Leicestershire County Council

Meeting: **Constitution Committee**

Date/Time: **Tuesday, 7 December 2021 at 11.00 am**

Location: **Sparkenhoe Committee Room, County Hall, Glenfield**

Contact: **Mr. E. Walters (Tel: 0116 305 2583)**

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Membership

Mr. N. J. Rushton CC (Chairman)

Mr. P. Bedford CC
Mr. L. Breckon JP CC
Mr. M. T. Mullaney CC
Mr J. Poland CC
Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC
Mrs D. Taylor CC

AGENDA

Item		Report by	
1.	Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2021.		(Pages 3 - 4)
2.	Question Time.		
3.	Questions asked under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).		
4.	To advise of any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent.		
5.	Declarations of interest.		
6.	Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and Pension Fund Accounts 2020/21	Director of Corporate Resources	(Pages 5 - 214)
7.	Any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent.		

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Leicestershire
County Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Constitution Committee held at County Hall, Glenfield on Friday, 19 November 2021.

PRESENT

Mrs D. Taylor CC (in the Chair)

Mr. P. Bedford CC	Mr. B. L. Pain CC
Mr. L. Breckon JP CC	Mrs. C. M. Radford CC
Mr. M. T. Mullaney CC	Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC

15. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2021 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

16. Question Time.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 35.

17. Questions asked by members.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

18. Urgent items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

19. Declarations of interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

No declarations were made.

20. Review and Revision of the Constitution.

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive which recommended changes to the Council's Constitution as part of the annual review. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 6', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council be recommended to approve the proposed changes to the Constitution as set out in the appendices to the report.

2.45 - 2.55 pm
19 November 2021

CHAIRMAN

Leicestershire County Council

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – 7 DECEMBER 2021

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT & PENSION FUND ACCOUNTS 2020/21

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to:

   a) present the 2020/21 financial statements, Appendix A, for approval,
   b) inform the Committee of the main areas of the financial statements, and
   c) report the key findings from the external audit of the accounts.

Background

2. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require authorities to approve and publish their accounts, including the auditor's opinion, by the end of July following the end of the financial year. As a result of Covid-19 the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021 amended the deadlines for the external audit of the financial statements to the end of September 2021.

3. During the audit planning phase the County Council agreed with the external auditor to a revised deadline for the external audit, to the end of November 2021. This was to allow more time due to the implementation of the new financial system part way through the financial year. It also allowed more time for increased assurance work that auditors are required to carry out nationally with respect to pensions and asset valuations.

4. A copy of the external auditor's, Grant Thornton UK LLP, report on the financial statements is attached as Appendix B. Letters of representation for the Statement of Accounts and Pension Fund are attached, Appendix C and Appendix D.

5. The Corporate Governance Committee will consider the auditor's report at its meeting on 3 December 2021. The auditor is required to communicate the results of the audit to those charged with governance prior to certifying the financial statements. The minutes from that meeting will be reported to the Constitution Committee. The auditor anticipates issuing an unqualified audit opinion.

6. The 2020/21 financial statements have been produced in exceptional circumstances:

   - During 2020/21 the County Council implemented a new finance and human resource system, Oracle Fusion Cloud services. The finance modules went live part way through the financial year in November 2020 with the HR modules went live in April 2021.

- The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in both exceptional changes to working practices and a 25% one off increase in the amount of funding received by the County Council compared to the net revenue budget.
- The level of audit testing has continued to increase compared to previous years.

7. The Statement of Accounts is prepared under the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) based Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounts.

Statement of Accounts

8. The main areas of the financial statements are set out below.

Narrative Statement

9. The purpose of the Narrative Statement is to offer interested parties an effective guide to the most significant matters reported in the accounts. It includes a summary of the economy, efficiency and effectiveness, and the financial and non-financial performance of the Authority, and an explanation of the contents of the accounts.

Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS)

10. This statement shows the movement in year on the different reserves held by the County Council, analysed into ‘usable reserves’ i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure and ‘unusable reserves’ which cannot be used to fund services. Unusable reserves include reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses as well as adjustments for the differences between amounts charged in accordance with accounting standards and amounts charged for statutory purposes. An example is the short term accumulating compensated absences adjustment account (STACAAA). This account holds the estimated value of untaken annual leave and time-off-in-lieu as at the balance sheet date. The charge is recognised by accounting standards, but statutory mitigation allows it to be reversed out via the STACAAA to avoid it being a charge to the General Fund.

11. Overall, usable reserves which comprise the general fund, earmarked funds and capital funds, have increased as at 31 March 2021 to £203m from £159m as explained below:

Fund	31 March 2020	31 March 2021
	£m	£m
General Fund	27.0	26.7
Earmarked Funds	128.9	175.0
Capital Funds	3.5	1.6
Total	**159.4**	**203.3**

General Fund

12. The General Fund includes delegated funding for schools and the uncommitted balance of the County Council. Until 1 April 2020 it also included the deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), but following legislation implemented during 2020/21 the balance is now required to be reported separately in a new unusable

reserve, the DSG Adjustment Account, shown in the bottom half of the balance sheet.

13. A summary of the General Fund balance is shown in Note 11 to the accounts and below:

General Fund	31 March 2020	31 March 2021
	£m	£m
Delegated Funding for Schools	8.0	9.7
DSG Reserve – Growth Funding	3.0	0.0
DSG Reserve – High Needs Deficit	(7.1)	0.0
Uncommitted Balance	23.1	17.0
Total	**27.0**	**26.7**

14. The uncommitted fund as at 31 March 2020 included £7.1m to manage variations in the DSG High Needs balance. Due to the legislation changes above, this element has now been transferred to the budget equalisation earmarked reserve.

<u>Earmarked Funds</u>

15. Earmarked funds totalled £175m as at 31 March 2021 (£129m 31 March 2020). The main reasons for the increase was both the capital financing reserve £10m due to slippage on the capital programme and the new budget equalisation reserve £24m.

16. Details of the earmarked funds can be found in Note 12 to the accounts. The significant earmarked funds held are:

    - Capital Financing £64m. Holds MTFS revenue contributions to fund capital expenditure in the approved four year capital programme. It also holds funding set aside for the future developments programme to fund projects that achieve ongoing revenue savings and support necessary service investment. Holding this fund is an essential part of the Council's approach to avoiding incurring additional debt where possible. The amount shown in the accounts is net of £25m investment in Pooled Property Funds. The investment is shown against the capital financing reserve, but in effect is funded from the overall balance of earmarked funds and can be realised in the future when required.

    - Budget Equalisation £24m. This reserve is held to manage variations in funding across financial years. This includes the increasing pressures on the High Needs element of the Dedicated Support Grant which was in deficit by £17m at the end of 2020/21 and is forecast to increase to £86m by the end of 2025/26.

    - Insurance £14m. Funds held to meet future claims, or parts of claims, that are not covered by insurance policies. This could be due to policy limits and deductibles or claims relating to periods when the insurer has failed, such as Municipal Mutual Insurance or The Independent Insurance Company.

    - Other earmarked funds £73m. Funds for a range of issues including ongoing Covid-19 pressures, council tax shortfalls, business rates retention and a range of service developments / initiaves including transformation projects as detailed in the Note to the accounts.

17. The required level of earmarked funds is kept under review during the year. Formal assessments are undertaken during the autumn, in February as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and also at year end.

Capital Funds

18. Capital funds reduced to £1.6m as at year end. The balance held represents earmarked capital receipts and capital grants and contributions not yet used. The amounts vary as and when capital projects complete.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

19. The CIES shows the accounting cost of providing services in accordance with accounting standards rather than the amount funded from taxation and income. The County Council raises taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory regulations which can be different from the accounting cost.

20. The headings used in the CIES align with the main reporting areas of the County Council. However, the CIES cannot be directly compared to the outturn position reported to the Cabinet because the financial accounts comply with various reporting standards whereas the management accounts are compiled on a slightly different basis. The key differences relate to the way depreciation, impairment and earmarked funds are reported.

21. The CIES shows a surplus on the Provision of Services for 2020/21 of £46m compared with a surplus of £7m in 2019/20. The main change is due to the increase in earmarked reserves.

Balance Sheet

22. The Balance Sheet shows the value of the assets and liabilities recognised by the County Council as at the balance sheet date. As at 31 March 2021 net assets of the County Council were £316m (31 March 2020, £448m). The principal reason for the decrease is due to an increase in the net pension liability of £229m.

23. As at 31 March 2021, the net deficit on the pension fund had increased to £836m from £607m at the same time last year. This was mainly due to a decrease in the discount rate used to calculate the present value of future pension fund liabilities (the lower the discount rate used the higher the present value of future liabilities). During the year corporate bond yields decreased, resulting in a lower discount rate in the IAS19 pension fund valuation report used in the accounts.

24. The pension fund balance represents all pension entitlements that have been earned to date, but which are not yet in payment and has a substantial impact on the net position of the balance sheet. However, statutory arrangements will result in the deficit being made good through increased contributions by the employer over the remaining working life of employees as assessed by the pension fund scheme's Actuary. The triennial fund valuation, most recently as at 1 April 2019, informs the levels of future contributions required. The County Council has agreed a strategy with the Actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 17 years.

25. The Balance Sheet also shows the valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment owned by the County Council. During 2020/21 the value increased by £71m to £1.1bn. This reflects capital additions in year through the capital programme, revaluation gains and losses, less depreciation.

26. Provisions total £6.7m as at 31 March 2021 (previously £7.4m). Provisions are held to fund liabilities of uncertain timing or amount and are shown in greater detail in note 27 to the accounts. The main provision held is for Insurance, £3.4m, and represents the estimated value of outstanding unsettled claims at 31 March 2021. Provisions also include £2.8m for the County Council's 'notional' share of the seven Leicestershire District Councils Business Rates appeals and bad debt provisions, an increase of £0.5m compared with the previous year. The element in the County Council's accounts is notional as it is required to be reversed out via the Collection Fund Adjustment Account (shown at the bottom of the Balance Sheet) in order that it is not a charge to the General Fund.

27. Investments include Cash and Cash Equivalents (highly liquid investments that mature within 3 months or less from the date of acquisition) and short and long term investments. These total £360m as at 31 March 2021, compared with £288m at the same time last year. The increase is mainly related to the increase in the balance of earmarked reserves as at year end.

28. During 2020/21 the County Council revised its minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy for the repayment of debt. The revised policy reduced the annual charge to £6.2m from £10m for the previous year, although the same overall amount is still repayable, but is now equalised over a 40 year period representative of the average remaining useful economic life of capital assets funded by previous borrowing. The MRP has the effect of reducing the capital financing requirement (CFR), shown in Note 39 to the accounts and totals £232m at the year end. The CFR is a measure of capital expenditure incurred historically that has yet to be financed. Actual debt as at the balance sheet was £263m. The difference between the CFR and actual debt is a temporary overborrowed position of £31m which will be reversed over the MTFS due to planned increases in the CFR from (internal) borrowing to fund the four year capital programme, £166m. This position is refreshed annually as part of the MTFS.

Annual Governance Statememt

29. The financial statements are accompanied by the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) signed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the County Council. The statement sets out the purpose of the system of internal control, how it operates in the County Council and how its effectiveness has been reviewed. The AGS is approved by the Corporate Governance Committee.

Pension Fund Accounts

30. The financial statements also include the Pension Fund Accounts for the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by the County Council.

31. The last available triennial actuarial valuation of the pension fund showed that as at 31 March 2019 the fund's assets covered approximately 89% of the liabilities accrued up to that date. This funding level was an increase on the 76% position reported in the 2016 valuation. The deficit puts significant upward pressure onto the contribution

rates of employing bodies, but these were contained somewhat for tax raising bodies by using a smoothing mechanism and by the use of a 17 year deficit-spreading period.

32. To ensure that the fund remains financially sound to meet benefit payments, the Actuary will recommend the rate of employer contributions on an individual employer basis for each employing body in the fund for a three year period. In 2020/21 the average employer rate was 25.4% of pay (24.5% 2019/20). There were 283 employers within the fund and just over 104,000 members in the pension scheme as at the balance sheet date.

33. The overall net assets of the fund increased during the year from £4.2bn at the start to £5.1bn at year end. For all LGPS Funds, investment returns have been significantly higher than last year, mainly due to a faster than expected recovery from Covid-19. Details of the investments held are shown in Note 12 to the Pension Fund Accounts.

Key Findings of the External Auditor

34. The external auditor has reviewed the financial statements and has concluded that there are no material accounting issues. The external auditor anticipates issuing an unqualified opinion for the Statement of Accounts and Pension Fund Accounts.

35. There was one adjustment required to the main statements for both the County Council and Pension Fund Accounts. This related to the use of estimates for hard to value pension fund assets, mainly private equity where the actual valuations are not known until after the draft accounts have been produced. The accounts have been updated for the actual valuations.

36. During the audit a small number of amendments were also agreed to be made to the Notes to the Accounts. The main amendments were:

    - County Council (Note 2b) – the note had incorrectly grossed up movements to and from reserves.
    - Pension Fund (Note 20) – the fair value classification of some investment assets has been amended from level 1 to level 2. The levels relate to the quality and reliability of the information used to determine fair value.

37. The auditor has made four recommendations for improvements as shown in section A of their report.

Year-end bank reconciliations

38. Following the implementation of the new Oracle Fusion system part way through the financial year a number of new processes were implemented that have affected the timely clearance of differences. These have now been reduced and isolated to a number of smaller transactions and are being tackled as a priority to clear.

Year-end sales ledger reconciliation

39. In the same way as mentioned above, there are also new system reports available to reconcile balances. There is a small difference on the sales ledger ageing report that

officers are working through. Additional work has been undertaken that provides assurance over the balances in the accounts, and that the issue relates to the aged debt report and or the timing of entries. Work is continuing to ensure the differences are resolved as a priority.

Pension Fund Annual Report

40. There was a small number of additional disclosures required by the new CIPFA guide on preparing the Annual Report that were not included in the 2020/21 Pension Fund Annual Report. These will be included in the 2021/22 report. The gaps in the 2020/21 report were discussed with the Local Pension Committee when it met to approve the Annual Report on the 26th November 2021. The audit opinion is not subject to completion of these disclosures.

IT Audit Report

41. As part of the external audit a specialist team within Grant Thornton undertook a detailed IT audit of the design and implementation of IT General Controls within the IT environment as they affect the financial statements and financial audit for the year ended 31st March 2021.

42. There was one recommendation reported that had a significant control deficiency. This related to the segregation of access in Oracle Fusion to make changes to both the development and production (live) system environments. There is a small number of the systems implementation partner staff and members of the internal systems admin team that have access to both environments. Access for the implementation partner has been necessary in order that they can implement the new Fusion system. This is required while the new system is being rolled out in phases and is scheduled to be completed in January 2022 when their access will be removed. Post go-live changes deployed to production are carried out by the systems admin team. This is a small team who have access to both development and production environments to carry out their duties. There are agreed procedures to manage these processes including monitoring changes. Further work will be undertaken to understand where controls can be further improved.

Value for Money Arrangements

43. On the 1 April 2020 the National Audit Office (NAO) introduced a new Code of Audit Practice for 2020/21. This included a revised and more detailed approach to the audit of the Value for Money (VFM).

44. The external audit of this area is underway and has not yet been completed. As a result the auditor will not be able to issue the Annual Audit Report at this time. No significant weaknesses have been identified in arrangements to date, the auditor expects to issue the Annual Report by the end of January 2022. This does not affect the auditor signing the accounts.

External Audit Fee

45. The proposed external audit fees for 2020/21 per the audit plan are £107,602 for the County Council and £34,530 for the Pension Fund. The final fees for 2020/21 have not yet been advised.

Recommendation

46. The Committee is recommended to approve the financial statements for 2020/21.

Background papers

Provisional revenue and capital outturn, Cabinet - 22 June 2021
http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s161900/20-21%20MTFS%20prov%20outturn.pdf

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

None.

Appendices

Appendix A – Financial Statements 2020/21
Appendix B – External Auditors Report
Appendix C – Letter of Representation – County Council
Appendix D – Letter of Representation – Pension Fund

Officers to contact

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Leicestershire County Council, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and Pension Fund Accounts 2020/21

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Introduction to the Statement of Accounts

Councillor Preface

Like all Local Authorities, the County Council's financial year 2020/21 was impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. The results of this and the subsequent national and additional local lockdowns, have caused a significant impact on the national and local economies.

Because of the pandemic, necessary changes to the delivery of services and additional duties required of the Council resulting from the crisis, extra costs and added budget pressures have impacted the Council's finances.

During the year, Central Government have provided grants and other schemes to mitigate the financial effect of COVID-19 but this has not covered the full impact of additional cost pressures. However, despite the pandemic and because the Council has taken tough decisions on items such as efficiency savings and the use of balances the Council's financial position remains robust in the short to medium term.

The Council's primary focus is to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable adults and children. However, it also supported local business and community groups by establishing the Leicestershire Communities, Business Recovery and Pub Funds. Additionally, the Council will continue to work with Central Government to ensure it has the resources required to provide quality services to those who live and work in Leicestershire.

Mr. L. Breckon
Cabinet Lead Member for Corporate Resources

Foreword from the Director of Corporate Resources

The County Council has faced huge uncertainty and major service and financial issues in 2020/21. In addition to the COVID-19 related issues, existing budget pressures in both Adult and Children's Social Care and Special Educational Needs continued to grow.

Despite these challenges, the cost control and related measures that were introduced for the additional costs of COVID-19 have had a significant positive impact and enabled the Council to set balanced budgets for both 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Looking back to 2020/21, the Council has successfully completed a number of capital projects, funded without any external borrowing, including:

- £24m investment in Children and Family Services, including an additional 860 school places
- £22m investment in highways maintenance
- £22m on major road improvements reducing congestion in the County

Delivery of the Capital Programme will continue to be challenging, especially given the COVID-19 and post Brexit supply chain issues within the construction industry and increased demand for new schools and roads. However, with continued hard work and careful planning we expect to continue to deliver value for money capital projects.

I would like to thank all our staff for their work to manage the Council's budget in what has been an incredibly challenging year.

Chris Tambini
Director of Corporate Resources

Narrative Statement

1. Organisational Overview and External Environment

The Council has consolidated its priority outcomes into its Strategic Plan for 2018-22. The Plan was refreshed and updated during 2020/21 and guides service commissioning and development in order to maximise delivery against these outcomes.

Leicestershire remains the lowest funded county council in the country with greater risks as a result. The Council's financial position continues to be extremely challenging, with over £220m saved since 2010 and a further £79m to save by 2024/25. The position is serious with major implications for the provision of services to the people of Leicestershire. Reductions in government funding and rising demands have made it increasingly difficult to maintain good service delivery levels and target service improvements where required. The COVID-19 emergency and impact on the wider economy, council income and expenditure has added to the seriousness of the council's financial position and threatens the continued provision of services and delivery of outcomes.

The current funding system does not share national resources fairly, and this view is shared by many others in local government. The Council has presented a new simplified funding model to central government based on factors that drive demand for local services. It allocates money in a fair way, based on need, and narrows the gap between the highest and lowest funded councils. A move to a fairer funding model is an urgent requirement to help tackle the Council's financial challenges.

Leicestershire as a Place

Leicestershire covers an area of 208,000 hectares, with a population of around 706,000 people. The population is growing, and is predicted to reach 860,000 by 2043, with particular growth among the over 70's. 82% of Leicestershire's area is classified as rural while 70% of the population live in our towns and urban areas.

Out of work benefit claimant rates are consistently below national and regional levels though have increased over the past year as the COVID-19 crisis has impacted the economy. Manufacturing is the largest industrial sector in the county, accounting for 13% of all employment, followed by Professional, Scientific and Technical (12%). 93% of our residents tell us that they are satisfied with the county as a place to live, significantly higher than the equivalent national figure.

The Council plays an active role in place shaping and responding to local needs such as working with partners to agree a Strategic Planning Framework, working sub-regionally (with Leicester City and the Leicestershire district authorities) and working regionally on economic and transport planning, such as with the Midlands Engine.

Leicestershire County Council

Leicestershire County Council is an upper tier of local government with 55 councillors who are elected every 4 years. The Council has 5,986 employees (excluding schools) organised into 6 departments:

- Children and Family Services
- Adults and Communities
- Environment and Transport
- Public Health
- Chief Executives
- Corporate Resources

2. Governance

The Council's Annual Governance Statement summarises the outcome of the Council's review of the Governance Framework that has been in place during 2020/21. The statement demonstrates that the Council has in place effective arrangements, but that it recognises the need to continuously review, adapt and develop its governance arrangements to meet the changing needs of the authority. There were no significant governance issues in 2020/21.

3. Risks and Opportunities

A risk management strategy is in place to identify and evaluate risk. The Council's corporate risk register contains the most significant risks which the Council is managing. Separate risk registers are in place for key departmental and service risks. Central government funding reductions and rising demands have seen a higher level of risk needing to be managed and this has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis and resulting economic impact.

4. Strategy & Resource Allocation

The Council has developed five strategic outcomes that are essential for good quality of life in Leicestershire. These set out aspirations for local people and places, describing the results we want people to see and experience in their daily lives:

- **Strong Economy** - Leicestershire's economic prosperity benefits everyone and supports resilient, clean growth.
- **Wellbeing and Opportunity** - the people of Leicestershire live in a healthy environment and have the opportunities and support they need to take control of their health and wellbeing.
- **Keeping People Safe** - people in Leicestershire are safe and protected from harm.
- **Great Communities** - Leicestershire communities are thriving and integrated places where people help and support each other and take pride in their local area.
- **Affordable and Quality Homes** - Leicestershire has a choice of quality, sustainable homes that people can afford.

These key strategic outcomes form part of the Council's medium-term financial planning process which covers a four-year period and is refreshed annually.

5. Financial Performance

Revenue Budget

A summary of the net revenue outturn for 2020/21 is set out below:

	2019/20				**2020/21**	
Budget	**Outturn**	**Variance**		**Budget**	**Outturn**	**Variance**
£m	**£m**	**£m**		**£m**	**£m**	**£m**
148.2	145.8	(2.4)	Adults & Communities	150.8	156.7	5.9
11.0	10.3	(0.7)	Chief Executive's	12.3	14.0	1.7
75.1	78.5	3.4	Children & Family Services	82.8	86.6	3.8
34.1	34.6	0.5	Corporate Resources	33.7	40.0	6.3
69.7	71.1	1.4	Environment & Transport	83.4	76.8	(6.6)
0.2	0.1	(0.1)	Public Health	(0.7)	(0.7)	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Approved additional commitments	0.0	9.9	9.9
39.1	41.3	2.2	Central Items and Contingencies	27.5	42.4	14.9
377.4	**381.7**	**4.3**		**389.8**	**425.7**	**35.9**
			Funded by:			
(74.2)	(75.2)	(1.0)	Business Rates	(68.4)	(69.8)	(1.4)
(303.2)	(303.2)	0.0	Council Tax	(321.4)	(321.4)	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Revenue Support Grant	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Covid-19 General Grants	0.0	(34.5)	(34.5)
(377.4)	**(378.4)**	**(1.0)**		**(389.8)**	**(425.7)**	**(35.9)**
0.0	**3.3**	**3.3**	**NET OUTTURN**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Although the 2020/21 net outturn was a break even position, this includes an overall net underspend of £9.9m, which has been set aside in earmarked funds to provide funding for additional commitments. The financial year saw significant additional pressures on expenditure and income budgets across a wide range of services arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, offset to some extent by a range of Government grants. The longer-term financial impacts of the pandemic will not be seen until later years and contingencies have been set aside to meet those future pressures.

The Authority has made significant progress in achieving the savings in the MTFS, but there is still a long way to go. The 2021-25 MTFS includes a savings requirement of £79m.

Capital Budget

A summary of the capital outturn for 2020/21 is set out below:

	2019/20			2020/21		
Budget	**Outturn**	**Variance**	**Capital**	**Budget**	**Outturn**	**Variance**
£m	**£m**	**£m**		**£m**	**£m**	**£m**
14.1	7.4	(6.7)	Adults & Communities	10.2	8.9	(1.3)
0.7	0.1	(0.6)	Chief Executive's	0.9	0.6	(0.3)
25.9	22.7	(3.2)	Children & Family Services	35.8	23.7	(12.1)
45.8	38.2	(7.6)	Corporate Programme	24.4	17.4	(7.0)
10.9	4.5	(6.4)	Corporate Resources	9.8	6.9	(2.9)
73.8	40.6	(33.2)	Environment & Transport	64.5	47.5	(17.0)
0.0	0.0	0.0	Public Health	0.0	0.0	0.0
171.2	**113.5**	**(57.7)**		**145.6**	**105.0**	**(40.6)**

Overall there has been a net underspend of £40.6m compared with the updated budget. The net underspend of £40.6m has been carried forward to the capital programme 2021-25 to fund delayed projects.

Further detail of the budget outturn variances for revenue and capital can be found be in the Cabinet report dated 22 June 2021 available on the County Council's Website.

6. Operational Performance

The Council maintains a strong focus on performance management through its corporate performance management, commissioning and benchmarking arrangements. Performance management is well embedded through regular performance reporting across organisational governance arrangements.

The Council regularly monitors its performance position and areas for improvement through service benchmarking. Looking at published data for 2019/20, the Council's overall performance position was 2nd of 32 two-tier county and county unitary areas, using a basket of 247 performance indicators spanning Council and partnership activity.

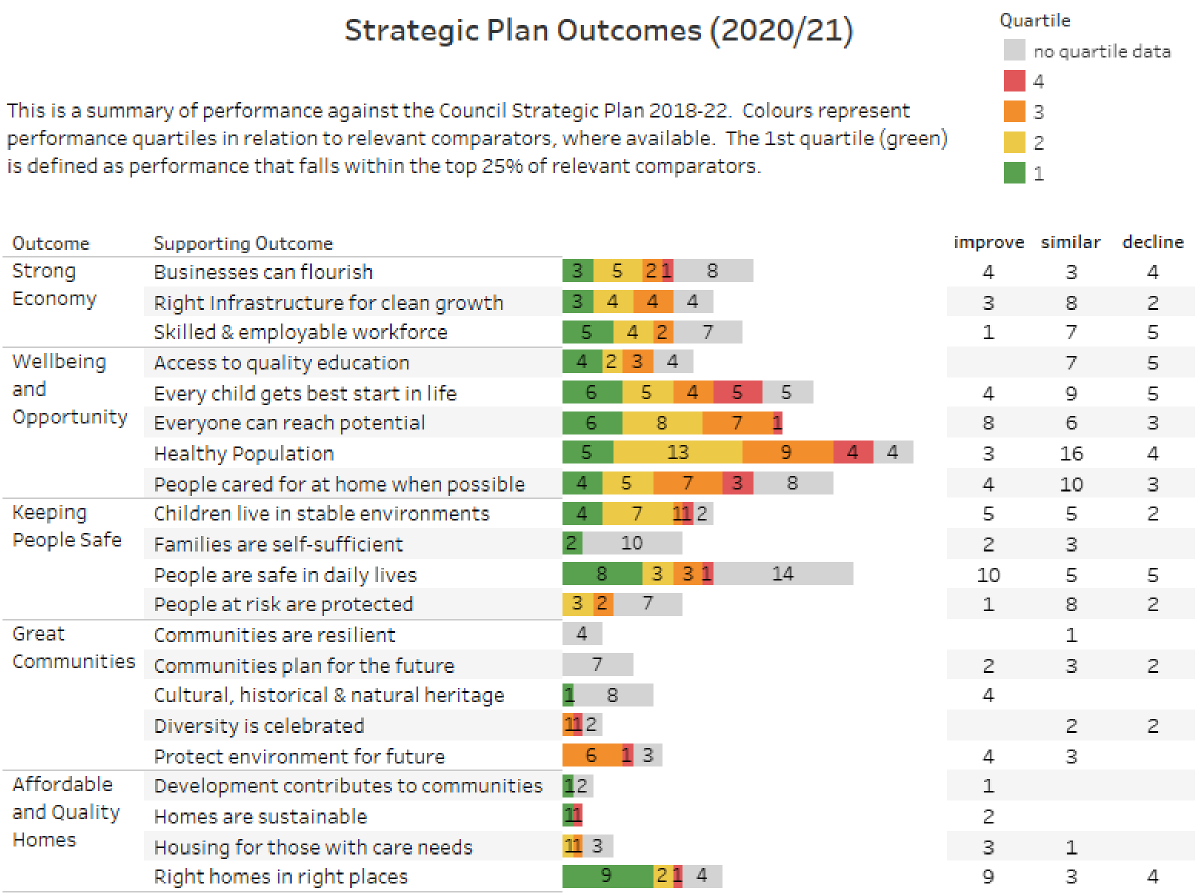
In a separate exercise, iMPOWER Consulting analysed the productivity of English local authorities using published data, taking performance metrics and calculating overall outputs per pound invested. The Council was ranked top performer for the last 3 published years – reflecting the Council's good overall performance and also the fact Leicestershire is the lowest funded county and has to maintain rigorous cost and efficiency controls.

The Council's five strategic outcomes set out our aspirations for our people and places.

The following chart sets out our progress towards these outcomes. Where it is available, the chart indicates which comparative quartile Leicestershire's performance falls into based upon the latest published national data, which in most cases is for the previous year.

The 1st quartile is defined as performance that falls within the top 25% of relevant comparators. The 4th quartile is defined as performance that falls within the bottom 25% of relevant comparators.

The Authority's Annual Delivery Report and Performance Compendium (https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/leader-and-cabinet/council-performance) provides a more detailed account of performance during the year.



Strategic Plan Outcomes (2020/21)

This is a summary of performance against the Council Strategic Plan 2018-22. Colours represent performance quartiles in relation to relevant comparators, where available. The 1st quartile (green) is defined as performance that falls within the top 25% of relevant comparators.

Quartile
- ⬜ no quartile data
- 🟥 4
- 🟧 3
- 🟨 2
- 🟩 1

Outcome	Supporting Outcome		improve	similar	decline
Strong Economy	Businesses can flourish	🟩3 🟨5 🟧2 🟥1 ⬜8	4	3	4
	Right Infrastructure for clean growth	🟩3 🟨4 🟧4 ⬜4	3	8	2
	Skilled & employable workforce	🟩5 🟨4 🟧2 ⬜7	1	7	5
Wellbeing and Opportunity	Access to quality education	🟩4 🟨2 🟧3 ⬜4		7	5
	Every child gets best start in life	🟩6 🟨5 🟧4 🟥5 ⬜5	4	9	5
	Everyone can reach potential	🟩6 🟨8 🟧7 🟥1	8	6	3
	Healthy Population	🟩5 🟨13 🟧9 🟥4 ⬜4	3	16	4
	People cared for at home when possible	🟩4 🟨5 🟧7 🟥3 ⬜8	4	10	3
Keeping People Safe	Children live in stable environments	🟩4 🟨7 🟧1 🟥1 ⬜2	5	5	2
	Families are self-sufficient	🟩2 ⬜10	2	3	
	People are safe in daily lives	🟩8 🟨3 🟧3 🟥1 ⬜14	10	5	5
	People at risk are protected	🟨3 🟧2 ⬜7	1	8	2
Great Communities	Communities are resilient	⬜4		1	
	Communities plan for the future	⬜7	2	3	2
	Cultural, historical & natural heritage	🟩1 ⬜8	4		
	Diversity is celebrated	🟧1 🟥1 ⬜2		2	2
	Protect environment for future	🟧6 🟥1 ⬜3	4	3	
Affordable and Quality Homes	Development contributes to communities	🟩1 ⬜2	1		
	Homes are sustainable	🟩1 🟥1	2		
	Housing for those with care needs	🟨1 🟧1 ⬜3	3	1	
	Right homes in right places	🟩9 🟨2 🟥1 ⬜4	9	3	4

Where it is available, the chart indicates the number of indicators within each outcome and the quartile in which Leicestershire's performance falls into for each indicator. The 1st quartile is defined as performance that falls within the top 25% of relevant comparators. Where it is available, the chart also indicates whether performance has improved, is similar to, or has declined compared to the last relevant data point.

7. COVID-19 Pandemic / Medium Term Financial Strategy

COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 global pandemic, which commenced at the end of 2019/20, has had, and will continue to have a considerable impact on the County Council in the medium term. Government lockdown measures were introduced in the UK from 23 March 2020. In addition, some areas in the county urban conurbations surrounding the city of Leicester were made subject to an extended period of local restrictions which started in July 2020. The restrictions affected businesses with closure, limited the right of residents to stay away from home and limited gatherings. Business continuity plans were implemented across the Council, this also included the identification of the most vulnerable service users to ensure there was capacity to support them. Non-essential work was risk assessed and put on hold to free staff capacity to enable the Council to deploy rapid responses to ensure core services were delivered and that residents and businesses continued to be supported.

The Council's Crisis Management Group (CMG), chaired by the Chief Executive, meets frequently to oversee the Council's response across key issues. The CMG is supported by a corporate Resilience Planning Group (RPG) which meets regularly including dedicated meetings focused on preparing for "recovery". The Council has worked closely with partners on a range of challenges including the imposition and easing of lockdown measures, related enforcement activities, the supply of PPE, shielding of vulnerable people, co-ordination of volunteering, testing and tracing, excess deaths planning and supporting the vaccination strategy.

COVID-19 has a significant adverse effect on the economy. It is also affecting the services that the Council delivers and its finances. Recognising the significant uncertainty, it is estimated that continuing Government support will be required to balance the Council's budget in the medium term. These financial implications will continue beyond the current financial year adding to the financial gap identified in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The impact is across the board, covering additional expenditure, increased project and capital costs, reduced income levels and required savings that are no longer achievable. Despite the consequences of COVID-19, the County Council continues to have a robust financial position going into next financial year because of sound management and tough decisions taken since 2010 and the introduction of controls on expenditure.

Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

The County Council is operating in an extremely challenging financial environment following a decade of austerity and spending pressures, particularly from social care and special education needs and disabilities (SEND). 2020/21 has been significantly affected by the impact of COVID-19 and financial effects of the pandemic may not be fully seen until several years in the future. There is also significant uncertainty around future funding levels. 2021/22 was a one-year Local Government Settlement and the position for 2022/23 onwards will be subject to a Comprehensive Spending Review in 2021. The government have also announced that the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention Review will not be implemented in April 2021 as originally planned. Council officers will continue to work with the Government on informing the approach to funding for the next financial year and beyond.

The Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) agreed in February 2021 is based on a council tax increase of 4.99% for 2020/21, including a 3% increase regarding the adult social care precept, followed by annual increases of 1.99% in the following years. Delivery of the MTFS requires savings of £53m to be made between 2021 and 2025. The MTFS sets out in detail £30m of savings and proposed reviews that will identify further savings to offset the £23m funding gap in 2024/25. A further £26m of savings will be required to ensure that High Needs funding can be contained within the Government grant. Strong financial control, plans and discipline will be essential in the delivery of the MTFS.

There is little doubt that the Authority faces the most uncertain and risky financial environment for a generation. The MTFS is reviewed annually in the autumn to reflect the latest view on available resources. The current MTFS is available on the Authority's website at: www.leicestershire.gov.uk

8. Current Borrowing / Investments

The capital financing requirement (CFR) shown in note 39 to the financial statements measures the Authority's need to borrow for capital purposes. The total of non-current assets at the Balance Sheet date was £1,239m (2019/20 £1,173m). The CFR was £232m (2019/20 £237m) and actual debt was £263m (2019/20 £264m). The difference between the CFR and the actual debt is a temporary overborrowed position, pending the repayment of debt. During 2020/21 no external loans were raised (£0m 2019/20). Details of the loans held by the Authority are shown in note 44 to the financial statements. The level of capital borrowing is within the Authority's 2020/21 Prudential Indicators that inform the Authority whether its capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

Investments held by the Authority total £261m as at 31 March 2021 (£241m 31 March 2020). Investments are made in accordance with the Annual Investment Strategy that ensures that deposits are only made with financial institutions that meet certain minimum credit criteria as laid down by the Authority's Treasury Management advisors.

9. Basis of Preparation and Contents of the Statement of Accounts

The Statement of Accounts which follows sets out the Authority's income and expenditure for the year, and its financial positions as at 31 March 2021. It comprises primary statements, together with disclosure notes. The format and content of the financial statements is prescribed by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21, which in turn is underpinned by International Financial Reporting Standards adapted for use in a public sector context. The Statement of Accounts consists of:

a) Movement in Reserves Statement:

This financial statement shows the movement during 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) and 'unusable' reserves. This 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 for the year. The net increase/ decrease line shows the statutory general fund balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

b) Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES):

This financial 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. The Authority raises taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory regulations which may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis note to the accounts, and the Movement in Reserves Statement. The CIES has two sections:

- Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services – the increase or decrease in the net worth of the Authority as a result of incurring expenses and generating income.
- Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure – shows any changes in net worth which have not been reflected in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. These include the change in the net worth of the Authority as a result of movements in the fair value of its assets and actuarial gains or losses on pension assets and liabilities.

c) Balance Sheet:

The Balance Sheet shows the value as of 31st March 2021 of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. It incorporates all the funds of the Authority, both capital and revenue, with the exception of the Pension Fund and Trust funds.

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

d) Cash Flow Statement:

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in Cash and Cash Equivalents of the Authority during the reporting period. This financial 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 recipients of services provided by the Authority. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash flows 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.

e) Disclosure Notes:

Provides more detail about individual transactions and balances. The supplementary Financial Statements are; The Annual Governance Statement, and the Pension Fund Account.

f) Pension Fund:

The Pension Fund statement of account details the annual results of the Leicestershire Authority administered Local Government Pension Fund, covering both Authority employees and those of other admitted bodies.

10. Date of Authorisation of Accounts

The accounts were authorised for issue by the Director of Corporate Resources on the 7 December 2021. This was the last date when events after the Balance Sheet date have been considered.

C TAMBINI
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

7 DECEMBER 2021

Movement In Reserves Statement

Movement In Reserves During 2020/21

	General Fund Balance £m	Earmarked Reserves Balance £m	Total General Fund Balance £m	Capital Receipts Reserve £m	Capital Grants Unapplied £m	Total Usable Reserves £m	Unusable Reserves £m	Total Authority Reserves £m	Note
Balance at 31 March 2020 Brought Forward	**27.0**	**128.9**	**155.9**	**0.1**	**3.4**	**159.4**	**288.2**	**447.6**	
Reporting of schools budget deficit to new adjustment account wef 1.4.20	4.1	0.0	**4.1**	0.0	0.0	**4.1**	(4.1)	**0.0**	
Restated Balance at 1 April 2020	**31.1**	**128.9**	**160.0**	**0.1**	**3.4**	**163.5**	**284.1**	**447.6**	
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	45.9	0.0	**45.9**	0.0	0.0	**45.9**	(177.3)	**(131.4)**	
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulation	(50.3)	46.1	**(4.2)**	0.0	(1.9)	**(6.1)**	6.1	**0.0**	8
Increase/ (Decrease) in Year	(4.4)	46.1	**41.7**	0.0	(1.9)	**39.8**	(171.2)	**(131.6)**	
Balance at 31 March 2021 Carried Forward	**26.7**	**175.0**	**201.7**	**0.1**	**1.5**	**203.3**	**112.9**	**316.2**	

Movement In Reserves During 2019/20

	General Fund Balance £m	Earmarked Reserves Balance £m	Total General Fund Balance £m	Capital Receipts Reserve £m	Capital Grants Unapplied £m	Total Usable Reserves £m	Unusable Reserves £m	Total Authority Reserves £m	Note
Balance at 31 March 2019 Brought Forward	**24.5**	**140.8**	**165.3**	**3.7**	**14.7**	**183.7**	**74.5**	**258.2**	
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	6.8	0.0	6.8	0.0	0.0	6.8	182.6	**189.4**	
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulation	(4.3)	(11.9)	(16.2)	(3.6)	(11.3)	(31.1)	31.1	**0.0**	
Increase/ (Decrease) in Year	2.5	(11.9)	**(9.4)**	(3.6)	(11.3)	**(24.3)**	**213.7**	**189.4**	
Balance at 31 March 2020 Carried Forward	**27.0**	**128.9**	**155.9**	**0.1**	**3.4**	**159.4**	**288.2**	**447.6**	

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2019/20					2020/21		
Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m		Note	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
			CONTINUING SERVICES				
247.4	(103.0)	144.4	Adults and Communities		277.8	(140.5)	137.3
16.8	(4.6)	12.2	Chief Executive's		20.2	(7.7)	12.5
312.2	(201.2)	111.0	Children and Family Services		330.1	(213.9)	116.2
84.7	(35.9)	48.8	Corporate Resources		88.5	(35.8)	52.7
129.5	(32.6)	96.9	Environment and Transport		128.8	(34.9)	93.9
27.4	(27.2)	0.2	Public Health		34.2	(34.0)	0.2
0.5	(3.7)	(3.2)	Central Items		1.5	(3.3)	(1.8)
818.5	**(408.2)**	**410.3**	**NET COST OF SERVICES**		**881.1**	**(470.1)**	**411.0**
0.3	0.0	0.3	Other Operating Expenditure (Excluding transfer of Academies)		1.2	(0.2)	1.0
2.9	0.0	2.9	Other Operating Expenditure (Transfer of Academies)		0.0	0.0	0.0
32.6	(3.6)	29.0	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		57.7	(33.0)	24.7
(0.0)	(449.3)	(449.3)	Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income		0.0	(482.6)	(482.6)
		(6.8)	**(SURPLUS) / DEFICIT ON PROVISION OF SERVICES**				**(45.9)**
			Items that will not be reclassified to the (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services:				
		(9.4)	Surplus on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment	(note 17)			(28.1)
		(173.3)	Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability/(Asset)	(note 16)			205.5
		(182.7)	**Total Items that Will Not Be Reclassified to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services**				**177.4**
		(189.4)	**TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE (INCOME) AND EXPENDITURE**				**131.5**

Balance Sheet

31 March 2020 £m		Note	31 March 2021 £m	
568.9	Land and Buildings	17	633.4	
10.5	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	17	9.9	
407.2	Infrastructure Assets	17	428.1	
11.3	Community Assets	17	11.3	
77.8	Assets Under Construction	17	65.1	
2.3	Surplus Assets	17	0.9	
1,078.0	**Total Property, Plant and Equipment**			**1,148.7**
1.4	Investment Property	19	1.7	
4.7	Heritage Assets	18	4.7	
2.5	Intangible Assets	17	3.9	
55.1	Long Term Investments	20	50.9	
30.8	Long Term Debtors	22	28.7	
1,172.5	**TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS**			**1,238.6**
1.7	Assets Held for Sale	17	0.2	
1.7	Inventories	21	1.3	
111.7	Short Term Debtors	23	139.7	
46.7	Cash and Cash Equivalents	24	98.4	
185.8	Short Term Investments	20	210.2	
347.6	**TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS**			**449.8**
(3.7)	Short Term Borrowing	20	(3.7)	
(132.8)	Short Term Creditors	26	(195.9)	
(14.1)	Short Term Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	36	(12.5)	
(0.1)	Short Term Finance Lease Liabilities	40	(0.1)	
(2.7)	Short Term Provisions	27	(3.4)	
(153.4)	**TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES**			**(215.6)**
(265.9)	Long Term Borrowing	20	(265.3)	
(1.1)	Long Term Finance Lease Liabilities	40	(1.0)	
(5.5)	Long Term Creditors	25	(7.2)	
(4.7)	Long Term Provisions	27	(3.3)	
(606.6)	Net Pensions Liability	10	(835.6)	
(35.3)	Long Term Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	36	(44.3)	
(919.1)	**TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES**			**(1,156.7)**
447.6	**NET ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)**			**316.1**
27.0	General Fund	11	26.7	
128.9	Earmarked Revenue Reserves	12	175.0	
0.1	Capital Receipts Reserve		0.1	
3.4	Capital Grants Unapplied		1.5	
159.4	**TOTAL USABLE RESERVES**			**203.3**
329.0	Revaluation Reserve	10	352.5	
574.3	Capital Adjustment Account	10	625.9	
(4.5)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	10	(4.2)	
(606.6)	Pension Reserve	10	(835.6)	
1.8	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	10	(8.0)	
(5.8)	Accumulated Absences Account	10	(6.7)	
0.0	Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account	10	(11.1)	
288.2	**TOTAL UNUSABLE RESERVES**			**112.8**
447.6	**TOTAL RESERVES**			**316.1**

Cash Flow Statement

2019/20 £m		Note	2020/21 £m	£m
(6.8)	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	1		(45.9)
(69.2)	Adjustments to net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	28	(115.7)	
47.2	Adjustments for items included in the net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	28	61.6	
(28.8)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities			(100.0)
(3.0)	Net cash flows from Investing Activities	29		47.8
0.5	Net cash flows from Financing Activities	30		0.5
(31.3)	**Net (Increase)/Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents**			**(51.7)**
(15.4)	**Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period**	24		**(46.7)**
(46.7)	**Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period**	24		**(98.4)**

The notes to the financial statements are detailed on pages 13 – 79.

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1: Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

Expenditure and Funding Analysis Statement 2020/21

Service Segment	As Reported to the Cabinet June 2021 £m	Adjustments to arrive at the net amount funded from General Fund £m	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund £m	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis £m	Net Expenditure in the CIES £m
Adults and Communities Department	156.7	(22.3)	134.4	2.9	137.3
Chief Executive's Department	14.0	(2.8)	11.2	1.3	12.5
Children and Family Services Department	86.6	(1.7)	84.9	31.3	116.2
Corporate Resources Department	40.0	(2.1)	37.9	14.8	52.7
Environment and Transport Department	76.8	(1.9)	74.9	19.0	93.9
Public Health Department	(0.7)	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.3
Central Items	52.3	(25.9)	26.4	(28.3)	(1.9)
Net Cost of Services	**425.7**	**(55.9)**	**369.8**	**41.2**	**411.1**
Other Income and Expenditure	(425.7)	14.0	(411.7)	(45.3)	(457.0)
(Surplus) or Deficit	**0.0**	**(41.8)**	**(41.8)**	**(4.1)**	**(45.9)**
Opening General Fund Balance					(155.9)
Adjustment for Reporting of Schools Budget Deficit to Adjustment Account wef 1 April 20					(4.1)
Less /Plus Surplus or (Deficit) on General Fund Balance in Year					(41.8)
Closing General Fund Balance					**(201.7)**

Expenditure and Funding Analysis Statement 2019/20

Service Segment	As Reported to the Cabinet June 2021 £m	Adjustments to arrive at the net amount funded from General Fund £m	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund £m	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis £m	Net Expenditure in the CIES £m
Adults and Communities Department	145.8	-9.2	136.6	7.8	144.4
Chief Executive's Department	10.3	0.5	10.8	1.5	12.3
Children and Family Services Department	78.5	6.4	84.9	26.0	110.9
Corporate Resources Department	34.6	3.7	38.3	10.6	48.9
Environment and Transport Department	71.1	4.2	75.3	21.6	96.9
Public Health Department	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3
Central Items	41.3	16.7	58.0	(61.3)	(3.3)
Net Cost of Services	**381.7**	**22.2**	**403.9**	**6.5**	**410.4**
Other Income and Expenditure	(378.4)	(16.1)	(394.5)	(22.7)	(417.2)
(Surplus) or Deficit	**3.3**	**6.1**	**(9.4)**	**(16.2)**	**(6.8)**
Opening General Fund Balance					(165.3)
Less /Plus Surplus or (Deficit) on General Fund Balance in Year					9.4

Closing General Fund Balance	**(155.9)**

Note 2: Expenditure and Funding Analysis (a)

This note provides reconciliation for the main adjustments to Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund to arrive at the amounts in the CIES. The relevant transfers between reserves are explained in the Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS).

Adjustments Between Funding and Accounting Basis 2020/21

Adjustments from the GCF to arrive at the CIES	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £m	Adjustments for Pensions Purposes £m	Other Adjustments £m	Total Adjustments £m
Service Segment				
Adults & Communities Department	1.0	1.6	0.3	2.9
Chief Executive's Department	0.6	0.7	0.1	1.4
Children and Family Services Department	19.6	4.8	6.8	31.2
Corporate Resource Department	11.9	2.5	0.3	14.7
Environment & Transport Department	17.4	1.4	0.2	19.0
Public Health Department	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3
Central Items	(27.7)	0.0	(0.6)	(28.3)
Net Cost of Services	**22.8**	**11.2**	**7.2**	**41.2**
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(59.5)	14.0	0.2	(45.3)
Difference between the GCF surplus or deficit and the CIES surplus or deficit on provision of services	**(36.7)**	**25.2**	**7.4**	**(4.1)**

Adjustments Between Funding and Accounting Basis 2019/20

Adjustments from the GCF to arrive at the CIES	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £m	Adjustments for Pensions Purposes £m	Other Adjustments £m	Total Adjustments £m
Service Segment				
Adults & Communities Department	4.5	3.4	0.0	7.9
Chief Executive's Department	0.1	1.3	0.0	1.4
Children and Family Services Department	17.0	8.3	0.7	26.0
Corporate Resources Department	4.9	5.7	0.0	10.6
Environment & Transport Department	18.7	2.9	0.1	21.7
Public Health Department	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3
Central Items	(59.3)	0.0	(2.0)	(61.3)
Net Cost of Services	**(14.1)**	**21.9**	**(1.2)**	**6.6**
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(41.2)	18.0	0.4	(22.8)
Difference between the GCF surplus or deficit and the CIES surplus or deficit on provision of services	**(55.3)**	**39.9**	**(0.8)**	**(16.2)**

1) 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 – The adjustments 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 (MRP) 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 – Where 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.

2) 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 - This represents the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

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

For Financing and investment income and expenditure - The other differences column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.

The charge under taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure – This 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.

Income received by the Authority is analysed on a segmental basis as follows:

2019/20 Income from Services £m	**Service Segment**	**2020/21 Income from Services £m**
(111.0)	Adults and Communities Department	(143.0)
(5.3)	Chief Executive's Department	(8.3)
(209.5)	Children and Family Services Department	(226.5)
(44.1)	Corporate Resources Department	(38.4)
(39.5)	Environment and Transport Department	(37.5)
(27.4)	Public Health Department	(34.0)
(4.8)	Central items	(4.2)
(441.6)	**Total Income Analysed on a Segmental Basis**	**(491.9)**

Note 2: Expenditure and Funding Analysis (b)

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

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
	Expenditure	
293.8	Employee Benefits Expenses	305.7
38.9	IAS 19 and Other Pension Cost Adjustments	25.2
452.3	Other Service Expenses	502.1
51.5	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	62.4
13.9	Interest Payments	13.9
0.3	Precepts and Levies	0.3
2.8	Loss on Disposal of Non-Current Assets	0.7
853.5	**Total Expenditure**	**910.3**
	Income	
(163.1)	Fees, Charges and Other Income	(181.9)
(3.5)	Interest and Investment Income	(3.5)
(382.3)	Council Tax and NNDR	(384.3)
(310.2)	Government Grants and Contributions	(386.5)
(1.2)	(Surplus) on Trading Accounts	0.0
(860.2)	**Total Income**	**(956.2)**
(6.8)	**(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services**	**(45.9)**

Note 3: Accounting standards issued but not yet adopted

At the balance sheet date, the following new standards and amendments to existing standards have been published but not yet adopted by the Code of Practice of Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom:

- Definition of a Business: Amendments to IFRS 3 Business Combinations
- Interest Rate Benchmark Reform: Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39 and IFRS 7
- Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2: Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16

These changes are not expected to have a material impact on the Council's statements of accounts.

Note 4: Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 47, the Authority has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made are:

- Schools which have converted to Academies, and where the assets are owned by the Authority, have taken the assets on 125 year leases. The buildings meet the definition of a finance lease and have been written out of the Authority's Balance Sheet on transfer. The Authority has determined that the land is an operating lease. Based on control and the Authority's statutory duty to provide school places it has determined that the land values remain in the Authority's Balance sheet and are valued at Existing Use Value. Since 2011/12, a total of 195 schools have transferred to become Academies as at 31 March 2021 with a total buildings value of £408.6m written out of the Authority's Balance Sheet. The value of land retained on the Authority's Balance as at 31 March 2021 is £181.4m.

- 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.

Note 5: Assumptions Made about the Future and Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The Statement of Accounts contains 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 2021 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows.

Items	**Uncertainties**	**Effect if actual results differ from assumptions**
Property, Plant and Equipment	Asset valuations are based on market prices and are periodically reviewed to ensure that the Council does not materially misstate its non-current assets. The Council's external valuers provided valuations as at 31 March 2021 for almost 50% of its operational portfolio. The remaining balance of operational properties were also reviewed to ensure values reflect current values. The carrying value of Property, Plant and Equipment at 31 March 2021 is £1,149m.	The net book value of non-current assets subject to potential revaluation is £633m. A reduction in the estimated valuations would result in reductions to the Revaluation Reserve and / or a loss recorded as appropriate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An increase in estimated valuations would result in increases to the Revaluation Reserve and / or reversals of previous negative revaluations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and / or gains being recorded as appropriate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. An independent firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied, although ultimate responsibility for forming these assumptions remains with the Authority. The carrying value of the net Pension Liability at 31 March 2021 is £836m.	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.1% decrease in the discount rate assumption would result in an increase in the pension liability of £44m. A one year increase in member life expectancy compared with the assumption used would increase the liabilities by £94m.. However, the assumptions interact in complex ways. During 2020/21, the Authority's Actuary advised that the net pension liability had decreased by £289m as a result of estimates being corrected as a result of experience and increased by £495m attributable to updating of the assumptions.

Debtors	At 31 March 2021, the Authority had a balance of sundry debtors of £48m and secured memo debt (elderly persons debt secured against properties) of £3.7m. Provisions for doubtful debts are maintained for certain categories of income by individual departments. However, in the current economic climate it is not certain that such an allowance would be sufficient.	If collection rates were to deteriorate, a doubling of the amount of the impairment for doubtful debts would require an additional £4.7m to be set aside as an allowance.

Note 6: Material Items of Income and Expense

During 2020/21 there has been a material change in how services have been operated and how income is generated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To compensate the Council has received additional Government grants, which are reflected in note 36.

Note 7: Events after the Balance Sheet Date

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Corporate Resources on 7 December 2021. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2021, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information (where known).

Note 8: Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

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

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

General Fund Balance

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of an Authority are to be paid into 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 Authority is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment.

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 finance historical capital expenditure. The balance on the reserve shows the resources that have yet to be applied for these purposes at the year-end.

Capital Grants Unapplied

The Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve holds the grants and contributions received towards capital projects for which the Authority 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 when this has to take place by.

Note 9: Usable Reserves

	Usable Reserves			
2020/21	**General Fund Balance £m**	**Capital Receipts Reserve £m**	**Capital Grants Unapplied £m**	**Movement in Usable Reserves £m**
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:				
Pension Costs	23.6			23.6
Financial Instruments	(0.2)			(0.2)
Council Tax and NDR	9.8			9.8
Accumulated Absences	0.9			0.9
Transferred to DSG Adjustment Account	7.1			7.1
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure	52.5		(1.9)	50.6
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	**93.7**		**(1.9)**	**91.8**
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources				
Transfer of Non-Current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(1.2)	1.2		0.0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (MRP)	(6.2)			(6.2)
Principal repayments of transferred Debt	1.4			1.4
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances	(31.9)			(31.9)
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	**(37.9)**	**1.2**	**0.0**	**(36.7)**
Adjustments to Capital Resources				
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure		(1.2)		(1.2)
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	(59.9)			(59.9)
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	**(59.9)**	**(1.2)**	**0.0**	**(61.1)**
Total Adjustments	**(4.1)**	**0.0**	**(1.9)**	**(6.0)**

	Usable Reserves			
2019/20	**General Fund Balance £m**	**Capital Receipts Reserve £m**	**Capital Grants Unapplied £m**	**Movement in Usable Reserves £m**
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:				
Pension Costs	38.1			(38.1)
Financial Instruments	(0.2)			0.2
Council Tax and NDR	(0.2)			0.2
Accumulated Absences	0.7			(0.7)
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure	51.0		(11.3)	(39.7)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	**89.4**	**0.0**	**(11.3)**	**(78.1)**
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources				
Transfer of Non-Current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(2.1)	2.1		0.0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (MRP)	(10.0)			10.0
Principal repayments of transferred Debt & Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (LAMS)	1.5			(1.5)
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances	(51.0)			51.0
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	**(61.6)**	**2.1**	**0.0**	**59.5**
Adjustments to Capital Resources				
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure		(5.7)		5.7
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	(44.0)			44.0
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	**(44.0)**	**(5.7)**	**0.0**	**49.7**
Total Adjustments	**(16.2)**	**(3.6)**	**(11.3)**	**31.1**

Note 10: Unusable Reserves

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 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.

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
325.4	**Balance at 1 April**	**329.0**
52.3	Upward revaluation of assets	46.6
(42.9)	Downward revaluation of assets losses not charged to the Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	(18.5)
(2.0)	Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	(0.9)
(3.8)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(3.7)
329.0	**Balance at 31 March**	**352.5**

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 CIES (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis).

The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and subsequent costs. The account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

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

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
499.0	**Balance at 1 April**	**574.3**
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure:	
(22.7)	Charges for depreciation of non-current assets	(23.8)
(9.0)	Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(18.5)
(0.6)	Amortisation of intangible assets	(0.7)
(9.3)	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(3.9)
(2.9)	Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	(0.9)
	Capital financing applied in year:	
5.7	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	1.2
44.0	Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	59.8
11.3	Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	1.8
10.0	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund Balance	6.2
(0.8)	Fair value profit and loss valuations	(0.5)
(1.5)	Principal Repayments of transferred Debt	(1.4)
51.0	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund Balance	31.9
0.0	Movements in the Fair Value of Investment Properties	0.4
574.3	**Balance at 31 March**	**625.9**

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefitting from gains per statutory provisions. The Authority uses the Account to manage premiums paid and discounts received on the early redemption of loans. Premiums and discounts are taken to the CIES when they are incurred, but reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Account in the MIRS.

Over time, the expense is posted back to the General Fund Balance in accordance with the statutory arrangements for spreading the burden on council tax. For early repayments since 1 April 2007, this period is the lesser of the remaining period of the loan(s) being repaid or a maximum of 10 years. All premiums and discounts prior to this date are charged over a period of up to 25 years.

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
(4.7)	**Balance at 1 April**	**(4.5)**
	Amounts 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:	
0.4	Annual write down of premiums paid on rescheduled debt	0.5
(0.2)	Annual write down of discounts received on rescheduled debt	(0.2)
(4.5)	**Balance at 31 March**	**(4.2)**

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 CIES as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflations, 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 Authority makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible.

The debit balance on the Pension 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.

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
(741.7)	**Balance at 1 April**	(606.6)
173.2	Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability	(206.0)
(79.8)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services in the CIES	(68.3)
41.7	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	45.3
(606.6)	**Balance at 31 March**	**(835.6)**

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of council tax and non-domestic rates income in the CIES as it falls due from council tax payers and business rates payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Funds (of billing authorities).

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
1.6	**Balance at 1 April**	**1.8**
0.2	Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rating income credited to the CIES is different from council tax and non-domestic rating income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	(9.8)
1.8	**Balance at 31 March**	**(8.0)**

Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund 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 is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account.

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
(5.1)	**Balance at 1 April**	**(5.8)**
5.1	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	5.8
(5.8)	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(6.7)
(0.7)	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(0.9)
(5.8)	**Balance at 31 March**	**(6.7)**

Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account

The Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account is a new account required because of new accounting practices required by a statutory instrument that amended the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2003. The Provisions came into effect on 29 November 2020.

Where a local authority’s schools show a budget deficit relating to its accounts for a financial year, this account now absorbs that deficit. For the years beginning 1 April 2020, 1 April 2021 and 1 April 2022 only, this practice will remain in place as the Council cannot charge the amount of the deficit to a General Fund revenue account.

The issue can only be resolved by closing the deficit. This treatment is time-limited to provide the Government and the Council with time to introduce budgetary and financial management strategies to reduce the deficit.

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
0.0	**Balance at 1 April**	**0.0**
0.0	Restatement of opening balance	(4.1)
0.0	In year Dedicated Schools Grant over/(under) spend	(7.0)
0.0	**Balance at 31 March**	**(11.1)**

Note 11: General Fund Balance

The balance of the fund includes the following sums:

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
8.0	Delegated Funding for Schools	9.7
0.0	Carry forward of underspend across other services	0.0
8.0	**Earmarked Reserves as at 31 March**	**9.7**
3.0	Dedicated Schools Grant – Growth Funding	0.0
(7.1)	Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Deficit carried forward	0.0
23.1	Uncommitted balance	17.0
27.0	**Balance at 31 March**	**26.7**

Note 12: Movements in Earmarked Revenue Reserves

The following table outlines the movements in the Authority's earmarked reserves:

	Balance at 31 March 2019 £m	**Transfers From Revenue £m**	**Transfers To Revenue £m**	**Balance at 31 March 2020 £m**	**Transfers From Revenue £m**	**Transfers To Revenue £m**	**Balance at 31 March 2021 £m**
Insurance	12.9	1.9	(2.8)	12.0	1.8	(0.0)	13.8
Renewals of Vehicles & Equipment	5.1	0.8	(2.0)	3.9	1.0	(0.7)	4.2
Children & Family Services							
- Supporting Leicestershire Families	1.6	0.2	(0.0)	1.8	0.0	(0.0)	1.8
- C&FS Developments	1.0	0.5	(0.4)	1.1	0.0	(0.1)	1.0
Adults & Communities							
- Adult & Social Care Developments	5.6	3.4	(4.0)	5.0	1.0	(0.4)	5.6
- Health & Social Care Outcomes	0.8	0.0	(0.0)	0.8	9.8	(1.7)	8.9
Public Health	0.3	0.2	(0.0)	0.5	1.3	(0.0)	1.8
Public Health - Leicestershire & Rutland Sport	1.3	0.2	0.0	1.5	0.0	(0.1)	1.4
Environment & Transport							
- Commuted Sums	3.1	0.8	(0.8)	3.1	0.8	(0.8)	3.1
- LLITM	2.3	0.4	(0.5)	2.2	0.0	(0.1)	2.1
Corporate							
- Capital Financing	74.9	37.2	(58.5)	53.6	43.2	(32.4)	64.4
- Government Grant Cashflow Funding	0.0	19.7	0.0	19.7	0.0	(19.7)	0.0
- Transformation Fund	12.0	0.2	(4.7)	7.5	2.2	(0.5)	9.2
- Broadband	3.6	0.0	(0.2)	3.4	2.7	(3.7)	2.4
- Business Rates Retention	2.5	0.0	(0.9)	1.6	7.5	(1.0)	8.1
- Pooled Private Debts Fund unrealised gains	0.9	0.1	(0.0)	1.0	0.4	(0.0)	1.4
- Tax Income Guarantee (TIG)	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	0.0	2.3	(0.0)	2.3
- Covid-19 Council Tax/B.Rates reductions	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	0.0	5.0	(0.0)	5.0
- Covid-19 Budget (other)	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	0.0	6.0	(1.5)	4.5
- Budget Equalisation	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	0.0	24.0	(0.0)	24.0
Other (reserves below £1m at 31 March 21)	11.2	2.4	(3.4)	10.2	2.7	(2.9)	10.0
Sub-Total	**139.1**	**68.0**	**(78.2)**	**128.9**	**111.7**	**(65.6)**	**175.0**
Children and Family Services – Dedicated Schools Grant	**1.7**	**1.9**	**(3.6)**	**0.0**	0.0	(0.0)	**(0.0)**
TOTAL	**140.8**	**69.9**	**(81.8)**	**128.9**	**111.7**	**(65.6)**	**175.0**

Dedicated Schools Grant net deficit (£4.1m 31/3/20) temporarily reported against the overall General Fund balance (see further explanation in note 12), and moved to Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account from 1 April 2020 (see note 10).

The following are the main reserves held by the Authority, as at 31st March 2021:

Insurance

The insurance policies held by the Authority require a significant level of self-insurance, the level of this being recommended by independent advisers. The monies set aside for self-insurance are split between a provision representing outstanding, unsettled at 31 March 2021 and a reserve to meet future claims.

Children & Family Services - Supporting Leicestershire Families

Reserve held to fund the Supporting Leicestershire Families service which is providing early help and intervention services for vulnerable families across Leicestershire. The funding is planned to be used in 2022/23 when government grant funding is expected to end.

Adult & Social Care Developments

Unapplied grants are to be utilised to fund one off 'pump priming' initiatives, invest to save projects and provide a resource to finance potential risks affecting the service.

Health & Social Care Outcomes

Reserve used in conjunction with Health partners across Leicestershire. The balance as at 31st March 2021 includes a transfer in from Health of £7.3m at year end.

Capital Financing

Revenue contributions to fund capital expenditure in future years.

Transformation Fund

A programme of projects to deliver efficiency savings and service improvements across the Authority and to fund potential restructuring costs of reconfiguring those services.

Business Rates Retention

Balance at 31st March 2021 reflects an accrual of £7.5m for 2020/21 Section 31 grant due for Covid-related retail and nursery rates relief, and the County Council's share (£0.6m) of the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rates Pool contingency (totalling £2m for its 10 member authorities).

COVID-19 Council Tax and Business Rates reductions

Funding set aside to offset the longer term impacts of Covid-19 on Council Tax and Business Rates income.

COVID-19 Budget (other)

Funding set aside to deal with potential Covid-19 pressures in future years.

Budget Equalisation

Funding set aside to manage variations in funding across financial years. This includes the increasing pressures on the High Needs element of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which is in deficit by £17m at the end of 2020/21.

Children & Family Services – Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

DSG is ring fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the schools budget, as defined in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2017. As at the 31 March 2020 the balance on the reserve was a deficit of £4.1m which was temporarily shown against the General Fund balance in Note 11. The balance has been moved to the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account from 1 April 2020 and the deficit balance as at 31 March 2021 was £11.1m.

Note 13: Other Operating Expenditure

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
0.3	Flood Defence Levies	0.3
0.0	(Gains)/losses on the disposal of non-current assets (Excluding Academies)	0.7

2.9	(Gains)/losses on the disposal of Academies	0.0
3.2	**Total**	**1.0**

Note 14: Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
13.9	Interest payable and similar charges	13.9
18.0	Net Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	14.0
(3.5)	Interest receivable and similar income	(3.1)
0.0	Income & Expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	(0.3)
0.6	Other investment income & Expenditure	0.2
29.0	**Total**	**24.7**

Note 15: Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Incomes

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
(303.4)	Council tax income	(318.3)
(78.9)	Non-domestic rates	(66.0)
(22.9)	Non ring-fenced government grants	(38.4)
(44.1)	Capital grants and contributions	(59.9)
(449.3)	**Total**	**(482.6)**

Note 16: Pensions Revenue Costs

a) Local Government Pension Scheme – A defined benefit scheme

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 that need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Authority participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for employees, administered locally by Leicestershire County Council – this is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Authority and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.

The Leicestershire County Council Pension Scheme is operated under the regulatory framework for the LGPS and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the Local Pension Committee of Leicestershire County Council. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pension Fund Regulations. The investment managers of the fund are appointed by the committee.

The principal risks to the authority of the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, structural changes to the scheme (i.e. large-scale withdrawals from the scheme), changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge to the General Fund the amounts required by statute as described in the accounting policies note 47.

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 required to be made against council tax is based on the cash payable in year, so the real cost of post-employment / retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The IAS 19 balance sheet position as at 31st March 2021 has declined since the previous year. The discount rate used in the valuation decreased (in line with AA rated corporate bond yields) from 2.3% to 2.0%, which had the impact of increasing the present value of future liabilities. Overall the net liability within the LGPS increased to £836m (31 March 2020, £607m).

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

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	
	Cost of Services	
	Service cost comprising:	
66.1	Current service cost	54 .0
0.3	Past service costs	0.3
(4.6)	Settlements and Curtailments	0.0
	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:	
18.0	Net Interest expense	14.0
79.8	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**68.3**
	Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	
	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:	
116.2	Return on planned assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	(273.5)
(63.5)	Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	28.3
(182.6)	Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	466.9
(43.2)	Other	(15.7)

(93.3)	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	**274.3**
	Movements in Reserves Statement	
38.1	Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the code	**23.6**
	Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for Pensions in the year	
38.8	Employers contributions payable to scheme	42.4
2.9	Unfunded benefits	2.9
41.7	Total amount charged against the General Fund Balance for Pensions in the year	**45.3**

The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure in the actuarial gains or losses on pension assets and liabilities line at 31 March 2021 was a loss of £867m and at 31 March 2020 was a loss of £607m.

b) Pension Assets and Liabilities in Relation to Post-employment Benefits

The present value of the liabilities (defined benefit obligation) of the Authority at 31 March is as follows:

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
(2,043.9)	**As at 1 April**	**(1,813.7)**
(66.1)	Current service cost	(54.0)
(49.2)	Interest Cost	(41.8)
(9.6)	Contributions by scheme participants	(10.2)
	Remeasurement (gains) and losses:	
63.6	Changes in demographic assumptions	(28.3)
182.7	Changes in financial assumptions	(466.9)
43.0	Other	15.7
	Past service costs:	
(0.3)	(Losses) / Gains on curtailments	(0.3)
58.5	Benefits paid	57.1
7.6	Liabilities extinguished on settlements	0.0
(1,813.7)	**As at 31 March**	**(2,342.4)**

The fair value of the assets of the Authority at 31 March is as follows:

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
1,302.2	**As at 1 April**	**1,207.1**
31.2	Interest Income	27.8
	Remeasurement gain/(loss):	
(116.2)	Return on plan assets	273.5
38.8	Employer contributions	42.4
9.6	Contributions by scheme participants	10.2
(58.5)	Benefits paid	(57.1)

3.0	Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits	3.0
(3.0)	(Losses) / Gains on settlements	0.0
1,207.1	**As at 31 March**	**1,506.9**

The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current investment policy. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the Balance Sheet date. Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets.

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

2019/20			**2020/21**	
£m	**% of total assets**		**£m**	**% of total assets**
		Equity Securities:		
21.0	2%	Other	26.2	2%
		Debt Securities:		
102.2	8%	UK Government	127.6	8%
15.6	1%	Other	19.5	1%
55.6	5%	Private Equity	69.5	5%
		Real Estate:		
90.2	8%	UK Property	112.7	8%
		Investment Funds and Unit Trusts:		
483.8	40%	Equities	605.2	40%
51.0	4%	Bonds	63.7	4%
0.1	0%	Hedge Funds	0.1	0%
42.6	4%	Commodities	53.3	4%
63.4	5%	Infrastructure	79.3	5%
245.6	20%	Other	306.6	20%
		Derivatives		
		Interest rate		
(0.1)	0%	Foreign Exchange	(1.9)	0%
36.1	3%	Cash and Cash Equivalents	45.1	3%
1,207.1	**100%**	**As at 31 March**	**1,506.9**	**100%**

The scheme history of the pension fund is as follows:

	2016/17 £m	**2017/18 £m**	**2018/19 £m**	**2019/20 £m**	**2020/21 £m**
Present value of liabilities:	(1,816.5)	(1,832.6)	(2,043.9)	(1,813.7)	(2,342.4)
Fair value of assets:	1202.0	1,243.4	1,302.2	1,207.1	1,506.9

Surplus / (Deficit)	**(614.5)**	**(589.2)**	**(741.7)**	**(606.6)**	**(835.5)**

The liability shows the underlying commitment that the Authority has in the long run to pay post-employment (retirement) benefits. This total liability of £836m has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Authority as recorded in the Balance Sheet.

However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit will result in the deficit being made good by increased contributions by the employer, over the remaining working life of employees, as assessed by the actuary.

Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependant on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc.

The Authority's Pension fund liabilities have been assessed by Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the County Council fund being based on the latest full valuation of the Pension Fund as at 31st March 2019.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

31 March 2020		31 March 2021
	Mortality assumptions (in years):	
	Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:	
21.5	▪ Men	21.7
23.8	▪ Women	24.2
	Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:	
22.2	▪ Men	22.6
25.2	▪ Women	25.9
2.4%	Rate of inflation	3.4%
2.4%	Rate of increases in salaries	3.4%
1.9%	Rate of increase in pensions	2.9%
2.3%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.0%
	Proportion of employees opting to commute part of their annual pension to a retirement lump sum:	
50%	Pre April 2008 Service	50%
75%	Post April 2008 Service	75%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to actual assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant.

The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some assumptions may be interrelated.

The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, on an actuarial basis, using the projected credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in previous years.

Sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities at 31 March 2021:

	Approximate % Increase in Employer Liability	Approximate monetary amount (£m)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	43.8
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	93.7
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	4.0
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2%	39.3

The impact of a change, either from increase to decrease or vice versa, would be as above but with the values being reversed.

Pension Fund Risk Management Strategy

The Fund’s primary long-term risk is that the Fund’s assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e. the promised benefits payable to members). Therefore, the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the Fund and to maximise the opportunity for gains across the whole Fund portfolio. The fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (price risk, currency risk and interest rate risk) and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the Fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure that there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund’s required cash flows.

These investment risks are managed as part of the overall pension fund risk management programme.

Responsibility for the Fund’s risk management strategy rests with the Pension Fund Management Board and is monitored annually or more frequently if required.

Further details can be found within the Pension Fund Statement of Accounts, included at the end of this document.

Impact on the Authority’s Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers’ contributions at a constant rate as possible. The Authority has agreed a strategy with the scheme’s actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 20 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The last triennial valuation was completed on 31 March 2019.

The scheme will need to take account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Services Act 2013. Under the Act, The Local Government Scheme in England and Wales and the other main existing public service schemes may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014 (or service after 31 March 2015 for other main existing public service pension schemes in England and Wales). The Act provides for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework, to establish new career average revalued earnings schemes to pay pensions and other benefits to certain public servants.

The authority anticipates to pay £43.3m expected contributions to the scheme in 2021/22.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 19 years, 2020/21 (19 Years 2019/20).

c) Teachers and Lecturers

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

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

In 2020/21 the Authority paid £10.5m (2019/20 £8.9m) to the Teachers’ Pension Scheme in respect of teachers’ retirement benefits, representing 23.7% (2019/20 16.5% to 1st September and then 23.7%) of teachers’ pensionable pay. This is also the amount recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement with regards to this scheme. In addition, the Authority is responsible for all pension payments relating to pension enhancements for added years’ service it has awarded, together with the related increases. In 2020/21 these amounted to £2.0m (2019/20 £1.9m), representing 4.8% (2019/20 4.8%) of pensionable pay.

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 16b.

d) Public Health

Public Health staff who transferred to the Authority with effect from 1 April 2013 are and will continue to be members of the NHS pension scheme administered by NHS Pensions. Any new employees to the Authority since this transfer will be in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), administered locally by Leicestershire County Council.

The NHS pension scheme provides public health staff with specified benefits upon their retirement. The Authority contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members’ pensionable salaries. However, the arrangements for NHS schemes mean that liabilities of these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Authority. The scheme is therefore accounted for as if they are a defined contribution scheme and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the balance sheet.

In 2020/21 the Authority paid £0.1m to the NHS pension scheme (£0.1m in 2019/20) in respect of public health staff. This amount is recognised as an expense in the CIES under the Public Health services line.

Note 17: Property, Plant and Equipment, Intangible and Held for Sale Assets

	Land and Buildings*	Vehicles Plant and Equipment	Infrastructure	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total	Intangible Assets	Assets Held for Sale
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Gross Carrying Amount as at 31 March 2020	**580.9**	**23.9**	**454.8**	**11.3**	**77.8**	**2.4**	**1,151.1**	**5.3**	**1.7**
Additions	38.2	3.2	26.3	0.0	23.0	0.0	**90.7**	0.2	0.0
Capital Expenditure Not Increasing Value	(2.9)	(0.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**(3.1)**	0.0	0.0
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	24.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**24.9**	0.0	0.0
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) recognised in the Surplus/ Deficit	(19.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.6)	**(19.7)**	0.0	(0.6)
Disposals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.9)	**(0.9)**	0.0	(0.9)
Asset Reclassifications	25.5	0.0	8.3	0.0	(35.7)	0.0	**(1.9)**	1.9	0.0
Gross Carrying Amount as at 31 March 2021	**647.5**	**26.9**	**489.4**	**11.3**	**65.1**	**0.9**	**1,241.1**	**7.4**	**0.2**
Accumulated Depreciation as at 1 April 2020	**(12.0)**	**(13.4)**	**(47.6)**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**(0.1)**	**(73.1)**	**(2.8)**	**0.0**
Depreciation	(8.1)	(3.6)	(13.7)	0.0	0.0	0.1	**(25.3)**	(0.7)	0.0
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**3.7**	0.0	0.0
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/ Deficit	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**1.1**	0.0	0.0
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the provision of services	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**1.2**	0.0	0.0
Derecognition Depreciation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**	0.0	0.0
Accumulated Depreciation as at 31 March 2021	**(14.1)**	**(17.0)**	**(61.3)**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**(92.4)**	**(3.5)**	**0.0**
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2021	**633.4**	**9.9**	**428.1**	**11.3**	**65.1**	**0.9**	**1,148.7**	**3.9**	**0.2**

*Includes Travellers' Sites valuation of £1.9m not shown under Council Dwellings due to materiality.

	Land and Buildings*	Vehicles Plant and Equipment	Infrastructure	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total	Intangible Assets	Assets Held for Sale
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Gross Carrying Amount as at 31 March 2019	**560.9**	**22.6**	**435.2**	**11.3**	**32.9**	**4.1**	**1,067.0**	**3.8**	**1.7**
Additions	21.5	1.6	18.0	0.0	58.3	0.0	**99.4**	0.7	0.0
Capital Expenditure Not Increasing Value	(3.4)	(0.3)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**(3.7)**	0.0	0.0
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**5.7**	0.0	0.0
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) recognised in the Surplus/ Deficit	(10.9)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**(10.9)**	0.0	0.0
Disposals	(3.9)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(1.7)	**(5.6)**	0.0	0.0
Asset Reclassifications	11.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	(13.4)	0.0	**(0.8)**	0.8	0.0
Gross Carrying Amount as at 31 March 2020	**580.9**	**23.9**	**454.8**	**11.3**	**77.8**	**2.4**	**1,151.1**	**5.3**	**1.7**
Accumulated Depreciation as at 1 April 2019	**(13.3)**	**(9.4)**	**(34.1)**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**(0.1)**	**(56.9)**	**(2.2)**	**0.0**
Depreciation	(8.0)	(4.0)	(13.5)	0.0	0.0	0.0	(25.5)	(0.6)	0.0
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/ Deficit	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation reserve	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the provision of services	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0
Derecognition Depreciation	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0
Accumulated Depreciation as at 31 March 2020	**(12.0)**	**(13.4)**	**(47.6)**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**(0.1)**	**(73.1)**	**(2.8)**	**0.0**
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2020	**568.9**	**10.5**	**407.2**	**11.3**	**77.8**	**2.3**	**1,078.0**	**2.5**	**1.7**

*Includes Travellers' Sites valuation of £2m not shown under Council Dwellings due to materiality.

Depreciation/Amortisation

Where depreciation/amortisation is provided for, assets are depreciated/amortised using the straight line method over the following periods:

- Intangible assets – 5 years.
- Buildings – varies from asset to asset (the remaining useful economic life of each asset is reviewed at the same time as the revaluation is completed, new builds are usually estimated to have a useful life of 70 years).
- Infrastructure – 40 years.
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – estimated useful life (averaging around 5 years).
- Land, community assets, assets under construction, surplus assets and assets held for sale – are held at cost or market value or have an indefinite life and are not depreciated.

Capital Commitments

At of 31 March 2021, the Authority has entered into a number of contracts for the acquisition, construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2020/21 and future years budgeted to cost £9.4m (commitments at 31 March 2020 were to a value of £15.8m). The following table outlines the major contracts:

Major Contracts	**£m**
Fleckney CoE Primary School	4.5
M1 Junction 23 & A512 Scheme	3.6
Ashby New Primary School	1.3

Revaluations

The Authority carries out a rolling programme that ensure that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every five years. Valuations are carried out by Internal valuers and an external firm of valuers, Bruton Knowles LLP, who are both qualified Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) qualified Valuers. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of RICS.

	Land and Buildings £m	Surplus Assets £m	Total £m
Carried at Historical Cost:	87.3	0.0	87.3
Valued at Fair Value as at:			
31 March 2021	261.6	0.9	262.5
31 March 2020	143.0	0.0	143.0
31 March 2019	44.0	0.0	44.0
31 March 2018	83.7	0.0	83.7
31 March 2017	13.8	0.0	13.8
Total Cost or Valuation	**633.4**	**0.9**	**634.3**

Non-Current Intangible Assets

The Authority has non-current intangible assets of £3.9m (£2.5m 2019/20). This includes ICT software licences required to support and safeguard the ICT systems operated by the Authority.

Fair Value Hierarchy

The Authority's surplus property portfolio has been assessed as Level 2 for valuation purposes. Please refer to Note 47 for further details concerning fair value and the input hierarchy.

	2020/21		
	£m	£m	£m
	Level 1 *Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets*	**Level 2** *Other Significant Observable Inputs*	**Level 3** *Significant Unobservable Inputs*
Total - Surplus Properties		**0.9**	

	2019/20		
	£m	£m	£m
	Level 1 *Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets*	**Level 2** *Other Significant Observable Inputs*	**Level 3** *Significant Unobservable Inputs*
Total – Surplus Properties		**2.3**	

Note 18: Heritage Assets

	Historic Buildings £m	Museum Art Collection £m	Art Works Collection £m	Archaeo-logical Collection £m	Fashion Collection £m	Working Life Collection £m	Civic Collection £m	Total £m
Net book value as at 31 March 2020	**0.4**	**0.7**	**2.5**	**0.4**	**0.1**	**0.4**	**0.2**	**4.7**
Additions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
Disposals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) recognised in the Surplus/ Deficit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2021	**0.4**	**0.7**	**2.5**	**0.4**	**0.1**	**0.4**	**0.2**	**4.7**

Net Book value as at 31	**2.5**	**0.4**	**0.1**	**0.4**	**0.2**	**4.7**

March 2019 (Restated)	**0.4**	**0.7**						
Additions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
Disposals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) recognised in the Surplus/ Deficit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
Depreciation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2020	**0.4**	**0.7**	**2.5**	**0.4**	**0.1**	**0.4**	**0.2**	**4.7**

This disclosure note has been restated for 2019/20 and 2020/21 to incorporate a more detailed list of categories held.

As per the accounting policy for Heritage Assets within note 47, assets and additions are initially recognised at cost. Revaluations are based on specialist or insurance valuations. Sale proceeds are accounted for in accordance with statutory requirements as these assets would meet the definition of a capital receipt.

Heritage Asset Collections:

Historic Buildings

This category includes a number of historical ancillary buildings at Snibston Museum and Country Park that were part of the former colliery. At the same location, it includes the Blue Box Century Theatre. This is the only fully equipped solid structure, mobile theatre in the world. The dream of John Ridley, an engineer, was turned into reality in a Hinckley yard between 1948 and 1952. Many famous names are associated with the theatre including Laurence Olivier, Agatha Christie, Enid Blyton, Judi Dench, Helen Mirren, Tom Courtney, Derek Fowlds and Eileen Derbyshire. Also included is the medieval Manor House Museum at Donington le Heath.

The Museum Art Collection

Some of the notable paintings of most value are works by the nineteenth century local artist John Ferneley Snr.

The Artworks Collection

The collection consists of works of art which were initially acquired by the former Education Authority for loan to schools and colleges. Artists represented include Christopher Wood and William Scott.

The Archaeological Collection

This collection includes the Hallaton treasure, the largest hoard of British Iron Age coins, which was initially discovered near Hallaton in 2000. The hoard includes over 5,000 silver and gold coins, a silver-gilt Roman parade helmet, jewellery, and other objects. Most of the items date to around the time of the Roman Conquest of Britain in the 1st century AD.

The Fashion Collection

This collection includes the Symington collection which was created by the Market Harborough Company R. & W. H. Symington, which began to make corsets in the 1850s. The company eventually grew into an international concern and one of its most famous products, the Liberty Bodice, was produced for almost seventy years. This unique collection was donated to the Authority's Museums Service in 1980 and tells the story of the Company over a period of one hundred and thirty years. It includes garments and supporting advertising material, which provide an insight into the development of corsetry, foundation garments and swimwear from the late 19th century through to the beginning of the 1990s.

The Working Life Collection

The collection includes steam and diesel locomotives (from the mid to late 20th century) the Whitwick hearse; steam traction engines, battery electric vehicles (including a local ice cream van).

The Civic Collection

This collection includes the ceremonial insignia and presentation silver held by the Authority. It also includes the painting ‘The Melton Mowbray Horse Fair’ by John Ferneley Snr which was presented to the County council by Major Guy Paget in the 1930s.

Note 19: Investment Property

Investment property assets are held specifically to generate rental income and/or for capital appreciation and are considered within the scope of IFRS 13 Fair Value measurement.

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

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
(0.1)	Rental Income From Investment Property	(0.1)
0.0	Direct Operating Expenses	0.0
(0.1)	**(Surplus) / Deficit**	(0.1)

There are no restrictions on the Authority’s ability to realise the value inherent in its investment property or the Authority’s right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The Authority has no contractual obligations to maintain, enhance or develop investment properties.

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

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
1.4	**Opening Balance as at 1st April**	**1.4**
0.0	Additions – Purchases	0.0
0.0	Additions – Construction	0.0
0.0	Additions - Subsequent Expenditure	0.0
0.0	Disposals	0.0
0.0	Gain/Loss From Fair Value Adjustments	0.3
	Transfers:	
0.0	(To)/From Inventory	0.0
0.0	(To)/From Property, Plant & Equipment	0.0
1.4	**Closing Balance as at 31st March**	**1.7**

As of 31st March 2021 no investment properties are classified as assets held for sale.

Fair Value Hierarchy

The Authority's investment property portfolio has been assessed as Level 2 for valuation purposes. Note 47 provides details of fair value and the input level hierarchy as specified by IFRS 13.

	2020/21		
	£m	£m	£m
Investment Properties	**Level 1** *Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets*	**Level 2** *Other Significant Observable Inputs*	**Level 3** *Significant Unobservable Inputs*
Residential Properties		0.9	
Commercial Units		0.7	
Other		0.1	
Total		**1.7**	

	2019/20		
	£m	£m	£m
Investment Properties	**Level 1** *Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets*	**Level 2** *Other Significant Observable Inputs*	**Level 3** *Significant Unobservable Inputs*
Residential Properties		0.7	
Commercial Units		0.6	
Other		0.1	
Total		**1.4**	

Valuation Techniques

In estimating the fair value of the Authority's investment properties, the highest and best use is deemed to be their current value.

The investment property portfolio has been measured using the market approach. This valuation technique maximises the use of prices (rent values) and relevant observable inputs such as information generated from comparable market transactions to reach suitable valuation. The objective of this technique is to estimate the price at which an orderly transaction to sell an asset or transfer a liability would take place between market participants at the measurement date under current market conditions.

Valuers

The investment property portfolio has been valued in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation as set out in the professional standards and valuation manual of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Investment property valuations are undertaken annually by a firm of external valuers, Bruton Knowles LLP who were commissioned by the Estates section of the Authority's Corporate Resources Department in accordance with the prescribed standards.

Note 20: Financial Instruments

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

31 March 2020 Long Term £m	31 March 2020 Current £m		31 March 2021 Long Term £m	31 March 2021 Current £m
		Financial Assets at Amortised Cost:		
9.2	185.8	Investments	10.0	210.2
30.8	90.9	Debtors	28.7	121.8
0.0	46.7	Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.0	98.4
0.0	0.0	Available for Sale Financial Assets	0.0	0.0
		Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit and Loss:		
45.9	0.0	Investments	40.9	0.0
85.9	**323.4**	**Total Financial Assets**	**79.6**	**430.4**
		Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost:		
265.9	3.7	Borrowing*	265.3	3.7
43.9	119.1	Creditors	51.5	177.8
1.2	0.0	Finance Lease Liabilities	1.2	0.0
311.0	**122.8**	**Total Financial Liabilities**	**318.0**	**181.5**

*borrowing previously reported as being held at fair value has been reclassified as held at amortised cost as at 31 March 2020, the table has been updated for this change.

As at 31st Match 2021, the authority has a long term investment of £10.2m with a banking institution, £24.3m in pooled property investments and £16.4m in private debt investments. Pooled property is valued per the year end bid price or net asset value (NAV) statement. Private debt is valued per the year end NAV statement.

The value of debtors and creditors reported in the Notes to the Statement of Accounts are solely those amounts meeting the definition of a financial instrument. The balances of debtors and creditors reported in the balance sheet and Notes include balances which do not meet the definition of a financial instrument, such as tax-based debtors and creditors.

The following gains and losses are recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
	Net Gains/(Losses) on:	
(0.6)	Financial Assets measured at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	(0.2)
(0.6)	**Total Net Gains/ (Losses)**	**(0.2)**
5.2	**Total Interest Income**	**4.8**
15.4	**Total Interest Expense**	**15.3**

Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities carried at Amortised Cost

Financial liabilities and financial assets represented by Borrowings, Investments and Cash are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost or fair value. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments.

31 March 2020*			31 March 2021	
Carrying Amount £m	At Fair Value £m		Carrying Amount £m	At Fair Value £m
363.4	364.2	**Financial Assets**	469.0	469.0
433.8	618.3	**Financial Liabilities**	499.6	715.7

The fair value of financial liabilities is greater than the carrying value because the Authority's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date. This commitment to pay interest above current market rates increases the amount that the Authority would have to pay if the lenders requested or agreed to early repayment of the loans.

Financial assets - fair value is higher than the carrying amount because the Authority holds investments where the interest rate is higher than current market rate.

*The balances have been restated for 31 March 2020 to include all financial instruments held at amortised cost.

Fair Value Hierarchy

The Authority's financial assets and liabilities have been assessed as Level 2 for valuation purposes. Note 47 (sub section 25) provides an explanation of fair value and the input level hierarchy.

	2020/21		
	£m	£m	£m
Fair Value	**Level 1** *Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets*	**Level 2** *Other Significant Observable Inputs*	**Level 3** *Significant Unobservable Inputs*
Financial Assets		40.9	
Financial Liabilities		0.0	
Total		**40.9**	

	2019/20*		
	£m	£m	£m
Fair Value	**Level 1** *Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets*	**Level 2** *Other Significant Observable Inputs*	**Level 3** *Significant Unobservable Inputs*
Financial Assets		45.9	
Financial Liabilities		0.0	
Total		**45.9**	

The fair value for financial liabilities and financial assets that are not measured at fair value included in Level 2 in the table above have been arrived at using a discounted cash flow analysis, with the most significant inputs being the discount rate. The table for 2019/20 has been restated for financial assets held at fair value.

Note 21: Inventories

	Leicestershire Highways (stores) £m	Leicestershire Highways (fuel) £m	School Food (consumables) £m	Sub-total £m	Other (less than £0.1m) £m	Total £m
Opening Balance 31 March 2020	**0.9**	**0.1**	**0.3**	**1.3**	**0.4**	**1.7**
Purchases	0.9	1.3	1.4	**3.6**	0.6	**4.2**
Recognised as an expense during the year	(1.1)	(1.3)	(1.5)	**(3.9)**	(0.7)	**(4.6)**
Closing Balance 31 March 2021	**0.7**	**0.1**	**0.2**	**1.0**	**0.3**	**1.3**

Note 22: Long Term Debtors

31 March 2020 £m		31 March 2021 £m
	Long Term Debtors (amounts falling due after one year)	
27.2	Outstanding debt relating to transferred services (e.g. Leicester City, Police, ESPO)	25.8
3.1	Residential Care Charges (secured against properties)	2.4
0.5	Other Long Term Debtors	0.5
30.8	**Total Long Term Debtors**	**28.7**

Note 23: Short Term Debtors

31 March 2020 £m				31 March 2021 £m		
Debtors	Payments in Advance	Total		Debtors	Payments in Advance	Total
85.4	**26.3**	**111.7**	**Total Short Term Debtors**	**116.6**	**23.1**	**139.7**

Debtors are shown net of a credit loss allowance of £4.7m as at 31 March 2021 (£2,8m 31 March 2020), reported in Note 44 to the accounts.

Note 24: Cash & Cash Equivalents

31 March 2020 £m		31 March 2021 £m
	Net Cash Balance at Year End:	
10.3	School & Imprest Accounts	10.0
22.7	Main Bank Accounts	0.6
33.0	**Subtotal Cash In Hand / (Overdrawn)**	**10.6**
13.7	Service User Funds Bank Account*	14.9
0.0	Short-Term Deposits with Banks and Building Societies	72.9
46.7	**Total Cash and Cash Equivalents**	**98.4**

* uninvested funds held in separate bank accounts on behalf of service users. An equivalent amount is shown within creditors on the balance sheet.

Note 25: Long Term Creditors

31 March 2020 £m		31 March 2021 £m
	Amounts Received in Advance: **(more than one year)**	
5.5	Section 106 Housing Developer Revenue Contributions	7.2
5.5	**Total Long Term Creditors**	**7.2**

Note 26: Short Term Creditors

31 March 2020 £m				31 March 2021 £m		
Creditors	Receipts in Advance	Total		Creditors	Receipts in Advance	Total
120.1	**12.7**	**132.8**	**Total Short Term Creditors**	**154.0**	**41.9**	**195.9**

Note 27: Provisions

	31 March 2020 £m	Additional Provisions £m	Provisions Used £m	31 March 2021 £m
Short Term				
Non Domestic Rates	2.3	0.5	0.0	2.8
Insurance	0.2	0.0	(0.1)	0.1
Other	0.2	0.5	(0.2)	0.5
Total Short Term Provisions	**2.7**	**1.0**	**(0.3)**	**3.4**
Long Term				
Insurance	4.7	0.0	(1.4)	3.3
Total Long Term Provisions	**4.7**	**0.0**	**(1.4)**	**3.3**
Total Provisions	**7.4**	**1.0**	**(1.7)**	**6.7**

Details of Provisions Held:

Non Domestic Rate Appeals (LCC Share)

The provision represents the Authority’s proportionate share, on an agency basis, of all Leicestershire billing authorities Non Domestic Rate arrears.

Insurance

The insurance policies held by the Authority require a significant level of self-insurance, the level of this being recommended by independent advisers. The monies set aside for self-insurance are split between a provision representing outstanding, unsettled claims at 31 March 2021 and a reserve to meet future claims. The provision is expected to be used within the next seven years. The Insurance provision includes Public/Employers Liability, Fire and Uninsured Losses.

Note 28: Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
	The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:	
(5.5)	Interest Received	(5.4)
15.6	Interest Paid	15.5
	The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following non-cash movements:	
(26.3)	Depreciation	(26.2)
(9.6)	Impairment and Downward Revaluations	(20.4)
(14.9)	(Increase) / decrease in Creditors	(64.8)
14.7	Increase / (decrease) in Debtors	21.5
0.2	Increase / (decrease) in Inventories	(0.3)
(38.2)	Movement in Pension Liability	(23.6)
0.2	Movement in Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(9.8)
(5.0)	Carrying amount of Non-Current Assets Sold or De-recognised	(1.9)
(0.4)	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the	(0.3)
(69.2)	**Total adjustments to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements**	**(115.7)**
	The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following items that are investing and financing activities:	
2.1	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment investment property and intangible assets	1.2
(10.3)	Servicing of Finance	(10.8)
55.4	Capital Grants and Contributions	71.2
47.2	**Total adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities**	**61.6**

Note 29: Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
82.8	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property	88.1
(28.1)	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	20.8
(2.1)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(1.2)
(55.4)	Capital Grants and Contributions	(59.9)
(0.2)	Other receipts from investing activities	0.0
(3.0)	**Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities**	**47.8**

Note 30: Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
0.0	Cash receipts of short-term and long-term borrowing	0.0
0.5	Repayments of short-term and long-term borrowing	0.5
0.5	**Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities**	**0.5**

Note 31: Pooled Budgets

The Authority's Adults and Communities department participates in three pooled budget arrangements with local health authorities, the details of which are outlined below.

a) Integrated Community Equipment Service

The other members that contribute to this pool are Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council, NHS West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group. Leicester City Council acts as the host authority. The Authority contributed £1.2m (2019/20 £1.2m) to the pool. The memorandum account shows total expenditure of £5.9m (2019/20 £5.5m) and gross income of £5.9m (2019/20 £5.5m). Funding commenced in 2005/06 and the partners have agreed to commission this service until March 2022.

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
	Funding Provided to the Pooled Budget	
(1.2)	Leicestershire County Council	(1.2)
(4.3)	Clinical Commissioning Groups / Leicester City Council / Rutland County Council	(4.7)
(5.5)	**Total**	**(5.9)**
	Expenditure Met from the Pooled Budget	
1.2	Leicestershire County Council	1.2
4.3	Clinical Commissioning Groups / Leicester City Council / Rutland County Council	4.7
5.5	**Total**	**5.9**
0.0	**Net Position on the Pooled Budget**	**0.0**

b) The provision of services for adults with learning disabilities

Partners who contribute to this pool are NHS West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group. Leicestershire County Council acts as host to the arrangement. The Authority contributed £8.4m (2019/20 £9.0m). The memorandum account shows total expenditure of £15.9m (2019/20 £18.0m) and gross income from the partners of £15.9m (2019/20 £18.0m). Any net over/underspend arising on the pooled budget is paid by/returned to the partners through revised contributions to the pool. Funding for this service commenced in 2005/06. Partners have a pooled budget agreement in place operated under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006.

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
	Funding Provided to the Pooled Budget	
(9.0)	Leicestershire County Council	(8.4)
(9.0)	Clinical Commissioning Groups	(7.5)
(18.0)	**Total**	**(15.9)**
	Expenditure Met from the Pooled Budget	
9.0	Leicestershire County Council	8.4
9.0	Clinical Commissioning Groups	7.5
18.0	**Total**	**15.9**
0.0	**Net Position on the Pooled Budget**	**0.0**
0.0	**Surplus to the Authority**	**0.0**

c) The Better Care Fund.

On the 1st April 2018, the Authority's Adults and Communities Department entered into a mandatory pooled budget arrangement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 with NHS West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group. The Better Care Fund enables local authorities and the NHS to jointly plan and deliver local health and social care services. Leicestershire County Council acts as the host to the arrangement but not all expenditure incurred by the pool is passed through the Authority's ledger. The following memorandum account shows gross expenditure of £70.3m (2019/20 £60.3m) and gross income of £70.3m (2019/20 £60.3m).

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
	Funding Provided to the Pooled Budget	
(21.1)	Leicestershire County Council	(21.6)
(39.2)	Clinical Commissioning Groups	(48.7)
(60.3)	**Total**	**(70.3)**
	Expenditure Met from the Pooled Budget	
21.1	Leicestershire County Council	21.6
39.2	Clinical Commissioning Groups	48.7
60.3	**Total**	**70.3**
0.0	**Net Position on the Pooled Budget**	**0.0**

Note 32: Senior Officers' Remuneration

a) The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 require the Authority to disclose remuneration for all employees earning over £50,000, plus additional disclosure for those senior officers who have the power to direct or control the major functions of the Authority.

Post holder Information (Post title)	Salary £000	Compensation for loss of office £000	Benefits in kind £000	Total Remuneration Excl Employers Pension Contribution £000	Employers Pension Contributions (N1) £000	Total Remuneration - including Employers Pension Contribution £000
2020/21						
Chief Executive - John Sinnott	209	0	0	209	0	209
Director of Adults & Communities	139	0	0	139	37	176
Director of Public Health	139	0	0	139	20	159
Director of Children & Family Services	135	0	0	135	35	170
Director of Corporate Resources - S151 Officer	135	0	0	135	35	170
Director of Environment & Transport	135	0	0	135	35	170
Director of Law and Governance -Monitoring Officer	126	0	0	126	33	159
Total	**1,018**	**0**	**0**	**1,018**	**195**	**1,213**
2019/20						
Chief Executive - John Sinnott	203	0	2	205	0	205
Director of Adults & Communities	136	0	0	136	34	170
Director of Public Health	136	0	0	136	19	155
Director of Children & Family Services	127	0	0	127	32	159
Director of Corporate Resources - S151 Officer	127	0	0	127	32	159
Director of Environment & Transport	127	0	0	127	32	159
Director of Law and Governance – Monitoring Officer	119	0	0	119	30	149
Total	**975**	**0**	**2**	**977**	**179**	**1,156**

There were no payments made for bonuses, expense allowances or other payments.

N1 – Revised employer's pension contribution rates in 2020/21.

b) The Authority’s other employees whose remuneration, taxable expenses and severance (if applicable), was £50,000 or more are detailed below. This information does not include employer’s pension contributions.

2019/20			2020/21	
Including Severance	Excluding Severance	-	Including Severance	Excluding Severance
No. of Employees	No.of Employees	Remuneration Band	No. of Employees	No. of Employees
120	118	£50,000-£54,999	150	150
79	78	£55,000-£59,999	78	76
33	32	£60,000-£64,999	60	60
34	32	£65,000-£69,999	32	32
14	14	£70,000-£74,999	24	24
5	4	£75,000-£79,999	9	9
8	8	£80,000-£84,999	8	8
2	2	£85,000-£89,999	3	3
4	4	£90,000-£94,999	1	1
8	8	£95,000-£99,999	9	9
0	0	£100,000-£104,999	1	1
3	3	£105,000-£109,999	0	0
0	0	£110,000-£114,999	2	1
1	1	£115,000-£119,999	2	2
0	0	£120,000-£124,999	1	1
311	**304**	**Total**	**380**	**377**

Note: the numbers above include Leicestershire maintained schools.

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

Exit Package Cost Band	Number of Compulsory Redundancies		Number of Other Departures Agreed		Total number of Exit Packages by Cost Band		Total cost of Exit Packages in each Cost Band*	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20 £m	2020/21 £m
£0 - £20,000	1	6	28	20	29	26	0.1	0.2
£20,001 - £40,000	2	1	6	8	8	9	0.2	0.2
£40,001 - £60,000	2	1	2	1	4	2	0.2	0.1
£60,001 - £80,000	3	0	0	0	3	0	0.2	0.0
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	2	1	2	1	0.2	0.1
£100,001 - £150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
£150,001 - £200,000	1	0	0	1	1	1	0.2	0.2
Total	**9**	8	**38**	31	**47**	39	**1.1**	**0.8**

i) The above table includes accrued liabilities. See note 42 for further details
ii) The numbers of officers shown are the actual number, not full time equivalents.

Note 33: Members’ Allowances

Amounts were paid to members of the Authority as follows:

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
0.7	Basic Allowance	0.7
0.3	Special Responsibility Allowance	0.3
0.0	Other Expenses	0.0
1.0	**Total**	**1.0**

Note 34: External Audit Costs

2019/20 **£**		**2020/21** **£**
	Fees payable to external auditor:	
81,767	Annual audit	107,602
5,000	Certification of other returns	5,000
86,767	**Total**	**112,602**

Note 35: Dedicated Schools Grant

The Authority'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) (No 2) Regulations 2018. The schools budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the individual schools budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2020/21 are as follows:

	2019/20		**Schools Budget Funded by DSG**		2020/21	
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m
Central Exp	**Individual Schools Budget**	**Total**		**Central Exp**	**Individual Schools Budget**	**Total**
		(501.0)	Final DSG Before Academy Recoupment			(531.9)
		328.0	Academy Figure Recouped			347.1
		(173.0)	**Total DSG after Academy recoupment**			**(184.8)**
		(1.7)	(Surplus)/Deficit Brought Forward from Previous Year			4.1
		0.0	Carry Forward Agreed in Advance			0.0
(97.0)	**(77.7)**	**(174.7)**	**Agreed Initial Budgeted Distribution**	**(96.6)**	**(84.2)**	**(180.7)**
0.0	0.0	0.0	In Year Adjustments	0.2	0.0	0.2
(97.0)	**(77.7)**	**(174.7)**	**Final Budgeted Distribution**	**(96.8)**	**(84.2)**	**(180.9)**
104.3	0.0	104.3	Actual Central Expenditure	114.3	0.0	114.3
0.0	74.5	74.5	Actual ISB Deployed to Schools	0.0	77.8	77.8
0.0	0.0	0.0	Local Authority Contribution	0.0	0.0	0.0

7.3	**(3.2)**	**4.1**	**(Surplus)/Deficit Carried Forward**	**17.5**	**(6.4)**	**11.1**

Note 36: Grant Income

a) The Authority credited the following grants and contributions to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES):

(i) Credited to the Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income in the CIES.

2019/20 £m			**2020/21 £m**	
		Revenue:		
0.0		Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	0.0	
15.1		Covid-19 Grant	19.4	
3.7		New Homes Bonus Scheme Grant	3.8	
4.1		Social Care General Grant	13.0	
0.0		Tax Income Guarantee Grant	2.3	
	22.9			38.5
		Capital:		
		Department for Education:		
0.0		Basic Need	0.0	
0.5		Maintenance	3.0	
		Department for Transport:		
9.6		Local Transport Plan - Maintenance	7.8	
0.0		Challenge Fund grant	5.0	
2.7		Local Transport Plan – Integrated Transport Schemes	2.7	
2.4		Maintenance Incentive Element	2.4	
0.0		Pothole and Challenge Fund	10.2	
0.0		Pothole Grant 2021/22 (Advance)	2.4	
2.5		M1 Junction 23 / A512 – Highways England	2.1	
		Department of Health		
3.9		Disabled Facilities Grant	0.0	
		Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy		
0.0		*Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Advance)*	3.6	
6.5		*Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership*	12.0	
5.4		*Section 106 Housing Developer Contributions*	7.1	
10.4		*Other Capital Contributions* (below £1m at 31 March 2020)	1.6	
	44.0			59.9
	66.9	**Total (Note 15 non ring-fenced government grants and capital grants and contributions)**		**98.4**

(ii) Credited to gross income within the Continuing Services section of the CIES:

2019/20 £m			2020/21 £m	
		Children and Family Services – Education:		
173.0		Dedicated Schools Grant	184.6	
5.1		Pupil Premium Grant	5.4	
0.0		Pupil Premium – Covid Grant	1.0	
2.8		Universal Infant Free School Meals	2.7	
1.5		PE & Sports Grant	1.5	
3.2		Teachers Pay Grant	5.1	
1.4		Troubled Families Programme	0.0	
1.7		Asylum Seekers	1.8	
	188.7			202.1
		Adults and Communities – Dept of Health:		
16.7		Improved Better Care Fund	17.2	
4.4		Skills Funding Agency	4.7	
2.4		Adult Social Care Winter Pressures	0.0	
0.0		Winter Grant	1.6	
0.0		Infection Control Grant	12.8	
0.0		Rapid Testing	1.7	
0.0		Workforce Capacity	1.2	
1.2		Independent living Fund	1.2	
	24.7			40.4
		Public Health		
	24.2	Public Health Grant		25.2
	0.0	Covid – Contain Funding		5.1
		Corporate Resources		
	1.4	Music Grant		1.5
	0.0	Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grant		3.0
	0.0	Sales, Fees and Charges Grant		2.2
	9.0	Other income (below £1m at 31 March 2021) and REFCUS		19.4
	248.0	**Total**		**298.9**

b) The Authority has received a number of grants and contributions that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies to be returned to the giver. The balances at the year end are as follows:

31 March 2020 £m	Short-Term Capital Grants Receipts in Advance:	31 March 2021 £m
5.2	Dept. for Education: Basic Need Grant	0.0
3.0	Dept. for Transport: National Productivity Incentive Fund	2.8
0.0	Dept. for Business, Energy & Industrial: Decarbonisation	3.6
0.0	Dept. for Transport: Pothole Grant	2.4
1.7	Section 106 Housing Developer Contributions	2.3
4.2	Other Grants and Contributions	1.4
14.1	**Total**	**12.5**

31 March 2020 £m	Long-Term Capital Grants Receipts in Advance:	31 March 2021 £m
35.3	Section 106 Housing Developer Contributions	44.3
0.0	Other Grants and Contributions	0.0
35.3	**Total**	**44.3**

Note 37: Related Parties

Details of the total Government grants received are shown in Notes 15 and 36. The employers' contribution paid to the Pension Fund is shown in Note 16. Interests in consortia and other organisations are disclosed in Note 38. Details of the related party transactions with the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) are included within Note 38.

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 be controlled or influenced by the Authority.

Central Government

Central Government has significant influence over the general operations of 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).

Grants received from government departments are set out in the analysis in Note 36. Grant receipts outstanding at 31 March are also shown in Note 36.

Members

Members of Leicestershire County Council have direct control over the council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2020/21 is shown in Note 33. During 2020/21, works and services to the total value of £0.1m (2019/20 £0.1m) were commissioned from companies, in which three members had an interest. Contracts were entered into in full compliance with the Authority's standing orders.

Currently, the Authority has contracts with voluntary and community sector organisations to the value of less than £0.1m (2019/20, £0.2m), in which 6 members (2019/20, 11 members) have an interest. In addition, payments totalling less than £0.1m have been made during 2020/21 (2019/20, less than £0.2m) to organisations, in which 3 members had a position on the governing body (2019/20, 4 members). Payments totalling £0.1m (2019/20 £0.3m) have been made to organisations whose senior management includes members of the family of 1 member. In all instances, the payments were made with proper consideration of declarations of interest. The relevant members did not take part in any discussion or decision relating to the payments. Details of all these transactions are recorded in the *Register of Members' Interest*, which is available for public inspection at www.leicestershire.gov.uk

Officers

During 2020/21, no works and services were procured (2019/20 less than £0.1m) in which senior officer's or their family member had an interest.

Other Public Bodies (Subject to Common Control by Central Government)

The Authority has three pooled budget arrangements with local health authorities for the supply of aids for daily living, the Better Care Fund, drugs and alcohol support and the provision of services for adults with learning difficulties. Transactions and balances are detailed in Note 31.

Note 38: Interests in Other Consortia

a) Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO)

The Authority is a member of the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation involved in the negotiation of contracts for supplies to its members and the provision of a central warehouse for the supply of items in common use. The Authority had an outstanding creditor balance of less than £0.1m (2019/20, less than £0.1m) and an outstanding debtor balance of £0.2m as at 31 March 2021 (2019/20 £0.5m). In 2005, the Authority entered into a 25 year borrowing arrangement of £12.5m on behalf of the constituent members of the consortium to finance the provision of a new warehouse and integrated offices. The loan outstanding as at 31 March 2021 is £4.8m (2019/20 £5.3m).

The Authority in effect owns approximately one sixth of ESPO assets and liabilities, which in 2019/20 were net assets of £2.1m. These are not included on the Authority's Balance Sheet. A copy of ESPO's statement of accounts is available from ESPO, Barnsdale Way, Grove Park, Enderby, Leicester. LE19 1ES. Details of the 2020/21 accounts are not yet available.

b) Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority

The Authority is a constituent member of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority. The Authority had an outstanding debtor balance of £0.2m as at 31 March 2021 (2019/20 Less than £0.2m). A copy of the Fire Authority statement of accounts is available from: Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority at 12 Geoff Monk Way, Birstall, Leicester, LE4 3BU.

c) East Midlands Shared Services

The Authority runs a joint operation with Nottingham City Council (NCC) to provide shared transactional finance, human resources and payroll services to both authorities under the name of East Midlands Shared Services (EMSS). EMSS operates under a Joint Committee established under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Joint Committee does not have a separate legal personality and is therefore not a separate entity.

Operations relating to EMSS are carried out at both LCC and NCC premises with LCC being the employing authority and NCC the host authority. In line with the partnership agreement the net expenditure is shared between the two authorities by allocating an equal share of the financial benefits (savings) accruing from the operation of EMSS. This has resulted in a share of net costs for the Authority of 41.49%. EMSS does not separately own any assets or liabilities.

A summary of the income and expenditure of EMSS and the associated amounts included in the Authority's accounts are as follows:

Total EMSS 2019/20 £m	Amounts Included in LCC CIES 2019/20 £m		Total EMSS 2020/21 £m	Amounts Included in LCC CIES 2020/21 £m
		Income:		
(1.5)	(1.5)	Direct external income - LCC	(1.4)	(1.4)
(0.5)	(0.5)	Direct external income – NCC	(0.5)	(0.5)
(0.0)	(2.6)	NCC share of net LCC direct costs	(0.0)	(2.5)
(2.0)	**(4.6)**	**Total Income**	**(1.9)**	**(4.4)**
		Expenditure:		
5.6	5.4	Direct costs incurred by LCC	6.0	6.0
0.3	0.0	Direct costs incurred by NCC	0.0	0.0
5.9	5.4	**Total Expenditure**	6.0	6.0
3.9	**0.8**	**Net Expenditure**	**4.1**	**1.6**

d) Leicestershire & Rutland Sports Partnership

Leicester-Shire & Rutland Sport (LRS) is an Active Partnership (AP) (formerly known as County Sports Partnership) which works with the Local Authorities of Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, working together with schools, National Governing Bodies of Sport, clubs, coaches, charitable organisations and volunteers to create a lasting legacy for sport and physical activity. The AP is funded from different sources including Leicestershire County Council (LCC) Public Health and Sport England. LCC is the host Authority and LRS accounts form a part of the overall Public Health budget. A summary of the income and expenditure specific to LRS follows:

2019/20 £m	Income and Expenditure Category	Sport England £m	Local Authority £m	Other Public Sector Income £m	Non-public Income £m	2020/21 £m
	Income:					
(2.1)	Revenue Grants	(0.8)	(1.3)	0.0	0.0	(2.1)
0.0	Membership Income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	Sponsorship Income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(0.5)	Other Income	0.0	0.0	(0.3)	0.0	(0.3)
0.0	Enterprise & Innovation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(2.6)	**Total Income**	**(0.8)**	**(1.3)**	**(0.3)**	**0.0**	**(2.4)**
	Expenditure:					
1.0	Support costs	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.0	1.1
0.1	Overheads	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
1.1	Get Active	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.9
0.1	Stay Active	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
0.0	Active Economy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	Well Led	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
0.1	Workforce	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
0.0	MarComms	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
0.1	Other Expenditure	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	Enterprise & Innovation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2.5	**Total Expenditure**	**1.0**	**1.3**	**0.2**	**0.0**	**2.5**
(0.1)	**Net**	**0.2**	**0.0**	**(0.1)**	**0.0**	**0.1**
0.1	**Earmarked Deferred project Expenditure/(Net Deficit Required from Reserves)**					**(0.1)**

e) Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund

Leicestershire County Council is the administering authority for the purposes of the Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund (the Fund) under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2013. Recharges from the Authority to the Fund for Pension scheme administration, and oversight and governance, totalled £1.7m (£2.7m 2019/20). The majority of transactions for the Fund are processed by the Authority and are recovered from the Fund. At 31 March 2021 the Authority had a debtor with the fund of £1.8m (31 March 2020, debtor £3.1m).

It has not been possible to apportion, on a reasonable basis, the costs and benefits of key management personnel between the Council and the Fund. However, Members' Allowances and Officers' Remuneration are disclosed in Notes 32 and 33.

LGPS Cen

administering authorities participating in the LGPS Central Pool. The Company aims to use the combined buying power of its Partner Funds to reduce costs, improve investment returns and widen the range of available asset classes for investment for the benefit of local government pensioners, employees and employers.

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issues. The joint committee provides assistance, guidance and recommendations to the individual councils, taking into consideration the conflicting demands and interests of the participants within the pool. The joint committee does not have delegated authority to make binding decisions on behalf of the participating councils.

Further details in respect of the LGPS Central Pool are set out in the Pension Fund Accounts.

f) Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rates Pool

The Local Government Finance Act 2012 introduced the business rates retention system from 1 April 2013. The arrangements enable local authorities to retain a proportion of the business rates generated in their area. Billing authorities collect rates on behalf of Central Government (50%), Major Preceptors – Leicestershire County Council (9%) and the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) (1%) – and themselves (40%).

There are two “baselines” for each local authority - a funding baseline and a rates baseline. Where the funding baseline is higher than the rates baseline (as is the case for the Authority) the authority requires a “top-up” and is not subject to a levy on any business rates growth. Where an authority’s rates baseline is higher than its funding baseline, the authority is in a “tariff” position and will contribute to a central fund which is redistributed to “top-up” authorities.

“Tariff” authorities are subject to a levy on any real terms growth in business rates at a maximum rate of 50%. In non-Pooled areas the tariff is payable to the Government and will be used to fund “safety net” payments to authorities which have seen significant reductions in business rates income. The safety net is currently activated if retained rates fall below 92.5% of the funding baseline for the authority.

Authorities are invited to form Pools. For tariff and top-up purposes and also regarding levy and safety net calculations, the Government treats a Pool as if it were a single entity.

The Authority, Leicester City Council, the Combined Fire Authority and all the Leicestershire District Councils have agreed to operate a pooling agreement for business rates levies and safety net payments, the Leicester and Leicestershire Pool (LLP). The Authority is the lead authority for the LLP.

2020/21	**Funding Baseline £m**	**Rates Baseline £m**	**Retained Rates £m**	**Levy £m**	**Safety Net £m**
Blaby	2.2	16.8	19.3	1.3	0.0
Charnwood	4.3	19.7	20.6	0.5	0.0
Harborough	1.8	15.4	19.2	1.9	0.0
Hinckley & Bosworth	2.6	12.2	15.1	1.4	0.0
Melton	1.3	5.7	6.4	0.4	0.0
NW Leicestershire	2.4	20.6	28.4	3.9	0.0
Oadby & Wigston	1.5	5.3	5.9	0.3	0.0
Total	**16.1**	**95.7**	**114.9**	**9.7**	**0.0**
2020/21 Net Gain					**9.7**
Net Gain b/f					**12.6**
Less payment to the LLEP					**(10.6)**
Total 31 March 2021					**11.7**

A summary of the position for 2020/21 is shown below which shows an overall surplus on the Pool of £9.7m.

2019/20	**Funding**	**Rates**	**Retained**	**Levy**	**Safety Net**

	Baseline £m	Baseline £m	Rates £m	£m	£m
Blaby	2.2	16.5	20.1	1.8	0.0
Charnwood	4.2	19.3	22.4	1.5	0.0
Harborough	1.7	15.2	18.9	1.9	0.0
Hinckley & Bosworth	2.6	12.0	15.2	1.6	0.0
Melton	1.3	5.6	6.8	0.6	0.0
NW Leicestershire	2.4	20.3	26.2	2.9	0.0
Oadby & Wigston	1.5	5.2	5.8	0.3	0.0
Total	**15.9**	**94.1**	**115.4**	**10.6**	**0.0**
2019/20 Net Gain					**10.6**
Net Gain b/f					**10.6**
Less payment to the LLEP					**(8.6)**
Total 31 March 2020					**12.6**

The total of £11.7m held as at 31 March 2021 comprises a £2.0m contingency towards future Pools, with the balance of £9.7m for investment in the wider Leicestershire area and is shown as a creditor in the Authority's accounts. The contingency is shown in the Authority's accounts as a receipt in advance; £1.4m held on behalf of the Pool members and the balance of £0.6m, the Authority's share, is held as part of the Business Rates Retention Reserve.

g) Concessionary Travel Fares Scheme

The Authority administers the Concessionary Travel Fares Scheme for areas covered by Leicester City Council and the District Councils in Leicestershire, for which income and expenditure is shown below:

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
(9.2)	Income	(9.2)
14.2	Expenditure	14.2
5.0	**Net Cost**	**5.0**

Note 39: Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

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

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
246.5	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	**236.5**
	Revised MRP (removal of commutation adjustment)	2.0
	Capital Investment:	
98.1	Property, Plant and Equipment	90.8
2.1	Intangible Assets	0.2

14.1	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	14.6
2.5	Long Term Investments (N1)	0.0
	Sources of Finance:	
(5.7)	Capital Receipts	(1.2)
(60.1)	Government grants and other contributions	(72.5)
(51.0)	Direct revenue contributions	(31.9)
(10.0)	Statutory Minimum Revenue Provision (N2)	(6.2)
236.5	**Closing Capital Financing Requirement**	**232.3**
	Explanation of Movements in Year	
	Increase in underlying need to borrow:	
0.0	Supported by government financial assistance	0.0
0.0	Unsupported by government financial assistance	0.0
(10.0)	Minimum Revenue Provision	(4.2)
(10.0)	**Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement**	**(4.2)**

(N1) During 2019/20 the County Council purchased £2.5m of Pooled Property Investments to generate ongoing revenue savings. The total held as at 31 March 2021 was £25m.

(N2) The Statutory Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is a prudent amount that the Authority is obligated under statutory provisions to set aside to finance the costs incurred to fund capital expenditure projects. The Authority amended its MRP calculation in 2020/21 in respect of historic government funded borrowing to make equal repayments over the average remaining life of assets, 40 years. Prior to this, MRP on this form of borrowing was at 4% of the outstanding balance.

Note 40: Leases

a) Amounts Paid to Lessors

Finance lease rentals paid to lessors in the year totalled £0.3m (2019/20, £0.3m). Lease rentals paid to lessors during the year in respect of operating leases totalled £1.3m (2019/20 £1.2m).

b) Amounts Received from Lessees

Lease rentals on Authority owned buildings received from lessees during the year in respect of operating leases totalled £4.2m (2019/20 £1.9m). Expected Lease rentals projected to be received in 2021/22 is £4.8m.

c) Finance Leased Assets

The Council has four buildings that it uses under finance leases. These assets are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the balance sheet, at a value of £0.7m as at 31 March 2021 (31 March 2020 £0.7m).

The Council has a liability to make payments under these leases during 2020/2021 and beyond:

	2019/20			2020/21		
	Finance Lease Principal (NPV) £m	Finance Cost £m	Finance Leases Total £m	Finance Lease Principal (NPV) £m	Finance Cost £m	Finance Leases Total £m
Lease Payments due:						
Within 1 year	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3
2 to 5 years	0.3	0.8	1.1	0.3	0.8	1.1
Over 5 years	0.8	2.9	3.7	0.7	2.9	3.6
Total	**1.2**	**3.9**	**5.1**	**1.1**	**3.9**	**5.0**

Note 41: Impairment Losses

During 2020/21, the Authority has not recognised any impairment losses (2019/20 nil). However, revaluations downwards of £22.2m (2019/20 £46.2m) have been recognised in the Revaluation Reserve and revaluations downwards of £19.6m (2019/20 £10.8m) have been recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. There have also been reversal of historical downwards revaluations of £1.2m (2019/20 £3m) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Note 42: Termination Benefits

Termination benefits arise when employment is terminated by the Authority before the normal retirement date, or whenever an employee accepts voluntary redundancy in exchange for these benefits. The Authority recognises termination benefits as a liability and an expense if the Authority is demonstrably committed to a detailed formal plan without realistic possibility of withdrawal. In the case of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy, termination benefits are measured based on the number of employees expected to accept the offer. The total termination benefits for 2020/21 are £0.9m (2019/20 £1.1m).

Note 43: Contingent Liabilities

a) Municipal Mutual Insurance Limited (MMI), the Authority's former insurer between November 1969 and October 1991, ceased writing insurance business owing to financial difficulties in September 1992. MMI made a scheme of arrangement with its creditors in the event of the company becoming insolvent.

The latest financial information for MMI, as disclosed in their management accounts for the year to 30 June 2020 shows a balanced position. As a result, the scheme administrators do not intend to request any additional contributions. However, it should be noted that there is a contingent liability for any additional deficit due to the uncertainty of the value of incurred but not reported (IBNR) claims. A reserve has been established to reduce the risk to the Authority of any further liabilities under the MMI scheme of arrangement and in respect of any other uninsured losses.

b) Projects that have been awarded European grant funds and lottery funds; if the assets provided are withdrawn from public use before the end of the agreed term, repayment of grant may be necessary.

Note 44: Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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

(i) Credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Authority
(ii) Liquidity risk – the possibility that the Authority might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments
(iii) 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 the Corporate Resources Department, under polices approved by the Authority in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy. The Authority 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.

(i) 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. This requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet certain identified minimum credit criteria as laid down by Link Asset Services, who act as treasury management advisors to the Authority. These minimum criteria include a number of factors including credit ratings assigned by Fitch and Moody's Ratings Services, the rating of the counterparty's sovereign government and the cost of Credit Default Swaps (in effect, the cost of insuring against the risk of default by a counterparty).

Maximum limits for funds on loan and maturity dates exist for each acceptable counterparty and vary according to Link Asset Services assessment of their overall financial strength. The Authority will only lend for a maximum of one year (Link Asset Services have a two year period for a small number of counterparties) and will not lend to any counterparty that has a maximum period of less than six months within Link Asset Services matrix.

Customers are not assessed for credit risk other than for tenancy agreements and major contracts.

The matrix in respect of money market loans made by the Authority are detailed below:

Matrix for UK Banks and Building Societies

Maximum Sum Outstanding	£50m	£30m	£20m
Maximum Loan Period	1 year	1 year	6 months
General Description	'Special Instructions' (i.e. significant element of UK-Government ownership) and included in Link list for period of 1 year or more	Not 'special instructions' and included in Link list for period of 1 year or more	Included in Link list for period of 6 months

Matrix for Overseas Banks

Maximum Sum Outstanding	£15m	£10m
Maximum Loan Period	1 year	6 months
Minimum Fitch Ratings	Included in Link list for period of 1 year or more	Included in Link list for period of 6 months

A maximum of £30m can be invested with all banks domiciled within a single country (note: there is no limit for total lending to UK financial institutions)

Other UK Local Authorities

A maximum of £10m can be invested per authority for up to 1 year.

Money Market Funds

AAA-rated only
Maximum amount in any single fund = £25m
Maximum amount in all Money Market Funds = £125m

Debt Management Office (DMO) (Executive Agency of HM Treasury)

No restriction on loan amounts or periods. In the event that the maximum loan length is extended beyond the current 6 month period, no loan will have a maturity above 12 months.

Exposure to Credit Risk

The Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies is 100% of its investments, but this 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 2021 that this was likely to crystallise.

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

	Amount at 31st March 2020 £m	**Historical experience of default %**	**Historical experience adjusted for market conditions at 31 March 20 %**	**Estimated maximum exposure to default and un-collectability £m**	**Amount at 31st March 2021 £m**
Deposits with banks and financial institutions	185.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	308.2
Sales ledger	27.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	47.9

Total	**213.6**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**356.1**

No credit limits were exceeded during the reporting period and the Authority does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits.

The Authority does not generally allow credit for customers. The past due but not impaired Sales ledger debt can be analysed by age as follows:

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
18.3	Less than three months	36.5
2.1	Three to six months	0.8
3.2	Six months to one year	1.5
4.2	More than one year	9.1
27.8	**Total**	**47.9**

In respect of the above sales ledger debt, the Authority has made a provision of £4.7m for potential doubtful debts.

(ii) Liquidity risk

The Authority has a record of expected cash flows which is used 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 specific periods. The strategy is to ensure that not more than 50% of loans are due to mature within any rolling five-year period through a combination of careful planning of new loans taken out and (where it is economic to do so) making early repayments.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

31 March 2020 £m		31 March 2021 £m
	Analysis of Loan Maturity Profile:	
3.7	Less than 1 year	3.7
3.7	**Total Short Term Loans by Maturity**	3.7
1.0	Between 1 and 2 years	1.0
6.4	Between 2 and 5 years	6.4
2.5	Between 5 and 10 years	2.1
0.3	Between 10 and 15 years	0.3
0.4	Between 15 and 20 years	0.4
13.1	Between 20 and 25 years	17.9
48.1	Between 25 and 30 years	48.1
110.8	Between 30 and 35 years	110.3
29.6	Between 35 and 40 years	25.2
10.1	Between 40 and 45 years	20.1
43.5	Greater than 45 years	33.5
265.7	**Total Long Term Loans by Maturity**	265.3
269.4	**Total Loans by Maturity**	**269.5**

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

(iii) Market risk

Interest rate risk

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

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

Borrowings are not carried at fair value, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus and 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 the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Authority has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. Policy is to aim to keep a maximum of 50% of its borrowings in variable rate 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 and which is used to update the budget quarterly during the year. This allows any adverse charges to be accommodated. The analysis will also advise whether new borrowing is taken out as fixed or variable.

According to this assessment strategy, at 31 March 2021, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be:

	£m
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	N/A
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	4.1
Increase in government grant receivable for financing costs	0.0
Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**4.1**
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate investment assets	(45.5)
Impact on Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**(45.5)**
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings liabilities (no impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure)	(88.0)

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

Price risk

The Authority does not hold any equity shares, thus there is no price risk to the Authority.

Foreign exchange risk

The Authority has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies and thus have no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

Note 45: Self-Insurance

Provisions and reserves are operated to meet the self-insured deductibles for the following policies, however, stop loss insurance applies to fire and public/employers' liability policies.

	Deductible per Claim
	£
Fire	500,000
Public/Employers' liability	375,000
Fidelity guarantee	100,000
Motor	1,250

Apart from Museums, the Authority has no general insurance cover for accidental damage to or the theft of contents from buildings. Similarly, the Authority does not purchase money insurance. Schools, however, have the option to join a group self insurance scheme to cover the above risks.

Note 46: Trust Funds (Excluded from the Balance Sheet)

The Authority acts as trustee and/or administrator for approximately 20 prize funds, endowments, scholarships and bequests. The original bequests are invested in either the Authority's trust fund pooling scheme or in a range of other direct external investments.

Trustees are nominated by Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council and the National Trust to the Bradgate Park and Swithland Wood charity. This is the largest Trust the Authority is involved with. Due to the timing of the production of the Authority's Statement of Accounts, the figures shown below are compiled on an estimated basis.

To the extent that income from these investments has not been utilised for prizes etc., the surplus funds are invested in short term deposits with various financial institutions. Under regulations issued through the Charities Act 2011, trust fund accounts where annual income exceeds £10,000, require an independent examination. The main trust funds are as follows:

	Balance at 31 March 2020 £m	Income £m	Expenditure £m	Balance at 31 March 2021 £m
Trust Funds:				
Kibworth High School Endowment	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3
Bradgate Park & Swithland Wood Charity *	0.9	1.7	(1.3)	1.3
Others	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3
Total Trust Funds	**1.5**	**1.7**	**(1.3)**	**1.9**

* Not sole trustee. The Authority administers the funds and is represented on the board of trustees.

Note 47: Accounting Policies

1. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2020/21 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2021. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. These regulations require the accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (the 'Code') in the UK 2020/21 supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the Local Government 2003 Act.

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

2. 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 payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Authority has an obligation. Provisions 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 the financial year. Where it becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made) the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

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

3. Reserves

The Authority sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by transferring amounts out of the General Fund Balance. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service 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 transferred back into the General Fund 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 Authority.

The reserves operated by the Authority are explained further:

a) Revenue

The General Fund Balance represents a working balance derived from past savings disclosed in the income and expenditure account or budgeted contributions. This balance incorporates both school balances, which as a result of legislation are retained by each individual school, and underspends on services that have been approved for carry forward to the following year.

In addition, a number of earmarked revenue reserves are maintained for future expenditure which falls outside the definition of a provision.

b) Capital

In accordance with standard accounting practice for local authorities, three non-cash backed capital reserves exist as part of the system of capital accounting. These are:

Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve represents the gains in asset values arising from the revaluation of fixed assets since 1 April 2007. Gains arising before this date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account. The balance thus represents unrealised gains since that date.

Capital Adjustment Account

A store of capital resources set aside from revenue, capital receipts and the provision for repayment of debt (MRP) set aside to finance past capital expenditure.

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

There is an additional Unusable Capital Reserve for deferred capital receipts as these are not recognised as Usable Capital receipts until they are backed by cash receipts, at which point they will be transferred to the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve.

Capital Receipts Reserve and Capital Grants Unapplied

There are also two Usable Capital Reserves. For further details of the Capital Receipts Reserve and Capital Grants Unapplied see accounting policies 11 and 13 respectively.

c) Other

There are also three other non-cash backed reserves that are held for statutory accounting purposes. These are:

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.

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 Authority 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.

Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account

The Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment 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.

4. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in 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.

5. Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

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

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

6. Non- Current Assets

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

Recognition:
Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of an asset is capitalised on accruals basis, provided that it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the Authority and the cost can be measured reliably. The Authority operates a de-minimis limit of £10,000 for individual items; relatively minor items may be financed from revenue. The purchase of single items below £10,000 may be capitalised in certain circumstances, for example, the need to comply with grant conditions. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs or maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is occurred.

- Measurement of assets are initially 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.

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

Some categories of Non-Current Assets are revalued on the basis recommended by the COPLAA and in accordance with the Statements of Asset Valuation Principles and Guidance Notes issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

The basis of valuation of the various categories of assets is as follows:

- ***Intangible Assets***

  Expenditure on non-monetary assets which do not have a physical substance (i.e. software licences) but are controlled by the Authority as a result of a past event is capitalised when it is expected that future economic benefits or service potential will flow to the Authority. The valuation is based on amortised historical cost for all assets with an original cost in excess of £20,000.

- ***Property, Plant and Equipment- divided into the following sub-categories;***

- ***Land and Buildings*** are included in the Balance Sheet at current value for existing use or, where because of the specialised nature this could not be assessed (there being no market for such an asset), at depreciated replacement cost.

  Valuation is carried out on a selective on-going basis such that all assets are revalued at least once every five years, and on completion of a capital scheme above £100,000. In addition, the top twenty valued assets are valued each year. The valuation is carried out by qualified Chartered Surveyors, who are also Registered Valuers, from the Commissioning Estates service within the Corporate Resources Department. Asset lives have been reviewed and standardised over the last two years and have been updated within the Asset Register. Assets Held for Sale are revalued within the year to ensure the open market value is accurate.

  The current asset values used in the accounts are based on a certificate issued by the Authority's Strategic Property Manager as of 1 October 2020. Additions since that date are included in the accounts at their cost of acquisition. The addition is then reviewed, and if the actual capital expenditure does not increase the asset valuation or if the expenditure is less than the Authority's £100,000 capital de-minimus level then this value will be recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as capital expenditure not increasing value.

- ***Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment;*** valuation is based on depreciated historical cost for all assets with an original cost in excess of £20,000, with the exception of Leicestershire Highways who occasionally capitalise assets under £20,000. Additions below the £20,000 deminimis level are then recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as capital expenditure not increasing in value.

- ***Infrastructure Assets*** are valued on the basis of depreciated historical cost.

- ***Community Assets*** are assets that the Authority is likely to keep in perpetuity for the benefit of local people, e.g. country parks and reclaimed land. Such assets are valued at nominal values for assets acquired prior to 1994 and historical cost thereafter.

- ***Assets Under Construction*** are based on actual payments made to date.

- ***School Buildings*** are held at current value but because of their specialist nature are measured at depreciated replacement cost.

- ***Surplus Assets*** are surplus to service requirements. The current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from the market participant's perspective.

- ***Assets Held for Sale*** are assets that are actively being marketed for sale, the asset sale is highly probable, and the sale is expected within 12 months. An asset is classed as held for sale when the carrying value will be principally recovered through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use. The asset is revalued immediately on an open market basis and any loss is posted to the other operating expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Componentisation

IAS 16 requires significant components of assets to be recorded separately where they have substantially different useful lives to enable depreciation to be calculated separately.

The Authority componentises assets into blocks that have a significant value against the total value of the asset or are naturally identifiable i.e. swimming pool or external building. The Authority also recognises a significant component within a block to be any component over £100,000 that individually exceeds 25% of the total value of the block and has a substantially different life to the overall structure.

School assets, where appropriate, have been componentised in line with the methodology for Modern Equivalent Asset (MEA) on a Depreciated Replacement Cost basis.

Revaluation of Assets

Increases in valuations result in a debit being posted to the non-current asset account and matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of an impairment loss previously charged to a service revenue account.

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.

Revaluation losses due to a general fall in market price are first offset against any balance that is on the Revaluation Reserve and are only charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Revaluation Reserve has been cleared to nil.

Upon disposal of a non-current asset any revaluation gains for that asset are transferred from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account. Revaluation gains are also subject to depreciation, 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.

Impairment of Assets

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

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

- Where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).

- Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

7. Heritage Assets

The Authority's Heritage Assets are held in the Authority's museums and other cultural sites. Heritage Assets are categorised into 7 collections, which are held primarily to increase the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Authority's history and local area. Heritage Assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the Authority's accounting policies on Property, Plant and Equipment. However, some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to Heritage Assets as detailed below. The Authority's collections of Heritage Assets are as follows;

- Historic Buildings
- The Museum Art Collection
- The Art Works Collection
- The Archaeological Collection
- The Fashion Collection
- The Working Life Collection
- The Civic Collection

Heritage Assets – General

The carrying amounts of Heritage Assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment to Heritage Assets, e.g. where an item has suffered a physical deterioration or where there is a doubt to the authenticity of a piece of art. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Authority's general policies on impairment (accounting policy 6 above). Proceeds from the sale of Heritage Assets are disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements and are accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital receipts (accounting policy 11 below). Assets are initially recognised at cost and will then be revalued for insurance purposes.

8. Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of 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 the right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on use of specific assets.

Authority as a Lessee:

Finance Leases:

When assessing whether the lease is a finance lease the following criteria have been considered:

- Lease transfers ownership at the end of the term.
- Lessee has option to purchase asset at price lower than fair value.
- Lease term is major part of economic life of the asset.
- Present value of minimum lease payments is substantially all of the fair value of the asset.
- Leased assets are so specialised in nature that only the lessee can use them without major modifications.

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases are reflected in the appropriate category of non-current asset on the Balance Sheet. The asset recognised is matched by a deferred liability to pay future rentals. In addition, assets financed by a deferred purchase arrangement are similarly reflected in non-current assets, with the liability to the merchant bank included in long term borrowings.

Operating Leases:

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged directly to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense in the services benefiting from use of the leased property, plant and 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.

The Authority as Lessor:

Finance Leases:

The Authority does not have any finance leases as a Lessor. Where operating leases exist, the assets are still shown on the Balance Sheet and any rental income is credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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.

9. Revenue Expenditure Funded From Capital Under Statute

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. 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 to the Capital Adjustment Account reverses out the amounts charged so there is no impact on the level of council tax.

10. 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:

a) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all property, plant and equipment by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. Buildings are depreciated over their remaining useful economic lives as assessed by the property valuer, with no allowance for a residual value. No depreciation charge is made for the land, community assets, assets under construction or assets held for sale.

Assets are depreciated using the straight line method over the following periods:

- ***Buildings*** - varies from asset to asset (the remaining useful economic life of each asset is reviewed at the same time as the revaluation is completed, new builds are usually estimated to have a useful life of 70 years).

- ***Infrastructure*** - 40 years.

- ***Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment*** - estimated useful life (averaging around 5 years).

- ***Components*** **-** will vary between 20 – 50 years for new components/blocks

- ***Assets Held for Sale*** – Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

Where an item of property, plant and equipment has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the asset, the components are depreciated separately.

No depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition, whereas a full year’s depreciation is charged in the year of disposal.

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

b) Revaluation and Impairment

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 are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

c) Amortisation

Intangible Assets are amortised over their useful life of no more than 5 years. The Authority is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are therefore replaced by the 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.

11. Capital Receipts

Proceeds from the sale of assets (if over £10,000) are credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve. All such receipts are available to the Authority to enhance its programme of capital expenditure or to reduce external borrowing. Receipts used are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account. The extent to which receipts have not been utilised at year end are reflected in the Balance Sheet as Capital Receipts Reserve. Where Capital Receipts are deferred they are recognised in the Unusable Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve until backed by cash receipts at which point they are transferred to the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve.

Any gains/losses on disposal of assets are taken to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Statutory regulations require a reversal of this entry to the Capital Adjustment Account via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

12. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from contracts, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when the goods or services are transferred to the recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.

- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed. Where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.

- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.

- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.

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

13. Government Grants

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears government grants and third-party contributions 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 have 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 the future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

Monies advance as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed from the General Fund via 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 Account. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Any amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

14. Inventories and Long-Term Contracts

Inventories are included within the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories is assigned using the average costing formula.

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

Other immaterial stocks, e.g. cleaning materials, books and stationery, are fully charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of purchase. Work in progress is shown at cost price.

15. Financial Instruments

Financial instruments are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument. They are classified based on the business model for holding the instruments and their expected cashflow characteristics.

- ***Financial Liabilities***

  Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. For the Council's borrowing this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest). Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument.

  Loans at stepped interest rates (LOBO's) are recorded at fair value with interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement calculated at the effective rate of interest, which discounts estimate future cash payments over the life of the instrument (essentially an average rate for the expected duration of that loan), rather than the cash paid in a year.

  Statutory regulations enable the Authority to negate the additional interest arising on LOBO's (if loan arranged before November 2007) by posting a reversal within the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account.

- ***Financial Assets***

Financial assets are classified into one of three categories:

I. Financial assets held at amortised cost. These represent loans and loan-type arrangements where repayments or interest and principal take place on set dates and at specified amounts. The amount presented in the Balance Sheet represents the outstanding principal received plus accrued interest. Interest credited to the CIES is the amount receivable as per the loan agreement.

II. Fair Value Through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI). These assets are measured and carried at fair value. All gains and losses due to changes in fair value (both realised and unrealised) are accounted for through a reserve account, with the balance debited or credited to the CIES when the asset is disposed of.

III. Fair Value Through Profit and Loss (FVTPL). These assets are measured and carried at fair value. All gains and losses due to changes in fair value (both realised and unrealised) are recognised in the CIES as they occur.

Allowances for impairment losses have been calculated for amortised cost assets, applying the expected credit losses model. Changes in loss allowances (including balances outstanding at the date of derecognition of an asset) are debited/credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES. Changes in the value of assets carried at fair value are debited/credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES as they arise.

The value of debtors and creditors reported in the Notes to the Statement of Accounts are solely those amounts meeting the definition of a financial instrument. The balances of debtors and creditors reported in the balance sheet and Notes include balances which do not meet the definition of a financial instrument, such as tax-based debtors and creditors.

- ***Soft Loans***

Under certain criteria the Authority provides loans to foster parents and to older people with physical disabilities. These loans are interest free. The total value is considered to be immaterial to the Authority’s accounts; therefore, these loans have not been revalued on a fair value basis in accordance with the Code.

16. Employee Benefits

- ***Benefits Payable During Employment***

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

- ***Termination Benefits***

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Authority to terminate an officer’s employment before the normal retirement date or an officer’s decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits. Redundancy costs are recognised on an accruals basis in the Comprehensive

Income and Expenditure Statement against the appropriate service line at the earlier of when the Authority can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Authority recognises the costs for a restructuring.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the 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 enhanced pension benefits and replace them with the debits for the cash paid to the Pension Fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

- ***Post-Employment Benefits***

Pension Schemes

Employees of the Authority are members of two separate pension schemes:

- The Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS) (administered by the Authority)
- The Teachers' Pension Scheme (administered by Capita Teacher's Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education)

Both schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions) earned as employees work for the Authority.

However, the arrangements for the teachers' scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Authority. The scheme is therefore accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet. The Children and Family Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to Teachers' Pensions in year

- ***The Local Government Pension Scheme***

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

The liabilities of the scheme attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the 'projected unit method'. This is based on an assessment of future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees and assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover and projected earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices using a discount rate as shown in the assumptions in Note 16 to the accounts. The assets of the fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at fair value:

- Quoted securities - current bid price
- Unquoted securities - professional estimate
- Unitised securities - current bid price
- Property - market value

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 as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years- debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

  - *Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)* - e.g. net interest expense for the Authority - the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined 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 Pension 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 Pension Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
  - **Contributions paid to the Pension Fund -** cash paid as employer's contributions to the Pension Fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the 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 with debits and credits 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 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. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff (including teachers) are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the LGPS.

17. Value Added Tax (VAT)

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

18. 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 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 in a note to the accounts.

19. Contingent Assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a possible asset whose existence of such an asset will only be confirmed by the occurrence 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.

20. Events after the Reporting Period

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

a) 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.

b) 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.

21. Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Authority is a precepting authority who levies a precept on the collection funds of billing authorities (District/Borough Councils).

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

The council tax and NDR income for the year credited to the collection fund is the accrued income for the year. Regulations determine when it should be released from the collection fund and transferred to the General Fund of the billing authority or paid out of the collection funds to the major preceptors, (and central government for NDR) and in turn credited to their General Fund.

The difference between the income included in the CIES and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and is included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Since the collection of council tax and NDR income is in substance an agency arrangement, the cash collected by the billing authority from council tax and NDR debtors belongs proportionally to the billing authority and the major preceptors (and Central Government for NDR). There will therefore be a debtor / creditor position between the billing authority and each major preceptor (and Central Government) to be recognised since the net cash paid to each major preceptor in the year will not be its share of cash collected from council tax and non-domestic rates payers.

22. Schools

The *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK* confirms that the balance of control for Local Authority maintained schools (those categories of school identified in the School Standards Framework Act 1998, as amended) lies with the Authority. The Code also stipulates that those schools' assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows are recognised in the Local Authority financial statements. 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. The Authority does not recognise, in the case of Voluntary Aided (VA) or Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools, any land or building assets controlled and owned by the church diocese.

23. Investment Properties

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. The definition is not met if the property is used to facilitate the delivery of services, 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 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, gains 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 in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for proceeds in excess of £10,000) to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

24. Joint Operations

Joint operations are arrangements where the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have the rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities relating to the arrangement. The activities undertaken by the Authority in conjunction with other operators involve the use of the assets and resources of those joint operators. In relation to its interest in a joint operation, the Authority as a joint operator recognises:

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

25. Fair Value Measurement

The Authority measures some of its non-financial assets such as surplus assets and investment properties and some of its financial instruments 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:

- In the principal market for the asset or liability;

- 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 the market participants act in their economic best interest. When measuring the 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 appropriate valuation techniques 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 in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

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

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

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 Director of Corporate Resources.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the statement of accounts.

MR. L. BRECKON
CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR CORPORATE RESOURCES

THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently,
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent,
- Complied with the Local Authority Code,
- Kept proper accounting records which were up to date,
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.
- Assessed the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
- Used the going concern basis of accounting on the assumption that the functions of the Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future; and
- Maintained such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

I certify that the Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with proper practices and presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Leicestershire County Council and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2021.

C TAMBINI
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES
7 DECEMBER 2021

Pension Fund

(Registration number: 00328856RQ)

Introduction

The Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund (the Fund) is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and is administered by Leicestershire County Council.

General

The scheme is governed by the Public Service Pension Act 2013. The fund is administered in accordance with the following secondary legislation:

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

It is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme administered by Leicestershire County Council to provide pensions and other benefits for pensionable employees of Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council, the district councils in Leicestershire and a range of other scheduled and admitted bodies within the county area. Teachers, police officers and firefighters are not included as they come within other national pension schemes. The fund is overseen by the Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund Committee, which is a committee of Leicestershire County Council.

The Pension Committee consists of ten voting members and three non-voting staff representatives. The voting members are split into five County Council members, two from Leicester City Council and two representing the District Councils and a single member representing Universities. The Committee receives investment advice from the funds Actuary, Hymans Robertson LLP, and meets quarterly to consider relevant issues.

Membership

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

Organisations participating in the fund include the following:

- Scheduled bodies, which are automatically entitled to be members of the fund.
- Admitted bodies, which participate in the fund under the terms of an admission agreement between the fund and the employer. Admitted bodies include voluntary, charitable and similar not for profit organisations, or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following outsourcing to the private sector.

Membership details are set out below:

	31-Mar-20	31-Mar-21
Number of employers	268	283
Number of employees in the scheme (Actives)		
County Council	8,488	8,474
Other employers	27,291	28,498
Total	**35,779**	**36,972**
Number of pensioners		
County Council	11,399	11,641
Other employers	17,637	18,448
Total	**29,036**	**30,089**
Deferred pensioners		
County Council	12,377	12,145
Other employers	24,997	25,458
Total	**37,374**	**37,603**
Total number of members in the pension scheme	**102,189**	**104,664**

Funding

Benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. Contributions are made by active members of the fund in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 and range from 5.5% and 12.5% of pensionable pay for the financial year ending 31 March 2021. Employers contributions are set based on triennial actuarial funding valuations. In 2020/21 the average employer rate was 25.4% of pay (24.5% 2019/20).

Benefits

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

Fund Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

2019/20 £m		Notes	2020/21 £m
	Contributions		
(167.9)	Employer Contributions	6	(183.0)
(42.7)	Member Contributions	6	(45.1)
(12.3)	Transfers in from Other Pension Funds	7	(5.3)
(222.9)	**Total Contributions**		**(233.4)**
	Benefits		
127.8	Pensions	8	132.1
32.9	Commutation of Pensions and Lump Sum Retirement Benefits	8	27.5
3.1	Lump Sum Death Benefits		5.0
15.0	Payments to and on Account of Leavers	9	6.7
178.8	**Total Benefits**		**171.3**
(44.1)	**Net (Additions)/Withdrawals from Dealings with Members**		**(62.1)**
40.1	Management Expenses	10	45.3
(4.0)	**Net (Additions)/Withdrawals Including Fund Management Expenses**		**(16.8)**
	Returns on investments		
(35.8)	Investment income	11	(30.7)
196.6	(Profit) and Losses on Disposal of Investments and Changes in Value of Investments	12	(979.5)
160.8	**Net Returns on Investments (Sub Total)**		**(1,010.2)**
156.8	**Net (Increase) / Decrease in the Net Assets Available for Benefits fund During the Year**		**(1,027.0)**
(4,312.0)	Net assets of the scheme Opening		(4,155.2)
(4,155.2)	**Net assets of the scheme Closing**		**(5,182.2)**

Net Assets Statement as at 31 March 2021

2019/20 £m		Notes	2020/21 £m
4,152.7	Investment assets	12	5,183.5
(5.8)	Investment liabilities	12	(10.9)
4,146.9			**5,172.6**
12.7	Current Assets	15	15.3
(4.4)	Current Liabilities	15	(5.7)
4,155.2	**Net Assets of the Fund at 31 March**		**5,182.2**

The financial statements summarise the transactions of the Fund and deal with the net assets at the disposal of the Council. They do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the Fund year. The actuarial position on the Scheme, which does take account of such obligations, is set out in the Actuary's Report.

The notes on pages 85 to 112 form part of the Financial Statements.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Preparation

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2020/21 financial year and its position as at 31 March 2021. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 (the Code) which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

The Code requires disclosure of any accounting standards issued but not yet adopted. No such accounting standards have been identified for 2020/21.

The accounts report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. They do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year nor do they take account of the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits. The Fund has disclosed this information, by appending a copy of the report to the Pension Fund accounts.

The Accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

2. Accounting policies

The following principal accounting policies, have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements:

Fund Account – Revenue Recognition

a) Contribution Income

Normal contributions are accounted for on an accruals basis as follows:

- Employee contribution rates are set in accordance with LGPS regulations, using common percentage rates for all schemes which rise according to pensionable pay.
- Employer contributions are set at the percentage rate recommended by the fund actuary for the period to which they relate.

Employer deficit funding contributions are accounted for on the basis advised by the fund actuary in the rates and adjustment certificate issued to the relevant employing body. Additional employers' contributions in respect of ill-health and early retirements are accounted for in the year the event arose. Any amount due in the year but unpaid will be classed as a current financial asset.

b) Transfers to and from other Schemes

Transfers in and out relate to members who have either joined or left the fund. Individual transfers in/out are accounted for when received or paid. Transfers in from members wishing to use the proceeds of their additional voluntary contributions to purchase scheme benefits are accounted for on a receipts basis and are included in Transfers In, shown in Note 7. Bulk (group) transfers are accounted for in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.

c) Investments

Interest Income is recognised in the fund account as it accrues, using the effective interest rate of the financial instrument as at the date of acquisition or origination.

Dividend Income is recognised on the date the shares are quoted ex-dividend. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

Distributions from pooled funds are recognised at the date of issue. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

Property related income consists primarily of rental income. Rental income from operating leases on properties owned by the fund is recognised on a straight line basis over the terms of the lease.

Changes in the value of investments are recognised as income and comprise all realised and unrealised profit/ losses during the year.

Fund Account – Expense Items

d) Benefits Payable

Pensions and lump-sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the end of the financial year. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the net assets statement as current liabilities.

e) Taxation

The fund is a registered public service scheme under Section 1(1) of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004 and as such is exempt from UK income tax on interest received and from capital gains tax on the proceeds of investments sold. Income from overseas investments suffers withholding tax in the country of origin, unless exemption is permitted. Irrecoverable tax is accounted for as a fund expense as it arises.

f) Management Expenses

The fund discloses management expenses for administration, oversight and governance, and investment management. The disclosures comply with the CIPFA guidance ‘Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Expenses (2016).

Investment management expenses are charged directly to the Fund as part of management expenses and are not included in, or netted off from, the reported return on investments. Where fees are netted off quarterly valuations by investment managers, these expenses are shown separately in Note 10A and grossed up to increase the change in value of investments.

Fees of the external investment managers and custodian are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointments. Broadly, these are based on the market value of the investments under their management and therefore increase or reduce as the value of these investments change. Net Assets Statement

g) Investments

Equities traded through the Stock Exchange Electronic Trading Service (SETS) are valued at bid price. Other quoted securities and financial futures are valued at the last traded price. Private equity investments and unquoted securities are valued by the fund managers at the year end bid price, or if unavailable in accordance with generally accepted guidelines. Accrued interest is excluded from the market value of fixed interest securities and index-linked securities but is included in investment income receivable.

Pooled Investment Vehicle units are valued at either the closing bid prices or the closing single price reported by the relevant investment managers, which reflect the accepted market value of the underlying assets.

Private equity, global infrastructure and hedge fund valuations are based on valuations provided by the managers at the year end date. If valuations at the year end are not produced by the manager, the latest available valuation is adjusted for cash flows in the intervening period.

Property investments are stated at open market value based on an expert valuation provided by a RICS registered valuer and in accordance with RICS guidelines.

Options are valued at their mark to market value. Forward foreign exchange contracts outstanding at the year end are stated at fair value which is determined as the gain or loss that would arise if the outstanding contract was matched at the year end with an equal and opposite contract. The investment reconciliation table in Note 12 discloses the forward foreign exchange settled trades as net receipts and payments.

h) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are expressed in sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the year-end. Income from overseas investments is translated at a rate that is relevant at the time of the receipt of the income or the exchange rate at the year end, whichever comes first.

Surpluses and deficits arising on conversion or translation are dealt with as part of the change in market value of investments.

i) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits and includes amounts held by the fund's external managers. Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to minimal risk of changes in value.

j) Financial Assets

Financial Assets classes as amortised cost are carried in the net assets statement at amortised cost, i.e. the outstanding principal as at the year end date.

k) Financial Liabilities

A financial liability is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the fund becomes party to the liability. The fund recognises financial liabilities relating to investment trading at fair value as at the reporting date, and any gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of the liability between contract date, the year end date and the eventual settlement date are recognised in the fund account as part of the Change in Value of Investments. Other financial liabilities classed as amortised cost are carried at amortised cost, i.e. the amount carried in the net asset statement is the outstanding principal repayable plus accrued interest.

l) Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS19 and relevant actuarial standards. As permitted under the Code, the fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by appending a copy of the report to the Pension Fund Accounts.

m) Additional Voluntary Contributions

The Fund provides an additional voluntary contribution (AVC) scheme for its members, the assets of which are invested separately from those of the pension fund. AVC’s are not included in the accounts in accordance with Section 4(1)(b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016, but are disclosed for information in Note 26.

n) Contingent Assets and Contingent Liabilities

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

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the net asset statement but are disclosed by way of narrative in the notes.

3. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

Pension Fund Liability

The net pension fund liability is recalculated every three years by the appointed actuary, with annual updates in the intervening years. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines. The estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions which are agreed with the actuary and have been summarised in the introduction to the accounts. Actuarial revaluations are used to set future contribution rates and underpin the fund’s most significant investment management policies, for example in terms of the balance between longer term and short term yield/ return.

Investment in LGPS Central Asset Pool

This investment has been valued at cost on the basis that fair value as at 31 March 2021 cannot be reliably estimated. Management have made this judgement because; a) the Pool only became licensed to trade in February 2018, b) no dividends to shareholders has yet been declared, and c) no published trading results are yet available.

Directly Held Property

The fund’s property portfolio includes a number of directly owned properties which are leased commercially to various tenants. The fund has determined that these contracts all constitute operating lease arrangements under IAS7 and the Code, and therefore the properties are retained on the net assets statement at fair value. Rental income is recognised in the fund account on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

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

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts. Estimates and assumptions take account of historic experience, current trends and future expectations, however actual outcomes could be different from the assumptions and estimates made. The items in the net asset statement for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the following year are as follows:

Item	**Uncertainties**	**Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions**
Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, salary increases, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and returns on fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the fund with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	For instance: • A 0.5% decrease in the discount rate used would result in an increase in the pension liability of £897m • A 0.5% increase in the pension increase rate would increase the pension liability by £794m • A one year increase in assumed life expectancy would increase the liability by between £250m and £417m.
Private Equity Investments	Private equity investments are valued at fair value. Investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	Private equity investments are valued at £334m in the financial statements. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts by up to 28%, an increase or decrease of £94m.
Freehold, Leasehold Property and Pooled Property Funds	Valuations techniques are used to determine the carrying amount of pooled property funds and directly held freehold property. Where possible these valuation techniques are based on observable data but where this is not possible management uses the best available data. The outbreak of Covid-19 has impacted global financial markets and as at the valuation date, less weight can be attached to previous market evidence to inform opinions of value. There is an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement. Valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per the RICS Red Book Global. Consequently, less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the valuation.	Changes in the valuation assumptions used, together with significant changes in rental growth, vacancy levels or the discount rate could affect the fair value of property based investments by up to 15%, i.e. an increase or decrease of £57m on the carrying value of £377m.
Private Debt Investments	Private debt funds are valued in accordance with each investment managers valuation policy. These investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	Private Debt funds are valued at £266m in the financial statements. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts by up to 10%, an increase or decrease of £27m.

Infrastructure Investments	Infrastructure funds are valued in accordance with each investment managers valuation policy. Where possible these valuation techniques are based on observable data but where it is not possible management uses the best data available.	Infrastructure funds are valued at £246m in the financial statements. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts by up to 14%, an increase or decrease of £34m.
Timberland Investment	Investments are carried at net asset value as determined by the General Partner. In most cases fair value is derived from the audited financial statements provided by an underlying fund manager. In circumstances where audited financial statements are not available, the valuations are then derived from unaudited quarterly reports.	Timberland funds are valued at £134m in the financial statements. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts by up to 16%, an increase or decrease of £21m.

5. Events after the Reporting Date

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Corporate Resources on 7 December 2021. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2021, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information (where known).

There are no material events after the reporting date that would require an adjustment or additional disclosure to the accounts.

6. Contributions

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
	Employers	
160.0	Normal	169.2
4.6	Deficit Repair	10.7
0.0	Voluntary additional	0.0
2.4	Advanced payments for early retirements	1.4
0.9	Additional payments for ill-health retirements	1.8
	Members	
42.3	Normal	44.6
0.4	Purchase of additional benefits	0.4
210.6	**Total**	**228.1**

Additional payments for early retirements are paid by employers, once calculated and requested by the Fund, to reimburse the Pension Fund for the cost to the Fund of employees who are allowed to retire before their normal retirement age. Additional payments for ill-health retirements are generally paid by the insurance company, where the employer has taken out ill-health insurance and the claim has been accepted as valid.

On occasions employers without ill-health insurance are charged for at least part of the ill-health costs. Purchase of additional benefits by members allows either extra service to be credited on top of any service earned via employment, or an additional annual pension amount in cash to be paid following retirement. Termination valuation payments relate to the actuarially assessed deficit within an employer's sub-fund when their last active employee leaves.

The contributions can be analysed by the type of Member Body as follows:

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
50.1	Leicestershire County Council	55.1
150.1	Scheduled bodies	162.3
10.4	Admitted bodies	10.7
210.6	**Total**	**228.1**

7. Transfers In

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
12.3	Individual transfers in from other schemes	5.3
12.3	**Total**	**5.3**

8. Benefits

The benefits paid can be analysed by type of Member Body as follows:-

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
57.2	Leicestershire County Council	56.9
98.5	Scheduled bodies	99.1
8.1	Admitted bodies	8.6
163.8	**Total**	**164.6**

9. Payments to and on Account of Leavers

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
0.3	Refunds to members leaving the scheme	0.6
14.7	Individual transfers to other schemes	6.1
15.0	**Total**	**6.7**

10. Management Expenses

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
37.4	Investment Management Expenses (Note 10A)	43.6
2.0	Pension Scheme Administration Costs	1.4
0.7	Oversight and Governance Expenses	0.3
40.1	**Total**	**45.3**

10A. Investment Management Expenses

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
24.6	Management Expenses	23.3
12.1	Transaction Costs	13.2
0.7	Performance Related Fees	7.1
37.4	**Total**	**43.6**

11. Investment Income

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
1.8	Dividends from equities	0.9
0.1	Income from Government Bonds	0.0
2.0	Income from index-linked securities	1.4
24.8	Income from pooled investment vehicles	22.5
6.7	Net rents from properties	5.8
0.6	Interest on cash or cash equivalents	1.0
(0.2)	Net Currency Profit / (Loss)	(0.9)
35.8	**Total**	**30.7**

12. Investments

	Value at 1 April 2020 £m	Purchases at Cost and Derivative Payments £m	Sales Proceeds and Derivative Receipts £m	Change In Market Value £m	Value at 31 March 2021 £m
Equities	33.8	40.4	(29.2)	18.1	63.1
Government Bonds	0.7	16.3	(13.6)	(0.1)	3.3
Index-linked securities	339.9	160.5	(218.3)	6.3	288.4
Pooled investment vehicles	3,527.4	1,145.8	(1,166.9)	868.9	4,375.2
Properties	99.6	9.7	0.0	(0.7)	108.6
Derivatives contracts	57.0	4.0	(144.1)	87.0	3.9
Cash and currency & other investment balances	88.5	241.6	0.0	0.0	330.1
Total	**4,146.9**	**1,618.3**	**(1,572.1)**	**979.5**	**5,172.6**

	Value at 1 April 2019 £m	Purchases at Cost and Derivative Payments £m	Sales Proceeds and Derivative Receipts £m	Change In Market Value £m	Value at 31 March 2020 £m
Equities	82.4	53.6	(94.3)	(7.9)	33.8
Government Bonds	28.9	74.1	(104.3)	2.0	0.7
Index-linked securities	391.2	404.5	(465.1)	9.3	339.9
Pooled investment vehicles	3,575.0	509.6	(419.6)	(137.6)	3,527.4
Properties	102.6	0.2	0.0	(3.2)	99.6
Derivatives contracts	(4.0)	122.0	(1.8)	(59.2)	57.0
Cash and currency and other investment balances	131.1	0.0	(42.6)	0.0	88.5
Total	**4,307.2**	**1,164.0**	**(1,127.7)**	**(196.6)**	**4,146.9**

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

The Fund has the following investments which exceed 5% of the total net value of assets:

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
0.0	LGPS Central – All World Equity Climate Multi Factor Fund	775.0
307.3	LGPS Central - Global Equity Active Multi Manager Fund	454.5
231.3	Legal and General North America Index Fund	328.4
768.8	**Total**	**1,557.9**

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
	Equities	
14.4	UK quoted	29.3
1.3	UK unquoted	1.3
18.1	Overseas quoted	32.5
33.8		**63.1**
	Government Bonds	
0.0	UK Government Unquoted	0.0
0.0	UK Government Quoted	2.6
0.0	Overseas Quoted	0.0
0.0		**2.6**
	Corporate Bonds	
0.7	UK unquoted	0.7
0.7		**0.7**
	Index Linked Securities	
299.9	UK quoted	255.8
40.0	Overseas quoted	32.6
339.9		**288.4**
	Pooled investment vehicles (unquoted)	
279.0	Property funds	267.9
248.5	Private equity	363.9
560.9	Bond and debt funds	670.5
0.2	Hedge funds	0.1
1,694.0	Equity-based funds	2,349.8
16.0	Commodity-based funds	12.8
143.9	Timberland fund	134.1
145.9	Managed futures fund	146.7
151.8	Targeted return fund	183.2
287.2	Infrastructure fund	246.2
3,527.4		**4,375.2**
	Properties	
99.6	**UK (Note 14)**	**108.6**
86.5	**Cash and currency**	**331.1**
	Derivatives contracts	
53.7	Forward foreign exchange assets	2.1
0.0	Currency option assets	0.0
9.2	Other option assets	10.1
(5.9)	Forward foreign exchange liabilities	(8.3)
0.0	Currency option liabilities	0.0
57.0	**Sterling Denominated**	**3.9**
2.0	**Other Investment Balances**	**(1.0)**
4,146.9	**Total Investments**	**5,172.6**

At 31 March 2021 pooled investment vehicles include investments in fund-of-funds which have an underlying value of £363m in private equity, £25m in illiquid corporate bonds and £134m in timberland.

13. Derivatives

The Fund holds derivatives for a number of different reasons. Forward foreign exchange contracts are held to benefit from expected changes in the value of currencies relative to each other. Futures can be held to gain full economic exposure to markets without the requirement to make a full cash investment and can be held to ensure that the Fund's exposures are run efficiently. Options are generally used to express an investment view but can give a much higher economic exposure than is required to be paid for the options – they also ensure that the potential loss is limited to the amount paid for the option.

Forward Foreign Exchange Contracts

All forward foreign exchange contracts are classed as 'Over the Counter' and at the year end the net exposure to forward foreign exchange contracts can be summarised as follows:

Settlement	Currency Bought	Local Value Millions	Currency Sold	Local Value Millions	Asset Value £m	Liability Value £m
Within 1 Month	GBP	8.6	EUR	9.7	0.3	-
	GBP	0.3	USD	0.4	0.0	-
1 - 3 Months	GBP	80.0	JPY	12,108.3	0.6	-
	GBP	38.9	AUD	69.8	0.4	-
	GBP	91.1	EUR	106.4	0.3	-
	GBP	37.9	INR	3,840.0	0.3	-
	GBP	25.7	CHF	33.2	0.1	-
	GBP	10.8	SEK	128.4	0.1	-
	GBP	6.5	DKK	56.3	0.0	-
	GBP	5.9	THB	253.6	0.0	-
	GBP	20.3	CAD	35.3	-	(0.1)
	GBP	66.7	CNY	609.3	-	(0.2)
	GBP	9.5	HKD	102.9	-	(0.1)
	GBP	16.4	KRW	25,926.0	-	(0.2)
	GBP	39.2	TWD	1,530.0	-	(0.1)
	GBP	834.5	USD	1,160.2	-	(7.5)
Open forward currency contracts at 31 March 2021					**2.1**	**(8.2)**
Net forward currency contracts at 31 March 2021						**(6.1)**
Prior Period Comparison:						
Open forward currency contracts at 31 March 2020					**53.6**	**(5.8)**
Net forward currency contracts at 31 March 2020					**47.8**	

Options

All options held by the Fund were exchange traded. The value of these options and the assets to which they were exposed can be summarised as follows:

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
9.2	Equity rate-based	10.1
9.2	**Total**	**10.1**

14. Property Investments

31 March 2020 £m		31 March 2021 £m
71.3	Freehold	83.5
15.9	Long Leasehold (over 50 years unexpired)	17.5
12.4	Medium/Short Leasehold (under 50 years unexpired)	7.6
99.6	**Total**	**108.6**

All properties, with the exception of the Fund's farm investment, were valued on an open market basis by Nigel Holroyd and Adrian Payne of Colliers Capital UK at 31st March 2021. The Fund's farm was valued on an open market basis by James Forman of Leicestershire County Council. All of the Valuers are Members of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

14A Property Holdings

31 March 2020 £m		31 March 2021 £m
102.6	**Opening Balance**	**99.6**
	Additions:	
0.0	Purchases	9.6
0.2	Subsequent Expenditure	0.1
0.0	Disposals	0.0
(3.2)	Net increase in market Value	(0.7)
99.6	**Total**	**108.6**

15. Current Assets and Liabilities

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
9.9	Contributions due from employers	10.9
2.4	Other Debtors	4.4
0.4	Due from Ministry of Justice	0.0
12.7	**Current assets**	**15.3**
(3.1)	Due to Leicestershire County Council	(1.8)
(1.1)	Fund Management Fees Outstanding	(1.8)
(0.2)	Other Creditors	(2.0)
(4.4)	**Current liabilities**	**(5.7)**
8.3	**Net current assets and liabilities**	**9.6**

Contributions due at the year end were received by the due date.

16. Analysis of Investments by Manager

The Fund employs external investment managers to manage all of its investments apart from an amount of cash and a farm property, which are managed by Leicestershire County Council. This structure ensures that the total Fund performance is not overly influenced by the performance of any one manager.

The market value of investments in the hands of each manager is shown in the table below:-

At 31 March 2020 £m	%		At 31 March 2021 £m	%
		Investments Managed by LGPS Central Pool		
0.0	0.0	All World Equity Climate Multi Factor Fund	775.0	15.1
		Global equities multi-manager fund:		
98.8	2.4	*Harris*	129.5	2.4
101.2	2.4	*Schroders*	173.1	3.3
107.3	2.6	*Union*	151.8	3.0
		Emerging market equities multi-manager fund:		
48.6	1.2	*BMO*	68.7	1.3
49.9	1.2	*UBS*	74.9	1.5
53.7	1.3	*Vontobel*	71.1	1.4
		Global Active Emerging Market Bond MMF		
0.0	0.0	*Amundi*	53.9	1.1
0.0	0.0	*M&G*	53.9	1.1
		Global Active Investment Grade Corporate Bond MMF		
0.0	0.0	*Neuberger Berman*	53.1	1.0
0.0	0.0	*Fidelity*	53.0	1.0
0.8	0.0	LGPS central PE primary partnership 2018 LP	3.9	0.1
460.3	**11.1**	**Sub Total**	**1,661.9**	**32.3**
		Investments Managed outside of Pool		
1,219.8	29.4	Legal & General	883.4	17.1
421.9	10.2	Kames Capital	449.4	8.7
225.0	5.4	Adams Street Partners	334.3	6.4
277.5	6.7	Partners Group	265.9	5.1
166.8	4.0	Ruffer LLP	206.0	3.9
201.8	4.9	LaSalle	192.8	3.7
151.8	3.7	Pictet Asset Management	183.2	3.5
37.3	0.9	Internally Managed	173.6	3.3
145.9	3.5	Aspect Capital	146.7	2.9
143.9	3.5	Stafford Timberland	134.1	2.6
126.0	3.0	Colliers Capital UK	129.0	2.5
118.5	2.9	JP Morgan Asset Management	114.1	2.2
103.6	2.5	IFM Investors (UK) Ltd	106.6	2.1
88.1	2.1	M&G	71.6	1.4
49.8	1.2	Cristofferson, Robb & Co	38.0	0.7
75.7	1.8	Kravis Kohlberg Roberts & Co	38.0	0.7
21.6	0.5	Aberdeen Standard Life	24.9	0.5
15.8	0.4	Infracapital	18.2	0.4
1.1	0.0	Catapult Venture Managers	0.8	0.0
0.2	0.0	EnTrustPermal	0.1	0.0
94.5	2.3	Ashmore	0.0	0.0
3,686.6	**88.9**	***Sub Total***	**3,510.6**	**67.7**
4,146.9	**100.0**	**Grand Total**	**5,172.6**	**100.0**

17. Custody of Assets

All the Fund's directly held assets are held by external custodians and are therefore not at risk from the financial failure of any of the Fund's investment managers. Most of the pooled investment funds are registered with administrators that are independent of the investment manager.

18. Operation and Management of fund

Details of how the Fund is administered and managed are included in the Pension Fund Annual Report.

19. Employing bodies and fund members

A full list of all bodies that have active members within the Fund is included in the in the Pensions fund annual report available from the fund website.

20. Valuation of financial instruments carried at fair value

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

Level 1
Financial instruments at Level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Products classified as level 1 comprised quoted equities, quoted fixed interest securities, quoted index-linked securities and pooled investment vehicles where the underlying assets fall into one of these categories.

Listed investments are shown at bid prices. The bid value of the investment is based on the bid market quotation of the relevant stock exchange.

Level 2
Financial instruments at Level 2 are those where quoted market prices are not available; for example, where an instrument is traded in a market that is not considered to be active, or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value and where these techniques use inputs that are based significantly on observable market data.

Level 3
Financial instruments at Level 3 are those where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data. Such instruments would include unquoted equity investments, hedge funds and infrastructure, which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions.

The values of the investment in private equity are based on valuations provided by the general partners to the private equity funds in which Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund has invested. These valuations are prepared in accordance with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines, which follow the valuation principles of IFRS and US GAAP.

The values of the investment in hedge funds and infrastructure are based on the net asset value provided by the fund manager. Assurances over the valuation are gained from the independent audit of the value.

The following tables provide an analysis of the financial assets and liabilities of the pension fund grouped into levels 1 to 3, based on the level at which fair value is observable.

Values at 31st March 2021	Quoted market price Level 1 £m	Using observable inputs Level 2 £m	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3 £m	Total £m
Financial assets at fair value	2,403.0	1,030.1	1,750.4	5,183.5
Financial liabilities at fair value	(10.9)	0.0	0.0	(10.9)
Net financial assets	**2392.1**	**1,030.1**	**1,750.4**	**5,172.6**

Values at 31st March 2020	Quoted market price Level 1 £m	Using observable inputs Level 2 £m	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3 £m	Total £m
Financial assets at fair value	1,092.5	1365.7	1,694.6	4,152.8
Financial liabilities at fair value	(5.9)	(0.0)	0.0	(5.9)
Net financial assets	**1,086.6**	**1365.7**	**1,694.6**	**4,146.9**

21. Classification of Financial Instruments

2019/20 £m				2020/21 £m		
Fair value through profit and loss	Assets at amort-ised cost	Liabilities at amort-ised cost		Fair value through profit and loss	Assets at amort-ised cost	Liabilities at amort-ised cost
			Financial Assets			
33.8	0.0	0.0	Equities	63.1	0.0	0.0
0.7	0.0	0.0	Government Bonds	3.2	0.0	0.0
339.9	0.0	0.0	Index-linked securities	288.5	0.0	0.0
3,527.4	0.0	0.0	Pooled investment vehicles	4,339.7	0.0	0.0
53.7	0.0	0.0	Derivatives contracts	2.1	0.0	0.0
0.0	86.5	0.0	Cash and currency	0.0	331.2	0.0
0.0	0.7	0.0	Other investment balances	0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.8	0.0	Sundry debtors and prepayments	0.0	1.0	0.0
3,955.5	**88.0**	**0.0**		**4,696.6**	**332.2**	**0.0**
			Financial Liabilities			
(5.9)	0.0	0.0	Derivatives contracts	(8.3)	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Other investment balances	0.0	0.0	(2.6)
0.0	0.0	(4.4)	Sundry Creditors	0.0	0.0	(4.1)
(5.9)	**0.0**	**(4.4)**		**(8.3)**	**0.0**	**(6.7)**

The value of debtors and creditors reported in the Notes to the Statement of Accounts are solely those amounts meeting the definition of a financial instrument. The balances of debtors and creditors reported in the balance sheet and Notes include balances which do not meet the definition of a financial instrument, such as tax-based debtors and creditors.

The following gains and losses are recognised in the Fund Account:

2019/20 £m		2020/21 £m
	Financial Assets	
(241.4)	Fair value through profit and loss	943.8
	Financial Liabilities	
48.0	Fair value through profit and loss	0.2
(193.4)	**Total**	**944.0**

All realised gains and losses arise from the sale or disposal of financial assets which have been derecognised I the financial statements. The fund has not entered into any financial guarantees that are required to be accounted for as financial instruments.

22. External Audit Fee

2019/20 £		2020/21 £
25,530	Payable in respect of external audit	34,530
25,530	**Total**	**34,530**

23. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

Risk and risk management

The Fund’s primary long-term risk is that the Fund’s assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e. the promised benefits payable to members). Therefore, the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the Fund and to maximise the opportunity for gains across the whole Fund portfolio. The fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (price risk, currency risk and interest rate risk) and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the Fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure that there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund’s required cash flows. These investment risks are managed as part of the overall pension fund risk management programme.

Responsibility for the Fund’s risk management strategy rests with Leicestershire County Council’s Local Pension Committee (formerly called the Pension Fund Management Board).

a) Market risk

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity and commodity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The Fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities. The level of risk exposure depends on market conditions, expectations of future price and yield movements and the asset mix.

The objective of the Fund’s risk management strategy is to identify, manage and control market risk within acceptable parameters, whilst optimising the return on risk.

In general, excessive volatility in market risk is managed through the diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical and industry sectors and individual securities. To mitigate market risk, Leicestershire County Council and its investment advisors undertake appropriate monitoring of market conditions and benchmark analysis.

The Fund manages these risks via an annual strategy review which ensures that market risk remains within acceptable levels. On occasion equity futures contracts and exchange traded option contracts on individual securities may be used to manage market risk on investments, and in exceptional circumstances over-the-counter derivative contracts may be used to manage specific aspects of market risk.

Other price risk

Other price risk represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign exchange risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all such investments in the market.

The Fund is exposed to share and derivative price risk. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which the future price is uncertain. All securities investments present a risk of loss of capital. For all investments held by the Fund, the maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments. The Fund's investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities and other financial instruments is monitored to ensure that it is within the limits specified in the Fund's investment strategy.

Other price risk – sensitivity analysis

Following analysis of historic data and expected investment return movement during the financial year, in consultation with the Fund's investment advisors, Leicestershire County Council has determined that the following movements in market prices risk are reasonably possible for the 2020/21 reporting period:

Asset type	Potential market movements (+/-)
Overseas government bonds	8%
Global credit	10%
Global government index-linked bonds	8%
UK equities	16%
Overseas equities	19%
UK property	15%
Private equity	28%
Infrastructure	14%
Commodities	14%
Hedge funds and targeted return funds	12%
Timberland	16%
Cash	1%

The potential price changes disclosed above are broadly consistent with one-standard deviation movement in the value of assets. The sensitivities are consistent with the assumptions contained in the annual strategy review and the analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates, remain the same.

Had the market price of the Fund's investments increased/decreased in line with the above, the change in net assets available to pay benefits in the market price would have been as follows (the prior year comparator is shown in the second table):

Asset Type	Value at 31st March 2021 £m	Percentage change %	Value on increase £m	Value on decrease £m
UK equities	30.6	16	35.5	25.7
Overseas equities	32.5	19	38.7	26.3
UK Corporate Bonds	0.7	10	0.8	0.6
Global index-linked bonds	291.1	8	314.4	267.8
Pooled property funds	267.9	15	308.1	227.7
Pooled private equity funds	363.9	28	465.8	262.0
Pooled bond and debt funds	670.4	10	737.4	603.4
Pooled hedge funds	0.1	12	0.1	0.1
Pooled equity funds	2,349.6	19	2,796.0	1,903.2
Pooled commodity funds	12.8	14	14.6	11.0
Pooled targeted return funds	183.2	12	205.2	161.2
Pooled timberland fund	134.1	16	155.6	112.6
Pooled managed futures fund	146.7	12	164.3	129.1
Pooled infrastructure fund	246.2	14	280.7	211.7
UK property	108.6	15	124.9	92.3
Cash and currency	331.3	1	334.6	328.0
Options, futures, other investment balances, current assets and current liabilities	2.9	1	2.9	2.9
Total assets available to pay benefits	**5,172.6**		**5,979.6**	**4,365.6**

Asset Type	Value at 31st March 2020 £m	Percentage change %	Value on increase £m	Value on decrease £m
UK equities	15.7	16	18.2	13.2
Overseas equities	18.1	19	21.5	14.7
UK Corporate Bonds	0.7	10	0.8	0.6
Global index-linked bonds	339.9	8	367.1	312.7
Pooled property funds	279.0	15	320.9	237.2
Pooled private equity funds	248.5	28	318.1	178.9
Pooled bond and debt funds	560.9	10	617.0	504.8
Pooled hedge funds	0.2	12	0.2	0.2
Pooled equity funds	1694.0	19	2,015.9	1,372.1
Pooled commodity funds	16.0	14	18.2	13.8
Pooled targeted return funds	151.8	12	170.0	133.6
Pooled timberland fund	143.9	16	166.9	120.9
Pooled managed futures fund	145.9	12	163.4	128.4
Pooled infrastructure fund	287.2	14	327.4	247.0
UK property	99.6	15	114.5	84.7
Cash and currency	86.5	1	87.4	85.6
Options, futures, other investment balances, current assets and current liabilities	59.0	1	59.6	58.4
Total assets available to pay benefits	**4,146.9**		**4,787.1**	**3,506.8**

Interest rate risk

The Fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. These investments are subject to interest rate risk, which represents the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Fund is not highly exposed to interest rate risk, but monitoring is carried out to ensure that the exposure is close to the agreed asset allocation benchmark.

The Fund’s direct exposure to interest rate movements as at 31st March 2021 and 31st March 2020 is set out below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value:

As at 31st March 2020 £m	Asset type	As at 31st March 2021 £m
86.5	Cash and Currency	331.3
339.9	Fixed interest securities	291.1
426.4	**Total**	**622.4**

Interest rate risk sensitivity analysis

The Fund recognises that interest rates can vary and can affect both income to the Fund and the value of the net assets to pay benefits, A 1% movement in interest rates (100 BPS) is consistent with the level of sensitivity expected within the Fund’s asset allocation strategy and the Fund’s investment advisors expect that long-term average rates are expected to move less than 100 BPS from one year to the next and experience suggests that such movements are likely. The analysis that follows assumes that all other variables, in particular exchange rates, remain constant, and shows the effect in the year on the net assets available to pay benefits of a +/- 100 BPS change in interest rates.

Asset type	Carrying amount as at 31st March 2021	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+100 BPS	-100 BPS
	£m	£m	£m
Cash and Currency	331.3	3.3	(3.3)
Fixed interest securities	291.1	2.9	(2.9)
Total	**622.4**	**6.2**	**(6.2)**

Asset type	Carrying amount as at 31st March 2020	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+100 BPS	-100 BPS
	£m	£m	£m
Cash and Currency	86.5	0.9	(0.9)
Fixed interest securities	339.9	3.4	(3.4)
Total	**426.4**	**4.3**	**(4.3)**

Currency risk

Currency risk represents the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to currency risk in financial instruments that are denominated in any other currency other than sterling. The Fund holds both monetary and non-monetary assets denominated in currencies other than sterling.

The Fund’s currency rate risk is actively managed and the neutral position is to hedge 50% of the exposure back to sterling. The table below summarises the Fund’s currency exposure if it was unhedged as at 31st March 2020 and as at the previous period end:

Asset value as at 31st March 2020 £m	Currency exposure – asset type	Asset value as at 31st March 2021 £m
18.1	Overseas equities	32.5
40.0	Overseas government index-linked bonds	32.6
247.4	Private equity pooled funds	363.1
0.2	Pooled hedge Funds	0.1
49.8	Pooled Bond and Debt Fund	144.1
1,409.6	Overseas and Global equity-based pooled funds	2,156.6
16.0	Commodity-based pooled funds	12.8
287.2	Infrastructure pooled funds	246.2
143.9	Timberland pooled fund	134.1
94.5	Emerging Market Debt pooled fund	107.8
2,306.7	**Total overseas assets**	**3,229.9**

Currency risk – sensitivity analysis

Following analysis of historical data in consultation with the Fund’s investment advisors, it is considered that the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange rate movements is 13% (as measured by one standard deviation).

A 13% fluctuation in the currency is considered reasonable based on the Fund advisor’s analysis of the long-term historical movements in the month-end exchange rates over a rolling 36-month period. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant.

A 13% strengthening/weakening of the pound against the various currencies in which the fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets available to pay benefits as follows:

Current exposure – asset type	Asset value as at 31st March 2021	Change to net assets available to pay benefits	
		13%	-13%
	£m	£m	£m
Overseas equities	32.5	36.7	28.3
Overseas government index-linked bonds	32.6	36.8	28.4
Private equity pooled funds	363.1	410.3	315.9
Pooled hedge funds	0.1	0.1	0.1
Pooled Bond and Debt Fund	144.1	162.8	125.4
Overseas equity-based pooled funds	2,156.6	2,437.0	1,876.2
Commodity-based pooled funds	12.8	14.5	11.1
Infrastructure pooled funds	246.2	278.2	214.2
Timberland pooled fund	134.1	151.5	116.7
Emerging Market Debt pooled fund	107.8	121.8	93.8
Total change in assets available	**3,229.9**	**3,649.7**	**2,810.1**

b) Credit risk

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. The market value of investments generally reflects an assessment of credit in their pricing and consequently the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities.

In essence the Fund's entire investment portfolio is exposed to some form of credit risk, with the exception of derivatives positions, where the risk equates to the net market value of a positive derivative position. However, the selection of high quality counterparties, brokers and financial institutions minimises credit risk that may occur through the failure to settle a transaction in a timely manner.

Contractual credit risk is represented by the net payment or receipt that remains outstanding, and the cost of replacing the derivative position in the event of a counterparty default. The residual risk is minimal due to various insurance policies held by the exchanges to cover defaulting counterparties.

Credit risk on over-the-counter derivative contracts is minimised as counterparties are recognised financial intermediaries with acceptable credit ratings determined by a recognised ratings agency.

Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they are rated independently and have a high credit rating. Many of the Fund's investment managers use the money market fund run by the Fund's custodian to deposit any cash within their portfolios, although one manager (Kames Capital) lends cash directly to individual counterparties in the London money markets. Any cash held directly by the Fund is deposited in an Aberdeen Standard Life Money Market Fund.

The Fund believes it has managed its exposure to credit risk and has never had any experience of default of uncollectible deposits. The Fund's cash holding at 31st March 2021 was £331m (31st March 2020: £87m).

c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Fund therefore takes steps to ensure that it has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments. All of the Fund's cash holdings are available for immediate access, although on some occasions this will involve withdrawing cash balances from the portfolios of investment managers.

The Fund is allowed to borrow to meet short-term cash flow requirements, although this is an option that is only likely to be used in exceptional circumstances.

The Fund defines liquid assets as assets that can be converted to cash within three months. Illiquid assets are those assets which will take longer than three months to convert to cash. As at 31st March 2021 the value of illiquid assets (considered to be the Fund's investments in property, hedge funds, private equity, timberland and infrastructure) was £1,085m, which represented 21% of total Fund assets. (31st March 2020: £1060m, which represented 26% of total Fund assets).

The Fund remains cash flow positive for non-investment related items so there is no requirement to produce detailed cash flow forecasts. All investment related cash flows are known about sufficiently far in advance that they can be covered by taking action in a manner that is both cost-effective and in line with the Fund's investment strategy.

All financial liabilities at 31st March 2021 are due within one year.

Refinancing risk

The key risk is that the Fund will be forced to sell a significant proportion of its financial instruments at a time of unfavourable interest rates, but this appears a highly unlikely scenario. The Fund's investment strategy and the structure of its portfolios have sufficient flexibility to ensure that any required sales are considered to be the ones that are in the best financial interests of the Fund at that time. There are no financial instruments that have a refinancing risk as part of the Fund’s treasury management and investment strategies.

Securities Lending

The Fund ceased to take part in securities lending activities towards the end of the 2017/18 financial year and there was no stock on loan at 31 March 2021

Reputational Risk

The Fund’s prudent approach to the collective risks listed above and through best practice in corporate governance ensures that reputational risk is kept to a minimum.

24. Related Party Transactions

Leicestershire County Council is the administering authority for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) within Leicestershire and is one of the major employers within the scheme. Information regarding key management personnel is provided within the main accounts of Leicestershire County Council. Members and officers of the Council involved in managing the Fund are allowed to be members of the LGPS. All transactions between Leicestershire County Council and the Fund and all benefit payments from the Fund are in accordance with the regulations governing the LGPS. There are no transactions therefore that are made on a different basis from those with non-related parties.

LGPS Central Ltd has been established to manage, on a pooled basis, investment assets of nine Local Government Pension Schemes across the Midlands. It is jointly owned in equal amounts by the eight Administering Authorities participating in the Pool. £1.3m is invested in the share capital and £0.7m in a corporate bond with LGPS Central Ltd.

During 2020/21 a total of £0.9m was payable to LPGS Central Ltd for governance, operator and product development fees. Of these £0.1m was a creditor balance at the year end. As at 31 March 2021, £1.7bn of LCC LGPS investments were managed by LGPS Central Ltd.

25. Contingent Liabilities and Contractual Commitments

When a member has left the Pension Fund before accruing sufficient service to qualify for a benefit from the scheme, they may choose either a refund of contributions or a transfer value to another pension fund. There are a significant number of these leavers who have not taken either of these options and as their ultimate choice is unknown, it is not possible to reliably estimate a liability. The impact of these ‘frozen refunds’ has, however, been considered in the calculation of the actuarial liabilities of the fund.

If all of these individuals choose to take a refund of contributions the cost to the Fund will be around £2.1m, although the statutory requirement of the Fund to pay interest to some members would increase this figure. Should all of the members opt to transfer to another scheme the cost will be considerably higher.

At 31st March 2021, the Fund had the following contractual commitments:-

	31-Mar-20 £m	31-Mar-21 £m
Aberdeen Standard Life Capital SOF III Fund	13.9	10.0
Adams Street Partners	150.3	125.9
Catapult Venture Managers	0.5	0.5
Infracapital Greenfield Partners I Fund	15.3	12.4
KKR Global Infrastructure	27.1	22.0
LGPS Central PE Primary Partnership 2018 LP	9.0	7.0
M & G Debt Opportunities Fund IV	0.0	2.8
Partners Multi Asset Credit V S.C.A., SICAV-RAIF	25.0	0.0
Stafford International Timberland Funds VII & VIII	1.7	1.1

Total	**242.8**	**181.7**

25A Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel are members of the pension fund committee and the Director of Corporate Resources. It has not been possible to apportion, on a reasonable basis, the costs and benefits of key management personnel between the Council and the Fund. However, Members' Allowances and Officers' Remuneration are disclosed in Notes 32 and 33 of the County Councils accounts.

26. Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC's)

The Fund has an arrangement with Prudential whereby additional contributions can be paid to them for investment, with the intention that the accumulated value will be used to purchase additional retirement benefits. AVCs are not included in the Pension Fund Accounts in accordance with Regulation 4(2) (c) of the Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009.

During the previous financial year, 2019/20, £1.7m in contributions were paid to Prudential. The capital value of all AVC's at year end , 31 March 2020 was £17.7m . The equivalent figures for 2020/21 are not available at the time of the publication of the draft accounts. This will be updated during the audit of the statement of accounts.

27. Policy Statements

The Fund has a number of policy statements which can be found on the LPGS website, https://leicsmss.pensiondetails.co.uk/home/scheme-member/lgps/fund-admin-and-guidance/pension-fund-and-financeThey have not been reproduced within the Accounts as in combination they are sizeable, and it is not considered that they would add any significant value to most users of the accounts. The Statements are:

Investment Strategy Statement (ISS)
Administration and Communication Strategy
Funding Strategy Statement (FSS)

28. Compliance Statement

Income and other taxes

The Fund has been able to gain either total or partial relief from local taxation on the Fund's investment income from eligible countries. The Fund is exempt from UK Capital Gains and Corporation tax.

Self-investment

There has been no material employer related investment in 2020/21 (or 2019/20). There were occasions on which contributions were paid over by the employer later than the statutory date, and these instances are technically classed as self-investment. In no instance were the sums involved material, and neither were they outstanding for long periods.

Calculation of transfer values

There are no discretionary benefits included in the calculation of transfer values.

Pension Increase

All pension increases are made in accordance with the Pensions Increase (Review) Order 1997.

Changes to LGPS

All changes to LGPS are made via the issue of Statutory Instruments by Central Government.

Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund ("the Fund") Actuarial Statement for 2020/21

This statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 57(1)(d) of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. It has been prepared at the request of the Administering Authority of the Fund for the purpose of complying with the aforementioned regulation.

Description of Funding Policy

The funding policy is set out in the Administering Authority's Funding Strategy Statement (FSS). In summary, the key funding principles are as follows:

- to ensure the long-term solvency of the Fund using a prudent long-term view. This will ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet all members'/dependants' benefits as they fall due for payment;
- to ensure that employer contribution rates are reasonably stable where appropriate;
- to minimise the long-term cash contributions which employers need to pay to the Fund, by recognising the link between assets and liabilities and adopting an investment strategy which balances risk and return (this will also minimise the costs to be borne by Council Tax payers);
- to reflect the different characteristics of different employers in determining contribution rates. This involves the Fund having a clear and transparent funding strategy to demonstrate how each employer can best meet its own liabilities over future years; and
- to use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately to the Council Tax payer from an employer defaulting on its pension obligations.

The FSS sets out how the Administering Authority seeks to balance the conflicting aims of securing the solvency of the Fund and keeping employer contributions stable. For employers whose covenant was considered by the Administering Authority to be sufficiently strong, contributions have been stabilised to have a sufficiently high likelihood of achieving the funding target over 17 years. Asset-liability modelling has been carried out which demonstrate that if these contribution rates are paid and future contribution changes are constrained as set out in the FSS, there is at least a 75% likelihood that the Fund will achieve the funding target over 17 years.

Funding Position as at the last formal funding valuation

The most recent actuarial valuation carried out under Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 was as at 31 March 2019. This valuation revealed that the Fund's assets, which at 31 March 2019 were valued at £4,312 million, were sufficient to meet 89% of the liabilities (i.e. the present value of promised retirement benefits) accrued up to that date. The resulting deficit at the 2019 valuation was £537 million.

Each employer had contribution requirements set at the valuation, with the aim of achieving their funding target within a time horizon and liability measure as per the FSS. Individual employers' contributions for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023 were set in accordance with the Fund's funding policy as set out in its FSS.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions and Method used to value the liabilities

Full details of the methods and assumptions used are described in the 2019 formal valuation report.

Method

The liabilities were assessed using an accrued benefits method which takes into account pensionable membership up to the valuation date; and makes an allowance for expected future salary growth to retirement or expected earlier date of leaving pensionable membership.

Assumptions

A market-related approach was taken to valuing the liabilities, for consistency with the valuation of the Fund assets at their market value.

The key financial assumptions adopted for the 2019 valuation were as follows:

Financial assumptions	31 March 2019
Discount rate	3.8%
Salary increase assumption	2.8%
Benefit increase assumption (CPI)	2.3%

The key demographic assumption was the allowance made for longevity. The life expectancy assumptions are based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2018 model, an allowance for smoothing of recent mortality experience and a long-term rate of 1.25% p.a. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are as follows:

	Males	Females
Current Pensioners	21.5 years	23.8 years
Future Pensioners*	22.2 years	25.2 years

*Aged 45 at the 2019 Valuation.

Copies of the 2019 valuation report and Funding Strategy Statement are available on request from the Administering Authority to the Fund.

Experience over the period since 31 March 2019

Markets were severely disrupted by COVID 19 in March 2020, but in the 2020/21 year they recovered strongly. As a result, the funding level of the Fund as at 31 March 2021 is likely to be broadly similar to that reported at the previous formal valuation.

The next actuarial valuation will be carried out as at 31 March 2022. The Funding Strategy Statement will also be reviewed at that time.

Tom Hoare FFA

18 May 2021

For and on behalf of Hymans Robertson LLP

Pension Fund Accounts Reporting Requirement

Introduction

CIPFA's Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2020/21 requires Administering Authorities of LGPS funds that prepare pension fund accounts to disclose what IAS26 refers to as the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits. I have been instructed by the Administering Authority to provide the necessary information for the Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund (“the Fund”).

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is to be calculated similarly to the Defined Benefit Obligation under IAS19. There are three options for its disclosure in the pension fund accounts:

- showing the figure in the Net Assets Statement, in which case it requires the statement to disclose the resulting surplus or deficit;
- as a note to the accounts; or
- by reference to this information in an accompanying actuarial report.

If an actuarial valuation has not been prepared at the date of the financial statements, IAS26 requires the most recent valuation to be used as a base and the date of the valuation disclosed. The valuation should be carried out using assumptions in line with IAS19 and not the Fund’s funding assumptions.

Present value of promised retirement benefits

Year ended	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
Active members (£m)	4,155	2719
Deferred members (£m)	1,801	1,288
Pensioners (£m)	2,383	2184
Total (£m)	**8,339**	**6191**

The promised retirement benefits at 31 March 2021 have been projected using a roll forward approximation from the latest formal funding valuation as at 31 March 2019. The approximation involved in the roll forward model means that the split of benefits between the three classes of member may not be reliable. However, I am satisfied that the total figure is a reasonable estimate of the actuarial present value of benefit promises.

The figures include both vested and non-vested benefits, although the latter is assumed to have a negligible value. Further, I have not made any allowance for unfunded benefits.

It should be noted the above figures are appropriate for the Administering Authority only for preparation of the pension fund accounts. They should not be used for any other purpose (i.e. comparing against liability measures on a funding basis or a cessation basis).

Assumptions

The assumptions used are those adopted for the Administering Authority’s IAS19 report and are different as at 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2020. I estimate that the impact of the change in financial assumptions to 31 March 2021 is to increase the actuarial present value by £1,758m. I estimate that the impact of the change in demographic and longevity assumptions is to increase the actuarial present value by £102m.

Financial assumptions

Year ended (% p.a.)	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
Pension Increase Rate	2.85%	1.9%
Salary Increase Rate	3.35%	2.4%
Discount Rate	2,00%	2.3%

Longevity assumptions

Life expectancy is based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2018 model, with 0% weighting of 2020 data, standard smoothing (Sk7), initial adjustment of 0.5% and a long term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are summarised below:

	Males	Females
Current pensioners	21.7 years	24.2 years
Future pensioners (assumed to be aged 45 at the latest formal valuation)	22.6 years	25.9 years

Please note that the longevity assumptions have changed since the previous IAS26 disclosure for the Fund.

Commutation assumptions

An allowance is included for future retirements to elect to take 50% of the maximum additional tax-free cash up to HMRC limits for pre-April 2008 service and 75% of the maximum tax-free cash for post-April 2008 service.

Sensitivity Analysis

CIPFA guidance requires the disclosure of the sensitivity of the results to the methods and assumptions used. The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the liabilities are set out below:

Sensitivity to the assumptions for the year ended 31 March 2021	Approximate % increase to liabilities	Approximate monetary amount (£m)
0.5% p.a. increase in the Pension Increase Rate	10%	794
0.5% p.a. increase in the Salary Increase Rate	1%	85
0.5% p.a. decrease in the Real Discount Rate	11%	897

The principal demographic assumption is the longevity assumption. For sensitivity purposes, I estimate that a 1 year increase in life expectancy would approximately increase the liabilities by around 3-5%.

Professional notes

This paper accompanies my covering report titled 'Actuarial Valuation as at 31 March 2021 for accounting purposes'. The covering report identifies the appropriate reliances and limitations for the use of the figures in this paper, together with further details regarding the professional requirements and assumptions.

Prepared by:

Tom Hoare FFA

18 May 2021

For and on behalf of Hymans Robertson LLP

Statement of Responsibilities for Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund

THE AUTHORITY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Authority is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of the financial affairs of its Pension Fund and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority, that officer is the Director of Corporate Resources.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the statement of accounts

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

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

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently.
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
- Complied with the Local Authority Code.
- Kept proper accounting records which were up to date,
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.
- Assessed the Pension Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
- Used the going concern basis of accounting on the assumption that the functions of the Pension Fund will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future; and
- Maintained such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

I certify that the above responsibilities have been complied with and the Statement of Accounts herewith presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund as at 31 March 2021 and its income and expenditure for the year ended the same date.

C TAMBINI
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES
7 DECEMBER 2021

Independent auditor’s report to the members of Leicestershire County Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

To follow (1/7)

Independent auditor’s report to the members of Leicestershire County Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

To follow (2/7)

Independent auditor’s report to the members of Leicestershire County Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

To follow (3/7)

Independent auditor’s report to the members of Leicestershire County Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

To follow (4/7)

Independent auditor's report to the members of Leicestershire County Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

To follow (5/7)

Independent auditor’s report to the members of Leicestershire County Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

To follow (6/7)

Independent auditor’s report to the members of Leicestershire County Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

To follow (7/7)

Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2020-21

1. INTRODUCTION

Leicestershire County Council (the Council) is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with prevailing legislation, regulation and government guidance and that proper standards of stewardship, conduct, probity and professional competence are set and adhered to by all those representing and working for and with the Council. This ensures that the services provided to the people of Leicestershire are properly administered and delivered economically, efficiently and effectively. In discharging this responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs.

Regulations 6 (1)(a) and (b) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require each English local authority to conduct a review, at least once a year, of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and approve an annual governance statement (AGS), prepared in accordance with proper practices in relation to internal control. The preparation and publication of an AGS in accordance with the CIPFA/SOLACE 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework' (2016) fulfils the statutory requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. The AGS encompasses the governance system that applied in both the Authority and any significant group entities (e.g. ESPO, EMSS) during the financial year being reported.

Due to the impact of coronavirus (COVID -19) on Local Authorities, The Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 amended the 2015 Regulations to extend the deadlines for relevant authorities to publish and make available for public inspection, their annual accounts and supporting documents in relation to the financial year beginning on 1st April 2020. The draft AGS 2020/21 was published with the draft Statement of Accounts in July 2021.

2. WHAT IS CORPORATE GOVERNANCE?

Corporate Governance is defined as how organisations ensure that they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. The Council's governance framework comprises the systems and processes, cultures and values by which the Council is directed and controlled. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money.

The CIPFA/SOLACE 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (the Framework)', sets the standard for local authority governance in the UK.

The Framework helps local government in taking responsibility for developing and shaping an informed approach to governance, aimed at achieving the highest standards in a measured and proportionate way. The Framework is intended to assist authorities individually in reviewing and accounting for their own unique approach. The overall aim is to ensure that:

- resources are directed in accordance with agreed policy and according to priorities
- there is sound and inclusive decision making
- there is clear accountability for the use of those resources in order to achieve desired outcomes for service users and communities.

3. LEICESTERSHIRE VISION AND OUTCOMES

In December 2017, the Council agreed a new four-year Strategic Plan and Outcomes Framework to run from April 2018 to March 2022. The Council developed the Plan by focussing on what would make life better for people in Leicestershire and the Plan included the following five priority outcome themes:

Our Vision: Working together for the benefit of everyone				
Strong Economy	**Wellbeing and Opportunity**	**Keeping People Safe**	**Great Communities**	**Affordable and Quality Homes**
Leicestershire's economy is growing and resilient so that people and businesses can fulfil their potential.	The people of Leicestershire have the opportunities and support they need to take control of their health and wellbeing.	People in Leicestershire are safe and protected from harm	Leicestershire communities are thriving and integrated places where people help and support each other and take pride in their local area.	Leicestershire has a choice of quality homes that people can afford.

The five priority outcome themes encompassed a number of supporting outcomes which together formed the overall Single Outcomes Framework which set priorities for the Authority and enabled more effective deployment and targeting of its resources. The Annual Delivery Report and Performance Compendium (published November 2020) included an assessment of progress in relation to the Outcomes Framework.: https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/leader-and-cabinet/council-performance

The Annual Delivery Report outlined the delivery, the impact of Covid-19 on services and Council operations, progress with implementing agreed plans and strategies, and achievements over the previous 12 months. The Performance Compendium outlined the inequality in funding and the Council's Fair Funding proposals, transformation requirements and national and local service pressures, as well as detailed comparative performance metrics.

The Council's revised Strategic Plan was approved in May 2020. The revision is an interim measure to reflect the Council's resolution (May 2019) to declare a climate emergency. A revised vision for the Council, outcomes and strategies to define the Council's role in meeting the emerging challenges post-Covid-19 is being developed and will be consulted on later in 2021 and early 2022 to form the basis for the new Strategic Plan 2022 to 2026.

A separate Recovery Strategy was approved by Members and has two key aims; to aid short-term recovery of services following lockdown, and also to support services to move to better ways of working and new efficient models of delivery in the long term. As part of the Recovery Strategy, Members noted that given the significant impact of COVID-19 there would need to be a review of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy as well as preparing the new Strategic Plan 2022-26.

4. WHAT THE AGS TELLS YOU

The AGS provides a summarised account of how the Council's management arrangements are set up to meet the principles of good governance and how we obtain assurance that these are both effective and appropriate. It is written to provide the reader with a clear, simple assessment of how the governance framework has operated over the past financial year and to identify any developments required. The main aim of the AGS is to provide the reader with confidence that the Council has an effective system of internal control that manages risks to a reasonable level.

It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The revised CIPFA/SOLACE Framework requires local authorities to review arrangements against their Local Code of Corporate Governance. To ensure it is consistent with the seven core principles of the Framework, the Council's Local Code was revised and updated during 2019 and was approved by the Council at its meeting on 25 September 2019. The Local Code will be reviewed and updated over the summer of 2021.

https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2020/1/16/local-code-of-corporate-governance.pdf

The principles contained in the Framework have been applied to the preparation of the AGS for the financial year 2020/21.

The 2020/21 AGS has been constructed by undertaking: -

- A review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control
- Reviewing other forms of assurance
- Reviewing the Council's response to (and recovery from) the COVID-19 virus

5. REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

There is a statutory requirement in England, for a local authority to ensure that it has 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.

The authority must (each financial year): -

(a) conduct a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control, and,

(b) prepare an annual governance statement.

To ensure the 2020/21 AGS presents an accurate picture of governance arrangements for the whole Council, each Director was required to complete a 'self-assessment', which provided details of the measures in place within their department to ensure conformance (or otherwise) with the seven core principles of the Framework. **The AGS assesses governance in place during 2020/21, the Council's self-assessments were completed in April 2021 and therefore the whole of the year was affected by the COVID-19 national emergency.**

The self-assessments contained a set of conformance statements under each core principle, which required a corresponding score of 1, 2 or 3 to be recorded, based on the criteria – Refer to the table Annex 1 onwards.

The application of a quantitative approach to assessing conformance against the Framework allows the Corporate Management Team, Members and the public at large to obtain assurance that the Council operates within an adequate governance framework, thus complying with the seven core principles and best practice. In addition to the Directors' self-assessments, senior officers assessed arrangements for managing matters that apply across all departments. Whilst the self-assessments identified many sources of assurance and were transparent in reporting areas for action, Annex 1 reports key areas where further development is deemed necessary.

A senior officers group meets to review the compilation of the AGS. The group comprises

- Director of Law & Governance (the Council's Statutory Monitoring Officer)
- Director of Corporate Resources (the Council's Statutory Chief Financial Officer)
- Head of Democratic Services
- Assistant Chief Executive
- Assistant Director – Assistant Director Finance, Strategic Property & Commissioning
- Assistant Director – Corporate Services
- Head of Internal Audit & Assurance Service

The group has determined that progressing areas identified for development, should be the responsibility of designated Directors and Heads of Service during 2021/22. Also, a review of progressing the implementation of previous years planned developments was undertaken. Any previous year's developments that were not carried forward into 2020/21 or reported through the Corporate Risk Register process will continue to be monitored.

6. OTHER FORMS OF ASSURANCE

The Framework provides examples of documents, systems and processes that an authority should have in place. Using this guidance, the Council can provide assurance that it has effective governance arrangements. The Council has an approved Local Code of Corporate Governance and this provides examples of good governance in practice.

The Control Environment of Leicestershire County Council

The Council's Constitution includes Finance and Contract Procedure Rules and Schemes of Delegation to Chief Officers. These translate into key operational internal controls such as: control of access to systems, offices and assets; segregation of duties; reconciliation of records and accounts; decisions and transactions authorised by nominated officers; and production of suitable financial and operational management information. These controls demonstrate governance structures in place throughout the Council.

Internal Audit Service

The Council's Head of Internal Audit Service (HoIAS) ensures that internal audit arrangements conform to the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (the PSIAS) revised in 2017 and the governance requirements and core responsibilities of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit in Public Service Organisations (2019).

The HoIAS works with the Corporate Management Team to give advice and promote good governance throughout the organisation. The HoIAS leads and directs the Internal Audit Service (IAS) so that it makes a full contribution to and meets the needs of the Authority and external stakeholders, escalating any concerns and giving assurance on the Council's control environment.

There is an Internal Audit Charter mandating the purpose, authority and responsibility of the internal audit activity. The Charter allows the HoIAS to also be responsible for the administration and development of, and reporting on, the Council's risk management framework. Whilst this does present a potential impairment to independence and objectivity, the HoIAS arranges for any reviews to be overseen by someone outside of the internal audit activity. An independent risk management maturity health check was undertaken during the autumn of 2018 and good progress was made during 2019/20 and 2020/21 against the recommendations contained in the action plan. The next review is planned for December 2021.

To meet a PSIAS requirement to form an opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's control environment i.e. its framework of governance, risk management and control, the HoIAS usually arranges an annual risk-based plan of audits. Prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, work had begun to draft an Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21. However, the impact of the crisis on all Council services quickly halted the finalisation of the Plan. Some internal audit staff were redeployed to other Council services and focus was shifted to providing assurances on redeployment of IT kit, cyber security arrangements/monitoring, security of agile working, access to systems where staff are being redeployed and capacity management. The IAS was involved in reviewing and advising on controls in alternative service delivery models and schemes such as the work from home allowance and was very active in counter fraud work and grant certification. Audits relating to covid (system changes, grants etc) accounted for a substantial amount of audit work in 2020/21.

IAS reports often contain recommendations for improvements. The number, type and importance of recommendations determines how the auditor reaches an opinion on the level of assurance that can be given that controls are both suitably designed and are being consistently applied, and that material risks will likely not arise. The combined sum of individual audit opinions and other assurances gained throughout the year (e.g. involvement in governance groups, attendance at Committees, evaluations of other assurance providers), facilitate the HoIAS to form the annual internal audit opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's the control environment. The HoIAS presented his annual report to Corporate Governance Committee on 4 June 2021 and his opinion read: -

The earliest months of the coronavirus significantly impacted normal routines and required that a number of functions needed to be provided differently and uniquely. There was a necessary shift from planned assurance work to more consulting and advisory on new service design and delivery. The requirement to certify Covid-19 grants was considerably higher than in previous years. However, no significant governance, risk management or internal control failings have come to the HoIAS' attention therefore reasonable assurance is given that the Council's control environment overall has remained adequate and effective.

The HoIAS' views on the Council's responses to the coronavirus during the year are also detailed.

http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s161469/Annex%201%20-%20HoIAS%20annual%20opinion%202020-21.pdf

Risk Management

The Corporate Governance Committee has a responsibility to ensure that an effective risk management system is in place. Risk management is about identifying and managing risks effectively, helping to improve performance and aid decision making relating to the development of services and the transformation of the wider organisation. Regular reports and presentations on specific strategic and corporate risks to the Council are provided to the Corporate Governance Committee.

The Council's Risk Management Policy and Strategy (which provide the framework within which risks can be managed) were reviewed, revised, and approved by Cabinet in February 2021.

As the COVID-19 response continued, the Council progressed with its plans to recover and rebuild services, towards a 'new normal'. During the earlier part of 2020/21 the existing risk management arrangements were aligned to the interim recovery planning principles. Normal annual service planning processes (ensuring that risks attaining to new key objectives and priorities are identified and evaluated) resumed in January 2021.

Overview and Scrutiny

The cross-party overview and scrutiny function monitors the County Council's financial performance and performance against targets in the Strategic Plan and other related plans on a regular basis.

The key areas of activity undertaken by the Scrutiny Commission during the year included: are -

- County Council Revised Strategic Plan 2018-2022
- Revised Environment Strategy and Action Plan
- Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership Economic Recovery Strategy
- Coronavirus (Covid-19) Impact and Response of the Council (Recovery and Financial Impact)
- Tourism (Place Marketing) in Leicester and Leicestershire
- Air Quality and Health Joint Action Plan
- Draft Leicester City Local Plan 2020 to 2036
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Planning for the Future White Paper
- East Midlands Development Corporation "Interim Vehicle (DEVCO)" and Freeport Proposals

- Supporting Economic Recovery in Leicestershire
- Strategic Property Energy Strategy 2020-2030

The challenge of overview and scrutiny has always been crucial in supporting the delivery of high quality services. This work has continued throughout 2020/21 despite difficulties arising from the pandemic.

The introduction of new, temporary legislation enabled councils to hold meetings remotely. Therefore, since April 2020 all scrutiny meetings have been held virtually and webcast live. This has allowed the public to still engage in the process whilst following government advice to stay at home. It has also ensured all critical decisions on the delivery of Council services have continued to be made in a way that is both transparent and accessible to the public with Scrutiny able to play its key role in that process.

Corporate Governance Committee

The Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of corporate governance within the Council and receives reports and presentations that deal with issues that are paramount to good governance.

With regard to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members within the County Council – decisions and minutes are available on the intranet. The Monitoring Officer submits an annual report to the Corporate Governance Committee on the operation of the Members’ Code of Conduct and arrangements for dealing with complaints.

Since July 2019 there have been six complaints (relating to five members) received by the Monitoring Officer under the Members' Code of Conduct. These complaints were resolved as set out below:

- 3 complaints were withdrawn /not progressed by the complainant,
- 1 complaint was resolved informally,
- 2 complaints - both were outside of the scope of the code of conduct

During 2020/21 the Committee has provided assurance that: an adequate risk management framework is in place; the Council’s performance is properly monitored; and that there is proper oversight of the financial reporting processes. The table below provides summary information of other key business considered by this Committee during 2020/21 to support the above.

- Quarterly Risk Management Updates and the Risk Management Policy & Strategy
- Informing the External Audit Risk Assessment External Audit Plan (2019/20), Statement of Accounts, Pension Fund Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2019/20
- Quarterly Treasury Management updates and Annual Treasury Management Report 2019/20. Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2021/22
- Internal Audit Service – quarterly progress reports including status of High Importance recommendations; Annual Report, including opinion on the control environment, conformance to PSIAS and Quality Assurance Improvement Programme
- Government driven developments in local (external) audit arrangements and update reports
- CIPFA Financial Management Code - 2021
- Local Government Association (LGA) Model Code of Conduct Consultation
- National Audit Office – Guide for Audit and Risk Committee on Financial Reporting and Management during COVID-19 and accompanying update report

- Process for Removal of Local Authority Nominated Governors
- Appointment of Independent Persons
- Annual Reports:
    - Annual Report on the Operation of the Members' Code of Conduct 2019/20
    - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review 2019-20 and Corporate Complaint Handling and Freedom of Information Requests
    - Resilience and Business Continuity Update
    - Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and Investigatory Powers Act 2016

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

The Director of Corporate Resources undertakes the statutory role of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the Council. The CFO conforms to the governance requirements and core responsibilities of two CIPFA Statements on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer; in Local Government (2016) and in the Local Government Pension Scheme (2014). The CFO is a key member of the Corporate Management Team and is able to bring influence to bear on all material business decisions, ensuring that immediate and long-term implications, opportunities and risks, are fully considered and in alignment with the MTFS and other corporate strategies. The CFO is aware of, and committed to, the five key principles that underpin the role of the CFO and has completed an assurance statement that provides evidence against core activities which strengthen governance and financial management across the Council.

The 2020-24 MTFS was balanced for 2020/21 and 2021/22, with a gap by 2023/24 of £39m. The additional pressures from Covid-19 have affected the 2020/21 budget but government support and local actions have allowed the position to be managed and a balanced outturn delivered. However, over the medium term the position is only manageable by additional savings and increases in Council Tax. This is a particularly difficult situation for a low-funded authority such as Leicestershire as room for further savings is limited. However, providing a multi-year approach is taken and decisions continue to be made, accounting for the financial context is expected to be manageable.

More detail is provided in the Narrative Report section of the Council's Financial Statements.

The Monitoring Officer

The Director of Law & Governance undertakes the statutory role of Monitoring Officer (MO) for the Council. The MO has responsibility for:

- ensuring that decisions taken comply with all necessary statutory requirements and are lawful. Where in the opinion of the MO any decision or proposal is likely to be unlawful and lead to maladministration, he/she shall advise the Council and/or Executive accordingly,
- ensuring that decisions taken are in accordance with the Council's budget and its Policy Framework,
- providing advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions

In discharging this role, the MO is supported by the Deputy Monitoring Officer and officers within the Legal and Democratic Services Teams.

Senior Information Risk Owner

The Assistant Director - Corporate Services undertakes the role of Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) for the Council. The SIRO takes overall ownership of the Council's approach to handling information risk. Sound governance is in place, with regular update and exception reports to the Corporate Management Team. The responsibilities of a SIRO include:

- owning the Council's policies, procedures and processes around information risk, ensuring they are implemented consistently across the Council.
- ensuring compliance with all other policies and procedures relating to information and data.
- acting as a champion on information risk and report to Chief Officers on the effectiveness of risk management.
- leading and fostering a culture that values, protects and uses information for the success of the Council and benefit of our citizens.
- ensuring that information owners understand their roles.
- ensuring that the Council has a plan to monitor and improve information and data governance.

- maintaining expertise in Data Protection and other legislation that impact on Information and Data Governance; and
- owning the Council's information incident management framework

Commercial and Collaborative Arrangements

Commercial

ESPO is constituted as a joint committee (of 6 local authorities) set up to provide a comprehensive professional purchasing service to public sector bodies. It is overseen by a Management Committee which has overall strategic responsibility for ESPO. There is also a Finance and Audit Subcommittee in place. Internal audit is undertaken by the Council's Internal Audit Service as part of the servicing agreement. Similar to the County Council, the HoIAS presents an annual report to the Management Committee. The annual report incorporates the annual internal audit opinion, which for 2020-21 was as follows:

Aside from the partial assurance rating given following the audit of credit control, no other significant governance, risk management or internal control failings have come to the HoIAS' attention therefore substantial assurance is given that ESPO's control environment overall has remained adequate and effective.

The HoIAS also commented positively on ESPO management's response to the coronavirus. Although not required to do so an external audit is also undertaken.

ESPO Trading Ltd ESPO's power to trade is restricted to a limited number of public bodies and this market is shrinking. The establishment of a trading company allows ESPO (Trading) to trade with other organisations which are in the spirit of public bodies but not described as such in the 1970 Act – e.g. Housing Associations, Charities and Voluntary Organisations. The Trading is governed under the Companies Act 2006, its Articles of Association and Shareholder Agreement.

Eduzone was a private limited company that supplies Early Years educational products and Early Years furniture to schools, nurseries and child minders. ESPO acquired the company following the necessary due diligence in 2018. Eduzone has now be incorporated into ESPO trading Limited.

The **Corporate Asset Investment Fund Strategy** guides the Council's investments in assets not directly used for the delivery of its services, but which contribute to the outcomes of the Council's Strategic Plan. The Strategy requires reporting to various member bodies. Reporting on the financial performance is included in the budget monitoring reports, on a quarterly basis. Due to the potential for significant and long lasting impacts on the Real Estate market from the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK's exit from the EU an independent review of the strategy was undertaken by Hymans Robertson, a firm of investment consultants. The review was undertaken alongside the annual strategy refresh, the most recent iteration was approved by

County Council in February 2021.

The Council also has a trading arm **Leicestershire Traded Services (LTS),** which sits within the Corporate Resources Department. Its activities are overseen by an Officer Board. The quarterly financial and performance reports include the performance of the LTS as part of the Corporate Resources Department and these reports are considered by various member bodies.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had an adverse impact on ESPO and its associated companies. The ESPO Management Committee has been informed of the reduced surplus on trading. Similarly, the closure of schools during the pandemic has significantly reduced the assumed income from Traded Services and has required an adjustment to the MTFS.

Collaborative

East Midlands Shared Service (EMSS) EMSS is constituted under Joint Committee arrangements to process payroll/HR and accounts payable and accounts receivable transactions for Leicestershire County Council and Nottingham City Council. The internal audit of EMSS is undertaken by Nottingham City Council.

On the basis of audit work undertaken during the 2020-21 financial year, covering audits of payroll, accounts receivable and accounts payable, the Head of Internal Audit (HoIA) at Nottingham City Council concluded that a "**significant**" level of assurance could be given that internal control systems are operating effectively within EMSS and that no significant issues had been discovered.

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) - Central Pool.

The LGPS Central pooled investment arrangements became operational on 1 April 2018. A range of collaborative governance vehicles has been established.

The Council is joint owner of LGPS Central Limited which manages the pooled assets of nine Midlands-based local government pension schemes, including Leicestershire. LGPS Central Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority as an asset manager and operator of alternative investment funds. It has combined assets of approximately £50bn which represents the assets of over 2,000 employing bodies which help to pay for the costs of pensions when they became payable.

The Company aims to use the combined buying power of its Partner Funds to reduce costs, improve investment returns and widen the range of available asset classes for investment for the benefit of local government pensioners, employees and employers.

Member representatives of each of the funds sit on the LGPS Central Joint Committee which provides oversight of the delivery of the objectives of the pool, the delivery of client service, the delivery against the LGPS central business case and to deal with common investor issues. The joint committee provides assistance, guidance and recommendations to the individual councils, taking into consideration the conflicting demands and interests of the participants within the pool. The joint committee does not have delegated authority to make binding decisions on behalf of the participating councils.

An update was provided to the Council's Local Pension Board on work completed during 2020/21. This included an update on audits in relation to LGPS. The LGPS Central Limited AAF Internal Controls Report for the period 1 April to 31 December 2020, was received. The report was unqualified as was the report for the previous quarter, i.e. 1 January to 31 March 2020. Whilst ten exceptions had been identified, LGPS staff confirmed that they were satisfied that no investors were adversely affected, nor any information incorrectly reported.
In addition to this, a bridging letter for the period 1 January to 31 March 2021 was also provided, giving further assurance on the control environment during the quarter.

As part of the four-year internal audit plan of work agreed by the Internal Audit Working Group (IAWG), Shropshire Council Audit Services completed a review of the governance of the Pool. This work included follow up of the progress made on implementing the recommendations from the previous audit. The audit opinion given was ‘Good’ and confirmed that the system of control in place, to address relevant risks, were being applied consistently.

A second internal audit due to be completed by LCCIAS as part of the agreed plan of work during 2020/21 was to review investment arrangements. This audit was scheduled in the final quarter of the year, i.e. February 2021, and completion had been delayed, partly due to Covid-19, and has resulted in significant delays in receiving information required from LGPS staff. However, the majority of the work has now been completed, and no major issues have been highlighted. The remaining work outstanding is unlikely to give rise to any significant concerns.

An update was also provided to the Council’s June 2021 Local Pension Committee as part of the review of administration paper stating that Internal Audit colleagues presented their audit finding to the May 2021 Local Pension Board. The Committee was provided with the Board paper highlighting IAS work conducted in 20/21 and the plan for 21/22 as background to the Pension Committee.

Leicestershire and Rutland Sports Partnership (LRS)

The Director of Public Health represents the Council and is vice-chair of the LRS Board of non-executive directors. There are defined terms of reference which set out the governance arrangements and key tasks of the Board. Underneath the Board is a number of subgroups (drawn from the Board and co-opted others) to provide additional scrutiny of areas of the business.

One of those sub-groups in the ‘business, oversight and audit’ committee which oversees business planning, financial and risk reporting, and reports to the Board quarterly. The Head of Service in Public Health is a member of this board.

Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP)

Until June 2021 the Leader of the Council was a Director of the LLEP and a member of its Board. The Leader has been replaced as a Director by Mr P Bedford CC. In May 2021 the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) informed the LLEP that in 2020/21 it met the Government’s expectations for governance, Strategic Impact and Delivery.

The LLEP Board underwent ‘incorporation’ in the last 24 months, in response to Government guidance, and carried out a Governance Review. At its meeting on 1 December 2020, the LLEP Board considered an update on progress and agreed a new Governance structure, with proposed terms of reference for new sub-Boards and groups. An outstanding Governance issue relating to the deployment of retained Enterprise Zone business rates was resolved through agreement being reached between the LLEP, its accountable body (Leicester City Council *) and the two district councils which have Enterprise Zones within their administrative boundaries.

A national review of LEPs is being undertaken by the Government and the outcome of this awaited.

*Leicester City Council is responsible for LLEP governance issues.

Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Board

Health and Wellbeing Boards act as a forum in which key leaders from the local health and care system, work together to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and plan how to tackle inequalities in health. This is best achieved by a range of organisations working together and as a result, the Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Board brings together key organisations: Clinical Commissioning Groups, District Representatives, NHS England, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Leicestershire Police, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Healthwatch to ensure patients and service users voices are heard. The Health and Wellbeing Board is chaired by the Council’s cabinet lead for Health and the other Council representatives are:

- Lead Members for Adult Social Care & Children & Young People
- The Chief Executive
- The Directors of Public Health, Adults & Communities and Children & Family Services

The Health and Wellbeing Board leads and directs work to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Leicestershire through the development of improved and integrated health and social care services by: -

- Identifying needs and priorities across Leicestershire (the Place), and publishing and refreshing the Leicestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment so that future commissioning/policy decisions and priorities are based on evidence.
- Preparing and publishing a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Plan on behalf of the County Council and its partner clinical commissioning group(s) so that work is done across the Place to meet the needs identified in the JSNA in a co-ordinated, planned and measurable way
- In conjunction with all partners, communicating and engaging with local people in how they can achieve the best possible quality of life and be supported to exercise choice and control over their personal health and wellbeing
- Approving the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan including a pooled budget used to transform local services, so people are provided with better integrated care and support together with proposals for its implementation
- Having oversight of the use of relevant public sector resources to identify opportunities for the further integration of health and social care services within the Place.

The BCF is reported quarterly regionally and nationally via NHS England (NHSE) and the Local Government Association (LGA) via a nationally prescribed template which is approved quarterly by the Board, a process supported operationally by the Integration Executive. The annual BCF plan is also submitted via NHSE/LGA regionally and nationally and is subject to a prescribed national assurance process against a number of national conditions, metrics, and financial rules.

The publication of the 2020/21 BCF Policy Framework and Technical Guidance was delayed due to Covid-19 to allow systems to focus on the effort of dealing with the pandemic. Financial allocations for the CCG minimum contribution and the improved BCF (adult social care allocation) was published in February 2019 and therefore the financial planning for 2020/21 was completed and approved locally by the CCGs and LCC during May 2020.

The draft annual submission for the 2020/21 financial year was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board at its January 2021 meeting with delegated authority for approval and sign-off given to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Health, for submission in May 2021.

The policy and guidance for 2021/22 has not yet been published, however financial planning by the Local Authority and CCG's is underway.

The work of the Health and Wellbeing Board is reported in an annual report and is also reported in the annual reports of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGS).

Local (External) Audit

The Council's local (external) auditors, Grant Thornton LLP, present the findings from their planned audit work to those charged with governance. The following extract from the external auditor's report highlights the key conclusions reached:

- **Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2019-2023 (Value for Money Conclusion)**
    - We carried out an initial risk assessment in January 2020 in respect of specific areas of proper arrangements using the guidance contained in AGN03 and revisited this in April 2020 in light of the emergence of Covid-19. We identified a significant risk in relation to financial resilience and communicated this risk to you in our audit plan addendum dated 29 April 2020. We have continued our review of relevant documents up to the date of giving our report and have not identified any further significant risks where we need to perform further work.
    - Overall Conclusion: Based on the work we performed to address the significant risks, we are satisfied that the Council had proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources.
- **Opinion on the 2019/20 Annual Statement of Accounts**
    - No significant audit or accounting issues and no material deficiencies in internal control and that the Annual Statement of Accounts presented a true and fair view, in accordance with the relevant codes and regulation.
- **Annual Audit Plan for the 2020/21 Accounts**
    - The external audit plan was reported to members in June 2021. The interim audit was undertaken in early 2021 - no material issues were reported. The provision of relevant information by the Internal Audit Service will assist the external auditor to determine the planned audit approach for further testing during August and September 2021 before reporting the Audit Opinion in October 2021

The Financial Management Code

Following concerns around the financial resilience and management of local authorities, CIPFA developed the Financial Management (FM) Code for good practice in financial management.

The code is designed to support good practice in financial management and help local authorities demonstrate financial sustainability. It builds upon the underlying principles of leadership, accountability, transparency, professional standards, assurance, and sustainability. The CIPFA Financial Management Code translates the principles of good financial management into seven Financial Management Standards. These standards address the aspects of an authority's operations and activities that must function effectively if financial management is to be undertaken robustly and financial sustainability is to be achieved.

In January 2021 the Council completed a self-assessment of its compliance with the requirements of the FM code. The assessment shows that the County Council meets the requirements of the Code with some small improvements required. A copy of the assessment was presented to the Corporate Governance Committee in January 2021. An internal audit of the self-assessment against the Code is scheduled before the end of 2021.

http://cexmodgov1/documents/s159366/CIPFA%20FM%20Code.pdf

7. THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Towards the end of 2019/20, a global pandemic was declared in connection with the COVID-19 virus. Emergency responses were triggered, and lockdown measures were introduced in the UK from 23 March 2020.

The Council's planning for COVID-19 began in early February. Business continuity plans were implemented across the Council, this also included the identification of the most vulnerable service users to ensure there was capacity to support them. Non-essential work was risk assessed and put on hold to free staff capacity to enable the Council to deploy rapid responses to ensure core services were delivered and that residents and businesses continued to be supported.
In addition, some areas in the county urban conurbations surrounding the city of Leicester were made subject to an extended period of local restrictions which started in July 2020. The restrictions affected businesses to require closure, limited the right of residents to stay away from home and limited gatherings. Certain new duties were placed on the council in relation to enforcement of the restrictions and these remain in force.

The Local Resilience Forum (LRF's) Covid19 Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) met throughout 2020/21, initially bi-weekly then weekly. The Council's Director of Public Health chaired the SCG until a major incident was declared locally at which point chairmanship transferred to the Deputy Chief Constable and then subsequently to the Chief Executive of the CCGs. The SCG co-ordinated the response to COVID-19 across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland with increasing focus on preparations for recovery (co-ordinated by a Recovery Co-ordinating Group), including economic recovery, being given a high priority alongside the response.

The Council's Crisis Management Group (CMG), chaired by the Chief Executive, meets frequently to oversee the Council's response across key issues. Initially it met daily, then three times each week and latterly weekly but with flexibility to call ad-hoc meetings when circumstances require, for example to respond to changes in guidance. CMG is supported by a corporate Resilience Planning Group (RPG) which meets regularly including dedicated meetings focused on preparing for 'recovery'. The Council has worked closely with partners on a range of challenges including the imposition and easing of lockdown measures, related enforcement activities, supply of PPE, shielding of vulnerable people, co-ordination of volunteering, test and trace, excess deaths planning, and supporting the vaccination strategy and has been chairing many of the LRF cells responding to specific issues.

Electronic updates from the Chief Executive to all members of the County Council covering service and other issues have been provided at very regular intervals initially weekly, the updates can be accessed at https://bit.ly/3cKMPgg
Alongside this, there have been regular member update forums conducted by remote means at which briefings on key issues have been provided and an opportunity to raise questions and concerns.

Regular information has been communicated to Members, and the public. The Council also launched a Leicestershire Communities Fund, a Business recovery Fund, a Pubs Fund and Parish Communities Fund.

Covid-19 has had and will continue to have a significant adverse effect on the economy, it is also affecting the services that the Council delivers and its finances. These financial implications will continue beyond the current financial year adding to the financial gap identified in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The impact is across the board, covering additional expenditure, increased project and capital costs, and reduced income levels. The Council is taking a number of measures to ensure the impact on the financial position is minimised where possible in the immediate crisis period and medium-term recovery. Even so there is no doubt that the County Council is facing a challenging financial position over a prolonged period.

As a result of the pandemic, in March 2020 all attended meetings of Members and officers ceased. Regulations made under the Coronavirus Act (2020) allowed authorities to conduct meetings and take decisions in ways other than face to face so that decisions could still be made to maintain good governance, principles of openness and accountability. By 4th April 2020 the Council was able to put in place measures to allow meetings to be held remotely. As a result of this and extending delegation to the Chief Executive (following consultation with the Leader) the decision-making process respected the principles of good governance and lawfulness. With effect from 7th May 2021, it has no longer been possible to hold council meetings remotely and steps have been taken therefore to reintroduce Covid-19 secure in-person meetings where this is required.

The constitutional arrangements for Member decisions in place before the COVID-19 lockdown proved to be robust and once the Government issued regulations regarding virtual meetings, it has been possible to conduct the vast majority of business including scrutiny and briefings for all Members.

Demands on IT systems and staff have been considerable, and most office-based staff have worked from home throughout 2020/21 A Ways of Working programme (see below) is considering longer term working arrangements likely to involve for many staff a hybrid of office-based and home-based working. Regular COVID-19 senior manager briefings continue to be provided as well as health and wellbeing support across the Council, informed by a Council wide survey which has been held several times. Work has also been carried out and continues relating to returning to the workplace (recovery) and PPE staff risk assessments.

The move to working from home for those staff who are able to has been supported by work on revised HR policies, health & safety risk assessments, guidance and support for managers regarding the leadership of remote teams, FAQs on key HR issues, a managers' charter giving advice on what employees should be able to expect from their managers, and regular clear communication.

The Council also took the decision to use the furlough scheme to maximise income, and at its peak, around 1000 staff who met the criteria were placed on furlough, with the Council continuing to top up salaries to 100%.

Three wellbeing surveys have been carried out, and targeted action plans created. The Council's wellbeing offer was a good one but needed to be re-assessed to deal with specific challenges caused by the pandemic. For example, the in-house counselling service moved from face to face, to telephone appointments.

8. ACTION TAKEN ON GOVERNANCE ISSUES REPORTED IN THE 2019/20 AGS

The Council has defined a 'significant governance issue' as one that is intended to reflect something that has happened in the year or which is currently being experienced.

Progress that has been made in dealing with the governance issues that were identified in the 2019/20 AGS are detailed below:

Ref	Issue /Area for Improvement (AGS) 2019/20	Lead Officer and Date	Progress during 2020/21
1	**<u>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)</u>**	Chief Executive and	**<u>MTFS</u>** <u>April</u>

	The COVID-19 impacts on the MTFS along with the Recovery of the Council's Services over the medium and longer term have been identified as a significant governance issue. The Council had a robust financial position going into the COVID-19 pandemic, but the crisis will have a profound impact on the Council's financial position and the way in which services are delivered. The overall financial impact of the pandemic is difficult to quantify at present. The significant funding gap due to the pandemic will have an impact on the MTFS (2020/21 and beyond) in terms of materiality and significance: It is estimated that without further Government support the County Council will face a significant financial gap in the current financial year. These financial implications will continue beyond the current financial year adding to the financial gap identified in the MTFS. The impact is across the board covering additional expenditure, reduced income levels and savings no longer achievable. The Council has contingency measures in place assuming the current year's funding gap continues e.g. use of the General Fund which will require replenishment and reprioritisation of the capital programme.	the Corporate Management Team December 2020	Proposal to review the Capital Programme, to free up resources for CV-19 Guidance for supplier payments to ensure resources focused on essential services <u>May</u> Scale of challenge presented and short term solution, including use of the General Fund Greater Collection Fund monitoring introduced <u>September</u> Spend controls introduced to reduce non-essential expenditure Outcome of the review of the Capital Programme <u>November</u> Review of Financial Resilience <u>December</u> Draft MTFS including plans for CV-19 contingency in 2021/22 and list of Savings under Development <u>February</u> MTFS approved, with balanced budget for next 2-yearsinlcuding adequate contingency to deal with 2021/22 pressures

Ref	Issue /Area for Improvement (AGS) 2019/20	Lead Officer and Date	Progress during 2020/21
	<u>Continued from above</u> **<u>Council's Strategic Plan 2018-22</u>** The pandemic has impacted on the achievement of outcomes in a number of areas of the principal objectives of the Council's Strategic Plan 2018-22	Chief Executive and the Corporate Management Team December 2020	**<u>Council's Strategic Plan</u>** The Council's Strategic Plan is a high-level document that sets the Council's broad vision and priority outcomes which are supported by key enablers such as the MTFS, Ways of Working, Equalities and Diversity Strategy, Environment Strategy, People Strategy etc. The Plan is, where relevant, being delivered through department recovery plans with service delivery having continued as far as possible throughout the pandemic. The Plan is currently under review to extend it

			to 2026 and this review will take account of the impacts of Covid19. Work on the review, and on delivering the existing Plan, was delayed by Covid19 as resources were diverted to support the Council's pandemic response. As a result of the pandemic all Outcome Advisory Boards were suspended (with the exception of the Great Communities Board which continued to support recovery planning). Alternative outcome delivery and governance arrangements to improve performance are being explored as part of the ongoing review
	Pandemic Response • The pandemic Response phase has enabled the Council to quickly adopt major changes in the way in which services were managed, provided and supported, and the Council is focussing significant effort to maintain progress towards the key outcomes outlined in its Strategic Plan. These changes will not be wholly sustainable for the long term and the opportunity exists to use the lessons learned and experience gained from the Response phase to rethink the Council's approach and 'build back stronger'; progressing as a modern, effective and efficient organisation.		**Pandemic Response** May Initial service delivery plans put in place to support immediate reinstatement or continuation of critical Council functions and services and to highlight additional expenditure requirements for approval. Key principles around limiting additional expenditure where possible. June Interim service delivery planning process developed for July to September 2020, highlighting any additional investment requirements. July Ways of Working programme established through early Recovery planning that uses the lessons learned from the response phase to help ensure LCC recovers sustainability as a modern, effective and productive organisation. Key themes around workplaces, technology, people and working arrangements. September Interim service delivery plans refreshed for period October 2020 to March 2021, highlighting any additional investment requirements.

Ref	Issue /Area for Improvement (AGS) 2019/20	Lead Officer and Date	Progress during 2020/21
	Continued from above **Special educational needs and disability** In common with many Local Authorities, there has been an increase in Special educational needs and disability (SEND) complaints arising out of delays in issuing Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and challenges to EHCP provision or lack of provision. A number of these have been referred to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. A robust action plan is being developed with stakeholders following the Ofsted joint area SEND inspection in February 2020 to address these issues.	Director of Children and Family Services December 2020	**Special educational needs and disability** Since April 2020, in response to various factors, including delay in issuing good quality EHCPs, increase in demand and findings from the SEND Local Area Inspection in February 2020, the SENA service has undergone a significant restructure and has introduced a new operating model. This new structure has increased the service's capacity to case manage and improve the timeliness as well as the quality of EHCPs. The new structure and operating model went live in May 2021 and whilst all the new systems are processes are still embedding, there has been a positive start with a focus on relationships with parents and carers and child-centred planning. The Service still compares well with statistical neighbours (through SEN 2 data) with regards to timeliness in the issuing of EHCPs. The action plan developed (knows as the Written Statement of Action- WSOA) was submitted to Ofsted and the CQC on 7th October 2020 (delayed due to) and this was deemed fit for purpose Covid-19. The Assistant Director for Education and SEND continues to meet monthly with the DfE Advisor to monitor progress against the WSOA and there have been two formal monitoring meetings with a third scheduled for July 2021. Feedback from these meetings is very positive and the DfE are satisfied with our progress and have been supporting the Local Authority with their system improvements

9. SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES ARISING DURING 2020/21

This Annual Governance Statement (AGS) identifies that the Council has effective arrangements in place, but that we recognise the need to continuously review, adapt and develop our governance arrangements to meet the changing needs of the organisation.

The Council has identified areas to be developed which are reported in Annex 1.

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2020/21, requires that significant events or developments relating to the governance system that occurred between the Balance Sheet date, (31 March), and the date on which the Statement of Accounts will be signed by the responsible financial officer, are reported. Despite the senior officer group initially determining for the draft AGS that there were no significant governance issues during 2020/21, it is now considered prudent and transparent to report three issues that have arisen since the balance sheet date. These are reported in Annex 2.

10. FUTURE CHALLENGES

Significant challenges faced by the Council such as continuing funding shortfalls, driving further Health and Social Care integration, etc are detailed within the Corporate Risk Register, which is regularly presented to the Corporate Management Team and Corporate Governance Committee. Managing these risks adequately will be an integral part of both strategic and operational planning; and the day to day running, monitoring and maintaining the Council. Challenges continue to emerge, and key areas in particular are:

- Covid-19 – the long term health, economic and community impacts of Covid-19 will continue to be a challenge and the focus of much 'recovery' work. In addition, the Council and partners may have to respond to future surges in Covid-19 infection rates, potentially caused by new 'variants', and support/ implement Government introduced or recommended measures which are put in place in response. A related challenge, but also an opportunity, is to establish new 'ways of working' which both respond to the pandemic but also provide a more effective, efficient, and low carbon operating model for the Council in the future.
  Economic recovery work will also take account of the longer-term impacts of EU Exit. This work is currently being led by the LLEP with active involvement of the Council.

- There will be some challenges in rebuilding the ESPO and Leicestershire Traded Service customer base as the pandemic restrictions are eased

- The proposed East Midlands Development Company and East Midlands Global Freeport both include sites within Leicestershire (East Midlands Gateway and East Midlands Airport) as well as nearby in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Both are major opportunities for the regional and local economies. The County Council has taken on the key role of lead authority and accountable body for the Freeport and will, in this capacity, but also as a key local partner, play an important role in developing the outline and full business case necessary to move the Freeport to formal designation and operational readiness. The outline case was submitted in September 2021. The full case is required to be submitted to Government in December 2021.

- Financial sustainability - There is a continued uncertainty regarding government funding, that the single year spending review in 2020 did nothing to resolve. The growth in national debt is only manageable due to the low interest rate environment, but should the chancellor take the view this is not sustainable, funding reductions are likely to result. The financial challenge of funding the effects of the coronavirus pandemic are continuing into 2021/22, where minimal Government funding has been announced, and beyond due to the impact upon services of fundamental shifts in behaviours, such as bus usage. The Council also continues to face the pre Covid-19 financial challenges, most notably the increasing cost of Special Educational Needs (SEN), though significant pressures also remain in adults and children's social care and from the continued increases in the National Living Wage. National reforms are expected to be announced this year for SEN and social care, whilst these have the potential to improve the situation previous experience has shown that there is a real risk of the opposite impact.

- The financial risks faced by the Council in delivering the infrastructure necessary to support growth in the County are significant. To address this, a Growth Service has been established within the Council responsible for ensuring that infrastructure to support growth is effectively planned over the short, medium and long term across Leicestershire. In addition, it will ensure that risks associated with the Council's financial contribution to large scale growth and infrastructure projects remain tightly managed by securing funding of developer contributions and from government and other external agencies. The infrastructure requirements are a key contributor in the growth in the County Council's capital programme. A larger and more complex programme adds further financial risk, as the likelihood and impact of overspends increases. A recent example is the global supply chain issues that are restricting availability of raw materials and increase costs at a rate far higher than inflation. On large schemes this can have a compounding impact as delays increase labour costs, amendments to permissions and re-planning.

- As part of its Health & Care Bill 2021-22, the Government is legislating to introduce Integrated Care Systems (ICS) across England from April 2022. Locally, this will mean a ICS covering Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR). There are ongoing discussions at member and officer level with the National Health Service (NHS) and the other two councils with social care and public health responsibilities to manage jointly the transition to a ICS which involves complex governance issues for both members and officers. These discussions are also providing opportunities to discuss with the NHS ways in which additional costs to the Council from NHS responsibilities affecting both children's and adults social care can be mitigated.
- In December 2020, the High Court ruled that Norfolk County Council had breached the rights of a woman by discriminating against her when it changed its care charging policy. The council is closely monitoring the implications of the High Court decision for its own charging policy for care and support charges. It is reviewing its public sector equality duty in respect of the decision and is currently considering a range of legal opinions on the case. Any subsequent changes to the charging policy as a result of the decision will have an impact on income received towards the cost of care and support services.
- The County Council has recently agreed a scheme which will make available a sum of £25,000 to each individual member which they can draw down to enable them to progress highway related improvement/enhancements in their division which are outside of the LCC usual funding arrangements. Work on this is at an early stage of development and such work will include the need to ensure robust mechanisms are in place to monitor and manage the arrangements so as to protect the council and individual members and provide transparency in terms of spend.

11. CERTIFICATION

The Council has been hugely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Nevertheless, despite the challenges, the Council has maintained consistent essential services for residents, whilst adapting to provide alternative virtual services wherever possible. The Council's strong collaborative approach has been effective at achieving a unified response, working with key partners in the NHS, police and voluntary and community sectors.

The Council's Strategic Plan 2018-22 and Medium Term Strategy will continue to be reviewed and updated to assess the medium-term impacts of the pandemic on the Council's financial position.

The Council is satisfied that appropriate governance arrangements are in place and continue to be regarded as fit for purpose.

We propose over the coming year to take steps to address any matters to further enhance our governance arrangements in these challenging times. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for any developments that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

Furthermore, having considered all the principles of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption, we are satisfied that the Council has adopted a response that is appropriate for its fraud and corruption risks and commits to maintain its vigilance to tackle fraud.

John Sinnott

John Sinnott
Chief Executive

Nicholas Rushton
Leader of the Council

Annex 1

AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN 2020-21

The Corporate and Departmental AGS self-assessments contained a set of conformance statements under each core principle and related sub-principles as outlined in the CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016), which required a corresponding score of 1, 2 or 3 to be recorded, based on the criteria below:

Score	Definition	Description	Evidence (all inclusive)
1	Good	Conformance against most of the areas of the benchmark is good, although there may be minor developments required but with a limited impact on the ability to achieve departmental and Council objectives. Strategic, reputational and/or financial risks are minor, and performance is generally on track.	Many elements of good practice to a high standard and high quality. Substantial assurance can be given that coverage of the sub-principle is operating satisfactorily and extends to most/all services areas within the department
2	Some development areas for improvement	There are some developments required against areas of the benchmark and the department may not deliver some of its own and the Council objectives unless these are addressed. The management of strategic, reputational and/or financial risks is inconsistent, and performance is variable across the department.	Some elements of good practice to a high standard and high quality. Moderate assurance can be given that coverage of the sub-principle is working adequately in certain service areas, with omissions in others. Proposal/Plans are in place to address perceived shortfalls

3	Key development and many areas for improvement 👎	Conformance against many/all areas of the benchmark is poor and therefore delivery of departmental and Council objectives is under threat. There are many strategic, reputational and/or financial risks and performance is off track.	Few elements of good practice to a high standard and high quality. Coverage of this expectation is omitted amongst most areas. Proposal/Plans to address perceived shortfalls are in early stages of development

The outcome of the review of the self-assessments is summarised in the table below.

Note: some actions are not included in the table as they are already reported through the Corporate Risk Register (CRR).

Annual Review of the Effectiveness of the Council's Governance Framework against the CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)

Core Principles of the Framework	Overall Assessment	Action to Develop Areas Further in 2021/22 (Ongoing and New)
Principle A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law	👉	The level of conformance is generally good; however, the following key developments are noted: • Further work continues with embedding the Council's revised values and behaviours within the updated Annual Performance Review scheme. This is particularly relevant in relation to current (remote) ways of working. **Ongoing** • A refresh of the Council's Modern Slavery Statement has been undertaken. The Supplier Code of Conduct is also being reviewed; the outcome of that review will be reported to the Corporate Governance Committee in due course. **Ongoing** • Delivery of Ethical training for contract managers is being developed and will be delivered. All processes, procedures and policies are being reviewed for the Procurement and Commissioning Unit with a view to roll out additional guidance and training where gaps are identified. **Ongoing** • The County Council Constitution contains the has adopted a Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members - This has been amended over time to reflect the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and Regulations. The LGA has issued a

		new draft model code following a report by the Committee on standards in public life. Guidance is awaited on the revised code and the Government is planning on launching a consultation on this and it is understood that the LGA will be undertaking a light touch review following feedback on the common Code over the Autumn. The aim is to await the guidance and outcome of these exercises and to review and amend the Code as appropriate. **Ongoing** • Ongoing project to develop modernised recruitment methodology and to support Managers in hard to recruit and retain areas. **Ongoing** • Full implementation of the Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy Action Plan over the course of the two-year period 2020-2022. **New** • Implementation of recommendations from 2020/21 assessment against the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud. **New**
Principle B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement		The level of conformance is generally good.
Core Principles of the Framework	**Overall Assessment**	**Action to Develop Areas Further in 2021/22 (Ongoing and New)**
Principle C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefit		The level of conformance is good with the following areas to note: • A light touch review of the Strategic Plan 2018-2022 was undertaken in light of the declaration on climate change and was approved by Council on 8th July 2020. A comprehensive review of the Strategic Plan and outcomes framework is underway to reflect the implications of Covid-19 and the ongoing climate change challenges. This updated Strategic Plan will be approved in Spring 2022 and cover the period up to 2026. The Strategic Plan has been augmented by the development of a complementary Strategic Change Programme and a Covid19 Recovery Strategy. **Ongoing** • In order to deliver defined outcomes on a sustainable basis within the resources available, the Council will need to build in better multi-year monitoring perspective for larger capital schemes to ensure that medium term implications are

		brought out (as opposed to in year focus) **New**
Principle D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes		- Work is continuing to embed an outcomes-based approach following adoption of the Council's Strategic Plan 2018-22 although the pandemic led to some of this work being suspended as priority switched to responding to Covid-19. The outcomes framework is being reviewed as part of the process of updating the Strategic Plan. **Ongoing** - The Council's Social Value Policy is being refreshed and implementation of improved guidance and training will be developed. **Ongoing**
Principle E. Developing the entity's capacity including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it		- Early indications are that absence levels are dropping through enforced remote working (longer term this will be supported by the implementation of the Council's workplace programme). The Council's absence levels are now at the Corporate Target of 7.5 days, but ongoing monitoring still required. **Ongoing** - A review of the Constitution is currently underway aimed at making the Constitution more user friendly. The outcome of the review will be reported to the Constitution and/or Corporate Governance Committee who will be asked to recommend approval to the full Council. **New** - Developing arrangements to maintain the health and wellbeing of the workforce and support individuals in maintaining their own physical and mental wellbeing. **New**
Principle F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management		The level of conformance is good, however: - Continuing work on implementation of recommendations from the Independent Risk Management Health Check- **(**Some actions completed (tableau dashboards, departmental action plans, but others remain. **Ongoing**

Core Principles of the Framework	**Overall Assessment**	**Action to Develop Areas Further in 2021/22 (Ongoing and New)**
Principle F continued		- Business Intelligence (BI) Service will continue to develop dashboards to help managers to identify

		and resolve data quality issues. The BI Service will continue to liaise with IT and departments to ensure that validation is used as much as possible at the point of data entry. The BI Service will also continue to build dashboards to support performance management at strategic and operational levels. **Ongoing** • Improve contract management and monitoring of key contracts. **Ongoing** • Data analysis has been completed on the Council's information asset register and gaps identified. Work is underway to identify missing Information Sharing Agreements (ISA). **Ongoing**
Principle G. Implementing good practices in transparency reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability		• The Council's Contracts Register has been updated but further work is necessary to ensure compliance by all departments and met the reporting requirements under the Transparency Code. **Ongoing** • Whilst the external peer review of the internal audit function returned top grading, some-minor actions are closed but other areas for development will take longer to implement. **Ongoing** • New place -based performance dashboards to reflect the Health and Well Being (HWB) Board priority outcomes and integration deliverables - the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and move towards a new Integrated Care Systems (ICS) has impacted on timescales for this piece of work as well as needing to align with the new Outcomes Development process for the Council following the recent election. Further work will be carried out to refine performance reporting for priority health and care outcomes linked to the new ICS governance arrangements. Work is underway through workshops and discussions with ICS colleagues on the development of the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy and related priority outcomes. A new performance framework and reporting will be implemented alongside the new strategy and outcomes. **Ongoing** • Work is underway to consider how to best to adopt the Governance Risk Resilience Framework (March 2021) launched by The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny **New** • CIPFA -Financial Management Code. The Code was issued in late 2019 with guidance notes (mid-2020). Local authorities are required to implement the Code for 2021/22. A self-assessment of the Council's compliance with the requirements of the Code has been completed in January 2021. Whilst the Council met the requirements of the

		Code, there are areas for further development. **New** • The government response to the Redmond review on Local Authority financial reporting and external audit will require the Council to undertake a detailed analysis of the review recommendations and government responses to understand implications. **New**

Annex 2

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS & DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO THE GOVERNANCE SYSTEM THAT OCCURRED POST BALANCE SHEET DATE

During its review of the 2020/21 draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS); the Senior Officer Group (which meets annually to review the compilation of the AGS) determined that there were no significant governance issues that required reporting. The draft AGS for 2020/21 was considered by the Council's Corporate Governance Committee on 23 July 2021 and was subsequently published with the draft Statement of Accounts.

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2020/21, states that the AGS should relate to the governance system as it applied to the financial year for the accounts that it accompanies. However, significant events or developments relating to the governance system that occur between the Balance Sheet date, (31 March), and the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the responsible financial officer should also be reported.

Since the draft AGS was published, three issues have arisen: -

1. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

a. Issue

The Inquiry into institutional responses to allegations of child sexual abuse made against the late Lord Janner of Braunstone QC, had been supported by the County Council from the outset and had been referred to in the 'Future Challenges' section in each of the five previous year's Annual Governance Statements. The Inquiry report was eventually released on 19 October 2021. It contained a section on the County Council's handling of historic allegations of child sexual abuse and drew some negative conclusions. This prompted short- lived national and local media attention.

b. Actions taken

Whilst no recommendations were forthcoming from the Inquiry report, the County Council publicly acknowledged and apologised for its historic failings. It fully accepted the findings and praised the bravery of those who had taken part in the Inquiry. The Council's transformed approaches to safeguarding was acknowledged by IICSA as being unrecognisable from those of the past.

2. Adult Social Care budget

a. Issue

The latest positions shows a net overspend of £13.5m is forecast across adult social care. There is a continuing significant financial impact due to Covid-19 which includes additional cost for commissioned services and loss of service user income. The overall number of service users being supported has significantly increased by 3.8%.

b. Actions taken

The Council published a media release in September to manage the publication of a budget update report, and it generated national and local coverage.

An action plan to manage the overspend is in place which is overseen by the departmental management team and includes:

- Reviewing all service user's packages that have commenced or changed since April 2020
- Increasing the capacity of the reablement service, in turn leading to better and more cost-effective longer-term outcomes.
- Reviewing residential care packages over and above the standard residential banded rates.
- Reviewing high cost packages to see whether health funding towards the package applies.
- Working with NHS partners to help improve the discharge pathway including reviewing funding arrangements.
- Ensuring financial and funding assessments are undertaken to close the current gap.
- Reviewing internal processes and improving management controls to avoid high cost commissioning.

3. Capital programme

a. Issue

There has been an upwards reassessment of the cost of delivering major infrastructure capital schemes, in particular delivering the Melton distributor road schemes. Latest estimates show revised estimates across both schemes of £133m, which is £10.6m above previous estimates. The key factors in driving the significant forecast cost increase from original estimates are:

a. insufficient contingency for inflationary increases (materials, contractors etc)
b. under provision for risks/uncertainty which have grown as the quantified risk register has been developed
c. under provision for optimism bias (not permitted to be included in original business case assessments)
d. expansions in scope compared to initial scheme.

b. Actions taken

The overall funding shortfall of the council’s capital programme was similarly reported in the media.

It is difficult to plan a capital programme where there is significant uncertainty of delivering large infrastructure schemes, especially in advance of a target price being received and a contract issued. Working with consultants they advocate ‘three-point estimates’ for schemes which reflect a best case, most likely and worst case position, rather than using a single point estimate (budget). It is difficult to plan a capital programme with a significant range estimate on scheme. The recommended approach is to provide an allocation for ‘portfolio risk’ within the programme. This will cover issues such as excess inflation due to shortages of materials or available contractors due to the wider demands on the market. Risks would be identified through the budget monitoring process based on clear evidence that such a scenario had arisen. Decisions on using the portfolio risk fund are taken by the Director of Corporate Resources following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Resources. In September 2021 the Cabinet approved a portfolio risk contingency of £10.6m.

Glossary of Terms

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied in preparing and presenting financial statements.

AMORTISED COST

The amortised cost of a financial asset or financial liability is:

- the amount at which the asset or liability is measured at initial recognition (usually "cost")
- *minus* any repayments of principal,
- *minus* any reduction for impairment or uncollectibility, and
- *plus or minus* the cumulative amortisation of the difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

- Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty within 24 hours.
- Cash equivalents are investments of less than 3 months from acquisition that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of a change in value.

CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Income from the sale of capital assets e.g. sale of equipment. Such income may only be used to repay loan debt or to finance new capital expenditure.

CAPITAL RESERVE

An internal reserve of the Council which is used to generate monies for financing capital expenditure thus avoiding the need to borrow externally.

COLLECTION FUND

The fund administered by each authority collecting Council Tax and National Non Domestic Rates (district councils in shire areas). The Authority precepts on these funds to finance its net expenditure after taking into account other sources of income, e.g. Government Grants, and charges for services.

CREDITORS

Amounts owed by the Authority for work done, goods received or services rendered but for which payment has not been made by the end of the financial year.

DEBTORS

Amounts due to the Authority but unpaid at the end of the financial year.

DEFERRED CAPITAL RECEIPTS

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.

FAIR VALUE

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction at the market date. Fair value is referred to as the exit price.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (IFRS)

A statement of common accounting practices, devised by the International Accounting Standards Board, which form the basis for the treatment and recording of transactions as applicable to the majority of large organisations, in both the private and public sectors.

GENERAL FUND

The main revenue fund (reserve) of the Authority. Precept income, National Non-Domestic Rate income and government grants are paid into the fund, from which the cost of providing services is met.

IMPAIRMENT

A loss in the value of a fixed asset, arising from physical damage such as a major fire or a significant reduction in market value. In addition, a reduction in value where there is insufficient unrealised gains in the revaluation reserve for that asset.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The network of roads, bridges, sewers, lighting etc.

INTANGIBLE ASSET

Non-financial non-current assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled by the Authority through custody or legal rights (e.g. purchased software licences).

LEASING

A method of financing the acquisition of assets, notably equipment, vehicles, plant, etc. There are two forms of lease:

a) A finance lease involves payment by the lessee (the user) of the full cost of the asset together with a return on the finance provided by the lessor, usually payable over the anticipated life of the asset.
b) An operating lease involves the payment of a rental by a lessee for a period, which is normally less than the useful economic life of the asset.

LONG TERM BORROWING

Loans with terms over 1 year, raised to finance capital spending.

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION

The Authority has a duty to set aside a prudent amount of money as a provision for financing debt incurred to undertake capital expenditure.

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

A reconciliation showing the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into ‘usable’ reserves (i.e. those that can be used to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and unusable reserves. It also shows how the balance of resources generated/ consumed in the year links in with statutory requirements for raising council tax.

NON CURRENT ASSETS

Assets which are not readily convertible into cash or not expected to become cash within the next year. Examples include fixed assets, leasehold improvements, long term investments and long term debtors.

NON-OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Assets held by the Authority but not directly used for the provision of services, e.g. assets surplus to requirements, commercial properties, and assets under construction.

PRECEPTS

The income which the Authority receives from billing authorities (e.g. council tax from the collection funds of the district councils or Parish Councils).

PROVISION

An amount set aside for any liabilities or losses of uncertain timing.

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD (PWLB)

A government body from which local authorities may obtain long term loans, usually at preferential interest rates.

REMUNERATION

All sums paid to an employee, including expenses, allowances, and redundancy payments chargeable to UK income tax, and the monetary value of any other benefits received other than in cash.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE

Capital expenditure incurred not resulting in an asset to the authority e.g. Grants to village halls.

REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT (RSG)

Grant paid by the Government in respect of general local authority expenditure.

RECHARGE

The transfer of costs from one service account to another.

REVENUE FUNDING OF CAPITAL

The financing of capital expenditure by a direct contribution from revenue.

REVENUE

Includes fees and interests earned from providing services and selling goods. Also includes Government grants to local authorities.

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (SLA)

An agreement between users and providers of support services which specifies the service to be provided and the charge to be made.

SHORT TERM ACCUMULATING COMPENSATED ABSENCES ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT

Represents the reversal of the accrued charge to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for outstanding annual leave, flexi leave and time off in lieu carried forward by employees required by regulations.

SPECIFIC GRANTS

Grants paid by the Government for a particular service.

TERMINATION BENEFITS

Employee benefits payable as a result of either: (a) the Authority’s decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date; or (b) an employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits.

TRUST FUNDS

Funds administered by the Authority for such purposes as charities, prizes and specific projects.

USABLE RESERVE

An amount set aside for purposes falling outside the definition of a provision that an Authority can apply to its provision of services, either by incurring expenses or undertaking capital investment.

UNUSABLE RESERVE

An amount set aside for purposes falling outside the definition of a provision that an Authority is not able to utilise to provide services. These include reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses as well as adjustment accounts which hold income and expenditure recognised statutorily against the general fund balance on a different basis from that expected by accounting standards as adopted by the code.

APPENDIX B

This version of the report is a draft. Its contents and subject matter remain under review and its contents may change and be expanded as part of the finalisation of the report.

Grant Thornton

The Audit Findings for Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Pension Fund

Year ended 31 March 2021

24 November 2021

Contents

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The contents of this report relate only to the matters which have come to our attention, which we believe need to be reported to you as part of our audit planning process. It is not a comprehensive record of all the relevant matters, which may be subject to change, and in particular we cannot be held responsible to you for reporting all of the risks which may affect the Council or all weaknesses in your internal controls. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.

This Audit Findings presents the observations arising from the audit that are significant to the responsibility of those charged with governance to oversee the financial reporting process, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260. Its contents will be discussed with management and the Corporate Governance Committee.

Name : Barrie Morris
For Grant Thornton UK LLP
Date : 24 November 2021

1. Headlines

This table summarises the key findings and other matters arising from the statutory audit of Leicestershire County Council ('the Council') and Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund ("the Pension Fund" for the year ended 31 March 2021 for those charged with governance.

Financial Statements

Under International Standards of Audit (UK) (ISAs) and the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to report whether, in our opinion:

- the Council's and Pension Fund's financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council's and Pension Fund's income and expenditure for the year; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting and prepared in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We are also required to report whether other information published together with the audited financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), Narrative Report and Pension Fund Financial Statements], is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

Our audit work was completed on remotely during August to November 2021. Our findings are summarised on pages 4 to 25.

We have identified one adjustment to the financial statements that resulted in a £31.4m adjustment to the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The need for this adjustment arose as updated level 3 investment valuations became available for the Pension Fund after the draft accounts had been prepared. Audit adjustments are detailed in Appendix C.

We have also raised recommendations for management as a result of our audit work in Appendix A. Our follow up of recommendations from the prior year's audit are detailed in Appendix B.

Our work is substantially complete and there are no matters of which we are aware that would require modification of our audit opinion or material changes to the financial statements, subject to the following outstanding matters;

- completion of testing on Land and Building valuations
- completion of testing on s106 balances
- completion of testing on grant income
- receipt of bank and investment confirmations
- manager, engagement lead and technical review of the final financial statements, including the narrative report
- receipt of management representation letter; and
- review of the final set of financial statements.

We have concluded that the other information to be published with the financial statements, is consistent with our knowledge of your organisation and the financial statements we have audited.

Our anticipated audit report opinion for both the Council and the Pension Fund will be unmodified.

1. Headlines

Value for Money (VFM) arrangements

Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to consider whether the Council has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Auditors are now required to report in more detail on the Council's overall arrangements, as well as key recommendations on any significant weaknesses in arrangements identified during the audit.

Auditors are required to report their commentary on the Council's arrangements under the following specified criteria:

- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness;
- Financial sustainability; and
- Governance.

We have not yet completed all of our VFM work and so are not in a position to issue our Auditor's Annual Report. An audit letter explaining the reasons for the delay is attached in the Appendix E to this report. We expect to issue our Auditor's Annual Report by 31 January 2022. This is in line with the National Audit Office's revised deadline, which requires the Auditor's Annual Report to be issued no more than three months after the date of the opinion on the financial statements.

As part of our work, we considered whether there were any risks of significant weakness in the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We identified a risk in respect of financial sustainability relating to the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, savings and financial plans. Our work on this risk is underway and an update is set out in the value for money arrangements section of this report.

Statutory duties

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ('the Act') also requires us to:

- report to you if we have applied any of the additional powers and duties ascribed to us under the Act; and
- to certify the closure of the audit.

We have not exercised any of our additional statutory powers or duties.

We expect to certify the completion of the audit upon the completion of our work on the Council's VFM arrangements, which will be reported in our Annual Audi tor's report in December 2021.

Significant Matters

We did not encounter any significant difficulties or identify any significant matters arising during our audit.

2. Financial Statements

Overview of the scope of our audit

This Audit Findings Report presents the observations arising from the audit that are significant to the responsibility of those charged with governance to oversee the financial reporting process, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK) 260 and the Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'). Its contents will be discussed with management and the Corporate Governance Committee.

As auditor we are responsible for performing the audit, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and the Code, which is directed towards forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements.

Audit approach

Our audit approach was based on a thorough understanding of the Council's and the Pension Fund's business and is risk based, and in particular included:

- An evaluation of the Council's and the Pension Fund's internal controls environment, including its IT systems and controls;
- Substantive testing on significant transactions and material account balances, including the procedures outlined in this report in relation to the key audit risks

We have not had to alter our audit plan, as communicated to you on 4 June 2021

Conclusion

We have substantially completed our audit of your financial statements and subject to outstanding queries being resolved, we anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion following the Corporate Governance Committee meeting on 3 December 2021. These outstanding items include:

- completion of testing on Land and Building valuations
- completion of testing on s106 balances
- receipt of bank and investment confirmations
- manager, engagement lead and technical review of the final financial statements, including the narrative report
- receipt of management representation letter; and
- review of the final set of financial statements.

Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the assistance provided by the finance team and other staff.

2. Financial Statements

Our approach to materiality

The concept of materiality is fundamental to the preparation of the financial statements and the audit process and applies not only to the monetary misstatements but also to disclosure requirements and adherence to acceptable accounting practice and applicable law.

For the County Council we have reduced materiality levels compare to those reported in our audit plan on 4 June 2021 to reflect the actual 2020/21 expenditure recorded in the draft financial statements.

For the Pension Fund we retained materiality at the level set in our audit plan.

We detail in the table below our determination of materiality for Leicestershire County Council and Pension Fund Council

	County Council (£000s)	Pension Fund (£000s)	Qualitative factors considered
Materiality for the financial statements	11,454	29,000	Reduced compared to 2019/20 of (£11.9m) to reflect impact of the implementation of a new general ledger.
Performance materiality	7,980	20,300	-
Trivial matters	570	1,450	-
Materiality for senior officer remuneration disclosures	20	-	We determined that we would request amendment of any errors which would be of interest to readers of the accounts

2. Financial Statements - Significant risks

Significant risks are defined by ISAs (UK) as risks that, in the judgement of the auditor, require special audit consideration. In identifying risks, audit teams consider the nature of the risk, the potential magnitude of misstatement, and its likelihood. Significant risks are those risks that have a higher risk of material misstatement.

This section provides commentary on the significant audit risks communicated in the Audit Plan.

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	Commentary
Management override of controls (County Council and Pension Fund) Under ISA (UK) 240 there is a non-rebuttable presumed risk that the risk of management over-ride of controls is present in all entities. . The Authority faces external scrutiny of its spending and this could potentially place management under undue pressure in terms of how they report performance. We therefore identified management override of control, in particular journals, management estimates and transactions outside the course of business as a significant risk, this was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.	We: • evaluated the design effectiveness of management controls over journals • analysed the journals listing and determine the criteria for selecting high risk unusual journals • tested unusual journals recorded during the year and after the draft accounts stage for appropriateness and corroboration • gain an understanding of the accounting estimates and critical judgements applied made by management and consider their reasonableness with regard to corroborative evidence • evaluated the rationale for any changes in accounting policies, estimates or significant unusual transactions Our review of journals included a separate analysis, risk assessment and testing of postings to the Oracle R12 ledger (covering the period April 2020 – October 2020) and the Oracle Fusion ledger (covering the period November 2020 – March 2021.) No issues arose from our work which we consider require reporting to the Corporate Governance Committee.

2. Financial Statements - Significant risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	**Commentary**
Improper revenue recognition (County Council) ISA (UK) 240 includes presumed risks as follows: • Revenue recognition may be misstated due to the improper recognition of revenue. • In the public sector, in line with the requirements of Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statements of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom - we also consider whether expenditure may be misstated due to the improper recognition of expenditure. • These risks are rebuttable if the auditor concludes that there is no risk of material misstatement due to fraud relating to revenue or expenditure recognition. We consider that we are able to rebut the presumed risks in relation to the majority of the Council’s income, but are aware that the Council has been in receipt of material additional COVID-19 related income in 2020/21. Due to the varied funding conditions and accounting requirements associated with this income, we consider that we are unable to rebut the presumed risk in relation to these additional COVID-19 related income streams for 2020/21. Similarly we consider that we are able to rebut the presumed risk in relation to the majority of expenditure, but due to the impact of COVID-19 on Other Service Expenditure consider that we are unable to rebut the presumed risk in relation to this element of expenditure for 2020/21.	There were no changes to our risk assessment as reported in the audit plan. For COVID-19 grant funding, we undertook detailed testing for a sample of grants: • we considered whether the assessment by the Council on whether it was acting as principal or agent for the administration of the grant funding was based on a reasonable assessment of relevant factors such as who bears credit risk and responsibility for any overpayments, who determines the amount, who sets the criteria for entitlement, who designs the scheme and whether there are discretionary elements and whether there are conditions outstanding (as distinct from restrictions) that would determine whether the grant be recognised as a receipt in advance or income. • reviewed whether the grant funding had been accounted for in line with the terms and conditions of the grant. • for related specific expenditure, we reviewed the Council’s for process for monitoring the use of grant funds for their prescribed purpose and ensured that this expenditure was included within the population used for expenditure testing. Our work in this area is ongoing at the time of issue of this report.

2. Financial Statements - Significant risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan

Valuation of land and buildings

(County Council)

Revaluation of property, plant and equipment should be performed with sufficient regularity to ensure that carrying amounts are not materially different from those that would be determined at the end of the reporting period.

Additionally, valuations are significant estimates made by management in the accounts. The value of land and buildings held by the Council at fair value at 31 March 2021 was £546.1 million.

Our 2019/20 opinion included an emphasis of matter paragraph drawing attention to disclosures included in the financial statements of a material uncertainty attached to property valuations as at 31 March 2020 due to the ongoing nature of the Covid-19 pandemic. This paragraph did not represent a modification of our audit opinion.

We have identified the valuation of land and buildings and investment property as a significant risk.

Commentary

The Council used both an internal valuer and external valuer (Bruton Knowles LLP) for its asset valuations during 2020/21. The effective date of the valuation undertaken was 1 October 2020.

We undertook the following audit procedures;

- evaluated management's processes and assumptions for the calculation of the estimate, the instructions issued to the valuation experts and the scope of their work
- evaluated the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation experts used
- wrote to each valuer to confirm the basis on which the valuations were carried out
- engaged our own valuation specialists to review the terms of engagement and valuation approach for the Council's internal valuation team, and for the valuations undertaken by Bruton Knowles LLP
- challenged the information and assumptions used by the valuers to assess completeness and consistency with our understanding
- tested the full valuation at 1 October 2020 to understand the information and assumptions used in arriving at valuations, include review of detailed valuation calculations for a sample of assets
- reviewed management's assessment of the potential impact of movements in valuations between 1 October 2020 and 31 March 2021, which concluded that there had been no material movement in the valuations between these dates
- ensured that key data used as the basis for valuations (such as BCIS build cost information) was supported by external evidence
- tested revaluations made during the year to see if they had been input correctly into the Council's asset register and that any revaluation movement had been correctly accounted for in the financial statements
- used valuation indices to review valuation movements for assets not revalued in 2020/21 to assess whether there was the potential for a material difference to have arisen between the carrying value of assets and current value.

We noted that the Council's valuers did not include a "material uncertainty" caveat in the 2020/21 valuations. Based on the input from our expert valuer and their review of the Council's valuation reports we concluded that it was a reasonable assessment. As a result a disclosure to this effect in the Council's financial statements, and an emphasis of matter paragraph in our audit opinion to draw attention to this disclosure, is not required for 2020/21.

Our work in this area is ongoing at the time of issue of this report.

2. Financial Statements - Significant risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	**Commentary**
Valuation of pension fund net liability (County Council) The Council's pension fund net liability, as reflected in its balance sheet as the net defined benefit liability, represents a significant estimate in the financial statements. The pension fund net liability is considered a significant estimate due to the size of the numbers involved (£835.5m in the Council's balance sheet) and the sensitivity of the estimate to changes in key assumptions. The methods applied in the calculation of the IAS 19 estimates are routine and commonly applied by all actuarial firms in line with the requirements set out in the Code of practice for local government accounting (the applicable financial reporting framework). We have therefore concluded that there is not a significant risk of material misstatement in the IAS 19 estimate due to the methods and models used in their calculation. The source data used by the actuaries to produce the IAS 19 estimates is provided by administering authorities and employers. We do not consider this to be a significant risk as this is easily verifiable. The actuarial assumptions used are the responsibility of the entity but should be set on the advice given by the actuary. A small change in the key assumptions (discount rate, inflation rate, salary increase and life expectancy) can have a significant impact on the estimated IAS 19 liability. In particular the discount and inflation rates, where the Fund's actuary has indicated that a 0.1% change in these two assumptions would have approximately 2% effect on the liability. We have therefore concluded that there is a significant risk of material misstatement in the IAS 19 estimate due to the assumptions used in their calculation. With regard to these assumptions we have therefore identified valuation of the Authority's pension fund net liability as a significant risk.	We undertook the following procedures: • updated our understanding of the processes and controls put in place by management to ensure that the Authority's pension fund net liability is not materially misstated and evaluate the design of the associated controls • evaluated the instructions issued by management to their management expert (an actuary) for this estimate and the scope of the actuary's work • assessed the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the actuary who carried out the Authority's pension fund valuation • assessed the accuracy and completeness of the information provided by the Authority to the actuary to estimate the liability • tested the consistency of the pension fund asset and liability and disclosures in the notes to the core financial statements with the actuarial report from the actuary • undertake procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made by reviewing the report of the consulting actuary (as auditor's expert) and performing any additional procedures suggested within the report • raised queries of management' expert in relation to their assumptions and approach • reviewed whether the pension fund has reported any material uncertainty in relation to investment property valuations as at 31 March 2021 • obtained assurances from the audit of the pension fund as to the controls surrounding the validity and accuracy of membership data; contributions data and benefits data sent to the actuary by the pension fund and the fund assets valuation in the pension fund financial statements. Our work in this area is complete. An adjustment to the draft accounts has been actioned following the receipt of updated 31 March 2021 valuations for elements of the pension fund's investment assets. As a result the increase in the share of pension fund assets for the Council is £31.4m. This has been adjusted in the financial statements and so is included on the schedule of adjusted misstatements included on page 34.

2. Financial Statements - Significant risks

Risks identified in our Audit Plan	Commentary
Implementation of new general ledger (County Council and Pension Fund)	We have obtained assurance on the transfer of balances to the Oracle Fusion ledger by: • review of the Council's own reconciliation of balances • detailed comparison of balances between the closing Trial Balance for the Oracle R12 ledger and the opening position as per the Oracle Fusion ledger. This testing confirmed that balances had been completely and accurately transferred to the new ledger system. In addition our IT audit specialists have undertaken a review of the project management arrangements relating to the implementation of the Oracle Fusion ledger. One significant weakness arose from this review which we have reported on page 19. We are satisfied that this did not impact on the 2020/21 financial statements. We have agreed and issued a separate report relating to other findings arising from the IT audit work.
Valuation of Level 3 investments (Pension Fund)	We have: • evaluated management's processes for valuing Level 3 investments • reviewed the nature and basis of estimated values and consider what assurance management has over the year end valuations provided for these types of investments; to ensure that the requirements of the Code are met • independently requested year-end confirmations from investment managers and custodians • for a sample of investments, tested the valuation by obtaining and reviewing the audited accounts, (where available) at the latest date for individual investments and agreeing these to the fund manager reports at that date. Reconciled those values to the values at 31 March 2021 with reference to known movements in the intervening period • in the absence of available audited accounts, we have evaluated the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation expert • tested revaluations made during the year to see if they had been input correctly into the Pension Fund's asset register • where available reviewed investment manager service auditor report on design effectiveness of internal controls. An adjustment to the draft accounts has been actioned following the receipt of updated 31 March 2021 valuations for elements of the pension fund's investment assets. This has resulted in an increase in the value of investments, and in the gain on investments during the financial year, of £35.5m.

2. Financial Statements – key judgements and estimates

This section provides commentary on key estimates and judgements inline with the enhanced requirements for auditors.

Significant judgement or estimate	Summary of management's approach	Audit Comments	Assessment
Land and Building valuations – £546.1m	Land and buildings comprises £546.1m of assets held at fair value. Assets with a fair value of £261.6m were valued during 2020/21. Specialised assets such as schools and libraries were valued based on depreciated replacement cost (DRC) at year end. The remaining operational assets together with £0.9m of surplus assets and £1.7m of investment property have been valued on an open market value basis. All valuations were undertaken as at 1 October 2020 and a review then conducted by use of indices to assess whether any further material valuation movement would have occurred to 31 March 2021. Management has considered the year end value of those operational assets where were not revalued in 2020/21 by applying indices to update the valuations to 31 March 2021. Management's assessment of assets not revalued has identified no material change to the properties' values. In 2019/20 the Council's valuers reported a 'Material Valuation Uncertainty' clause as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic on asset valuations. For 2020/21 no similar clause has been included in the valuation. Based on the input from our expert valuer and their review of the Council's valuation reports we concluded that it was a reasonable assessment. Our work in review of the approach taken to the estimation of the valuation of land and building as at 31 March 2021 is ongoing.	Our work in review of the approach taken to the estimation of the valuation of land and building as at 31 March 2021 is yet to be completed.	TBC

Assessment

- ● [Purple] We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- ● [Blue] We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
- ● [Grey] We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
- ● [Light Purple] We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

2. Financial Statements – key judgements and estimates

Significant judgement or estimate	Use of auditor's expert	Audit Comments	Assessment
Land and Building valuations – £546.1m	We have used Wilkes Head and Eve as our auditor expert to assess the valuation approach adopted by the Council's internal valuer, and by Bruton Knowles LLP who were engaged to value elements of assets held at open market value. A summary of their findings is set out below **Comment on the clarity of terms of engagement and instructions.** Wilkes Head and Eve have confirmed that the terms of engagement and instructions issued to and agreed with the Council's internal valuation team are in line with process expectations and therefore are of the view that this element of the process has been covered effectively. The Council also agreed a formal letter of appointment with Bruton Knowles LLP setting out the terms and scope of their appointment. **Commentary on the valuation process** Wilkes Head and Eve concluded that the valuation process undertaken by both the Council's internal valuations team and by Bruton Knowles LLP were in all respects in line with expectations and met the requirements of relevant valuation guidance.	No issues to raise relating to the Council's appointment of valuers and their management of their input to the valuation process.	Light purple

Assessment

- ● [Purple] We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- ● [Blue] We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
- ● [Grey] We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
- ● [Light Purple] We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

2. Financial Statements - key judgements and estimates

<table>
<tr><th>Significant judgement or estimate</th><th>Summary of management’s approach</th><th>Audit Comments</th><th>Assessment</th></tr>
<tr>
<td>Net pension liability – £835.5m</td>
<td>The Council’s net pension liability at 31 March 2021 is £835.5m (PY £606.6m).
The Council uses Hymans Robertson LLP to provide actuarial valuations of the Council’s assets and liabilities derived from this scheme. A full actuarial valuation is required every three years.
The latest full actuarial valuation was completed in March 2019. Given the significant value of the net pension fund liability, small changes in assumptions can result in significant valuation movements. There has been a £205m net actuarial loss during 2020/21.</td>
<td>We have:
• assessed Hymans Robertson as management’s expert to confirm their independence, objectivity and experience
• used PwC as and auditors expert to assess the assumptions made by actuary as set out below:
<table>
<tr><th>Assumption</th><th>Actuary Value</th><th>PwC range</th><th>Assessment</th></tr>
<tr><td>Discount rate</td><td>2%</td><td>1.95% - 2.05%</td><td>✓</td></tr>
<tr><td>Pension increase rate</td><td>2.85%</td><td>2.8% - 2.85%</td><td>✓</td></tr>
<tr><td>Salary growth</td><td>3.35%</td><td>2.8% – 3.8%</td><td>✓</td></tr>
<tr><td>Life expectancy – Males currently aged 45 / 65</td><td>22.6
21.7</td><td>21.8 – 24.3
20.4 – 22.7</td><td>✓</td></tr>
<tr><td>Life expectancy – Females currently aged 45 / 65</td><td>25.9
24.2</td><td>25.2 – 26.7
23.2 – 24.9</td><td>✓</td></tr>
</table>
We identified no issues with the reasonableness of managements approach to the calculation of this material estimate.</td>
<td>Light purple</td>
</tr>
</table>

Assessment

- ● Dark Purple We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- ● Blue We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management’s estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
- ● Grey We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management’s estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
- ● Light Purple We consider management’s process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

2. Financial Statements - key judgements and estimates

Significant judgement or estimate	Summary of management’s approach	Audit Comments	Assessment
Grants Income Recognition and Presentation- £62.4m	Leicestershire Count Council received significant levels of covid grant funding in 2020/21. This has been presented in the financial statements within a number of categories: • Specific grants credited to services - £29.9m • General grants credited to taxation and non specific grant revenue - £34.5m The Council assessed the appropriate accounting treatment and categorisation for each grant based on a review of the underlying grant conditions and an assessment of whether the Council had the discretion to determine who was eligible to receive the grant, the purpose of the grants use or the amounts to be provided. Where the Council’s judgement was that it did have this discretion it has accounted for the grants in its financial statements’ where it judged that it did not have this discretion it accounted for the grants on an agency basis. The Council concluded that it did not receive material levels of grant which required accounting for on an agency basis.	We undertook review of a sample of all grants received by the Council in 2020/21. and reviewed: • the basis of the judgement made as to whether the grant was accounted for in the Council’s financial statements, or on an agency basis. • completeness and accuracy of the underlying information used to determine whether there are conditions outstanding (as distinct from restrictions) that would determine whether the grant be recognised as a receipt in advance or income • impact for grants received, whether the grant is specific or non specific grant (or whether it is a capital grant) – which impacts on where the grant is presented in the CIES. • adequacy of disclosure of judgement in the financial statements. Our work in this area is ongoing.	TBC

Assessment

- ● Dark Purple We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- ● Blue We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management’s estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
- ● Grey We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management’s estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
- ● Light Purple We consider management’s process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

2. Financial Statements - key judgements and estimates

Significant judgement or estimate	Summary of management's approach	Audit Comments	Assessment
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) - £6m	The Council is responsible on an annual basis for determining the amount charged for the repayment of debt known as its Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The basis for the charge is set out in regulations and statutory guidance. During 2020/21 the Council changed the basis of calculation of the MRP from a 4% reducing balance approach for supported borrowing to a 40 year straight line basis. The Council considered that this represented a more appropriate approach. The total amount of MRP payable was not affected by this change but it did mean a reduction in the charge in earlier years compared to the previous reducing balance approach. This change was approved by full Council at their meeting on 25 February 2021. The year end MRP charge was £6.2m, compared to £10m in 2019/20. The CFR as at 31 March 2021 was £232.3m, compared to a total debt of £263m . As such the Council was "overborrowed" by £31m at 31 March 2021 but expects this situation to reverse as debt is repaid.	We reviewed whether: • changes to the policy on MRP had been appropriately discussed and agreed with the s151 officer and by the Council • the MRP had been calculated in line with the revised policy • whether the Council's policy on MRP complies with statutory guidance. • the decrease in the MRP charge compared to 2019/20 was reasonable in the light of the change to the policy • the calculations to support the 40 year estimated average remaining useful lives of assets were reasonable and supported. Due to increased attention to the level of MRP charged by local authorities nationally we have also undertaken benchmarking of the level of provision made. Initial analysis of the results of this benchmarking do not highlight a potential issue for Leicestershire County Council. Based on the above assessment we consider that management's estimate is reasonable.	Light purple

Assessment

- ● Dark Purple We disagree with the estimation process or judgements that underpin the estimate and consider the estimate to be potentially materially misstated
- ● Blue We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider optimistic
- ● Grey We consider the estimate is unlikely to be materially misstated however management's estimation process contains assumptions we consider cautious
- ● Light Purple We consider management's process is appropriate and key assumptions are neither optimistic or cautious

2. Financial Statements – other matters arising

Matter arising	Auditor commentary
County Council – grossing up of income and expenditure.	During testing of fees and charges and other operating expenditure, we noted £21.9m of transfers to reserves which had incorrectly been included in income and expenditure in note 2, Expenditure and Funding Analysis, for 2020/21. The Council has amended the financial statements to correct this issue, as set out on the schedule of adjusted misstatements on page 34 – disclosure and classification amendments. The adjustment related only to this disclosure note and did not impact on the CIES.
Pension Fund - Classification of investment assets	We reviewed the classification of other investment assets as part of our audit procedures during 2020/21. The majority of investment assets were classified as "level 1" in the draft financial statements. Following discussion with management we agreed that a proportion of these assets would be reclassified to "level 2" due to their nature. The total adjustments to the figures for financial assets at fair value were:

	Level 1 £m	Level 2 £m
Per draft accounts	3,433.1	0
Agreed amended accounts	2,403.0	1,030.1

An amendment has been agreed to the pension fund accounts in relation to this issue.

2. Financial Statements – other matters arising

Matter arising	Auditor commentary
Pension Fund – Annual Report We have reviewed the information included within the Pension Fund Annual Report to ensure that it was consistent within the financial statements and complied with the guidance issued by CIPFA.	We identified some "must do" requirements as set out in the CIPFA guidance – "Preparing the annual report – Guidance for Local Government Pension Scheme Funds (2019 Edition) which had not been included in the 2020/21 Pension Fund Annual Report. Whilst this does not impact on our opinion on the Annual Report, as we are only required to report on inconsistencies between the Annual Report and the financial statements, we have raised a recommendation relating to compliance with CIPFA guidance in this area. Further details are set out on page 31. The "must do" requirements not included were: Financial performance – • current year performance against budget • forecast v outturn report on the pension fund cash flows • details of pension overpayments, recoveries and any amounts written off, including the results of participation in (NFI) exercises (data matches, overpayments identified, actions taken, etc). Pension scheme administration • details of new pensioners analysed by ill health, early and normal retirements. • a statement on Value for Money Dealings with employer bodies • a summary of the number of employers in the fund analysed by scheduled bodies and admitted bodies which are active (with active members) and ceased (no active members but with some outstanding liabilities). In addition, a number of other "should" and "may" requirements were not included. We have recommended that the Pension Fund review the disclosures included in the Annual Report In future years to ensure full compliance with CIPFA guidance on its contents.

2. Financial Statements - Internal Control

Assessment	Issue and risk	Recommendations
🔴	**Inappropriate segregation of duties as developers have access to the production environment** We noted that 21 users from Evosys (who are supporting in implementation of Oracle Fusion) and EMSS (who are an entity formed in partnership with Leicestershire County council for rendering Tech support to Oracle) had been granted "IT Security Manager" access rights for both the development and production environments. We understand that due to the limited number of staff able to develop and implement changes and the inability to split these roles, it has not been considered possible to segregate these roles. Independent monitoring to identify and validate any changes made by these users is not completed. **Risks** The combination of access to develop and implement those changes in the production environment creates a risk that inappropriate or unauthorized changes are made to data and/or programs. **Impact on the financial statements audit** Due to the potential risk that this control weakness presents, the audit team have undertaken a review of all journal postings made by Evosys and EMSS users. No inappropriate journal postings were identified which would impact on the 2020/21 financial statements.	It is recommended that: • Management should segregate a user's ability to develop and implement changes. Privileged access to the production environment should be revoked from users that are involved in development. • If for operational reasons access cannot be fully segregated, a risk assessment should be undertaken, documented and formally accepted. Alternative options to mitigate the risk could include performing a review of change implementation activity logs. These should be regularly reviewed for appropriateness by an independent individual with evidence retained. **Management response** This was as a result of the split go live schedule. This means that there is continued development work carried out in the production environment as the implementation of Oracle Fusion is being rolled out until all the partners (LCC and Nottingham City Council) go live, currently scheduled to complete at the end of January 2022. At that time access for the implementation partner to the production (live) environment will be removed. There is an agreement in place with the system implementation partner that they will only implement development that has been approved to the production environment. Post go-live changes deployed to production are carried out by the systems admin team in EMSS. This is a small team who have access to both development and production environments. There are agreed procedures to manage these processes including monitoring changes . Where unauthorised changes are found access will be removed immediately. Further work will be undertaken to understand where controls can be further improved.

Assessment

🔴 Significant deficiency – risk of significant misstatement
🟠 Deficiency – risk of inconsequential misstatement

2. Financial Statements - Internal Control

Assessment	Issue and risk	Recommendations
●	**Year end bank reconciliations** During our testing of year end bank and cash balances we noted that the Council had not fully completed the bank reconciliation for the General County Fund bank account and the Salaries bank account as at 31 March 2021. The unreconciled differences were: • General County Fund account - £67,725.02 • Salaries account - £33,711.93. Following further investigation finance staff have reduced the unreconciled difference on the General County Fund account to £10,504.72.	The full completion of bank reconciliations on a monthly basis, with all reconciling items full investigated and cleared, is a key control which should be exercised routinely. Finance staff should fully reconcile all Council bank accounts on a monthly basis, and investigate and clear all reconciling items. **Management response** Agreed. All bank accounts are reconciled monthly, but following the mid-year implementation of the new Oracle Fusion ERP there have been a number of changes in the way some processes operate across finance and payroll which have affected the timely clearance of reconciliation differences. Progress has already been made in the current financial year to reduce the differences and provide assurance that the amounts are related to timing differences and small value transactions. Work is continuing to ensure the residual differences are cleared.
●	**Year end sales ledger control account reconciliation** During testing of the year end sales ledger balance, we noted differences between the total sales ledger figure per the general ledger and the total as per the aged debt report provided to support the balance. The figures were: General ledger balance - £47,568,039 Figure per aged debt report - £47,590,074 Difference - £22,035	The full completion of sales ledger control account reconciliations on a monthly basis, with all reconciling items full investigated and cleared, is a key control which should be exercised routinely. Finance staff should fully and routinely reconcile the general ledger balance to the sales ledger, and investigate and clear all reconciling items. **Management response** Agreed. The sales ledger reconciliation is reconciled monthly, but following the mid-year implementation of the new Oracle Fusion ERP there have been a number of changes in the way some processes operate across the finance module, together with new system reports, which have resulted in some differences within the detailed report. Additional work has been undertaken that provides assurance that the balances are correct in the ledgers, and that the issues now relate to the aged debt report and /or the timing of entries. Work is continuing to ensure the differences are resolved timely.

Assessment

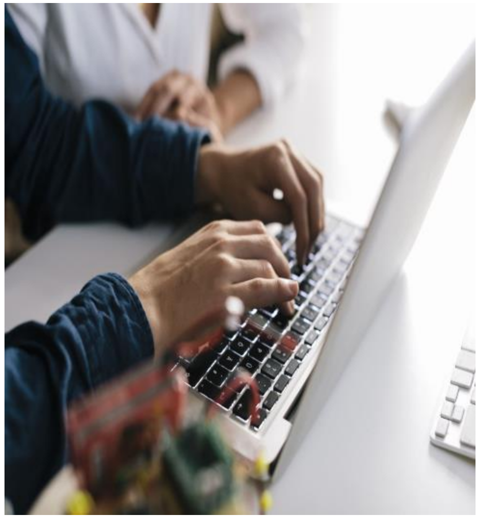
● Significant deficiency – risk of significant misstatement
● Deficiency – risk of inconsequential misstatement

3. Financial Statements - other communication requirements

We set out below details of other matters which we, as auditors, are required by auditing standards and the Code to communicate to those charged with governance.

Issue	Commentary
Matters in relation to fraud	We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with the Corporate Governance Committee. We have not been made aware of any material actual or suspected frauds in the period and no other issues have been identified during the course of our audit procedures.
Matters in relation to related parties	We are not aware of any related parties or related party transactions which have not been disclosed.
Matters in relation to laws and regulations	You have not made us aware of any significant incidences of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations and we have not identified any incidences from our audit work.
Written representations	A letter of representation has been requested from the Council and the Pension Fund.

3. Financial Statements - other communication requirements



Issue	Commentary
Confirmation requests from third parties	We requested from management permission to send confirmation requests relating to year end investment and bank balances. This permission was granted and the requests were sent. At the date of issue of this report a number of these confirmations had not yet been received. We continue to chase these responses with the support of Council officers.
Accounting practices	We have evaluated the appropriateness of the Council's accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures. Our review found no material omissions in the financial statements.
Audit evidence and explanations/ significant difficulties	All information and explanations requested from management was provided.

3. Financial Statements - other communication requirements

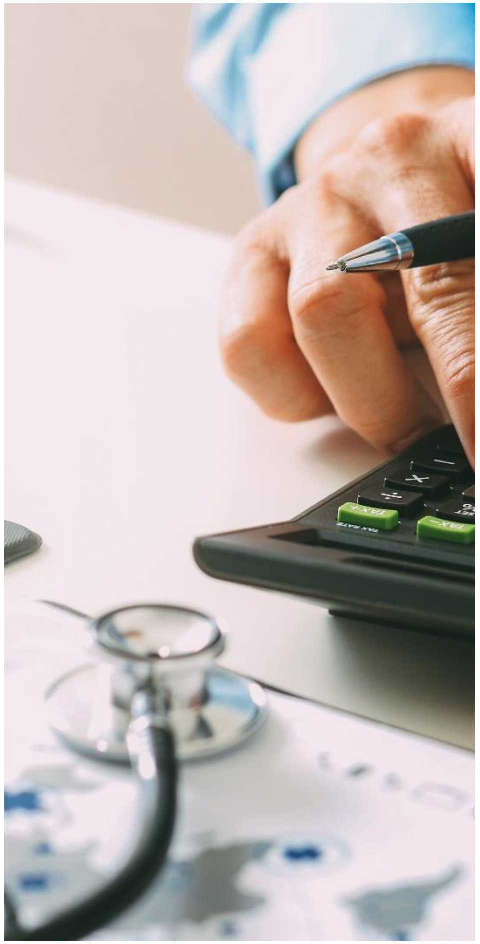
Our responsibility

As auditors, we are required to "obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern assumption in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and to conclude whether there is a material uncertainty about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern" (ISA (UK) 570).

Issue	Commentary
Going concern	In performing our work on going concern, we have had reference to Statement of Recommended Practice – Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statements of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2020). The Financial Reporting Council recognises that for particular sectors, it may be necessary to clarify how auditing standards are applied to an entity in a manner that is relevant and provides useful information to the users of financial statements in that sector. Practice Note 10 provides that clarification for audits of public sector bodies. Practice Note 10 sets out the following key principles for the consideration of going concern for public sector entities: • the use of the going concern basis of accounting is not a matter of significant focus of the auditor's time and resources because the applicable financial reporting frameworks envisage that the going concern basis for accounting will apply where the entity's services will continue to be delivered by the public sector. In such cases, a material uncertainty related to going concern is unlikely to exist, and so a straightforward and standardised approach for the consideration of going concern will often be appropriate for public sector entities • for many public sector entities, the financial sustainability of the reporting entity and the services it provides is more likely to be of significant public interest than the application of the going concern basis of accounting. Our consideration of the Council's financial sustainability is addressed by our value for money work, which is covered elsewhere in this report. Practice Note 10 states that if the financial reporting framework provides for the adoption of the going concern basis of accounting on the basis of the anticipated continuation of the provision of a service in the future, the auditor applies the continued provision of service approach set out in Practice Note 10. The financial reporting framework adopted by the Council and the Pension Fund meets this criteria, and so we have applied the continued provision of service approach. In doing so, we have considered and evaluated: • the nature of the Council and the Pension Fund and the environment in which they operates • the Council's and the Pension Fund's financial reporting framework • the Council's and the Pension Fund's system of internal control for identifying events or conditions relevant to going concern • management's going concern assessment. On the basis of this work, we have obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence to enable us to conclude that: • a material uncertainty related to going concern has not been identified • management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

4. Financial Statements - other responsibilities under the Code

Issue	Commentary
Other information	We are required to give an opinion on whether the other information published together with the audited financial statements including the Annual Governance Statement, Narrative Report and Pension Fund Financial Statements, is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. We note some "must do" requirements as set out in the CIPFA guidance – "Preparing the annual report – Guidance for Local Government Pension Scheme Funds (2019 Edition) which had not been included. Whilst this does not impact on our opinion on the annual report, as we are only required to report on inconsistencies between the annual report and the financial statements, we have raised a deficiency and recommendation relating to compliance with CIPFA guidance in this area. Further details are set out on pages 18 and 30. At the time of issue of this report we are yet to complete our review in this area.
Matters on which we report by exception	We are required to report on a number of matters by exception in a number of areas: • if the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with disclosure requirements set out in CIPFA/SOLACE guidance or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit, • if we have applied any of our statutory powers or duties. • where we are not satisfied in respect of arrangements to secure value for money and have reported a significant weakness. We have nothing to report on these matters.



4. Financial Statements - other responsibilities under the Code

Issue	Commentary
Specified procedures for Whole of Government Accounts	We are required to carry out specified procedures (on behalf of the NAO) on the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) consolidation pack under WGA group audit instructions. The 2020/21 WGA Data Collection Tool is not yet available and is not expected to be so until at least December 2021. As such we have not yet undertaken work on the Council's 2020/21 WGA submission.
Certification of the closure of the audit	We intend to delay the certification of the closure of the 2020/21 audit of Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Pension Fund in the audit report, as detailed in Appendix E, due to incomplete and Whole of Government Accounts and Value for Money work.

5. Value for Money arrangements

Revised approach to Value for Money work for 2020/21

On 1 April 2020, the National Audit Office introduced a new Code of Audit Practice which comes into effect from audit year 2020/21. The Code introduced a revised approach to the audit of Value for Money. (VFM)

There are three main changes arising from the NAO's new approach:

- A new set of key criteria, covering financial sustainability, governance and improvements in economy, efficiency and effectiveness
- More extensive reporting, with a requirement on the auditor to produce a commentary on arrangements across all of the key criteria.
- Auditors undertaking sufficient analysis on the Council's VFM arrangements to arrive at far more sophisticated judgements on performance, as well as key recommendations on any significant weaknesses in arrangements identified during the audit.

The Code require auditors to consider whether the body has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. When reporting on these arrangements, the Code requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under the three specified reporting criteria.

Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

Arrangements for improving the way the body delivers its services. This includes arrangements for understanding costs and delivering efficiencies and improving outcomes for service users.

Financial Sustainability

Arrangements for ensuring the body can continue to deliver services. This includes planning resources to ensure adequate finances and maintain sustainable levels of spending over the medium term (3-5 years)

Governance

Arrangements for ensuring that the body makes appropriate decisions in the right way. This includes arrangements for budget setting and management, risk management, and ensuring the body makes decisions based on appropriate information

Potential types of recommendations

A range of different recommendations could be made following the completion of work on the body's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, which are as follows:

Statutory recommendation

Written recommendations to the body under Section 24 (Schedule 7) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. A recommendation under schedule 7 requires the body to discuss and respond publicly to the report.

Key recommendation

The Code of Audit Practice requires that where auditors identify significant weaknesses in arrangements to secure value for money they should make recommendations setting out the actions that should be taken by the body. We have defined these recommendations as 'key recommendations'.

Improvement recommendation

These recommendations, if implemented should improve the arrangements in place at the body, but are not made as a result of identifying significant weaknesses in the body's arrangements

5. VFM - our procedures and conclusions

We have not yet completed all of our VFM work and so are not in a position to issue our Auditor's Annual Report. An audit letter explaining the reasons for the delay is attached in the Appendix E to this report. We expect to issue our Auditor's Annual Report by 31 January 2022. This is in line with the National Audit Office's revised deadline, which requires the Auditor's Annual Report to be issued no more than three months after the date of the opinion on the financial statements.

As part of our work, we considered whether there were any risks of significant weakness in the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We identified the risk set out in the table below. Our work on this risk is underway and an update is set out below.

Risk of significant weakness	Work performed to date
Financial sustainability – delivery of the MTFS, savings and financial plans. Delivery of future savings is essential to the Council's to deliver a balanced medium term financial plan and to delivering required outcomes for the community.	We have • reviewed the Council's financial and savings plans and other information relevant to the arrangements for delivery of financial sustainability. • undertake a range of interviews with Council officers to further assess the arrangements in place. To date, no evidence of significant weaknesses in arrangements has been identified.

6. Independence and ethics

We confirm that there are no significant facts or matters that impact on our independence as auditors that we are required or wish to draw to your attention. We have complied with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and confirm that we, as a firm, and each covered person, are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements

We confirm that we have implemented policies and procedures to meet the requirements of the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and we as a firm, and each covered person, confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements.

Further, we have complied with the requirements of the National Audit Office's Auditor Guidance Note 01 issued in May 2020 which sets out supplementary guidance on ethical requirements for auditors of local public bodies.

Details of fees charged are detailed in Appendix D

Transparency

Grant Thornton publishes an annual Transparency Report, which sets out details of the action we have taken over the past year to improve audit quality as well as the results of internal and external quality inspections. For more details see Transparency report 2020 (grantthornton.co.uk)

6. Independence and ethics

Audit and non-audit services

For the purposes of our audit we have made enquiries of all Grant Thornton UK LLP teams providing services to the Council and the Pension Fund. The following non-audit services were identified.

Service	Fees £	Threats identified	Safeguards
Audit related			
Certification of Teachers Pension Return	5,000	Self-Interest (because this is a recurring fee)	The level of this recurring fee taken on its own is not considered a significant threat to independence as the fee for this work is £5,000 in comparison to the total fee for the audit of £107,602 and in particular relative to Grant Thornton UK LLP's turnover overall. Further, it is a fixed fee and there is no contingent element to it. These factors all mitigate the perceived self-interest threat to an acceptable level.
		Self review (because GT provides audit services)	To mitigate against the self review threat , the timing of certification work is done after the audit has completed, materiality of the amounts involved to our opinion and unlikelihood of material errors arising and the Council has informed management who will decide whether to amend returns for our findings and agree the accuracy of our reports on grants.

These services are consistent with the Council's policy on the allotment of non-audit work to your auditors. All services have been approved by the Corporate Governance Committee. None of the services provided are subject to contingent fees.

Appendices

A. Action plan – Audit of Financial Statements

We have identified four recommendations for the Council and pension fund as a result of issues identified during the course of our audit. We have agreed our recommendations with management and we will report on progress on these recommendations during the course of the 2021/22 audit. The matters reported here are limited to those deficiencies that we have identified during the course of our audit and that we have concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported to you in accordance with auditing standards.

We have agreed and issued a separate report for the IT audit work setting out further lower priority recommendations and management response.

Assessment	Issue and risk	Recommendations
●	**Inappropriate segregation of duties as developers have access to the production environment** The combination of access to develop and implement those changes in the production environment creates a risk that inappropriate or unauthorized changes are made to data and/or programs.	It is recommended that: • Management should segregate a user's ability to develop and implement changes. Privileged access to the production environment should be revoked from users that are involved in development. • If for operational reasons access cannot be fully segregated, a risk assessment should be undertaken, documented and formally accepted. Alternative options to mitigate the risk could include performing a review of change implementation activity logs. These should be regularly reviewed for appropriateness by an independent individual with evidence retained. **Management response** This was as a result of the split go live schedule. This means that there is continued development work carried out in the production environment as the implementation of Oracle Fusion is being rolled out until all the partners (LCC and Nottingham City Council) go live, currently scheduled to complete at the end of January 2022. At that time access for the implementation partner to the production (live) environment will be removed. There is an agreement in place with the system implementation partner that they will only implement development that has been approved to the production environment. Post go-live changes deployed to production are carried out by the systems admin team in EMSS. This is a small team who have access to both development and production environments. There are agreed procedures to manage these processes including monitoring changes . Where unauthorised changes are found access will be removed immediately. Further work will be undertaken to understand where controls can be further improved.

Key

- ● High priority – Significant effect on financial statements
- ● Medium priority – Limited effect on financial statements
- ● Low priority – Best practice

A. Action plan – Audit of Financial Statements

Assessment	Issue and risk	Recommendations
●	**Year end bank reconciliations** The full completion of bank reconciliations on a monthly basis, with all reconciling items full investigated and cleared, is a key control which should be exercised routinely.	Finance staff should fully reconcile all Council bank accounts on a monthly basis, and investigate and clear all reconciling items. **Management response** Agreed. All bank accounts are reconciled monthly, but following the mid-year implementation of the new Oracle Fusion ERP there have been a number of changes in the way some processes operate across finance and payroll which have affected the timely clearance of reconciliation differences. Progress has already been made in the current financial year to reduce the differences and provide assurance that the amounts are related to timing differences and small value transactions. Work is continuing to ensure the residual differences are cleared.
●	**Sales ledger control account reconciliations** The full completion of sales ledger control account reconciliations on a monthly basis, with all reconciling items full investigated and cleared, is a key control which should be exercised routinely.	Finance staff should fully and routinely reconcile the general ledger balance to the sales ledger, and investigate and clear all reconciling items. **Management response** Agreed. The sales ledger reconciliation is reconciled monthly, but following the mid-year implementation of the new Oracle Fusion ERP there have been a number of changes in the way some processes operate across the finance module, together with new system reports, which have resulted in some differences within the detailed report. Additional work has been undertaken that provides assurance that the balances are correct in the ledgers, and that the issues now relate to the aged debt report and /or the timing of entries. Work is continuing to ensure the differences are resolved timely.
●	**Pension Fund Annual Report** We identified some "must do" requirements as set out in the CIPFA guidance – "Preparing the annual report – Guidance for Local Government Pension Scheme Funds (2019 Edition) which had not been included in the 2020/21 Pension Fund Annual Report.	We recommend that the Pension Fund review the disclosures included in the Annual Report going forward to ensure full compliance with CIPFA guidance on its contents. **Management response** Agreed, the new requirements introduced by the CIPFA guidance will be implemented in the Annual Report for 2021/22. Gaps in the 2020/21 report will be completed or discussed with the Pension Committee.

Key

- ● High priority – Significant effect on financial statements
- ● Medium priority – Limited effect on financial statements
- ● Low priority – Best practice

B. Follow up of prior year recommendations

We identified the following issues in the audit of Leicestershire County Council's 2019/20 financial statements, which resulted in 2 recommendations being reported in our 2019/20 Audit Findings report.

Assessment	Issue and risk previously communicated	Update on actions taken to address the issue
✓	**School Bank Reconciliations not carried out on the 31 March 2020** Our audit testing found that there were a few schools who completed their bank reconciliations before the year end of 31 March 2020, and there were some trivial differences between what they reported in their reconciliation compared to the year end position. We recommended that the Council should require all schools to complete their bank reconciliations as at 31 March (or as close as possible) in future years, to be in line with the reporting year end of the Council.	No issues were noted with school bank reconciliations as at 31 March 2021.
✓	**Information Technology Audit** Our IT specialist noted several weaknesses in relation to the operation of the Oracle ledger system, which management were addressing in the move to the Fusion Cloud Platform.	Our IT auditors have issued an updated report for 2020/21 following the implementation of the Fusion Cloud Platform. We will report the findings from this report separately to you.

Assessment

✓ Action completed

X Not yet addressed

C. Audit Adjustments – County Council

We are required to report all non trivial misstatements to those charged with governance, whether or not the accounts have been adjusted by management.

Impact of adjusted misstatements

All adjusted misstatements are set out in detail below along with the impact on the key statements and the reported net expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021.

Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £m	Statement of Financial Position £m	Impact on total net expenditure £m
Amendment to pension share of net assets	31.4	31.4	31.4
Overall impact	£31.4	£31.4	£31.4

Misclassification and disclosure changes

Note 2 – Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Incorrect grossing up of income and expenditure - £21.9m

We will provide full details of all agreed misclassification and disclosure changes on finalisation of our review of the financial statements.

C. Audit Adjustments – Pension Fund

We are required to report all non trivial misstatements to those charged with governance, whether or not the accounts have been adjusted by management.

Impact of adjusted misstatements

All adjusted misstatements are set out in detail below along with the impact on the key statements and the reported net expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021.

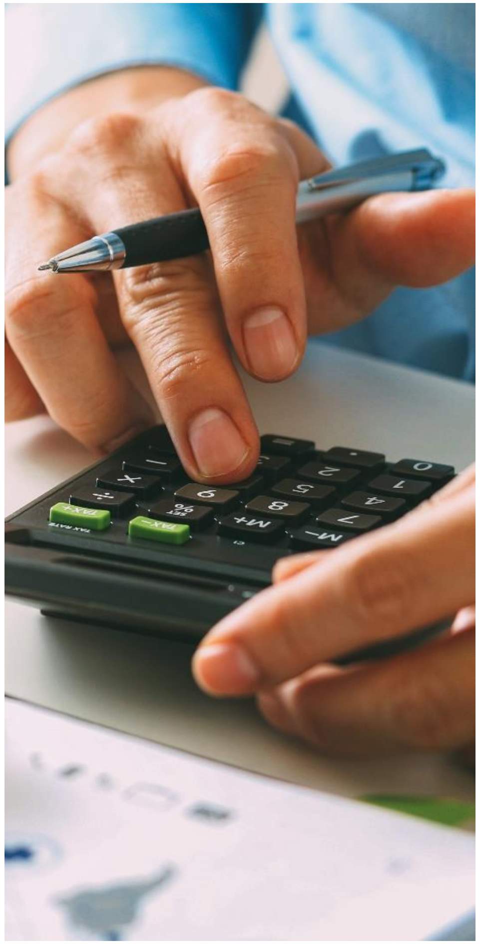
Detail	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £m	Statement of Financial Position £m	Impact on total net expenditure £m
Amendment to level 3 asset valuations	35.5	35.5	35.5
Overall impact	£35.5	£35.5	£35.5

Misclassification and disclosure changes

Reclassification of investment assets – assets reclassified from “level 1” to “level 2” - £1,030.1m

We will provide further details of all agreed misclassification and disclosure changes on finalisation of our review of the financial statements.

C. Audit Adjustments



Impact of unadjusted misstatements

None identified above our trivial threshold.

Impact of prior year unadjusted misstatements

None identified above our trivial threshold.

D. Fees

We confirm below our final fees charged for the audit and provision of non-audit services.

The fees reconcile to the financial statements.

Audit fees	Proposed fee £	Final fee
Council Audit	107,602	TBC
Pension Fund Audit	34,530	TBC

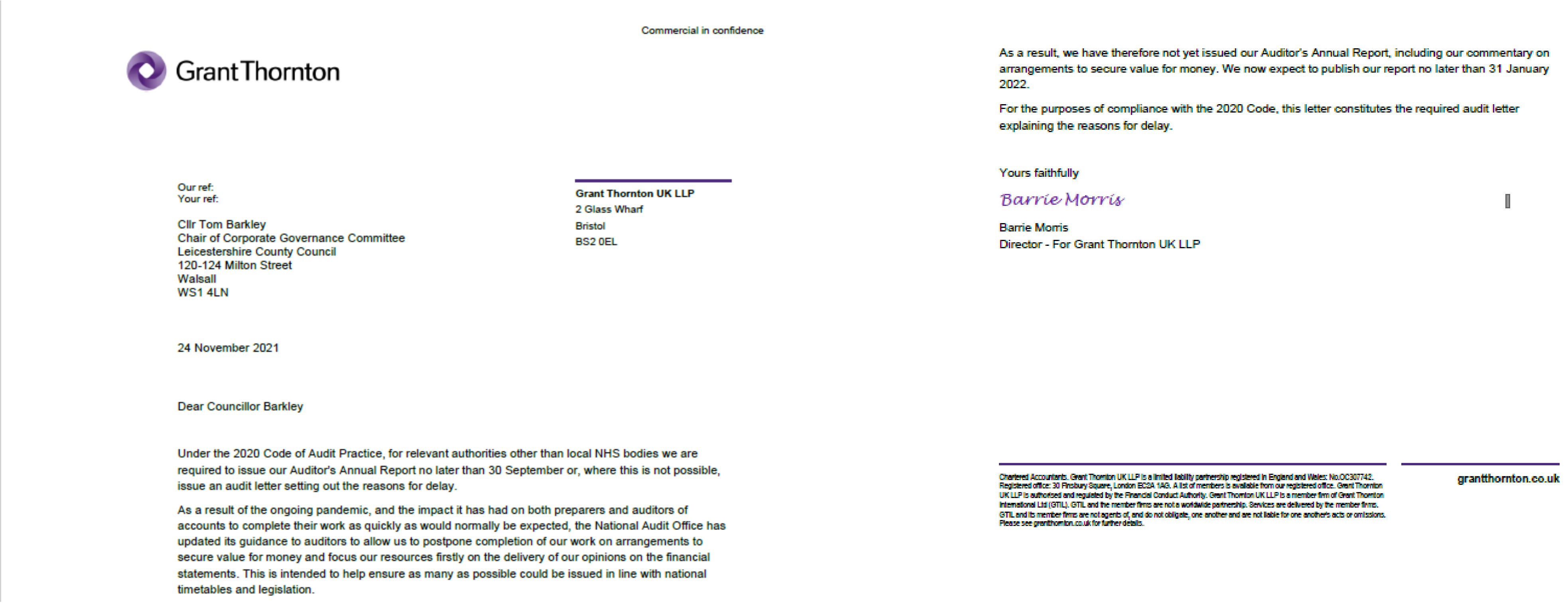
The scale fee for the Council audit is £59,252. The proposed fee of £107,602 includes a fee uplift for our financial statements at audit work of £29,350 and for VFM work of ££19,000, as set out in our Audit Plan.

The scale fee for the Pension Fund audit is £21,280. The proposed fee of £34,530 includes a fee uplift for our financial statements at audit work of £13,250, as set out in our Audit Plan.

The final fees are subject to approval by PSAA.

Non-audit fees for other services	Proposed fee	Final fee
Teachers Pension Certification (council)	5,000	5,000
IAS19 Assurance Letters (Pension Fund)	6,000	6,000

E. Audit letter in respect of delayed VFM work (to be added)



Commercial in confidence

Grant Thornton

Our ref:
Your ref:

Grant Thornton UK LLP
2 Glass Wharf
Bristol
BS2 0EL

Cllr Tom Barkley
Chair of Corporate Governance Committee
Leicestershire County Council
120-124 Milton Street
Walsall
WS1 4LN

24 November 2021

Dear Councillor Barkley

Under the 2020 Code of Audit Practice, for relevant authorities other than local NHS bodies we are required to issue our Auditor's Annual Report no later than 30 September or, where this is not possible, issue an audit letter setting out the reasons for delay.

As a result of the ongoing pandemic, and the impact it has had on both preparers and auditors of accounts to complete their work as quickly as would normally be expected, the National Audit Office has updated its guidance to auditors to allow us to postpone completion of our work on arrangements to secure value for money and focus our resources firstly on the delivery of our opinions on the financial statements. This is intended to help ensure as many as possible could be issued in line with national timetables and legislation.

As a result, we have therefore not yet issued our Auditor's Annual Report, including our commentary on arrangements to secure value for money. We now expect to publish our report no later than 31 January 2022.

For the purposes of compliance with the 2020 Code, this letter constitutes the required audit letter explaining the reasons for delay.

Yours faithfully

Barrie Morris

Barrie Morris
Director - For Grant Thornton UK LLP

grantthornton.co.uk

Grant Thornton

grantthornton.co.uk

APPENDIX C

Leicestershire County Council

Grant Thornton UK LLP
2 Glass Wharf
Bristol
BS2 0EL

Date: 3 December 2021
My Ref:
Your Ref:
Contact: Chris Tambini
Phone: 0116 3056199
Fax:
Email: Chris.Tambini@leics.gov.uk

Dear Sirs

Leicestershire County Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of Leicestershire County Council for the year ended 31 March 2021 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the Council financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 and applicable law.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Statements

i. We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the Council’s financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.

ii. We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the Council and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.

iii. The Council has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of any regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.

iv. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.

v. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. Such accounting estimates include the valuation of land and buildings, the valuation of the pension net liability, estimated useful lives for property, plant and equipment and year end accruals. We are satisfied that the material judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements. We understand our responsibilities includes identifying and considering alternative, methods, assumptions or source data that would be equally valid under the financial reporting framework, and why these alternatives were rejected in favour of the estimate used. We are satisfied that the methods, the data and the significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.

vi. We confirm that we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of pension scheme assets and liabilities for IAS19 Employee Benefits disclosures are consistent with our knowledge. We confirm that all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for. We also confirm that all significant post-employment benefits have been identified and properly accounted for.

vii. Except as disclosed in the financial statements:

   a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent
   b. none of the assets of the Council has been assigned, pledged or mortgaged
   c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.

viii. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code.

ix. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

x. We have considered the adjusted misstatements, and misclassification and disclosures changes schedules included in your Audit Findings Report. The Council's financial statements have been amended for these misstatements, misclassifications and disclosure changes and are free of material misstatements, including omissions.

xi. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.

xii. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.

xiii. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements

xiv. The prior period adjustments disclosed in Note 20 to the financial statements are accurate and complete. There are no other prior period errors to bring to your attention.

xv. We have updated our going concern assessment. We continue to believe that the Council's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern on the grounds that :

   a. the nature of the Council means that, notwithstanding any intention to cease its operations in their current form, it will continue to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting because, in such an event, services it performs can be expected to continue to be delivered by related public authorities and preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis will still provide a faithful representation of the items in the financial statements
   b. the financial reporting framework permits the entity to prepare its financial statements on the basis of the presumption set out under a) above; and
   c. the Council's system of internal control has not identified any events or conditions relevant to going concern.

We believe that no further disclosures relating to the Council's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements

Information Provided

xvi. We have provided you with:

   a. access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the Council’s financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;

   b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and

   c. access to persons within the Council via remote arrangements, in compliance with the nationally specified social distancing requirements established by the government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

xvii. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.

xviii. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

xix. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

xx. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the Council and involves:

   a. management;

   b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or

   c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

xxi. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

xxii. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.

xxiii. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Council's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

xxiv. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

Annual Governance Statement

xxv. We are satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Council's risk assurance and governance framework and we confirm that we are not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

Leicestershire
County Council

Narrative Report

xxvi. The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect our understanding of the Council's financial and operating performance over the period covered by the Council’s financial statements.

Approval

The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the Council’s Corporate Governance Committee at its meeting on 3 December 2021.

Yours faithfully

Chris Tambini
Director of Corporate Resources, Leicestershire County Council
3 December 2021

Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee
3 December 2021

(Signed on behalf of the Corporate Governance Committee)

APPENDIX D

Leicestershire County Council

Grant Thornton UK LLP
2 Glass Wharf
Bristol
BS2 0EL

Date:	3 December 2021
My Ref:	
Your Ref:	
Contact:	Chris Tambini
Phone:	0116 3056199
Fax:	
Email:	Chris.Tambini@leics.gov.uk

Dear Sirs

Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

This representation letter is provided in connection with the audit of the financial statements of Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2021 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 and applicable law.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Statements

i. We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the Fund’s financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 ("the Code"); in particular the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.

ii. We have complied with the requirements of all statutory directions affecting the Fund and these matters have been appropriately reflected and disclosed in the financial statements.

iii. The Fund has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of any regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.

iv. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.

v. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. Such accounting estimates include the valuation of level 3 investments. We are satisfied that the material judgements used in the preparation of the financial statements are soundly based, in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements. We understand our responsibilities includes identifying and considering alternative, methods, assumptions or source data that would be equally valid under the financial reporting framework, and why these alternatives were rejected in favour of the estimate used. We are satisfied that the methods, the data and the significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in accordance with the Code and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.

vi. Except as disclosed in the financial statements:

   a. there are no unrecorded liabilities, actual or contingent

   b. none of the assets of the Fund has been assigned, pledged or mortgaged

   c. there are no material prior year charges or credits, nor exceptional or non-recurring items requiring separate disclosure.

vii. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code.

viii. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which International Financial Reporting Standards and the Code require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

ix. We have considered the adjusted misstatements, and misclassification and disclosures changes schedules included in your Audit Findings Report. The financial statements have been amended for these misstatements, misclassifications and disclosure changes and are free of material misstatements, including omissions.

x. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.

xi. Actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards.

xii. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

xiii. We have updated our going concern assessment. We continue to believe that the Fund’s financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis and have not identified any material uncertainties related to going concern on the grounds that that :

   a. the nature of the Fund means that, notwithstanding any intention to liquidate the Fund or cease its operations in their current form, it will continue to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting because, in such an event, services it performs can be expected to continue to be delivered by related public authorities and preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis will still provide a faithful representation of the items in the financial statements

   b. the financial reporting framework permits the entry to prepare its financial statements on the basis of the presumption set out under a) above; and

   c. the Fund’s system of internal control has not identified any events or conditions relevant to going concern.

We believe that no further disclosures relating to the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.

Information Provided

xiv. We have provided you with:

   a. access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;

   b. additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of your audit; and

   c. access to persons within the Fund via remote arrangements, in compliance with the nationally specified social distancing requirements established by the government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

xv. We have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which management is aware.

xvi. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

xvii. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

xviii. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the Fund, and involves:

   a. management;

   b. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or

   c. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

xix. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

xx. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.

xxi. There have been no communications with The Pensions Regulator or other regulatory bodies during the year or subsequently concerning matters of non-compliance with any legal duty.

xxii. We are not aware of any reports having been made to The Pensions Regulator by any of our advisors.

xxiii. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Fund's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

xxiv. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

Leicestershire
County Council

Approval

The approval of this letter of representation was minuted by the Fund’s Corporate Governance Committee at its meeting on 3 December 2021.

Yours faithfully

Signed on behalf of the Fund

Chris Tambini
Director of Corporate Resources, Leicestershire County Council
3 December 2021

Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee
3 December 2021

(Signed on behalf of Leicestershire County Council as administering body of the Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund)