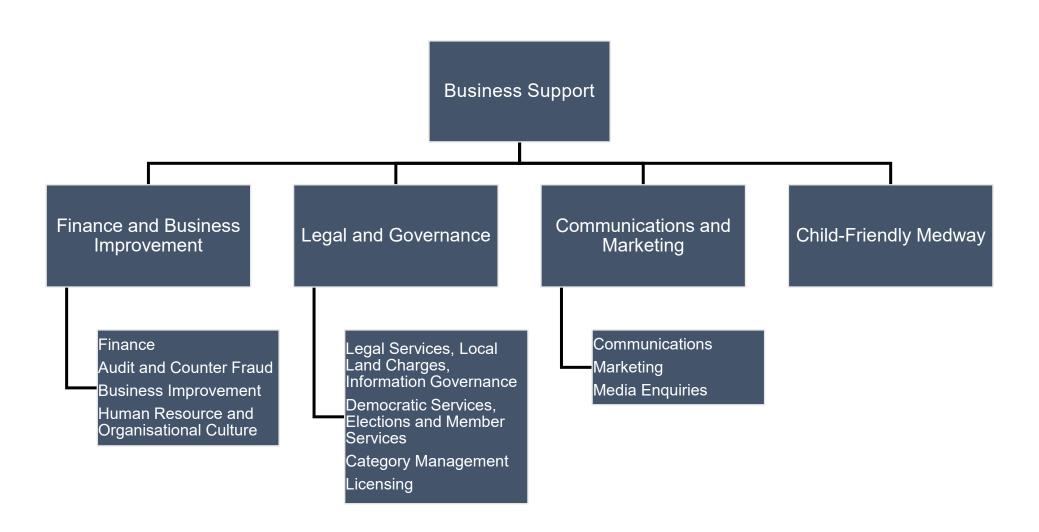
Operational Model

Our Directorates and the services they provide



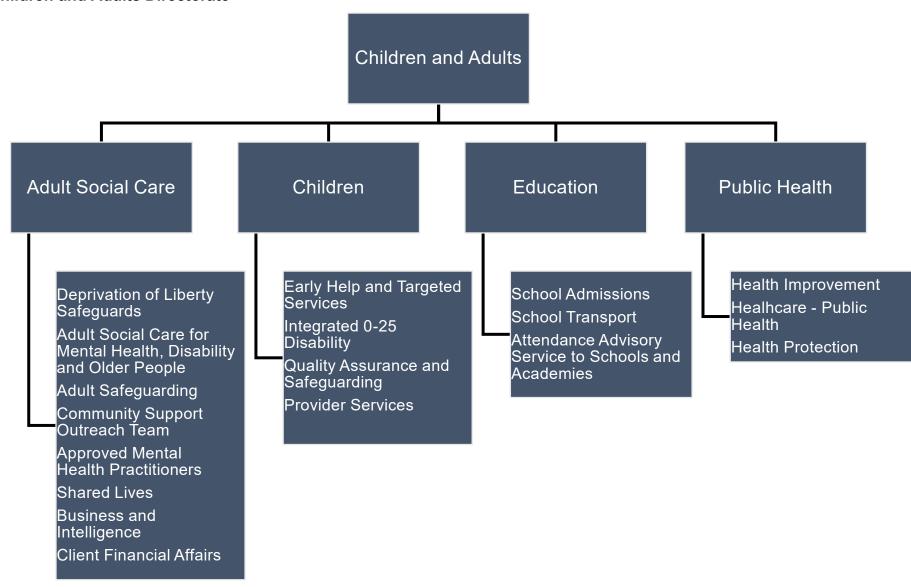
Operational Model (continued)

Business Support Directorate

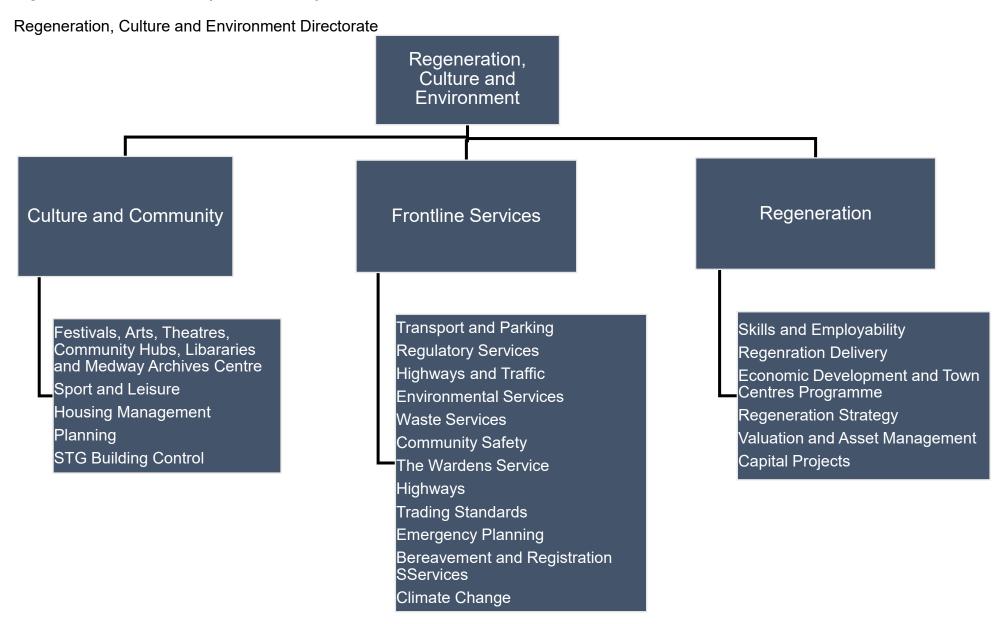


Operational Model (continued)

Children and Adults Directorate



Operational Model (continued)



Strategy and Resource Allocation

Delivering value for money

We are committed to delivering efficient and effective services for Medway residents, businesses and visitors. We responded to years of successive reductions in government funding by delivering significant transformation programmes, reducing the cost of service delivery while increasing efficiency and improving services. We continue to deliver more than 70 services, providing support and opportunities to residents living across the five towns while our residents continue to pay the lowest council tax in Kent.

The Council has arrangements in place to monitor performance and the achievement of our strategies and plans, with Council Plan Performance Monitoring reported quarterly to Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny Committees. Since 2020/21 we have incorporated our Strategic Risk reviews into that report, and for 2023/24 these have been scheduled to appear on the same meeting agendas as our financial performance reporting to support Member decision making and the broader assessment of the Council's performance. Details of our performance for 2023/24 are set out on page 15.

The Council's external auditors are required each year to deliver an opinion on the Value for Money arrangements in place for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of

resources. In their interim report for 2022/23 the Auditor noted that the Council's 'relentless commitment' to improving Children's Services had resulted in an improvement to an overall rating of Good in July 2023. The report also noted that the significant demand and cost pressures in statutory services and reduced levels of general reserves represent a significant risk to the Council's financial sustainability. Finally the Auditor noted the extensive work underway to improve the Council's financial position, including commissioning an independent review from CIPFA and engaging with the government.

Funding

The Council's net revenue budget is funded from four principal sources:

- Grant support from central government in the form of Revenue Support Grant and other specific grants, including Public Health Grant and the Dedicated Schools Grant:
- The Council's share of local Business Rates (NDR);
- The amount raised locally by Council Tax, and
- Fees and charges.

The 2023/24 Settlement was the final of a twoyear settlement, following a one-year settlement agreed for 2021/22. Until longer term settlements are received that address funding pressures arising from the pandemic, and from reforms to social care, funding remains our most significant risk as set out on the Strategic Risk Register.

Our Financial Strategies

The Council's annual budget and council tax setting establishes the Council's budget framework and sets out the funding of services.

In the Autumn of each year the Council refreshes its financial projections; though typically these are published through a Medium Term Financial Strategy/Plan, the short-term funding settlements through the pandemic rendered this work ineffectual, and instead we published shorter term Financial Outlook documents. From September 2023 onwards we publish our Medium Term Financial Projections at least biannually; in the Autumn alongside an Outlook for the year ahead, and again alongside the final budget each year.

Our Capital Strategy provides a high-level overview of how capital expenditure and the way it is financed contribute to the provision of services. It also provides an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability and sets out the governance processes for approval and monitoring of capital expenditure.

Risks and Opportunities

Risk Management

The Council has a long-established process in place to identify the principal risks that may influence or impact on the delivery of services. The Council's Risk Management Strategy is reviewed annually to ensure it remains up to date and sets out the process by which the Council identifies, analyses, evaluates and treats the risks and opportunities it faces both on a strategic and operational level. The process requires judgements to be made on the likelihood and impact of a potential risk and enables us to develop and implement appropriate controls to manage or mitigate these risks to reduce the impact.

Our Strategic Risk Register is reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis, and is presented to Members alongside our quarterly Council Plan Performance Monitoring information, so assist Members making informed decisions. These combined reports were presented to the Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees throughout 2023/24 to present and appear on the same agenda as the financial monitoring reports.

Risk is considered in all Council decisions with a risk assessment required in the standard CMT and Cabinet/Committee report template.

Strategic Risk Register—Current Risks (as at 31/03/2024)

Full details of each risk on the Council's register at the end of 2023/24, including scores and arrangements in place to manage them, will be reported to the Cabinet on 11 June 2024.

At that date, the Council's strategic risks were:

- Finances
- Adult Social Care budget pressure
- Gun Wharf building closure
- Children's Social Care budget pressure

- Meeting the needs of Older People and Working Age Adults
- Delivering Regeneration
- Medway's Economic Recovery
- MedPay review
- Failure to meet the needs of children and young people
- Lack of national funding to remedy problems following school condition surveys
- Failure to meet the needs of children and young people
- Cyber security
- Failure to deliver the High Needs Budget Recovery Plan
- Medway Development Company Ltd
- Recruitment and Retention
- Data and Information
- Climate Change
- Kyndi Ltd

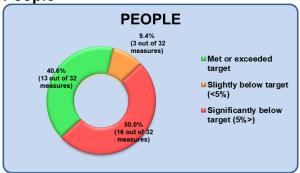
Opportunities

The Council has a strong track record of maximising opportunities alongside managing risk, most notably in delivering significant transformation programmes in response to risks around reduction in government grant and local income.

Performance Management

Medway Council Strategy is our overarching strategy and sets out our vision, priorities, ways of working and the outcomes we expect to achieve. The Medway Council Plan sets out how we will achieve the outcomes outlined in our Strategy and the measures we will use to track our performance. Detailed Quarterly Council Plan monitoring reports are published via Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee agendas. Where performance is below target, reviews to be carried out to understand factors driving performance and to determine actions for improvement. The data below relates to Q3 2023/24 as the Q4 and year end outturn data will be reported to the Cabinet on 11 June 2024.

People



Children's services graded good by Ofsted. (Q2 23/24) 78.1% of children and young people achieved a lifestyle improvement as a result of completing a young people weight management service. (Q3 23/24)

71.37% of women initiated breastfeeding within 48 hours of birth. (Q3 23/24)

Annual Child Health Conference attended by 113 professionals from across Medway. (Q3 23/24)

61% of adults with a primary support reason of learning disability support lived in their own home or with their family. (Q3 23/24) . Increase from 52% (Q3 22/23) .

Annual Medway Social Prescribing Networking event took place. (Q3 23/24)

100% of special schools were judged to be good or better. (Q3 23/24)

94.7% of primary schools, and 83% of secondary schools, were judged to be good or better. (Q3 23/24)

114.4,permanent admissions to care homes per 100,000 population (65+), This is lower than National. (Q2 23/24)





8 green flags awarded; the national standard that recognises well managed green spaces. The Great Lines Heritage Park was once again awarded the Green Heritage Award. (Q3 23/24)

94% of streets surveyed were free from litter at the time of the inspections. (Q3 23/24)

RSPCA's Stray Dog Services (Platinum) and the Animal Activity Licensing (Gold) PawPrints Awards received for unwavering commitment to protecting and promoting animal welfare (Q3 23/24)

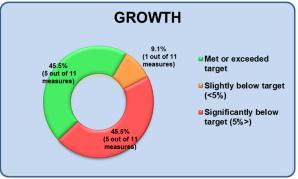
Festivals and Events reached over 135,000 people including an estimated 77,000 attending the 41st Rochester Sweeps Festival and 16,000 attending Armed Forces Day (Q1 23/24)

A wide range of festivities were held to mark the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort including street parties and large outdoor celebrations, Live Coverage of Their Majesties' Coronation was screened live in Rochester Castle gardens (Q1 23/24)

Achieved joint 22nd out of all (186) UK single tier authorities from Climate Emergency UK's assessment of local authority action. (Q3 23/24)

Sixth Child Friendly City Hall took place this quarter with a private screening of the Wonka film. (Q3 23/24)

Growth



99.65% Medway Adult Education (MAE) achievement rate. (Q1 23/24 academic year)

98% of square footage let at Innovation Centre Medway. (Q3 23/24)

Business for Medway continues to engage with businesses, and business groups such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Business. (Q3 23/24)

£195k investment across four businesses achieved in cohort one of the Scale Up Programme. (Q3 23/24) 93.72% Medway Adult Education (MAE) retention rate. (Q1 23/24 academic year)

158 jobs created or retained (Q1 to Q3 23/24)

Financial Performance

Financial Review of 2023/24

The 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years are widely regarded as the most challenging period in local government finance to date, far outstripping the scale of the pressures arising from the austerity period from 2010. Despite our strong track record of financial management and the careful management and growth of reserves since the Covid-19 pandemic, it was necessary to use £6.094million of general reserves to fund the overspend on services experienced in 2022/23.

The 2023/24 budget set in February 2023 was balanced without the use of general reserves, though it assumed the use of £2.985million from earmarked reserves to fund the cost of services for the year.

The 2023/24 outturn represents a net overspend on the cost of services for Children & Adults of £11.289million and on Business Support of £907,000, partially offset by net underspends on the cost of Regeneration, Culture and Environment of £3.262million and on Centralised Services of £1.202million. The redistribution of the central Business Rates Levy Account and additional government grant funding relating to Business Rate Reliefs granted in respect of Green Plant and Machinery resulted in a favourable variance on the Council's funding of £1.025million.

The 2023/24 Outturn position therefore requires the use of £6.706million of general reserves, however the declassification of further balances on earmarked reserves and provisions means the Council's general reserve balance as at 31 March 2024 will be £10.065million, above the minimum level of £10million set by the Section 151 Officer.

The continuation of the same pressures that resulted in the overspend on 2023/24, along with high inflation rates and utilities costs among other pressures meant it has been necessary to seek the support of government through the Exceptional Financial Support scheme to balance the budget for 2024/25. The CIPFA Resilience Review commissioned as part of that process however did not identify any financial or governance failings at the Council as the cause of the financial position, and the Council is no working to deliver its Financial Improvement and Transformation Plan in order to return to a sustainable financial position over the medium term.

Treasury Management

The Council's Treasury Outturn 2023/24 will be reported to Audit Committee in July 2024. The Q3 report was presented to the Committee in March 2024 and reported that the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements in the delivery of the treasury function in 2023/24 to date. The report also confirmed that borrowing was only undertaken for a capital purpose and the statutory borrowing limit was not breached.

Total investments managed in-house as at 31 March 2024 stood at £97.3million (2022/23, £85.2million) and externally managed of £20.0million (£21.1million in 2022/23). During 2023/24 the council operated a prudent investment strategy with investment priorities being security first, liquidity second and then return. Funds are invested in loans to other UK local authorities, property funds and bank deposits.

The Council also had £337.8million long-term borrowing as at 31 March 20214 (31 March 2023, £335.2million), primarily in the form of PWLB and market loans. In addition, short term borrowing stood at £104.6million at 31 March 2024 (£95.3million at 31 March 2023).

Reserves

As at March 2023 the Council had nonearmarked general fund reserves of £10.238million available to it. A review of the Council's earmarked reserves was carried out as part of the work to address the overspend projected in 2023/24 and to close the budget gap projected for 2024/25. That work has identified £5.727million in earmarked reserves that are no longer required for their original purpose. In February 2024 alongside the budget, Council agreed that these sums be declassified to increase general reserves to a projected £15.965million. A further review of earmarked reserves and provisions has identified a series of relatively small balances (all below £250,000) which no longer need to be held for the purpose they were created, totalling £807,000. These have been declassified and transferred to general reserves using the delegation of the Chief Executive. Following this exercise, the Council's general reserves balance stands at £16.772million.

In order to fund the Outturn position for 2023/24 the Council must use a total of £6.706million of the available reserves; taking the balance to £10.065million, above the minimum level of £10million set by the Section 151 Officer.

Financial outlook

The Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2024/25 was presented to the Cabinet on 21 November 2023 and projected a potential revenue shortfall of £35.798million. Commencing in Summer 2023, during formulation of the Medium Term Financial Outlook, and continuing throughout the overview and scrutiny process, officers worked closely with portfolio holders to identify savings, efficiencies and income generating measures to achieve a balanced budget, without recourse to reserves and whilst attempting to minimise the impact on service delivery.

In the Autumn of 2023, we commissioned the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to conduct a Resilience Review to help identify opportunities to reduce costs, increase income and improve service delivery. CIPFA's report concluded that 'Medway is in a grave situation in relation to its financial sustainability', however, it did not identify any governance or financial failures. The report stated that Medway Council's room for manoeuvre is severely limited and it would not be possible to set out a balanced budget next vear without some form of government intervention/support. Based on this recommendation, the council wrote to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request Exceptional Financial Support. The Secretary of State confirmed that he is 'minded to' approve the Council's request for a capitalisation direction, and on this basis the Council was able to set a balanced budget (including a capitalisation direction of £14.727million) for 2024/25.

The Council is now working to deliver its Financial Improvement and Transformation Plan in order to return to a sustainable financial position over the medium term. However, with a General Election announced for 4 July 2024 it seems unlikely that any incoming government will have time to implement any significant changes to the local government finance settlement and we are therefore projecting a one-year roll-over settlement for 2025/26. Our latest Medium Term Financial projections, published alongside the budget in February 2024 indicate that while we are making significant investment in transformation to deliver savings across the medium term, we anticipate that it will be necessary to seek a further capitalisation direction to balance the budget for 2025/26.

The sector as a whole will need significant additional financial support from the government to offset continued expenditure and income pressures arising on statutory services. We continue to lobby government to ensure local authorities are adequately supported to deliver quality services to residents.

How the Authority's Budget has Changed

	£'000	£'000
Budget requirement 2022/23	372,602	0
Changes in function and funding	(20,148)	0
Adjusted Base Budget	0	352,454
Inflation	15,456	0
Other cost pressures	34,985	0
Service pressures	19,074	0
Efficiency and other savings	(29,885)	0
Total		39,630
Budget Requirement 2023/24		392,084
Financed By:	0	0
Retained Business Rates	(53,255)	0
Baseline Need Funding	0	0
Other Specific Grant	(186,960)	0
Council Tax	(148,883)	0
Reserves	(2,985)	0
Total		(392,084)

During the year, the Council regularly reviewed its performance against its Budget Requirement, with these reports available publicly from the www.medway.gov.uk. The final outturn position for the year is shown in the table below, together with how this expenditure was financed:

Directorate	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Budget £'000	Variation £'000
Business Support Department	98,424	(89,660)	8,765	7,858	907
Children and Adults (including Public Health)	399,882	(89,648)	310,234	298,945	11,289
Regeneration, Culture and Environment	141,904	(62,785)	79,119	82,242	(3,124)
	5,532	(15)	5,516	5,516	0
Sub-total Included in Cost of Services in Statutory Accounts	645,741	(242,108)	403,634	394,562	9,072
Amounts included within management accounts but excluded from services within statutory accounts:					
Investment Properties (included in RCE in Management Accounts)	0	(959)	(959)	(890)	(69)
Sub-total included within Regeneration, Culture and Environment Directorate in Management Accounts but included within Financing & Investment Income and Expenditure within the Statutory Accounts	0	(959)	(959)	(890)	(69)
Medway Norse	0	(247)	(247)	(433)	186
Levies	1,801	(33)	(1,769)	(1,796)	(27)
Interest & Financing	23	(9,524)	13,943	15,300	(1,357)
	,467				
Sub-total Other Operating/Finance and Investment Income and Expenditure within the Statutory accounts	22,268	(10,763)	14,506	15,773	(1,267)
Depreciation Credit	0	(17,361)	(17,361)	(17,361)	0
Amounts included within Interest & Financing in Management Accounts but excluded from Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services within the Statutory Accounts	0	(17,361)	(17,361)	(17,361)	0
Total Management Accounts Variance against Budget Requirement	671,010	(271,190)	399,819	392,084	7,736

Directorate	Expenditure	Income	Net	Budget	Variation
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Funding:-					
Contribution To/(From) Reserves	0	(2,985)	(2,985)	(2,985)	0
Baseline Need Funding	0	(11,922)	(11,922)	(24,937)	13,015)
Retained Business Rates	0	(62,800)	(62,800)	(48,760)	(14,040)
Council Tax	0	(148,883)	(148,883)	(148,883)	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	0	(105,712)	(105,712)	(105,712)	0
Other School Grants	0	(5,098)	(5,098)	(5,098)	0
Adult Social Care Grants	0	(26,646)	(26,646)	(26,646)	0
Children's Social Care Grants	0	(140)	(140)	(140)	0
New Homes Bonus	0	(1,998)	(1,998)	(1,998)	0
Additional Government Support Non-ringfenced Grant Income	0	(8,191)	(8,191)	(8,191)	0
Public Health Grant	0	(18,733)	(18,733)	(18,733)	0
Total Funding	0	(393,108)	(393,108)	(392,084)	(1,025)
Total Funding and Expenditure Variance			6,711	0	6,711

Amounts shown above for Council Tax and Non-Domestic rates are derived from the Collection Fund. These figures differ from the amounts shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account due to timing differences in the recognition of surpluses and deficits.

Full details, including notes on individual variances within directorates can be found within the Outturn Report that will be considered at Cabinet on 11 June 2024.

Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reflects the income and expenditure related to the provision of housing accommodation by the Council.

	Expenditure	Income	Net	Budget	Variation
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Housing Revenue Account	15,900	(17,052)	(1,152)	(5)	(1,147)
Total Management Accounts Variance against Budget Requirement	15,900	(17,052)	(1,152)	(5)	(1,147)
Funding:-					
Contribution To/(From) Reserves	1,152	0	1,152	5	1,147
Total Funding	1,152	0	1,152	5	1,147
Total Funding and Expenditure Variance			0	0	0

Capital Expenditure

Capital Expenditure relates to expenditure to acquire, construct, enhance or replace tangible non-current assets such as land, buildings or major pieces of equipment that will be used to provide services over a number of years in the form of a capital programme to achieve the council's strategic objectives and priorities. In 2023/24 the Council spent £53.984million on General Fund and £10.582million Housing Revenue Account capital schemes. This delivered new fixed assets or enhancement of existing assets used in the provision of services in the Medway area including the provision of a new school, new classrooms, improvements to school infrastructure, highways improvements, regeneration schemes and improvements to the Council's housing stock. The final capital outturn position for the year is shown in the table below together with how this expenditure was financed:

On 23 February 2022, Council agreed the removal from the Capital Programme of all Medway Development Company (MDC) schemes where MDC is building or developing assets in their own ownership financed via loans from Medway Council with interest charged at a market rate. This was in line with relevant guidance and revised advice from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) regarding the proper accounting treatment of these loans. Please note that progress on these schemes will still be reported in the quarterly monitoring reports as a memorandum item.

Variation

Capital Budget 2023/24	Approved Programme	Forecast Spend	Outturn	variation to Forecast	Budget c/fwd
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25+
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Directorate/Service					
Business Support Department	471	119	41	(78)	430
Children and Adults (inc. Public Health)	41,581	13,030	9,743	(3,287)	31,838
Regeneration, Culture & Environment	239,105	58,302	44,125	(14,177)	194,980
Member Priorities	81	75	75	0	6
Housing Revenue Account	38,298	14,765	10,582	(4,183)	27,716
Total	319,536	86,291	64,566	(21,725)	254,970
Funding source		_			
Borrowing (supported capital expenditure and unsupp	orted)		30,387		
Government Grants and Other Contributions			23,265		
Major Repairs and Other Contributions			4,087		
Capital Receipts			915		
Developer Contributions			4,060		
Revenue and Reserves		_	1,852		
Total		_	64,566		

Commentary on Financial Statements

Statement of Accounts

The Statement of Accounts includes the financial statements of the Authority, the Statement of responsibilities to prepare the Statement of Accounts and the independent auditor's opinion on the financial statements.

Statement of responsibilities

This Statement sets out the responsibilities of the Authority and the Chief Finance Officer in respect of the proper administration of the financial affairs of the Authority and for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts. The Chief Finance Officer has to certify that the accounts present a 'true and fair' view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2024 and its income and expenditure for the year.

Annual Governance Statement

The Authority is required to carry out an annual review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and to include a report accompanying the Statement of Accounts. This Statement explains how the Authority has complied with the 'CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance' Framework during the year and up to the date of the approval for publication of the Statement of Accounts. The Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 will be added to the financial statements once approved.

Independent auditor's report

The independent auditor is required to publish an opinion on the financial statements as to whether they give a true and fair view of the financial position and the expenditure and income of the Authority for the year in question.

The Auditor also has a responsibility to satisfy himself/herself that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources by review and examination of the Authority's corporate performance management and financial management arrangements against criteria specified.

Core Financial statements and notes

The financial statements comprise the core financial statements of the Authority (Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement), the notes to the core financial statements (the accounting policies and supplementary information), and supplementary information required by proper practices (Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement on Housing Revenue Account Statement and Collection Fund). The core statements are set out on pages 29 to 35.

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 the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Movement in Reserves Statement

This Statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the capital receipts reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt) and unusable reserves, i.e. those that the Authority is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the revaluation reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the 'adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations' line. The total comprehensive income and expenditure line shows the true economic cost of providing the Authority's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund balance and Housing Revenue Account for Council Tax setting and dwelling rent setting purposes. The net increase / decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves line shows the statutory General Fund balance and Housing Revenue Account balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Authority.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the end of the accounting period of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets of the Authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Authority.

Commentary on Financial Statements (continued)

Cash Flow Statement

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

Notes to the principal financial statements

The notes to the principal financial statements present information about the basis of preparation of the financial statements and the specific accounting policies used, disclose additional information required by the Code that is not presented elsewhere in the financial statements, and provide information that is not presented elsewhere in the financial statements, but is relevant to an understanding of any of them. These notes are set out on pages 36 to 154. The supplementary financial statements are set out on pages 155 to 169 and are presented as follows:

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Income and Expenditure Statement

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

Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement

This statement shows how the HRA Income and Expenditure Account surplus or deficit for the year reconciles to the movement on the Housing Revenue Account Balance for the year end.

Collection Fund

The Collection Fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The Statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and distribution to local authorities and the Government of Council Tax and nondomestic rates.

Group Accounts

The Group Accounts set out the income and expenditure for the year and the financial position at 31 March 2024 of the Council and the wholly owned subsidiaries. The Group Accounts combines the financial results of the Kyndi Ltd and Medway Development Company Ltd, but are not yet available whilst the Council awaits further information from one of its subsidiaries.

Glossary

A glossary of terms has been included in this document to explain some of the technical accounting language used to assist the reader and is set out on pages 172 to 179.



Annual Governance Statement

1. Scope of responsibility	27
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4. Update on actions identified in the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement	
5. Proposed enhancements to the Council's governance arrangements	
6. Conclusion	
Certification by the Leader of the Council	

1. Scope of responsibility

Medway Council is a unitary local authority in the Southeast of England and is responsible for providing numerous public services to its population. The Council when conducting its business is obligated through law that

- it does so in accordance with the law and proper standards,
- public money is safeguarded,
- · public money is
 - properly accounted for
 - used economically, efficiently and effectively.

The Council also has a Best Value duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having a regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The government has recently updated its guidance to local authorities by issuing Best Value Standards and Intervention: statutory guide for best value authorities (May 2024). Whilst the period of this statement precedes that document, the contents of the latter have been considered in the production of the former.

In discharging its functions, the Council must put in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, effective exercise of its functions and manages risks.

In 2016, CIPFA and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) published 'Delivering Good Governance' framework that "defines the principles that should underpin the governance of each local government organisation". The Council approved a local code of corporate governance based on the original guidance at its meeting on 13 November 2008. This Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 has been prepared in line with the revised code of corporate governance, the 2016 framework and taking into account the 2024 statutory best value guidance.

Corporate governance is overseen by the Audit Committee each year when it reviews this statement, under delegation from the full Council. The operational elements of the Council's governance framework are the responsibility of the Chief Operating Officer (S151 Officer) and the Monitoring Officer within their statutory roles. The council operates a Leader and Cabinet governance model and thus they also play a significant role in ensuring that decision making and policy setting is undertaken appropriately.

This statement sets out how the Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of Regulation 6 (1b) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a governance statement.

2. The purpose of the governance framework

The governance framework comprises the culture, values, systems and processes, by which the authority is directed, controlled, the activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.

The system of internal control is a significant part of the framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and therefore it can only provide a reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

3. Review of effectiveness of the governance framework

Medway Council has a responsibility to conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of its governance framework, including the system of internal control. That review is informed by the work of the elected executive and employed managers who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Head of Internal Audit & Counter Fraud's annual report and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

In maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the governance framework, the review has considered the following:

- The corporate and business planning processes of the Council
- The corporate performance management framework and the corporate performance reporting processes of the Council
- Reviews carried out by Internal Audit, External Audit and other review bodies which generate reports commenting on the effectiveness of the systems of internal control employed by the Council
- The consideration of External Audit reports by the Audit Committee
- The opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the council's overall control environment from the Head of Internal Audit & Counter Fraud

The detailed results of the review have been considered by the Council's Corporate Management Team in advance of their endorsement of this Annual Governance Statement, assurances have been provided by members of the Corporate Management Team that key elements of the control framework were in place during the year in their divisions and control weaknesses were identified and addressed.

The following sections of this statement summarise the results of this review; presenting the governance framework that has been in place at Medway Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 and up to the date of approval of this Statement.

Core Principle A	How we have complied in 2023/24
Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law	The roles and responsibilities of elected members, officers and the processes to govern the conduct of the Council's business are set out in the Constitution, this includes summaries in the Articles of the Constitution and detailed rules governing contracting, procurement and financial matters. The Monitoring Officer, supported by a team, is responsible for reviewing and updating the constitution as required.
	Codes of conduct, based on the Nolan principles for conduct in public life are in place for and define the high ethical values and standards of behaviour expected from elected members and officers to make sure that public business is conducted with fairness and integrity. The codes require disclosure of relevant interests and abstaining from debate and decision making in defined circumstances. A process for receiving complaints of alleged breaches by members is published on the councils website and the procedure that will be followed for their determination. The council has appointed an Independent Person to support the Monitoring Officer and the work of the Councillor Conduct Committee, which is periodically updated on compliance with the Code of Conduct.
	The Monitoring Officer and his team are responsible for ensuring that agreed procedures are followed, that decisions are intra vires and that all applicable statutes and regulations are complied with. All reports to decision making forums contain detailed financial and legal implications written by subject matter professionals and his team of officers in Democratic Services ensure that internal governance procedures are complied with.
	Complaints received under the Council's whistle blowing policy, Speak Up, are received and reviewed by the Council's S151, Monitoring and Chief Organisational Culture officers. The outcome of such complaints are reported to the Audit Committee on an annual basis.
	The Council seeks feedback from the public through consultation exercises, questions to full council, petitions, its complaints and comments procedures and responds to the outcomes, as appropriate. The Council's corporate management team regularly receive reports on complaints handling and the Monitoring Officer receives communications on and attends meetings to discuss the outcomes of complaints escalated to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

Core Principle B	How we have complied in 2023/24
Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement	All meetings of the Council, its committees, the Executive (Cabinet), Overview and Scrutiny committees and reports considered there are produced, circulated and held in public unless there are good reasons for not doing so, primarily relating to material considered to be "exempt" within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A. A proportionate approach is adopted to exempt only that information which needs to be kept private with the remainder being considered in open sessions.
	Meetings of the Council, Cabinet and other committees are accessible by members of the public through live streaming in addition to attendance in person and post event on media streaming channels.
	The constitution details those forums and the mechanisms by which questions/representations can be made by members of
	the public/ stakeholders.
	Unless confidential, decisions made by Council, the Cabinet or other Committees are documented in the public domain. All decisions are explicit about the criteria, rationale and considerations used. The impact and consequences of all decisions are clearly set out.
	Urgent decisions allowed for in the Constitution are kept to a minimum and retrospectively reported to Council to uphold transparency and accountability.
	The Council seeks community views on a wide range of issues and undertakes regular consultation and engagement with citizens and service users using a variety of engagement methods.

Core Principle C	How we have complied in 2023/24
Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social,	The Council works with its partners to set the vision and priorities for the area. The Council manages a process of bringing together performance data, demographic information and consultation findings to determine key shared priorities.
and environmental benefits.	The Council Plan forms an essential part of the Council's governance framework, setting out the council's priorities and the measures against which success will be judged.
	All out municipal elections were held in May 2023 with revised ward boundaries and an increase in the number of elected members. The election resulted in a change of administration and three political groups were formed on the council. With a change in political priorities a light refresh of the plan was conducted early in the municipal year.
	There is programmed periodic reporting of progress against the plan and achievement against targets and milestones. The overview and scrutiny committees hold the executive to account in public meetings on their performance levels and proposed remedial plans, if any are required.
	All Cabinet and Council (including matters delegated to committees) decisions are made following consideration of formal reports, which all follow a standard Council template.
	The template was modified to bring greater clarity to the outcomes being sought and guidance provided on report writing which specifically refers to Diversity Impact Assessments ("DIA") and provides a link to the Council's DIA guidance which sets out how and when these should be completed.
	All such reports are checked on behalf of the Chief Operating Officer, (S151 Officer) and the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance (the Monitoring Officer) for financial and legal implications.
	Cabinet reports also include a mandatory paragraph on risks and equalities, and where relevant climate change implications to enable the Council to consider holistically the implications of its proposed decisions, promote its public sector equality duty and as well as explicit equalities implications to promote fair access to services and take the longer view about the impact of the decision on future generations impacted by climate change.
	The Council is rigorous and transparent about how decisions are taken and recorded, with clear recommendations set out in the reports together with reasons for those recommendations.

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Core Principle D	How we have complied in 2023/24
Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes	Reports presented to decision making forums present options followed by a clear objective analysis and a set of recommendations together with reasons for those recommendations. Associated risks and mitigation strategies are also detailed.
	In determining how services and other courses of action should be planned and delivered the Council is increasingly engaging with internal and external stakeholders. Where greater levels of efficiencies and or effectiveness can be achieved, this is achieved through partnership working and collaborative use of resources across the voluntary, public and private sectors. Community benefit and added social value is an important and formal consideration in the procurement of goods and services where possible.
	The Council fosters effective relationships, collaborative working and contractual arrangements with other public, private, and voluntary organisations in delivering services that meet the needs of the local community as stated in the Council Plan.
	The budget setting process is extensive utilising economic projections and service led demand analysis to make sure estimates are robust and realistic.

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Core Principle E	How we have complied in 2023/24
Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it	Following the municipal elections a new administration took charge in May 2023 with the appointment of a new Leader, Cabinet Members and welcoming a significant cohort of first time councillors. A comprehensive induction and training programme, tailored for specific roles, was provided for all members of the council.
	Additionally, following a competitive process the Council's new Chief Executive took office on 1 July 2023 following the retirement of the previous postholder.
	The corporate management team and members of the Cabinet (team of 25) meet regularly to discuss and agree strategic direction and operational matters. Such meetings are conducted away from the public gaze to enable the frank exchange of views, appropriate checks and balances on authority, and a meeting of minds to facilitate collective decision making. Such conversations support capacity development and the attainment of new skills and experience.
	The Chief Executive is responsible and accountable to the Council for all aspects of management including promoting sound governance, providing quality information/support to inform decision making and scrutiny, supporting other statutory officers, and building relationships with all Councillors.
	There are regular meetings between senior officers and Cabinet portfolio holders, committee chairpersons to ensure close working and the development of professional relationships.
	The three statutory officers responsible for corporate governance meet on a monthly basis to share and discuss matters affecting the council's operations and broader strategic issues.
	The corporate management team consisting of the Chief Executive, two Directors (one of whom is the Deputy Chief Executive), the Director of Public Health, Chief Operating Officer (the statutory Section 151 Officer), Assistant Director Legal and Governance (the statutory Monitoring Officer), six Assistant Directors was expanded to include the Chief Organisational Culture Officer and the Head of Communications and Marketing.
	The roles of officers are defined in agreed job profiles. As the Council embarked on a review of MedPay, role profiles are being reviewed and updated. Staff performance is formally reviewed on an annual basis (inclusive of a mid-year review), regular 121s in accordance with the performance and development review (PDR) process. A new performance model has been introduced for those colleagues who have progressed through the Medpay review.
	A number of council functions are delivered through a shared services model, external partners and wholly owned companies. A review of the governance model for the council's three LATCOs was commenced with changes to the arrangements for the appointment of directors and holding to account of the company board of directors.
	The constitution includes a member officer protocol approved by full Council delineating the separate roles of officers and Members and also citing how both need to work together to optimise outcomes for the population. A publicised scheme of delegations sets out those matters on which different member fora have decision making responsibility and further a scheme for officers that sets out those matters upon which they have authority to take decisions is regularly updated.

Core Principle F	How we have complied in 2023/24
Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management	The Council has overall responsibility for directing and controlling the organisation, it has approved an Executive / Scrutiny model of decision making. The Executive or Cabinet is the primary decision-making, which appointed three sub committees to manage the three LATCOs.
	Holding the Executive to account is undertaken by four scrutiny committees in addition to reviewing policy decisions before and after implementation. For the first time, one scrutiny chairperson has been appointed from the largest opposition political group. Members have the power to "call in" decisions made by the Executive for review. Portfolio Holders periodically attend scrutiny meetings held in public to be held to account and each such committee is supported by Democratic Services and a senior officer.
	The Council has a risk management strategy and approach whose main priorities are the robust systems of identification, evaluation and control of risks which threaten the Council's ability to meet its objectives to deliver services to the public. The risk strategy was revised (to be implemented for the next year).
	The Chief Operating Officer (statutory Section 151 officer) is responsible for the proper administration of all aspects of the Council's financial affairs including ensuring appropriate advice is given to the Council on all financial matters.
	The Council's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of financial regulations, regular management information, administrative procedures (including segregation of duties), management supervision and a system of delegation and accountability.
	Due to a challenging financial outlook, the Council engaged CIPFA to undertake a corporate governance review, which found no weaknesses, and support the council's application for exceptional financial support.
	The Council has a proactive, holistic approach to tackling fraud, theft, corruption and crime, as an integral part of protecting public finances, safeguarding assets, and delivering services effectively and sustainably.
	A Medium Term Financial Strategy and associated risk register, and plans for revenue and capital income and expenditure based on corporate priorities are developed, led by the Cabinet and Corporate Management Team, and presented for approval by Council in February each year.
	Managers monitor budgets on monthly basis with revenue and capital budget monitoring reports considered by the corporate management team and Cabinet on a quarterly basis for monitoring and control purposes including the annual outturn.

Core Principle G

Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

How we have complied in 2023/24

The Head of Internal Audit & Counter Fraud provides an independent and objective annual opinion on the effectiveness of internal control, risk management and governance. This is carried out by an in-house team in conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. The opinion of the Head of Internal Audit & Counter Fraud over the Council's overall control environment, delivered in the Audit & Counter Fraud Annual Report 2023/24 is:

The Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 require local authorities to ensure that they have: a sound system of internal control which— (a) facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and the achievement of its aims and objectives; b) ensures that the financial and operational management of the authority is effective; and (c) includes effective arrangements for the management of risk.

In my capacity as Chief Audit Executive, with responsibility for the provision of internal audit services to the council, I am required to provide the organisation, and the Chief Executive, with a statement as to my opinion of the adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's risk management, internal control, and governance processes. This opinion is intended to support the council's annual governance statement. The overall scope of internal audit work is defined in the Internal Audit Charter and the specific scope of work for the year 2023-24 was detailed in the Internal Audit Plans, which were approved by the Finance & Audit Committee. The Plans cannot address all risks across the council, but available resources are focused on the highest areas of risk to the authority and those linked to its corporate objectives. The opinion that follows is based on all work completed since the

last annual opinion was delivered, including overrunning reviews from 2022-23 and work outlined in the 2023-24 Plans.

The Internal Audit team operates in accordance with the working practices set out in the Internal Audit Manual and work is subject to supervision and quality review. This means we can be satisfied that the team has carried out all internal audit work in line with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and in accordance with our Quality Assurance & Improvement Programme.

In forming my opinion, I have considered the following:

- The outcomes of work completed by the Internal Audit team since the last annual opinion,
- The findings of previous years' internal audit work carried out,
- The risk management processes of the council,
- The monitoring of progress to implement agreed actions identified in earlier reviews to ensure that control weaknesses identified by the Internal Audit team have been mitigated,
- The outcomes of consultancy work completed by the Internal Audit team, and
- The outcomes of counter fraud and investigation work completed by the Counter Fraud team.

There were no matters identified through the counter fraud work carried out which have a material impact upon the corporate governance, risk, and internal control framework of the council. While placing no specific reliance on sources of external assurance, these have been considered alongside the work completed by the Internal Audit team.

The council has a duty to manage its resources in a proper, economic, efficient, and effective manner to achieve its objectives. It applies internal controls to manage risks to an acceptable level as it is not possible to remove risks to achieving these objectives completely. The Internal Audit team can only provide reasonable and not complete assurance of effectiveness. The work completed as part of the Internal Audit Plans for 2023-24, and reviews overrunning from the 2022-23, is summarised in this report, assessing the effectiveness of managing the risks identified by the council, and forms the basis of evidence for my overall opinion.

While not all risks have been examined within our work programme, I am satisfied that those not directly examined have a sufficient assurance approach in place to provide reasonable assurance of effective management.

While it has been identified that the authority has mainly established adequate internal controls within the areas subject to review since my last opinion was issued in September 2023, there are areas where compliance with existing controls should be enhanced or strengthened or where additional controls should be introduced to reduce the council's exposure to risk. Where such findings have been identified, actions have been agreed by management to improve the controls within the systems and processes they operate. Management have accepted responsibility for the implementation of these actions and follow up arrangements are in place to ensure that appropriate action is taken. I am therefore satisfied that there is sufficient evidence to

draw a reasonable conclusion as to the adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's risk management, system of internal control and governance processes.

Annual Opinion 2023-24

Corporate Governance

Corporate Governance is defined as being the structure of rules, practices, and processes that direct and control the Council. The reviews of Procurement Compliance and Risk Management Framework undertaken in 2022-23, however the planned review of Code of conduct could not take place during 2023-24. As such we can only place limited assurance in relation to corporate

governance, although this is caveated with the fact that there has been nothing to indicate that the council has failed to comply with corporate governance guidance.

Risk Management

The council has a risk management strategy that is approved by Cabinet and maintains a corporate risk register that is regularly reviewed. A review of risk management compliance was conducted in 2022-23, resulting in an Amber opinion and the one action arising has been completed. I am satisfied that we can place adequate assurance on the council's risk management arrangements for 2023-24.

Internal control

Fieldwork was completed in relation to 24 assurance reviews during 2023-24, 17 of which have been finalised with client services, along with a further nine reviews from 2022-23 that were finalised in 2023-24 after the last annual opinion was delivered. Of these finalised reviews, 22 resulted in Amber or Green opinions, indicating that all key risks were being managed effectively.

Where actions for improvement were agreed, these were subject to a follow up process to ensure that they had been implemented appropriately. This follow up process identified that 80.8% of all actions due to be implemented in 2023-24 (80 of 99 actions) have been completed. I am satisfied that we can place adequate assurance on the aspects of the system of internal control tested and in operation during 2023-24.

Overall Opinion

It is my opinion that during the year ended 31 March 2024, Medway Council's framework of governance, risk management, and system of internal control, were adequate, and contributed to the proper, economic, efficient, and effective use of resources in achieving the council's objectives.

James Larkin

Head of Internal Audit & Counter Fraud Shared Service

4. Update on actions identified in the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement

The Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 did not identify any areas for review and possible enhanced arrangements.

5. Proposed enhancements to the Council's governance arrangements

The review of the effectiveness of the Council's governance framework for 2023/24 did not highlight any specific areas of concern. Where internal audit work has indicated additional controls could be in place, officers are focussed on making the necessary changes to do so.

6. Conclusion

Based on the results of the review, reasonable assurance can be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of Medway Council's systems of internal control and governance, which this year are supported by the review undertaken by CIPFA. The annual review demonstrates sufficient evidence that the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance is operating effectively and that the Council complies with that Local Code in all significant respects.

Certification by the Leader of the Council

I confirm that the 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement has been considered and approved by Medway Council at the meeting of the Audit Committee on 26 September 2024 (minute 302 refers):



Date:

26 September 2024



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Statement Of Responsibilities

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Statement of Responsibilities

The Authority's Responsibilities

The authority is required to:

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

The Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities

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

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the chief financial officer has:

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

The chief financial 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.

Certificate of the Chief Finance Officer

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

Signed:



Phil Watts

Chief Operating Officer, Section 151 Officer

Dated: 27 February 2025

Approval of the Statement of Accounts

In accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 I certify that the Statement of Accounts for the period ending 31 March 2024 was approved at the meeting of Audit Committee held on 28 January 2025.

Signed:



Councillor Hazel Browne

Chair of the Audit Committee

Dated: 28 January 2025

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Independent Auditors Report to the Members of Medway Council

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Disclaimer of opinion

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

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

Basis for disclaimer of opinion

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 ('the Regulations') require the Authority to publish audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 by 28 February 2025 ('the backstop date'). The backstop date has been put in law with the purpose of clearing the backlog of historical financial statements.

We have been unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence by the backstop date to conclude that the Authority's and group's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 as a whole are free from material misstatement. We were also unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence over the corresponding figures or whether there was any consequential effect on the Authority and Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2024 for the same reason.

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

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

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

Opinion on other matters required by the Code of Audit Practice

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of the Authority and the Chief Operating Officer

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out in the accounts, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority, that officer is the Chief Operating Officer. The Chief Operating Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Chief Operating Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit of the Authority's and the group's financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and to issue an auditor's report. However, because of the matters described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on those financial statements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matter except:

On 29 November 2023 we identified a significant weakness in the Authority's arrangements for financial sustainability. This was in relation to the Authority addressing the forecast overspend. The Authority forecast their budget gap of £38.7 million for 2024/25, rising to £71.8 million by 2027/28. Since the end of 2022/23 the Authority has taken steps to explore options for bringing finances back under control, therefore plans to bridge the medium-term gap are in their infancy. We recommended the Authority:

• take urgent action to address the 2023/24 financial pressures and determine a realistic plan for the medium-term financial challenge.

As part of our audit work for the year ended 31 March 2024, we followed up the Authority's progress implementing this recommendation. On 28 January 2025, we reported that the significant weakness in the arrangements the Authority has for achieving a balanced budget and managing the reserves balance remains in place. We also identified that the Authority should clarify its approach to minimum revenue provision. We recommended that the Authority:

- must urgently address the forecast budget overspend for 2024/25;
- should be clear about its strategy for replenishing reserves to appropriate levels; and
- should seek to clarify the requirements for charging minimum revenue provision and any potential financial impact as a matter of urgency.

On 29 November 2023 we also identified a significant weakness in the Authority's governance arrangements. The Authority did not produce financial statements for 2022/23 by the statutory deadline. We recommended that the Authority:

publish the draft financial statements at the earliest opportunity.

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As part of our audit work for the year ended 31 March 2024, we followed-up the Authority's progress implementing this recommendation. On 28 January 2025, we reported that the significant weakness in the Authority's arrangements for preparing draft accounts remains in place. We recommended that the Authority:

• should publish draft accounts (including group accounts) for 2024/25 in line with their statutory deadline and supported by a comprehensive set of working papers, and sufficient capacity to service an audit to completion.

Responsibilities of the Authority

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

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

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

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

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

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

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 85 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Matthew Dean, Key Audit Partner for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor London 27 February 2025



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Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure 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 (or rents). Authorities raise taxation (and rents) to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory requirements; 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.

0000100	0000/00	0000/00			0000/04	0000/04	0000/04
2022/23	2022/23	2022/23			2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
Gross	Gross	Net Expanditure	Service	Notes	Gross	Gross	Net Expanditura
Expenditure	Income	Expenditure		Ž	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
£'000	£'000	£'000			£'000	£'000	£'000
100,300	(66,976)	33,324	Business Support Department		83,501	(64,449)	19,052
365,330	(199,171)	166,159	Children's and Adults (inc. Public Health)		402,802	(240,379)	162,423
11,803	(15,429)	(3,626)	Local authority housing (HRA)		19,040	(16,702)	2,339
0	0	0	Revaluation of HRA Non-Current Assets			(4= 040)	0
147,110	(45,890)	101,220	Regeneration, Culture & Environment		130,907	(47,648)	83,259
624,543	(327,466)	297,077	Cost of Services	•	636,250	(369,178)	267,072
2,924	(0.426)	2,924	Other operating expenditure	<u>9</u>	22,703 15,167	(40.796)	22,703
20,958	(8,136)	12,822	Financing and investment income and expenditure	10 11	15,167 0	(10,786)	4,381
648,425	(279,541) (615,142)	(279,541) 33,283	Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure (Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services		674,12 0	(279,535) (659,499)	(279,535) 14,621
040,425	(615,142)	33,203	Items that will not be reclassified to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the		674,120	(659,499)	14,621
			Provision of Services				
		(102,012)	Surplus on revaluation of property, plant and equipment assets	37			(41,140)
		22,318	Revaluation losses on non-current assets charged to the Revaluation Reserve	37			15,911
		(335,809)	Re-measurement of net defined pension liability/(asset)	<u>38</u>			(1,379)
		(415,503)					(23,850)
			Items that may be reclassified to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of				
			Services				
		0	(Surplus)/deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets	37			0
		0					0
		(415,503)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(23,850)
		(382,220)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(11,987)

Movement in Reserves Statement

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

A summary of the purpose of each reserve is as follows:

General Fund Balance – This is the 'working balance' of the Authority and acts as a contingency to fund unforeseen eventualities.

Housing Revenue Account – This contains any surplus or deficit arising from the provision of Authority housing by the Authority and earmarked Housing Revenue Account reserves. It can only be used for local authority housing provision.

Earmarked General Fund Reserves - These are reserves created to fund specific revenue or capital expenditure relating to the General Fund.

Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve - Significant increase in Special Educational Needs (SEN) expenditure in 2018/19 and 2019/20 was transferred here. The deficit on this reserve was transferred to an unusable reserve, the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account during 2020/21, the purpose of which will be to manage the deficit on Schools Budgets that would otherwise impact on the Earmarked Schools Reserves. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balances is neutralised by this transfer. This reserve is disclosed on the face of this statement for transparency purposes.

Earmarked HRA Reserves - These are reserves created to fund specific revenue or capital expenditure relating to the Housing Revenue Account.

Capital Receipts Reserve – Proceeds from the sale of Authority assets are paid into this reserve which can be used to finance capital expenditure or repay debt.

Major Repairs Reserve – This reserve receives a transfer from the Capital Financing Account equivalent to the total depreciation charged to the Housing Revenue Account and can only be used to fund major Housing Revenue Account repairs.

Capital Grants Unapplied – This reserve contains Government grants and other contributions which are held to finance future capital expenditure.

Unusable Reserves – The major reserves included in this category are the Revaluation Reserve, Pension Reserve and Capital Adjustment Account. Their purpose is of a technical accounting nature and cannot be used to support the services of the Authority. They are explained in more detail in Note 37.

Movement in Reserves Statement (continued)

				Reve	enue Reserv	/es			Ca _l	pital Reserve	es		
2023/24	Notes	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Total General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked Housing Revenue Account Reserves	Total Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
Balance at 31 March 2023 Movement in reserves during 2023/24		£000s (10,238)	£000s (42,583)	£000s (52,821)	£000s (6,373)	£000s (0)	£000s (6,373)	£000s (4,284)	£000s 0	£000s (42,142)	£000s (105,620)	£000s (443,141)	£000s (548,761)
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income		12,271	0	12,271	2,350	0	2,350	0	0	0	14,621	(26,608)	(11,987)
Adjustments between accounting & funding basis under regulations	19	(4,834)	0	(4,834)	(3,502)	0	(3,502)	444	(0)	(21,091)	(28,983)	28,983	0
Net (increase)/decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves		7,437	0	7,437	(1,152)	0	(1,152)	444	(0)	(21,091)	(14,362)	2,375	(11,987)
Movements in Earmarked Reserves	20	(7,260)	6,714	(546)	0	0	0	932	0	134	520	0	520
(Increase)/Decrease in 2023/24		177	6,714	6,891	(1,152)	0	(1,152)	1,376	(0)	(20,957)	(13,842)	2,375	(11,468)
Balance at 31 March 2024 carried forward		(10,061)	(35,869)	(45,930)	(7,524)	(0)	(7,524)	(2,908)	0	(63,099)	(119,462)	(440,767)	(560,228)

The transfer between the Capital Receipts Reserve and the General Fund Balance relates to the transfer of funding for Transformation projects held within revenue accounts funded by the flexible use of capital receipts.

Movement in Reserves Statement (continued)

				Reve	enue Reserv	/es			Ca	pital Reserv	es		
2022/23	Notes	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Total General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked Housing Revenue Account Reserves	Total Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
		£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Balance at 1 April 2022		(26,551)	(44,375)	(70,926)	(5,283)	(0)	(5,283)	(8,113)	0	(21,092)	(105,413)	(61,127)	(166,540)
Movement in reserves during 2022/23 Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income		35,697	0	35,697	(2,414)	0	(2,414)	0	0	0	33,283	(415,504)	(382,221)
Adjustments between accounting & funding basis	10	(15,989)	0	(15,989)	1,324	0	1,324	2,225	0	(21,050)	(33,490)	33,490	0
under regulations Net (increase)/decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves	19	19,708	0	19,708	(1,090)	0	(1,090)	2,225	0	(21,050)	(207)	(382,014)	(382,221)
Movements in Earmarked Reserves	20	(3,395)	1,791	(1,604)	0	0	0	1,604	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase)/Decrease in 2022/23		16,313	1,791	18,104	(1,090)	0	(1,090)	3,829	0	(21,050)	(207)	(382,014)	(382,221)
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward		(10,238)	(42,583)	(52,821)	(6,373)	(0)	(6,373)	(4,284)	0	(42,142)	(105,620)	(443,141)	(548,761)

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet	31 March 2023 £'000	Balance Sheet Summary	Notes	31 March 2024 £'000
date of the assets and liabilities	805,891	Property Plant & Equipment	21	815,396
recognised by the Authority. The	19,723	Heritage Assets	23	23,213
net assets of the Authority (assets	16,663	Investment Property	25	18,181
less liabilities) are matched by the	41	Intangible Assets		18
reserves held by the Authority.	21,099	Long Term Investments	27	19,926
Reserves are reported in two	71,411	Long Term Debtors	31	89,036
categories. The first category of	934,828	Long Term Assets		965,770
reserves are usable reserves, i.e.	15,910	Assets Held for Sale <1 Year	26	15,910
those reserves that the Authority	121	Inventories		163
may use to provide services,	14,633	Short Term Investments	27	4,182
subject to the need to maintain a	102,490	Short Term Debtors	31	132,309
prudent level of reserves and any	3,563	Cash and Cash Equivalents	33	8,305
statutory limitations on their use	136,717	Current Assets		160,869
(for example the Capital Receipts	0	Cash and Cash Equivalents	33	0
Reserve that may only be used to	(3,555)	Grants Receipts in Advance - Revenue	17	(1,431)
fund capital expenditure or repay	(97,196)	Short Term Borrowing	27	(118,549)
debt). The second category of	(73,727)	Short Term Creditors	34	(60,330)
reserves is those that the Authority	(257)	Finance Leases < 1 Year	30	(245)
is not able to use to provide	(2,849)	Provisions (Short Term)	35	(3,081)
services. This category of	(177,584)	Current Liabilities		(183,637)
reserves includes reserves that	(28,278)	Long Term Creditors	34	(27,139)
hold unrealised gains and losses	(2,090)	Provisions (Long Term)	35	(3,783)
(for example the Revaluation	(308,695)	Long Term Borrowing	27	(352,039)
Reserve), where amounts would	(1,057)	Other Long Term Liabilities	30,38	5,449
only become available to provide	(5,079)	Grants Receipts in Advance - Capital	18	(5,261)
services if the assets are sold; and	(345,200)	Long Term Liabilities		(382,772)
reserves that hold timing	548,761	Net Assets		560,229
differences shown in the	(105,620)	Usable Reserves	32	(119,462)
Movement in Reserves Statement	(443,141)	Unusable Reserves	37	(440,767)
line 'Adjustments between accounting basis und	(548,761) der regulations.	Total Reserves		(560,229)

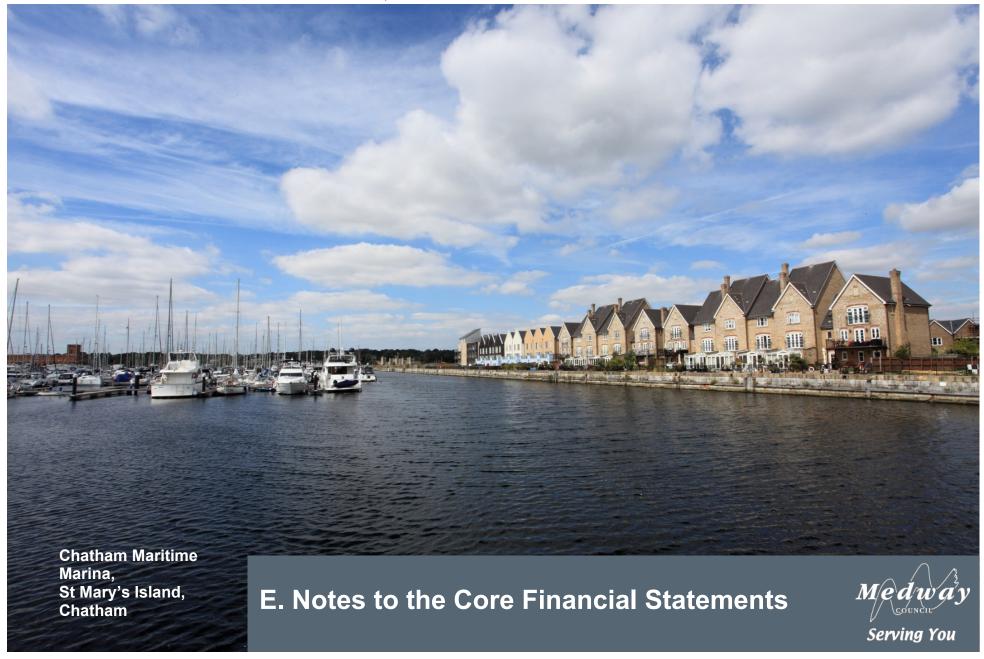


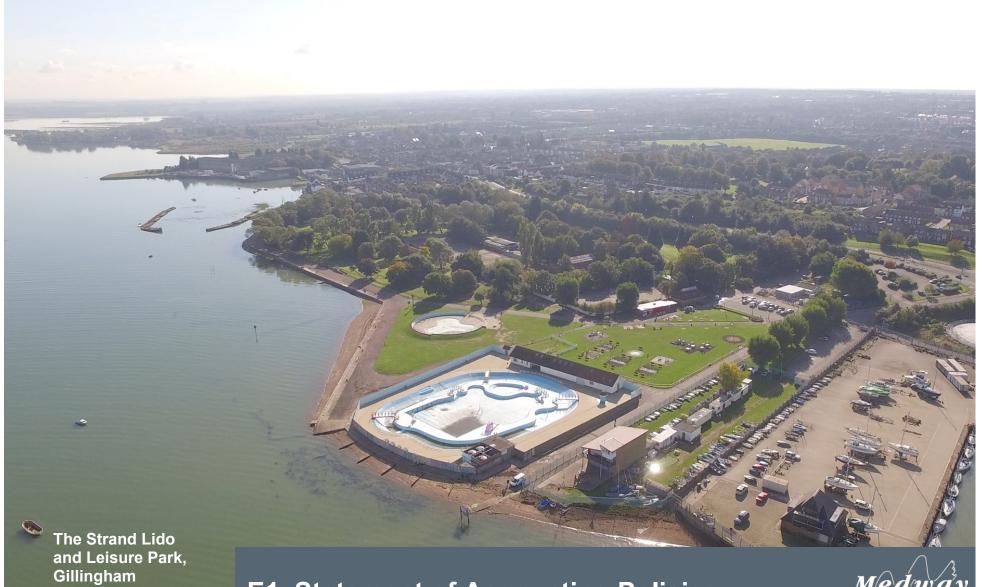
These financial statements replace the unaudited financial statements confirmed by the Chief Operating Officer on 31 May 2024 and were authorised for issue on 27 February 2025.

Cash Flow Statement

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

2022/23 £'000		Notes	2023/24 £'000
33,283	Net (Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services		14,621
14,327	Adjustments to net Surplus or deficit on the provision of service for non-cash movements		8,004
47,492	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of service that are investing or financing activities		48,846
95,102	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	<u>38</u>	71,471
3,826	Investing Activities	<u>39</u>	(11,516)
(97,122)	Financing Activities	<u>40</u>	(64,696)
1,806	Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(4,742)
5,370	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		3,563
3,563	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>32</u>	8,305





E1. Statement of Accounting Policies



Statement Of Accounting Policies

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Note 1. Accounting Policies

Basis for Preparation

The notes to the financial statements on the following pages are grouped in order to support each of the Core Statements to aid the reader in understanding each of them.

The notes relating to specific financial statement lines include the corresponding accounting policy. As a result there is not a separate principal accounting policies note but note 1 details general accounting policies or those where there are not accompanying notes.

General Principles

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

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

Qualitative Characteristics of Financial Statements

Relevance

The accounts have been prepared with the objective of providing information about the Council's financial performance and position that is useful for assessing the stewardship of public funds and for making financial decisions.

Materiality

The concept of materiality has been utilised in preparing the accounts so that insignificant items and fluctuations under an acceptable level of tolerance are permitted provided that in aggregate they would not affect the interpretation of the accounts.

Faithful Representation

The financial information in the accounts is a faithful representation of the economic performance of the Council as they have been prepared to reflect the reality or substance of the transaction, are free from deliberate or systematic bias, are free from material error and contain all the information necessary to aid understanding.

Comparability

The accounts must comply with the Code which establishes proper practice in relation to consistent financial reporting, allowing for the possibility to compare over time and to similar entities.

Verifiability

Different knowledgeable and independent observers will be able to reach the same conclusion from the information presented in the accounts.

Timeliness

The information provided in the accounts is available to decision makers in time to be capable of influencing their decisions.

Understandability

These accounts are based on accounting concepts and terminology which require reasonable knowledge of accounting and local Government. Every effort has been made to use plain language and where technical terms are unavoidable, they

have been explained in the glossary contained within the accounts.

Underlying Assumptions

Accruals Basis

The financial statements, other than the cash flow, are prepared on an accruals basis. Income and expenditure are recognised in the accounts in the period in which it is earned or incurred not as the cash is received or paid.

Going Concern

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the Council will continue in existence for the foreseeable future.

Primacy of Legislation Requirements

In accordance with the Code, where an accounting treatment is prescribed by law then it has been applied, even if it contradicts accounting standards. The following are examples of legislative accounting requirements have been applied when compiling these accounts:

- Capital receipts from the disposal of property, plant and equipment are treated in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003.
- The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to set aside a minimum revenue provision.

The Housing Revenue Account is compiled following proper practice as defined by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and section 21 of the 2003 Act.

Note 1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Accruals of Income and Expenditure

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. However, it is the Authority's policy not to accrue for amounts less than £500 unless it is considered significant to the service. There are particular areas where accruals are considered:

- 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 for them 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.

Exceptions to this are payments of:

- Regular quarterly accounts (e.g., telephones, electricity, ICT contracts for software and hardware)
- Employee expenses and overtime allowances.

These have been consistently applied each year and therefore do not have a material effect on the year's accounts.

Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

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

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

The Authority is not required to raise Council Tax to fund depreciation, revaluation or impairment losses. 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 Authority in accordance with statutory guidance. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses 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.

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.

Note 1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Overheads and Support Services

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

VAT

VAT, whether of capital or revenue nature, is included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement only to the extent it is unrecoverable.

Note 2. Accounting standards issued but not yet adopted

International Accounting Standard 8 requires the Authority to disclose the expected impact of new standards that have been issued but not yet adopted, which may require disclosure in 2024/25 accounts. The following are expected to be listed in Appendix C of the 2024/25 CIPFA Accounting Code of Practice (the Code):

- Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback (Amendments to IFRS 16) issued in September 2022. The amendments to IFRS 16 add subsequent measurement requirements for sale and leaseback transactions.
- Non-current Liabilities with Covenants
 (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in October
 2022. The amendments improved the
 information an entity provides when its right to
 defer settlement of a liability for at least 12
 months is subject to compliance with
 covenants.
- International Tax Reform: Pillar Two Model Rules (Amendments to IAS 12) issued in May 2023. Pillar Two applies to multinational groups with a minimum level of turnover. The amendments introduced:
 - a temporary exception to the requirements to recognise and disclose information about deferred tax assets and liabilities related to Pillar Two income taxes, and
 - targeted disclosure requirements for affected entities.

None of the above forthcoming standards are expected to have a material impact on the Authority's financial judgements.

The following forthcoming standard was included in this note for the previous reporting period, but is included here to assist the reader:

 IFRS 16 Leases will require local authorities that are lessees to recognise most leases on their balance sheets as right-of-use assets with corresponding lease liabilities (there is recognition for low-value and short-term leases). CIPFA/LASAAC have deferred implementation of IFRS16 for local government to 1 April 2024. It is not possible to quantify the potential effect this will have on the Statements until further works are carried out.

Note 3. Critical Judgement in Applying Accounting Policies

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

- Future funding for Local Government:
 There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the Authority has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Authority might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.
- Interests in Companies and Other Entities: The Council has interests in other entities that fall within the group boundary of the Council on the grounds of control and significant influence in line with the Code. The Council's interests in both Kyndi Ltd and Medway Development Company as subsidiaries are considered material to the Council's overall financial position and therefore have been consolidated within group accounts for 2023/24. The Council's interest in Medway Norse Ltd as a joint venture is not currently considered material and therefore has not been consolidated into Group Accounts, but this position will remain under review for future financial years.

- Joint Working: The Council operates a number of joint working arrangements with other neighbouring local authorities. The Council believes that it is not necessary to impair any non-current assets in light of these working arrangements and any current proposals for changes to the way the services are to be delivered by the Council.
- Property, Plant & Equipment: The Authority recognises the land and buildings used by schools in line with the provisions of the Code of Practice. It states that property used by local authority maintained schools should be recognised in accordance with the asset recognition tests relevant to the arrangements that prevail for the property. The Authority recognises the schools land and buildings on its Balance Sheet where it directly owns the assets, the school or school Governing Body own the assets or rights to use the assets have been transferred from another entity. Where the land and building assets used by the school are owned by an entity other than the Authority, school or school Governing Body then it is not included on the Authority's Balance Sheet. The Authority has completed a school by school assessment across the different types of schools it controls within Medway.
- Judgements have been made to determine the arrangements in place and the accounting treatment of the land and building assets. Voluntary aided schools the legal ownership of the land and buildings rests with the relevant Dioceses. The Diocese has granted a licence to the school to use the land and buildings. Under this licence arrangement, the rights of use of the land and buildings have not transferred to the school and thus are not included on the Authority's Balance Sheet. Academies are not considered to be maintained schools in the Authority's control. Thus, the land and building assets are not owned by the Authority and not included on the Authority's Balance Sheet.
- Revenue from Contracts: The Council
 has reviewed its income sources in view
 of the introduction of IFRS15 Revenue
 from Contracts with Customers and
 considers that income received in
 exchange for services is accounted for in
 line with the standard as the majority of
 services are paid for at the time of receipt
 or are aligned with our financial reporting
 period. Income received outside of those
 parameters is deemed to be immaterial.

Note 4. Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty

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

The items in the Authority'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
Pension 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. Public sector consultants Barnett Waddingham are engaged to provide the Authority with expert advice about the assumptions applied in producing the estimations.	The following sensitivity analysis relating to the present value of obligations of £655.236m as detailed within the sensitivity analysis table within Note 38 to the financial statements, are based upon complex judgements: A 0.1% decrease in the discount rate (the Merrill Lynch AA rated corporate bond curve) would result in an increase in the liability of £13.523m. A 1 year reduction in life expectancy assumptions would result in a £13.495m decrease in the pension liability.
Property, Plant & Equipment, Investment Properties & Assets Held for Sale - Useful Lives	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Council will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.	If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation would increase and the carrying amount of the assets could fall. The useful lives applied to our assets for depreciation calculations are provided by RICS qualified external valuers and we therefore consider this to be the most accurate estimate we can obtain. However, if assumptions do not materialise then there could be a material difference to depreciation and carrying amounts of assets.

Property, Plant & Equipment, Investment Properties & Assets Held for Sale - Valuation Assumptions	The Council's external valuers provided valuations as at March 2024 for all of the Council's investment portfolio and approximately 20% of its operational portfolio, all council dwellings and investment properties. Different valuation methods are undertaken for different types of assets and each of these can be affected by external factors such as BCIS rates for those valued using depreciated replacement cost, and assumptions for rents and yields relating to those valued on an existing use basis and those such as Surplus Assets that are valued on a fair value basis. The value of the assets subject to revaluation during 2023/24 were as follows: Council Dwellings £183.826m Other land & buildings £107.676m Surplus Assets £ 28.044m Investment Assets £ 18.181m Assets Held for Sale £ 15.802m	Were there to be a 5% negative impact on the value of the assets valued in 2023/24, this would mean a reduction in the non-current assets in the balance sheet of £16.886m together with the associated unusable reserves.
Fair Value measurements	Surplus and Investment Properties cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (i.e. Level 1 inputs), so their fair value is measured using income or market approach valuation techniques. Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible unobservable inputs, which require judgement, are used to establish fair values. The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement include assumptions regarding passing rents and yields, estimated sale values, revenue streams and discount rates. Information about valuation techniques and inputs used in determining the fair value of the Council's assets and liabilities is disclosed in notes 21, 26 and 28.	Sizable changes in any of the unobservable inputs would result in a significant lower or higher fair value measurement for those assets held at fair value



Notes Supporting both the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure and the Movement in Reserves Statement

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Note 5. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, council tax and business rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

		2022/23						2023/24		
Management Accounts	Amounts Not Reported to Management/ Corporate Amounts	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Directorate	Management Accounts	Amounts Not Reported to Management/ Corporate Amounts	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
24,597	8,729	33,326	(8,193)	25,133	Business Support Department	8,892	9,711	18,603	(7,725)	10,878
303,953	(137,791)	166,162	(16,029)	150,133	Children's and Adults (Inc. Public Health)	314,759	(151,607)	163,152	1,216	164,367
77,819	23,397	101,216	(40,939)	60,277	Regeneration, Culture and Environment	79,024	3,927	82,951	(15,402)	67,549
(1,091)	(2,535)	(3,626)	1,324	(2,302)	Housing Revenue Account	(1,152)	3,518	2,366	(3,269)	(903)
405,278	(108,201)	297,077	(63,837)	233,240	Net Cost of Services	401,523	(134,451)	267,071	(25,180)	241,891
4,241	(268,036)	(263,794)	49,132	(214,662)	Other operating income and expenditure	7,272	(259,723)	(252,451)	33,481	(218,970)
409,519	(376,236)	33,283	(14,705)	18,578	(Surplus) or Deficit	408,795	(394,174)	14,621	8,301	22,921
				(76,208)	Opening General Fund and HRA Balance ¹					(59,194)
				(1,564)	Adjustment for Use of Capital Receipts to fund Transformation Programme ¹					(932)
				18,578	Less Deficit on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year					22,921
				(59,194)	Closing General Fund and HRA Balance ²				- -	(37,205)

¹A decision was made to move transformation programme expenditure from the capital programme to revenue expenditure, funded from the flexible use of capital receipts.

 $^{^{2}}$ for a split of this balance between the General Fund and the HRA – see the Movement in Reserves Statement

Note 5. Expenditure and Funding Analysis (continued)

Management Accounts

These relate to the direct net costs of providing services and these figures are communicated directly to Council through the quarterly revenue monitoring reporting cycle.

Amounts Not Reported to Management/Corporate Amounts

These figures show accounting movements through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) that do not form part of the Management Accounts. This includes:

Directorate Specific:

- Appropriations relating transfers to/from reserves from/to management accounts
- Service related funding e.g. Dedicated Schools Grant etc.
- Recognition of capital grants used to fund Revenue Expenditure Funded by Capital Under Statute
- Impairment of non-current assets charged to the CIES
- Revenue Expenditure Funded by Capital Under Statute charged through the CIES
- IAS 19 adjustments
- Accumulated absences adjustments

Other Operating Income & Expenditure:

- Parish council precepts
- Non service specific funding e.g. Council Tax/NDR/Government Grants
- Pooling of capital receipts costs
- Profit/loss on the disposal of non-current assets
- Interest income & expenditure
- Gain/loss on the revaluation of financial assets
- Pension interest costs and return on assets charged to the CIES

Note 6. Note to Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This note provides a reconciliation of the main adjustments to Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances to arrive at the amounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The relevant transfers between reserves are explained in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note a) £'000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (Note b) £'000	Other Statutory Differences (Note c) £'000	Total Statutory Differences £'000	Other (Non- statutory) Adjustments (Note d) £'000	2023/24 Total Adjustments £'000
Business Support Department	(7,493)	(227)	0	(7,720)	(5)	(7,725)
Children's and Adults (Inc. Public Health)	(682)	2,038	0	1,355	(140)	1,216
Regeneration, Culture & Environment	(15,476)	69	0	(15,408)	` <i>6</i>	(15,402)
Housing Revenue Account	(3,276)	10	0	(3,266)	(2)	(3,269)
Net Cost of Services	(26,928)	1,889	0	(25,039)	(141)	(25,180)
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	29,152	2,845	(1,117)	30,880	2,601	33,481
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,224	4,734	(1,117)	5,841	2,459	8,301
Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	A diustments	Net change			Other	2022/23
Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note a)	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (Note b)	Other Statutory Differences (Note c)	Total Statutory Differences	Other (Non- statutory) Adjustments (Note d)	2022/23 Total Adjustments
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and	for Capital Purposes	for the Pensions Adjustments	Statutory Differences	Statutory	(Non- statutory)	Total
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and	for Capital Purposes (Note a)	for the Pensions Adjustments (Note b)	Statutory Differences (Note c)	Statutory Differences	(Non- statutory) Adjustments (Note d)	Total Adjustments
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	for Capital Purposes (Note a) £'000	for the Pensions Adjustments (Note b) £'000	Statutory Differences (Note c) £'000	Statutory Differences £'000	(Non- statutory) Adjustments (Note d) £'000	Total Adjustments £'000
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts Business Support Department Children's and Adults (Inc. Public Health) Regeneration, Culture & Environment	for Capital Purposes (Note a) £'000 (5,910)	for the Pensions Adjustments (Note b) £'000	Statutory Differences (Note c) £'000	Statutory Differences £'000 (8,196)	(Non- statutory) Adjustments (Note d) £'000	Total Adjustments £'000 (8,193)
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts Business Support Department Children's and Adults (Inc. Public Health)	for Capital Purposes (Note a) £'000 (5,910) (10,059)	for the Pensions Adjustments (Note b) £'000 (2,286) (6,116)	Statutory Differences (Note c) £'000 0	Statutory Differences £'000 (8,196) (16,174)	(Non- statutory) Adjustments (Note d) £'000	Total Adjustments £'000 (8,193) (16,029)
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts Business Support Department Children's and Adults (Inc. Public Health) Regeneration, Culture & Environment	for Capital Purposes (Note a) £'000 (5,910) (10,059) (37,562)	for the Pensions Adjustments (Note b) £'000 (2,286) (6,116) (3,378)	Statutory Differences (Note c) £'000 0 0	Statutory Differences £'000 (8,196) (16,174) (40,941)	(Non-statutory) Adjustments (Note d) £'000 3 146 2	Total Adjustments £'000 (8,193) (16,029) (40,939)
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts Business Support Department Children's and Adults (Inc. Public Health) Regeneration, Culture & Environment Housing Revenue Account	for Capital Purposes (Note a) £'000 (5,910) (10,059) (37,562) 1,617	for the Pensions Adjustments (Note b) £'000 (2,286) (6,116) (3,378) (292)	Statutory Differences (Note c) £'000 0 0 0 0	\$tatutory Differences £'000 (8,196) (16,174) (40,941) 1,325	(Non-statutory) Adjustments (Note d) £'000 3 146 2 (1)	Total Adjustments £'000 (8,193) (16,029) (40,939) 1,324

Note 6. Note to Expenditure and Funding Analysis (continued)

Adjustments for Capital Purposes

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

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

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

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

Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

b) 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 CIES.

Other Statutory Adjustments

- c) Other statutory adjustments between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:
- For Services this represents Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive I&E account on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements.
- For Financing and investment income and expenditure this recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts and adjustments to service segments e.g. for interest income and expenditure and changes in the fair values of investment properties.

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. This also contains adjustments to service segments e.g. for unringfenced government grants.

Other Non-statutory Adjustments

- d) 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 non-statutory adjustments column recognises adjustments to service segments, e.g. for interest income and expenditure and changes in the fair values of investment properties.
- For Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure the other nonstatutory adjustments column recognises adjustments to service segments, e.g. for unringfenced government grants.

Note 7. Segmental Income

Income received on a segmental basis is analysed below:

Business Support Department
Children's and Adults (inc. Public Health)
Regeneration, Culture and Environment
Housing Revenue Account
Total income analysed on a segmental basis

2022/23	2023/24					
	Revenues from		Revenues from			
Income from Services £'000	Transactions with Other Operating Segments of the Council £'000	Income from Services £'000	Transactions with Other Operating Segments of the Council £'000			
(5,204)	(22,788)	(4,890)	(26,626)			
(19,411)	(11,922)	(22,374)	(13,370)			
(31,581)	(16,512)	(35,156)	(18,449)			
(15,403)	(307)	(16,553)	(349)			
(71,599)	(51,530)	(78,973)	(58,794)			

Note 8. Expenditure and income Analysed by Nature

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

	2022/23	Business Support	Children's and Adults (Inc. Public Health)	Regeneration, Culture & Environment	Total General Fund	Housing Revenue Account	Total Management Accounts	Amounts Not Reported to Management	Allocation of Recharges	Net Cost of Services	Corporate Amounts	2023/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure/Income		_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	
Expenditure												
Employee benefits expenses	145,687	19,336	92,721	26,976	139,033	1,927	140,961	(2,340)	(5,302)	133,319	(2,845)	130,474
Other services expenses	420,679	71,828	281,854	88,349	442,031	9,093	451,124	25,248	(16,778)	459,594	1,451	461,045
Support service recharges	601	6,804	11,514	12,949	31,268	793	32,061	0	(31,406)	655	0	655
Depreciation, amortisation and	50,007	593	2,276	14,493	17,361	4,087	21,448	17,495	0	38,943	(1,517)	37,426
impairment		_	_	_	_	_				_		
Interest payments	13,226	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,078	18,078
Precepts and levies	2,284	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,416	2,416
Payments to Housing Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receipts Pool		_	_	_	_	_				_		
Gain on the disposal of assets	640	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,287	20,287
Pension Adjustments	393	0	0	0	0	0	0	592	(50, 400)	592	0	592
Total expenditure	633,517	98,561	388,365	142,768	629,693	15,900	645,593	40,996	(53,486)	633,103	37,871	670,974
Income												
Fees, charges and other service income	(81,226)	(31,516)	(35,744)	(53,605)	(120,866)	(16,902)	(137,767)	20,768	53,486	(63,513)	(1,494)	(65,007)
Interest and investment income	(7,083)	0	(25)	0	(25)	(134)	(159)	0	0	(159)	(9,827)	(9,986)
Income from council tax and non-domestic rates	(201,027)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(215,139)	(215,139)
Government grants and contributions	(310,898)	(58,152)	(37,837)	(10,139)	(106,128)	(16)	(106,145)	(196,215)	0	(302,360)	(63,862)	(366,221)
Total income	(600,234)	(89,669)	(73,606)	(63,744)	(227,019)	(17,052)	(244,070)	(175,447)	53,486	(366,031)	(290,321)	(656,353)
Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	33,283	8,892	314,759	79,024	402,675	(1,152)	401,523	(134,451)	0	267,071	(252,451)	14,621



Notes Supporting the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure StatementNote 9. Other Operating Expenditure76Note 10. Financing & Investment Income and Expenditure76Note 11. Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure76Note 12. Pooled Budgets77Note 13. Members Allowances79Note 14. Officers Remuneration80Note 15. External Audit Costs85Note 16. Dedicated Schools Grant86Note 17. Grant Income88Note 18. Interests in Companies and Other Entities96

Note 9. Other Operating Expenditure

	£'000	£'000
Parish Council Precepts	563	615
Levies	1,721	1,801
Payment to the Government Housing Capital receipts Pool	0	0
Gains/losses on disposal of non-current assets	640	20,287
Total	2,924	22,703

2023/24

2023/24

2023/24

2022/23

2022/23

2022/23

Note 10. Financing & Investment Income and Expenditure

	£'000	£'000
Interest payable and similar charges	13,176	17,564
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	2,674	(2,845)
Pensions interest costs and expected return on pensions assets	0	0
Gain/(Loss) on Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	3,913	1,173
Interest receivable and similar income	(6,849)	(9,034)
Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	(91)	(2,476)
Other investment income	0	0
Total	12,822	4,382

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

	£000s	£000s
Council tax income	(141,312)	(148,677)
Non-domestic rates income and expenditure	(59,714)	(66,997)
Non-ringfenced government grants	(36,296)	(19,851)
Capital grants and contributions	(42,218)	(44,011)
Total	(279,541)	(279,536)

Note 12. Pooled Budgets

Better Care Fund (BCF)

The Council operated a Better Care Fund of £33.514m with Kent & Medway Clinical Commissioning Group under a s75 arrangement throughout 2023/24. For 2023/24 the s75 arrangement included the Council's allocation in respect of the Improved Better Care Fund. The arrangements for each scheme within the Better Care Fund have been reviewed in accordance with both IFRS 11 (Joint Arrangements) and IFRS 15 (Revenue from Contracts with Customers) to determine the appropriate accounting treatment by both the Council and the Kent & Medway CCG. Control of the commissioning arrangements has been key to determining the nature of each scheme within the fund.

Within the Better Care Fund there are elements under Medway Council control, elements under CCG control and elements where there is deemed to be joint control. The Council and the Kent & Medway CCG will continue to work towards greater integration and joint commissioning of services in future years and the accounting of the Better Care Fund will be reviewed each year.

Better Care Fund (BCF)	2022/2	3	2023/24		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Funding provided by each partner: Medway Council (included in the authority's Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement)	(14,380)	0	(17,467)	0	
Kent & Medway CCG (not included in the authority's Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement)	(16,894)	(31,274)	(16,048)	(33,515)	
Expenditure paid as part of the agreement: Medway Council/Kent & Medway CCG (included in the authority's Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement)	14,380	0	17,467	0	
Kent & Medway CCG (not included in the authority's Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement)	16,894	31,274	16,048	33,515	
Net surplus/(deficit) arising on the pooled budget during the year	_	0		0	
Authority share of 50% of the net surplus arising on the pooled budget	<u> </u>	0	<u> </u>	0	

Note 12. Pooled Budgets (continued)

In 2015 the government committed to deliver a regional adoption system where adoption agencies would come together to deliver services on a larger scale and expected all Local authorities to be part of a regional adoption agency (RAA) by March 2021.

The Council is part of an RAA with Kent County and the London Borough of Bexley worth £4.271m. The RAA known as Adoption Partnership South East went live on 1st November 2020 with Kent County Council acting as the lead partner. Medway have only included the income and expenditure associated with their share of the partnership in our statement of accounts and not the other partners shares.

The RAA aims to promote early permanence planning across the region; improve the timeliness of children's adoption journey; reduce the length of time children wait to be adopted; improve post-adoption support service to families who have adopted children from care and reduce the number of agencies that provide adoption services thereby improving efficiency and effectiveness.

The partnership agreement outlines how any surplus generated will be reimbursed or how deficits will be funded by each of the partners. A partners percentage share is based on the income each partner contributed to the total overall funding of the partnership. Medway's percentage is therefore 23% of any surplus or deficits generated but this percentage will be limited to 20% for the first four years of the partnership.

Similar to last year, at their meeting in March 2024, the partnership board agreed the 2023/24 surplus generated during the year would be transferred into reserves and would be added to the budget to be spent in the next financial year rather then returning the surplus to partners. Medway 20% share of this reserve is £65,654.

Regional Adoption Agency (RAA)	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000		
Funding provided by each partner:				•
Medway Council	(9	41)	(965)	
Kent County Council & London Borough of Bexley	(3,2	11)	(3,306)	
	(4,1	53)	(4,271)	
Expenditure paid as part of the agreement:				•
Medway Council	(916	965	
Kent County Council & London Borough of Bexley	3,	126	3134	
	· ·	254	18	
	4,	296	4,117	
Net surplus/(deficit) arising on the pooled budget during the year		143	(154)	•
Opening Reserve Balance	(3	<u></u>	(175)	•
Net surplus/(deficit) transferred into or (out) of the reserve.	`.	143 [°]	(154)	
Closing Reserve Balance	(1	75)	(329)	*1
Authority share of the reserve balance is 20%		35)	(66)	

^{*1} Not shown in our reserves statement as it is held by the lead partner in trust.

^{*2} not shown in our income and expenditure accounts.

Note 13. Members Allowances

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

	£000	£000
Basic Allowance	596	710
Special Responsibility Allowance	324	381
Expenses	3	2
Total	922	1,093

2022/23

2023/24

Medway Council is comprised of 59 Members (55 Members in 2022/23). In 2023/24 a local election was held, 80 Members were entitled to claim allowances. (56 Members for the whole of 2022/23)

A total of £123.45 was paid to 5 councillors in April 2024 in respect of travel claims relating to 2023/24. (£130.50 paid to 5 councillors in April 2023 in respect of claims relating to 2022/23)

Note 14. Officers Remuneration

The remuneration paid to the Authority's senior employees during 2023/24 was as follows:

Post	Salary £	Fees and Allowances £	Salaries, Fees and Allowances £	Expenses £	Compensation for Loss of Office £	Total Excluding Pension Contribution £	Pension Contribution £	Total £
Chief Executive (End Date 30/6/2023)	33,937	17,001	50,938	0	0	50,938	1,064	52,003
Chief Executive (Start Date 1/7/2023)	116,504	6,868	123,372	617	0	123,989	21,425	145,413
Director Of Place (End Date 30/06/2023)	32,165	2,054	34,219	171	0	34,390	5,921	40,311
Director Of Place (start Date 14/08/2023)	72,016	5,189	77,205	398	0	77,603	13,266	90,869
Director Of People - Children And Adults	131,111	8,214	139,325	697	0	140,021	24,132	164,153
Director Of Public Health	120,139	8,214	128,353	704	0	129,057	22,124	151,181
Chief Operating Officer (COO)	116,306	8,214	124,520	623	0	125,143	21,422	146,565
Assistant Director Education And Send	93,212	16,231	109,443	0	0	109,443	19,027	128,470
Assistant Director Children's Services	96,698	16,249	112,947	0	0	112,947	19,665	132,612
Assistant Director Regeneration	92,653	5,687	98,340	142	0	98,482	17,094	115,577
Assistant Director Legal & Governance	93,653	5,687	99,340	497	0	99,837	17,277	117,114
Assistant Director Adult Social Care	87,861	5,687	93,548	468	0	94,016	16,218	110,233
Assistant Director Front Line Services	96,812	5,687	102,499	578	0	103,077	17,855	120,932
Assistant Director Culture & Community (End Date 15/10/2023)	44,188	3,073	47,260	(348)	0	46,912	8,161	55,074
Assistant Director Culture & Community (Start Date 09/10/2023)	39,376	2,721	42,098	211	0	42,308	7,272	49,580
Deputy Director Of Public Health	84,640	5,525	90,165	0	0	90,165	16,393	106,558

Comparative figures for 2022/23 are as follows:

Post	Salary £	Fees and Allowances £	Salaries, Fees and Allowances £	Expenses £	Compensation for Loss of Office	Total Excluding Pension Contribution £	Pension Contribution £	Total £
Chief Executive (Neil Davies)	134,948	7,373	142,321	270	0	142,590	24,807	167,398
Director Of Place&Deputy Chief Executive	127,660	8,214	135,874	0	0	135,874	23,501	159,375
Director Of People - Children And Adults	126,395	8,214	134,609	156	0	134,765	23,269	158,034
Director Of Public Health	119,139	8,214	127,353	53	0	127,406	21,941	149,347
Chief Operating Officer (COO)	115,306	8,214	123,520	0	0	123,520	19,334	142,854
Assistant Director Education And Send	92,182	15,687	107,869	0	0	107,869	18,838	126,707
Assistant Director - Children's Services	92,038	15,687	107,725	0	0	107,725	18,812	126,537
Assistant Director Front Line Services	92,653	5,687	98,340	142	0	98,482	17,094	115,577
Assistant Director Legal & Governance	92,730	5,687	98,417	0	0	98,417	17,109	115,526
Assistant Director Adult Social Care	86,861	5,687	92,548	0	0	92,548	16,035	108,583
Assistant Director Regeneration	87,012	5,687	92,699	187	0	92,886	16,062	108,948
Assistant Director Culture & Community	79,280	5,687	84,967	0	0	84,967	14,647	99,614
Deputy Director Of Public Health	83,640	0	83,640	0	0	83,640	15,306	98,946

Officers Remuneration > £50,000

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

Number of Employees

	Schoo	Non-Schools		
Remuneration Band	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24
£50,000 to £54,999	20	30	69	81
£55,000 to £59,999	14	20	46	54
£60,000 to £64,999	9	13	16	19
£65,000 to £69,999	7	10	16	26
£70,000 to £74,999	6	9	14	12
£75,000 to £79,999	6	8	7	14
£80,000 to £84,999	1	1	2	1
£85,000 to £89,999	4	4	0	1
£90,000 to £95,999	0	1	1	2
£95,000 to £99,999	1	1	0	0
£100,000 to £104,999	0	0	0	0
£105,000 to £109,999	0	0	0	0
£110,000 to £114,999	1	1	0	0
£115,000 to £119,999	0	1	0	0
£120,000 to £124,999	0	0	0	0
£125,000 to £129,999	0	0	0	0
£130,000 to £149,999	0	0	1	0
£150,000 to £154,999	0	0	0	0
Total	69	99	172	210

Accounting Policy

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Authority to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date, or an officer's decision to accept redundancy in exchange for those benefits, and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at either when the Authority can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Authority recognises costs for a restructuring, whichever is earlier.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Numbers of Exit Packages

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

	Number of compulsory redundancies 2023/24			Number of other departures agreed 2023/24			Total number of exit packages by cost band 2023/24			Total cost of exit packages in each band 2023/24		
Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Schools £	Non- School £	Total £	Schools £	Non- School £	Total £	Schools £	Non- School £	Total £	Schools £	Non- School £	Total £
£0 - £20,000	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	4	4	0	50,590	50,590
£20,001 - £40,000	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	54,203	54,203
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£60,001 - £80,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£100,001 - £150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£150,001 - £200,000	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	168,887	168,887
Total	0	2	2	0	5	5	0	7	7	0	273,680	273,680

The total cost of £0.274m detailed in the table above for exit packages agreed during 2023/24. An amount of £0.274m has been charged to the Authority's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in that financial year.

	Number o redu 2	Number of other departures agreed 2022/23			Total number of exit packages by cost band 2022/23			Total cost of exit packages in each band 2022/23				
Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Sch23/24ools	Non- School	Total	Schools	Non- School	Total	Schools	Non- School	Total	Schools	Non- School	Total
										£	£	£
£0 - £20,000	0	2	2	3	4	7	3	6	10	10,330	35,713	46,042
£20,001 - £40,000	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	4	54,123	0	54,123
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£60,001 - £80,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£100,001 - £150,000	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	146,377	146,377
£150,001 - £200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	2	5	5	10	5	7	12	64,453	182,090	246,543

The total cost of £0.247m detailed in the table above for exit packages agreed during 2022/23. An amount of £0.247m has been charged to the Authority's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in that financial year.

Note 15. External Audit Costs

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

2022/23

2023/24

	£'000	£'000
Scale fees payable to GT with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	124	392
Fees payable to GT with regard to additional external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year		
Fees payable to GT for the certification of Grant Claims and other services provided by GT	74	TBC
Total	198	392

Note 16. Dedicated Schools Grant

Accounting Policy — Schools

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom confirms that the balance of control for local authority maintained schools (i.e. those categories of school identified in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended) lies with the local authority. The Code also stipulates that those schools' assets, liabilities, reserves, and cash flows are recognised in the local authority financial statements (and not the Group Accounts). Therefore schools' transactions, cash flows and balances are recognised in each of the financial statements of the Authority as if they were the transactions, cash flows and balances of the Authority.

Schools maintained by the Council are recognised on the Balance Sheet as the balance of control lies with the Council.

The Council has the following types of maintained schools:

- Community
- Voluntary Aided
- Voluntary Controlled
- Foundation

Recognition of Schools' Noncurrent Assets

Maintained schools' non-current assets should be recognised in the local authority financial statements in accordance with the requirements of chapter four of the Code (Non-current Assets). The area likely to be of most concern is the land and buildings from which schools operate.

If a school obtains academy status, then all responsibilities transfer to the Academy. The only exception to this will be where the school was previously a maintained school where the Authority had a form of control over the future ability to provide a school, whereby the responsibility for the non-current assets will be transferred to the Academy by way of a long-term lease, and therefore, the present value of that lease relating to the freehold will be all that remains within the Authority's Balance Sheet.

The Council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG is ringfenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined in the School Finance and Early Years (England) Regulations 2019. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget, which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

During 2023/24 the Council incurred an underspend of £2.062m on DSG funded services. After taking account of the net deficit of £21.440m brought forward from 2022/23, £19.378m was carried forward to 2024/25.

Individual

Note 16. Dedicated Schools Grant (continued)

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

	Central Expenditure	Schools Budget	Total 2023/24	Total 2019/20
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Final DSG for 2023/24 before Academy recoupment			290,842	312,532
Less: Academy figure recouped for 2023/24			189,454	206,219
Total DSG after Academy recoupment for 2023/24			101,388	106,314
Plus: Brought forward from 2022/23			0	2,090
Less: Carry forward to 2024/25 agreed in advance			0	0
Final budget distribution in 2023/24	60,678	47,725	101,388	108,403
In Year Adjustments	2,329	0	5,720	2,329
Sub Total	63,007	47,725	107,108	106,075
Less: Actual central expenditure	54,198		45,510	54,198
Less: Actual Individual Schools Budget deployed to schools		47,725	59,508	47,725
Carried forward Usable Reserve to 2024/25	8,808	0	2,090	4,151
DSG unusable reserve at the end of the year			(23,530)	(23,530)
Add: Carry forward to 2024/25 agreed in advance			0	0
Total of DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2023/24		<u> </u>	(23,530)	(23,530)
Net DSG carried forward to 2024/25		_	(21,440)	(19,378)

Note 17. Grant Income

Accounting Policy - 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 Authority when there is reasonable assurance that:

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

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

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

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

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

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		2 000
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government		
- Formula Grant / Revenue Support Grant	(10,095)	(9,258)
- New Homes Bonus	(1,979)	(1,998)
- Covid 19 Council Tax Hardship Fund Grant	0	(371)
- Covid-19 Local Authority Support Grant	(2,485)	(864)
- Covid-19 Energy Rebate Scheme	(15,513)	(0)
- Covid-19 Energy Bill Support Scheme	(222)	(93)
- Covid-19 Alternative Fuel Payment Scheme	0	(34)
Department for Education		
- Holiday Activities & Food Programme	(1,137)	(1,161)
- Start 4 Life Funding	(309)	(1,514)
Department for Work & Pensions		
- Household Support Grant	(4,525)	(4,525)
- Household Support Stant	(4,520)	(4,020)
Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority		
- Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities Grant	(32)	(32)
Recognition of Capital Grants and Contributions	(42,218)	(44,011)
Total	(78,514)	(63,862)

Note 17. Grant Income (continued) Credited to Services

Cabinet Office		
- Individual Register of Electors Grant	0	(3)
- Elections Grant	0	(3) (101)
- Elections Grant	O	(101)
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport		
Theatre 31	(406)	(18)
- Picture Medway	(4)	(4)
- Creative Medway	(22)	(10)
- Chatham Dockyard Grant	(40)	(41)
	(- /	()
Department for Education		
- Dedicated Schools Grant	(108,973)	(105,712)
- Childcare Reform Local Authority Delivery Support Fund	0	(55)
- Covid 19 National Tutoring Programme	(127)	(354)
- DFE Other	(1,084)	(3,433)
- Early Career Framework Funding	0	(76)
- Early Career Mentors Funding	0	(23)
- Early Years Teachers Pay Grant	0	(1,077)
- Education Funding Agency	(77)	(38)
- ESF Support Grant	(1,074)	0
- ESFA NNDR Redistribution Funding	0	(2,253)
- Extended Rights to Free HTS Transport	(91)	(92)
- Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme	0	(887)
- Holiday Activities and Food Funding	(33)	(117)
- Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	0	(1,417)
- Medway Childrens Improvement Funding	(916)	(140)
- Multiply Programme	(272)	(195)
- NPQ Targeted Support Funding	0	(3)
- NQT Backfill Grant	(21)	0
- NQT Education Recovery Grant	(18)	0
- PE & Sport Premium Grant	(484)	(474)
- Pupil Premium Grant	(4,045)	(4,127)
- Senior Mental Health Lead Grant	0	(5)
- Short Breaks Innovation Programme	0	(159)
- School Covid Catch Up	(405)	(498)
- School Led Tutoring Grant	(493)	0
- Sixth Form Grant	(897)	(972)
- Social Work Teaching Partnerships Programme.	(102)	0
- Staying Put and Personal Adviser Support	(189)	(253)
- Student Loan Company	`(13)	` (5)
- Supporting Families Grant	(235)	(347)
	` ,	` ,

- Teachers Pay, Teachers Pension, PE&SG - Universal Infant Free School Meals	(110) (2,295)	(770) (2,462)
Department of Health & Social Care - Public Health Grant - Local Reform & Community Voices Grant/ War Pensions Scheme Disregard Grant/Social	(18,075)	(18,733)
Care in Prisons Grant - ASC Discharge Fund	(264) (832)	(262) (1,025)
- Additional Drug and Alcohol Treatment Funding - Public Health Other	0 (259)	(293) (278)
- DHSC Other	(187)	(1,792)
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities - DLUHC Other	(180)	(60)
- Benefit Subsidy	(56,594)	(55,5 ` 43)
- Chatham Town Centre Design Code - Cyber Security	0 (100)	(45) 0
- Domestic Abuse Grant - Financial Reporting Grant	(1,191) (54)	(606) (54)
- Former Independent Living Fund Grant - Homelessness Prevention	(? 20)	0
- Improved Better Care Fund	(1,832) (7,308)	(2,094) (7,308)
- Levelling Up Funding - Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) Administration Subsidy	(56) (259)	0 (268)
- Mandating Data Transparency - Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Funding	(13) (693)	(13) (2,337)
- Neighbourhood Planning Grant - New Burdens Business Rates Relief	(5) (679)	(20)
- New Burdens Funding - Elections	(43)	(72)
- Open Digital Planning - Pavement Licensing New Burdens	0 (9)	(116) (9)
- Rough Sleeper Initiative - Shared Prosperity Fund	(1,096) (108)	(1,183) (400)
- Social Care Support Grant	(8,497)	(14,330)
- Supported Housing Improvement Programme - Supporting Families Programme	(121) (793 <u>)</u>	(174) (1,264)
- Urgent Emergency Care Support Fund	0	(468)

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - Air Quality Grant - DEFRA Other - Food Standards Grant	0 0 (2)	(120) (23) 0
Department for Transport - Active Travel Capability Fund - Active Travel Tranche 4 funding - DfT Other - Bikeability Grant - Bus Service Improvement Plan Funding - Bus Recovery Grant - Bus Service Operator Grant - Bus Capacity Grant - On Street Residential Chargepoint Grant - LA Capacity Building - Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund - Local Transport Funding	(66) 0 0 (32) 0 0 (171) (21) (100) (68) 0	(98) (5) (689) (47) (218) (345) (172) 0 0 (44) (221)
Department for Work & Pensions - Housing Benefit Administration - Kickstart Grant - Multiple Youth Grant - New Burdens Council Tax Reduction - New Burdens Universal Credit	(719) (86) (58) (10) (186)	(665) 0 0 (7) (224)
Home Office - IAG Grant - Afghan Relocation Assistance Scheme - Exploitation Prevention Young Women and Girls - Leaving Care Grant - Safer Streets - Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children Grant	300 (90) (21) (83) (38) (141)	300 (45) (42) 0 0 (1,604)
Ministry of Justice - Contributions from the Youth Justice Board - MoJ Other - Rochester Prison Library - Turnaround Funding	(529) (120) 0 (40)	(439) 0 (59) (181)

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy		
- Skills Funding Agency	(1,887)	(1,958)
- Heat Network Grant	Ó	(54)
- New Burdens Welfare reform	(37)	Ó
- BEIS Other	(34)	(15)
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
Other Miscellaneous Grants	(455)	(947)
Contributions from NHS Partners	(27,458)	(30,930)
Contributions from Other Local Authorities	(3,500)	(3,511)
Miscellaneous Contributions	(1,853)	(2,770)
Recognition of Capital Grants and Contributions	(4,283)	(4,364)
Total	(264,185)	(302,360)

The Authority has received a number of grants, contributions or donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that, should they not be met, would require the monies to be returned to the giver. The balances at the year-end are as follows:

Capital Grants Receipts in Advance (Capital Grants)	31 March 2023 31 March	
Applicable Section Agreements	£'000 (5,079)	£'000 (5,261)
Total	(5,079)	(5,261)

The following revenue grants were received in the indicated financial year, but relate to the subsequent reporting period, and therefore have been treated as grants received in advance within current liabilities in the balance sheet:

Grants Receipts in Advance - Revenue	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000
Cabinet Office	-	
- Elections Grant	0	(348)
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities		, ,
- Arts and Homelessness	(10)	0
- Chatham Town Centre Design Code	(39)	(32)
- Open Digital Planning	(632)	(5 ¹⁵)
- Levelling Up Fund Capacity Support Grant	` ó	(140)
- Shared Prosperity Fund	(137)	(187)
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	(-)	(-)
- Air Quality Grant	(128)	0
- Bio-Diversity Net Gain Grant	(20)	(47)
Department for Education	()	(,
- Multiply Programme	(168)	0
Department for Transport	(133)	· ·
- Active Travel Tranche 2 under	(222)	0
- Bikeability Grant	(7)	Ő
- Bus Recovery funding (LTA BRG)	(724)	0
- LTP Travel Plan funding	(179)	0
- Tech Facilitators Grant	(117)	Õ
Department of Health & Social care	()	· ·
- NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaboration	(148)	0
Miscellaneous	(1.5)	· ·
Arts Council England - Medway Music Hall Grant	(2)	(2)
Arts Council England - Circle of Six Grant	(4)	(8)
Arts Council England - Destination Luton Grant	(1)	(25)
Chatham Dockyard Grant	(45)	(95)
Contributions from Other Local Authorities	(65)	0
Good Things Foundation	(8)	(8)
Libraries Connected	(1)	0
Porchlight Funding for Arts and Mental Health	(4)	0
Reading Agency	(5)	(5)
Sport 4 Life Funding	(887)	0
Theatre Deposits	(4)	0
Sport England	0	(7)
Applause Rural Touring Rekindle Grant	0	(7)
Kent Community Foundation	0	(5)
Kent Football Association	0	(0)
Total	(3,555)	(1,430)
i Otai	(3,555)	(1,430)

The Authority received a number of grants that Medway Council were acting as an Agent, therefore were not recognised through the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement but would be shown within the Balance Sheet as liabilities until such time as they are discharged. All the above grants were discharged within 2023/24.

Grants - Medway Council as Agent	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government - Support for energy bills - Council Tax Rebate 2022-23 Non-		
Discretionary	(14,908)	0
Total	(14,908)	0

Note 18. Interests in Companies and Other Entities

Accounting Policy

Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Authority has material interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries that require it to prepare group accounts, but its interests in its associates and joint ventures are not considered to be controlling. Therefore, in the Authority's own single-entity accounts, the interests in associates and joint ventures are recorded as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses.

Local Authorities must consider all their interests in entities and prepare a full set of group financial statements where they have material interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. Before group accounts can be produced the following actions need to be carried out:

- Determine whether the Authority has any form of interest in an entity
- Assess the nature of the relationship between the Authority and the entity
- Determine the grounds of materiality whether group accounts should be prepared

Having considered the accounting requirements and the Authority's involvement with all companies and organisations, Group Accounts have been prepared.

Medway Norse Limited

Medway Norse Limited provides a package of services including Corporate Cleaning, Building Maintenance, Security Services, Window Cleaning, Printing Services and Catering.

The Board of Medway Norse Ltd. consists of five directors. Two directors are appointed by Medway Council. Under as Service agreement Medway Council receives a discount on the cost of services supplied to the Authority equivalent to 50% of the operating profit of the Company.

Under IFRS 11 the relationship between Medway Council and Medway Norse Ltd is a joint venture. We have, therefore, included under cost of services, the costs charged by Medway Norse net of rebate in the Income and Expenditure Account and have included the investment at cost in the Balance Sheet.

Medway Norse Transport

Medway Norse Transport provides transport services to the Council. The Authority's relationship with Medway Norse Transport is identical to that with Medway Norse Ltd.

The Authority owns 20% of the share capital of Medway Transport. Under a Service Agreement Medway Council receives a discount on the cost of services supplied to the Authority equal to 50% of the operating profit of the Company.

Under IFRS 11 the relationship between Medway Council and Medway Norse Transport is a joint venture. We have, therefore, included under cost of services, the costs charged by Medway Norse Transport net of rebate in the Income and Expenditure Account and have included the investment at cost in the Balance Sheet.

Kyndi Ltd

Kyndi Limited (formerly Medway Commercial Group) is a company wholly owned by Medway Council. Group accounts have been prepared for the first time in 2023/24 and are shown elsewhere within these statements.

Kyndi Ltd is responsible for the delivery of CCTV, Telecare, out-of-hours, lone worker solutions, other personal alarm services and via Ocelot People Services, trading via MCG, a new staffing agency.

Medway Development Company (MDC)

Medway Development Company Limited is a company wholly owned by Medway Council. Group accounts have been prepared for the first time in 2023/24 and are shown elsewhere within these statements.

MDC has been set up to maximise the opportunities to invest in or develop property within and outside Medway and in the first instance to enable the development of a number of Councilowned sites. This will enable the generation of new and alternative revenue income streams for the Council and to deliver housing units principally in Medway.



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Notes Supporting the Movement in Reserves Statement

Note 19.	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	. 99
Note 20.	Movements in Earmarked Reserves	102

Note 19. Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations

This note details the adjustments made to the comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Authority in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statute as being available to the Authority to meet future revenue and capital expenditure. The following sets out a description of the reserves that the adjustments are made against.

General Fund Balance

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

Housing Revenue Account Balance

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

Major Repairs Reserve

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

Capital Receipts Reserve

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

Capital Grants Unapplied

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

Note 19. Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (continued)

Usable Reserves					
General Fund Balance £000s	Housing Revenue Account Balance £000s	Capital Receipts Reserve £000s	Major Repairs Reserve £000s	Capital Grants Unapplied £000s	Unusable Reserves £000s
(4,873)	(10)	0	0	0	4,883
1,117	0	0	0	0	(1,117)
(1,083)	0	0	0	0	1,083
139	2	0	0	0	(141)
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
17,123	9,563	0	0	42,690	(69,375)
12,422	9,555	0	0	42,690	(64,667)
	,			•	
65	(536)	471	0	0	0
0	Ó	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
(91)	0	0	0	0	91
0	(4,087)	0	4,087	0	0
(7,233)	0	0	0		7,233
		0	0		1,759
(7,589)	(6,053)	471	4,087	0	9,084
					_
0	0	(915)	0	0	915
0	0	0	(4,087)	0	4,087
0	0	0	0		21,599
		0	0	0	0
0	0	(915)	(4,087)	(21,599)	26,601
4,834	3,502	(444)	0	21,091	(28,983)
	Fund Balance £000s (4,873) 1,117 (1,083) 139 0 17,123 12,422 65 0 (91) 0 (7,233) (329) (7,589) 0 0 0	General Fund Balance £000s Housing Revenue Account Balance £000s (4,873) (10) 1,117 0 (1,083) 0 139 2 0 0 17,123 9,563 12,422 9,555 65 (536) 0 0 (91) 0 (7,233) 0 (329) (1,430) (7,589) (6,053) 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	General Fund Balance £000s Housing Revenue £000s Capital Receipts Reserve £000s (4,873) (10) 0 1,117 0 0 (1,083) 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 17,123 9,563 0 12,422 9,555 0 65 (536) 471 0 0 0 (91) 0 0 (7,233) 0 0 (7,589) (6,053) 471 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	General Fund Balance £000s Housing Revenue £000s Capital Receipts Reserve £000s Major Repairs Reserve £000s (4,873) (10) 0 0 1,117 0 0 0 (1,083) 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 139 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 17,123 9,563 0 0 65 (536) 471 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 (91) 0 0 0 (7,233) 0 0 0 (7,589) (6,053) 471 4,087 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 <	General Fund Fund Balance £000s Revenue £000s Capital Receipts Reserve £000s Major Repairs Reserve £000s Capital Grants Unapplied £000s (4,873) (10) 0 0 0 1,117 0 0 0 0 (1,083) 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 17,123 9,563 0 0 42,690 12,422 9,555 0 0 42,690 65 (536) 471 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Note 19. Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (continued)

	Usable Reserves						
2022/23 Comparative Figures	General Fund Balance £000s	Housing Revenue Account Balance £000s	Capital Receipts Reserve £000s	Major Repairs Reserve £000s	Capital Grants Unapplied £000s	Unusable Reserves £000s	
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE REVENUE RESOURCES							
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:							
Pensions costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	14,454	292	0	0	0	(14,746)	
Financial instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustments Account/Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve)	3,839	0	0	0	0	(3,839)	
Council tax and NDR (transfers to or from Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	(13,625)	0	0	0	0	13,625	
Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Account)	(151)	1	0	0	0	150	
Equal pay settlements (transferred to the Unequal Pay/Back Pay Account)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Amount by which Schools Deficit has moved in year (transferred to Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account)	13,829	4,590	0	0	30,488	(48,907)	
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):	(30,017)	(471)	0	0	30,488	0	
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	18,346	4,883	0	0	30,488	(53,717)	
ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN REVENUE AND CAPITAL RESOURCES:		·			·		
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	0	(1,032)	1,032	0	0	0	
Administrative costs of non-current asset disposals (funded by a contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Payments to the government housing receipts pool (funded by a transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Posting of HRA resources from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve	0	(4,002)	0	4,002	0	0	
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	(1,641)	0	0	0	0	1,641	
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(716)	(1,173)	0	0	0	1,889	
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	(2,357)	(6,207)	1,032	4,002	0	3,530	
ADJUSTMENTS TO CAPITAL RESOURCES							
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	(3,738)	0	0	3,738	
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	(4,002)	0	4,002	
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	(9,438)	9,438	
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	0	0	481	0	0	(481)	
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	0	0	(3,257)	(4,002)	(9,438)	16,697	
Total Adjustments 2022/23	15,989	(1,324)	(2,225)	0	21,050	(33,490)	

Note 20. Movements in Earmarked Reserves

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

General Fund	Balance 31 March 2022 £'000	Transfers in 2022/23 £'000	Transfers out 2022/23 £'000	Balance 31 March 2023 £'000	Transfers in 2023/24 £'000	Transfers out 2023/24 £'000	Balance 31 March 2024 £'000
HSE Decent Homes Loan Funds	0	(18)	0	(18)	0	18	0
Balances held by schools under a scheme of delegation	(1,750)	720	(726)	(1,756)	(1,055)	910	(1,901)
School Rev Contributions To Capital	(250)	167	(35)	(118)	(28)	191	45
Revenue Contributions To Capital BSD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revenue Contributions To Capital C&A	17	0	0	17	0	(17)	0
Revenue Contributions To Capital RCE	(95)	0	0	(95)	0	95	0
Development Plan Reserve	(484)	378	0	(106)	0	106	0
Provision For Local Election	(263)	120	(150)	(293)	(152)	340	(105)
Bereavement Services Reserves	(313)	0	(2)	(315)	(75)	0	(390)
Rate Equalisation Fund	(4,663)	687	0	(3,976)	0	3,226	(750)
Community Hubs Reserve	(41)	0	0	(41)	0	41	0
BRMF - Annual Programme	(447)	1,058	(750)	(139)	(750)	462	(427)
ICT Reserve	0	(4)	0	(4)	(717)	0	(721)
Reserve Fund Computer Development	(1,000)	0	0	(1,000)	0	1,000	0
Developer Contributions Revenue Reserves	(6,444)	1,570	(2,228)	(7,102)	(2,518)	2,151	(7,469)
DSG Ring Fenced Safety Valve Reserve	0	0	(3,000)	(3,000)	0	0	(3,000)
Economic Development Loans Fund	(79)	0	0	(79)	0	79	0
Directorate Carry Forwards	(6,205)	3,701	(3,919)	(6,423)	(3,845)	3,227	(7,041)
Homelessness Reduction	(168)	0	0	(168)	0	168	0
BirdWatch/Samms Inv Funds	(1,480)	0	(500)	(1,980)	(781)	0	(2,761)
Parish Grants Fund	0	(40)	0	(40)	0	40	0
Mosaic Forms Development Reserve	0	(1,679)	0	(1,679)	0	1,069	(609)
Brook Theatre Structural Survey Reserve	0	(87)	0	(87)	0	83	(4)
Severance Payments Reserve	(995)	147	0	(848)	0	248	(600)
South Medway Development Res	(4,000)	0	0	(4,000)	0	4,000	0
Transformation Reserve	(1,000)	0	0	(1,000)	0	1,000	0
Salix Repayments	(136)	148	(40)	(28)	0	28	0
HEE Public Health Grant	(176)	176	0	0	0	0	0
Other Earmarked Reserves	(216)	0	(22)	(238)	(1,162)	3	(1,397)
Covid-19 Reserve Funding	(1,206)	770	0	(436)	0	84	(352)
Collection Fund S.31 Grant Adjustment Reserve	(10,117)	7,256	497	(2,364)	0	535	(1,829)
Insurance Reserve	(2,484)	(696)	0	(3,180)	0	795	(2,385)
Total Earmarked General Fund Reserves	(43,995)	14,393	(10,875)	(40,477)	(11,082)	19,864	(31,696)
Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve*	0	2,326	(4,415)	(2,089)	(2,701)	616	(4,174)
DSG Reserve	0	2,326	(4,415)	(2,089)	(2,701)	616	(4,174)
Housing Revenue Account	<u></u>	,	. , -,	(/ = = =)	(,1		<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>
HRA Earmarked Reserves	0	1,173	(1,173)	0	(1,430)	1,430	0
Total Earmarked Housing Revenue Account Reserves		1,173	(1,173)	0	(1,430)	1,430	0
Total Earmarked Reserves	(43,995)	17,892	(16,463)	(42,566)	(15,213)	21,910	(35,870)

Note 20. Movements in Earmarked Reserves (continued)

List of Earmarked Reserves

HSE Decent Homes Loan Funds

Reserve used to fund Decent Homes Loans provided by HSE.

Balances held by schools under a scheme of delegation

School Revenue Reserves. School funding is ringfenced to the individual school and can't be used to fund any other Medway Council department budget or school.

School Revenue Contributions To Capital

School in year revenue contributions to capital reserves. Any funding not used to fund the capital programme will be transferred into the main school capital reserve.

Revenue Contributions To Capital C&A

General fund revenue contributions towards capital used to fund the Children and Adults capital programme.

Revenue Contributions To Capital RCET

General fund revenue contributions towards capital used to fund the regeneration, culture, environment and transformation capital programme.

Development Plan Reserve

Annual contributions from the General Fund to cover the costs in respect of the Local Plan.

Provision For Local Election

Provision for cyclical cost of Local Elections. Local Elections are held once every 4 years so a contribution is made to a provision each year to fund the expenditure in year 4.

Bereavement Services Reserves

Reserve Fund for essential Crematorium Repairs/Improvements and gifts to the Crematorium.

Rate Equalisation Fund

Used to mitigate fluctuations in interest costs caused by changing rates.

Community Hubs Reserve

To finance development of community hubs in our libraries.

BRMF (Building Repairs and Maintenance Fund) - Annual Programme

Reserve fund for building repairs and maintenance funded by way of contributions from services.

Reserve Fund Computer Development

Reserve Fund for Computer Development/Replacement of Steria and then Medway Grid for Learning (MGfL) reserve added in 2016/17.

Economic Development Loans Fund

A Fund to give Start up Grants to individuals living in Medway for Companies to be located in Medway.

Directorate Carry Forwards

Revenue carry forwards relating to the general fund.

Homelessness Reduction

Homelessness Reduction new burdens funding issued by the CLG for the first 3 years of the implementation of New Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 which requires authorities to have additional resources to deal with the increased duties to improve advice and information for the prevention of homelessness under this new legislation.

BirdWatch/Samms (Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy) Inv Funds

To accumulate surplus funds to invest in the future operation of the SAMMS scheme for many years. This is funded from section 106 contributions received from developers less running costs of the SAMMS team

Severance Payments Reserve

Provided to support staffing cost implications of service transformation programmes.

South Medway Development Reserve

Regeneration and development reserve created to fund Rochester Airport Regeneration and similar regeneration and development schemes.

Transformation Reserve

Provided to finance the transformation of the Council's services as required to achieve leading edge service and financial provision.

Salix Repayments

Salix provided £150k, matched by Medway, to create a fund for energy saving projects. The fund pays for a scheme and then the loan is repaid over a number of years by the service benefitting from the saving.

HEE Public Health Grant

Grant received from Health Education England and is used to fund activity on 4E840 which is a joint venture with Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

Other Earmarked Reserves

Represent non-material balances.

Note 20. Movements in Earmarked Reserves (continued)

List of Earmarked Reserves (cont.)

Collection Fund S.31 Grant Adjustment Reserve

To hold additional Section 31 Grant income awarded as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic to be used to offset future deficits within the collection fund.

Insurance Reserve

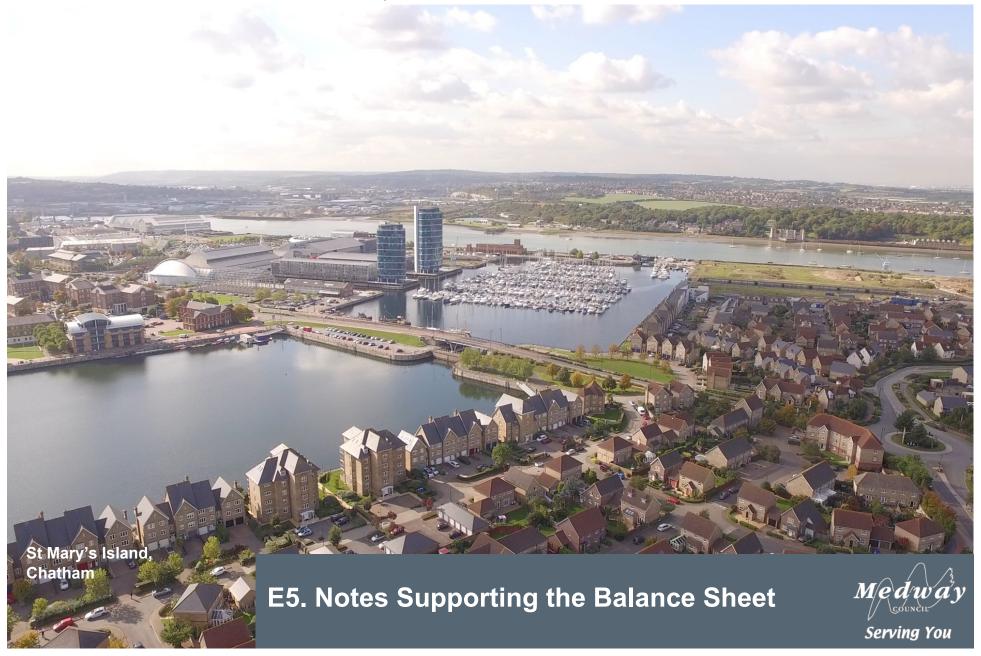
To finance costs (e.g. claims and premium payments) associated with insurable risk. The reserve meets expenditure relating to various types of future claims which are not covered by the Insurance Fund.

DSG Reserve

Dedicated School Grant reserves. Significant increase in Special Educational Needs (SEN) expenditure in recent years has was transferred here, but in 2020/21 was transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account, an unusable reserve.

HRA Earmarked Reserves

Monies held in an Earmarked Reserve for the HRA.



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Notes Supporting the Balance Sheet

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Note 21. Property, Plant & Equipment

Accounting Policy

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, generally above the de-minimis level of £25,000 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 Authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

The Authority 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 Authority). 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 Authority.

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

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost
- council dwellings current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH)
- school buildings current value, but because of their specialist nature, are measured at depreciated replacement cost which is used as an estimate of current value
- surplus assets the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective
- all other assets current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

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

Where non-property assets that have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for 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 the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a Directorate.

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

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains)
- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant Directorate 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.

Note 21. Property, Plant & Equipment (continued)

Componentisation

Componentisation was introduced under the IFRS-based Code of Practice to allow significant parts of an asset with different values and useful lives to be accounted for separately (recognition, depreciation and derecognition), therefore providing the most accurate way of accounting for the overall asset.

All assets (including Council Dwellings and Non-Dwellings relating to the Housing Revenue Account), other than investment properties, have a land and building depreciable split where appropriate. After assessing the materiality of the various items of Property, Plant and Equipment, it was decided that assets with a Gross Book Value in excess of £2.5m and the following asset types would be further componentised upon the date of their next scheduled revaluation:

- Schools rolling programme starting from 2011/12
- Leisure centres with swimming pools rolling programme starting from 2012/13
- Medway Park componentised from 2010/11
- Crematorium componentised from 2011/12
- Other assets with a GBV in excess of £2.5m
 componentised from 2016/17

Housing Revenue Account Buildings are further componentised to include major components with different lives to the main structure e.g. kitchens, bathrooms, heating systems etc. to allow the most accurate depreciation charges.

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 Directorate 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 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 charged in the year of disposal and not in the year of acquisition.

Depreciation is calculated on the following basis:

- council dwellings and other buildings straight-line allocation over the outstanding life of the property as estimated by the valuer
- vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment straight-line allocation over the projected life of the asset
- infrastructure straight-line allocation over the outstanding life of the asset.

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

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

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of capital receipts relating to housing disposals is payable to the government. The balance of receipts remains within the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment [or set aside to reduce the 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.

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

The Authority categorises its operational Property, Plant and Equipment into a number of sub categories, namely council dwellings, other land and buildings, vehicles, plant and equipment, infrastructure assets and community assets. There are two categories of non operational Property, Plant and Equipment, namely assets under construction and surplus assets. The following table shows the gross carrying amount and the accumulated depreciation at the beginning and end of the reporting period and summarises the movement in current value over the year for each sub category of Property, Plant and Equipment:

Movements on Balances 2023/24	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
Cost or Valuation	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
As at 1 April 2023	187,288	379,851	19,121	9,102	20,765	65,729	681,856
Assets Under Construction brought into use	634	11,322	0	0	7,182	(19,138)	0
Additions	8,142	1,595	489	36	26	27,269	37,556
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the							
Revaluation Reserve	(3,422)	1,550	0	(9)	6,092	0	4,211
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the			_	4-1		_	
Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(8,564)	(7,315)	0	(2)	(4,835)	0	(20,717)
Derecognition – disposals	(250)	(33)	0	0	(527)	0	(810)
Derecognition - other	0	(7,733)	0	0	0	(12,393)	(20,126)
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Surplus Assets	0	(30)	0	0	30	0	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Assets Under Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0_
As at 31 March 2024	183,826	379,206	19,610	9,127	28,733	61,467	681,970

Movements on Balances 2023/24	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
Cost or Valuation	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment							
As at 1 April 2023	0	(13,024)	(13,433)	(11)	(26)	0	(26,494)
Depreciation Charge	(3,797)	(9,393)	(942)	(7)	(20)	0	(14,160)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	2,051	15,499	0	0	29	0	17,579
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,741	1,473	0	0	16	0	3,230
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition – disposals	5	0	0	0	3	0	8
Derecognition - other	0	107	0	0	0	0	107
Assets reclassified to/(from) Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified to/(from) Surplus Assets	0	3	0	0	(3)	0	0
Assets reclassified to/(from) Assets Under Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	0	0	(257)	0	0	0	(257)
As at 31 March 2024	(0)	(5,335)	(14,632)	(18)	(2)	0	(19,987)
Net Book Value							
At 31 March 2024	183,826	373,872	4,979	9,109	28,731	61,467	661,984
At 31 March 2023	187,288	366,828	5,689	9,091	20,739	65,729	655,363

Movements on Balances 2022/23	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
Cost or Valuation	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
As at 1 April 2022	174,676	338,856	18,803	8,959	20,747	41,270	603,311
Assets Under Construction brought into use	5,910	6,761	0	0	0	(12,671)	
Additions	4,672	3,594	352	143	53	37,130	45,944
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the							
Revaluation Reserve	5,265	59,286	0	0	606	0	65,157
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the	/\			_	,	_	
Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(2,675)	(27,536)	0	0	(640)	0	(30,851)
Derecognition – disposals	(559)	(1)	0	0	(0)	0	(560)
Derecognition - other	0	(1,110)	(34)	0	0	0	(1,144)
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Surplus Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Assets Under Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0_
As at 31 March 2023	187,288	379,851	19,121	9,102	20,765	65,729	681,856

Movements on Balances 2022/23	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
Cost or Valuation	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment							
As at 1 April 2022	0	(15,702)	(12,247)	(11)	(22)	0	(27,982)
Depreciation Charge	(3,724)	(12,722)	(923)	0	(13)	0	(17,381)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	1,358	12,174	0	0	6	0	13,539
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,354	3,172	0	0	2	0	5,528
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition – disposals	12	54	7	0	0	0	73
Derecognition - other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified to/(from) Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified to/(from) Surplus Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified to/(from) Assets Under Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	0	0	(269)	0	0	0	(269)
As at 31 March 2023	(0)	(13,023)	(13,433)	(11)	(26)	0	(26,493)
Net Book Value							
At 31 March 2023	187,288	366,828	5,689	9,091	20,739	65,729	655,363
At 31 March 2022	174,676	323,154	6,556	8,948	20,725	41,270	575,329

Effects of Changes in Estimates

In 2023/24 the Council made no material changes to its accounting estimates for Property, Plant and Equipment.

Revaluations

The Authority carries out a rolling programme which ensures that all relevant Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at current value is revalued at least every five years. All valuations are carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the Professional Standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors by RICS Registered Valuers.

Jonathan Rogers, MRICS a Registered Valuer of Harrisions Chartered Surveyors was commissioned to undertake the valuation of the Pentagon Shopping Centre and the Council's offices (Gun Wharf). All other property and land revaluations were undertaken by Philip Smith, MRICS a qualified valuer of Wilks Head & Eve LLP.

The effective date of all valuations carried out in 2023/24 was 31 March 2024.

If the revaluation of a specific asset results in a material change in value, an exercise is undertaken to establish whether the change is specific to that asset or could affect the whole asset class. If the material change cannot be identified as specific to that asset, then a review of the whole of that class, e.g. "Car Parks", will be undertaken to ensure that the current value of that asset class held within the balance sheet at the end of the reporting period is not materially misstated.

During the revaluation exercise it was not necessary to revalue any complete class of assets.

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the current values of Property, Plant and Equipment are:

- All assets are assumed to have good title, with no unusual or onerous restrictions, encumbrances or outgoings.
- Significant plant and machinery included in each EUV valuation is componentised, where necessary in accordance with the Authority's accounting policies.
- That the property is connected and has a right to use mains services and that sewers, main services and roads giving access to it have been adopted;
- That there are no deleterious or hazardous materials or existing or potential environmental factors that would affect the valuation.
- No contaminative or potentially contaminative uses, underground mining, or other engineering works have ever been carried out that would adversely affect the valuation.
- No allowances have been made for taxation which may arise on disposal or for disposal costs.
- All valuations assume each property would be disposed of separately.

The following table shows the progress of the Authority's rolling programme for the revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment:

	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Community assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Valued at historical cost	0	12,249	0	0	0	0	12,249
Capital expenditure on assets not revalued since the capital expenditure was incurred	0	947	19,610	9,127	0	61,467	91,151
Carried at historic cost	0	13,196	19,610	9,127	0	61,467	103,400
Valued at current value (fair value for surplus assets) during the year ending:							
31 March 2024	183,826	107,676	0	0	28,044	0	319,546
31 March 2023	0	197,578	0	0	477	0	198,055
31 March 2022	0	18,257	0	0	51	0	18,308
31 March 2021	0	20,579	0	0	0	0	20,579
31 March 2020	0	21,920	0	0	161	0	22,081
Total	183,826	379,206	19,610	9,217	28,733	61,467	681,969

Removal of Schools Transferring to Academies

Two schools achieved academy status between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 with a balance sheet value of £7.4mil (1 in 2022/23; value £1.1m). There are two VA schools which are likely to achieve academy status between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 however, due to their status, they do not appear on Medway Council's Balance Sheet.

Fair Value Measurement

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Surplus Assets Fair Value Hierarchy

Details of the Authority's surplus assets and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2024 are shown below.

Recurring fair value measurements using:	Level 2 inputs £000's	Level 3 Inputs £000's	Fair Value as at 31 March 2024 £000's	Level 2 valuation technique
Commercial development	19,357	0	19,357	Market based approach
Residential dwellings	352	0	352	Market based approach
Non residential buildings	7,259	0	7,259	Market based approach
Other leased land	50	0	50	Market based approach
Vacant land and buildings	1,715	0	1,715	Market based approach
	28,733	0	28,733	

NB The Council does not have any Level 1 or Level 3 valuations.

Valuation Process for Surplus Assets

The fair value of the Council's surplus assets is measured at least every 5 years in line with our revaluation policy for Property, Plant and Equipment. All valuations are carried out by Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors qualified employees in accordance with the Professional Standards of the RICS.

Highest and Best Use of Surplus Assets

In estimating the fair value of the Council's Surplus assets, the highest and best use of all of these assets is their current use.

Capital Commitments

As at 31 March 2024 the following capital commitments were in place (22/23: £10.653m):

Directorate	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Business Support Department	0	373
Children's and Adults (inc. Public Health)	2,646	9,528
Regeneration, Culture and Environment	7,621	13,143
Housing Revenue Account	386	4,429
Total	10,653	27,473

In Children's and Adults (inc. Public Health), the two Basic Need projects at Hundred of Hoo Primary (approx. £1.5m with Perfect Homes) and Hoo Academy (approx. £1.1m with G A Harpers Ltd.) have now completed. The capital commitments for 2023/24 primarily relate to two new Basic Need schemes at St Nicholas Infants (approx. £1.3m with Perfect Homes) and Hundred of Hoo 6th Form Block (approx. £2.5m with G A Harpers Ltd.), a new programme of works across SEN provision (approx. £0.9m across various suppliers), and a new scheme at Victory Academy to extend the SEN provision and 6th Form Block (approx. £4.4m with Perfect Homes).

In Regeneration, Culture & Environment, approx. £4.9m of the capital commitments are for works on Future High Street Fund schemes, including the Innovation Hub at the Pentagon (approx. £2.8m with Form Ltd.), the Paddock and Public Realm works in Chatham (approx. £1m with Blakedown Landscapes) and the conversion of St John's church to a conference and events hub (approx. £0.7m to the Diocese of Rochester). A further £1.9m (with Wilmott Dixon Construction) is committed to complete the build of the new Cozenton Park Sports Centre. There are also capital commitments for the Strood Riverside scheme (approx. £1.7m to Medway Development Company), for the ongoing schemes at Innovation Park Medway (approx. £2.6m to various contractors) and for various adaptations via the Disabled Facilities Grant (approx. £1.2m with various suppliers).

In the Housing Revenue Account, the capital commitments are primarily to Medway Development Company for the residential development at Britton Farm (approx. £4.2m).

Accounting Policy

Highways infrastructure assets

Highways infrastructure assets include carriageways, footways and cycle tracks, structures (eg bridges), street lighting, street furniture (eg illuminated traffic signals, bollards), traffic management systems and land which together form a single integrated network.

Recognition

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

Measurement

Highways infrastructure assets are generally measured at depreciated historical cost. However, this is a modified form of historical cost – opening balances for highways infrastructure assets were originally recorded in balance sheets at amounts of capital undischarged for sums borrowed as at 1 April 1994 England, which was deemed at that time to be historical cost.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by the carrying amount of the asset being written down to the recoverable amount.

Medway Council was formed in 1998 from predecessor authorities, Gillingham Borough Council, Kent County Council (Medway Area) and Rochester Upon Medway City Council.

As a highways authority, Kent County Council transferred a value of Infrastructure Assets on their balance sheet using an agreed percentage of those overall assets considered to equate to those within the Medway area.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on the parts of the highways network infrastructure assets that are subject to deterioration or depletion and by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their usef ul lives. Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis.

Annual depreciation is the depreciation amount allocated each year.

Useful lives of the various parts of the highways network are assessed by the Chief Highways Engineer using industry standards where applicable as follows:

Part of the highways network	Useful Economic Life
Carriageways	20 Years
Footways and Cycletracks	
(attached to carriageway or	50 Years
segregated)	
Structures	120 Years
Street Lighting	43 Years
Street Furniture	40 Years
Traffic Management Systems	20 Years

Disposals and derecognition

When a component of the network is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the component in the Balance Sheet is written off to the 'Other operating expenditure' line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). The written-off amounts of disposals are not a charge against council tax, as the cost of noncurrent assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are transferred to the capital adjustment account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Highways Infrastructure Assets

Movements on balances In accordance with the temporary relief offered by the Update to the Code on infrastructure assets. This note does not include disclosure of gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets because historical reporting practices and resultant information deficits mean that this would not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements. The authority has chosen not to disclose this information as the previously reported practices and resultant information deficits mean that gross cost and accumulated depreciation are not measured accurately and would not provide the basis for the users of the financial statements to take economic or other decisions relating to infrastructure assets.

	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Net book value (modified historical cost) at 1 April	147,592	150,529
Additions	9,859	10,149
Derecognition	0	0
Depreciation	(6,919)	(7,265)
Impairment	(3)	0
Other movements in cost	0	0
Net book value at 31 March	150,529	153,413
Reconciliation of Infrastructure Assets and Property, Plant & Equipment (PPE)		
	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£'000	£'000
Infrastructure Assets	150,529	153,413
Other PPE Assets	655,363	661,984
Total PPE Assets	805,892	815,397

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

Note 22. Impairment Losses

The Code requires disclosure by class of assets of the amounts for impairment losses and impairment reversals charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. These disclosures are consolidated in Note 21 reconciling the movement over the year in the property, plant and equipment and intangible asset balances.

During 2023/24 the Authority has recognised £4.745m impairment losses within property, plant and equipment (£0 in 2022/23). The impairment losses relate to the discovery of RAAC within Gun Wharf (the main Council office) resulting in a significant proportion of the building being closed until remedial works are carried out.

2023/24	Impairment charges to Surplus/(Deficit) £'000	Impairment charges to Revaluation Reserve £'000	Total Impairment charges £'000
Other Land and Buildings	4,691	54	4,745
Total	4,691	54	4,745

Note 23. Heritage Assets

Accounting Policy

Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are held purely for increasing the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Authority's history and local area and are recognised by using the latest insurance valuation, which shall be subject to an annual review. Formal revaluations should provide value for money for taxpayers with regards to the information provided within the financial statements versus the cost of obtaining the data. Due to the high cost and minimal change in values when compared to insurance reviews, it has been decided that formal valuations will not be undertaken.

By their nature, the useful life cannot be measured and therefore they will not be subject to annual depreciation charges. Where assets are being recognised for the first time, the initial valuation shall be recognised as a gain in the balance sheet and an increase in the Authority's revaluation reserve.

It is not foreseen that there will be many disposals of heritage assets, but should this occur, the same guidelines as set out within Property, Plant and Equipment shall apply.

The Authority's collections of heritage assets are accounted for as follows:

Buildings

The buildings included are Rochester Castle, Temple Manor, Eastgate House, Brook Pumping Station and various clocks and war memorials. They are not used to provide services and therefore are considered non-operational.

With the exception of Rochester Castle, they were revalued during 2012/13. Unfortunately despite an extensive search, the Authority was unable to engage a valuer with relevant knowledge to provide a valuation for Rochester Castle, so the valuation remains that of an historic insurance valuation at the present time.

Furniture

The Authority holds many items of furniture ranging from clocks, chairs, chaise lounges, and various types of chests and writing cabinets dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Some of these items are on display whilst others are held in storage. Some of these items have previously been valued by industry experts to provide an updated insurance valuation.

Silver/Gold Collections

There are currently various different pieces held within this collection including items of civic regalia, iron age coins and other miscellaneous items from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries and are held within the Balance Sheet. These items were revalued by industry experts during 2013/14 to provide an updated insurance valuation.

Art Collection

The collection consists of items including various paintings, marble busts and engravings dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Part of this category was revalued during both 2014/15 and 2016/17 by industry experts to provide an updated insurance valuation.

Other

The Authority holds many items within this category including collections of medals, various coins and trading tokens, pianos, cameras, costumes and jewellery dating from the Bronze Age to the 20th century. Many can be found on display whilst a few are held in storage.

Heritage Assets - General

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment for heritage assets, 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 Authority's general policies on impairment – see policy relating to Property, Plant and Equipment in this summary of significant accounting policies.

The Authority will occasionally dispose of heritage assets which have a doubtful provenance or are unsuitable for public display. The proceeds of such items are accounted for in accordance with the Authority'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.

Note 23. Heritage Assets (continued)

Reconciliation of the Carrying Value of Heritage Assets Held by the Authority

	Buildings £'000	Furniture £'000	Silver / Gold Collections £'000	Art Collection £'000	Other £'000	Total Assets £'000
Cost or Valuation						
1 April 2022	12,990	238	1,189	1,559	2,746	18,723
Additions	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations	1,000	0	0	0	0	1,000
Impairment (Losses)/reversals recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	0	0	(142)	0	142	0
31 March 2023	13,990	238	1,047	1,559	2,888	19,723
Cost or Valuation						·
1 April 2023	13,990	238	1,047	1,559	2,888	19,723
Additions	50	0	0	0	0	50
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations	3,440	0	0	0	0	3,440
Impairment (Losses)/reversals recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 March 2024	17,480	238	1,047	1,559	2,888	23,213

Note 23. Heritage Assets (continued)

Heritage Buildings

Those buildings which have been classified as Heritage are:

- Rochester Castle
- Temple Manor
- Eastgate House
- Brook Pumping Station
- Various clocks and war memorials

Rochester Castle and Temple Manor are both in the freehold ownership of Medway Council and in the care and guardianship of English Heritage. Medway Council manage the day-to-day care of these properties.

Eastgate House has ceased to be a museum but is a historical building being used to promote the public's enjoyment, and advance their knowledge, of the property.

Brook Pumping Station does house a museum which is run by a team of volunteers with occasional entry permitted by prior appointment. The buildings and contents are used to promote the public's enjoyment, and advance their knowledge of, the property..

Furniture, Silver/Gold Collection, Art Collection and Other

Valuations of tangible heritage assets may be made by any method that is appropriate and relevant. There is no requirement for valuations to be carried out or verified by external valuers, nor is there any prescribed minimum period between valuations.

There has been an annual programme of selective valuations in prior years which have resulted in minor changes to the values held in the balance sheet. However, in line with the Authority's accounting policies for heritage assets, there needs to be assurance that the costs of providing valuations give value for money for taxpayers with regards to the information provided within the financial statements verses the cost of obtaining the data. Due to the disproportionate costs of providing valuations from industry experts against the changes in valuation held in the balance sheet, it was decided be no valuations would be carried out during 2023/24. A decision as to whether revaluations will be carried out in future years will be taken in due course...

Silver and Gold Collections include a collection of Anglo Saxon silver coins and a collection of Iron Age Gold Coins.

Art Collections include a collection of Roman-British pottery and a water-colour by Charles Spencelayh 'Polly, not forgotten'.

Other historical interest items include:

- Civic Regalia
- The Horton Collection of Victoriana
- Collection Romano British Pottery
- Collection of personal relics of Charles Dickens
- Models and showcases held at various sites
- Pounder Cannons at Gun Wharf

Note 24. Heritage Assets: Further Information on the Buildings and Collections

Policy on acquiring Heritage Assets for its Museum Service

Medway Council's policy is to continue to acquire objects for permanent collections in order to provide a full range of services and fulfil its responsibilities to both the residents of the area administered by Medway Council and the wider audience of visitors and researchers. The Authority has as part of its services an accredited museum which acts as a long-term guardian of collections that are in the public domain.

The Authority recognises its responsibility, in acquiring additions to the collections, to ensure the care of collections, documentation arrangements and use of collections will meet the requirements of the Accreditation Standard. It will take into account limitations on collecting imposed by such factors as inadequate staffing, storage facilities and care of collections arrangements and abides by a number of ethical codes.

It is estimated that approximately 35% of the total collections are on permanent display. This is a much higher percentage than for most museums. The 'reserve' collection comprises several important themed collections that are already, and will in future, be actively used to underpin the temporary exhibitions programme and educational work, as well as collections that are primarily of research interest to the public and the academic community. Some of these specialised academic collections are by their very nature not appropriate for public display but help to enhance the museum's reputation as a valuable resource for individuals and academic institutions conducting high-level research in the disciplines of geology, archaeology and natural history. Reserve archaeological collections are particularly well used by the academic community.

Preservation of Heritage Assets

Medway Council is committed to securing higher grade storage facilities for its heritage assets. The upgraded storage facilities were made available for use during the latter part of 2013 which meant that the Authority has been able to house its existing medium-size archaeological excavation archives in environmental conditions that meet the national standard. However, Medway Council recognises that the long-term storage of future archaeological site archives is a County-wide problem on a massive scale that may require a County-wide solution (including the possible creation of a centralised staffed storage facility to house archaeological site archives from the historic county of Kent).

Management of Heritage Assets

Medway Council holds/intends to acquire archives, including photographs and printed ephemera, and will be guided by the Code of Practice on Archives for Museums and Galleries in the United Kingdom (3rd ed., 2002) in terms of managing such items.

Disposals of Heritage Assets

Medway Council will ensure that the disposal process is carried out openly and with transparency.

By definition, heritage assets have a long-term purpose, and the Authority holds collections in trust for society in relation to its stated objectives. Medway Council therefore accepts the principle that sound curatorial reasons for disposal must be established before consideration is given to the disposal of any items in the museum's collection.

No museum objects are to be disposed of for any of the following:

- Primarily for financial reasons, except in exceptional circumstances
- On an ad-hoc basis
- Without considering expert advice
- If doing so would adversely affect the reputation of museums
- If doing so would not be in the long-term interest
- If doing so would remove the item from the public domain, unless in exceptional circumstances.

The Guildhall museum service is a fully accredited service and abides by strict regulations of the policies held with the museums association body.

The Authority will confirm that it is legally free to dispose of an item and agreements on disposal made with donors will be considered.

When disposal of a heritage asset is being considered, the Authority will establish if it was acquired with the aid of an external funding organisation. In such cases, any conditions attached to the original grant will be followed. This may include repayment of the original grant and a proportion of the proceeds if the item is disposed of by sale.

Note 25. Investment Properties

Accounting Policy

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

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

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

Fair Value Measurement

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

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

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

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

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

Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the Authority's financial

statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

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

Revenue Income & Expenditure relating to investment properties

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

Investment properties	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Rental income from investment property Direct operating expenses arising from	(1,065)	(959)
investment property	9	0
Net gain/(loss)	(1,056)	(959)

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

Note 25. Investment Properties (continued)

Movement in Fair Value

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

Investment Properties

Balance at start of year Additions

- Purchases
- Construction
- Subsequent expenditure

Disposals

Net gains/(loss) from fair value adjustments Transfers (to)/from Property, Plant and Equipment

Balance at end of year

All the Council's investment properties have been value assessed as Level 2 on the fair value hierarchy for valuation purposes (See "Fair Value Measurement" in the Statement of Accounting Policies for an explanation of the fair value levels).

Valuation Techniques Used to Determine Level 2 Fair Values for Investment Property

The fair value of investment property has been measured using a market approach, which takes into account prices for similar assets, existing lease terms and rentals, research into market evidence including market rentals and yields, the covenant strength for existing tenants and data and market knowledge gained in managing the Council's Investment Asset portfolio has also been used. As a result, properties have been categorised as level 2 on the fair value hierarchy.

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

Highest and Best Use

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

Valuation Process for Investment Properties

The fair value of the Authority's investment property is measured annually at each reporting date. Jonathan Rogers, MRICS and Registered Valuer of Harrisons Chartered Surveyors was commissioned to undertake the valuations of ten distribution depots held by Medway Council as investment properties and let to Bobby's foods. All valuations of other investment properties were carried out by Philip Smith, MRICS a qualified valuer of Wilks Head & Eve LLPP, in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors..

31 March 2023	31 March 2024
£'000	£'000
17,629	16,664
0	0
0	0
0	0
0	0
(965)	1,517
0	0
16,664	18,181

The other investment properties are as follows:

- Industrial Estate, Railway Street, Gillingham
- Rainham District Shopping Centre
- Gillingham Business Park
- Retail Unit, Doust Way, Rochester

The Authority's valuation experts work closely with finance officers reporting directly to the chief financial officer on a regular basis regarding all valuation matters.

Note 26. Assets Held for Sale

Accounting Policy - Non-current Assets Held for Sale

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

sale.

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

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

Fair Value Hierarchy

Release Outstanding at start of year	Current 2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	Non-Current 2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Balance Outstanding at start of year	15,206	15,910	U	<u> </u>
Assets newly classified as held for sale:	0	0	0	0
Property, plant and equipment	0	0	0	0
Intangible assets	0	0	0	0
 Other assets/liabilities in disposal groups 	0	0	0	0
Revaluation losses	0	(25)	0	0
Revaluation gains	615	0	0	0
Impairment losses	0	0	0	0
Assets declassified as held for sale:				
 Property, plant and equipment 	0	0	0	0
 Intangible assets 	0	0	0	0
 Other assets/liabilities in disposal groups 	0	0	0	0
Assets sold	0	0	0	0
Transfers from non-current to current	0	0	0	0
Additions	89	25	0	0
Balance Outstanding at year end	15,910	15,910	0	0

All the Council's assets held for sale have been value assessed as Level 2 on the fair value hierarchy for valuation purposes (See Note 24 to the Financial Statements for the accounting policy that gives an explanation of the fair value levels).

Valuation Techniques Used to Determine Level 2 Fair Values for Assets held for Sale

The fair value of assets held for sale has been measured using a market approach, which takes into account prices for similar assets, research into market evidence including market rentals and yields. As a result, properties have been categorised as level 2 on the fair value hierarchy.

Highest and Best Use

In estimating the fair value of the Council's assets held for sale, the highest and best use has regard to alternative uses.

Note 27. Financial Instruments

Accounting Policy - Financial Instruments

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 cashflow characteristics. There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

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

The authority'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 authority 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 authority, 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.

However, the authority has made a number of loans to employees at less than market rates (soft loans). When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the CIES (debited to the appropriate service) for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal.

Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the voluntary organisations, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year - the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the CIES to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and 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 Authority 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. The Authority 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.

Note 27. Financial Instruments (continued)

Available-for-Sale Assets

Available-for-Sale Assets 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. Where the asset has fixed or determinable payments, annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the amortised cost of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the Instrument. Where there are no fixed or determinable payments, income (e.g. dividends) is credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when it becomes receivable by the Authority.

Assets are maintained in the Balance Sheet at fair value. Values 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
- equity shares with no quoted market prices

 independent appraisal of company
 valuations.

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.

Changes on fair value are balanced by an entry in the Available-for-Sale Reserve and the gain/loss is recognised in the Surplus or deficit on revaluation of Available- for- Sale Financial Assets. The exception is where impairment losses have been incurred – these are debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any net gain or loss for the asset accumulated in the Available-for-Sale Reserve.

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made (fixed or determinable payments) or fair value falls below cost, the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. If the asset has fixed or determinable payments, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flow discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. Otherwise, the impairment loss is measured as any shortfall of fair value against the acquisition cost of the instrument (net of any principal repayment and amortisation).

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any accumulated gains or losses previously recognised in the Available-for-Sale reserve.

Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, the instrument is carried at cost (less any impairment losses).

Note 27. Financial Instruments (continued)

The following categories of financial instrument are carried in the balance sheet:

Financial Assets

	Non-Current Investments 31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000	Debtors 31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000	Current Investments 31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000	Debtors 31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000	Total 31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000
Fair value through profit or loss	21,099	19,926	0	0	14,633	4,182	0	0	35,732	24,108
Amortised cost - Other	0	0	71,406	89,018	0	0	54,322	91,864	125,728	180,882
Cash & cash equivalents at amortised cost	0	0	0	0	13,244	21,538	0	0	13,244	21,538
Total financial assets	21,099	19,926	71,406	89,018	27,877	25,720	54,322	91,864	174,704	226,528
Non-financial assets	0	0	5	5	0	0	48,168	40,445	48,173	40,450
Total	21,099	19,926	71,411	89,023	27,877	25,720	102,490	132,309	222,877	266,978

Financial Liabilities

Non-Current				Current					
Borrowings		Creditors		Borrowings		Creditors		Total	
31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March
2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
(308,695)	(352,039)	(28,268)	(27,116)	(97,205)	(118,549)	(54,320)	(99,535)	(488,488)	(597,239)
0	0	0	0	(9,680)	(13,234)	0	0	(9,680)	(13,234)
(308,695)	(352,039)	(28,268)	(27,116)	(106,885)	(131,783)	(54,320)	(99,535)	(498,168)	(610,473)
0	0	(10)	(10)	0	0	(19,407)	(20,476)	(19,417)	(20,486)
(308,695)	(352,039)	(28,278)	(27,126)	(106,885)	(131,783)	(73,727)	(120,011)	(517,585)	(630,959)
	Borrowings 31 March 2023 £'000 (308,695) 0 (308,695)	Borrowings 31 March 2023 2024 £'000 (308,695) 0 0 (308,695) 0 (352,039) 0 (352,039) 0 0 0	Borrowings Creditors 31 March 31 March 31 March 2023 2024 2023 £'000 £'000 £'000 (308,695) (352,039) (28,268) 0 0 0 (308,695) (352,039) (28,268) 0 0 (10)	Borrowings Creditors 31 March 31 March 31 March 31 March 2023 2024 2023 2024 £'000 £'000 £'000 £'000 (308,695) (352,039) (28,268) (27,116) 0 0 0 0 (308,695) (352,039) (28,268) (27,116) 0 0 (10) (10)	Borrowings Creditors Borrowings 31 March 31 March 31 March 31 March 31 March 2023 2024 2023 2024 2023 £'000 £'000 £'000 £'000 £'000 (308,695) (352,039) (28,268) (27,116) (97,205) 0 0 0 0 (9,680) (308,695) (352,039) (28,268) (27,116) (106,885) 0 0 (10) (10) 0	Borrowings Creditors Borrowings 31 March 2023 2024 2023 2024 2023 2024 2023 2024 2023 2024 2000 £'	Borrowings Creditors Borrowings Creditors 31 March 2023 2024 2023 </th <th>Borrowings Creditors Borrowings Creditors 31 March 2023 2024</th> <th>Borrowings Creditors Borrowings Creditors Total 31 March 2023 2024 202</th>	Borrowings Creditors Borrowings Creditors 31 March 2023 2024	Borrowings Creditors Borrowings Creditors Total 31 March 2023 2024 202

2022/23

2023/24

Note 27. Financial Instruments (continued)

Income, Expense, Gains & Losses

Net gains/losses on: Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Financial lassets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Financial lassets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Financial labilities measured at fair value through profit or loss Financial labilities measured at fair value through profit or loss Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Financial assets measured at mortised cost Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Financial assets of into the fiduciary activities Financial assets of financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss Financial assets of financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss Financial assets of financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss Financial assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss Financial assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss Financial asset measured at fair value through profit or loss Financial asset meas		0	Other	O	Other
Net gains/losses on: • Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss • Financial assets measured at amortised cost • Investments in equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income • Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income • Financial liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss • Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost • Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost • Financial assets measured at amortised cost • Financial assets measured at amortised cost • Financial assets measured at amortised cost • Cother financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income • Financial assets measured at amortised cost • Cother financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income • Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income • Financial assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss • Trust and other fiduciary activities		services	expenditure	services	expenditure
• Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss • Financial assets measured at amortised cost • Investments in equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income • Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income • Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income • Financial liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss • Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost • Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost • Total net gains/losses Interest revenue: • Financial assets measured at amortised cost • Other financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income • Other financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income • Other financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income • Other financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income • Financial assets of inancial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss • Trust and other fiduciary activities	Net gains/losses on:				
● Financial assets measured at amortised cost 0 0 0 0 ● Investments in equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income 0 0 0 0 ● Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income 0 0 0 0 0 ● Financial liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss 0	•	(3,476)	0	1,173	0
through other comprehensive income Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Financial liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost Financial assets measured at amortised cost Financial assets measured at amortised cost Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Fortal interest revenue: Fortal interest revenue Fortal interest revenue Free income:	- •	Ó	0	0	0
comprehensive income Financial liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost Financial assets measured at amortised cost Financial assets measured at amortised cost Other financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income For income: Fee income: Financial assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss Trust and other fiduciary activities	through other comprehensive income	0	0	0	0
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	comprehensive income	0	0	0	0
Total net gains/losses Interest revenue: • Financial assets measured at amortised cost • Other financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Total interest revenue Interest expense: • Financial assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through other fluciary activities • Trust and other fiduciary activities	loss	0	_	_	0
Interest revenue: • Financial assets measured at amortised cost • Other financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Total interest revenue Interest expense: • Financial assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss • Trust and other fiduciary activities		0	<u>_</u>		0
Financial assets measured at amortised cost Other financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Total interest revenue Interest expense: Financial assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss Trust and other fiduciary activities Financial assets measured at amortised cost (5,928)	Total net gains/losses	(3,476)	0	1,173	0
Other financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income Total interest revenue Interest expense: Interest expense: Fee income: Financial assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss Trust and other fiduciary activities (5,928) 0 (9,038) 0 (9,038) 0 12,014 0 17,564 0	Interest revenue:				
comprehensive income Total interest revenue (5,928) (9,038) (1,9038) (1					
Interest expense: 12,014 0 17,564 0 Fee income: Financial assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss Trust and other fiduciary activities		(5,928)	0	(9,038)	0
Fee income: • Financial assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss • Trust and other fiduciary activities	Total interest revenue	(5,928)	0	(9,038)	0
 Financial assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss Trust and other fiduciary activities 	Interest expense:	12,014	0	17,564	0
Total fee income 0 0 0 0 0	 Financial assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss 				
	Total fee income	0	0	0	0

Note 27. Financial Instruments (continued)

Accounting Policy - Fair Value Measurement

The Authority measures some of its financial instruments such as equity shareholdings at fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Financial liabilities and financial assets represented by loans and receivables are carried on the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that take place over the remaining life of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

The fair values calculated are as follows:

For loans from the PWLB and other loans payable, new borrowing rates from the PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures;

- For loans receivable prevailing benchmark market rates have been used to provide the fair value;
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised;
- Where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, carrying amount is assumed to approximate fair value.
- The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

Note 27. Financial Instruments (continued)

Financial Assets

Loans and receivables - Investments
Cash and Cash Equivalents
Investments at Fair Value through Profit & Loss
Debtors

Financial Liabilities

Borrowing Creditors Bank Overdraft

31 March 2023		31 March 2024	
Carrying Amount £'000	Fair Value £'000	Carrying Amount £'000	Fair Value £'000
14,633	14,633	4,182	4,182
13,244	13,244	21,538	21,538
21,099	21,099	19,926	19,926
125,728	125,728	147,118	147,118

31 March 2023 Carrying Amount £'000	Fair Value £'000	31 March 2024 Carrying Amount £'000	Fair Value £'000
405,900	325,446	470,588	312,495
82,588	82,588	126,651	126,651
9.680	9.680	13.234	13.234

The fair value of financial liabilities is higher than the carrying amount for both years because the Authority's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans in the market at the balance sheet date.

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

Fair Value Hierarchy and Valuation Techniques

The fair value of the property fund investments (classified as available for sale) has been measured using Level 1 inputs i.e. unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical shares.

The fair value of other financial assets and liabilities disclosed above are measured using Level 2 inputs i.e. inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the financial asset or liability.

The fair values can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments using the following assumptions:

Market rates for investments

Not applicable - no fixed term investments

Discount rates for borrowing

- LOBO 5.07% to 5.29%
- Market Debt 0%
- PWLB maturity 4.61% to 5.36%
- PWLB annuity 4.95% Temporary Loans 4.65% to 5.37%

Other assumptions

- no early repayment or impairment is recognised
- where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, carrying amount approximates fair value
- the fair value of trade and other receivables is the invoiced amount net of and bad debt provision

There has been no change in valuation technique and no transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy in the year.

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

- credit risk the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Authority
- liquidity risk the possibility that the Authority might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments
- market risk the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Authority as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements

The Authority's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. Risk management is carried out by a central treasury team, under policies approved annually by Medway Council in its Treasury Management Strategy. Medway Council provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk, and the investment of surplus cash.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Authority'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, in accordance with Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poors Credit Rating Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum sum to be invested with a financial institution located within each category.

Counterparties continue to be monitored using the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services. This service uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three ratings agencies forming the core element. It also uses the following as overlays: credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies; CDS spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings; sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries.

Officers monitor all credit ratings, market data and other intelligence continuously. The maximum amount for investments by the in-house team is £20 million per counterparty, £25 million for counterparties with a Link duration of 12 months or above. The Authority also considers country limits and will only use approved counterparties from countries with a minimum sovereign credit rating of AA- from Fitch Ratings. The country limit is reinforced by the application of a financial limit to investment such that a maximum of £40 million may be invested in any one country save for the United Kingdom with no limit.

The full investment strategy for 2023/24 was approved by full Council on 23/2/23 and the 2022/23 strategy was approved on 24/02/22. Both are available on the Authority's website.

Customers for goods and services are assessed, taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors, with individual credit limits being set in accordance with internal ratings and in accordance with parameters set by the Authority.

The Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies of £27.624m 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. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Authority's deposits, but there was no evidence at 31 March 2024 that this was likely to crystallise.

The following analysis summarises the Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk on other financial assets, based on experience of default and uncollected debts over previous financial years.

	Amount at 31 March 2024 £'000	Historical experience of default	Estimated maximum exposure to default and uncollectability £'000
Deposits with banks, financial institutions and other local authorities*	14,710	0.00	0
Customers			
Total	14,710	0	0
* This is made up of the following:			:31 March 2024 £'000
NatWest Svenska Handelsbanken			0
Lloyds			10,522
Santander			0
Barclays CCLA			5 4,182_
Total			14,710
	Amount at 31 March 2023	Historical experience of default %	Estimated maximum exposure to default and uncollectability £'000
Deposits with banks, financial institutions and other local authorities*	£'000	% 0	0

* This is made up of the following:

NatWest Svenska Handelsbanken Lloyds Santander CCLA Barclays **Total**

Customers

Total

Amount at 31 March 2023 £'000 0 0 0 0 14,489

0

0

0

The Authority does not generally allow credit for customers, such that £17.6m of the £24.0m balance is past its due date for payment. The past amount can be analysed by age as follows:

	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000
Less than three months	10,528	10,102
Three to six months	2,382	2,971
Six months to one year	2,692	4,400
More than one year	10,576	12,153
•	26,178	29,626

The Authority provision for expected credit lossess stood at £6.5m at 31 March 2024 (£6.6m at 31 March 2023). The provision is calculated by applying the aged debt analysis and applying percentages to agreed categories of debt.

Collateral – During the reporting period the Authority held no collateral as security.

Liquidity Risk

The Authority manages its liquidity position through the risk management procedures above as well as through a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the Authority has ready access to borrowings from the money markets and the Public Works Loans Board. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, the risk is that the Authority will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The Authority sets limits on the proportion of its fixed rate borrowing during specified periods in its Treasury Strategy. These limits ensure that the Authority is not required to repay or refinance a significant proportion of its debt at one time. Although LOBO loans are technically variable rate they are treated in the table below as being fixed rate borrowing as the lenders options on these loans are unlikely to be exercised in the current interest rate climate. The structure of fixed rate borrowing as stated in the strategy and the maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

	Lower Limit	Limit	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	%	%	%	%
Less than one year	0	50	22%	12%
Between one and two years	0	50	16%	30%
Between two and five years	0	50	11%	25%
Between five and ten years	0	100	50%	33%
More than ten years	0	50	22%	12%

Included within liabilities with maturity in over 10 years are £81.8m of LOBOs (Lender Option Borrower Option) loans. These LOBOs have maturity dates between 2033 and 2068 but the Authority could be required to make early repayment at the lender's option.

In addition to the fixed rate borrowing the authority has £115.3m (31 March 2023 £94.5m) of loans from other authorities payable within 12 months. These loans are classified as variable rate due to the short time before repayment.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

Less than one year
Between one and two years
Between two and five years
More than five years
Total Principal and Interest

31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000
96,000	60,000
70,000	155,000
48,000	126,000
213,000	171,000
427,000	512,000

The table below shows the same portfolio but analysed on the basis of repayment at the first possible call date:

Less than one year Between one and two years Between two and five years Between five and ten years More than ten years

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

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		NGI		ıэn

The Authority's borrowings and investments could be affected by changes in interest rates, prices or foreign exchange rates.

Interest Rate Risk

The Authority is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Authority, depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. For instance, a rise in variable and fixed interest rates would have the following effects:

- borrowings at variable rates the interest expense charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services will rise
- borrowings at fixed rates the fair value of the borrowings will fall (no impact on revenue balances)

- 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 (no impact on revenue balances)

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 Authority has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together Authority's prudential and treasury indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of

Lower Limit %	Upper Limit %	Actual 31 March 2024 %
0	50	14.65%
0	50	34.18%
0	50	29.59%
0	50	5.25%
0	100	16.33%

interest rate movements. From this Strategy a treasury indicator is set which provides maximum limits for fixed and variable interest rate exposure. Current Authority policy is to not exceed a maximum of 40% of borrowings in variable rate loans.

The Authority has a mixture of standard fixed rate borrowings and LOBO (lender option borrower option) loans. The LOBO loans were taken out between 2003 and 2008 with maturity periods of between 35 and 60 years. The interest rates payable on these loans could be changed at specified dates during the life of the loan at the lender's option. The specified dates vary from loan to loan but occur at intervals of between six months and five years from the initial advance according to the individual loan contract. If a lender chose to vary the interest payable then the Authority would have the option to repay the loan without penalty. In practice the lender would only exercise their option if market rates were to increase above the current rate.

The Authority's long-term and current borrowing can be analysed as follows:

Borrowing Analysis	Fixed or Variable Rate	Borrowing as at 31 March 2024 £'000	Borrowing as at 31 March 2023 £'000
Long-Term Borrowing:	Fixed	216,024	121,024
PWLB Loans (Principal)	Variable	81,800	101,800
LOBO Loans (Principal)	Fixed	80,245	84,000
Other Loans and Accounting Adjustments	Fixed	450	473
Total Long-Term Borrowing		378,519	307,297
Short-Term Borrowing:			
PWLB Loans (Principal)	Fixed	0	0
Other Local Authorities	Fixed	115,256	94,520
Other Short-Term Borrowing and Accrued Interest	Fixed	0	0
Total Short-Term Borrowing		115,256	94,520

Other loans and accounting adjustments (£1.936m) includes an accounting adjustment of £0.049m in respect of LOBO loans. This technical accounting adjustment represents the cash benefit obtained by paying lower interest payments over a specified initial period on some of the LOBO loans. The adjustment is shown in the balance sheet as an addition to the value borrowed but is reduced by way of a credit to the income and expenditure account each year over the full term of the relevant loans. The adjustment has been included above as being at fixed rates because the value will not be affected even if the LOBO lenders exercise their option to change the rates of interest on the underlying loans.

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. The risk of loss is ameliorated by the fact that a proportion of government grant payable on financing costs will normally move with prevailing interest rates or the Authority's cost of borrowing and provide 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, this strategy is then used to monitor against the budget throughout the year. This allows for any adverse changes to be accommodated. The analysis will also advise whether new borrowing taken out should be fixed or variable.

Fixed or Variable Rate	Borrowing as at 31 March 2024 £'000	Borrowing as at 31 March 2023 £'000
Fixed	216,024	121,024
Variable	81,800	101,800
Fixed	80,245	84,000
Fixed	450	473
	378,519	307,297
Fixed	0	0
Fixed	115,256	94,520
Fixed	0	0
	115.256	94.520

Price Risk

The Authority does not generally invest in equity shares or marketable bonds. It does however hold stock in the form of investments in property funds at a value of £23m (2022/23 £23m).

The funds are classified as "financial assets at fair value through profit and loss" meaning that movement in price will impact on gains and losses in the surplus or deficit on the provision of services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for 2023/24.

Foreign Exchange Risk

The Authority has cash denominated in Euro currency so is exposed to exchange rate risk and potential loss of value on the cash held. The balances held in Euro currency are kept to a minimum.

Note 29. Capital Expenditure & Capital Financing

Accounting Policy - Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of recognisable non-current assets has been charged as expenditure to the relevant Directorate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Authority 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.

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below (including the value of assets acquired under finance leases), 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 Authority, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Authority that has yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

Opening Capital Financing Requirement
Capital Investment
Property Plant and Equipment
Heritage Assets
Investment Properties
Intangible Assets
Assets Held for Sale
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute
Long Term Debtors - Capital Principal
Long Term Debtors - Capital Interest
Sources of Finance
Capital receipts
Government grants and other contributions
Sums set aside from revenue
Direct revenue contributions
Major Repairs Reserve
Minimum Revenue Provision
Closing Capital Financing Requirement
Explanation of movements in year
Increase in underlying need to borrowing (supported by government financial assistance)
Increase in underlying need to borrowing (unsupported by government financial assistance)
Assets acquired under finance leases
Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement

2022/23 £'000 391,649	2023/24 £'000 458,459
55,803	47,705
0	50
0	0
0	0
89	25
13,287	16,785
31,237	30
3,115	5,945
(3,738)	(915)
(25,451)	(27,417)
(1,889)	(1,759)
(4,002)	(4,087)
(1,641)	(7,346)
458,459	487,475
0	0
66,810	29,016
0	0
66,810	29,016

Note 30. Leases

Accounting Policy - Leases

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

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

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

Accounting Policy - The Authority as Lessee (Finance Leases)

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Initial direct costs of the Authority 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, and
- 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 Authority at the end of the lease period).

The Authority 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.

The Authority holds the Luton Library building under a finance lease. The asset is carried as Property Plant and Equipment in the balance sheet at the following net amounts:

	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000
Other Land & Buildings	742	730

The Authority is committed to making payments under the lease of £1 per annum.

The Authority has a small number of finance leases for the acquiring of Plant and Equipment, however, these are all below the Authority's approved de-minimis level of £25,000 and have therefore been recognised within the accounts as operating leases.

Note 30. Leases (continued)

During 2019/20 the Authority entered into a waste collection and disposal contract, which has resulted in the need to account for embedded leases for various vehicles used by the contractor to deliver the service. These are shown as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£'000	£'000
Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	956	699

The Authority is committed to making minimum payments under this lease comprising settlement of the long-term liability for the interest in the assets acquired and finance costs that will be payable by the Authority in future years while the liability remains outstanding. The minimum lease payments are made up of the following amounts:

	2023 £'000	2024 £'000
Finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments):		
• current	257	245
• non-current	699	455
Finance costs payable in future years	123	90
Minimum Lease Payments	1.080	789

31 March

31 March

The minimum lease payments will be payable over the following periods:

	Minimum Lease Payments Fina		Finance Leas	inance Lease Payments	
	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000	
Not later than one year	297	268	245	233	
Later than one year and not later than five years	782	521	699	455	
Later than five years	0	0	0	0	
	1,080	789	944	688	

Note 30. Leases (continued)

Accounting Policy - Authority as Lessee (Operating Leases)

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

The Authority has made use of leases to acquire property, vehicles, and equipment. The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

	2023	2024
	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	564	772
_ater than one year and not later than five years	410	1,090
_ater than five years	831	1,199
Total	1,805	3,061

31 March

31 March

The expenditure charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to leases was:

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Minimum Lease Payments Sublease Payments Receivable	564	772
	(52)	(52)
	512	720

Note 30. Leases (continued)

Accounting Policy - The Authority as Lessor (Operating Leases)

Where the Authority 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.

The Authority leases out property under operating leases for the provision of the following services:

- Community services such as sports facilities, community centres and tourism
- Economic development to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses

The future minimum lease payments receivable are:

	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000
Not later than one year	2,320	2,320
Later than one year and not later than five years	5,899	7,554
Later than five years	23,366	75,692
Total	31,585	85,566

The minimum lease payments receivable do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2023/24; £0.210m contingent rents were receivable by the Authority (2022/23 £0.210m).

Note 31. Debtors

The Council's debtors (net of the provision for bad and doubtful debts) are as follows:

31 Ma	arch 2023			31 Ma	rch 2024	
Long-Term	Short- Term	Total		Long-Term	Short- Term	Total
£'000	£'000	£'000	•	£'000	£'000	£'000
70,920	57,387	128,307	Trade receivables	88,545	99,023	186,388
0	(6,767)	(6,767	Less impairment allowance	0	(6,720)	(6,720)
70,920	50,620	121,540	Net trade receivables	88,545	92,304	179,669
	17,802	17,802	Prepayments		4,181	4,181
	24	31	Other receivables:		24	24
491	31 0	491	Client Financial Affairs Debtors Education Related Debtors	491	31 0	31 491
491	4	491	Elections Debtors	491	64	64
	9,142	9,142	Housing Benefit Debtors		9,289	9,289
	(6,223)	(6,223)	Less impairment allowance		(6,223)	(6,223)
0	2,919	2,919	Net Housing Benefit Debtors	0	3,066	3,066
	1,805	1,805	HRA Rent/Service Charge Debtors		1,999	2,092
	(376)	(376)	Less impairment allowance		(562)	(562
0	2,919	2,919	Net HRA Rent/Service Charge Debtors	0	1,437	1,530
	32,461	32,461	Local Taxation Debtors		34,768	34,518
	(10,482)	(10,482)	Less impairment allowance	-	(10,497)	(10,497)
0	1,429	1,429	Net Local Taxation Debtors	0	24,271	24,271
	311	311	Rechargeable Works Debtors		401	401
	1,042	1,042	Schools Debtors		1,039	1,039
	5	5	SOCH Mortgage Debtors		5	5
	33	33	Employee Related Debtors		35	37
	6,316	6,316	VAT Debtors		5,467	5,467
491	34,069	34,560	Other receivables	491	35,825	36,162
71,411	102,490	173,901	Total Debtors	89,036	132,309	220,012

Note 32. Usable Reserves

Accounting Policy - Usable Reserves

The Council holds both general fund and housing revenue account reserves as a consequence of income exceeding expenditure, budgeted contributions to reserves or where money has been earmarked for a specific purpose. These reserves are set at a level appropriate to the size of the budget and the level of assessed risk.

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, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council.

Reserve	Balance as at 01 April 2022 £,000	Net Movement in Year £,000	Balance as at 31 March 2023 £,000	Net Movement in Year £,000	Balance as at 31 March 2024 £,000	Purpose of Reserve
General Fund Balance	(26,550)	(10,211)	(10,237)	(10,050)	(10,060)	Resources available to the general fund to meet future unforeseen events Resources available to the
Housing Revenue Account Balance	(5,282)	(6,367)	(6,372)	(7,518)	(7,524)	housing revenue account to meet future unforeseen events
General Fund Earmarked Reserves Housing Revenue	(44,374)	40,449	(42,583)	6,712	(35,871)	See Note 20
Account Earmarked Reserves	(0)	0	(0)	0	0	See Note 20
Capital Receipts Reserve	(8,113)	(4,276)	(4,284)	(2,903)	(2,908)	Proceeds of fixed assets and loan repayments available to meet future capital expenditure Details available resources
Major Repairs Reserve	1	0	1	(1)	0	to carry out capital works on Housing Revenue Account dwellings to maintain a decent standard of accommodation.
Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	(21,091)	(42,120)	(42,141)	(20,958)	(63,099)	Reflects Government grants and contributions received in year to fund capital projects in progress.
Total Usable Reserves	(105,409)	(22,525)	(105,616)	(13,846)	(119,459)	

Note 33. Cash & Cash Equivalents

Accounting Policy - 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 or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

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

All other investments which are not held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash needs and are not readily convertible into known amounts of cash are classified as investments. The balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents is made up of the following elements:

	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000
Cash held by the Authority	39	33
Bank current accounts	13,194	11,394
Bank overdraft	(9,687)	(13,650)
Short-term deposits with financial institutions	17	10,528
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	3,563	8,305

Note 34. Creditors

	31 March 2023				31 March 2024	
Long-Term £'000	Short-Term £'000	Total £'000	_	Long-Term £'000	Short-Term £'000	Total £'000
(528	(54,633)	(55,160)	Trade payables	(491)	(44,783)	(45,274)
	(1,565)	(1,565)	Receipts in Advance	0	(2,874)	(2,874)
			Other payables			
0	0	0	Education Related Creditors	0	0	0
(1)	(1,849)	(1,850)	Employee Related Creditors	8	(1,999)	(2,134)
0	(573)	(573)	HRA Rent/Service Charge Creditors	0	(480)	(387)
(27,745)	(1,156)	(28,901)	Local Government Reorganisation Creditors	(26,635)	(1,110)	(27,745)
0	(13,951)	(13,951)	Local Taxation Creditors	0	(9,085)	(9,206)
0	0	0	Rechargeable Works Creditors	0	0	0
(4)	0	(4)	SOCH Mortgage Creditors	(4)	0	(4)
0	0	0	VAT Creditors	0	0	0
(28,278)	(73,727)	(102,005)	Total Creditors	(27,139)	(60,330)	(87,623)

Note 35. Provisions

Accounting Policy - Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Authority 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 Authority 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 Directorate line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Authority becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account 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 Directorate.

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

Non Domestic Rate (NDR) Appeals Provision

Local Authorities retain an element of all NDR collected and in Medway's case we retain 49% of collected NDR. With this responsibility we also suffer the loss of income from successful appeals against the rateable value of non-domestic property which include appeals submitted to the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) prior to the introduction of this new regime. In order to mitigate against future losses of income from these appeals the Authority has created a provision to offset the cost of back-dated refunds as the appeals are settled. The provision has been calculated as an estimate of potential cost against each individual appeal case and the cost is adjusted to take account of the probability of success. The value of this Provision is being spread to impact upon revenue over a 5 year period.

A new rating list came into effect on 1 April 2017 and appeals filed after that date are based on the new list and cannot be backdated. The provision in respect of new appeals will be based on the likelihood of success and the resultant increase or decrease in the provision charged or credited to the Income and Expenditure Account.

Note 35. Provisions (continued)

Short '	Term
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Insurance Provision £000s	NDR Appeals Provision £000s	Other Provisions £000s	Total £000s
0	(2,409)	(439)	(2,849)
0	384	(1,500)	(1,116)
0	0	0	0
0	0	138	138
0	0	0	0
0	745	0	745
0	(1,279)	(1,802)	(3,081)

Long Term

Insurance Provision £000s	NDR Appeals Provision £000s	Other Provisions £000s	Total £000s
(1,591)	0	(499)	(2,090)
(2,556)	(745)	0	(3,301)
1,515	0	93	1,608
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
(0)	0	0	(0)
(2,632)	(745)	(406)	(3,783)

Balance as at 31 March 2023
Additional provisions made in 2023/24
Amounts used in 2023/24
Unused amounts reversed in 2023/24
Unwinding of discounting in 2023/24
Transfer (from)/to Short Term in 2023/24
Balance as at 31 March 2024

Balance as at 31 March 2023

Balance as at 31 March 2024

Amounts used in 2023/24

Additional provisions made in 2023/24

Unused amounts reversed in 2023/24 Unwinding of discounting in 2023/24 Transfer (from)/to Long Term in 2023/24

The other short term provisions relate to the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme.

The NDR appeals provision represents the sum set aside for unsettled claims to the Valuation Office Agency for rateable value reductions.

The Insurance Provision represents the sum set aside for unsettled, known claims as at 31 March 2020 in line with IAS 37. The majority of the unsettled claims are for public liability.

Note 36. Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes

Accounting policy - Postemployment benefits (defined contribution schemes)

Some employees of the Authority are members of:

- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE).
- The NHS Pension Scheme, administered by NHS Business Services Authority (BSA).

These schemes provided defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Authority.

The arrangements for the teachers' and NHS schemes mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Authority. The schemes are therefore accounted for as if they were defined contribution schemes and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet. The Children and Adults Directorate line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to Teachers' Pensions in the year. The Public Health Directorate line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to the NHS Pension Scheme in the year.

The accounting policy with regards to discretionary benefits can be found with Note 38 to these financial statements.

The Teachers Pension Scheme provides teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement, and the Authority contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. The scheme is unfunded and the Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. Valuations of the notional fund are undertaken every four years.

In 2023/24, the Authority paid £5.009m to Teachers Pensions in respect of teachers retirement benefits, representing 23.68% of pensionable pay. The figures for 2021/22 were £4.978m representing 23.68% of pensionable pay. The contributions due to be paid in the next financial year are estimated to be £5.040m.

Public Health staff employed by the Authority are members of the NHS Pension Scheme. The Scheme is an unfunded, defined benefit scheme that covers NHS employers and is a multiemployer defined benefit scheme. The Authority is not able to identify the underlying scheme assets and liabilities for the staff transferred. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

The total contributions for the year 2023/24 came to £0.048m representing 14.38% of the pensionable pay (£0.055m in 2022/23 representing 14.38% of the pensionable pay). The contributions due to be paid in the next financial year are estimated to be £0.050m.

The Authority is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis and detailed in "Note 38".

The Authority is not liable to the scheme for any other entities obligations to the plan.

Note 37. Unusable Reserves

Accounting Policy - Unusable Reserves

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments and retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Authority. These reserves are explained in the notes to the principal financial statements.

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£'000	£'000
Revaluation Reserve	(159,642)	(245,979)
Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	(2,012)	3,074
Capital Adjustment Account	(256,959)	(213,565)
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(1,370)	(1,500)
Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	(481)	(91)
Pensions Reserve	321,421	(5,904)
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	12,505	(2,203)
Accumulated Absences Account	1,880	1,872
Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account	23,530	23,530
Total Unusable Reserves	(61,127)	(440,767)

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April	(159,642)		(231,268)
Upward revaluation of assets	(102,012)	(41,140)	
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment			
losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the	22,318	15,911	
Provision of Services			
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets			
not posted to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(79,695)	0	(25,229)
Difference between current value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	7,694	6,112	0
Transfer on assets amalgamated during the year	289	0	0
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	85	4,407	0
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	8,068		10,518
Balance as at 31 March	(231,268)		(245,979)

Pooled Investment Adjustment Account

The Pooled Investment Adjustment Account contains the gains 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, or
- · disposed of and the gains are realised.

£'000 £'000 (2.012) 1.901			
(2.012) 1.901		£'000	£'000
balance as at 1 April (2,012) 1,301	Balance as at 1 April	(2,012)	1,901
Financial Instruments held under Fair Value through Profit & Loss Subject to MHCLG Statutory Over-Ride 3,913 1,173	Financial Instruments held under Fair Value through Profit & Loss Subject to MHCLG Statutory Over-Ride	3,913	1,173
Balance as at 31 March	Balance as at 31 March	1,901	3,074

2022/23

2023/24

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 additions to 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 authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and subsequent costs.

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Authority.

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

	2022/23 £'000	£'000	2023/24 £'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April		(256,959)		(236,828)
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				
Statement:	CE 460		44 450	
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets Reveluation gains on Property, Plant and Equipment	65,162		41,450	
 Revaluation gains on Property, Plant and Equipment Amortisation of Intangible Assets 	(16,151) 31		(2,530) 24	
Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital Under Statute	13,287		16,785	
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part	13,201		10,700	
of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and	1,632		20,849	
Expenditure Statement	1,002		20,043	
Exponential o diatomonic		63,960	-	76,578
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(8,068)	00,000	(10,518)	70,070
Other adjustments	(6)		134	
Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	(-)	(8,074)	-	(10,385)
Capital financing applied in the year:		(-,,		(10,000)
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(3,738)		(915)	
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(4,002)		(4,087)	
Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive	,		,	
Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to	(16,013)		(6,317)	
capital financing				
Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants	(9,438)		(21,100)	
Unapplied Account	(9,430)		(21,100)	
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged	(1,641)		(7,233)	
against the General Fund and HRA balances	(1,041)		(1,200)	
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA	(1,889)		(1,759)	
balances	(1,000)	(0.0 = 0.1)	(.,. 55)	(11.110)
Managements in the greatest value of large transition delited on an disable the Occupants of the U.S.		(36,721)		(41,412)
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		965		(1,517)
Balance as at 31 March		(236,828)	- -	(213,565)

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions. The Authority uses the Account to manage premiums paid on the early redemption of loans. Premiums are debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when they are incurred, but reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Over time, the expense is posted back to the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory arrangements for spreading the burden on council tax. In the Authority's case, this period is the unexpired term that was outstanding on the loans when they were redeemed. As a result, the balance on the Account at 31 March 2024 will be charged to the General Fund over the next 30 years.

	LULL/LU		
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April	(1,370)		(1,444)
Premiums incurred in the year and charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(74)	(56)	0
Proportion of premiums incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory requirements	(74)	_	(56)
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(1,444)		(1,500)
Balance as at 31 March	(1,370)		(1,444)

2022/23

2023/24

2022/23

2023/24

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

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

	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April	(481)	0
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0	(91)
Transfer to the Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	481	0
Balance as at 31 March	0	(91)

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

	LULLILU	LULU/L-
	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April	321,421	358
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	(335,809)	(1,379)
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	28,835	10,374
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(14,089)	(15,257)
Balance as at 31 March	358	(5,904)

2022/23

2022/23

2023/24

2023/24

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April	12,505	(1,120)
Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(13,625)	(1,083)
Balance as at 31 March	(1,120)	(2,203)
The balance of £2.203million shown above consists of the following component parts:		
	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Medway Council Tax (Deficit)/Surplus	(1,173)	(723)
Medway Renewable Energy Disregard		
Medway Non-Domestic Rate Deficit/(Surplus)	53	(1,480)
Balance as at 31 March	(1,120)	(2,203)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Accumulated Absences Account

This 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.

	2022/23	2023/24	
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April	1,880		1,730
Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(1,880)	(1,730)	0
Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	1,730	1,872	0
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	(150)	_	141
Balance as at 31 March	1,730		1,872

Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account

The DSG Adjustment Account manages the deficit on Schools Budgets that would otherwise impact on the Earmarked Schools Reserves. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balances is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account. See Note 16 for the movement.

	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 1 April	23,530	23,530
In year Schools budget deficit debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and transferred to the DSG Adjustment Accounts		
in accordance with statutory requirements		
Balance as at 31 March	23,530	23,530

Note 38. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Accounting Policy – Postemployment benefits

The majority of employees of the Authority are members of the Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by Kent County Council. (See note 35 for details of other pensions schemes)

These schemes provided defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Authority.

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

- The liabilities of the Kent pension fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.35%

The change in the net pension 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 current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the Business Support Department
- o net interest on the net defined benefit 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 at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability/asset during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Remeasurements comprising:
 - the return on plan assets excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

- actuarial gains and losses changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure
- change in financial assumptions –
 changes in the net pensions liability
 relating to the key financial assumptions
 required for determining the defined
 benefit obligation for accounting are the
 discount rate, linked to high quality
 corporate bond yields, and the rate of
 future inflation.
- change in demographic assumptions changes in the net pensions liability relating to the key demographic assumptions such as projecting mortality rates for members into the future.
- experience gain / (loss) on defined benefit obligation – experience items arise due to differences between the assumptions made as part of the roll forward approach and actual experience.

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

In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for 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 Authority also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements but since 6 January 2007 has ceased to award additional service in the event of early retirement on other than ill-health grounds. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff (including teachers/public health officers) 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.

Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the Authority makes contributions towards the cost of post employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Authority has a commitment to make the payments (for those benefits) and to disclose them at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The LGPS is a defined benefit statutory scheme administered in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 and currently provides benefits based on career average revalued earnings.

The Administering Authority for the Fund is Kent County Council. The Pension Fund Committee oversees the management of the Fund whilst the day to day fund administration is undertaken by a team within the administering authority. Where appropriate some functions are delegated to the Fund's professional advisers.

As administering authority to the Fund, Kent County Council, after consultation with the Fund Actuary and other relevant parties, is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the Funding Strategy Statement and the Investment Strategy Statement. These should be amended when appropriate based on the Fund's performance and funding.

Contributions are set every 3 years as a result of the actuarial valuation of the Fund required by the Regulations. The next actuarial valuation of the Fund will be carried out as at 31 March 2022 and set contributions for the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026. There are no minimum funding requirements in the LGPS but the contributions are generally set to target a funding level of 100% using the actuarial valuation assumptions.

On the Employer's withdrawal from the plan, a cessation valuation will be carried out in accordance with Regulation 64 of the LGPS Regulations 2013 which will determine the termination contribution due by the Employer, on a set of assumptions deemed appropriate by the Fund Actuary.

In general, participating in a defined benefit pension scheme means that the Employer is exposed to a number of risks:

- Investment risk. The Fund holds investment in asset classes, such as equities, which have volatile market values and while these assets are expected to provide real returns over the long-term, the short-term volatility can cause additional funding to be required if a deficit emerges.
- Interest rate risk. The Fund's liabilities are assessed using market yields on high quality corporate bonds to discount the future liability cashflows. As the Fund holds assets such as equities the value of the assets and liabilities may not move in the same way.
- Inflation risk. All of the benefits under the Fund are linked to inflation and so deficits may emerge to the extent that the assets are not linked to inflation.

- Longevity risk. In the event that the members live longer than assumed a deficit will emerge in the Fund. There are also other demographic risks.
- Regulatory risk. Regulatory uncertainties could result in benefit changes to past of future benefits which could result in additional costs.
- Orphan risk. As many unrelated employers participate in each fund, there is an orphan liability risk where employers leave the fund but with insufficient assets to cover their pension obligations so that the difference may fall on the remaining employers in that fund.

All of the risks above may also benefit the Employer e.g. higher than expected investment returns or employers leaving the Fund with excess assets which eventually get inherited by the remaining employers.

Transactions relating to Post Employment Benefits

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

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Cost of Services		
Service cost comprising:		
Current service costs	25,768	12,627
Past service costs	0	0
(gain)/loss from settlements	0	0
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		
Net Interest expense	2,674	(2,845)
Administration expenses	393	592
Total Post Employment Benefit charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of services	28,835	10,374
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:		
Return on plan assets in excess of interest	(14,654)	(10,097)
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	6,366	Ó
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	402,380	4,639
Experience (gain) / loss on defined benefit obligation	21,768	8,933
Other actuarial (gains)/losses	(80,051)	(2,096)
Total Remeasurements Recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	335,809	1,379
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	364,644	11,753
Movement in Reserves Statement Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	28,835	10,374
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:		
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	(14,089)	(15,257)
Total Movement in Reserves Statement	14,746	(4,883)

Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

	2023	2024
Local Government Pension Scheme	£'000	£'000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	651,315	661,625
Fair value of plan assets	654,878	671,127
Sub-total	(3,563)	(9,502)
Present value of unfunded obligation	3,921	3,598
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	358	(5,904)

31 March

31 March

Local Government Pension

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

	Scheme		
	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000	
Opening fair value of scheme assets	643,188	654,878	
Interest income	23,002	34,435	
Remeasurement gain/(loss):			
● The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	(14,654)	(10,097)	
Other actuarial gains/(losses)	6,366	0	
The effect of changes in foreign exchange rates			
Administration expenses	(393)	(592)	
Contributions from employer including unfunded	14,089	15,257	
Contributions from employees into the scheme	5,009	5,227	
Benefits paid	(21,633)	(25,716)	
Settlement prices received/(paid)	(96)	(2,265)	
Closing fair value of scheme assets	654,878	671,127	

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

Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Opening balance at 1 April	964,609	655,236
Current service cost	25,759	12,349
Interest cost	25,676	31,590
Contributions from scheme participants	5,009	5,227
Remeasurement (gains)/losses:		
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(21,768)	(8,933)
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(402,380)	(4,639)
Experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation	80,051	2,096
• Other	0	0
Past service cost	0	0
Losses/(gains) on curtailment (where relevant)	0	0
Liabilities extinguished on settlements	(232)	(2,116)
Liabilities assumed on entity combinations	0	0
Benefits paid	0	0
Estimated benefits paid net of transfers in	(21,213)	(25,286)
Past service cost, including curtailments	145	129
Unfunded pension payments	(420)	(430)
Closing balance at 31 March	655,236	665,223

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

	Quoted prices in active markets £'000	Period Ended 31 Quoted prices not in active markets £'000	March 2023 Total £'000	Percentage of total asset	Quoted prices in active markets £'000	Period Ended 31 Quoted prices not in active markets £'000	March 2024 Total £'000	Percentage of total asset
Equities	417,889	0	417,889	63.81%	390,421	0	390,421	58.17%
Fixed Interest Government Securities	3,587	0	3,587	0.55%	49,174	0	49,174	7.33%
Corporate Bonds	86,009	0	86,009	13.13%	96,632	0	96,632	14.40%
Property	0	65,364	65,364	9.98%	0	60,213	60,213	8.97%
Others:								
Cash	0	11,748	11,748	1.79%	0	10,687	10,687	1.59%
Private Equity	0	47,972	47,972	7.33%	0	33,910	33,910	5.05%
Infrastructure	0	22,309	22,309	3.41%	0	30,090	30,090	4.48%
Absolute Return Portfolio	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Derivatives	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Total assets	507,485	147,393	654,878	100.00%	536,227	134,900	671,127	100.00%

The funds Actuaries have estimated the bid values where necessary. The final asset allocation of the Fund assets as at 31 March 2024 is likely to be different from that shown due to estimation techniques.

Basis for Estimating Assets, Liabilities and Assumptions

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

To assess the value of the Employer's liabilities at 31 March 2024, the actuary has rolled forward the value of the Employer's liabilities calculated for the latest full funding valuation using financial assumptions that comply with IAS19 and FRS102...

The full actuarial valuation involved projecting future cash flows to be paid from the Fund and placing a value on them. These cash flows include pensions currently being paid to members of the Scheme as well as pensions (and lump sums) that may be payable in future to members of the Fund as well as pensions (and lump sums) that may be payable in future to members of the Fund or their dependants. These pensions are linked to inflation and will normally be payable on retirement for the life of the member or a dependant following a member's death.

It is not possible to assess the accuracy of the estimated value of liabilities as at 31 March 2024 without completing a full valuation. However, we are satisfied that the approach of rolling forward the previous valuation data to 31 March 2024 should not introduce any material distortions in the results provided that the actual experience of the employer and the fund has been broadly in line with the underlying assumptions, and that the structure of the liabilities is substantially the same as at the latest formal valuation. From the information we have received there appears to be no evidence that this approach is inappropriate.

As required under the IAS19 and FRS102 accounting standards, the actuary has used the projected unit credit method of valuation.

To calculate the asset share the actuary has rolled forward the assets allocated to the Employer at the latest valuation date allowing for investment returns (estimated where necessary), contributions paid into, and estimated benefits paid from, the Fund by and in respect of the Employer and our Employees.

Medway Council currently participates in the Medway Council pool with other employers in order to share experience of risks they are exposed to in the Fund. At the 2019 valuation, the deficit for the whole pool was calculated and allocated to each employer in proportion to their value of liabilities. The next reallocation will be carried out at the 2022 valuation, should the Employer remain in the pool. Each employer within the pool pays a contribution rate based on the cost of benefits of the combined membership of the pool.

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) equalisation and indexation

Impact of Lloyds judgement on past transfer values - The latest news on the Lloyds Banking Group court case involved a ruling that, in cases where a member exercised their right to a transfer value out of the scheme, the trustee had the duty to make a transfer payment that reflects the member's right to equalised benefits and remains liable if an inadequate transfer payment had been paid.

It is not yet known if, or how, this will affect the LGPS. We await further guidance from CIPFA and DLUHC on this. Whilst no guidance nor data is available, the actuaries' standard approach currently is to make no allowance to reflect this judgement.

GMP Indexation Consultation response - On 23 March 2022, the Government published the outcome to its Guaranteed Minimum Pension Indexation consultation, concluding that all public service pension schemes, including the LGPS, will be directed to provide full indexation to members with a GMP reaching State Pension Age (SPA) beyond 5 April 2021. This is a permanent extension of the existing 'interim solution' that has applied to members with a GMP reaching SPA on or after 6 April 2016.

The actuaries' standard assumption for GMP is that the fund will pay limited increases for members that have reached SPA by 6 April 2016, with the Government providing the remainder of the inflationary increase. For members that reach SPA after this date, and they assume that the fund will be required to pay the entire inflationary increase. Therefore, their assumption is consistent with the consultation outcome, and they do not believe they need to make any adjustments to the value placed on the liabilities as a result of the above outcome.

Demographic, Statistical and Financial Assumptions

The actuary has adopted a set of demographic assumptions that are consistent with those used for the funding valuation as at 31 March 2023. The post retirement mortality tables adopted are the S3PA tables with a multiplier of 110% for males and 110% for females. These base tables are then projected using the CMI_2022 Model, allowing for a long-term rate of improvement of 1.25% p.a.

The assumed life expectations from age 65:

Life Expectancy from age 65 (years)	Local Government Pension Scheme				
()	31 March 2023	31 March 2024			
Mortality assumptions: Longevity at 65 for current pensioners					
Men	21.1	20.8			
 Women 	23.5	23.3			
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners • Men • Women	22.3 25.0	22.0 24.7			
• MOUIEII	23.0	24.1			

The financial assumptions used for the purposes of the IAS19 calculations are as follows:

	Local Government Pension Scheme			
	31 March 2023	31 March 2024		
Rate of increase in Consumer Price Index	2.90%	3.20%		
Rate of increase in salaries	3.90%	4.20%		
Rate of increase in pensions	2.90%	2.95%		
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.80%	4.90%		

These assumptions are set with the reference to market conditions at 31 March 2023.

The actuary's estimate of the duration of the Employer's liabilities is 17 years.

An estimate of the Employer's future cashflows is made using notional cashflows based on the estimated duration above. These estimated cashflows are then used to derive a Single An estimate of the Employer's future cashflows is made using notional cashflows based on the estimated duration above. These estimated cashflows are then used to derive a Single Equivalent Discount Rate (SEDR). The discount rate derived is such that the net present value of the notional cashflows, discounted at this single rate, equates to the net present value of the cashflows, discounted using the annualised Merrill Lynch AA rated corporate bond yield curve (where the spot curve is assumed to be flat beyond the 30 year point). This is consistent with the approach used at the previous accounting date.

Similar to the SEDR approach described above we intend to adopt a Single Equivalent Inflation Rate (SEIR) approach in deriving an appropriate RPI assumption. The SEIR adopted is such that the single assumed rate of inflation results in the same liability value (when discounted using the yield curve valuation described above) as that resulting from applying the BoE implied inflation curve. The BoE implied inflation curve is assumed to be flat beyond the 40 year point.

Following a recent review of the market, and in particular noting the muted market reaction to the likely alignment of RPI with CPIH (Consumer Prices Index with Housing) from 2030, our view is that gilt-implied inflation rates are currently distorted by supply and demand factors at medium and longer terms. The actuary has therefore allowed for an Inflation Risk Premium (IRP) of 0.4% at medium and longer terms (from 10 years). This results in an overall IRP of between 0.0% p.a. and 0.3% p.a. depending on the term of the liabilities (for terms ranging from 2 years up to 30 years). Consistent with the SEDR approach, assumptions are rounded to the nearest 0.05% and we intend to use sample cashflows for employers at each duration year (from 2 to 30 years) in deriving the assumptions for employers.

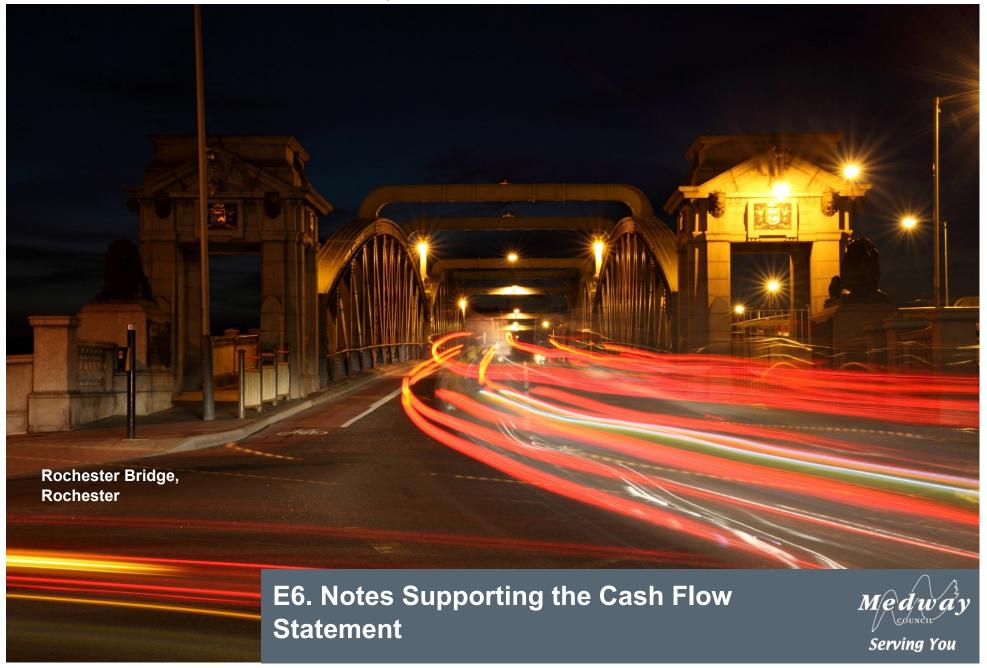
Salaries are assumed to increase at 1.0% p.a. above CPI in addition to a promotional scale.

The estimation of the defined benefit obligation is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table below. The sensitivity analysis in the following table shows how the present value and projected service cost would change if the values ascribed to various assumptions used in the actuary's calculations were there to be changes upwards or downwards by 0.1% 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.

Sensitivity Analysis		31 March 2023			31 March 2024		
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adjustment to discount rate		0.50%	0.10%	0.00%	0.50%	0.10%	0.00%
	Present Value of Total obligation	605,756	562,145	655,236	615,248	654,078	665,223
	Projected Service Cost	11,266	9,362	13,520	11,678	13,523	14,025
Adjustment to long term salary increase		0.50%	0.10%	0.00%	0.50%	0.10%	0.00%
	Present Value of Total obligation	658,611	662,129	655,236	668,489	665,866	665,233
	Projected Service Cost	13,536	13,610	13,520	14,072	14,035	14,025
Adjustment to pension increases and		0.50%	0.10%	0.00%	0.50%	0.10%	0.00%
deferred revaluation	Present Value of Total obligation	709,083	770,564	655,236	710,750	675,571	665,233
	Projected Service Cost	16,190	19,478	13,520	16,893	14,552	14,025
Adjustment to life expectation assumption		+ 1 Year	None	-1 Year	+ 1 Year	None	-1 Year
	Present Value of Total obligation	679,846	655,236	631,616	691,856	665,223	639,731
	Projected Service Cost	13,999	13,420	13,053	14,570	14,025	13,495

The Authority anticipates that it will pay £14.972m expected contributions to the scheme in 2024/25.

Further information can be found in Kent County Council's Superannuation Fund's Annual Report which is available upon request from the Investment Section, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1QX.



Notes Supporting the Cash Flow Statement

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Note 39. Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Interest received	(5,393)	(9,113)
Interest paid	7,835	10,806
Dividends received	(1,434)	102
The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following non-cash movements:		
	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Depreciation	(24,332)	(21,448)
Impairment and downward revaluations	(24,704)	(17,495)
Increase in valuation of investments	(3,913)	(1,173)
(Increase) / decrease in creditors	32,321	16,492
Increase / (decrease) in debtors/Impairment for Bad Debts	48,418	47,431
Increase / (decrease) in inventories	(0)	42
Movement in pension liability	(14,746)	4,883
Contributions (to)/from Provisions	3,880	(1,926)
Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or de-recognised	(1,632)	(20,849)
Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(965)	2,046
	14,327	8,004
The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following items that are investing and financing activities:		
	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Proceeds from short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments (includes investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries)	0	0
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	992	471
Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	46,501	48,375
	47,492	48,846

Note 40. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets
Purchase of short-term and long-term investments
Proceeds from the sale of Property, Plant and Equipment, Investment Property and Intangible Assets
Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments
Other receipts from investing activities
Net cash flows from investing activities

Note 41. Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

Cash receipts of short- and long-term borrowing
Other receipts from financing activities
Cash payments for the reduction of outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases
Repayments of short- and long-term borrowing
Other payments for financing activities
Net cash flows from financing activities

2022/23	2023/24		
£'000	£'000		
(295,186)	(195,548)		
0	0		
0	0		
198,064	130,851		
0	0		
(97,122)	(64,696)		

2022/23

£'000

55,892

(992)

3,826

227,327

(231,900)

(46,501)

2023/24

£'000

47,781

(471)

146,849

(157,300)

(48,375)

(11,516)

Note 42. Record of Liabilities from Financing Activities

	01 April 2023 £'000	Financing cash flows £'000	Acquisition £'000	Other non-cash changes £'000	31 March 2024 £'000
Long-term borrowings	308,695	23,344		20,000	352,039
Short-term borrowings	97,376	41,352		(20,180)	118,548
Lease liabilities	257	0	0	(12)	245
Total liabilities from financing activities	406.328	64,696	0	(192)	470,832

Non-cash changes

				Other non-cash		
	01 April 2022	Financing cash flows	Acquisition	changes	31 March 2023	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Long-term borrowings	237,260	66,425	0	5,010	308,695	
Short-term borrowings	71,509	30,696	0	(4,830)	97,376	
Lease liabilities	276	0	0	(19)	257	
Total liabilities from financing activities	309,045	97,121	0	161	406,328	



Other Notes

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Note 43. Related Parties

The Authority is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Authority or to be controlled or influenced by the Authority. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Authority 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 Authority.

Central Government

Central government has significant influence over the general operations of the Authority – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework, within which the Authority operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Authority has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are set out in "Note 11". Grant receipts outstanding at 31 March 2024 are shown in "Note 17".

Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2023/24 is shown in "Note 13".

The Authority holds a statutory register of members' declarations covering property and land holdings, employment, sponsorship, contracts with the Authority etc. Members and senior officers declare any pecuniary interest in committee items prior to their debate. The Authority also holds a Register of Interest relating to members and senior officers. These registers are open to inspection by members of the public.

All members agree to the terms of the National Code of Local Government Conduct and the Authority has introduced a Code of Conduct agreeing guidelines for good working practice between members and officers.

One Councillor is CEO of Medway Citizens Advice Bureau. Payments were made to the organisation from the Council of £0.341m in 2023/24 (Nil in 2022/23). There were no other transactions in either year.

Two Councillors are Trustees of Sunlight Development Trust, which is a community owned organisation working with partners across all Sectors. Its overriding aim is to improve health, inequality, and well-being. The Council made payments to the Trust amounting to £0.071m during 2023/24 (£0.193m in 2022/23), no payments were owed to this organisation at the end of either 2023/24 or 2022/23. The Trust provided no services to the Council in either 2023/24 or 2022/23 but payments amounting to £0.0005m were made to the Council in 2023/24).

A Councillor owns properties that are rented out. During 2023/24 the Councillor received nil payments from the Council for people occupying these properties (£0.001m in 2022/23). There were no outstanding payments owed at either year end.

Family members of a Councillor run a business with which the Council made no payments in 2023/24 (£0.083 in 2022/23), no payments were owed at the end of 2023/24 (£0.016m in 22/23)

Related Parties which had no transactions with Medway Council during 2023/24

One Councillor is Chair of Safer Kent an organisation which advances the education for the public benefit in all matters relating to crime prevention, community safety, alcohol, drug and other solvent abuse or any matter affecting crime in the community.

One Councillor is a Trustee of the Net Community Hub, a social prescribing platform funded and delivered by Medway Community Action and Medway Council. One Councillor is a chair of Friends of the Vines, a charity that works to preserve the Vines Gardens located in the heart of Rochester, owned by Rochester Cathedral.

Two Councillors are representatives of the Medway Queen Preservation Society which is a charity that preserves the historic boat the Medway Queen and runs a museum within to help raise funds.

Relate has one Councillor as a Chair; Relate is an organisation that provides relationship support and counselling for every in Medway and North Kent.

Note 43. Related Parties (continued)

Officers

The Chief Executive is a Director (Independent Governor) of The University of Greenwich. However, there have been no transactions between Medway Council and the University.

Other Public Bodies

The Authority operates a number of joint funding initiatives with Medway Clinical Commissioning Group as detailed in "Note 12".

The Authority receives grant income from various government departments as detailed in "Note 17".

Entities controlled or significantly influenced by the Authority

The Council has a 20% equity share in Medway Norse Limited. The company provides catering, cleaning and facilities management services, grounds and greenspaces management and waste management services. The company also manages three household waste recycling centres and has provided waste collection and street cleansing activities since October 2019. The company's accounts are consolidated into the statements of Norse Commercial Services Limited, which is consolidated into the statements of Norfolk County Council.

The Council also has a 20% equity share in Medway Norse Transport. The company provides special educational needs (SEND) transport services, community transport and vehicle maintenance services to the Authority. The company's accounts are consolidated into the statements of Norse Commercial Services Limited, which is consolidated into the statements of Norfolk County Council.

Services supplied to Medway Council through the Medway Norse and Medway Norse Transport are included in the Medway Council's cost of services within the statements.

Medway Council appoints 2 directors to each of the Boards of Medway Norse Limited and Medway Norse Transport. The Council made payments of £38.923m to Medway Norse/Medway Norse Transport in 2023/24 (£91.568m in 2022/23) and owed £0.053m as of 31 March 2024 (£0.001 as of 31 March 2023). The total value of transactions to the Council from these companies was £0.608m in 2023/24 (£1,648m in 2022/23) and owed £0.241m as of 31 March 2024 (£0.736m as of 31 March 2023).

Medway Council currently has two subsidiary companies: Kyndi Limited (formerly Medway Commercial Group Limited - MCG) and Medway Development Company Limited (MDC). As of 31 March 2024, two of the four Directors on the Board of Kyndi Limited were appointed by Medway Council: both elected Cabinet Members. As at the same date, two of the four Directors on the Board of MDC were elected Cabinet Members of Medway Council.

Kyndi Limited operates as a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCO) and has two subsidiary companies; Kyndi Care Limited (formerly Medway Commercial Services – MCS) which trades in the private sector and Kyndi Limited (formerly Medway Public Services - MPS) trading in the public sector.

The group provides: CCTV, Telecare Services and Recruitment Services providing temporary, contract and interim staffing for Medway Council. The balance on loans given to Kyndi Limited as of 31 March 2024 amount to £1.144m (£1.345m as at 31st March 2023).

The Council made payments of £1.817m to Kyndi in 2023/24 (£19.553m in 2022/23) and owed Nil as of 31 March 2024 (Nil as of 31 March 2023). The total value of transactions to the Council from Kyndi was £0.463m in 2023/24 (£0.701m in 2022/23) and they owed £0.070m as of 31 March 2024 (£0.006m as of 31 March 2023).

MDC was established to provide consultancy, predominantly to the Council, to turn land assets into viable residential schemes delivering regeneration and investment returns. The Council has agreed £120million of investment over the first five years of the company with fourteen sites identified. The balance on loans given to MDC as of 31 March 2024 amount to £75.258m (£34.516m as of 31st March 2023). MDC also had a PRS loan taken out on 01/03/2024 totalling £12,056m, which is payable over 50 years.

The Council made payments of £1.192m to MDC in 2023/24 (£3.426m in 2022/23). MDC made purchases from the Council of £10.220m during 2023/24, £9.921m of this amount is Section106 payments (£914,780 total in 2022/23) of which £1.748m was owing as of 31 March 2024 (£0.004 as of 31 March 2023).

Note 44. Contingent Liabilities

Accounting Policy - Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Authority 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 Authority. 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 as a note to the accounts.

There are several outstanding employment claims – one by an individual where they are seeking £175,000.

There is an outstanding claim against the Council in relation to a dispute over a lease, there is no value in the lease as such but if unsuccessful in defending the claim the Council could be liable for costs of circa £50.000.

Note 45. Contingent Assets

Accounting Policy - Contingent Assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the authority 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 authority.

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

There are no contingent assets at 31st March 2024.

Note 46. Events after the Reporting Period

Accounting Policy - Events after the Reporting Period

Events after the Reporting Period 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 are not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

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

There have been no events between 31 March 2024 and the issuing of this Statement of Accounts which have a significant bearing on the financial results year or the financial position presented in the Balance Sheet.

Note 47. Prior Period Adjustments

Accounting Policy - Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policy 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 will be 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 Authority's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless otherwise stated) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior year period as if the new policy had always been applied. Material errors discovered in prior year periods are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

There are no prior period adjustments affecting the period ending 31 March 2024.



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Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a record of revenue expenditure and income relating to the Authority's housing stock. Its primary purpose is to ensure that expenditure on managing tenancies and maintaining dwellings is balanced by rents charged to tenants. Consequently, the HRA is a statutory account, ring fenced from the rest of the General Fund, so that rents cannot be subsidised from council tax (or vice versa).

Paralleling the treatment for the Authority's wider operations, the transactions relating to the HRA have been separated into two statements:

- the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement
- the Movement on the HRA Statement

As the Movement on the HRA Statement incorporates the surplus or deficit on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement, it effectively meets the statutory requirement to include the HRA as a single statement in the Statement of Accounts. The net movement will reconcile to the statutory outturn for the HRA, even though some of the gross transactions posted to the two statements will not have been specified in the statutory arrangements.

Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement analyses in more detail the income and expenditure on HRA services included in the whole Authority Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. This 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.

The Authority charges 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.

Income and Expenditure Statement (cont.)

2022/23		HRA Notes	2023/24
£'000		Notes	£'000
	- Expenditure		
3.000	Repairs & maintenance		3,187
3,653	Supervision and management		4,121
153	Rents, rates, taxes and other charges		[′] 181
0	Rent Rebate limitation subsidy payable		0
4,002	Depreciation, impairment and revaluation movements of non-current assets		4,087
300	Revaluation of HRA non-current assets		6,840
213	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute		234
63	Debt management costs		63
86	Movement in the allowance for bad debts		233
0	Sums directed by the Secretary of State that are expenditure in accordance with the Code		0
11,469	Total Expenditure		18,946
	Income		
(13,548)	Dwelling rents		(14,764)
(252)	Non-dwelling rents		(276)
(1,580)	Charges for services and facilities		(1,372)
(38)	Contributions towards expenditure		(150)
(4)	Reimbursement of Costs		(6)
0	Income from capital		0
0	HRA Subsidy Receivable		0
0	Interest Earned		(134)
0	Sums directed by the Secretary of State that are income in accordance with proper practices		0
(15,423)	_ Total Income		(16,701)
(3,954)	Net Cost of Housing Revenue Account Services as included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		2,245
99	HRA services share of Corporate and Democratic Core		99
234	HRA share of other amounts included in the whole authority Cost of Services but not allocated to specific services		(5)
(5)	Capital grants and contributions receivable		0
(3,626)	Net Expenditure/(Income) for Housing Revenue Account Services		2,339
	HRA share of the operating income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
(484)	(Gain) or loss on sale of HRA non-current assets		(290)
2,105	Interest payable and similar charges		2,123
(466)	HRA Capital Grants Applied & Unapplied		(1,844)
57	Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets		(5)
(2,414)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		

Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement

This Statement shows how the HRA Income and Expenditure Account surplus or deficit for the year reconciles to the movement on the Housing Revenue Account Balance for the year end.

2022/23 £'000		2023/24 £'000
(5,283)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous reporting period	(6,373)
(2,414)	(Surplus) or deficit for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	2,323
0	Adjustment to HRA Income and Expenditure Statement Relating to Recharge Adjustments	27
1,324	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute (HRA Note 1)	(3,502)
(1,090)	Net (increase) or decrease before transfers to or from reserves	(1,152)
0	Transfers to or (from) Earmarked HRA reserves	0
0	Transfers to or (from) GF reserves	0
(1,090)	(Increase) or decrease in year on the HRA	(1,152)
0	Contribution towards Capital from Reserves	0
(6,373)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the current reporting period	(7,524)

HRA Note 1. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Statute

2022/23 £'000		2023/24 £'000
	ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY AFFECTING THE CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT	
(4,002)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(4,087)
(300)		(6,840)
0	Capital Grants and Contributions Applied	606
(213)	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statue	(234)
(548)	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	(246)
471	Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement INSERTION OF ITEMS NOT DEBITED OR CREDITED TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT:	1,238
1.173		1,430
.,	ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE CAPITAL RECEIPTS RESERVE:	,
4.000	Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and	536
1,032	Expenditure Statement	530
	ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE MAJOR REPAIRS RESERVE:	
4,002	Transfer from HRA to the Major Repairs Reserve	4,087
0	ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT: Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARLY INVOLVING THE PENSIONS RESERVE:	0
(578)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(18)
286	Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	28
(1)	ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE ACCUMULATED ABSENCES ACCOUNT: Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory	(2)
(1)	requirements	(2)
1,324	TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS	(3,502)

HRA Note 2. Stock

Rentable Dwelling Stock

The Council managed 3,027 rentable dwellings as at 31 March 2024. The movement in stock is analysed as follows:

Stock Type	1 April 2023	Adjustments	Additions	Disposals	31 March 2024
Houses	1,256	0	0	(3)	1,253
Flats	1,257	0	11	0	1,268
Maisonettes	209	0	0	0	209
Bungalows	297	0	0	0	297
Total	3,019	0	11	(3)	3,027

This figure includes 3 dwellings that were not rentable as at 31 March 2024 and have been classified as assets under construction.

Non-Rentable Dwelling Stock

The Council own zero non-rentable dwellings as at 31 March 2024.

Stock Type	1 April 2023	Adjustments	Additions	Disposals	31 March 2024
Flats	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Non-Dwelling Stock

The Council owned 862 non dwellings as at 31 March 2024. The movement in stock is analysed as follows:

Stock Type	1 April 2023	Adjustments	Additions	Disposals	31 March 2024
Garages	372	0	0	0	372
Garages with water	185	0	0	0	185
Carports	78	0	0	0	78
Carspaces	192	0	9	0	201
Underground carspaces	26	0	0	0	26
Commercial Property	0	0	0	0	0
Total	853	0	9	0	862

HRA Note 3. Non-Current Assets

In accordance with Government guidelines, dwellings have been valued at their 'existing use with vacant possession' based on beacon values and then reduced to reflect 'existing use for social housing'. This value is included within the Balance Sheet. The vacant possession value at 31 March 2024 was £556.477m (£567.288m as at 31 March 2023). The difference between the vacant possession and Balance Sheet value of dwellings reflets the economic cost to the Council of providing council housing a less than open market rents.

Movements on Balances 2023/24	Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Assets Under Construction	Total
_	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or valuation 1 April 2023	187,288	4,147	3,139	194,573
Assets Under Construction brought into use	634	0	(634)	0
Additions	8,142	26	2,181	10,349
Donations	0	0	0	0
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(3,422)	353	0	(3,069)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(8,564)	(29)	0	(8,593)
Derecognition – disposals	(250)	0	0	(250)
Derecognition - Surplus Assets	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	0	0	0
Cost or valuation as at 31 March 2024	183,827	4,497	4,686	193,010
Depreciation as at 1 April 2023	0	0	0	0
Depreciation charge	(3,797)	(290)	0	(4,087)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	2,051	278	0	2,329
Depreciation written out to the Surplus//Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,741	12	0	1,753
Derecognition – disposals	5	0	0	5
Derecognition - Surplus Assets	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	0	0	0	0
Depreciation as at 31 March 2024	0	0	0	0
Net Book Value				
As at 31 March 2023	187,288	4,147	3,139	194,573
As at 31 March 2024	183,827	4,497	4,686	193,010

HRA Note 3. Non-Current Assets (continued)

Movements on Balances 2022/23	Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Assets Under Construction	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation 1 April 2022	174,676	3,969	4,758	183,403
Assets Under Construction brought into use	5,910	0	(5,910)	0
Additions	4,672	0	4,290	8,962
Donations	0	0	0	0
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	5,265	171	0	5,436
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(2,675)	6	0	(2,669)
Derecognition – disposals	(559)	0	0	(559)
Derecognition - Surplus Assets	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0
Other movements in cost or valuation	(1)	1	1	1
Cost or valuation as at 31 March 2023	187,288	4,147	3,139	194,573
Depreciation as at 1 April 2022	0	0	0	0
Depreciation charge	(3,724)	(278)	0	(4,002)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	1,358	262	0	1,620
Depreciation written out to the Surplus//Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,354	16	0	2,370
Derecognition – disposals	12	0	0	12
Derecognition - Surplus Assets	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	0	0	0	0
Depreciation as at 31 March 2022	0	0	0	0
Net Book Value				
As at 31 March 2022	174,676	3,969	4,758	183,403
As at 31 March 2023	187,288	4,147	3,139	194,573

2022/23

2022/23

2023/24

2023/24

HRA Note 4. Analysis of Capital Expenditure and Funding

	£'000	£'000
Capital Expenditure		_
Dwellings	5,543	8,167
Other Land and Buildings	2	0
Assets under Construction	3,418	2,181
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	220	234_
Total	9,182	10,582
Funded by:	-	_
Major Repairs Reserve	4,002	4,087
HRA Capital Grants	471	1,238
Transfer from 1-4-1 Capital Receipts Reserves	1,326	404
Prudential Borrowing for New House Build Programme	2,210	3,423
Buy Back Allowance	0	0
Section 106 Funding	0	0
Revenue contributions from the HRA	1,173	1,430
Total Funding	9,182	10,582

The Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute relates to:

	£'000	£'000
Expenditure type:		
New Build Programme-Pre Construction Expenditure	0	0
Non HRA Properties/Leaseholders Expenditure	194	198
Expenditure below £25k	26	36
Total	220	234

HRA Note 5. Summary of Capital Receipts

	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Receipts from the sale of land	0	0
Receipts from the sale of other property	0	0
Repayment of discount	0	0
Receipts from the sale of houses other than through the right to buy scheme	0	0
Receipts from disposals of houses through the Right To Buy scheme	(1,032)	(536)
Total Capital Receipts	(1,032)	(536)

HRA Note 6. Tenants Arrears

Tenants' Arrears at 1 April 2024 were analysed as follows:

Type of Debt	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
General Stock	180	245
Garages	0	0
Former Tenancies – General Stock	217	266
Former Tenancies - Garages	0	1
Housing Benefit Overpayments – General Stock	0	13
Court Costs – General Stock	29	16
Former Tenancy Arrears of Current Tenants – General	24	19
Rechargeable Repairs	68	35
Total Arrears	520	596
Percentage of Gross Rents (HRA)	3.63%	3.64%

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The following provision has been	i iliaue auailisi bussible li	OH-COHECHOH OF HOUSING INC	venue Account debt.

	£'000	£'000
Opening Balance	393	376
Additional Provision made during year	86	233
Add Credit write-offs	0	0
Less amounts written off	(103)	(47)
Closing Balance	393	562

2022/23

2023/24

Collection Fund Statement

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

Collection Fund surpluses declared by the billing authority in relation to Council Tax are apportioned to the relevant precepting bodies in the subsequent financial year. Deficits likewise are proportionately charged to the relevant precepting bodies in the following year. For Medway, the Council Tax precepting bodies are The Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent and The Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

The scheme allows the Authority to retain a proportion of the total NDR received. The Medway share is 49% with the remainder paid to precepting bodies. For Medway precepting bodies this is Central Government 50%, Kent Fire and Rescue Service 1%.

NDR surpluses or deficits declared by the billing authority in relation to the Collection Fund are apportioned to the relevant precepting bodies in the subsequent financial year in their respective proportions.

Collection Fund Statement

Year Ended 31 March 2023		n 2023		Collection Fund Notes	Year Ended 31 March 2024				
Business Rates £'000	Council Tax £'000	Total £'000	_		Business Rates £'000	Council Tax £'000	Total £'000		
			Amounts required by statute to be credited to the Collection Fund						
0	(170,668)	(170,668)	Council Tax	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	0	(180,849)	(180,849)		
(87,469)	0	(87,469)	Non-Domestic Rates	<u>2</u>	(95,410)	0	(95,410)		
(87,469)	(170,668)	(258,137)	Total Amount required by statute to be credited to the Collection Fund		(95,410)	(180,849)	(276,258)		
			Amounts required by statute to be debited to the Collection Fund						
			Precepts and demands from major preceptors and the Authority						
42,231	140,702	182,933	- Medway Council		48,551	149,917	198,468		
0	20,087	20,087	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent (PCCK)		0	21,722	21,722		
845	7,250	8,095	- Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)		991	7,799	8,790		
			Payment with respect to central share (including allowable deductions) of the non-domestic rating income to be paid to central government by billing authorities						
			Business rates:						
41,387	0	41,387	- payment to Central Government		49,542	0	49,542		
268	0	268	- costs of collection		268	0	268		
			enterprize zone growth disregard						
48	0	48	renewable energy		67	0	67		
310	0	310	- transitional protection		0	0	0		
	•		Impairment of debts/appeals	3		•			
0	0	0	- write-offs of uncollectable amounts		0	0	0		
2,407	2,647	5,054	- allowance for impairment		567	2,450	3,018		
2,490	(2.277)	2,490	- increase/decrease in provision for appeals		784	0	784		
22,077	(3,377)	18,699	Transfer of Collection Fund surplus/(deficit)		(2,241)	544	(1,697)		
112,062	167,309	279,371	Total Amount required by statute to be debited to the Collection Fund		98,528	182,432	280,960		
22,172	1,950	24,122	Opening fund balance		95	(1,408)	(1,313)		
95 24,593	(1,408)	45,356 21,234	Closing Fund Balance Movement on fund balance		(3,022)	(865) 1,584	3,389 4,702		
24,555	(3,359)	21,234			3,110	1,504	4,702		
(46)	(4 472)	(4.240)	Allocation of Closing Deficit/(Surplus)		(4.404)	(722)	(2.204)		
(46) 0	(1,173) (178)	(1,219) (178)	Medway Council Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent		(1,481) 0	(723) (105)	(2,204)		
(1)	(58)	(59)	Kent Fire and Rescue Service		(30)	(105) (37)	(105) (67)		
(48)	(38)	(48)	Central Government		(1,511)	(37)	(1,511)		
(95)	(1,408)	(1,503)	- Somal Sovermone		(3,022)	(865)	(3,887)		
(50)	(1,-00)	(1,000)	-		(0,022)	(000)	(0,001)		

Collection Fund Note 1. Council Tax

Council Tax derives from charges raised according to the value of residual properties, which have been classified in 8 valuation bands (A-H) for this specific purpose. Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required to be taken from the Collection Fund by the Council and major preceptors for the forthcoming year and dividing this by the Council Tax base (i.e. the equivalent numbers of band D dwellings).

The Council Tax Base for 2023/24 was 89,336.65 (88,041.50 in 2022/23). The tax base for 2023/24 was approved by the Portfolio Holder for Finance on 5 January 2023 and was calculated as follows:

Band	Chargeable Dwellings	Ratio 9ths	Band D Equivalent Gross	Exemptions & Discounts	Band D Equivalent Net
A	11,315	6/9	7,543	605	6,938.83
В	38,440	7/9	29,898	2,112	27,785.62
С	34,935	8/9	31,053	2,328	28,725.66
D	18,821	9/9	18,821	1,378	17,442.94
E	9,909	11/9	12,111	781	11,330.01
F	4,240	13/9	6,124	384	5,740.75
G	1,520	15/9	2,533	167	2,366.31
Н	62	18/9	124	46	78.25
Total	119,242		108,208	7,800	100,408.37
Council Tax Support					(9,098.49)
Sub Total					91,309.88
Allowance for Non Collection (2.4%)					(2,191.44)
Sub Total					89,118.44
Crown Contribution					218.21
Tax Base for the Calculation of Council Tax 2023/24					89,336.65
Tax Base for the Calculation of Council Tax 2022/23					88,041.50

Collection Fund Note 2. Income from Business Rates

The Council collects Non-Domestic Rates 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. In previous financial years the total amount due, less certain allowances, was paid to a central pool administered by Central Government, which, in turn, paid to local Authorities their share of the pool, such shares being based on a standard amount per head of the local adult population.

Business rate income is shared between the Council, Central Government and Kent Fire and Rescue Service. In the case of Medway the local share is 49%, Central Government 50% and Kent Fire and Rescue service 1%.

The total income from business ratepayers collected in 2023/24 was £47.2m (£41.4m in 2022/23).

In addition to the local management of business rates, authorities are expected to finance appeals made in respect of rateable values as determined by VOA and hence business rates outstanding at 31 March 2024. Authorities are required to make provision for these amounts. Appeals are charges and provided for in proportion to the precepting shares. The decrease in provision credited to the collection fund for 2023/24 was £1.69m (£2.41m 2022/23).

For 2023/24 the total non-domestic rateable value at the year-end is £252.8m (£249.4m in 2022/23). The national multipliers for 2021/22 were 49.9p for qualifying Small Businesses, and the standard multiplyer being 51.2p for all other businesses (49.9p and 51.2p respectively in 2022/23).

2022/23

Collection Fund Note 3. Impairment of Debts/Appeals

The Collection Fund account provides for bad debts on arrears of Council Tax on the basis of prior years' experience and current years collection rates.

2022	23	2023/24					
£000)s		£000s				
Collection Fund	Medway Share		Collection Fund	Medway Share			
8,368	7,007	Balance at 1 April	9,037	7,552			
(1,979)	(1,612)	Write-offs during year	(1,448)	(1,180)			
2,647	2,157	Contributions to provisions during year	2,450	1,997			
669	545	Net Increase/(decrease) in Provisions	1,002	817			
9,037	7,552	Balance at 31 March	10,039	8,369			

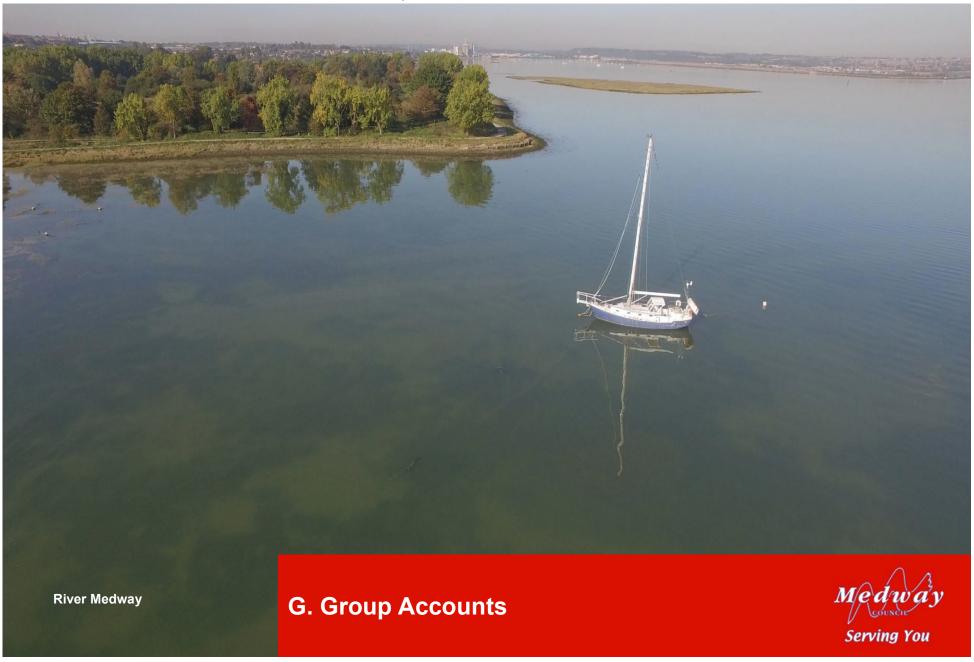
2023/24

The Collection Fund account also provides for bad debts on Non-domestic rates arrears.

2022 £000			2023 £000	
Collection Fund	Medway Share		Collection Fund	Medway Share
4,361	2,137	Balance at 1 April	5,984	2,932
		Amendment due to Pooling		
(783)	(384)	Write-offs during year	(1,120)	(549)
2407	1179	Contributions to provisions during year Provisions utilised during the year	(567)	(278)
1623	795	Net Increase/decrease in Provisions	(1,687)	(827)
5,984	2,932	Balance at 31 March	4,297	2,105

The Collection Fund account also provides for provision for appeals against the rateable valuation set by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) not settled as at 31 March 2024. This is the twelfth year of the provision.

2022/2 £000s			2023/ £000	
Collection Fund	Medway Share		Collection Fund	Medway Share
11,284	5,528	Balance at 1 April	4,916	2,407
0	0	Amendment due to Pooling	0	0
(8,858)	(4,341)	Contributions to provisions during year	(784)	(4,341)
2,490	1,220	Provisions utilised during the year	0	1,220
(6,368)	(3,121)	Net Increase/(decrease) in Provisions	(784)	(3,120)
4,916	2,407	Balance at 31 March	4,132	(713)



Group Accounts

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Introduction

The Code of Practice requires local authorities with interests in subsidiaries, associates and/or joint ventures to prepare group accounts in addition to their own single entity financial statements, unless their interest is not considered material.

The Council has interests in a number of companies that are classified as a subsidiary, associate or joint venture, all of which have been considered for consolidation.

The Group Accounts contain the core statements similar in presentation to the Council's single entity accounts but consolidating the figures of the Council with Kyndi Ltd and Medway Development Company Ltd.

The following pages include:

- Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- Group Balance Sheet
- Group Movement in Reserves Statement
- Group Cash Flow Statement
- Notes to the Group Accounts

Basis of Identification of the Group Boundary

Group accounts are prepared by aggregating the transactions and balances of the Council and all its material subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures.

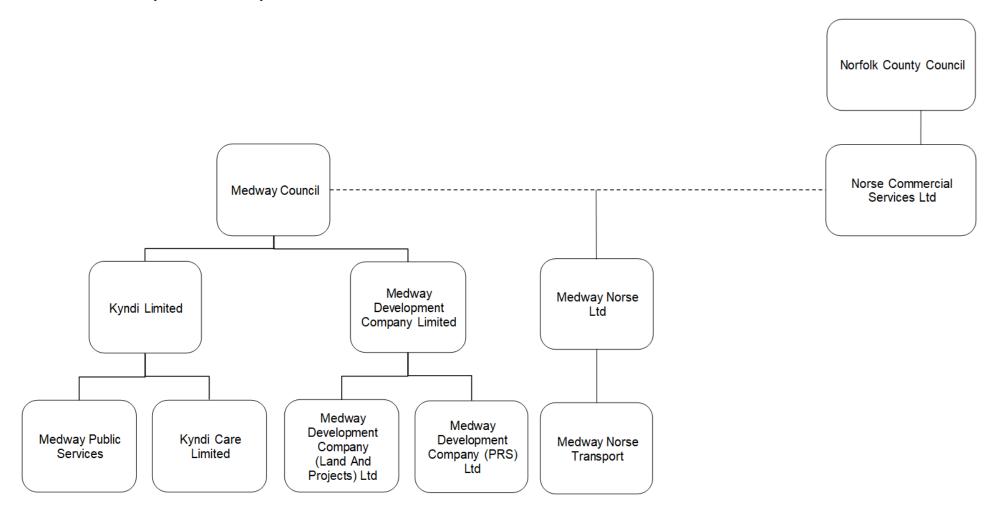
In its preparation of these Group Accounts, the Council has considered its relationship with entities that fall into the following categories:

- Subsidiaries where the Council exercises control and gains benefits or has exposures to risks arising from this control. These entities are included in the group.
- Jointly Controlled Entities where the Council exercises joint control with one or more organisations. Where these are material they are included in the group and have been accounted for on an equity basis.
- No group relationship where the body is not an entity in its own right or the Council has an insufficient interest in the entity to justify inclusion in the group financial statements. These entities are not included in the group.

In accordance with this requirement, the Council has determined its Group relationships as follows:

Kyndi Ltd100% SubsidiaryConsolidatedMedway Development Company Ltd100% SubsidiaryConsolidatedMedway Norse LtdJoint VentureConsolidated

Introduction (continued)



Introduction (continued)

Subsidiaries

Kyndi Limited (09923387)

Kyndi Limited is a company limited by shares and wholly owned by Medway Council. It was incorporated on 21 December 2015.

Kyndi Limited (formerly Medway Commercial Group (MCG) operates as a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCO) that is owned by Medway Council (single shareholder). It operates in four business areas of activity, those being CCTV, Telecare Services, Education Services and Recruitment on a commercial basis that returns a management fee to Medway Council. The business areas are split between Medway Public Services Limited (10041989) and Kyndi Care Limited (formerly Medway Commercial Services (MCS)) (10040313).

In January 2021 the business exited from the provision of Education Services. At the same time, the business agreed a substantial £2.5m Working Capital Loan with Medway Council to be repaid over 10 years, and new group fee charging arrangements that will provide stability of Kyndi Limited's operations into the future, supporting the management team as it builds out the new strategy agreed in the last financial year.

Medway Development Company Limited (11028452)

Medway Development Company Limited is a company limited by shares and wholly owned by Medway Council. It was incorporated on 24 October 2017.

Medway Development Company Limited operates as a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCO) that is owned by Medway Council (single shareholder). It operates in four business areas of activity, those being buying and selling or own real estate, other letting and operating of own or leased real estate, real estate agencies, and management of real estate on a fee or contract basis. The business areas are split between Medway Development Company (Land and Projects) Ltd (12995131) and Medway Development Company PRS) Ltd (12995315).

Basis of the Preparation of Group Financial Statements

The Group Accounts have been prepared using the group accounts requirements of the Code. Companies or other reporting entities that are under the ultimate control of the Council have been included in the Council's group accounts to the extent that they are material to users of the financial statements in relation to their ability to see the complete economic activities of the Council and its exposure to risk through interests in other entities and participation in their activities.

Subsidiaries have been consolidated by:

- adding like items of assets, liabilities, reserves, income and expenses together on a line by line basis to those of other group members in the financial statements; and
- eliminating intra-group balances and transactions in full.

Joint Ventures have been consolidated using the equity method by:

- adjusting the investment originally recognised at cost for the company's post-acquisition change in its share of the net assets of the investee:
- including the company's share of profits and losses in its Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Group Accounting Policies

The accounting policies used in the preparation of the Group Accounts are the same as for the single entity accounts of Medway Council as set out in the notes relating to specific financial statement lines and the general accounting policies can be found at Note 1 to the single entity Accounts.

Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing the Group's services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.

Year ended 31 March 2023				Year	2024	
Gross	Gross	Net		Gross	Gross	Net
Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Service	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
87,042	(74,386)	12,656	Business Support Department	103,808	(87,003)	16,804
365,272	(199,171)	166,101	Children's and Adults (inc. Public Health)	402,802	(240,379)	162,423
11,803	(15,429)	(3,626)	Local authority housing (HRA)	19,040	(16,702)	2,339
	,	, ,	Revaluation of HRA Non-Current assets		,	
146,726	(46,153)	100,572	Regeneration, Culture & Environment	130,907	(47,648)	83,259
610,841	(335,139)	275,703	Group Cost of Services	656,557	(391,732)	264,825
3,581	(730)	2,851	Other operating expenditure	22,703		22,703
		0	Net Surplus on trading accounts	9,158	(10,919)	(1,761)
22,030	(9,126)	12,904	Financing and investment income and expenditure		•	
0	(264,633)	(264,633)		142	(279,535)	(279,394)
0	0	0	Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure	0	0	0
			- S31 75% Tax Income Guarantee and Business Rate Relief compensation			
			grants			
636,453	(608,627)	26,825	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	688,559	(682,186)	6,372
		(263)	Share of (surplus)/Deficit of joint venture.			(247)
		(19)	Taxation of Group Entities			0
		26,543	Group (Surplus)/Deficit	688,559	(683,177)	6,126
		(102,012)	Surplus on revaluation of property, plant and equipment assets			(41,140)
			Revaluation losses on non-current assets charged to the Revaluation			
		22,318	Reserve			15,911
		(335,960)	Re-measurement of net defined pension liability/(asset)			(1,379)
		(415,504)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(26,608)
		(388,960)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(20,483)

Group Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Group, analysed into usable reserves and other reserves.

This statement shows t				venue Reserve				Capital Reserves							
2023/24	General fund balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve	Total General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account balance	Earmarked Housing Revenue Account Reserves	Total Housing Revenue Account	Capital receipts reserve	Major repairs reserve	Capital Grants unapplied accounts	Total Usable reserves	Unusable reserves	Total Authority reserves	Authorities share of reserves or subsidiaries. Associated and joint	Total reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2023	(10,238)	(42,583)	0	(52,821)	(6,373)	0	(6,373)	(4,285)	0	(42,142)	(105,620)	(443,141)	(548,761)	1,607	(547,154)
Movement in reserves during 2023/24															
Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	15,762		0	15,762	2,350	0	2,350	0	0		18,113	(26,608)	(8,496)	(462)	(8,957)
Adjustments between group account and authority accounts	(3,492)			(3,492)			0				0		0	3,492	0
Net increase or decrease before transfers	12,271	0	0	12,271	2,350	0	2,350	0	0	0	14,621	(26,608)	(11,987)	3,030	(8,957)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(4,834)		0	(4,834)	(3,502)	0	(3,502)	444	0	(21,091)	(28,983)	28,983	0	0	0
Net (increase)/decrease before transfers to		0	0			0		444	0				(11.007)	2 020	(9.057)
Movements in	7,437	0	0	7,437	(1,152)	U	(1,152)	444	0	(21,091)	(14,362)	2,375	(11,987)	3,030	(8,957) 520
Earmarked Reserves (Increase)/Decrease in 2022/23	(7,260) 177	6,714 6,714	0	(546) 6,891	(1,152)	0	(1,152)	932 1,376	0	(20,957)	520 (13,842)	2,375	520 (11,468)	3,030	(8,437)
Balance at 31 March 2024 carried forward	(10,061)	(35,869)	0	(45,930)	(7,525)	0	(7,525)	(2,909)	0		(119,463)	(440,767)	(560,228)	4,637	(555,591)

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This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Group, analysed into usable reserves and other reserves.

			Reve	nue Reserv	es			Capital Reserves							
2022/23	General fund balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve	Total General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account balance	Earmarked Housing Revenue Account Reserves	Total Housing Revenue Account	Capital receipts reserve	Major repairs reserve	Capital Grants unapplied accounts	Total Usable reserves	Unusable reserves	Total Authority reserves	Authorities share of reserves or subsidiaries. Associated and joint	Total reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2022	(26,551)	(44,374)	0	(70,926)	(5,283)	0	(5,283)	(8,114)	0	(21,091)	(105,413)	(61,127)	(166,540)	126	(166,414)
Movement in reserves during 2022/23	(20,331)	(44,574)	0	(70,320)	(3,203)	0	(3,203)	(0,114)	0	(21,031)	(103,413)	(01,127)	(100,540)	120	(100,414)
Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	37,757		0	37,757	(2,414)	0	(2,414)	0	0		35,343	(415,504)	(380,161)	(579)	(380,740)
Adjustments between group account and authority accounts	(2,060)			(2,060)			0				0		0	2,060	0
Net increase or decrease before transfers	35,697	0	0	35,697	(2,414)	0	(2,414)	0	0	0	33,283	(415,504)	(382,221)	1,481	(380,740)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(16,029)	0	0	(16,029)	1,324	0	1,324	2,265	0	(21,050)	(33,490)	33,490	0	0	0
Net (increase)/decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves	19,668	0	0	19,668	(1,090)	0	(1,090)	2,265	0	(21,050)	(207)	(382,014)	(382,221)	1,481	(380,740)
Movements in Earmarked Reserves	(3,355)	1,791	0	(1,564)	,		0	1,564	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase)/Decrease in 2022/23	16,313	1,791	0	18,104	(1,090)	0	(1,090)	3,829	0	(21,050)	(207)	(382,014)	(382,221)	1,481	(380,740)
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	(10,238)	(42,583)	0	(52,821)	(6,373)	0	(6,373)	(4,285)	0	(42,141)	(105,620)	(443,141)	(548,761)	1,607	(547,154)

Group Balance Sheet

The Balance sheet shows the value of the assets and liabilities recognised by the group at 31 March 2024. The net assets of the Group are matched by Group reserves.

Balance Sheet Summary	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000
Property Plant & Equipment	815,768	806,099
Heritage Assets	23,213	19,723
Investment Property	29,321	16,663
Intangible Assets	25	41
Long Term Investments	19,926	21,099
Long Term Debtors	76,194	893
Long Term Assets	964,447	864,519
Assets Held for Sale <1 Year	15,910	15,910
Inventories	70,002	72,629
Short Term Investments	4,182	14,633
Short Term Debtors	62,313	103,468
Cash and Cash Equivalents	9,969	5,497
Current Assets	162,375	212,136
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0	0
Grants Receipts in Advance - Revenue	(1,431)	(3,555)
Short Term Borrowing	(118,549)	(97,196)
Short Term Creditors	(65,152)	(79,395)
Finance Leases < 1 Year	(245)	(257)
Provisions (Short Term)	(3,081)	(2,849)
Current Liabilities	(188,458)	(183,252)
Long Term Creditors	(27,139)	(28,278)
Provisions (Long Term)	(3,783)	(3,080)
Long Term Borrowing	(352,039)	(308,754)
Other Long-Term Liabilities	5,449	(1,057)
Grants Receipts in Advance - Capital	(5,261)	(5,079)
Long Term Liabilities	(382,772)	(346,249)
Net Assets	555,592	547,154
Usable Reserves	(114,825)	(104,846)
Unusable Reserves	(440,767)	(442,308)
Total Reserves	(555,592)	(547,154)

Group Cash Flow Statement

The cash flow statement shows the changes to cash and cash equivalents of the Group during the reporting period.

2022/23		Notes	2023/24
£'000			£'000
31,363	Net (Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services		18,587
46,424	Adjustments to net Surplus or deficit on the provision of service for non-cash movements	G6	(6,941)
15,750	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of service that are investing or financing activities	G6	48,954
93,537	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		60,600
4,026	Investing Activities	<u>G7</u>	(11,223)
(95.867)	Financing Activities	<u>G8</u>	(53,850)
1,696	Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(4,473)
7,192	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		5,497
5,496	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		9,969

Group Accounts Note 1. Critical Judgements

All the critical judgements and estimation uncertainties disclosed in the Council's single entity accounts is materially applicable to the group entity. The critical judgements can be found in Note 3 on page xx and estimation uncertainties can be found in Note 5 on page xx of the single entity accounts.

Use of unaudited accounts for Group Accounts consolidation

The company accounts relating to Medway Development Company Ltd used for the Group Accounts consolidation is based on their unaudited accounts. This is due to the entity gaining exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act relating to small companies Consideration has been given whether the audited accounts would be materially different, and the conclusion is that the risk is low.

Consideration of IFRS 15 - Revenue from Contracts with Customers

The subsidiary companies compile their accounts based on FRS102 which is similar to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) but not all of the latest IFRS standards have been adopted into FRS102. to understand the differences in the accounting policies between Medway Council and the individual companies a questionnaire was issued.

No issues were identified in relation to IFRS 15. The companies recognise revenue from contracts in accordance with the underlying contract and this will be either be overtime or at a point in time which is not dissimilar to IFRS 15 requirements.

Elimination of Income and Expenditure

Income and expenditure between Medway Council and the subsidiary companies is eliminated through a matching process on transaction-bytransaction basis. This applies to all transactions except those between Schools and the subsidiary companies where the balances provided by the subsidiary companies is used for the elimination.

A transaction-by-transaction matching process for schools is not possible as only schools' balances are consolidated in the Council's single entity accounts. The risk of material unmatched items is assessed to be low.

Group Accounts Note 2. Group Debtors

The table provides details of amounts owed to the Group at the end of the year. Debtors included within the Group Accounts exclude any amounts owed within the Group.

	31 March 2023				31 March 2024		
Long-Term	Short-Term	Total		Long-Term	Short-Term	Total	
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	
402	56,634	57,036	Trade receivables	75,703	28,785	104,488	
0	(6,767)	(6,767)	Less impairment allowance	0	(6,720)	(6,720)	
402	49,867	50,269	Net trade receivables	75,703	22,066	97,769	
0	0	0		0	0		
0	17,909	17,909	Prepayments				
				0	4,181	4,181	
			Other receivables:		192	192	
0	1,432	1,432	Client Financial Affairs Debtors	0	31	31	
0	31	31	Education Related Debtors	491	0	491	
491	0	491	Elections Debtors	0	64	64	
0	9,142	9,142	Housing Benefit Debtors	0	9,289	9,289	
0	(6,223)	(6,223)	Less impairment allowance	0	(6,223)	(6,223)	
0	2,919	2,919	Net Housing Benefit Debtors				
				0	3,066	3,066	
0	1,805	1,805	HRA Rent/Service Charge Debtors	0	1,999	1,999	
0	(376)	(386)	Less impairment allowance	0	(562)	(562)	
0	1,429	1,429	Net HRA Rent/Service Charge Debtors	0	1,437	1,437	
0	32,653	32,653	Local Taxation Debtors	0	34,818	34,818	
0	(10,482)	(10,482)	Less impairment allowance	0	(10,497)	(10,497)	
0	22,171	22,171	Net Local Taxation Debtors				
				0	24,321	24,321	
0	311	311	Rechargeable Works Debtors	0	401	401	
0	1,042	1,042	Schools Debtors	0	1,039	1,039	
0	5	5	SOCH Mortgage Debtors	0	5	5	
0	33	33	Employee Related Debtors	0	35	35	
0	6,316	6,316	VAT Debtors	0	5,476	5,476	
491	35,692	36,184	Other receivables	491	36,066	36,558	
893	103,468	104,361	Total Debtors				
093	103,400	104,361	ו טומו שפטוטוס	76,194	62,313	138,507	

Group Accounts Note 3. Group Creditors

The table provides details of amounts owed by the Group to creditors at the end of the year. Creditors included within the Group Accounts exclude any amounts owed within the Group.

31 March 2023				31 March 2024		
Long-Term	Short-Term	Total		Long-Term	Short-Term	Total
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
528	60,210	60,738	Trade payables	(491)	(49,094)	(49,595)
0	1,566	1,566	Receipts in Advance	0	(2,874)	(2,874)
			Other payables	0	0	0
0	6	6	Other Payables	0	(465)	(465)
0	0	0	Education Related Creditors	0	0	0
1	1,874	1,875	Employee Related Creditors	(8)	(1,999)	(2,007)
0	573	573	HRA Rent/Service Charge Creditors	0	(480)	(480)
27,745	1,156	28,901	Local Government Reorganisation Creditors	(26,635)	(1,110)	(27,745)
0	13,951	13,951	Local Taxation Creditors	0	(9,130)	(9,130)
0	0	0	Rechargeable Works Creditors	0	0	0
4	0	4	SOCH Mortgage Creditors	(4)	0	(4)
0	58	58	VAT Creditors	0	0	0
28,278	79,395	107,673	Total Creditors	(27,139)	(65,152)	(92,291)

Group Accounts Note 4. Group Cash & Cash Equivalents

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

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Single Entity Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,698	1,973
Subsidiary cash and bank balances	(2,256)	3,507
Short term deposits with the Money Market	10,528	17
Total Group Cash and Cash Equivalents	9,969	5,496

Group Accounts Note 5. Group Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

Financial Assets										
	Non-Current				Current					
	Investments		Debtors		Investments		Debtors		Total	
	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fair value through profit or loss	21,099	19,926	0	0	14,633	4,182	0	0	35,732	24,108
Amortised cost - other	0	0	71,401	89,017	0	0	61,174	21,270	132,575	110,287
Cash & cash equivalents at amortised										
cost	0	0	0	0	15,184	23,203			15,184	23,203
Total financial assets	21,099	19,926	71,401	89,017	29,817	27,385	61,174	21,270	183,491	157,599
Non-financial assets	0		4	5	0	0	34,767	40,445	34,771	40,450
Total										
	21,099	19,926	71,405	89,022	29,817	27,385	95,941	61,715	218,262	198,049
Financial Liabilities										
	Non-Current				Current					
	Borrowings		Creditors		Borrowings		Creditors		Total	
	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Amortised cost	(309,899)	(352,039)	(28,242)	(26,226)	(97,196)	(118,549)	(114,996)	(104,758)	(550,333)	(601,571)
Cash & cash equivalents at amortised										
cost	0				(9,687)	(13,234)			(9,687)	(13,234)
Total financial liabilities	(309,899)	(352,039)	(28,242)	(26,226)	(106,883)	(131,783)	(114,996)	(104,758)	(560,020)	(614,805)
Non-financial liabilities	0		(26)	(10)			(27,231)	(20,476)	(27,257)	(20,486)
Total	(309,899)	(352,039)	(28,268)	(26,236)	(106,883)	(131,783)	(142,227)	(125,234)	(587,277)	(635,291)

Group Accounts Note 6. Group Cash Flow – Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
(5,393)	Interest received	(4,039)
7,756	Interest paid	10,863
(1,434)	Dividends received	102

The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following non-cash movements:

2022/		2023/24
£'000		£'000
(24,370)	Depreciation	(21,343)
(24,704)	Impairment and downward revaluations	(17,495)
(3,913)	Increase in valuation of investments	(1,160)
24,483	(Increase) / decrease in creditors	(220)
51,612	Increase / (decrease) in debtors/Impairment for Bad Debts	51,750
35,721	Increase / (decrease) in inventories	(2,628)
(14,746)	Movement in pension liability	4,883
4,870	Contributions (to)/from Provisions	(1,926)
(1,632)	Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or de-recognised	(20,849)
(898)	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	2,046
46,424		(6,941)

The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following items that are investing and financing activities:

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
	Proceeds from short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments (includes	
0	investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries)	0
992	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	471
14,759	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	48,483
15.750		48.954

Group Accounts Note 7. Group Cash Flow – Investing Activities

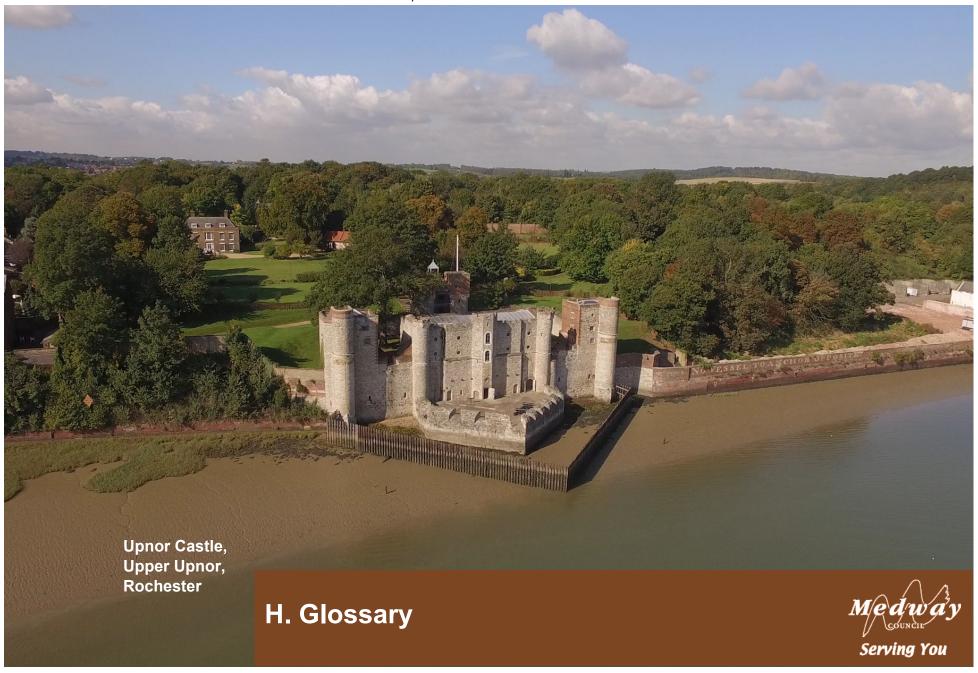
2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
56,091	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	48,056
227,327	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	146,849
(992)	Proceeds from the sale of Property, Plant and Equipment, Investment Property and Intangible	
	Assets	(471)
(231,900)	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	(157,300)
(46,501)	Other receipts from investing activities	(48,357)
4,026	Net cash flows from investing activities	(11,223)

Group Accounts Note 8. Group Cash Flow – Financing Activities

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
(294,570)	Cash receipts of short- and long-term borrowing	(203,284)
0	Repayments of short- and long-term borrowing	0
198,703	Other payments for financing activities	149,434
(95,867)	Net cash flows from financing activities	(53,850)

Group Accounts Note 9. Inventories

2022/23		2023/24
£'000		£'000
35,081	Opening Balance	72,629
37,548	Raw Materials or works in progress	(2,627)
72,629	Closing Balance	70,002



Glossary of Terms

ACCRUAL

A sum included in the final accounts attributable to the year but for which payment has yet to be made or income received. Accruals are made for revenue and capital expenditure and income.

ACTUARIAL GAINS & LOSSES

These are changes in the actuary's assessment of the value of future pension fund requirement. Changes result from actual events not matching previous actuarial assumptions or from a change in assumptions on which the valuation is based.

AGENCY

The provision of services by one local authority, on behalf of and reimbursed by the responsible local authority or central government.

AMORTISATION

The process of recognising the consumption of intangible assets in the Cost of Services on a systematic basis. Typically, this is done by dividing the gross cost of the asset over its useful life on a straight- line basis.

APPOINTED AUDITORS

Grant Thornton UK LLP is Medway Council's appointed Auditor.

ASSET

An item having a value, measurable in monetary terms. Assets can be defined as current or non-current. A current asset can be readily converted into cash (for example stocks or a short term debtor). A long-term asset is expected to yield economic benefits to the Authority for more than one year (for example a building or a long-term investment).

ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

Assets held for sale are items of property, plant or equipment or a group of assets and liabilities whose carrying amount is to be recovered principally through a sale rather than its continued use by the authority. They are measured at the lower of the value they had when it was agreed they would be sold and fair value less costs to sell.

ASSETS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A class of property, plant and equipment asset held at historical cost and typically representing the cost of works to date on incomplete capital projects.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

An independent examination of the Authority's financial affairs.

AUTHORISED LIMIT

The statutory limit of the maximum amount of external debt the Authority can owe to external lenders under the Local Government Act 2003.

BUDGET

The spending plans of the Authority over a specific period of time – generally the financial year, 1 April to 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 additions to those assets under statutory provisions.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure to acquire or enhance long-term assets.

CAPITAL FINANCING

The raising of money to pay for capital expenditure. There are various methods of financing capital expenditure, including borrowing, leasing, using capital receipts, grants/contributions from third parties, or directly from revenue budgets.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The capital schemes the Authority intends to carry out over a specified period of time.

CAPITAL RECEIPT

The proceeds from the disposal of land or other long-term assets.

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY (CIPFA)

The professional accountancy body specialising in public finance.

CHURCHES, CHARITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES (CCLA)

The Authority holds units in a property fund, managed by this organisation.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Assets that the Authority intends to hold in perpetuity, or that have no determinable useful life, and that may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples of community assets include parks and historical buildings.

COMPONENTISATION

The process of analysing an asset into significant component parts where those components have different useful lives. This is required whenever the resultant depreciation charges and their impact on asset carrying amounts would make a material difference to the accounts.

CONSISTENCY

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

CONTINGENT ASSET

A possible asset that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the authority.

CONTINGENT LIABILITY

A possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Authority, or a present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognised because it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

CREDITOR

Amounts owed by the Authority for works done, goods received or services rendered before the end of the accounting period but for which payments had not been made by the end of that period.

CURRENT SERVICE COST

The increase in the present value of a defined benefit obligation resulting from employee service in the current period.

CURRENT VALUE

Measurements reflect the economic environment prevailing for the service or function the asset is supporting at the reporting date. In this section of the Code, the current value measurement bases include:

- existing use value
 - existing use value social housing (EUV–SH)
 - o depreciated replacement cost
- fair value

DEBTOR

Amounts due to the Authority for works done, goods received or services rendered before the end of accounting period but for which payments had not been received by the end of that period.

DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME

A pension scheme under which members pension benefits are calculated independently of contributions payable.

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

A pension scheme under which contributions into the scheme are set but the pension benefits payable are related to the performance of investments made by the fund.

DEPRECIABLE AMOUNT

Depreciable amount is the cost of an asset, or other amount substituted for cost, less residual value.

DEPRECIATED REPLACEMENT COST (DRC)

A method of valuation which provides the current cost of replacing an asset with its modern equivalent asset less deductions for all physical deterioration and all relevant forms of obsolescence and optimisation. Where DRC is used as the valuation methodology, authorities should use the 'instant build' approach at the valuation date and the choice of an alternative site will normally hinge on the policy in respect of the locational requirements of the service that is being provided.

DEPRECIATION

Is the systematic allocation of the depreciable amount of an asset over its useful life.

DERECOGNITION

This is the process of removing financial assets or liabilities from the Balance Sheet once performance under the contract is complete or the contract is terminated.

DISCOUNTS

Discounts represent the outstanding discount received on the premature repayment of Public Works Loan Board loans. In line with the requirements of the Code, gains arising from the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing have been written back to revenue. However, where the repurchase or borrowing was coupled with a refinancing or restructuring of borrowing with substantially the same overall economic effect when viewed as a whole, gains have been recognised over the life of the replacement loan.

EARMARKED RESERVES

These are reserves held to meet specific, known or predicted future expenditure.

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

Significant items of income or expenditure on ordinary activities of the Authority but which due to their size or incidence are disclosed separately to give a fair presentation of the accounts.

EXISTING USE VALUE (EUV)

the estimated amount for which a property should exchange on the date of valuation between a willing buyer and a willing seller in an arm's-length transaction, after proper marketing. The parties are taken to have acted knowledgeably, prudently and without compulsion. It is also assumed that the buyer is granted vacant possession of all parts of the property required by the buyer. The valuer will disregard potential alternative uses and any other characteristics of the property that would cause its market value to differ from that needed to replace the remaining service potential at least cost.

EXISTING USE VALUE – SOCIAL HOUSING (EUV – SH)

The estimated amount for which a property should exchange, on the date of valuation, between a willing buyer and a willing seller, in an arm's-length transaction, after proper marketing wherein the parties had each acted knowledgeably, prudently and without compulsion, subject to the following further assumptions that:

- the property will continue to be let by a body and used for social housing
- at the valuation date, any regulatory body, in applying its criteria for approval, would not unreasonably fetter the vendor's ability to dispose of the property to organisations intending to manage their housing stock in accordance with that regulatory body's requirements

- properties temporarily vacant pending reletting should be valued, if there is a letting demand, on the basis that the prospective purchaser intends to re-let them, rather than with vacant possession
- any subsequent sale would be subject to all of the above assumptions.

EXTERNAL AUDIT

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

EMPLOYEE EXPENDITURE

The salaries and wages of employees together with national insurance, superannuation and all other pay-related allowances. Training expenses and professional fees are also included.

EXPENDITURE

This is amounts paid by the Authority for goods received or services rendered of either a capital or revenue nature. This does not necessarily involve a cash payment since expenditure is deemed to have been incurred once the goods or services have been received even if payment has not been made (in which case the payee is a creditor to the Authority).

FAIR VALUE

The estimate of the price at which an orderly transaction to sell an asset or to transfer a liability would take place between market participants at the measurement date under current market conditions.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another. The term 'financial instrument' covers both financial assets and financial liabilities and includes both the most straightforward financial assets and liabilities such as trade receivables and trade payables and the most complex such as derivatives and embedded derivatives.

FINANCE LEASE

Is a lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. Title may or may not eventually be transferred.

GENERAL FUND

The main revenue fund of the Authority including all services financed by local taxation and government grants.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Grants made by the government towards either revenue or capital expenditure to support the cost of the provision of Local Authority's services. These grants may be specifically towards the cost of particular schemes or to support the general revenue spending of the Authority (Revenue Support Grant).

GROUP ACCOUNTS

Group Accounts consolidate the financial results of the Authority, any of its subsidiaries and/or associates. The Authority is not required to produce these or group accounts for the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts, due to materiality.

HERITAGE ASSET

A tangible asset with historic, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

HISTORICAL COST (HC)

is defined as:

- Assets: the value of the costs incurred in acquiring or creating the asset, comprising the consideration paid plus transaction costs.
- Liabilities: the value of the consideration received to incur or take on the liability minus transaction costs.

The historical cost of an asset may be updated over time to reflect depreciation or amortisation, payments received that settle an obligation owed to the authority, impairment and accrual of interest. The historical cost of a liability may be updated over time to reflect settlement of an obligation owed to a third party, the accrual of interest, or events that have the effect of making the liability onerous.

HOUSING BENEFITS

This is an allowance to persons on low income (or none) to meet, in whole or part, their rent. Benefit is allowed or paid by Local Authorities but Central Government refunds part of the cost of the benefits and of the running costs of the services to Local Authorities. Benefits paid to the Authority's own tenants are known as rent rebate and that paid to private tenants as rent allowance.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

Local Authorities are required to maintain a separate account - the Housing Revenue Account - which sets out the expenditure and income arising from the provision of Council housing.

Other services are charged to the General Fund.

IMPAIRMENT OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS

A reduction in the value of a non-current asset below its value brought forward in the Balance Sheet. Examples of factors which may cause such a reduction in value include general price decreases, a significant decline in a non-current asset's market value and evidence of obsolescence or physical damage to the asset.

INCOME

These are amounts due to the Authority for goods supplied or services rendered of either a capital or a revenue nature. This does not necessarily involve a cash payment. Income is deemed to have been earned once the goods or services have been supplied even if the payment has not been received (in which case the recipient is a debtor to the Authority).

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Non-current assets which generally cannot be sold and from which benefit can be obtained only by continued use of the asset created. Examples of such assets are highways, footpaths, bridges and water and drainage facilities.

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

These are non-current assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and controlled by the Authority. Examples include software, licenses and patents.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (IFRS)

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

INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

Properties (land or a building, or part of a building, or both) held solely to earn rental income or for capital appreciation or both, rather than for either the use in the production or supply of goods/services/administrative purposes, or sale in the ordinary course of operations.

JOINT VENTURE

Arrangements under which two or more parties have contractually agreed to share control, such that decisions about activities that significantly affect returns require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control, and joint venturers have rights to the net assets of the arrangement.

LEASE

An agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee in return for a payment or series of payments the right to use an asset for an agreed period of time. Two forms of lease exist:

- finance leases, and
- operating leases.

LEASING COSTS

This is rental paid for the use of an asset for a specific period of time.

LENDER OPTION BORROWER OPTION (LOBO)

A LOBO is a type of loan instrument. The borrower borrows a principal sum for the duration of the loan period (typically 20 to 50 years), initially at a fixed interest rate. Periodically (typically every six months to 3 years), the lender has the ability to alter the interest rate. Should the lender exercise this option, the borrower then has the option to continue with the instrument at the new rate or alternatively to terminate the agreement and pay back the principal sum with no other penalty.

LIABILITIES

These are amounts due to individuals or organisations which will have to be paid at some time in the future. Current liabilities are usually payable within one year of the Balance Sheet date.

LONG TERM CREDITORS

Amounts due from Medway Council where payment is to be made over a period of time in excess of one year.

LONG TERM DEBTORS

Amounts due to Medway Council where payment is to be made over a period of time in excess of one year.

MATERIALITY

An item would be considered material to the financial statements if, through its omission or non-disclosure, the financial statements would no longer show a true and fair view.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS)

A financial planning document setting out future years' financial forecasts for the Authority. It considers local and national policy influences and their impact on the general fund revenue budget, capital programme and HRA. In Medway it usually covers a four year timeframe.

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP)

MRP is the minimum amount which must be charged to an Authority's revenue account each year and set aside as provision for credit liabilities, as required by the Local Government Act 2003.

NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Assets that yield benefits to the Authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year. Examples include land, buildings and vehicles.

NON-DOMESTIC RATE (NDR or BUSINESS RATES)

NDR is the levy on business property, based on a national rate in the pound applied to the 'rateable value' of the property. The Government determines a national rate poundage each year which is applicable to all Local Authorities. The income derived from business rates is distributed between preceptors (Medway, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and Central Government) based upon a pre-determined allocation percentage.

NET BOOK VALUE (NBV)

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

NET DEBT

Net debt is the Authority's borrowings less cash and treasury investments.

NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE

This compares all expenditure minus all income, other than the precept and transfers from reserves.

NON-OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Non-current assets held by the Authority, but not directly occupied or used in the delivery of services. Examples are investment properties, or assets that are surplus to requirements, pending sale or redevelopment.

NET REALISABLE VALUE (NRV)

NRV is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of operations less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale, exchange or distribution.

OPERATING LEASE

Is a lease other than a finance lease.

OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Non-current assets held by the Authority and directly occupied or used in the delivery of its services.

PAST SERVICE COST

The change in the present value of the defined benefit obligation for employee service in prior periods, resulting from a plan amendment (the introduction or withdrawal of, or changes to, a defined benefit plan) or a curtailment (a significant reduction by the Authority in the number of employees covered by a plan), and any gain or loss on settlement.

PRECEPT

The amount levied by various Authorities that is collected by the Authority on their behalf. The precepting Authorities in Medway are the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent (PCCK) and the Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS).

PREMIUMS

These are discounts that have arisen following the early redemption of long term debt, which are written down over the lifetime of replacement loans where applicable.

PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS

These are material adjustments which are applicable to an earlier period arising from changes in accounting policies or for the correction of fundamental errors.

PROPERTY. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Tangible non-current assets (i.e. assets with physical substance) that are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and expected to be used during more than one period.

PROVISION

An amount set aside for liabilities or losses which are certain to arise, but which due to their nature cannot be quantified with certainty.

PRUDENTIAL BORROWING

Borrowing for which no financial support is provided by Central Government. The borrowing costs are to be met from revenue budgets.

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD (PWLB)

A central government agency that provides loans for one year and above to local authorities at interest rates only slightly higher than those at which the government itself can borrow.

RATEABLE VALUE

The annual assumed rental value of a property that is used for Non Domestic Rate purposes.

RELATED PARTIES

Related parties are Central Government, other Local Authorities, precepting and levying bodies, subsidiary and associated companies, Elected Members, all senior officers that form part of the Corporate Management Team, and the Pension Fund. For individuals identified as related parties, the following are also presumed to be related parties:-

- members of the close family, or the same household; and
- partnerships, companies, trusts or other entities in which the individual, or member of their close family or the same household, has a controlling interest.

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

A related party transaction is the transfer of assets or liabilities or the performance of services by, to or for a related party irrespective of whether a price is charged. The principal issue is the degree of control or influence by one party over the other. For transactions not disclosed elsewhere in these accounts, a related party with the Authority is either a Cabinet Member or officer forming part of the Corporate Management Team of the Authority.

REPORTING STANDARDS

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice prescribes the accounting treatment and disclosures for all normal transactions of a Local Authority. The Code is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), International Accounting Standards (IAS), Financial Reporting Standards (FRS), International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP).

RESERVES

Amounts set aside for general contingencies, to provide working balances or earmarked to specific future expenditure. Reserves of a revenue nature are available and can be spent or earmarked at the discretion of the Authority. Some capital reserves such as the revaluation reserve cannot be used to meet current expenditure.

REVALUATION RESERVE

The Reserve records the accumulated gains on the fixed assets held by the Authority arising from increases in value as a result of inflation or other factors (to the extent that these gains have not been consumed by subsequent downward movements in value).

REVENUE EXPENDITURE

The day-to-day expenses of providing services.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE (REFCUS)

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provision but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset, the cost of which has been charged as expenditure to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES).

REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT (RSG)

The main non-ringfenced grant from Central Government to the Authority to support revenue budgets.

SUBSIDIARIES

Entities that the authority controls if and only if it has all three of the following:

- power over the entity
- exposure, or rights, to variable returns from its involvement with entity, and
- the ability to use its power over the entity to affect the amount of the authority's returns

SURPLUS ASSET

A class of property, plant and equipment assets which are not being used to deliver services, but which do not meet the criteria to be classified as either investment properties or assets held for sale. Surplus assets are valued at existing use value in their previous use and are subject to depreciation.

THE CODE (CIPFA ACCOUNTING CODE OF PRACTICE)

The Code incorporates guidance based on approved accounting standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and interpretations of the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee, except where these are inconsistent with specific statutory requirements. The Code also draws on approved accounting standards issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board and the UK Financial Reporting Council where these provide additional guidance. It sets out the proper accounting practice to be adopted for the Statement of Accounts to ensure they 'present fairly' the financial position of the Council. The Code constitutes a 'proper accounting practice' under the terms of Section 21(2) of the Local Government Act 2003.

NOTE: values throughout these accounts are presented rounded to the nearest thousand. Totals in supporting tables and notes may not appear to cast, cross-cast, or exactly match to the core statements or other tables due to rounding differences.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT

The process of controlling the Authority's cash flow, borrowing and lending activities.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

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