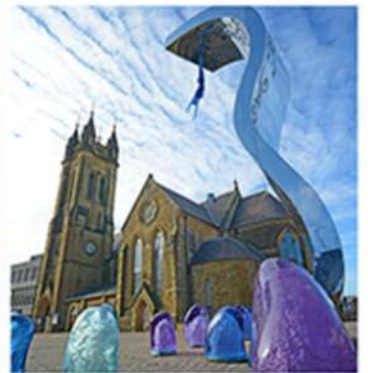


Blackpool Council

Statement of Accounts

For the Year Ended 31st March 2020



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Introduction by Director of Resources – Steve Thompson

Blackpool Council's accounts show the financial results of the Council for the financial year 2019/20 and the financial position as at 31st March 2020.

It is intended that these accounts will provide a useful and important source of financial information for the community, stakeholders, Council Members and other interested parties. The style and format of the accounts complies with Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) standards and is similar to those of previous years.

The 2019/20 Budget was again challenging with a budget savings target of £9.0m on the back of successfully delivering £143.3m over the previous 8 years. This Budget has undergone detailed consideration and scrutiny over a lengthy formulation period. From the very outset this has involved the Council's Cabinet Members, who have ensured that resources are aligned more than ever before to the Council's specific priorities, followed by extensive engagement and consultation with key stakeholders such as the trade unions, business representatives, equality and diversity forums and of course our residents.

Despite the financial constraints, the Council made sufficient provision within the Budget to accommodate:

- internal pay levels rises by at least 2.0% for the period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 in line with the latest employer's pay offer and the payment of at least the National Living Wage to all contracted staff;
- the payment of annual increments;
- voluntary 5 days' unpaid leave on average to continue;
- Auto-enrolment based on previous uptakes
- a non-pay inflation contingency, to address contractual commitments and valid non-pay pressures @ 2.0%
- Treasury Management budget predicated on a Base Rate of 1.00% (0.25% above current Base Rate)
- the latest estimates of Settlement Funding Assessment
- interest rates to remain at low levels
- the Council fulfils its statutory obligation to balance its Budget.

These were all big challenges, but by working more collaboratively across Council directorates and indeed with other public sector partners where appropriate we have achieved common goals and efficiencies together.

The Covid 19 pandemic impacted towards the very end of 2019/20 and therefore the full impact of this is not reflected in this Statement of Accounts. However the Council is expecting significant challenges in 2020/21 and beyond as it deals with the on-going crisis.

The Narrative Report provides information about Blackpool, including key issues affecting the Council and its accounts. It also provides a summary of the financial position as at 31st March 2020.

Narrative Report

An Introduction to Blackpool

Blackpool is a seaside town situated on the north-west coast of England. It is the world's first mass market seaside resort, with a proud heritage stretching back over 150 years. It covers an area of approximately 13.46 square miles and has a population of around 139,305.

In addition to its sandy beaches, Blackpool's major attractions and landmarks include Blackpool Tower, Blackpool Illuminations, the Pleasure Beach, Blackpool Zoo, Sandcastle Water Park, the Winter Gardens, and the UK's only surviving first-generation tramway.

Key Facts about Blackpool

The profile of the local population dictates the direction and substance of the services provided by the Council, for example, there is an increasing demand for children's and adult social care in Blackpool.

The Mid 2018 population estimate shows older people (65 years and above) account for a greater proportion of Blackpool's population than observed at national level.

	Total Population	Aged 0 - 14 years		15 - 64 years		Age 65 and over	
	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
England	55,977,178	10,144,712	18.1	35,653,213	63.7	10,179,253	18.2
Blackpool	139,305	24,506	17.6	86,397	62.0	28,402	20.4

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS) – Mid-year population estimates

Political Structure

Blackpool Council is split into 21 wards each represented by 2 Councillors elected every four years. Following the local elections in May 2019 the political make-up of the Council during 2019/20 was as follows:

Labour Party	23 Councillors
Conservative Party	15 Councillors
Independent	4 Councillors

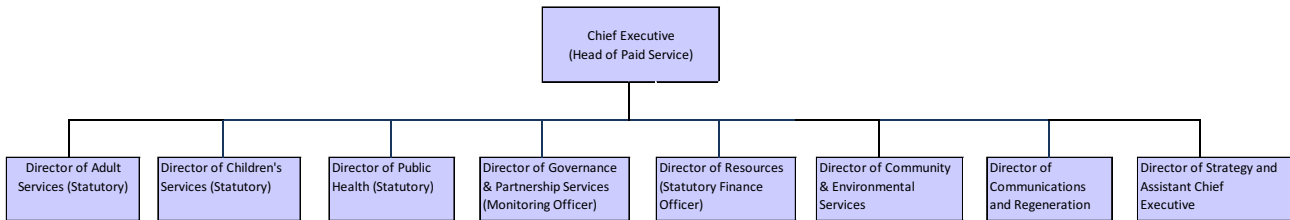
The Executive is the part of the Council which is responsible for most day-to-day decisions. The Executive is made up of a Leader and a Cabinet of nine other councillors whom the Leader has appointed. The Leader of the Council has also appointed one of these Cabinet Members as his deputy along with a Cabinet Assistant.

When major decisions are to be discussed or made, these are published in the Executive's Forward Plan in so far as they can be anticipated. If these major decisions are to be discussed at a meeting of the Executive, this will generally be open for the public to attend except where personal or confidential matters are being discussed. The Executive has to make decisions which are in line with the Council's overall policies and budget. If it wishes

to make a decision which is outside the budget or policy framework, this must be referred to the Council as a whole to decide.

Corporate Leadership Team

Supporting the work of the Councillors is the Corporate Leadership Team which is led by the Chief Executive Neil Jack. The make-up of the Corporate Leadership Team is as follows:

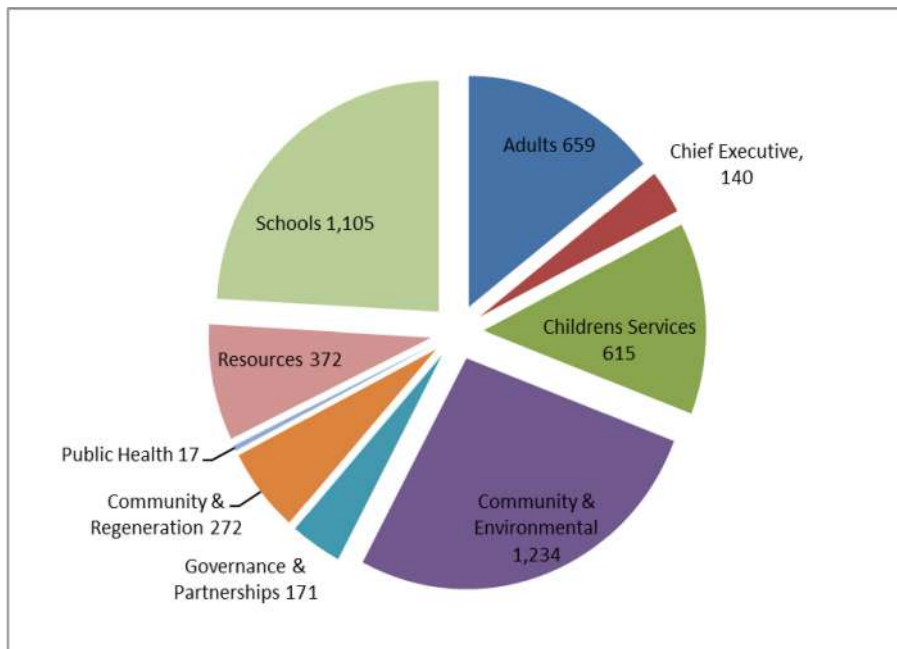


The Corporate Leadership Team provides managerial leadership and supports Councillors in:

- developing strategies
- delivering plans.

Staffing

At 31st March 2020 the Council employed 3,480 people (31st March 2019: 3,686) and also employed a further 1,105 (31st March 2019: 1,099) people in maintained schools. This represents 2,189 Full Time Equivalent Council staff (2018/19: 2,120) and 676 Full Time Equivalent schools staff (2018/19: 660). The chart below shows how these support the Council’s services.



Blackpool Council Plan 2019 - 2024

The Council Plan 2019-2024 seeks to build on the successes of the previous plan which already delivered hundreds of millions of pounds worth of improvements and investment. It will do this through its two key priority areas: Maximising economic growth and opportunity across Blackpool; and creating increasingly stronger and more resilient communities by giving greater focus on prevention issues before they become a problem.

Priority One - The Economy

Visitor Experience - Tourism and Culture

- Complete development of a new 21st century conference facility at the Winter Gardens and increase the number of conferences.
- Finalise design and funding, then deliver the Blackpool Museum Project.
- Implement a new model of funding and delivery to sustain the Illuminations, events programme and cultural services.
- Deliver the first phase of a £300m investment into Blackpool Central, to include world class visitor attractions including the UK's first flying theatre.

Infrastructure and Regeneration

- Complete the tram extension, transport interchange and new 4* hotel at Blackpool North station.
- Implement the Blackpool Enterprise Zone Delivery Plan, facilitating the growth of energy, aviation and food sectors.
- Deliver extensions to the Central Business District at Talbot Gateway.
- Further investment in highways, including completing the Quality Corridor programme, Yeadon Way upgrade and bridge renewal programme.

Enterprise, Skills and Economic Inclusion

- Get hundreds of people back into work via job schemes for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, including Healthworks and More Positive Together.
- Support local businesses to grow and expand by maximising take-up of the Business Loans Fund.
- Work with partners to deliver the Opportunity Area programme, raising attainment and aspirations of our young people.

Improving Housing

- Deliver hundreds more affordable new homes, including the re-development of land at Grange Park and further properties at Foxhall Village.
- Enable further housing delivery through pro-active assistance to developers, including use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers where necessary.
- Enable My Blackpool Home to deliver at least an additional 455 new quality affordable homes for rent.

Priority Two – Communities

Young People

- Continue to implement the NSPCC led A Better Start initiative, improving life chances for 0-3 year olds.
- Improve the experiences and outcomes of young people in our services by improving relationships between organisations.
- Facilitate a school led system which improves attainment at Key Stage 4.
- Development of family hub model in local neighbourhoods for all age engagement and building community resilience.

Health and Social Care

- Implement a new approach to delivering smoking cessation support and initiatives in the town.
- Shape the work of the Council towards delivering the Green and Blue Infrastructure strategy, greening the town.
- Continue to increase numbers accessing drug and alcohol services at an earlier stage and sustaining a positive outcome.

Safeguarding

- Reduce the number of Looked After Children in a safe, sustainable way through incremental improvements of the social care system.
- Work in partnership across Blackpool to review our approach to delivering safeguarding and support for families.

Increasing Resilience

- Deliver whole system change by sustaining the HeadStart Resilience Revolution, increasing mental health resilience amongst 10-16 year olds across the town.
- Stabilise our communities through additional activity to regulate private sector housing, reducing supply and improving quality.
- Improving the co-ordination of volunteers across the town.
- Develop a placed-based approach to service delivery in community settings in partnership with public and voluntary sector organisations.

Performance Commentary for 2019/20

The Council is committed to making Blackpool better and a number of significant schemes are being undertaken.

On 1st July 2019 the Council's domestic waste service was transferred from an external contractor to a Local Authority Trading Company, Blackpool Waste Services Limited which is an arms-length company which is wholly-owned by the Council. By transferring the service to a new company annual savings of £760,000 will be made and it allows the service to operate more flexibly for future improvements and savings.

The redevelopment of Troutbeck Crescent, Mereside commenced in 2019/20 following the decision to demolish the existing flats and work on the development of 75 new council homes.

2019/20 saw the delivery of the Council's £1bn Growth and Prosperity programme continue apace with contracts signed for phase 2 Talbot Gateway (4 Star hotel, restaurant and tram terminal), a £300m deal for a world class multi-use development at Blackpool Central (creating approximately 1000 jobs) and the delivery of over 1,470 jobs and 156,000 square feet of new commercial development at Blackpool Enterprise Zone.

A major town centre regeneration programme was also bolstered by the £50.6m acquisition of the Houndhill Shopping Centre, ongoing construction of the new Winter Gardens Conference Centre, several new hotels and a transformative quality corridor improvement programme. These investments will help to stimulate growth in the economy and improve quality of life for Blackpool residents, bringing about much needed regeneration of the town.

£4.478m has been invested in Children's Social Care in response to the Directorate's Ofsted improvement plan. This figure includes the cost of a number of on-going interventions which were put in place immediately following the review, but also reflects the outcome of a detailed evaluation of the service model, which has taken place in the early part of 2019/20, and has resulted in the introduction of a new staffing structure for the longer term.

Blackpool Council has continued to support its vulnerable residents throughout 2019/20, some of the initiatives/achievements include:

- an additional £521,400 in new and increased welfare benefits for Blackpool residents

- generating £262,710 in financial grants, discretionary payments and utility bill reductions for some of its most vulnerable residents
- supporting customers with the transition to Universal Credit
- supporting the Blackpool Food Bank to supply food parcels to front line workers for distribution to families and individuals who are most in need
- providing advice and support to those in need through dedicated advice teams.

In the summer of 2019 a partnership was formed with the Council and the voluntary sector to provide a 6 week summer holiday activity programme which was funded through the Opportunity Area. The aim of the programme was to offer a programme of activities across 5 locations which also included the provision of food. The programme supported 567 children over the 6 week scheme.

The Council, in partnership with Living Streets, has successfully secured £2.5m from the Department for Transport to continue the work promoting walking and cycling within the town. Blackpool is the lead partner for 9 local authorities and the programme is specifically designed to support schools, improving the number of children walking to school, promoting active travel to and from work and encouraging people to walk or cycle rather than taking the car or using public transport.

The Council has been successful in obtaining 3 grants from the Warm Homes Fund totalling £2,668,638. This will enable the authority to support those households in fuel poverty and to have either first time central heating systems installed in properties, boiler repairs and installation of energy saving measures in properties.

The Council has successfully secured a grant from the Department for Digital, Media and Sport for £3.1m to deliver a local full fibre network across Blackpool. This will provide fibre optic connectivity across 2 enterprise zones within the Fylde Coast, and also benefit businesses and residents with high speed full fibre connectivity within the vicinity of the promenade and town centre. This combined with the Aqua Comms transatlantic fibre connection puts Blackpool in a very good place to develop its digital economy and attract further inward investment.

In 2019/20 a large extension was completed at Carleton Crematorium to allow for the instalment of 3 fully abated cremators. The cremators are the industry's most fuel efficient therefore reducing the Council's carbon emissions greatly. 2019/20 also saw the start of a development at Carleton Cemetery to create a further 800 burial plots.

Blackpool's libraries had over 500,000 visits in 2019/20 a 25% increase on the previous year and around 25,000 people attended over 2,000 library events and activities a 20% increase on the previous year.

Summary of the Financial Year

Revenue Summary

The budget for 2019/2020 was set by the Council on 27th February 2019 in the sum of £128.574m as shown in the table below. There was an increase in Council Tax Band D equivalent to £1,556.31 (£1,511.14 in 2018/2019) to fund services which are the responsibility of the Council to deliver. There was an increase in Council Tax Band D to £1,827.24 (£1,756.05 in 2018/2019) when precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Lancashire Fire Authority are included. The budget was financed as follows:

	£000
Non-Domestic Rate Baseline	28,515
Non-Domestic Rate Top-UP	27,137
Section 31 grants	15,915
Transfer from Reserves	496
Collection Fund Deficit	(326)
Council Tax	56,837
	128,574
	128,574

The Revenue Outturn for 2019/2020 (before allowing for changes to working balances) is £134,339,000 compared with the approved budget of £128,574,000 – a net overspend of £5,765,000.

The following table shows the reconciliation between the revenue outturn of £134,339,000 and the Deficit on Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account of £26,710,000.

	£000
Revenue Outturn	134,339
Housing Revenue Account net requirement	(3,072)
NNDR Baseline	(28,515)
NNDR Top Up	(27,137)
Council Tax Demand	(56,838)
Add back Capital Charges	30,402
IAS 19 Pension and Annual Leave	13,443
Capital Grants	(19,099)
S31 grants	(15,915)
Impairment	31,500
Minimum Revenue Provision	(9,534)
Gains/Losses on sale of assets	1,232
Movements to/from Earmarked Reserves	(6,379)
Revenue contributions to capital	(8,682)
Other	(4,791)
Deficit on Provision of Services	30,954

The year-end variance to the budgeted position of £5,765,000 is summarised as follows for each directorate:-

Summary	2019/20 Variance £000
Directorates	15,606
Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	(375)
Leisure Assets – overspend	4,970
Leisure Assets – financed from Earmarked Reserves	(4,970)
Contributions and Contingencies, Levies and Capital Charges	(9,466)
Total	5,765

The main reasons for this net service overspends / (underspends) are:-

Service	Reasons	£000
Children's Services	<p>The Children's Social Care division has significantly overspent due to ongoing pressures relating to Looked After Children (LAC) numbers.</p> <p>When budgets were set, £3.570m was earmarked to cover the forecast overspend in Children's Social Care. Over the financial year there has been an increase in LAC numbers and an adverse change in the mix of LAC placements, resulting in an additional pressure of £8.077m.</p> <p>In addition to this, an amount of £4.478m was invested in response to the Directorate's Ofsted improvement plan. This figure includes the cost of a number of on-going interventions which were put in place immediately following the review, but also reflects the outcome of a detailed evaluation of the service model, which has taken place in the early part of 2019/20, and has resulted in the introduction of a new staffing structure for the longer term.</p> <p>The new structure represents a fundamental shift in the management of Children's Social Care in Blackpool – a shift from managing the problems, to addressing the source of them. It proposes additional capacity to enable Social Workers to spend</p>	12,893

	<p>more time with children and families to build better relationships, have more effective interventions, building on the strengths within each family, and thereby preventing escalation. Independent analysis suggests that the approach should result in a long-term reduction in the number of cases open to Children's Social Care at any one time and through the year. It will also reduce the number of children on child protection plans, or in the care of the Local Authority.</p> <p>In addition to this, there was a £739k overspend due to a historical, unmet target saving on the Special Educational Needs (SEN) transport Service. Part of this overspend has been offset by staffing savings and the release of one-off funding in other areas of the service.</p>	
Communications and Regeneration	<p>£4,183k of the pressure in Communications and Regeneration has been in the Growth and Prosperity service. Due to the complex nature of these projects, delays have arisen which will now result in an in-year overspend. Whilst this is disappointing, it is not a result of a failure of projects or even an unexpected shortfall in income but rather a question of timing. All projects that were to contribute to the target are still proceeding well and should deliver beyond the target if taken over the 2 year period from 2019/20 to 2020/21. The 'Cash Limited Budgeting' policy allows for overspends to be carried forward if there is a plan in place to deliver. The accounting mechanism is that the pressure is to be funded from Earmarked Reserves in 2019/20 and recovered in 2020/21.</p> <p>£289k balance of the pressure related to a small number of under and over spends within the Directorate.</p>	4,472
Governance and Partnership Services	<p>Governance and Partnership Services has seen pressure in both Corporate Legal Services and in the Life Events and Customer Care Service. These pressures have been offset in part by a saving in Democratic Governance (£51k, due mainly to vacant posts) and Information Governance (£7k).</p> <p>A £93k pressure within Life Events and Customer Care is due to a shortfall in income in relation to cremations and burials and additional Coroner costs relating to post mortems and inquests. This has been offset in part by a transfer of budget from Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay (RCCO) to cover the borrowing costs on the cremators.</p> <p>The remaining pressure of £314k comes from Corporate Legal Services and is due to an increase in spend on Children's Counsel fees resulting from an increasing caseload and the need to increasingly use external legal firms.</p>	349
Public Health	<p>The Public Health directorate managed a grant of £17,941,000, for the financial year to March 2020 which was spent in full.</p>	(0)

Chief Executive	£32k of this saving came from vacancies across the directorate, whilst £20k came from the release of reserves held and no longer needed. The remaining £53k came from underspends in supplies and services across the directorate, mainly in relation to development and consultant budgets.	(105)
Ward Budgets	Scheme commitments of £206k are being carried forward into 2020/21.	(206)
Community and Environmental Services	<p>An under-spend was achieved within the Directorate in 2019/20 due to savings within Business Services, Highways and Traffic, and Street Cleansing and Waste Services.</p> <p>The main variances were a saving of £128k in Business Services, where income was received in relation to capital projects, but this was offset slightly by projects carried out within the Directorate which were funded centrally. Highways underspent by £215k mainly due to increased scheme income and vacancies within the service. Street Cleansing and Waste underspent by £163k mainly due to staffing vacancies and increased income generation.</p> <p>Other variances include an overspend of £148k in Leisure, mainly the result of a shortfall in Leisure income, but this has been offset by savings within the Parks area, amounting to £94k, relating to utilities savings and increased fees and charges.</p>	(436)
Adult Services	Adult Commissioning Placements underspent by £239k as a result of complex cases expenditure being less than forecast. The Adult Social Care division underspent by £338k mainly due to staffing vacancies within the service. Care & Support overspent by £25k mainly due to a pressure within the Vitaline service and Adults Safeguarding overspent by £20k due to a pressure from Deprivation of Liberty (DoLs) assessments.	(534)
Resources	<p>The Resources directorate has achieved an under-spend of £827k during 2019/20.</p> <p>Property services underspent by £272k as a result of additional rental & service charge income & reduced maintenance spend towards the end of the year.</p> <p>ICT achieved an under-spend of £283k as a result of additional income and vacancies across the service.</p> <p>The remaining underspend of £272k is mainly due to staffing vacancies, supplies and services savings and increased income generation across the directorate.</p>	(827)
Total		15,606

The financial outturn for budgets 'outside the cash limit' shows an aggregate underspending of £375,000. The main reasons for this are:-

Service	Reasons	£000
Concessionary Fares	£201k of the pressure relates to an under provision based on external forecasts. Subsequent increased pricing by the operators and operating	829

	costs has led to a £148k pressure. Overall, concessionary fare numbers grew costing £140k. This meant that the 2019/2020 target saving of £340k wasn't achieved.	
Parking Services	An income shortfall of £776k has arisen in Parking Services, mainly due to "on-street" parking schemes not being feasible, a loss of parking spaces, prudential borrowing costs and reduced income from staff parking.	776
Corporate Subscriptions, Land Charges, New Homes Bonus, Council Tax and NNDR Cost of Collection	Reduction in costs of subscriptions taken out (£10k) Additional New Homes Bonus grant received as part of final settlement (£8k) Increased fees on business rate valuations to be offset by increased business rates in future years £34k. Land Charges savings (£5k)	11
Subsidiary Companies	A saving in supplies and services spend coupled with reduced debt management charges.	(38)
Housing Benefit	Increase in overpayments recovered.	(51)
Treasury Management	Treasury Management has a favourable position due to cash flow management. Due to low short term borrowing rates the Council has used mainly temporary borrowing to finance Prudentially-funded capital expenditure.	(1,902)
Total		(375)

Children's Services

The demand pressures within Children's Services were once again the primary challenge facing the Council in its attempt to balance its Budget in-year.

This is not a local problem, an analysis by the Local Government Association (LGA) reported that English local authorities had overspent by some £770m on children's social care during 2018/19 with a projection that this will double to £1.4bn for 2019/20.

The chair of the LGA Children and Young People Board was quoted that *"In order to keep children at most risk safe, councils up and down the country have been forced to find savings from non-statutory or discretionary budgets, which includes valuable early intervention and prevention support that can stop children and families reaching crisis point. This is not sustainable."*

The Council fully supports the LGA's take on the current position. Indeed, whilst spending on children's social care nationally represents 18% of total local authority spend (excluding Education and Police), in Blackpool this proportion is much greater at 27%, implying by deduction that other services are receiving proportionately less funding as a result.

The £12.9m overspend on Children's Social Care represents a variance of +41% on its gross budget of £31.2m. In order to address this issue on a more sustainable footing, the 2020/21 Revenue Budget includes unprecedented investment in the service with £4.3m to address the additional staffing requirement, some 30% more children's social worker staffing than 12 months ago, and £10.1m to address the demographic demand pressures of children in need and the increasing intensity of care required – a total recurrent investment of £14.4m. The upshot of this is that in 2020/21 Children's Social Care will represent 33% of the Council's revenue spend compared with 17% a decade earlier.

Treatment of Revenue Budget Variances

As part of the year-end process an analysis of budget variances is undertaken in order to determine the treatment of under/overspendings on service budgets. The conventional Cash Limited Budgeting approach requires that:-

- under-spends are carried forward in full and are then available to supplement the following year service budget;
- overspendings are similarly carried forward but must as far as possible be recovered in the following financial year (where an extended period is required, this must be on the basis of a recovery plan with a timetable not exceeding 3 years and approved by the Executive); and
- any windfall gains, as determined by the Director of Resources and arising from events outside the control of the service, are added to the Council's general working balances.

However, having considered the Provisional Revenue Outturn 2019/20 in detail and the financial outlook and consulted Corporate Leadership Team colleagues, it is recommended that:-

- the underspending of £206,000, in respect of the scheme commitments, on Ward Budgets is carried forward to 2020/21 in full;
- the 'Cash Limited Budgeting' policy allows for overspends to be carried forward if there is a plan in place to deliver. As such the Growth and Prosperity overspend of £4,183k is to be funded from Earmarked Reserves in 2019/20 and recovered in 2020/21;
- the following under and overspendings are to be written off:

Directorate	£000
Chief Executive	(105)
Governance & Partnership Services	349
Resources	(827)
Communications & Regeneration	289
Community & Environmental Services	(436)
Adult Services	(534)
Children's Services	12,893
Total	11,629

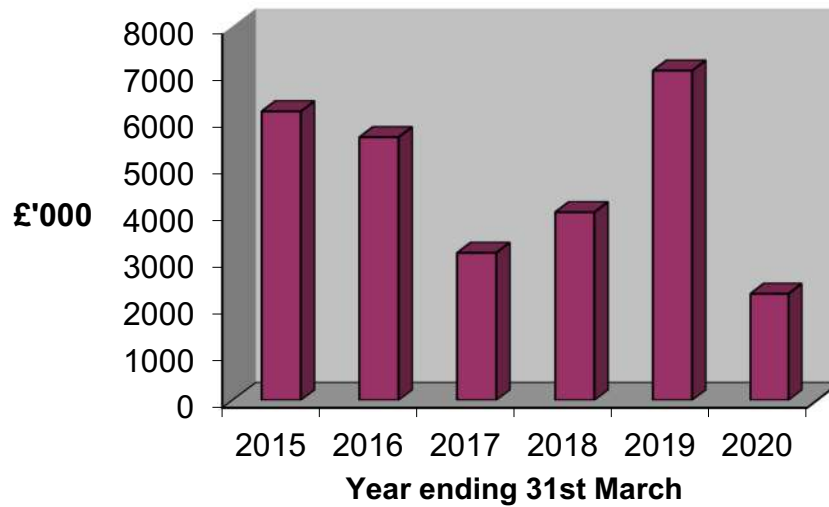
This will allow services to enter the new financial year in a balanced position and give directorates a realistic chance of meeting their budget savings for what will be the 10th consecutive year of material budget cuts.

Unallocated General Fund Working Balances

In setting the Council's original budget for 2019/2020 the target Unallocated General Fund working balances as at 31st March 2020 were approximately £6,000,000. However the outturn position means that the actual Unallocated General Fund working balances as at 31st March 2020 were £2,292,000. Although there is uncertainty around the level of funding the Council will receive towards Covid-19 pressures, the Council will aim for working balances to be approximately £6,000,000 by 31st March 2021

The next graph shows the change in the Unallocated General Fund Working Balances over the last 6 years. Further information is shown in Note 10.

Unallocated General Fund Balances



Capital Summary

The total of the Council's capital spending in 2019/2020 was £95,737,000, which is a 96.2% increase from the previous year (£48,786,000 in 2018/2019). The main reason for the increase is the £50.6m acquisition of Houndshell Shopping Centre, the development of the Tramway and spend on the Conference Centre. The net book value of the Council's non-current assets as at 31st March 2020 was £815,778,000 (31st March 2019 - £773,825,000).

The main areas of capital spending during the year were:

	2018/2019 £000	2019/2020 £000
Children's Services	1,666	4,611
Adult Services	2,889	2,687
Community and Environment	12,274	10,048
Governance and Partnership Services	468	1,798
Transport	4,903	5,449
Housing - Private Sector Housing	7,310	3,807
Housing - HRA	2,214	4,574
Communication and Regeneration	15,406	59,146
Resources	1,656	3,617
Total	48,786	95,737

The funding of capital expenditure came from a number of sources as summarised below:

	2018/2019 £000	2019/2020 £000
Capital receipts	1,773	0
Grants	28,018	22,780
Borrowing	12,854	64,408
Other	6,141	8,549
Total	48,786	95,737

As at 31st March 2020 the Council held a balance of usable capital receipts amounting to £11,411,000 (2018/19 £7,527,000) most of these capital receipts are earmarked to already approved schemes. The Council plans future capital developments within the financial constraints placed upon it. Key policy objectives for the future include regeneration and renewal of the town on a significant scale.

- A Tramway upgrade linking the Tramway on the Promenade with Blackpool North Train station, creating a transport hub and a new 4 star hotel. The majority of funding will come from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and prudential borrowing.
- Town Centre Car Parking strategy to provide the additional car parking spaces required to service the increased demand.
- A three year programme to refurbish all trams.
- The development of new council homes at Troutbeck Crescent, Mereside creating a vibrant family friendly living area.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

Under the *Local Government and Housing Act 1989* expenditure on council housing is “ring-fenced” meaning no contribution can be made to or from the General Fund.

Housing Revenue Account Reserves

The balance on the HRA reserve stands at £4,830,000 at 31 March 2020 (31st March 2019 £5,705,000).

Treasury Management

At 31st March 2020 the Council had total borrowings of £332,644,000 (31st March 2019 £249,347,000), being £87,460,000 (2018/19 £89,895,000) long term and £245,184,000 short term (2018/19 £159,452,000).

At 31st March 2020 the Council has short term investments of £21,350,000 which is an increase of £13,550,000 from 31st March 2019. The long term investments were £27,410,000 which is a decrease of £1,340,000 from 31st March 2019. This is mainly related to a reduction in valuation of the Council’s subsidiary companies due to the uncertainty over forecast income during the covid-19 pandemic.

Business Rate Retention Pilot Scheme

From 1st April 2013 up to 31st March 2019, the local government finance regime was revised with the introduction of a retained business rates scheme. The main aim of the scheme was to give Councils a greater incentive to grow businesses in the area. It does, however, also increase the financial risk due to non-collection and the volatility of the NNDR tax base. The scheme allows Councils to retain 49% of the total NNDR received. The remaining 51% is paid to Central Government (50%) and Lancashire Fire Authority (1%).

On 13th December 2018 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) approved the establishment of a Lancashire-wide 75% Business Rate Pilot Pool (including Blackpool) in 2019/20 to share risk and reward. As part of this, the 50% rate retention scheme increased to 75% and authorities in the pool forego Revenue Support Grant. The value of the Revenue Support Grant was taken into account when revised business rate tariffs and top-ups for the pilot authorities were set. The Government also increased the Safety Net from 92.5% to 95% for the new pilot pools. Consequently, from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 the income relating to Blackpool is shared between central government (25%), the Council (73.5%) and the Fire Authority (1.5%).

From 1st April 2020 the pilot scheme ceased and the business rates shares reverted back to the previous shares of 50% Central Government, 49% Blackpool Council and 1% Lancashire Fire Authority.

Pension Fund Liability

The actuarial valuation of the Council’s pension scheme liabilities and pension reserve shown in the balance sheet has decreased by £1,510,000 during the year. Further details are given in note 49 to the accounts. The figures reported in the Balance Sheet are valued in line with IFRS accounting standard IAS 19.

Pension Fund Pooling Arrangement with Blackpool Transport Services

In October 1986, when Blackpool Transport Services Limited was formed it was determined that there could be no more admissions to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) by new employees. Existing employees were deemed to be employed by Blackpool Council for pension purposes and they continued as active members of the scheme. Blackpool Transport Services set up its own pension scheme to provide retirement benefits to new employees.

Blackpool Transport Services’ part of the Lancashire County Pension Fund has been in surplus since that time and Blackpool Transport Services Limited has never made an employer’s contribution.

At the 31 March 2016, the date of the previous actuarial valuation, Blackpool Transport Services Limited had a surplus of around £5.4m in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As a result of this surplus, Blackpool Transport Limited has not been making any contributions to the pension fund during the period 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2020.

Actuarial advice estimates it could take up to 50 years for Blackpool Transport Limited to utilise this surplus based on current actuarial valuations since a surplus cannot be paid to an employer unless it has no active members.

On 15th July 2019 the Executive agreed to enter into a pooling arrangement with Blackpool Transport Services (BTS) to use BTS's pension fund surplus to partly offset the Council's pension fund deficit. As part of the arrangement the Council made a payment of £2m to Blackpool Transport Services Limited, funded from its reserves and repayable via pension contribution savings over an estimated 10 years, in respect of pooling this surplus. Blackpool Transport Services Limited proposes to invest this £2m into the business and thereby guarantee future dividend payments to the Council.

It is estimated that the pooling arrangement will reduce the Council's contributions to the Pension Fund by up to £200,000 per year, net of any liabilities relating to active members. In 2019/20 the pooling of the pension fund reduced the Council's pension deficit by £4,872,000 and more information can be found in Note 50 to the accounts.

Pension Fund Advanced Payment

The triennial valuation of the Council's pension fund was completed by Lancashire County Pension Fund (LCPF) in February 2017. Following the valuation, an option was made available to the Council allowing the payment of its employer pension contributions over the next 3 years in advance (rather than on a monthly basis) on 1st April 2017. In return a discount would be given to the Council resulting in an annual budget saving.

In setting the 2017/18 budget the Council opted to make the 3 year advance payment of its employer pension contributions totalling £36,680,000. This means the Council has paid its employer pension contributions to LCPF for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20. This has resulted in a budget saving of £827,000 in each of these years. 2019/20 is the final year of the current advanced payment.

An advanced payment will be made for financial years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. More details are in Note 8.

Covid-19 Pandemic

Covid-19 pandemic is perhaps the UK's single greatest domestic emergency since the Second World War and the worst public health crisis this country has faced in generations.

The final months of the financial year have witnessed a huge upheaval in the way we work and live. The financial impact of Covid-19 on 2019/20 has been limited resulting in a loss of income/additional costs of £396,000 during the last few months of the year. This has been funded by a Covid-19 grant of £6,085,000 issued by Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 27th March 2020. The balance

of this grant has been placed in earmarked revenue reserves at 31st March 2020 to be used to fund income losses and increased expenditure in 2020/21. In 2020/21 it is forecast that the cost of Covid-19 on the Council's budget will be £28,247,000 which will be met by additional government grants and contributions of £25,438,000 leaving a balance of £2,809,000 which is to be funded from General Fund Working Balances.

It is important to highlight how the Council has responded to the challenge of managing services during a pandemic.

As the health crisis gathered momentum, resulting in a UK wide lockdown, the Council's ability to deliver services in the usual manner altered virtually overnight as some non-essential services temporarily closed,

many staff moved to home working and essential care services found themselves facing a rapidly escalating demand. Some of the crisis measures that are in place are likely to last for the foreseeable future and as a “new normal” emerges, the Council will find ways of delivering services. At the same time the Council have a duty to plan for the future and map out a road to recovery for the local economy.

Blackpool Council is a core partner in the Lancashire Local Resilience Forum (LRF). The LRF is responsible for the coordination of a range of critical activities in emergency situations between the county’s public services. The LRF is coordinating activity on crucial issues such as hospital capacity, procurement of adequate supplies of personal protective equipment and emergency stocks of food to support the vulnerable.

The pandemic and emergency restrictions placed upon the population necessitated the urgent need for the Council to take a lead role in the shaping and delivering vital support services to help residents and protect the most vulnerable people in the community.

The immediate response was the launch of the Council’s unique Corona Kindness Campaign on 23rd March 2020, closely followed by the establishment of 12 community hubs across Blackpool. The principle of bringing together those who need help with those who can offer help has been the key to success of this initiative.

Corona Kindness is being delivered in partnership with a number of community based organisations, private companies and voluntary services. Services initially on offer ranged from the provision of food and pharmaceuticals to dog walking and talking to those who feel socially isolated. The services were expanded to also include advice on fuel supplies and household finances and provision of lists of local suppliers who can deliver food to the doorstep.

In the first three weeks of operation, the Corona Kindness service received over 3,500 calls and emails requesting help. There are now 19 lines available a day to support this work and up to 250 calls a day are being taken by call handlers.

A critical part of the Council’s response to this crisis has been enhanced level of support to our providers of adult social care. Social care is at the forefront of the crisis along with the NHS.

The Council recognised this situation early and built a new Provider Support and Resilience Hub to offer direct support to our providers through this very difficult and challenging period.

This hub provides hands on, practical support to any social care provider (residential care and care at home) requiring assistance. This includes supply and correct use of personal protective equipment; infection prevention and control; help with staffing; and supporting people who move where their needs deteriorate suddenly.

A critical part of the response to the pandemic has been the immediate establishment of an enhanced support service to help protect the local economy. With thousands of Blackpool’s businesses and their employees facing huge upheaval after the Government lockdown announcement, it was vital that we were able to deliver a dedicated service that gave credible help and guidance to those who needed it.

As part of its emergency measures the Government announced £10,000 Small Business Grants to eligible small businesses and grants of up to £25,000 through Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund. On 1st April 2020

the Council received a total of £59m from the Government to start the process of paying business support grant payments to local businesses.

Despite the disruption caused by the pandemic the Council were determined to do everything possible to protect children and to continue the Council’s Childrens Service improvement journey. Children with the greatest concerns are in receipt of face-to-face visits by social workers. Other children with access to the service now get virtual visits using technology with which the family is familiar, or by phone.

The vast majority of Blackpool schools have remained open providing care for vulnerable children and children of key workers. In June 2020 the Council was committed to re-opening the schools safely and was working with

local schools for the inclusion of early years, reception, year 1 and year 6 children. Since the new school year has started in September all schools are open to all pupils and are operating in line with government guidelines should there be any cases on Covid-19 within the schools.

Central Government directed all local authorities to try to accommodate anyone rough sleeping, homeless, or at serious risk of becoming homeless. Accommodation being used allows people to self-isolate as necessary and follow Government guidelines. Our Homeless Partnership, Food Partnership and community hubs are supporting all affected individuals.

For all categories, wraparound support is in place ranging from housing, physical health, mental health, substance misuse services, the Food Partnership and many others, through the coordination of Public Health. In addition, the Council's Housing Options service continues to work with our partners to provide outreach services to identify any new rough sleepers, and provide advice to people who might be at risk of homelessness and supporting them to remain in their own homes as long as it is safe to do so.

The Council has relaxed compliance measures in relation to Council Tax and Business Rates collection and allowed Council Tax payers and businesses to defer payments for the first two months of 2020/21 with revised payment plans over June to March 2021. The Council is also applying the Governments hardship relief scheme to Council Tax payers of working age in receipt of Council Tax Reduction.

Other income streams, such as car parking, school catering, registrars services, property rental income, licencing, planning and building control have all been interrupted. The challenge for 2020/21 will be for the Council to regain the lost or deferred income to avoid placing an additional burden on the people and businesses of Blackpool whilst at the same time attempting to manage its finances effectively.

Central Government has provided several cash grants including two Covid-19 un-ring-fenced grants totalling £9.9m (£6.1m of which was received on 27 March 2020, £0.4m of it used in 2019/20 and £5.7m has been carried forward into 2020/21 via an earmarked reserve) to meet urgent and unforeseen costs and financial pressures impacting on the Council and the Blackpool economy. On 27 March 2020 the Council also received £6m to support cash flow. This was a cash advance of Government funding anticipated in 2020/21. These additional resources have been carried forward as a receipt in advance.

The level of Government support so far notified will not be sufficient to address the impact of increased costs of service provision and the impact of lost income from fees, charges. This shortfall is forecast to be £5,163,000 however this may increase if further lockdowns are brought in.

A key part of the Councils recovery activity is the consideration of the future shape of the Council together with a clear financial plan covering both the revenue budget and capital programme. This financial plan will set out how the Council can respond to the potential significant deficit in 2020/21, higher demand for certain services together with increased budget reduction requirement for future years whilst making the most effective use of reserves and balances. The plan will also highlight the uncertainty and significant risks that the Council is facing.

Other Key Financial Risks

Achieving Further Savings

The Council had a savings programme to realise £9,000,000 savings in 2019/20. Further savings are expected to be required in the next 3 years including a budgeted savings target of £19,650,000 for 2020/21. As the Council's budget reduces finding additional savings becomes more difficult. Covid-19 will also have a significant impact on the Council's budget for 2020/21 and beyond.

Brexit

On 31st January 2020 the UK left the European Union (EU) and entered into a transition period until 31st December 2020 while the government seeks agreement of the terms of the departure.

At 11pm on 31st December 2020 the United Kingdom left the EU single market and customs union.

It is not yet possible to predict whether asset values and discount rates will consequently change in relation to property, plant and equipment and pension liability.

Demand Led Budgets

The rising demand placed on the Council's social care services continues to be a major pressure on the Council's budget.

Explanation of the Statements

The statements presented in the following pages comprise:-

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

This sets out the respective responsibilities of the Council and the Director of Resources for the accounts.

The accounts are supported by notes to the financial statements. These notes include a summary of significant accounting policies, further detail relating to items in the main financial statements and assumptions made about the future.

Movement in Reserves Statement

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

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account

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

Balance Sheet

This sets out the overall financial position of the Council as at 31st March 2020. It shows the reserves and balances of the Council, its long-term indebtedness and the value of non-current assets and net current assets.

Cash Flow Statement

This summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.

Housing Revenue Account

This reflects a statutory obligation to account separately for local authority housing provision. It shows the major elements of housing revenue expenditure and income.

Collection Fund

This account reflects the statutory requirement for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund which shows the transactions on non-domestic rates and council tax and illustrates the way in which these are distributed to Central Government, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, Lancashire Fire Authority and the Council's General Fund.

Group Accounts

This summarises group financial statements prepared in order to show the overall financial position and results of the council, its interests in subsidiaries and associates. Inclusion in the Council's group is dependent upon the extent of the council's interest and control over the entity. When an entity is considered to be below materiality levels, it is not included in the group accounts. Companies included in the group accounts are Blackpool Transport Services, Blackpool Coastal Housing, Blackpool Housing Company, Blackpool Entertainment Company, Blackpool Operating Company, Blackpool Airport, Lancashire Management Operations Limited and Blackpool Waste Services Limited. Further details can be found in Section 7.

Accounting Practice Compliance

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 and the CIPFA Bulletin 05 Closure of the Financial Statements issued in March 2020.

The Council prepares its accounts on a going concern basis under the assumption that it will continue in existence into the foreseeable future.

Further Information

The Statement of Accounts forms one element of the Council's financial reporting to local taxpayers, employees and other interested parties. Further information can be found on the Council's website www.blackpool.gov.uk

Transparency

The Government's Transparency Agenda encourages local authorities to make public data openly available. Details of the Council's spend over £250 and senior managers' salaries can be found on the above website.

Further information about this Statement of Accounts is available from:

Director of Resources
Blackpool Council
P O Box 4
Town Hall
Blackpool
FY1 1NA

Section 2

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of the Accounts

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

1. The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required to:

- make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the proper responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this council that officer is the Director of Resources;
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets; and

- approve the Statement of Accounts.

2. The Director of Resources' Responsibilities

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

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

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

The Director of Resources has also:

- kept proper accounting records which were up to date;
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities;
- assessed the Authority's (and the Group'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 assumptions that the functions of the Authority (and the Group) 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 misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

3. Certification of the Accounts

I certify that the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Blackpool Council and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2020.

Steve Thompson
Director of Resources
21st October 2021

4. Approval of the Accounts

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015, I certify that the Statement of Accounts have been approved by the Audit Committee on 25th March 2021.

Councillor Paul Galley
Chair of Audit Committee
21st October 2021

Section 3

Independent Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements of Blackpool Council ('the Council') and its subsidiaries ('the Group'):

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Group and of the Council as at 31 March 2020 and of the Group's and the Council's expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on

We have audited the financial statements which comprise:

- the Group and Council Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements;
- the Group and Council Movement in Reserves Statements;
- the Group and Council Balance Sheets;
- the Group and Council Cash Flow Statements;
- the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement;
- the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement;
- the Collection Fund Statement; and
- the related notes.
-

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2019/20.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the Group and Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's ('the FRC's') Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of matter: Material uncertainty related to the valuation of the Council's land and Buildings

We draw attention to notes 7, 15 and 17 which describe the effects of the uncertainties created by the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic on the valuation of the Council's land and buildings, and investment properties.

As noted by the Council's external valuer, the pandemic has caused extensive disruptions to businesses and economic activities and the uncertainties created have increased the estimation uncertainty over the valuation of the land and buildings and investment properties at the balance sheet date. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We are required by ISAs (UK) to report in respect of the following matters where:

- the Director of Resources' use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Director of Resources has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Group's or the Council's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Other information

The Director of Resources is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the statement of accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Director of Resources' responsibilities

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of the Accounts, the Director of Resources is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 and for such internal control as the Director of Resources determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director of Resources is responsible for assessing the Group's and the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting on the assumption that the functions of the Group and the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material

misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

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

of resources**Qualified conclusion**

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2020, with the exception of the matter reported in the basis for qualified conclusion paragraph below, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, Blackpool Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Basis for qualified conclusion

As set out in our qualified conclusion for the year ended 31 March 2019, on 17 January 2019 Ofsted published a report in relation to their inspection of the Council's children's social care services, which provided an overall grading of 'inadequate'. On 21 January 2020, Ofsted published a letter summarising the findings of a further monitoring visit to the Council's children's services. The letter was narrative-based and did not make a graded judgement. The letter noted that the Council is making progress in improving services for its children and young people and set out a number of areas where improvement had been identified. However, the letter also noted a number of areas of focus for further improvement. Whilst the Council has continued to put in place measures to address the findings identified, the issues described above demonstrate evidence that, in respect of children's social care services, the Council has not yet been able to demonstrate it has put in place proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned sustainable outcomes, for the year ended 31 March 2020.

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

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

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We report if significant matters have come to our attention which prevent us from concluding that the Council has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2020, as to whether Blackpool Council had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criterion as that necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether Blackpool Council put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

The Code of Audit Practice requires us to report to you if:

- any matters have been reported in the public interest under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of, the audit;
- any recommendations have been made under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- an application has been made to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- an advisory notice has been issued under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- an application for judicial review has been made under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION OF THE AUDIT

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the Council's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our value for money conclusion.

USE OF OUR REPORT

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

Nicola Wright (Key Audit Partner)
For and on behalf of Deloitte LLP
Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom
17 November 2021

Section 4

Core Financial Statements

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2020

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

Restated 2018/2019				2019/2020		
Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000		Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
6,440	(5,026)	1,414	Chief Executive	13,055	(6,366)	6,689
5,942	(3,431)	2,511	Governance and Partnership Services	11,992	(3,846)	8,146
552	(5)	547	Ward Budgets	190	(2)	188
32,132	(10,805)	21,327	Resources	30,924	(9,867)	21,057
13,889	(9,894)	3,995	Communications & Regeneration	37,525	(9,840)	27,685
8,090	(4,696)	3,394	Strategic Leisure Assets	10,157	(4,818)	5,339
67,827	(34,067)	33,760	Community and Environmental Services	69,090	(21,323)	47,767
81,074	(28,381)	52,693	Adult Services	83,339	(22,447)	60,892
125,193	(71,672)	53,521	Children's Services	134,919	(75,311)	59,608
22,475	(21,807)	668	Public Health	13,182	(21,120)	(7,938)
62,025	(77,323)	(15,298)	Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	58,051	(69,619)	(11,568)
1,306	(5,276)	(3,970)	Contingencies, Levies etc	3,385	(24,244)	(20,859)
17,384	(19,119)	(1,735)	Housing Revenue Account	15,745	(18,817)	(3,072)
444,329	(291,502)	152,827	Net Cost of Services	481,554	(287,620)	193,934
		3,104	Other Operating Expenditure (Note 12)			1,787
		10,118	Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure - Other (Note 13)			6,230
		1,395	Income & Expenditure in relation to Investment Properties and changes in their fair value (Note 17)			(7,478)
		(158,718)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income - Other (Note 14)			(163,519)
		8,726	Deficit on Provision of Services			30,954
		(6,561)	(Surplus) or Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets (Note 31)			3,384
		(4,190)	Impairment (gains)/losses on non-current assets charged to Revaluation Reserve (Note 30)			(17,417)
		(1,125)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets (Note 19 and Note 31)			4,465
		(6,749)	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability (Note 31 and Note 50)			(27,364)
		(18,625)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(36,932)
		(9,899)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(5,978)

Movement in Reserves Statement

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (ie those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'. The Statement shows how the movements in year of the authority's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax

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

2019/2020

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	HRA	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Reserves	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1st April 2019	(8,988)	(41,662)	(5,705)	(7,527)	-	(3,112)	(66,994)	(171,901)	(238,895)
Movements in Reserves in 2019/2020									
(Surplus) or Deficit on the provision of services	34,368	-	(3,414)	-	-	-	30,954	-	30,954
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(36,932)	(36,932)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	34,368	-	(3,414)	-	-	-	30,954	(36,932)	(5,978)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 9)	(35,112)	-	4,289	(576)	-	-	(31,399)	31,399	-
Net (Increase) or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	(744)	-	875	(576)	-	-	(445)	(5,533)	(5,978)
Transfer (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 10)	8,156	(8,156)	-	(3,308)	-	-	(3,308)	3,308	-
(Increase)/Decrease in 2019/2020	7,412	(8,156)	875	(3,884)	-	-	(3,753)	(2,225)	(5,978)
Balance as at 31st March 2020	(1,576)	(49,818)	(4,830)	(11,411)	-	(3,112)	(70,747)	(174,126)	(244,873)

Restated 2018/2019

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	HRA	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Reserves	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
As previously stated balance as at 1st April 2018	(6,131)	(36,819)	(5,870)	(4,508)	-	(4,477)	(57,805)	(188,666)	(246,471)
Restated 1st April 2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,475	17,475
Restated Balance at 1st April 2018	(6,131)	(36,819)	(5,870)	(4,508)	-	(4,477)	(57,805)	(171,191)	(228,996)
Movements in Reserves in 2018/2019									
(Surplus) or Deficit on the provision of services	11,608	-	(2,882)	-	-	-	8,726	-	8,726
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(18,625)	(18,625)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	11,608	-	(2,882)	-	-	-	8,726	(18,625)	(9,899)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 9)	(18,227)	-	3,047	169	-	-	(15,011)	15,011	-
Net (Increase) or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	(6,619)	-	165	169	-	-	(6,285)	(3,614)	(9,899)
Transfer (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 10)	3,762	(4,843)	-	(3,188)	-	1,365	(2,904)	2,904	-
(Increase)/Decrease in 2018/2019	(2,857)	(4,843)	165	(3,019)	-	1,365	(9,189)	(710)	(9,899)
Restated Balance as at 31st March 2019	(8,988)	(41,662)	(5,705)	(7,527)	-	(3,112)	(66,994)	(171,901)	(238,895)

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2020

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the authority. The net assets of the authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the authority. 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 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 and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

Restated 1st April 2018 £000	Restated 31st March 2019 £000		Notes	31st March 2020 £000
702,000	714,178	Property, Plant and Equipment	14	748,553
8,185	8,185	Heritage Assets	15	8,364
32,519	50,565	Investment Property	16	58,529
-	-	Intangible Assets	18	466
1,110	897	Surplus Assets	17	753
24,250	28,750	Long Term Investments	20	27,410
38,031	57,924	Long Term Debtors	21	78,273
806,095	860,499	Long Term Assets		922,348
416	445	Inventories	22	642
44,688	43,034	Short Term Debtors	23	46,670
6,406	6,465	Payments in Advance	24	10,385
-	800	Short Term Loans		774
9,366	7,618	Cash and Cash Equivalents	25	19,504
60,876	58,362	Current Assets		77,975
(153,776)	(159,452)	Short Term Borrowing	19	(245,184)
(38,125)	(54,809)	Short Term Creditors	27	(51,700)
(20,867)	(14,339)	Receipts in Advance	26	(18,012)
(15,151)	(14,551)	Short Term Provisions	28	(13,123)
(227,919)	(243,151)	Current Liabilities		(328,019)
(91,730)	(99,161)	Long Term Creditors	27	(96,511)
(90,343)	(89,895)	Long Term Borrowing	19	(87,460)
(214,422)	(232,296)	Pension Liability	48	(230,786)
(364)	(63)	Other Long Term Liabilities		(63)
(13,197)	(15,400)	Capital Grants in Advance	43	(12,611)
(410,056)	(436,815)	Long Term Liabilities		(427,431)
228,996	238,895	Net Assets		244,873
(57,805)	(66,994)	Usable Reserves	29	(70,747)
(171,191)	(171,901)	Unusable Reserves	30	(174,126)
(228,996)	(238,895)	Total Reserves		(244,873)

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2020

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the authority during the reporting period. The statement shows how the authority generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying

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

Restated 2018/2019 £000		Notes	2019/2020 £000
8,726	Net deficit on the provision of services		30,954
(63,375)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	32	(52,157)
17,409	Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	32	24,041
(37,240)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		2,838
20,922	Investing Activities	33	111,692
14,570	Financing Activities	34	(102,644)
(1,748)	Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		11,886
9,366	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		7,618
7,618	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	35	19,504

Section 5

Notes to the Accounts

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1. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

2019/20 Service Area	Outturn as reported to Executive (including HRA) £000	Adjustments to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances £000	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis £000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £000
Chief Executive	528	766	1,294	5,395	6,689
Governance and Partnership Services	3,974	(53)	3,921	4,225	8,146
Ward Budgets	188	-	188	-	188
Resources	1,004	13,487	14,491	6,566	21,057
Communications & Regeneration	2,022	7,931	9,953	17,732	27,685
Strategic Leisure Assets	5,339	-	5,339	-	5,339
Community and Environmental Services	42,637	2,694	45,331	2,436	47,767
Adult Services	54,015	1,104	55,119	5,773	60,892
Children's Services	55,032	(2,518)	52,514	7,094	59,608
Public Health	21	(7,955)	(7,934)	(4)	(7,938)
Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	13,416	(6,330)	7,086	(18,654)	(11,568)
Contingencies, Levies etc	(16,049)	(4,784)	(20,833)	(26)	(20,859)
Housing Revenue Account	3,128	(314)	2,814	(5,886)	(3,072)
Net Cost of Services	165,255	4,028	169,283	24,651	193,934
Other Income and Expenditure	(156,958)	(12,770)	(169,728)	6,748	(162,980)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	8,297	(8,742)	(445)	31,399	30,954

	£'000
Opening General Fund and HRA Balance	(56,355)
Surplus/Deficit on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year	(445)
Transfers between Reserves	576
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31st March 2020*	<u>(56,224)</u>

* Reserves Balances at 31st March	
General Fund Balance	(1,576)
Earmarked General Fund Reserves	(49,818)
Housing Revenue Account Reserves	<u>(4,830)</u>
	<u>(56,224)</u>

Restated 2018/19	Outturn as reported to Executive (including HRA)	Adjustments to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
Service Area	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief Executive	524	(45)	479	935	1,414
Governance and Partnership Services	1,949	(109)	1,840	671	2,511
Ward Budgets	547	-	547	-	547
Resources	4,732	5,118	9,850	11,477	21,327
Communications & Regeneration	4,007	5,244	9,358	(5,363)	3,995
Strategic Leisure Assets	2,597	(662)	1,935	1,459	3,394
Community and Environmental Services	40,103	(15,053)	25,050	8,710	33,760
Adult Services	52,551	(3,395)	49,156	3,537	52,693
Children's Services	43,857	(1,019)	42,838	10,683	53,521
Public Health	107	290	397	271	668
Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	12,581	(3,685)	8,896	(24,194)	(15,298)
Contingencies, Levies etc	(5,754)	1,784	(3,970)	-	(3,970)
Housing Revenue Account	(2,882)	(1,900)	(4,782)	3,047	(1,735)
Net Cost of Services	154,919	(13,432)	141,594	11,233	152,827
Other Income and Expenditure	(157,611)	9,839	(147,779)	3,778	(144,101)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	(2,692)	(3,593)	(6,285)	15,011	8,726

	£'000
Opening General Fund and HRA Balance	(48,820)
Surplus/Deficit on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year	(6,285)
Transfers between Reserves	(1,250)
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31st March 2019*	<u>(56,355)</u>
* Reserves Balances at 31st March	
General Fund Balance	(8,988)
Earmarked General Fund Reserves	(41,662)
Housing Revenue Account Reserves	(5,705)
	<u>(56,355)</u>

2a. Notes to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis				
2019/2020				
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for capital purposes (Note i)	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (Note ii)	Other Statutory Differences (Note iii)	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief Executive	4,049	1,360	(14)	5,395
Governance and Partnership Services	3,118	1,071	36	4,225
Ward Budgets	-	-	-	-
Resources	2,722	3,853	(9)	6,566
Communications and Regeneration	15,492	2,240	-	17,732
Strategic Leisure Assets	-	-	-	-
Community and Environmental Services	(1,893)	4,371	(42)	2,436
Adult Services	(21)	5,845	(51)	5,773
Children's Services	(185)	7,299	(20)	7,094
Public Health	-	-	(4)	(4)
Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	(6,187)	(12,467)	-	(18,654)
Contingencies	-	-	(26)	(26)
Housing Revenue Account	(5,886)	-	-	(5,886)
Net Cost of Services	11,209	13,572	(130)	24,651
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	10,488	-	(3,740)	6,748
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	21,697	13,572	(3,870)	31,399

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis Restated 2018/2019				
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for capital purposes (Note i)	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (Note ii)	Other Differences (Note iii)	Total Adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief Executive	16	908	11	935
Governance and Partnership Services	69	621	(19)	671
Ward Budgets	-	-	-	-
Resources	8,745	2,702	30	11,477
Communications and Regeneration	(6,595)	1,225	7	(5,363)
Strategic Leisure Assets	1,459	-	-	1,459
Community and Environmental Services	5,455	3,100	48	8,603
Adult Services	(457)	3,973	21	3,537
Children's Services	(526)	11,145	64	10,683
Public Health	-	268	3	271
Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	(11,096)	(12,862)	(236)	(24,194)
Contingencies	-	-	-	-
Housing Revenue Account	3,047	-	-	3,047
Net Cost of Services	117	11,080	(71)	11,126
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(1,552)	5,437	-	3,885
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(1,435)	16,517	(71)	15,011

i) Adjustments for Capital Purposes

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

- **Other operating expenditure** – adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off against those assets.
- **Financing and investment income and expenditure** – the statutory charges for capital financing ie Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.
- **Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure** – capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted 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.

ii) Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

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

- **For services** this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
- **Financing and investment income and expenditure** – the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account.

iii) Other Statutory Adjustments

Other statutory adjustments 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 statutory adjustments column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.
- The charge under **Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure** represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and NDR that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is the timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future Surplus or Deficits on the Collection Fund.

2b. Expenditure and Income Analysed By Nature

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

	2018/2019	2019/2020
	£000	£000
Expenditure		
Employee expenses	127,306	135,171
Other Services expenses	307,490	289,836
Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	39,398	55,974
Interest payments	7,685	7,586
Precepts and Levies	68	68
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	449	487
Loss on the disposal of assets	2,587	1,232
Pension Interest Cost and return on assets	5,437	5,449
Total Expenditure	490,420	495,803
Income		
Fees, charges and other service income	122,610	149,136
Interest and investment income	2,089	6,805
Income from council tax, non-domestic rates	99,599	89,042
Government grants and contributions	257,396	219,866
Total Income	481,694	464,849
Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	8,726	30,954

3. Prior Period Adjustments

- a. The valuation of Other Land and Buildings has previously incorrectly included the value of Infrastructure Assets relating to the Tramway which has resulted in Property, Plant and Equipment – Other land and Buildings being overstated by £17.475m. This adjustment goes back to 2015/16 and therefore a 3rd balance sheet with restated balances at 1st April 2018 is required.
- b. A non-current asset has been leased by the Council and brought on balance sheet in 2019/20. This property is managed by a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council. The lease commenced in 2018/19 before the subsidiary company was established and the asset should have gone on balance sheet in 2018/19. An adjustment has been made to reflect this.

Effect on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2018/19 Statement of Accounts				Non Current Assets		2018/19 Restated		
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
Chief Executive	6,440	(5,026)	1,414			6,440	(5,026)	1,414
Governance and Partnership Services	5,942	(3,431)	2,511			5,942	(3,431)	2,511
Ward Budgets	552	(5)	547			552	(5)	547
Resources	32,132	(10,805)	21,327			32,132	(10,805)	21,327
Communications & Regeneration	13,889	(9,894)	3,995			13,889	(9,894)	3,995
Strategic Leisure Assets	8,090	(4,696)	3,394			8,090	(4,696)	3,394
Community and Environmental Services	67,827	(34,067)	33,760			67,827	(34,067)	33,760
Adult Services	81,074	(28,381)	52,693			81,074	(28,381)	52,693
Children's Services	125,193	(71,672)	53,521			125,193	(71,672)	53,521
Public Health	22,475	(21,807)	668			22,475	(21,807)	668
Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	62,025	(77,323)	(15,298)			62,025	(77,323)	(15,298)
Contingencies, Levies etc	1,306	(5,276)	(3,970)			1,306	(5,276)	(3,970)
Housing Revenue Account	17,384	(19,119)	(1,735)			17,384	(19,119)	(1,735)
Net Cost of Services	444,329	(291,502)	152,827			444,329	(291,502)	152,827
Other Operating Expenditure (Note 11)			3,104					3,104
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure - Other (Note 12)			10,118					10,118
Income & Expenditure in relation to Investment Properties and changes in their fair value (Note 16)			1,502	-107				1,395
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income - Other (Note 13)			(158,718)					(158,718)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			8,833					8,726
(Surplus) or Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets (Note 30)			(6,561)					(6,561)
Impairment (gains)/losses on non-current assets charged to Revaluation Reserve (Note 30)			(4,190)					(4,190)
(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets (Note 19 and Note 30)			(1,125)					(1,125)
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability (Note 30 and Note 49)			(6,749)					(6,749)
Other Movements			-					
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(18,625)					(18,625)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(9,792)	-107				(9,899)

Effect on the opening Balance Sheet as at 1st April 2018

	Balances at 31st March 2018 as previously stated £000	2017/18 Restated £000	Change to Balances at 31st March 2018 £000
Property, Plant and Equipment	719,475	702,000	(17,475)
Long Term Assets	823,570	806,095	(17,475)
Net Assets	246,471	228,996	(17,475)
Unusable Reserves	(188,666)	(171,191)	17,475
Total Reserves	(246,471)	(228,996)	17,475

Effect on the Balance Sheet 2018/19

	Balances at 31st March 2019 as previously stated £000	2018/19 Restated £000	Change to Balances at 31st March 2019 £000
Property, Plant and Equipment	731,653	714,178	(17,475)
Investment Properties	36,425	50,565	14,140
Long Term Assets	863,834	860,499	(3,335)
Short Term Creditors	(54,105)	(54,809)	(704)
Current Liabilities	(242,447)	(243,151)	(704)
Long Term Creditors	(85,832)	(99,161)	(13,329)
Long Term Liabilities	(423,486)	(436,815)	(13,329)
Net Assets	256,263	238,895	(17,368)
Unusable Reserves	(189,269)	(171,901)	17,368
Total Reserves	(256,263)	(238,895)	17,368

Effect on the Movement in Reserves Statement – Total Usable Reserves

	Balances at 31st March 2019 as previously stated £000	2018/19 Restated £000	Change to Balances at 31st March 2019 £000
(Surplus) or Deficit on the provision of services	8,833	8,726	(107)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	8,833	8,726	(107)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 10)	(15,118)	(15,011)	107

Effect on the Movement in Reserves Statement – Unusable Reserves

	Balances at 31st March 2019 as previously stated £000	2018/19 Restated £000	Change to Balances at 31st March 2019 £000
Balance as at 1st April 2018	(188,666)	(171,191)	17,475
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 10)	15,118	15,011	(107)
Net (Increase) or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	(3,507)	(3,614)	(107)
(Increase)/Decrease in 2018/2019	(603)	(710)	(107)
Balance as at 31st March 2019	(189,269)	(171,901)	17,368

4. Accounting Policies

i. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2019/2020 financial year and its position at the year-end 31st March 2020. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, which those regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices, under Section 21 of the 2003 Act, primarily comprise of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/2020 (the 'Code') supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis under the assumption that the Council will continue in existence for the foreseeable future.

ii. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- ❑ Revenue from contracts with service recipients whether for services or the provision of goods is recognised when (or as) the goods and services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.
- ❑ Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- ❑ Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- ❑ Interest payable on borrowing and receivable on investments is accounted for respectively as expenditure and income 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.
- ❑ The Council has adopted IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers from 1st April 2018. Under IFRS 15 an entity recognises revenue when (or as) a performance obligation is satisfied i.e. when control of goods and services underlying a particular performance obligation is transferred to the customer. Many of the major sources of revenue for local authorities, including council tax, national non domestic business rates and grants fall outside the scope of IFRS 15. The Council has some rental contracts where the level of rent is affected by the customer's profit/turnover. The total rental received in 2019/20 for these contracts is £827,680 (2018/19 £776,655).

iii. Acquired and Discontinued Operations

All operations acquired and discontinued in year are treated in line with the Council's accounting policies. There were no acquired or discontinued operations in year.

iv. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature within three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

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

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

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

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

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

vi. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

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

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

The Authority is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the authority in accordance with statutory guidance. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance (Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)), by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

vii. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

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

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

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

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

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

viii. Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements and flexi time earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement on 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 Council 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 and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service segment or where applicable to a corporate service segment in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises costs for 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 pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year end.

Post - Employment Benefits

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

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

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

However, the arrangements for the NHS and Teachers' schemes 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's Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to the Teachers pensions in the year. The Public Health line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to the NHS Pension Scheme in the year.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the Lancashire County Council pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – ie an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by the employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc and projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.3% to 2.4% (2.4% to 2.5% in 2018/2019) based on a yield on corporate bonds.
- The assets of the Lancashire County Council pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
 - Quoted securities – current bid price
 - Unquoted securities – professional estimate
 - Unitised securities – current bid price
 - Property – professional estimate and 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 result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the revenue accounts for 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), ie net interest expense for the Council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Re-measurements comprising:
 - The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pension Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
 - Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pension liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
 - Contributions paid to the Lancashire County Council pension fund – cash paid as employer’s contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions

Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

The Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff (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 Local Government Pension Scheme.

ix. Events after the Reporting Period

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

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

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

x. Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial Liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

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

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain/loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. However if funds allow, the premium or discount will be charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in full in the year it is incurred. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General

Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement of Reserves Statement.

Financial Assets

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

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

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

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective interest rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the financial assets held by the Council, this means that the amount presented in the balance sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

However, the Council has a 10% share in a loan made to Lancashire County Developments at less than market rates (soft loans) – see Note 21. When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (debited to the appropriate service) for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal.

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

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

Expected Credit Loss Model

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

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

The Council has a portfolio of a significant number of loans made to local businesses under the Business Loans Fund. It does not have reasonable and supportable information that is available without undue cost or effort to support the measurement of lifetime expected losses on an individual instrument basis. It has therefore assessed losses for the portfolio on a collective basis.

The Council has grouped the loans into 3 categories for assessing loss allowances:

- Group 1 – these loans have been made on the agreement that the loans are secured upon property up to the value of the loan. In the event of a default on the loan repayments the secured property will transfer to the Council.
- Group 2 – these loans were made with variations to the contract/interest rate during the life of the loan. The council reviews contract variations to assess the credit risk since initial recognition.

- Group 3 – for the remaining loans the council relies on past due information and calculates losses based on lifetime credit losses for all loans more than 30 days past due.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVPL)

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

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

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

The inputs to the measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with the following 3 levels:

Level 1 inputs – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identified assets that the Authority can access at the measurement date.

Level 2 inputs – inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3 inputs – unobservable inputs for the asset.

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

IFRS 9 Financial Instruments sets out that investments in equity should be classified as fair value through profit and loss unless there is an irrevocable election to recognise changes in fair value through other comprehensive income. The Council will assess each investment on an individual basis and assign an IFRS 9 category. The assessment will be based on the underlying purpose for holding the financial instrument.

Any changes in the fair value of instruments held at fair value through profit and loss will be recognised in the net cost of service in the CIES and will have a General Fund impact.

Financial Assets at Fair Value through other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI)

Financial assets that are measured at FVOCI are recognised on the balance sheet when the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arise in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. The Council has equity instruments designated at fair value through other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI). These were previously classified as an Available for Sale asset at 31st March 2018.

The Council has made an irrevocable election to designate its equity instruments as FVOCI on the basis that they are held for non-contractual benefits, they are not held for trading but for strategic purposes. The assets were transferred to the new asset category on 1st April 2018. The asset is initially measured and carried at fair value.

The value is based on the principle that the equity shares have no quoted market prices and is based on an independent appraisal of the company valuations.

Dividend income is credited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when it becomes receivable by the Council.

When the asset is de-recognised, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure is transferred from the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve and recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

The same accounting treatment was adopted in the prior year when the asset was classified as Available for Sale, except that accumulated gains and losses on the available for sale asset were previously held in an Available for Sale Financial Instrument Reserve at 31st March 2018. The balance on this reserve was transferred to the new Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve as at 1st April 2018.

xi. Foreign Currency Translation

Where the Council has entered into a transaction denominated in a foreign currency, the transaction is converted into sterling at the exchange rate applicable on the date the transaction was effective. Where amounts in foreign currency are outstanding at the year-end they are reconverted at the spot exchange rate at 31st March. Resulting gains or losses are recognised in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

xii. Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

Amounts recognised as due to the Council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or 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 grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

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

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has not yet been used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve. Where it has been applied it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

Business Improvement District

A Business Improvement District (BID) scheme applies across the whole of the Council. The scheme is funded by a BID levy paid by non-domestic ratepayers. The Council acts as principal under the scheme, and accounts for income received and expenditure incurred (including contributions to the BID project) within the relevant services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

xiii. Intangible Assets

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

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

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

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

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

xiv. Heritage Assets

Tangible and Intangible Heritage Assets

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 have been relaxed in relation to heritage assets as detailed below. The Authority's collections of heritage assets are accounted for as below:

Illuminations Historic Collection

This is a collection of illuminations that have been on display in the past but no longer form part of the annual display (i.e. non-operational). They are kept for their historical significance. These items are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuations that are based on market values. These insurance valuations are reviewed on a 4 yearly basis.

Due to the unique nature of the collection it is deemed to have an indeterminate life and a high residual value hence, the Authority does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

The collection is fairly static. Any transfers of operational illuminations to this collection would be recognised at a value ascertained by the Illuminations Manager in accordance with the Authority's policy.

Art Collection

The art collection consists of paintings (both oil and watercolour), oriental works of art, European works of art and furniture, and is reported in the Balance Sheet at market value. Due to funds being unavailable for professional valuations the collection has not been revalued for many years. However, the valuation is adequate for insurance purposes and has been reported in the Balance Sheet.

The collection is deemed to have an indeterminate life and a high residual value hence the Authority does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

The collection is fairly static; any acquisitions and donations are rare. Where they do occur acquisitions are initially recognised at cost and donations are recognised at a valuation ascertained by the Head of Arts in accordance with the Authority's policy on art collection.

Tower Company Collection and Local and Family History Collections

These collections are not as large as the art collection but contain some rare items. They include paintings, tourism memorabilia (e.g. model of Blackpool Tower) and other items of significant local interest. The collections have been valued by the Head of Heritage using estimated market valuations (although some items are rare and unique to the area so it is difficult to assess their true value) and have been reported in the Balance Sheet on this basis.

The collections are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value hence the Authority does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

The collections are fairly static and any acquisitions and donations are rare. Where they do occur acquisitions are initially recognised at cost and donations are recognised at a valuation ascertained by the Head of Heritage in accordance with the Authority's policy on the collections.

Civic Regalia

This collection includes the Mayoral chain, Deputy Mayor's chain, Mace and many other civic items. They are reported in the Balance Sheet at market value. The collection is revalued every four years by external valuers.

The collection has been revalued in 2018/19 using current market prices.

The collection is deemed to have an indeterminate life and a high residual value hence the Authority does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

The collection is static and any acquisitions and donations are highly unlikely. Where they do occur acquisitions are initially recognised at cost and donations are recognised at a valuation ascertained by the Head of Democratic Services in accordance with the Authority's policy on the collections.

Cenotaph

This had previously been included within community assets in the balance sheet and is valued by external valuers every four years.

Stanley Park Statues

These are being held for purposes of knowledge and culture and are therefore considered to be heritage assets. Due to the cost of obtaining external valuations, they have been reported in the Balance Sheet based on insurance valuations.

They are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value hence the Authority does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

The collection is fairly static; any acquisitions and donations are rare. Where they do occur acquisitions are initially recognised at cost and donations are recognised at a valuation ascertained by valuers in accordance with the Authority's policy on the collections.

xv. Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Council has material interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures and require it to prepare group accounts. In the Council's own single entity accounts, the interests in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost less any provision for losses.

xvi. Inventories and long Term Contracts

Items of stock held by the Council are measured at the lower of cost and current replacement cost where they are held for distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge; or consumption in the production process of goods to be distributed at no charge or for a nominal charge.

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.

xvii. Investment Property

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

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

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

xviii. Joint Operations

Joint operations are arrangements where parties that have joint-control of the arrangement have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities relating to the arrangement. The activities undertaken by the authority in conjunction with other joint 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 its share of any assets held jointly
- its liabilities, including its share of any liabilities incurred jointly
- its revenue from the sale of its share of the output arising from the joint operation
- its expenses, including its share of any expenses incurred jointly.

xix. Leases

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

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

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

The Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

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

Lease payments are apportioned between:

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

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

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

Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefiting from use of the leased property, plant 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 (e.g. there is a rent free period at the commencement of the lease).

The Authority as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the Council grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant and equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether property, plant and equipment or assets held for sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the Council's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal), matched by a lease (long term debtor) asset in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

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

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

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

Operating Leases

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

xx. Overheads and Support Services

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

The main basis for charging of overhead costs is percentage time, floor area and actual time allocation.

xxi. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

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

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost (deminimis value for capitalisation is £15,000), comprising

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

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

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

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost
- Dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH)
- Surplus Assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant’s perspective
- All other assets – fair value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

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

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year end, but as a minimum every four years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains.

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

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

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

Impairment

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

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

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

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

Depreciation

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the estimated useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer. Estimated useful lives range from 3 to 125 years.
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – straight line allocation over 2 to 40 years, as advised by a suitably qualified officer.
- Infrastructure – straight line allocation over 25 years.

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is at least 20% of the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. Only assets with a value in excess of £1m were determined material for component accounting.

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

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

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

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale, they are reclassified back to non-current assets and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as held for sale; adjusted

depreciation, amortisation or revaluations that would have been recognised had they not been classified as Held for Sale, and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

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

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

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of the receipts relating to housing disposals (75% for dwellings, 50% for land and other assets, net of statutory deductions and allowances) is payable to the Government. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

xxii. Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Similar Contracts

PFI and similar contracts are agreements to receive services where the responsibility for making available the Property, Plant and Equipment needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. As the Council is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI schemes and as ownership of the Property, Plant and Equipment will pass to the Council at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the Council carries the assets used under the contracts on the Balance Sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment.

The original recognition of these assets at fair value (based on the cost to purchase the Property, Plant and Equipment) was balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment.

Non-current assets recognised on the Balance Sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as Property, Plant and Equipment owned by the Council.

The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year are analysed into five elements:

- **Fair value of services received during the year** - debited to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- **Finance cost** – an interest charge of a percentage of the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- **Payment towards liability** – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease)
- **Lifecycle replacement costs** - proportion of the amounts payable is posted to the Balance Sheet as a prepayment and then recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out.
- **Contingent rent** – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Street Lighting & Signals PFI

The project commenced on 4th January 2010 and is for 25 years. The total value of the project is £128,076,000 and includes the replacement of approximate 16,000 streetlights and signals. The service provider is Community Lighting Partnership.

The project was refinanced in 2015/16 which has resulted in annual revenue savings of £298,000. The financing of the scheme was remodelled and the street lighting and signals are now depreciated across the remaining period of the contract to 2035.

xxiii. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets**Provisions**

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

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

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

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from another party, this is only recognised as income in the relevant revenue account if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the obligation is settled.

Contingent Liabilities

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

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

Contingent Assets

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

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

xxiv. Reserves

The Council 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 Balance so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

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

xxv. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

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

xxvi. Schools

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK confirms that the balance of control for local authority maintained schools (i.e. those categories of school identified in the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended) lies with the local authority. The Code also stipulates that those school assets, liabilities, income, expenditure, 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.

xxvii. Fair Value Measurement

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

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

The Council measures the fair value of an asset or liability on the same basis that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability (assuming those market participants were acting in their economic best interest).

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

The Council uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, 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 Council's financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy as follows:

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

xxviii. 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.

5. Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued But Not Yet Adopted

Under the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2019/2020 (the Code), the Council is required to disclose information setting out the impact of an accounting change required by a new accounting standard that has been issued but not yet adopted by the Code. At the balance sheet date the following new standards and amendments to existing standards have been published but not yet adopted by the Code.

- IFRS 16 Leases will require local authorities that are lessees to recognise most leases on their balance sheets as right-of-use assets with corresponding lease liabilities (there is recognition for low-value and short-term leases). CIPFA have deferred implementation of IFRS 16 for local government to 1st April 2022.
- Amendments to IAS 28 Investment in Associates and Joint Ventures: Long term interests in Associates and Joint Ventures
- Annual improvements to IFRS Standards 2015-2017 Cycle
- Amendments to IAS 19 Employee Benefits; Plan Amendment, Curtailment and Settlement
- Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS Standards

6. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 4 the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgments made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of the need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.
- The Council is deemed to control the services provided under the agreement for the replacement and upgrade of street lighting and also to control the residual value of the lighting at the end of the agreement. The accounting policies for PFI schemes and similar contracts have been applied to the arrangements and the assets are recognised as Property, Plant and Equipment on the Council's Balance Sheet.
- The following claims have potentially significant settlement values:
 - There are a number of claims against the Authority regarding accidents and injuries sustained on Council land.
 - There are a number of claims against the Authority regarding injuries sustained on roads and footpaths.
- Schools which have converted to Academies are not included in the Council's Balance Sheet. When a school which is held on the Council's Balance Sheet transfers to Academy status the Council accounts for this as a disposal for nil consideration, on the date the school converts to Academy status. All other schools except one voluntary aided school are included on the Council's balance sheet in line with accounting standards following an assessment of the ownership of these schools.
- The Council is liable to make contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. For the 3 year period 2017/18 to 2019/20 the Council has agreed with Lancashire Pension Fund that the employer contributions payable to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) can be paid as a single up-front payment. In 2017/18 the Council paid £36m to the Lancashire Pension Fund in order to make budget savings. The amounts relating to 2017/18 and 2018/19 have been accounted for in the relevant year with the amounts for 2019/20 being offset against the pension reserve in the balance sheet. The pension reserve will align with the pension liability in 2019/20 as the upfront payment arrangements are accounted for.

- The Council has shareholdings in Blackpool Transport Services, Blackpool Housing Company and Blackpool Airport. Up to 31st March 2018 the shareholdings were held as “Available for Sale Financial Assets” and measured at fair value each year. Any change in fair value was included in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure and accumulated gains and losses have been held in an Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve.

With the adoption of *IFRS 9 Financial Instruments*, the “Available for Sale Financial Asset” is no longer available. The new standard sets out that investments in equity should be classified as fair value through profit and loss unless there is an irrevocable election to designate the asset as fair value through Other Comprehensive Income. Including the shareholdings as fair value through profit and loss would mean that changes in valuation are immediately recognised within the Council’s Cost of Services. This would mean the Council’s revenue budget would be subject to the increased risk of volatility in the share valuations. Any major fluctuations in the valuations of the shareholding would have a significant impact on the General Fund balance.

The shareholdings are strategic investments and not held for trading therefore the Council has the option to designate it as fair value through Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. This would mean that there is no impact on the revenue budget. Having considered the impact that future share valuations could have on the Council’s revenue budget the more prudent approach is to designate the shareholding as a strategic investment with changes in fair value treated as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. This means any gains and losses on the revaluation of the shareholding are transferred to a Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

7. 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 Council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the Authority’s Balance Sheet at 31st March 2020 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are shown below:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property Plant and Equipment	<p>Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Authority will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.</p> <p>For assets held under the revaluation model the outbreak of Covid-19 has had an impact on valuation of property, plant and equipment at 31st March 2020. Valuations have been reported on the basis of "material valuation uncertainty". Further information is shown in Note 15.</p>	<p>If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the asset falls.</p> <p>It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £1.5m in these circumstances.</p>
Pensions Liability	<p>Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.</p> <p>Grant Thornton, the pension fund's auditors have raised an Emphasis of Matter regarding the valuation of the pension fund's property valuations during the global pandemic. More information is disclosed in Note 50.</p>	<p>The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured although the assumptions interact in complex ways. During 2019/2020 the Council's actuaries advised that the Council's net pension liability had increased by £3.45m. However by entering into a pension pooling arrangement with Blackpool Transport Services limited the overall net pension liability reduced by £1.5m. Also see disclosures in Note 50.</p>
Arrears	<p>At 31/3/20 the Authority had a balance of sundry debtors of £66.7m. £28.1m of this balance was expected to be paid in full. A review of the remaining £38.6m suggested that an impairment of doubtful debts of approximately 40% was appropriate. However, in the current economic climate and the unknown effect of the Covid-19 pandemic it is not certain that such an allowance would be sufficient.</p>	<p>If collection rates were to deteriorate additional amounts would need to be set aside as an allowance. A 1% fall in the recoverable rate will decrease the debtor recovered by £0.4m</p>

Business Rates	<p>Since the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme on 1st April 2013, local authorities are liable for a share of successful appeals against the business rates charged to businesses. Therefore a provision has been recognised for the best estimate of the amount that businesses have been overcharged up to 31st March 2020. The estimate has been calculated using the Valuation Office (VO) ratings list of appeals and the analysis of successful appeals to date when providing the estimate of the total provision up to and including 31st March 2020.</p>	<p>If the level of appeals were to increase by 1% it would require the Council to set aside an estimated additional £110,000 in the provision.</p>
Fair Value Measurements	<p>When the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (ie Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using valuation techniques (eg quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or discounted cash flow (DCF) model).</p> <p>Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data but where this is not possible judgement is required in establishing fair values. These judgements typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. However, changes in the assumptions used could affect the fair value of the authority's assets and liabilities.</p> <p>Where Level 1 inputs are not available, the authority employs relevant experts to identify the most appropriate valuation techniques to determine (for example investment properties, the authority's chief valuation officer and external valuer).</p> <p>Information regarding the valuation techniques and inputs used in determining the fair value of the authority's assets and liabilities is disclosed in Notes 17, 20 and 21.</p> <p>The outbreak of Covid-19 has had an impact on the valuation of investment properties at 31st March 2020. Valuations have been reported on the basis of "material valuation uncertainty". Further information is shown in Note 17.</p>	<p>The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement include management assumptions regarding rent growth, vacancy levels (for investment properties) and discount rates – adjusted for regional factors (for both investment properties and some financial assets).</p> <p>Significant change in any of the unobservable inputs would result in a significantly lower or higher fair value measurement for the investment properties and financial assets.</p>

8. Material Items of Income and Expense

On 6th November 2019 the Council purchased the Houndshill Shopping Centre. This has increased the Property Plant and Equipment held on the Council's balance sheet by £47.6m, however, following a revaluation at 31st March 2020 this resulted in a reduction in value to £39.6m.

Long term debtors increased during the year by £20.3m. This mainly related to new loans issued from the Business Loans Fund – see Note 20.

9. Events After The Reporting Period

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Resources on 21st October 2021. Since that date the accounts have been amended following audit. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements and notes. Where events taking place before this date provide information about conditions existing at 31st March 2020. The figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

On 7th May 2020 the Council again took advantage of the option by the pension fund to make a one off payment in advance to cover its employer's future service contributions and deficit recovery payments for the three years 2020/21 to 2022/23. The value of the payment totalled £33.579m and resulted in a saving to the Council of £1.989m.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant effect on the way the council operates. Although Covid-19 has had a limited impact on 2019/20 the main financial focus is on the level of income losses and additional expenditure in 2020/21 and beyond. The main impact is on the following:

- Fees and charges income losses as a result of closing facilities such as leisure centres, reduction in parking income due to reduction in the number of visitors and property rental income.
- Market sustainability with care providers
- Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Business rates and council tax
- Impact on 2020/21 and beyond savings targets.

To help fund the above, the government have provided a number of funding streams. Details of the various funding streams are below:

Funding	Description	Blackpool's Allocation
Emergency Funding 1 (Received 27th March 2020)	Initial government non-ringfenced funding of £1.6bn to support councils with the Covid-19 pandemic	£6.085m
Emergency Funding 2 (Received 14th May 2020)	Second tranche of non-ringfenced funding of £1.594bn to support councils with Covid-19 pandemic	£3.811m
Emergency Funding 3 (Received 3rd August 2020)	Third tranche of non-ringfenced funding of £500m to support councils with the Covid-19 pandemic	£1.767m
Covid-19 Council Tax Hardship Fund (Received 3rd April 2020)	Established to deliver relief to council tax payers during 2020/21 by reducing council tax liability using discretionary powers under S31A(1)(C) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992	£2.803m
Business Grant Scheme (Received 1st April 2020)	Grants to be passed onto eligible businesses to support them during Covid-19 pandemic	£59.124m (£45.135m anticipated to be paid out) 5% of this is to be used for the discretionary scheme below with the balance being returned to the government
Discretionary Business Scheme	Government directed that a proportion of the business grant scheme can be used on a discretionary basis to support other eligible business categories	£2.257m (see above)
Infection Control Fund (Received in May and June)	£600m fund to support infection control in care homes	£2.194m
Track and Trace (Received May 2020)	£300m fund to support the governments track and trace initiative	£1.694m
Re-opening the High Street (Received May 2020)	£50m European Regional Development Fund grant. Councils need to claim back this money from government as opposed to it being awarded directly	£0.123m
Local Authority Compliance and Enforcement Grant	£30m fund to support councils in compliance and enforcement of Covid-19 restrictions	£0.114m

10. Adjustment Between Accounting Basis And Funding Basis Under Regulations

This note details the adjustments that are made to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure recognised by the Authority in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to arrive at the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the 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 required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the Authority are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund Balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The General Fund Balance therefore summarises the resources that the Council is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the Council is required to recover) at the end of the financial year. However the balance is not available to be applied in funding Housing Revenue Account services.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

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

Major Repairs Reserve

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

Capital Receipts Reserve

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

Capital Grants Unapplied

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

2019/2020	Usable Reserves				
	General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Reserves £000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources					
Amounts by which the income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:					
Pensions costs (transferred to/(from) the Pensions Reserve)	(13,572)	-	-	-	-
Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account)	31	-	-	-	-
Council Tax and NDR (transfers to or (from) Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	3,710	-	-	-	-
Holiday Pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	129	-	-	-	-
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account).	(54,665)	(3,283)	(1,063)	-	-
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(64,367)	(3,283)	(1,063)	-	-
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources					
Payments to the government housing receipts pool (funded by transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	(487)	-	487	-	-
Posting of HRA resources from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	9,533	-	-	-	-
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	2,538	6,144	-	-	-
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	11,584	6,144	487	-	-
Adjustments to Capital Resources					
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	17,671	1,428	-	-	-
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	17,671	1,428	-	-	-
Total Adjustments	(35,112)	4,289	(576)	-	-

Restated 2018/2019	Usable Reserves				
	General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Reserves £000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources					
Amounts by which the income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:					
Pensions costs (transferred to/(from) the Pensions Reserve	(16,517)				
Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	46				
Council Tax and NDR (transfers to or from Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	246				
Holiday Pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	(176)				
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus and Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account).	(34,736)	(6,516)			
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(51,137)	(6,516)	-	-	-
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources					
Payments to the government housing receipts pool (funded by transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	(449)		449		
Transfer of non current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	1,099	840	(1,939)		
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	9,596				
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(1,465)	7,160			
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	8,781	8,000	(1,490)	-	-
Adjustments to Capital Resources					
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	24,129	1,563			
Use of capital receipts reserve to finance capital expenditure			1,659		
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	24,129	1,563	1,659	-	-
Total Adjustments	(18,227)	3,047	169	-	-

11. Transfers To/From Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund and HRA balances in Earmarked Reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from Earmarked Reserves to meet General Fund and HRA expenditure in 2019/2020.

	Balance at 1st April 2018 £000	Transfers Out 2018/2019 £000	Transfers In 2018/2019 £000	Balance at 31st March 2019 £000	Transfers Out 2019/2020 £000	Transfers In 2019/2020 £000	Balance at 31st March 2020 £000
General Fund:							
Balances held by schools under scheme of delegation	(2,072)	95	(376)	(2,353)	286	(317)	(2,384)
School DSG (Under)/Overspend	(25)	986	(539)	422	3,161	(483)	3,100
Unallocated Reserves	(4,034)	-	(3,023)	(7,057)	4,765	-	(2,292)
Total General Fund	(6,131)	1,081	(3,938)	(8,988)	8,212	(800)	(1,576)
Earmarked Reserves							
Potential Pay Liabilities	(488)	1,148	(3,579)	(2,919)	1,240	(2,811)	(4,490)
Public/Private Partnership Reserve	(6,064)	4,177	(2,946)	(4,833)	6,431	(633)	965
Council Tax & Non-Domestic Rates Deficits	(13,459)	6,399	(5,514)	(12,574)	11,669	(7,323)	(8,228)
Service Underspends	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Museum Reserve	(875)	581	-	(294)	11	(1,337)	(1,620)
Transformation Reserve	(425)	969	(1,062)	(518)	692	(1,298)	(1,124)
Specific Settlements in Dispute	(539)	-	-	(539)	-	-	(539)
Strategic Investments	(320)	-	-	(320)	-	-	(320)
Financial systems upgrade, renewals & replacements	(51)	119	(186)	(118)	45	(428)	(501)
Financial Instruments	(14)	-	-	(14)	14	-	-
Treasury Management - Prudential borrowing	(2,251)	1,970	(184)	(465)	-	(332)	(797)
Insurances	(1,100)	-	-	(1,100)	-	(5,943)	(7,043)
Enterprise Zone	-	293	(463)	(170)	429	(496)	(237)
Opportunity Area	-	-	(3,096)	(3,096)	3,096	(1,631)	(1,631)
Covid 19 grant	-	-	-	-	380	(6,085)	(5,705)
Other	(11,233)	3,604	(7,073)	(14,702)	9,201	(13,047)	(18,548)
Total Earmarked Reserves	(36,819)	19,260	(24,103)	(41,662)	33,208	(41,364)	(49,818)
HRA							
Housing Revenue Account	(5,870)	165	-	(5,705)	875	-	(4,830)

12. Other Operating Expenditure

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
68	Flood Defence Levy	68
449	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	487
2,587	(Gains)/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	1,232
3,104	Total	1,787

13. Financing And Investments Income And Expenditure

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
7,685	Interest payable and similar charges	7,586
5,437	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	5,449
-	- Pension Pooling - Business Combinations	(2,872)
(2,089)	Interest receivable and similar income	(3,092)
(915)	Dividend - Council Owned Subsidiaries	(841)
10,118	Total	6,230

14. Taxation And Non Specific Grant Income

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
(54,732)	Council Tax Income	(56,837)
(1,604)	Collection Fund (surplus)/deficit	(3,690)
(19,735)	Retained Business Rates	(28,515)
(23,528)	Business Rates Top Up	(27,137)
(33,427)	Non-ringfenced government grants	(28,241)
(25,692)	Capital Grants & contributions	(19,099)
(158,718)	Total Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	(163,519)

15. Property, Plant And Equipment (PPE)

The movements on property, plant and equipment during the year were as follows:-

2019/20

	Council							PFI Assets Included in PPE £000
	Dwellings & Other HRA £000	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	PP&E Under Construction £000	Total PP&E £000	
Cost or Valuation								
Restated Balance as at 1 April 2019	117,887	245,301	46,313	515,506	66	22,199	947,272	32,705
Additions	7,571	55,564	3,886	11,126	-	8,591	86,738	-
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	-	7,663	-	-	-	-	7,663	-
Revaluation increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(258)	(31,775)	-	-	-	(6,354)	(38,387)	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(1,835)	(221)	-	-	-	(224)	(2,280)	-
Transfer		(1,904)	-	-	-		(1,904)	-
Balance as at 31 March 2020	123,365	274,628	50,199	526,632	66	24,212	999,102	32,705
Depreciation and Impairment								
Balance as at 1 April 2019	-	(14,558)	(38,651)	(179,885)	-	-	(233,094)	(8,220)
Depreciation Charge	(2,253)	(8,417)	(2,450)	(17,282)	-	-	(30,402)	(1,199)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	6,051	-	-	-	-	6,051	-
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	6,887	-	-	-	-	6,887	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	9	-	-	-	-	9	-
Balance as at 31 March 2020	(2,253)	(10,028)	(41,101)	(197,167)	-	-	(250,549)	(9,419)
Net Book Value								
Balance as at 31 March 2020	121,112	264,600	9,098	329,465	66	24,212	748,553	23,286
Restated Balance as at 31 March 2019	117,887	230,743	7,662	335,621	66	22,199	714,178	24,485

The significant increase in additions under other land and buildings includes the full cost of purchasing the Houndshell Shopping Centre for £50.637m in November 2019. The property was revalued in year and was impaired by £11.037m.

Restated Comparative Movements 2018/19

	Council							PFI Assets Included in PPE £000
	Dwellings & Other HRA	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Total PP&E	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Cost or Valuation								
Restated balance as at 1 April 2018	119,206	238,614	44,638	499,978	66	16,506	919,008	32,705
Additions	9,319	6,334	1,675	15,666	79	10,311	43,384	-
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	(1,213)	4,959	-	-	-	(63)	3,683	-
Revaluation increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(8,457)	(3,906)	-	-	(79)	-	(12,442)	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(968)	-	-	-	-	(3,558)	(4,526)	-
Derecognition - Other	-	(700)	-	-	-	-	(700)	-
Transfer	-	-	-	(138)	-	(997)	(1,135)	-
Restated Balance as at 31 March 2019	117,887	245,301	46,313	515,506	66	22,199	947,272	32,705
Depreciation and Impairment								
Balance as at 1 April 2018	(2,909)	(15,447)	(35,464)	(163,188)	-	-	(217,008)	(7,022)
Depreciation Charge	(2,857)	(8,006)	(3,187)	(16,697)	-	-	(30,747)	(1,198)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	6,561	-	-	-	-	6,561	-
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	5,766	2,334	-	-	-	-	8,100	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2019	-	(14,558)	(38,651)	(179,885)	-	-	(233,094)	(8,220)
Net Book Value								
Restated Balance as at 31 March 2019	117,887	230,743	7,662	335,621	66	22,199	714,178	24,485
Restated Balance as at 31 March 2018	116,297	223,167	9,174	336,790	66	16,506	702,000	23,286

Depreciation

The following assets have been depreciated at varying rates in relation to their useful economic lives:

- Council Dwellings and Other Buildings – straight line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer.
- Plant, Furniture and Equipment – a percentage of the value of each class of asset in the Balance Sheet as advised by a suitably qualified officer
- Infrastructure - straight line allocation over 25 years

The useful economic lives are reviewed at least every four years as is the likely residual value.

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is at least 20% of the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. Only items with a value in excess of £1m were deemed material for component accounting.

At 31st March 2020 the Council has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in future years budgeted to cost £20.5m. Similar commitments at 31st March 2019 were £22m. The major commitments are in relation to tram refurbishment, the Conference Centre, Enterprise Zone and Foxhall Village.

Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every four years. Valuations were carried out both internally and externally during 2019/2020. These valuations of land and buildings, disclosed above in 'Council Dwellings and Other HRA' and 'Other Land and Buildings', were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

The outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), declared by the World Health Organisation as a "Global Pandemic" on 11 March 2020, has impacted global financial markets. Travel restrictions have been implemented by many countries. Market activity is being impacted in many sectors. As at the 31st March valuation date, the valuers consider that they can attach less weight to previous market evidence for comparison purposes, to inform opinions of value. The current response to COVID-19 means that they are faced with an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has impacted on the global economic outlook and there has been global economic contraction.

The valuation is therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Red Book Global. Consequently, less certainty – and a higher degree of caution – should be attached to the valuation than would normally be the case. The inclusion of this clause does not mean that the valuations cannot be relied upon, only that the declaration has been included to confirm the fact that in the current unprecedented circumstances less certainty can be attributed to the valuations than would ordinarily be the case.

The significant assumptions in estimating fair values are:-

	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land & Buildings £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total £000
Valued at fair value as at:				
31/03/2020	117,314	133,650	752	251,716
31/03/2019	114,704	83,406	897	199,007
31/03/2018	113,452	55,965	1,110	170,527
31/03/2017	114,470	20,001	654	135,125
Total Cost or Valuation	459,940	293,022	3,413	756,375

Component Accounting

Council Dwellings

Within the Net Book Value of Assets – Council Dwellings (Note 15) are the following assets which have been accounted for on a component basis. This means they are written off according to their own unique economic life.

Asset Type	Land £000	Kitchens and Bathrooms £000	Structure £000	Total £000
Houses & Bungalows	15,307	5,386	40,534	61,227
Flats	14,022	7,711	34,354	56,087
Total	29,329	13,097	74,888	117,314

Other Land and Buildings

Items valued at £1m and above have been subject to component accounting. A component must be worth at least 20% of the value of the asset. The valuations are on a 4 year rolling programme. A number of properties in excess of £1m were identified for valuation and were not componentised as they had been completed within the last 4 years.

16. Heritage Assets

Reconciliation of the carrying value of heritage assets held by the Authority is as follows;

	Art Collection £000	Civic Regalia £000	Other £000	Tower & Local History Collection £000	Illuminations £000	Stanley Park Statues £000	Total £000
Cost or Valuation 1st April 2019	5,655	510	20	1,450	550	-	8,185
Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	179	-	-	-	-	179
Balance 31st March 2020	5,655	689	20	1,450	550	-	8,364

	Art Collection £000	Civic Regalia £000	Other £000	Tower & Local History Collection £000	Illuminations £000	Stanley Park Statues £000	Total £000
Cost or Valuation 1st April 2018	5,655	510	20	1,450	550	-	8,185
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance 31st March 2019	5,655	510	20	1,450	550	-	8,185

17. Investment Properties

The following items of income and expense have been accounted for in the Income and Expenditure in relation to Investment Properties and changes in their fair value line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
(3,497)	Rental income from investment property	(6,905)
6,170	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	5,121
(1,171)	Net (gains)/losses from fair value adjustments	(5,694)
1,502	Net (gain)/loss	(7,478)

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

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

Restated 2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
32,519	Balance at start of the year	50,565
	Additions -	
17,356	- Purchases	15
-	- Construction	181
	Transfer -	
304	- (To)/from PPE	2,074
	- Upward Revaluation	6,573
	- Impairment	(879)
386	Net gains/(losses) from fair value adjustments to Surplus/(Deficit) on Provision of Services	
50,565	Balance at end of the year	58,529

Fair Value Hierarchy

All the Council's investment properties have been value assessed as Level 2 on the fair value hierarchy for valuation purposes (see Note 3 Accounting Policies xxvii for an explanation of the fair value levels).

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

The fair value of investment property has been measured using a market approach, which takes into account quoted prices for similar assets in active markets, existing lease terms and rentals, research into market evidence including market rentals and yields, the covenant strength for existing tenants, and data and market

knowledge gained in managing the Council's Investment Asset portfolio. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold and the level of observable inputs are significant, leading to the properties being categorised as level 2 on the fair value hierarchy.

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

Highest and Best Use

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

Valuation Process for Investment Properties

The Council's investment property has been valued as at 31 March 2020 by the authority's Chief Valuation Officer in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the valuation is reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Red Book Global. Consequently, less certainty – and a higher degree of caution – should be attached to the valuation than would normally be the case. The inclusion of this clause does not mean that the valuations cannot be relied upon, only that the declaration has been included to confirm the fact that in the current unprecedented circumstances less certainty can be attributed to the valuations than would ordinarily be the case.

18. Surplus Assets

	Non Current	
	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000
Balance outstanding at start of year	897	1110
Assets newly classified as surplus assets:		
- property, plant and equipment	-	831
Revaluation gains/(losses)	57	(348)
Impairment losses	(3)	(696)
Disposals	(25)	-
Assets declassified as surplus assets:		
- property, plant and equipment	(173)	-
Balance outstanding at year end	753	897

19. Intangibles

The Council accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of property, plant and equipment. The intangible assets consist of purchased software licenses.

All software is given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the Council. The useful lives assigned to intangibles is 5 years.

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight line basis. As the assets were purchased in 2019/20 they will start to be amortised in 2020/21. The cost will be charged to the IT administration cost centre and then absorbed as an overhead across all the service headings in the cost of services. It is not possible to quantify exactly how much of the amortisation is attributable to each service heading.

The movement on intangible asset balances during the year is as follows:

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
0	Balance at start of year	0
	Additions:	
0	Purchases	466
0	Balance at end of year	466

20. Financial Instruments

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

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

Financial Assets

	Non Current				Current			
	Investments		Debtors		Investments		Debtors	
	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2020 £000	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2020 £000	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2020 £000	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2020 £000
Amortised Cost								
Principal	-	-	57,924	78,273	7,800	21,350	-	7
Cash & Cash Equivalents	-	-	-	-	(182)	-	-	-
Total Amortised Cost	-	-	57,924	78,273	7,618	21,350	-	7
Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income - Equity Instruments	28,750	27,410	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trade Debtors	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,034	46,670
Total Financial Assets	28,750	27,410	57,924	78,273	7,618	21,350	43,034	46,670

Fair Value of Financial Assets

Some of the Council's financial assets are measured at fair value on a recurring basis and are described in the following table, including the valuation techniques used to measure them.

Recurring Fair Value Measurement	Input Level in Fair Value Hierarchy	Valuation Technique used to Measure Fair Value	As at 31st March 2020 £000	As at 31st March 2019 £000
Share Valuations- Blackpool Transport Services Ltd	Level 3	Earnings based	9,800	14,440
Share Valuations- Blackpool Housing Company	Level 3	Earnings based	13,150	10,200
Share Valuations- Blackpool Airport Ltd	Level 3	Earnings based	3,650	4,100
Share Valuations- Blackpool Waste Services Ltd	Level 3	Earnings based	800	0
			27,400	28,740

Equity Shareholding in Blackpool Transport Services Ltd

The Council's shareholding in Blackpool Transport Services Ltd – the shares in this company are not traded in an active market and fair value of £9.8m has been based on valuation techniques that are not based on observable current market data or available market data.

The valuation method used is the revenue method, which uses multiples of turnover. The Multiples of Turnover method of valuation has been selected, on the basis that that if the business were to be offered for sale in the future, a purchaser is more than likely to be another bus operator, with knowledge and experience in the sector who would be able to enhance the economies of scale within the organisation.

Based on the company's existing structure, its' branding, reputation and longevity, a multiple of 0.4 times the average turnover has been used. This is a decrease in the multiplier applied in 2018/19 which was 0.6. The reason for the 0.2 reduction is as follows:

- 0.1 reduction has been imposed due to the fact that the pension asset was transferred to Blackpool Council during the course of the financial year which significantly reduced the share-holders funds; and
- 0.1 has been deducted due to loss of income due to "lockdown" and the uncertain impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This may also affect the capital expenditure plans for 2020/21.

Equity Shareholding in Blackpool Housing Company Ltd

The Council's shareholding in Blackpool Housing Company Ltd – the shares in this company are not traded in an active market and fair value of £13.15m has been based on valuation techniques that are not based on observable current market data or available market data.

The valuation method used is the return on properties owned by the Company. In 2019 the Board outlined the targets for the yield on the different types of investment as follows:

- "Good to Go" – 4.5%
- "Turnkey and Rolling Investment" – 4%
- Refurbishment – 3.5%

Based on the size of the portfolio the above yields were used for the purposes of valuing the Company.

Equity Shareholding in Regional and City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Limited

The Council's shareholding in Regional and City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Limited – the shares in this company are not traded in an active market and fair value of £3.65m has been based on valuation techniques that are not based on observable current market data or available market data.

In arriving at the valuation, a method has been used which uses multiples of profit or turnover and an EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation) comparison between this and share-holder funds. Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic will have major implications for the aviation industry the Council's valuers believe it won't materially affect Blackpool Airport Limited as the site from which it operates is of significant value. Should the worst case scenario occur and the Airport ceases trading, the sale of the land alone would generate a significant amount of revenue.

Equity Shareholding in Blackpool Waste Services Limited

The Council's shareholding in Blackpool Waste Services Limited – the shares in this company are not traded in an active market and fair value of £0.8m has been based on a revenue method which uses multiples of turnover. This method has been selected because if the business were to be offered for sale at any time now or in the near future a purchaser would more than likely be another waste company with knowledge and experience in the sector, who would manage any inefficiencies in current operations.

Transfers between Levels of Fair Value Hierarchy

There are no transfers between input levels during the year.

Changes in Valuation Technique

There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for the financial instruments.

Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurement for Financial Assets carried at Fair Value Categorised within Level 3 of the Fair Value Hierarchy for Financial Assets

2018/2019 Unquoted Shares £000		2019/2020 Unquoted Shares £000
24,250	Opening Balance	28,750
	Total Gains and (Losses) of the Period:	
1,125	- Included in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(4,465)
3,375	Additions	3,115
28,750	Closing Balance	27,400

Losses included in the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure for the current year relate to unquoted shares in Blackpool Transport Services Ltd, Blackpool Airport Limited and Blackpool Housing Company and are taken to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve. Gains and losses included in the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure for the previous year relate to unquoted shares in Blackpool Housing Company (gain), Blackpool Transport Services (gain) and Blackpool Airport (loss) are also taken to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve. Additions in 2019/20 relate to the purchase of further shares in Blackpool Housing Company and the addition of Blackpool Waste Services Limited which commenced operation on 1st July 2019.

Financial Liabilities

	Non Current				Current			
	Borrowings		Creditors		Borrowings		Creditors	
	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2020 £000	Restated 31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2020 £000	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2020 £000	31/03/2019 £000	31/03/2020 £000
Amortised Cost								
Principal & accrued loan interest	89,895	87,460	-	-	159,452	245,184	1,817	793
PFI and Finance Lease	-	-	97,215	96,408	-	-	-	4,243
Total Financial Liabilities	89,895	87,460	97,215	96,408	159,452	245,184	1,817	5,036
Non Financial Liabilities	-	-	1,946	103	-	-	52,992	46,664
Total	89,895	87,460	99,161	96,511	159,452	245,184	54,809	51,700

Soft Loan made by the Authority to Lancashire County Developments

Upon Local Government Reorganisation in 1998 the Authority took over a 10% share in a loan made to Lancashire County Developments by Lancashire County Council. The loan is now due to be repaid in 2031. Under requirements of IAS 32 this loan has been revalued to fair value. The original amount of the loan was £721,000. The fair value of the loan in 2019/2020 was £447,247 (£427,362 in 2018/2019).

The interest rate at which the fair value of this soft loan has been made is arrived at by taking the authority's prevailing cost of borrowing and adding an allowance for the risk that the loan might not be repaid, in this case a zero rate.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2019/2020				2018/2019			
	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Financial Assets - loans & receivables	Financial Assets - Share Valuations	Total	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Financial Assets - loans & receivables	Financial Assets - Share Valuations	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Interest expense	7,586	-	-	7,586	7,685	-	-	7,685
Total expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	7,586	-	-	7,586	7,685	-	-	7,685
Interest income	-	(3,092)	-	(3,092)	-	(2,089)	-	(2,089)
Total income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(3,092)	-	(3,092)	-	(2,089)	-	(2,089)
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation	-	-	(4,465)	(4,465)	-	-	1,125	1,125
Surplus/deficit arising on revaluation of financial assets in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	(4,465)	(4,465)	-	-	1,125	1,125
Net gain/(loss) for the year	7,586	(3,092)	(4,465)	29	7,685	(2,089)	1,125	6,721

Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

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

- The ranges of interest rates at 31st March 2020 were 1.48% to 6.75% for loans from the PWLB and 3.93% to 8.875% for other long term loans payable
- no early repayment or impairment is recognised
- where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, carrying amount is assumed to be approximate to fair value
- fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated as follows:

	31st March 2020		Restated 31st March 2019	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Financial Liabilities	332,644	365,031	249,347	249,502
Long term creditors	96,511	96,511	99,161	99,161

The fair value of the liabilities reflects the cost to the Council if it chose to repay its Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans early. There is a calculation for each PWLB loan at 31st March 2020 as the aggregate net present value of future cash flows, discounted using the appropriate discount rate taken from the premature repayment set of rates in force at the close of business on the last working day of the financial year.

	31st March 2020		31st March 2019	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Loans and receivables	20,920	20,920	8,063	8,063
Long term debtors	78,547	76,135	58,218	57,924
Short term debtors	57,055	57,055	49,499	49,499

The fair value of the assets is lower than the carrying amount because the Authority's portfolio of investments includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate receivable is lower than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future loss (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2020) attributable to the commitment to receive interest below current market rates.

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

21. Long Term Investments

31st March 2019 £000		31st March 2020 £000
	Ordinary Shares (£1 per share) in:-	
14,440	Blackpool Transport Services Ltd	9,800
10,200	Blackpool Housing Company	13,150
4,100	Blackpool Airport	3,650
0	Blackpool Waste Services	800
0	Lancashire Management Operations Ltd	0
10	Municipal Bonds Agency	10
28,750	Total	27,410

Blackpool Transport Services Ltd

Investments in Blackpool Transport Services Limited consist of share capital (£2,789,000 at historic cost) in the company which was set up in accordance with the provisions of the Transport Act 1985 to operate the Council's municipal bus operation. The company provides a comprehensive passenger transport service in the Fylde coast area through its bus and tram operations. The Council leases the tramway and associated premises to Blackpool Transport Services Limited. The company is wholly owned by the Council.

Note 19 describes the basis used to arrive at a formal valuation for the Council's shareholding of the company. In 2019/2020 there was a decrease in value of £4,640,000. The loss on revaluation was debited to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Blackpool Housing Company

Blackpool Housing Company Limited was set up on 26th January 2015. The company is a housing regeneration company and is wholly owned by the Council. The shares have been purchased at a cost of £13,600,000.

Note 19 describes the basis used to arrive at a formal valuation for the Council's shareholding of the company. The investment value included within the Council's Balance Sheet represents the value of Total Equity Shareholder Funds. In 2019/2020 there was a decrease in value of £175,000. This loss on revaluation was debited to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The movement in share value in 2019/20 is as follows:

	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000
Shares as at 1st April	10,200	7,050
Purchase of shares	3,125	3,375
Decrease in valuation	(175)	(225)
Shares as at 31st March	13,150	10,200

Regional and City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Ltd

On 12th September 2017 the Council purchased 100% shares in Regional and City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Limited for £4,250,000.

Note 19 describes the basis used to arrive at a formal valuation for the Council's shareholding of the company. The investment value included within the Council's Balance Sheet represents the value of Total Equity Shareholder Funds. In 2019/2020 there was a decrease in value of £450,000. This loss on revaluation was debited to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Blackpool Waste Services Limited

Blackpool Waste Services Limited was set up on 1st July 2019. The company was set up to deliver the domestic waste service in Blackpool. The Council owns 100% of the shares valued at £1.

Note 19 describes the basis used to arrive at a formal valuation for the Council's shareholding of the company. The investment value included within the Council's Balance Sheet represents the value of Total Equity Shareholder Funds. In 2019/2020 there was an increase in value of £800,000. This gain on revaluation was credited to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Municipal Bonds Agency

A Local Government Association backed firm called Local Capital Finance Company (Municipal Bonds Agency) has been formed to issue bonds. The money raised from investors will then be lent onwards to Councils to either invest in capital projects or to refinance existing loans. At 31st March 2020 the Council had purchased £10,000 worth of shares in the Company which equates to 0.13%.

Lancashire Management Operations Limited

Lancashire Management Operations was set up on 15th November 2018. The company is wholly owned by the Council and was set up to manage and operate the Tramshed student accommodation in Preston.

The investment value included within the Council's Balance Sheet represents the value of Total Equity Shareholder Funds. In 2019/2020 the value of the company was nil.

Blackpool Operating Company Ltd (Sandcastle Waterpark)

The Council purchased the operation of the centre from a private company on 20th June 2003 and now wholly owns both the building and the commercial operator - Blackpool Operating Company Limited (BOCL). The Council's shares in Blackpool Operating Company Limited are valued at £2.

Blackpool Entertainment Company Ltd

The Council purchased the operation of the Winter Gardens from a private company on 16th May 2014 and now wholly owns both the building and the commercial operator - Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited (BECL). The Council's shares in BECL are valued at £1.

As 100% shareholders Blackpool Council agrees to meet all accumulated deficits or losses of Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Operating Company Limited, Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited, Blackpool Housing Company Limited and Blackpool Airport Limited.

Lancashire Renewables Ltd

On the 31st July 2014 Lancashire County Council and Global Renewables Lancashire Limited agreed to the consensual termination of the Waste Disposal PFI contract. The former operating company, Global Renewables Lancashire Operations Ltd (GRLOL) now Lancashire Renewables Ltd, transferred into the ownership of Lancashire County Council with Blackpool Council owning 12.5% of the share capital in that company. The consideration paid for the shareholding of GRLOL by LCC was £1.

22. Long Term Debtors

Long-term debtors relate to amounts that are due to be repaid in over twelve months' time. These include a business loans and share in land held for use under what was formerly the Lancashire Waste Disposal contract.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic a number of businesses had to close during the national lockdown. The council offered all businesses with a business loan a six month repayment holiday from 1st April to 30th September 2020

31st March 2019 £000		31st March 2020 £000
12,881	Blackpool Transport Services	17,742
7,384	Blackpool Teaching Hospital (NHS)	6,461
3,500	Blackpool Pleasure Beach	2,812
14,200	Blackpool Housing Company	19,200
4,488	Create Developments (Blackpool) Ltd	4,488
5,045	Coolsilk	8,988
6,748	Ocean Boulevard III	11,845
996	Laila's Fine Foods	912
0	Blackpool Airport Operations Ltd	814
1,009	Small Business Loans	1,215
552	Waste Disposal Site (prev PFI)	552
687	Adult Social Care Deferred Payments	652
427	Lancashire County Developments	447
0	Enveco Refuse Vehicles	2,138
7	Council Mortgages - (Right to Buy)	7
57,924	Total	78,273

Blackpool Transport Services Limited

On 23rd May 2016 the Executive agreed to offer Blackpool Transport Services a loan facility of £7,740,000 to fund the purchase of 10 double buses and 25 vehicles between June 2016 and June 2017. Each loan (including interest) is repayable over 10 years with 120 monthly repayments.

On 11th September 2017 the Executive agreed to offer Blackpool Transport Services Limited a further loan facility of £16.2m. The release of the funds was phased with the purchase 20 double buses in October 2017 (£4,659,000), 4 buses in March 2018 (£934,000), 18 buses in October 2018 (£2,997,000), 15 buses in March 2020 (£3,635,000) along with sundry depot assets (totalling £217,000). Each loan (including interest) is due to be repaid over 10 years with 120 monthly payments. The loan facility also includes a £200,000 contingency to allow for price change over the life of the renewal programme.

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

On 13th March 2017 the Executive agreed to the provision of a £9,230,000 loan to Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust from the Business Loan Fund. The loan (including interest) is repayable over 10 years with 20 half yearly repayments.

The loan is secured upon income generating, non-operational property assets of the Foundation Trust to at least the value of the loan and with such valuation costs together with any loan arrangement fee being met by the Foundation Trust.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach

In 2010/2011 the authority granted a loan of £5m to Blackpool Pleasure Beach towards the development of Nickelodeon Land. The loan is due to be repaid by November 2029 and interest is charged at the market rate.

Blackpool Housing Company

On 20th July 2015 Executive agreed to draw down the funding offered in the Growth Deal of £26m from Public Works Loan Board to fund Blackpool Housing Company's housing regeneration programme. An additional £1.6m was met from earmarked revenue reserves.

Interest on the loans is charged at market rates and loan repayments will be made once revenue streams are established and are of sufficient scale.

Create Development (Blackpool) Ltd

On 18th July 2016 the Executive agreed to the provision of a £4.5m loan to Create Developments (Blackpool) Ltd. The loan is to facilitate the development of a 135 bedroom hotel at Bourne Crescent. The loan, including interest, is repayable over 5 years.

Coolsilk

At its meeting on 16th April 2018 the Executive agreed to the provision of a £10m loan to Coolsilk. The loan is to facilitate the redevelopment of Palatine Building into a 5 star Sands Venue Resort hotel. The loan, including interest, is repayable over 25 years and is secured against the completed development.

Ocean Boulevard III Ltd

At its meeting on 24th April 2017 the Executive agreed to the provision of a £12m loan to Ocean Boulevard III Ltd. The loan is to facilitate the building of a 120 bedroom hotel on the site of the former Star Public House. The loan, including interest, is repayable over 12 years and is secured as a first charge over the 125 year leasehold interest in the property and a fixed and floating charge over all other assets.

Laila's Fine Foods

On 10th September 2018 the Executive agreed to the provision of a £1m loan to Laila's Fine Foods. The loan is towards the working capital requirements for their food manufacturing business. The loan, including interest, is repayable over 10 years and is secured in the form of a second charge against named commercial and residential property.

Blackpool Airport Operations Limited

At its meeting on 23rd March 2020 the Executive agreed to the provision of a £1m business loan to Blackpool Airport Operations Ltd (BAOL) over a 25 year repayment term towards essential capital investment at Blackpool Airport.

Business Loans Fund

The Council set up a £3m fund for businesses to safeguard and create jobs and help Blackpool get through the recession. The fund was increased to £10m in 2015/16. Subsequently as part of the 2017/18 budget approval the fund has been increased to £100m. The aim of the fund is to provide a lifeline for businesses that are currently experiencing difficulty in getting finance from the banks because of the global slow down.

All of the loans above have been taken from the Business Loans Fund along with a number of smaller loans totalling £1.2m.

Waste Disposal Site

The total value of land held under the Waste Disposal contract at current market value is estimated at £4.4m. In 2015/16 this value was £3.385m. The increase of £1.015m is due to a revaluation in 2016/17 carried out by Lancashire County Council Estates Department. Under the terms of the Joint Working Agreement, Blackpool Council will be due a 12.5% share of this at the end of the contract.

Adult Social Care Deferred Payments Scheme

The Health & Social Care Act 2001 introduced the concept of a Deferred Payment Scheme. This legislation provides for the possibility of eligible service users putting off the sale of their home when they move into residential care and delaying the payment of the fees. Instead of paying the care home fees in full the resident will be financially assessed ignoring the value of the property and asked to contribute the lesser amount towards the cost of their care. The Council effectively provides an interest free loan and pays the difference between the amount contributed by the service user and the usual fee paid to the care home by the local authority.

The Council take out a legal charge on the service user's property. When the property is sold, the debt will usually be recovered in full. Interest is not charged on the amount due until 56 days after the person has died.

Lancashire County Developments

The loan to Lancashire County Developments is due to be repaid in 2031. Under the requirements of IAS 32 this loan has been revalued to fair value. The original amount of the loan was £721,000. The fair value of the loan in 2019/2020 was £447,247 (£427,362 in 2018/2019). The movement in fair value of £19,885 has been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account and then transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account via Movement in Reserves. This does not affect the loan repayment due to the authority in 2031.

Enveco Refuse Vehicles

At its meeting on 16th July 2018 the Executive agreed to form a Local Authority Trading Company known as Blackpool Waste Services Limited (also referred to as Enveco) to manage the Council's domestic waste service following the termination of the contract with an external supplier.

As part of the new arrangement the Executive agreed to the Council purchasing a number of new refuse vehicles and funding them through prudential borrowing. The vehicles were then leased by the Council to Enveco who are repaying the lease to the Council over 84 monthly equal instalments including interest.

23. Inventories

2019/2020	Consumables £000	Materials £000	Total £000
Balance outstanding at start of the year	66	379	445
Purchases	77	2,189	2,266
Recognised as an expense in the year	(26)	(2,043)	(2,069)
Balance outstanding at year end	117	525	642

2018/2019	Consumables £000	Materials £000	Total £000
Balance outstanding at start of the year	62	354	416
Purchases	26	1,905	1,931
Recognised as an expense in the year	(22)	(1,880)	(1,902)
Balance outstanding at year end	66	379	445

24. Debtors

31st March 2019 £000		31st March 2020 £000
2,513	Central government bodies	3,256
2,251	Other local authorities	1,701
522	NHS bodies	1,861
57,664	Other entities and individuals	59,724
(19,916)	Total impairment	(19,872)
43,034	Net Value of Debtors	46,670

The past due but not impaired amount for local taxation (Council Tax and Non-Domestic Business Rates) can be analysed by age as follow:

31st March 2019 £000		31st March 2020 £000
1,526	Less than three months	1,657
1,526	Three to six months	1,657
3,053	Six months - one year	3,315
7,713	More thn one year	8,296
13,818	Total	14,925

25. Payments In Advance

31st March 2019 £000		31st March 2020 £000
6	Chief Executive	25
691	Adult Services	8,531
54	Community & Environmental Services	65
256	Children's Services	159
2	Governance & Partnership Services	2
4,539	Public Health	-
624	Community and Regeneration	861
278	Resources	726
15	Budgets Outside Cash Limit	16
6,465	Total Payments in Advance	10,385

26. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The balance of cash and cash equivalents is made up of the following elements:

31st March 2019 £000		31st March 2020 £000
1,166	Cash held by the Authority	26
7,800	Short term deposits with institutions	21,350
(1,348)	Bank current accounts	(1,872)
7,618	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	19,504

27. Receipts In Advance

31st March 2019 £000		31st March 2020 £000
(738)	Adult Services	(198)
(4,194)	Community & Environmental Services	(6,182)
(1,163)	Children's Services	(702)
(42)	Governance & Partnership Services	(18)
(199)	Chief Executive	(25)
(3,420)	Communications & Regeneration	(1,293)
(196)	Resources	(550)
(351)	Housing Revenue Account	(763)
(2,239)	Capital	(108)
(1,054)	Collection Fund	(1,298)
(532)	Public Health	(749)
(203)	Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	-
(8)	Contract Receivables under IFRS 15	-
-	Contingencies - Covid-19 grants	(6,126)
(14,339)	Total Receipts in Advance	(18,012)

28. Creditors**Short Term Creditors**

31st March 2019 £000		31st March 2020 £000
(7,265)	Central Government Bodies	(9,750)
(6,998)	Other Local Authorities	(5,872)
(965)	NHS Bodies	(1,184)
(38,261)	Other Entities and Individuals	(33,703)
(1,320)	Accumulated Absence Provision	(1,191)
(54,809)	Total Short Term Creditors	(51,700)

Long Term Creditors

31st March 2019 £000		31st March 2020 £000
(39,934)	PFI schemes liabilities	(39,232)
(30,274)	Ex Waste PFI scheme Liability	(29,203)
(26,494)	Finance lease liabilities	(27,973)
(2,459)	Other long term creditors	(103)
(99,161)	Total Long Term Creditors	(96,511)

29. Provisions

	Injury and Damage Compensation Claims £000	Other Provisions £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 April 2019	(6,609)	(7,942)	(14,551)
Additional Provisions Made in 2019/2020	(1,450)	(10,405)	(11,855)
Amounts Used in 2019/2020	537	5,979	6,516
Write Back Unused Amounts	6,193	574	6,767
Balance at 31 March 2020	(1,329)	(11,794)	(13,123)

	Injury and Damage Compensation Claims £000	Other Provisions £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 April 2018	(5,952)	(9,199)	(15,151)
Additional Provisions Made in 2018/2019	(1,880)	(3,178)	(5,058)
Amounts Used in 2018/2019	1,223	2,572	3,795
Unused Amounts Reversed Back in 2018/19	-	1,863	1,863
Balance at 31 March 2019	(6,609)	(7,942)	(14,551)

Outstanding legal cases

Injury Compensation Claims

Most of the injury compensation claims are individually insignificant. Significant claims are detailed in Note 6. They relate to personal injuries sustained where the Authority is alleged to be at fault (e.g. through failure to repair a road or pavement properly). Provision is made for those claims where it is deemed probable that the Authority will have to make settlement, based on past experience of court decisions about liability and the amount of damages payable. All outstanding claims are expected to be settled within 2 years. The Authority may be reimbursed by its insurers, but until claims are actually settled no income is recognised.

Other Provisions

Business Rate Appeals Provision – The council is required to make a provision for its share of the estimated settlement value of appeals against business rates. For the 2020 list this provision has been estimated using information received from the Valuation Office (VOA) on appeals settled and outstanding. For the 2017 rating list the assumption has been made that a reduction in income due to appeals will be a similar percentage to prior lists. The council cannot be certain as to when these appeals will be settled as it is dependent on the timing of their settlement by VOA.

The Council's share of the provision is 73.5% (£10.5m) in 2019/20 as a result of the council participating in the Lancashire 75% business rate retention pilot, the remaining 26.5% is attributable to central government (25%) and Lancashire Fire Authority (1.5%). In 2018/19 the council's share was 49% (£5.547m).

Settled appeals will be charged to the provision once determined by the VOA.

Other provisions also includes amounts set aside to meet pension strain commitments due to retirement of staff and teachers.

30. Usable Reserves

31st March 2019 £000		31st March 2020 £000
(1,931)	Schools Reserves	716
(7,057)	Unallocated General Fund Reserves	(2,292)
(5,705)	Housing Revenue Account	(4,830)
(41,662)	Earmarked Revenue Reserves	(49,818)
(7,527)	Capital Receipts Reserve	(11,411)
-	Major Repairs Reserve	-
(3,112)	Capital Reserves	(3,112)
(66,994)	Total Usable Reserves	(70,747)

31. Unusable Reserves

Restated 31st March 2019 £000		31st March 2020 £000
(93,912)	Revaluation Reserve	(106,540)
(11,226)	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	(6,761)
(313,836)	Capital Adjustment Account	(290,236)
1,664	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	1,633
244,578	Pensions Reserve	230,786
(489)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(4,199)
1,320	Accumulated Absences Account	1,191
(171,901)	Total Unusable Reserves	(174,126)

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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

Restated 2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
(88,392)	Balance at 1st April	(93,912)
(630)	Upward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(7,989)
(6,561)	Depreciation written out to Revaluation Reserve	(6,044)
-	- Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	67
1,671	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	1,338
(93,912)	Balance at 31st March	(106,540)

Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve

The Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve contains the gains made by the Authority arising from increases in the value of its investments that have quoted market prices or otherwise do not have fixed or determinable payments. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost
- Disposed of and the gains are realised

Under IFRS 9 Financial Instruments the balance on the Available for Sale Reserve has been transferred to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
(10,101)	Balance at 1st April	-
10,101	Transfer of opening balance to Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve under IFRS 9	-
-	Balance at 31st March	-

Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve

The Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its investments that are measured at fair value through Other Comprehensive Income. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:

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

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
	- Balance at 1st April	(11,226)
(1,650)	Upward revaluation of investments	(800)
525	Downward revaluation of investments	5,265
(10,101)	Transferred Available For Sale Reserve opening balance under IFRS 9	-
(11,226)	Balance at 31st March	(6,761)

Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or subsequent costs as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert 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 enhancement.

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

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

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

Restated 2018/2019 £000		2019/2020	
		£000	£000
(327,594)	Balance at 1st April		(313,836)
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
50,711	- Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	56,808	
36	- Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(91)	
	- Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive		
4,526	Income and Expenditure Statement	2,226	
55,273			58,943
(1,671)	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(1,338)	
53,602	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in year		57,605
	Capital financing applied in year:		
(1,659)	- Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	
(25,692)	- Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(19,098)	
(9,703)	- Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(9,532)	
(5,695)	- Capital expenditure charged against the general fund and HRA balances	(8,681)	
2,905	- Business loans repayment of principal	3,306	
			(34,005)
(313,836)	Balance at 31st March		(290,236)

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.

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
1,710	Balance at 1st April	1,664
(46)	Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(31)
1,664	Balance at 31st March	1,633

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 benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resource set aside to meet 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.

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
234,810	Balance at 1st April	244,578
(6,749)	Remeasurement of net defined benefit liability (Actuarial gains/(losses) on pension assets (liabilities))	(27,364)
30,453	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	31,570
	- Transfer of Blackpool Transport Services pension surplus into pooling arrangement	(4,872)
(1,022)	Employers pension contributions and deficit payments for future years	(844)
(12,914)	Transfer of upfront employers pension and deficit payments to General Fund	(12,282)
244,578	Balance at 31st March	230,786

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
(243)	Balance at 1st April	(489)
(246)	Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and non-domestic rate income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(3,710)
(489)	Balance at 31st March	(4,199)

Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year eg 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.

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
1,144	Balance at 1st April	1,320
(1,144)	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(1,320)
1,320	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	1,191
1,320	Balance at 31st March	1,191

32. Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
(2,089)	Interest Received	(3,008)
7,685	Interest Paid	7,187
(915)	Dividend Received	(841)

The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following non-cash movements:

Restated 2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
(36,689)	Depreciation/Impairment charges to CIES	(59,011)
(29,431)	Movement in Pension Liability	(13,572)
59	Increase/(decrease) in Payments in Advance	3,920
(1,654)	Increase/(decrease) in Debtors	3,636
29	Increase/(decrease) in Inventories	197
600	(Increase)/decrease in Provisions	1,428
(15,980)	(Increase)/decrease in Creditors	3,109
5,898	(Increase)/decrease in Creditors over 1 year	2,650
4,325	(Increase)/decrease in Receipts in Advance	(884)
9,468	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	6,370
(63,375)	Total	(52,157)

The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following items that are investing or financing activities:

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
25,692	Capital grants credited to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services	19,099
(2,588)	Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment investment property and intangible assets	1,232
(5,695)	Billing Authorities - Collection Fund adjustments	3,710
17,409	Total	24,041

33. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

31st March 2019 £000		31st March 2020 £000
33,077	Purchase of property, plant & equipment, investment property and intangible assets	101,939
19,084	Other payments for investing activities	33,596
(1,773)	Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(1,063)
(29,466)	Capital Grants received	(22,780)
20,922	Net cash flows from investing activities	111,692

34. Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

31st March 2019 £000		31st March 2020 £000
(282,793)	Cash receipts of short and long term borrowing	(557,077)
(6,363)	Other receipts from financing activities	(21,120)
277,565	Repayments of short and long term borrowing	473,780
3,153	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liability relating to a finance lease and on-balance sheet service concession arrangements (PFI)	1,773
23,008	Other payments for financing activities	-
14,570	Net cash flows from financing activities	(102,644)

35. Cash Flow Statement – Cash & Cash Equivalents

	31st March 2020	31st March 2019	Movement
	£000	£000	£000
Cash in Hand & at Bank	26	494	(468)
Bank overdrawn	(1,872)	(676)	(1,196)
Short term investments	21,350	7,800	13,550
Balance at 31 March	19,504	7,618	11,886

36. Reconciliation of Liabilities Arising From Financing Activities

	Previously Reported Balance 1st April 2019	Restatement	Restated Balance 1st April 2019	Financing Cash Flows	31st March 2020
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Long term borrowings	89,895	-	89,895	(2,435)	87,460
Short term borrowings	159,452	-	159,452	85,732	245,184
Lease liabilities	78,347	(2,896)	75,451	(18,171)	57,280
PFI Liabilities	45,479	(2,772)	42,707	(3,476)	39,231
Total Liabilities from Financing Activities	373,173	(5,668)	367,505	61,650	429,155

	1st April 2018	Financing Cash Flows	31st March 2019
	£000	£000	£000
Long term borrowings	90,343	(448)	89,895
Short term borrowings	153,776	5,676	159,452
Lease liabilities	61,919	13,532	75,451
PFI Liabilities	44,126	(1,419)	42,707
Total Liabilities from Financing Activities	350,164	17,341	367,505

37. Road Charging Schemes under the Transport Act 2000

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
(1,583)	On-street parking operation surplus	(1,571)
	Utilised to Fund:	
4,652	Public Transport	5,341
299	Traffic Management & Road Safety	391
4,951	Total Qualifying Expenditure	5,732

Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) of on-street parking was introduced in November 2003 as part of the Local Transport Plan with the aim of reducing congestion and improving traffic management. The surplus arising from on street parking is used to defray qualifying expenditure. The use of DPE is governed by section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended from October 2004 by section 95 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. This specifies the use that DPE surpluses may be put to.

38. Agency Services

The Authority provides payroll services for a number of other local authorities, schools including academies and its wholly-owned subsidiary companies. These organisations pay a management fee to the Council for the service. The total management fee received by the Council in 2019/2020 was £200,635 (2018/2019 £229,476) and is based on the number of employees paid.

39. Pooled Budgets

On 1st April 2015 the Council entered into a Pooled Budget arrangement with NHS Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group in relation to the Better Care Fund.

The Government created the Better Care Fund to incentivise the NHS and local government to work more closely together around people, placing their wellbeing as the focus of health and care services, and shifting resources into social care and community services for the benefit of the people, communities and health and care systems.

2018/19 £000			2019/20 £000	
12,334	29,362	Funding provided to the pooled budget:		32,763
17,028		Local Authority Blackpool Council Trust Blackpool CCG	15,061 17,702	
21,267	29,086	Expenditure met from the pooled budget:		32,484
7,819		Local Authority Blackpool Council Trust Blackpool CCG	24,671 7,813	
	276	Net surplus arising on the pooled budget during the year		279

40. Members' Allowances

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

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
742	Allowances	835
58	Expenses	72
800	Total	907

41. Officers' Remuneration

The number of employees whose remuneration, excluding pension contributions was £50,000 or more in bands of £5,000 is set out below.

	Number in 2019/2020		Number in 2018/2019	
	Schools	Other Staff	Schools	Other Staff
£50,000 - £54,999	10	28	10	25
£55,000 - £59,999	7	23	8	25
£60,000 - £64,999	5	15	3	10
£65,000 - £69,999	4	6	6	10
£70,000 - £74,999	6	8	-	6
£75,000 - £79,999	-	2	2	2
£80,000 - £84,999	1	-	1	-
£85,000 - £89,999	2	2	2	1
£90,000 - £94,999	-	-	2	2
£95,000 - £99,999	-	1	-	3
£100,000 - £104,999	-	3	-	1
£105,000 - £109,999	-	2	-	-
£110,000 - £114,999	-	-	-	-
£115,000 - £119,999	-	1	-	1
£120,000 - £124,999	-	1	-	1
£140,000 - £144,999	-	1	-	1
TOTAL	35	93	34	88

The remuneration paid to the Authority's senior officers is as follows:

Employees in Post 2019/2020					
Post Holder Information	Salary	Expense Allowance	Total Excluding Pensions	Employer Pension Contributions	Total Including Pensions
	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive - Neil Jack	143,485	334	143,819	14,487	158,306
Director of Resources	103,413	1,832	105,245	15,653	120,898
Director of Communications and Regeneration	103,695	641	104,336	-	104,336
Director of Governance & Partnership Services	100,044	-	100,044	14,807	114,851
Director of Community & Environmental Services	100,044	-	100,044	1,153	101,197
Director of Public Health	120,096	196	120,292	16,574	136,866
Director of Children's Services	105,762	-	105,762	16,574	122,336
Director of Adult Services	97,884	334	98,218	14,487	112,705
Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive	88,327	246	88,573	13,072	101,645
TOTAL	962,750	3,583	966,333	106,807	1,073,140

Employees in Post 2018/2019						
Post Holder Information	Salary	Expense Allowance	Benefits in Kind	Total Excluding Pensions	Employer Pension Contributions	Total Including Pensions
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive - Neil Jack	141,297	-	-	141,297	20,820	162,117
Director of Resources	103,687	-	789	104,476	15,346	119,822
Director of Communications & Regeneration	97,728	562	576	98,866	-	98,866
Director of Governance & Partnership Services	93,762	-	49	93,811	13,877	107,688
Director of Community & Environmental Services	94,387	-	427	94,814	13,877	108,691
Director of Public Health	115,908	4,841	166	120,915	16,668	137,583
Director of Children's Services	96,691	-	-	96,691	15,529	112,220
Director of Adult Services	98,707	-	318	99,025	14,516	113,541
Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive	87,321	-	280	87,601	12,924	100,525
TOTAL	929,488	5,403	2,605	937,496	123,557	1,061,053

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

Exit Package Cost by Band (incl Special Payments)	Number of Compulsory Redundancies		Number of Other Agreed Departures		Number of Exit Packages by Cost Band		Total Cost of Exit Packages in each Band	
	2019/2020	2018/2019	2019/2020	2018/2019	2019/2020	2018/2019	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
£0 - £20,000	10	-	25	38	35	38	188	346
£20,001 - £40,000	1	2	5	7	6	9	168	224
£40,001 - £60,000	-	-	1	1	1	1	50	48
£60,001 - £80,000	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	75
£80,001 - £100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£100,001 - £150,000	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	107
Total	11	2	31	48	42	50	406	800

42. External Audit Costs

The Authority has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts.

	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000
Fees payable to auditors with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	85	85
Additional fees payable to auditors in relation to the previous year's audit	18	-
Fees payable to auditors in respect of other inspections	-	16
Fees payable to auditors for the certification of grant claims and returns	18	17
Total	121	118

43. Disclosure of Deployment of Dedicated Schools Grant

The Council's expenditure on schools is funded by grant monies provided by the Department for Education, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). An element of DSG is recouped by the Department to fund academy schools in the Council's area. DSG is ring-fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the schools budget as defined in the School Finance (England) Regulations 2011. The schools budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget, which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2019/2020 are as follows:

		Central Expenditure £000	Individual Schools Budget (ISB) £000	Total £000
A	Final DSG for 2019/20 before academy & high needs recoupment			112,685
B	Academy & high needs figure recouped for 2019/20			66,984
C	Total DSG after Academy & high needs recoupment for 2019/20			45,701
D	B/F from 2018/19			-421
E	C/F to 2020/21 agreed in advance			0
F	Agreed initial budget distribution in 2019/20	27,090	18,190	45,280
G	In year adjustments	-	-	-
H	Final budgeted distribution for 2019/20	27,090	18,190	45,280
I	Less Actual Central Expenditure	30,195		
J	Less Actual ISB deployed to Schools		18,190	
K	Plus Local authority contribution for 2019/20	-	-	-
L	C/F to 2020/21	(3,105)	-	(3,105)

- A Final DSG figure before any amount has been recouped from the Council
- B Figure recouped from the Authority in 2019/20 by the Department for Education (DfE) for conversion of maintained schools into Academies and for High Needs payments by ESFA.
- C Total DSG figure after Academy and High Needs recoupment for 2019/20
- D Figure brought forward from 2018/19 as agreed with DfE
- E Any amount which the Authority decided after consultation with the Schools Forum to carry forward to 2020/21
- F Budgeted distribution of DSG as agreed with the Schools Forum
- G Changes to the initial distribution
- H Budgeted distribution of DSG as at the end of the financial year
- I Amount of central expenditure items in 2019/20
- J Amount of ISB actually distributed to schools
- K Carry forward to 2020/21

The deficit of £3.105m is netted off against the cumulative level of school balances of £2.384m and hence reduces the school reserves to £0.721m negative reserves as shown at Note 10.

44. Grant Income

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2019/2020.

	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
Non-Domestic Rates Retained	28,515	19,735
Non-Domestic Rates Top Up	27,137	23,528
Revenue Support Grant	-	19,691
Section 31 Grants (NNDR 1 return)	7,515	4,039
New Homes Bonus	454	465
Improved Better Care Fund	9,652	4,973
Opportunity Areas	2,012	3,796
Covid-19 grant	6,085	-
Other Adult Social Care grants	2,544	-
Other Contributions	427	463
Capital Grants - Other	19,099	25,692
Total	103,440	102,382
Credited to Services		
Dedicated Schools Grant	45,701	44,788
Pupil Premium Grant	3,247	3,372
Housing Benefit Administration Subsidy	763	831
Rent Allowance Subsidy	51,012	61,142
Rent Rebates Subsidy	10,813	12,205
Public Health Grant	17,941	18,428
Street Lighting PFI	2,627	2,627
Building Schools for the Future PFI	3,024	3,024
Universal Infant Free School Meals	596	571
Sustainable Transport Access Fund	2,498	2,500
Museum Project	955	500
Other Grants and Contributions	5,764	5,025
Total	144,941	155,013

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

	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Current Liabilities		
Revenue Grants Received in Advance		
S31 Business Rate Retention 2020/21	6,017	-
Department for Transport - Project Amber	4,400	-
Rogue Landlord	63	-
Sport England	46	-
Other	247	3,932
Total	10,773	3,932
Long Term Liabilities		
Capital Grants Received in Advance		
Department of Health	360	386
Environment Agency grants	2,183	2,571
Local Transport Plan	4,612	5,275
Empty Homes	2,142	798
Education & Skills Funding Agency	2,788	5,918
Other Grants & Contributions	526	452
Total	12,611	15,400

45. Related Parties

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

Central Government

Central Government has significant control over the general operations of the Council. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are set out in Note 43. Capital grant receipts unspent at 31st March 2020 are shown in Note 43.

Members

The Council maintains a register of all members' disclosable pecuniary interests. The register of members' interests is open to public inspection as required by Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011. A copy of the register of members' interests is also available to view on the council's website. Where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest they are precluded from taking any part in meetings or decisions related to their previously disclosed interest, unless an appropriate dispensation has been granted.

In respect of the 2019/20 financial year a number of council members had a controlling interest in a company, partnership, trust or entity. The controlling interest was by way of ownership, or as a director, member, trustee, governor or partner of an organisation. The existence of the procedures described above ensure that

the Council is able to both identify where a member has an interest, and take action to ensure that there is no participation in any decisions relevant to their interest. All major decisions are available for public scrutiny and challenge as part of the Council's constitutional arrangements.

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of Members' allowances paid in 2019/2020 is shown in Note 39.

During the year 4 Members of the Council had a private interest in Blackpool Teaching Hospital. The Council made payments to this organisation amounting to £1,559,715 in 2019/2020 (2018/2019 - £5,475,868) to meet the Council's social care and public health responsibilities. At 31st March 2020 the Council owed the hospital £6,287 (2018/19 - £66,713) and the hospital owed the Council £573,471 (2018/19 - £111,318). In addition to hospital has a business loan with the Council. More details are shown in Note 21.

During the year a Member of the Council had a private interest in Calico Enterprise Limited who provide support to residents in times of need. The Council made payments to this organisation totalling £266,704 in 2019/20 (2018/2019 - £288,992). These payments were to meet the Council's social responsibilities.

During the year a 2 Members of the Council had a private interest in Little George's Nursery School, a local nursery. The Council made payments to this organisation totalling £214,527 in 2019/20 (2018/2019 - £215,348). These payments were to meet the Council's early years' responsibilities.

These transactions were conducted at arms-length and in accordance with the Authority's financial regulations.

Chief Officers

The Director of Resources is a board member of Lancashire Pension Board and acts as a representative for the Fund's employers.

No transactions were identified involving Chief Officers with related parties.

Other Public Bodies

The authority has a pooled budget arrangement with NHS Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group in relation to the Better Care Fund. Transactions and balances outstanding are detailed in Note 38.

The Council received £17.9m Public Health grant in 2019/20 (£18.4m in 2018/19) for the delivery of Public Health services which aim to improve health outcomes for all ages and remove health inequalities across the borough. The Public Health grant is allocated to the Council as a ring-fenced grant.

The following table shows the precepts and levies during the year:

Precepting & Levying Bodies	Precepts/Levies 2019/20	Other Expenditure 2019/20	Precepts/Levies 2018/19	Other Expenditure 2018/19
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	7,357	174	6,427	109
Lancashire Fire Authority	3,119	4	2,846	1
Environment Agency	68	7	68	8

The precepts paid to Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Lancashire Fire Authority are to distribute Council Tax collected on behalf of the related party.

The payment to the Environment Agency is the Flood Defence Levy, and where there was some other expenditure primarily for drainage works.

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Authority

The authority controls Blackpool Transport Services Limited through its ownership of 100% shares in the Company. The authority provided loans to the Company. The balance outstanding on these loans at 31st March 2020 was £17,742,000. Full details are in Note 21.

The authority controls Blackpool Housing Company Limited through its ownership of 100% shares in the Company. The authority provided loans to the Company. The balance outstanding on these loans at 31st March 2020 was £19,200,000. Full details are in Note 21.

The authority also controls Blackpool Coastal Housing, Blackpool Airport, Blackpool Entertainment Company, Blackpool Operating Company, Blackpool Waste Services Limited and Lancashire Management Operations Limited through its ownership of 100% shares in the companies. Full details are in Section 7 Group Accounts.

46. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

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

	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
<u>Capital Financing Requirement</u>		
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	338,851	304,471
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant & Equipment	78,492	33,077
Investment Properties	984	17,356
Assets under Construction	8,323	10,311
Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute	5,289	2,182
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Blackpool Transport Services	6,650	2,967
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Create	-	1,924
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Blackpool Housing Company	5,000	5,400
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Laila's Fine Foods	-	1,022
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Ocean Boulevard III	5,389	6,748
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Coolsilk	3,661	5,045
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Blackpool Airport	813	-
Long Term Debtor - Enveco Leased Vehicles	2,851	-
Sources of Finance		
Capital Receipts	-	(1,773)
Government Grants & Other Contributions	(22,780)	(28,019)
Sums set aside from Revenue	(20,277)	(18,929)
Payments Received for :-		
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Blackpool Transport Services	(1,789)	(1,520)
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Blackpool Victoria Hospital	(923)	(1,385)
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Laila's Fine Foods	(94)	(26)
Long Term Debtor - Loan to Ocean Boulevard III	(500)	-
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	409,940	338,851
Explanations of Movements in Year		
Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by Government Financial Assistance)	71,089	34,380
Increase in Capital Financing Requirement	71,089	34,380

47. Leases

Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

Waste Services

The Council has recognised a finance lease creditor in respect of the borrowing raised by Lancashire County Council to settle the PFI liability in respect of the waste PFI. The assets underpinning the finance lease are the land and buildings comprising the waste plants. Blackpool Council's share of the liability is 12.5%.

The total future repayments payable at 31st March 2020 were as follows:

	31st March 2020	31st March 2019
	£000	£000
Payments due no later than one year	1,070	1,034
Payments due later than one year not later than five years	4,718	4,543
Payment due later than five years	24,486	25,730
Total	30,274	31,307

Ribble House

At its meeting on 19th February 2018 the Executive agreed to enter into a 30 year lease for Ribble House with an option to acquire the office premises at the end of the lease term. The lease payments escalate on an annual basis at the lower of 5% per annum and the all items retail price index. The escalation is applied to the preceding annual lease payments. The net book value of the property at 31st March 2020 was £20m.

The total future repayments payable at 31st March 2020 were as follows:

	Minimum Lease Payments	
	31st March 2020	31st March 2019
	£000	£000
Not later than one year	690	690
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,760	2,760
Later than five years	15,884	16,574
Total	19,334	20,024

The council has sub-let the office accommodation held under this finance lease. At 31st March 2020 the minimum payments expected to be received under non-cancellable sub-leases was £12,150,000 (£13,500,000 at 31st March 2019).

Tramshed

In 2018/19 the Council entered into a 30 year lease for Tramshed – student accommodation. The property is managed by a wholly-owned Subsidiary of the Council.

The total future repayments payable at 31st March 2020 were as follows:

	Minimum Lease Payments	
	31st March 2020 £000	31st March 2019 £000
Not later than one year	707	704
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,847	2,839
Later than five years	16,828	17,543
Total	20,382	21,086

The Authority as Lessor

The Council has granted various property leases including the lease of the Sandcastle Waterpark, Ribble House and Bickerstaffe House. The future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable lease for all property leases in future years are:

	Minimum Lease Payments	
	31st March 2020 £000	31st March 2019 £000
Not later than one year	2,176	2,033
Later than one year and not later than five years	6,498	6,249
Later than five years	9,339	8,401
Total	18,013	16,683

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

48. Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

Highfield Leadership Academy (previously Highfield Humanities College) PFI

The Highfield Leadership Academy PFI scheme is a PFI scheme resulting from the Government's Building Schools for the Future Programme. This project consists of the new build of a secondary school for up to 1,216 pupils and the provision of a fully managed facility for a period of 25 years by the selected operator.

The operator is Eric Wright Facilities Management via the Highfield PFI SPV Limited (a company wholly owned by Blackpool Local Education Partnership, a joint venture between Eric Wright Group, Blackpool Council and Northgate Management Services). The total projected cost over the life of the project is £98m which is funded by PFI credits of £40m from the Department of Education with the remainder funded by the School and Local Authority contributions.

On 1st April 2017 the school converted to an Academy and the assets relating to the PFI were transferred to Tauheedul Education Trust the school's Governing Body and are no longer recognised on the Authority's Balance Sheet. However, the liability for the remaining payments relating to the scheme are still held on the Authority's Balance Sheet under Long Term Creditors. The school makes a contribution to the Authority for these payments.

The Authority makes an agreed payment each year which is increased by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year but which is otherwise fixed. Payments remaining to be made under the PFI contract at 31st March 2020 (excluding any estimation of inflation and availability/performance deductions) are as follows:

	Payment for Service £000	Repayment Liability £000	Interest £000	Total Payment Due £000
Payable 2020/21	1,260	688	1,853	3,801
Payable in two to five years	5,934	2,425	6,801	15,160
Payable in six to ten years	8,875	4,078	6,954	19,907
Payable in eleven to fifteen years	10,195	6,475	4,587	21,257
Payable in sixteen to twenty years	4,949	4,977	912	10,838
Total	31,213	18,643	21,107	70,963

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

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
(19,758)	Balance outstanding at start of year	(19,244)
514	Payments during the year	601
(19,244)	Total	(18,643)

Street Lighting and Signals PFI

The scheme, supported by the Department for Transport, was signed in December 2009, and provides for the design, maintenance and replacement of Street Lighting and Signals across the town. The contract was awarded to Community Lighting Partnership. The project commenced on 4th January 2010 and is for 25 years. The service provider is responsible for the management and maintenance of street lights and signals within Blackpool. The total sum payable to the contractor over the term of the contract is £128.076m, being met from Government Grant and Authority contributions.

The Authority makes an agreed payment each year which is increased by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year but which is otherwise fixed. Payments remaining to be made under the PFI contract at 31st March 2020 (excluding any estimation of inflation and availability/performance deductions) are as follows:

	Payment for Service £000	Repayment Liability £000	Interest £000	Total Payment Due £000
Payable 2020/21	1,933	1,092	1,117	4,142
Payable in two to five years	6,790	5,677	4,412	16,879
Payable in six to ten years	9,562	12,417	5,311	27,290
Payable in eleven to fifteen years	17,656	18,767	2,548	38,971
Total	35,941	37,953	13,388	87,282

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

2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
(27,149)	Balance outstanding at start of year	(23,463)
946	Payments during the year	1,005
(41)	Additions	(332)
2,781	Refinancing of PFI	-
(23,463)	Total	(22,790)

49. Pension Schemes Accounted For As Defined Contribution Schemes

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. The scheme is unfunded and the Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. Valuations of the notional fund are undertaken every four years. The scheme has in excess of 11,000 participating employers and consequently 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 purpose of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2019/2020 the Council paid £2,437,327 (2018/19 £1,801,095) to the Department for Education in respect of teachers retirement benefits, representing 20.68% of teachers' pensionable pay. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year end. The contributions due to be paid in the next financial year are estimated to be £2.8m.

The Authority is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' pension scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis and detailed in Note 49.

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

NHS Staff Pension Scheme

From 1st April 2013 NHS staff working within Public Health transferred to the Council. The transferred staff have maintained their membership in the NHS Pension Scheme which is administered by NHS Business Services Authority. The Scheme provides these staff with specified benefits upon their retirement and the Council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The scheme is an unfunded defined benefit scheme. However the Council 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 benefit contribution.

In 2019/2020, the Council paid £81,970 (2018/19 £95,197) to the NHS Pension Scheme in respect of Public Health employees' retirement benefits, representing 14.38% (2018/19 14.38%) of pensionable pay. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year end. The contributions due to be paid in the next financial year are estimated to be £82,400.

50. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Participation in Pension Schemes

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

The Authority participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme which is administered by Lancashire County Council. This is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, which means that the Council and employees pay contributions into the fund, calculated at a level intended to balance pension liabilities with the investment assets.

The Lancashire pension scheme is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the pensions committee at Lancashire County Council. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pension Fund Regulations. The Treasurer of Lancashire County Council is also the Treasurer of Lancashire Pension Fund. The investment managers of the fund are appointed by the committee. There are currently nine external investment managers.

The principal risks to the Authority of the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, structural changes to the scheme (ie 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 and Housing Revenue Account the amounts required by statute as described in the accounting policies note.

Emphasis of Matter – Effects of Covid-19 on Pension Fund Property Valuations

An Emphasis of Matter has been raised by Grant Thornton, the Pension Funds Auditors, regarding the disclosure relating to the pension fund property valuations. The disclosure states:

“The valuation of directly held properties is carried out by independent valuers, Avison Young on an individual property basis rather than as a portfolio, by qualified surveyors and in accordance with the RICS Professional Standards, Global and UK, RICS Valuation – Professional Standards – 2017. Avison Young have advised that as a firm, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they can attach less weight to previous market evidence for comparison purposes and that they are faced with unprecedented circumstances on which to base a judgement. As for indirect property holdings, the valuation of direct property is reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty'. This does not mean that the valuation cannot be relied upon but that less certainty can be attached to the valuation than would otherwise be the case.”

Discretionary Post-retirement Benefits

Discretionary post-retirement benefits on early retirement are an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. There are no plan assets built up to meet these pension liabilities.

McCloud Judgement

Claims of unlawful discrimination have been made in relation to the changes to the Judiciary and Firefighters Pension regulations and in December 2018 the Court of Appeal (McCloud / Sargeant) ruled that the 'transitional protection' offered to some members as part of the reform to public sector pensions amounts to unlawful discrimination. On 27 June 2019 the Supreme Court refused leave to appeal on the McCloud case. In light of this it is envisaged that the Court will require changes to arrangements for employees who were transferred to the new schemes potentially including Local Government Pension Scheme members. This would lead to an

increase in Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities and our actuaries (Mercers) using specific assumptions and applying these across the scheme as a whole have estimated the potential increase in scheme liabilities for the Council to be approximately £5m. This increase is reflected in the IAS19 Disclosure as a Past Service Cost in 2018/19. Any difference between the 2018/19 liabilities and the 2019/20 figure is included as an experience in gains/losses on liabilities. The service cost for 2019/20 will include an allowance for the additional costs which arise from the judgement.

Blackpool Transport Services Pooling Arrangement

As mentioned in the Narrative Report, Blackpool Transport Services' part of the Lancashire County Pension Fund has been in surplus since that time and Blackpool Transport Services Limited has never made an employer's contribution.

At the 31 March 2016, the date of the last actuarial valuation, Blackpool Transport Services Limited had a surplus of around £5.4m in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As a result of this surplus, Blackpool Transport Limited has not been making any contributions to the pension fund during the period 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2020.

Actuarial advice estimates it could take up to 50 years for Blackpool Transport Limited to utilise this surplus based on current actuarial valuations since a surplus cannot be paid to an employer unless it has no active members.

On 15th July 2019 the Executive agreed to enter into a pooling arrangement with Blackpool Transport Services (BTS) to use BTS's pension fund surplus to partly offset the Council's pension fund deficit. As part of the arrangement the Council made a payment of £2m to Blackpool Transport Services Limited, funded from its reserves and repayable via pension contribution savings over an estimated 10 years, in respect of pooling this surplus. Blackpool Transport Services Limited proposes to invest this £2m into the business and thereby guarantee future dividend payments to the Council.

It is estimated that the pooling arrangement will reduce the Council's contributions to the Pension Fund by up to £200,000 per year, net of any liabilities relating to active members. In 2019/20 the pooling of the pension fund reduced the Council's pension deficit by £4,872,000 and is shown under business combinations.

Transactions Relating to Post-Employment Benefits

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
<i>Cost of Services:</i>				
<i>Service Cost comprising</i>				
- current service cost	23,174	19,556	-	-
- past service costs	2,947	5,460	-	-
<i>Financing & Investment Income and Expenditure</i>				
Net interest expense	5,369	5,353	80	84
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	31,490	30,369	80	84
<i>Other Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</i>				
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:				
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(11,954)	44,580	(81)	180
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(31,506)	-	(86)	-
- Experience gains and losses	13,349	(51,509)	(44)	-
Return on plan assets	2,958	-	-	-
Total Post-Employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(27,153)	(6,929)	(211)	180
Movement in Reserves Statement				
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(31,490)	(30,369)	(80)	(84)
Actual amount charged against the general fund balance for pensions in the year:				
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	687	870		
Retirement benefits payable to pensioners			157	152

Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	882,784	855,206	3,143	3,431
Fair value of plan assets	(655,141)	(626,341)	0	0
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	227,643	228,865	3,143	3,431

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	626,341	575,433	0	0
Interest Income	15,891	14,765	0	0
Remeasurement gain/(loss):				
- The return on plan assets , excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	(13,349)	51,509	0	0
- Other	(401)	(305)	0	0
Contributions from employer	687	870	157	152
Contributions from employees into the scheme	4,320	3,926	0	0
Benefits paid	(23,273)	(19,857)	(157)	(152)
Business combinations	44,925	0	0	0
Closing fair value of scheme assets	655,141	626,341	0	0

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

	Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme		Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000
Opening balance at 1 April	855,206	781,728	3,431	3,319
Current service cost	22,773	19,251	0	0
Interest cost	21,260	20,118	80	84
Contributions from scheme participants	4,320	3,926	0	0
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:				
- Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(31,506)	0	(86)	0
- Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(11,954)	44,580	(81)	180
- Experience (gains) and losses	2,958	0	(44)	0
Past service cost	2,788	5,046	0	0
Losses/(gains) on curtailment	159	414	0	0
Benefits paid	(23,273)	(19,857)	(157)	(152)
Business Combinations	40,053	0	0	0
Closing balance at 31 March	882,784	855,206	3,143	3,431

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

	Fair Value of Scheme Assets	
	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000
Cash & cash equivalents	7,207	3,644
Bonds:		
- Corporate	16,380	7,344
- Government	0	22,017
Sub total bonds	16,380	29,361
Property:		
-Retail	655	15,078
- Commercial	8,517	43,300
Sub total property	9,172	58,378
Private Equity:		
UK	0	0
Overseas	347,224	324,232
Sub total private equity	347,224	324,232
Other investment funds:		
- Credit Funds	103,512	44,472
- Pooled Fixed Income	34,722	68,128
- Infrastructure	90,409	88,540
- Property	46,515	9,586
Sub total other investment funds	275,158	210,726
Total assets	655,141	626,341

Basis for Estimating Liabilities

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

Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and discretionary benefits liabilities have been estimated by Mercers, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Lancashire County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 1 April 2019.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits	
	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000
Post Retirement Mortality Assumptions:				
Non Retired:				
Men/Women	110%/94%	98%/89%	110%/94%	98%/89%
Retired				
Men/Women	103%/91%	99%/93%	103%/91%	99%/93%
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:				
- Men	22.3yrs	22.8yrs	22.3yrs	22.8yrs
- Women	25.0 yrs	25.5yrs	25.0yrs	25.5yrs
Longevity at 75 for current pensioners:				
- Men			13.6yrs	14.0yrs
- Women			15.8yrs	16.1yrs
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:				
- Men	23.8 yrs	25.1yrs		
- Women	26.8yrs	28.2yrs		
Rate of inflation	2.1%	2.2%	2.1%	2.3%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.6%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.2%	2.3%	2.2%	2.4%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all 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 of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period.

	Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme	
	Approximate % change in employee liability	Approximate monetary value £000
1 year increase in member life expectancy	2.71%	23,990
Rate of Inflation - increase by 0.1%	1.74%	15,372
Rate of increase in salaries - increase by 0.1%	0.20%	1,728
1% increase in real discount rate	(1.71%)	(15,110)

Impact on Authority's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employer's contributions at as constant a rate as possible. Lancashire County Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 16 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed on 31 March 2022.

The scheme will need to take account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Services Act 2013. Under the Act, the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and the other main existing public service schemes may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014 (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 scheme to pay pensions and other benefits.

The Actuary anticipates the Council will pay £11.8m contributions to the scheme in 2020/21.

51. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising From Financial Instruments

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

- Credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council;
- Liquidity risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments; and
- Market risk - the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates movements.

The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets, and seek to minimise potential adverse effects on resources available to fund services. Risk management is carried out by the Treasury Management Panel, under policies approved by the Executive in the Council's Annual Treasury Management Strategy. The Council provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers.

This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria. The criteria are based on information from Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poors, the three principal credit ratings agencies.

Banks – the authority will use banks which have at least the following ratings:

- Short term – F1 or equivalent
- Long term – Single A or equivalent.

Building Societies – the authority will use any UK society with assets in excess of £1.5 billion.

Local authorities – the authority will use upper tier authorities only.

Investments in UK Government – permitted due to overall security.

The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum sum to be invested with a financial institution located within each category.

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

The Authority's potential maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies of £21.35m cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make the 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 31st March 2020 that this was likely to crystallize, therefore, no separate provision for loss has been made in the accounts. The Council limits the amount of borrowing undertaken, thereby reducing the potential credit risk from placing deposits.

Expected Credit losses

Expected losses are an allowance based on all reasonably possible future events that could result in default, weighted by likelihood of occurrence. They are calculated by comparing the net present value of all contractual cash flows that are due with the net present value of all cash flows that are expected to be received. There were no significant expected losses identified.

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

	Amount at 31st March 2020 £000	Historical experience of default %	Historical experience adjusted for market conditions at 31st March 2020 %	Estimated maximum exposure to default and uncollectability At 31st March 2020 £000	Estimated maximum exposure at 31st March 2019 £000
Deposits with banks and financial institutions	21,350	0	0	0	7,800
Customers	46,948	35%	0	16,432	15,218

Of the £60.636m current trade receivables £4.477m relates to invoices raised for customer accounts.

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 allow credit for its customers and invoices should be paid within 30 days, however £3.672m of the £4.477m balance is past its due date for payment. The past due but not impaired amount can be analysed by age as follows:

	31st March 2020 £000	31st March 2019 £000
Up to 3 months	1,256	665
Three to six months	672	678
Six months to one year	604	987
1-2 years	1,172	303
2-3 years	190	262
Over 3 years	583	472
Total	4,477	3,367

Liquidity risk

The Authority has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the authority has ready access to borrowings from the money markets. 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 borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The Authority sets limits on the proportion of its fixed rate borrowing during specified periods. Except for short term temporary borrowing the strategy is to ensure that not more than 30% 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:

	31st March 2020 £000	31st March 2019 £000
Less than one year	245,184	159,452
Between one and two years	6,184	1,184
Between two and five years	9,833	7,761
Between five and ten years	22,157	20,878
Between ten and fifteen years	11,814	14,778
Between fifteen and twenty years	-	2,960
More than twenty years	38,472	42,334
Total	333,644	249,347

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

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 Service 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 the fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in the interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

The Authority has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. Policy is to aim to keep a maximum of 35% of its long-term 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 panel has an active strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the annual budget setting. Any adverse changes are updated in the budget during the year. The analysis will also advise whether new borrowing taken out is fixed or variable.

If interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would have a £1.5m effect on the financial statements. This assumption is based on the methodology used in the Note 20.

Price Risk

The Authority does not invest in equity shares but does have shareholdings with a fair value of £27.410m in a number of subsidiaries.

As the shareholdings have arisen in the acquisition of specific interests, the Authority is not in a position to limit its exposure to price movements by diversifying its portfolio. Instead it only acquires shareholdings in return for 'open book' arrangements with the company concerned so that the authority can monitor factors that might cause a fall in the value of specific shareholdings.

All movements in share price will impact on gains and losses recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. A general shift of 5% in the general price of shares (positive or negative) would thus have resulted in a £1.4m gain or loss being recognised in the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure for 2019/2020.

Foreign Exchange Risk

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

52. Contingent Liabilities /Assets

Municipal Mutual Insurance

The Scheme of Arrangement was enacted in 2012/2013. Although Blackpool Council is not a scheme creditor the Council will have a liability in relation to Lancashire County Council (for transferred services). It is not yet clear how much this liability will be.

NNDR Appeals

The Council has made provision for NNDR appeals based upon its best estimate of the actual liability as at the year-end in known appeals. It is not possible to quantify appeals that have not yet been lodged with the Valuation Office so there is a risk to the Council that national and local appeals may have a future impact on the accounts.

As at 31st March 2020 the Council had no material contingent assets to disclose.

These assets and liabilities are not included on the Balance Sheet.

53. Heritage Assets: Five Year Summary of Transactions

Information on Illuminations and Civic Regalia is not available before 1st April 2010. The Tower Company Collection only transferred to the Authority in March 2009 and there have been no movements in the valuation. There have been no movements in the valuation of the art collection, local and family history collection and Stanley Park statues.

	2015/2016 £000	2016/2017 £000	2017/2018 £000	2018/2019 £000	2019/2020 £000
Balance B/fwd					
Cenotaph	120	120	120	20	20
Civic Regalia	591	591	591	510	510
Illuminations	500	500	500	550	550
Tower Collection & Local Family History Collection	900	900	900	1,450	1,450
Art Collection	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,655	5,655
Stanley Park Statues	653	653	653	-	-
Total Balance B/fwd	7,764	7,764	7,764	8,185	8,185
Additions					
Art Collection	-	-	55	-	-
Total Additions	-	-	55	-	-
Impairment/Revaluation					
Cenotaph	-	-	(100)	-	-
Civic Regalia	-	-	(81)	-	179
Illuminations	-	-	50	-	-
Tower Collection & Local Family History Collection	-	-	550	-	-
Art Collection	-	-	600	-	-
Stanley Park Statues	-	-	(653)	-	-
Total Impairment/Revaluation	-	-	366	-	179
Balance C/fwd					
Cenotaph	120	120	20	20	20
Civic Regalia	591	591	510	510	689
Illuminations	500	500	550	550	550
Tower Collection & Local Family History Collection	900	900	1,450	1,450	1,450
Art Collection	5,000	5,000	5,655	5,655	5,655
Stanley Park Statues	653	653	-	-	-
Total Balance C/fwd	7,764	7,764	8,185	8,185	8,364

Section 6

Supplementary Single Entity Financial Statements

Housing Revenue Account

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

Housing Revenue Account			
Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2020			
2018/2019		2019/2020	
£000		£000	£000
	Expenditure		
3,929	Repairs and maintenance	3,988	
7,494	Supervision and management	8,725	
158	Rent, rates , taxes and other charges	186	
5,547	Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	2,511	
72	Debt management costs	52	
184	Movement in the allowance for bad debts	283	
17,384	Total Expenditure		15,745
	Income		
(16,775)	Dwelling rents	(16,766)	
(126)	Non-dwelling rents	(120)	
(1,686)	Charges for services and facilities	(1,676)	
(532)	Contributions towards expenditure	(255)	
(19,119)	Total Income		(18,817)
(1,735)	Net Cost of HRA Services as included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account		(3,072)
	HRA Share of the operating income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
128	Loss on sale of HRA non-currents assets	772	
(1,563)	Capital grants	(1,428)	
398	Interest payable and similar charges	399	
(110)	Interest and investment income	(85)	(342)
(2,882)	Surplus for the year on HRA services		(3,414)

Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement for the Year Ending 31st March 2020

	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Balance on HRA Reserve at 1st April	(5,705)	(5,870)
Surplus for the year on HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	(3,414)	(2,882)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	4,289	3,047
Net increase or decrease in year	875	165
Balance on HRA Reserve at 31st March	(4,830)	(5,705)

Notes to the HRA Statement

1. Housing Revenue Account Stock

The Council owned 4,736 dwellings at 31st March 2020 which are analysed below:-

	2019/2020	2018/2019
Bedsits	56	88
Flats	2,853	2,859
Maisonettes	30	-
Bungalows	8	80
Houses	1,735	1,730
Multi occupied dwellings	54	44
Total	4,736	4,801

The change in the stock during the year is summarised below:-

	2019/2020	2018/2019
Stock at 1st April	4,801	4,747
Less: Sales to tenants	(28)	(22)
Disposal of Troutbeck properties	(81)	-
Disposal of Chepstow Road site	-	(6)
Other Disposals	(3)	-
Add: Queens Park Phase II	8	78
Troutbeck Buy Backs	-	4
Hoyle House	12	-
Other Additions/Purchases	17	-
Recovery Houses/Hostels	10	-
Stock at 31st March	4,736	4,801

The Balance Sheet value of assets held in the Housing Revenue Account was as follows:-

	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Operational assets:		
Council dwellings	118,763	115,557
Other HRA	2,350	2,330
Stock at 31st March	121,113	117,887

2. Dwelling Rents

This is the total rent due for the year after allowance is made for voids etc. During the year 3.1% of lettable properties, excluding hostels, were vacant (2018/19: 3.0%). This includes properties intentionally held vacant pending the ongoing re-development of the Troutbeck estate and other sites. During the year the average void rate for hostels was 11% (2018/19 - 12%).

The average rent (excluding Affordable Rent properties) was £67.25 a week in 2019/20, a decrease of 0.33% over the previous year.

	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Vacant possession value of properties	283,494	287,612

The vacant possession value of dwellings held on 31st March 2020 was £283,494,220. The difference between this and the Existing Use Value (Social Housing) and Existing Use Value (Affordable Rent) valuation of £118,762,452 represents the economic cost to the Government of providing council housing at less than the open market rents.

3. Major Repairs Reserve

The movements in the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR) are summarised below:

	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Balance at 1st April	-	-
Transferred to MRR during the year	-	-
Transfer between MRR and HRA during the year	2,253	2,857
Debits to MRR during the financial year in respect of capital expenditure:		
Houses held within HRA	(2,253)	(2,857)
Balance at 31st March	-	-

4. Housing Repairs Account

The movement on the Housing Repairs Account during the year is summarised below:

	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Balance at 1st April	-	-
Add: Revenue contribution	3,988	3,929
Less: Expenditure in year		
Responsive repairs	(2,879)	(2,805)
Planned maintenance	(1,109)	(1,124)
Balance at 31st March	-	-

5. Capital Expenditure within Housing Revenue Account

	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Total capital expenditure within the Housing Revenue Account on land, housing & other property	7,571	9,319
Sources of funding for the above Capital Expenditure:		
- Usable Capital Receipts	-	391
- Revenue contributions (as defined in Local Government & Housing Act 1989)	3,747	3,692
- Major Repairs Reserve	2,253	2,857
- Grants and other funding	1,571	2,379
Total capital expenditure within the HRA	7,571	9,319

Usable capital receipts totalling £576,277 were received and applied during the year (£391,000 in 2018/19).

6. Depreciation Charge within the HRA

	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Depreciation charges for:		
- Operational assets, comprising dwellings and other land and buildings	2,203	2,791
- Non-Operational assets	50	66
Total	2,253	2,857

7. Impairment

	2019/2020 £000	2018/2019 £000
Impairment charges in respect of land, houses and other property within the HRA	258	2,690

The basis of valuation of the housing stock within the HRA is Existing Use Value – Social Housing (EUV-SH) and Existing Use Value – Affordable Housing (EUV-AH). This is calculated by applying a prescribed discount factor to the Existing Use Value – Vacant Possession (EUV-VP) as advised by the Ministry for Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

There is no government guidance on how the EUV-AH should be calculated. Having taken advice from the Valuer it has been calculated using a discount factor of 52% on the basis that the average difference in chargeable rent between EUV-SH and EUV-AH within the estates is 52%.

The 2019/20 HRA revaluation exercise was a desk top review which resulted in a total impairment of £451,000.

8. Government Rules

The Localism Act 2011 resulted in the cessation of the Housing Subsidy System on 31st March 2012 and the introduction of the HRA self-financing system on 1st April 2012. One of the purposes for the introduction of the Act is to enable all local authorities to be in a position whereby they can manage their homes from their own income.

a) The Ring-fence

The present rules do not allow authorities to transfer funds from the Housing Revenue Account to the General Fund or vice versa except under specified conditions. The items to be included within the Housing Revenue Account are also specified.

b) Control

A deficit balance on the Account is not allowed and the format of the Account must comply with Schedule 4 of the Act.

c) Annual Report

An annual report to tenants must be published detailing activities and performance during the year.

9. Rent Arrears

Rent Arrears for 2019/2020 amounted to £675,000 compared to £756,000 in the previous year. During the year 2019/2020 rent arrears as a proportion of gross collectable rent (including service charges) were 3.52% (2018/2019: 3.96%).

Amounts written off during the year amounted to £426,000 (2018/19: £136,000). The total provision for bad and doubtful rental debts in the Housing Revenue Account at 31st March 2020 is £578,000 (£662,000 at 31st March 2019). This provision has been calculated in accordance with the Housing Revenue Account (Arrears of Rents and Charges) Directions 1990.

Although the amounts written off in year are significantly more than in 2018/19 there has not been a material change to the calculation of the annual Bad Debt Provision as previous year calculations to cover any adverse effect of Universal Credit have been prudent. The impact of Covid-19 on rent arrears is not yet known, however the current Bad Debt Provision is considered adequate based on the available information.

Collection Fund 2019/2020

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

2018/2019 £000 Council Tax	2018/2019 £000 NNDR	2018/2019 £000 Total		2019/2020 £000 Council Tax	2019/2020 £000 NNDR	2019/2020 £000 Total
			Income			
62,046		62,046	Council Tax Receivable	68,180		68,180
	46,855	46,855	Business Rates Receivable		45,603	45,603
62,046	46,855	108,901	Total Income	68,180	45,603	113,783
			Expenditure			
			<u>Apportionment of previous year's surplus/(deficit)</u>			
	228	228	Central Government		(1,503)	(1,503)
1,135	223	1,358	Blackpool Council	1,146	(1,473)	(327)
52	5	57	Lancashire Fire Authority	51	(30)	21
132		132	Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	134		134
			<u>Precepts, Demands and Shares</u>			
	20,138	20,138	Central Government		9,447	9,447
54,732	19,735	74,467	Blackpool Council	56,837	28,515	85,352
2,443	403	2,846	Lancashire Fire Authority	2,537	582	3,119
6,427		6,427	Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	7,357		7,357
			<u>Charges to Collection Fund</u>			
(2,757)	(1,406)	(4,163)	less: Write offs of uncollectable amounts	(3,213)	(607)	(3,820)
642	1,483	2,125	less: Increase/Decrease in BDP	3,881	1,287	5,168
	1,800	1,800	less: Increase/Decrease in Provision for Appeals		2,550	2,550
	259	259	less: Cost of Collection		251	251
	2,141	2,141	less: Transitional Protection Payments		655	655
62,806	45,009	107,815	Total Expenditure	68,730	39,674	108,404
760	(1,846)	(1,086)	(Surplus)/Deficit for the Year	550	(5,929)	(5,379)
			Collection Fund Balance			
(2,650)	4,156	1,506	Fund balance at 1st April (Surplus)/Deficit	(1,890)	2,310	420
(1,890)	2,310	420	(Surplus)/Deficit as at 31st March	(1,340)	(3,619)	(4,959)
			Allocated to:			
(1,622)	1,132	(490)	- Blackpool Council	(1,141)	(2,660)	(3,801)
(72)	23	(49)	- Lancashire Fire Authority	(50)	(54)	(104)
(196)		(196)	- Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	(149)		(149)
	1,155	1,155	- Central Government		(905)	(905)
(1,890)	2,310	420	Total	(1,340)	(3,619)	(4,959)

Notes to the Collection Fund

1. General

The Collection Fund statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection of council tax from taxpayers and non-domestic rates from business rate payers. The Council has a statutory requirement to operate a Collection Fund as a separate account to the General Fund. The Collection Fund is distributed between the Council, Central Government, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Lancashire Fire Authority.

From 1st April 2013 up to 31st March 2019, the local government finance regime was revised with the introduction of a retained business rates scheme. The main aim of the scheme was to give Councils a greater incentive to grow businesses in the area. It does, however, also increase the financial risk due to non-collection and the volatility of the NNDR tax base. The scheme allows Councils to retain 49% of the total NNDR received. The remaining 51% is paid to Central Government (50%) and Lancashire Fire Authority (1%).

On 13th December 2018 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) approved the establishment of a Lancashire-wide 75% Business Rate Pilot Pool (including Blackpool) in 2019/20 to share risk and reward. As part of this, the 50% rate retention scheme increased to 75% and authorities in the pool will forego Revenue Support Grant. The value of the Revenue Support Grant was taken into account when revised business rate tariffs and top-ups for the pilot authorities were set. The Government also increased the Safety Net from 92.5% to 95% for the new pilot pools. Consequently, from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 the income relating to Blackpool is shared between central government (25%), the Council (73.5%) and the Fire Authority (1.5%).

NNDR surpluses and deficits are apportioned /charged to the relevant preceptors in the following financial year.

2. Council Tax

The Council as a billing authority is required to set a tax base for each billing year by 31st January of the previous year. The council tax base represents the number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band (adjusted for discounts etc) multiplied by a set proportion to give the number of Band D equivalents.

The tax base is not constant. The number of properties eligible for discounts varies during the year. The number of properties on the valuation list also varies during the year owing to new properties being occupied and others being demolished. As a result the amount receivable from council tax payers in the year varies from the estimated amount. This will result in a surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund in respect of council tax. Surplus and deficits on the Collection Fund are shared between the Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Lancashire Fire Authority in proportion to their budgets. The Council's share of any surplus/deficit is used to reduce/increase the council tax bills in the subsequent financial year.

The Council tax base for 2019/2020 was 36,521 (36,219 in 2018/2019). This increase is mainly as a result of the Government's Council Tax Localisation changes which revised the way Central Government pay Council Tax benefit compensation to the Council.

There was an increase in Council Tax Band D equivalent to £1,556.31 (£1,511.14 in 2018/2019) to fund Council services. There was an increase in Council Tax Band D to £1,827.24 (£1,756.05 in 2018/2019) when precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Lancashire Fire Authority are included.

The tax base for 2019/2020 was calculated as follows:

Band	Chargeable Dwellings	Proportion of Band D Tax	Equivalent Band D Dwellings
A Reduced	32	5/9	18
A	16,614	6/9	11,076
B	14,802	7/9	11,513
C	8,878	8/9	7,892
D	3,876	1	3,876
E	1,614	11/9	1,973
F	494	13/9	714
G	215	15/9	358
H	19	18/9	38
Less allowances for non collection			936
Tax Base for the Calculation of Council Tax			36,521

3. National Non-Domestic Rates

The Council collects National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) for its area based on local rateable values provided by the Valuation Office Agency (VO) multiplied by a uniform business rate set nationally by Central Government. In previous financial years the total amount due, less certain allowances, was paid to a central pool (the NNDR Pool) administered by Central Government, which in turn paid to local authorities their share of the pool, such shares being based on a standard amount per head of the local adult population.

In 2013/2014 the administration of NNDR changed following the introduction of a business rate retention scheme which aims to give councils greater incentive to grow businesses but also increases the financial risk due to volatility and non-collection of rates. Instead of paying NNDR to the central pool, local authorities retain a proportion of collectable rates due. Blackpool Council's local share is 49%. The remainder is distributed to the preceptors which are Central Government (50%) and Lancashire Fire Authority (1%). Following the establishment of a Lancashire-wide 75% Business Rate Pilot Pool from 1st April 2019 the business rates are shared between the Council (73.5%), Central Government (25%) and Lancashire Fire Authority (1.5%).

The business rates shares payable for 2019/2020 were estimated before the start of the financial year as £9.447m (25%) (£20.138m in 2018/19 at 50%) to Central Government, £0.582m (1.5%) (£0.403m in 2018/19 at 1%) to Lancashire Fire Authority and £28.515m (73.5%) (£19.735m in 2018/19 at 49%) to Blackpool Council. These sums have been paid in 2019/2020 and charged to the Collection Fund in year.

When the scheme was introduced, Central Government set a baseline level for each authority identifying the expected level of retained business rates and a top up or tariff amount to ensure that all local authorities receive their baseline amount. Tariffs due from authorities payable to Central Government are used to finance the top ups to those authorities who do not achieve their targeted baseline funding. In this respect Blackpool received top up grant to the General Fund in 2019/2020 to the value of £27.137m (£23.528m in 2018/2019).

In addition to the local management of business rates, authorities are expected to finance appeals made in respect of rateable values as defined by VO. Authorities are required to make a provision for these amounts. Appeals are charged and provided for in proportion to precepting shares. The total provision charged to the Collection Fund for 2019/2020 has been calculated at £14.347m (£11.797m in 2018/2019).

For 2019/2020, the total non-domestic rateable value at the year- end is £127.915m. The national multiplier for 2019/2020 was 50.4p (49.3p in 2018/2019) for qualifying small businesses and the standard multiplier being 49.1p (48.0p in 2018/2019) for all other businesses.

4. Allocation Of Closing Balances

The allocation of the closing balances for 2019/2020 between the preceptors is as follows:

	Central Government £000	Blackpool Council £000	Lancashire Fire Authority £000	Police Authority £000	Total £000
Council Tax					
Arrears at 31st March 2020		16,011	701	2,092	18,804
Receipts in Advance		(781)	(34)	(102)	(917)
Bad Debt Provision		(6,683)	(293)	(873)	(7,849)
Surplus/Deficit		1,141	50	149	1,340
Business Rates					
Arrears at 31st March 2020	1,817	5,341	109		7,267
Receipts in Advance	(45)	(133)	(3)		(181)
Bad Debt Provision	(823)	(2,420)	(49)		(3,292)
Appeals	(3,587)	(10,545)	(215)		(14,347)
Surplus/Deficit	(905)	(2,660)	(54)		(3,619)

Section 7

Group Accounts 2019/2020

The Group Accounts show the combined overall financial position of the Council, its subsidiary companies and its associates.

Subsidiaries are where the Council exercises control. Blackpool Transport Services, Blackpool Operating Company, Blackpool Coastal Housing, Blackpool Housing Company, Blackpool Entertainment Company, Regional & City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Ltd, Blackpool Waste Services Ltd and Lancashire Management Operations Limited are 100% owned by the Council and are therefore classified as subsidiaries. They are incorporated into the accounts on a line-by-line basis.

Associates are where the Council exercises significant influence. Marketing Lancashire is classified as such and is incorporated into the accounts on an equity basis.

Subsidiaries

Blackpool Transport Services

Registered Address: Rigby Road, Blackpool FY1 5DD
Company Number: 02003020

Blackpool Transport Services Limited was set up in accordance with the provisions of the Transport Act 1985 to operate the Council's municipal bus operation. The company provides a comprehensive passenger transport service in the Fylde coast area through its bus and tram operations.

Blackpool Operating Company

Registered Address: Number One Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool FY1 3AH
Company Number: 09405354

The Council purchased the operation of the Sandcastle Waterpark from a private company on 20th June 2003 and now wholly owns both the building and the commercial operator - Blackpool Operating Company Limited (BOC). The Council's shares in Blackpool Operating Company are valued at £2.

Blackpool Coastal Housing

Registered Address: Coastal House, 17-19 Abingdon Street, Blackpool FY1 1DG
Company Number: 05868852

Blackpool Coastal Housing is an ALMO (arms-length management organisation) of the Council and was formed on 15th January 2007. The company's principal activities are to manage and maintain the housing stock of the Council.

Blackpool Entertainment Company

Registered Address: Number One Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool FY1 3AH
Company Number: 09044792

The Council purchased the operation of the Winter Gardens from a private company on 16th May 2014 and now wholly owns both the building and the commercial operator - Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited (BECL). The Council's shares in BECL are valued at £1.

Blackpool Housing Company

Registered Address: Number One Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool FY1 3AH
Company Number: 09405354

Blackpool Housing Company Limited was set up on 26th January 2015. The company is a housing regeneration company and is wholly owned by the Council.

Blackpool Airport Ltd

Registered Address: Number One Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool FY1 3AH
Company Number: 6581425

In September 2017 the Council completed the purchase of Blackpool Airport. The Council, which was previously a 5% shareholder in the Airport, signed a £4.25m deal with previous owners Balfour Beatty to fully take over the holding company Regional & City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Ltd. The Council has acquired all shares in Regional & City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Ltd and has now taken over 100% ownership of the airport site.

Blackpool Waste Services Limited

Registered Address: Number One Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool FY1 3AH
Company Number: 11645026

On 1st July 2019 Blackpool Waste Services Limited took over Blackpool's domestic waste services contract. The Company is wholly owned by the Council.

Lancashire Management Operations Limited

Registered Address: Number One Bickerstaffe Square, Talbot Road, Blackpool FY1 3AH
Company Number: 11680239

The company was incorporated in November 2018 and is responsible for the management of Tramshed student accommodation in Preston. The company is wholly owned by the Council.

Associates

Marketing Lancashire

Registered Address: Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Fishergate Hill, Preston, PR1 8XJ
Company Number: 05039554

Marketing Lancashire (previously known as Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board) is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. The Council has 43% of the voting rights. It supports businesses in the Lancashire and Blackpool area by representing their interests regionally and nationally, by co-ordinating marketing activity, managing and developing the tourism product and working in partnership with industry. Activities in commercial membership, business support, "Welcome to Excellence" training, visitors services and marketing activity are all designed to improve quality and achieve common goals.

Core Financial Statements - Group

Group Movement in Reserves Statement

2019/20

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	HRA	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Reserves	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves	Group Reserves	Total Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1st April 2019	(8,988)	(41,662)	(5,705)	(7,527)	-	(3,112)	(66,994)	(171,901)	(238,895)	803	(238,092)
Movements in Reserves in 2019/2020											
Surplus or Deficit on the provision of services	34,368		(3,414)				30,954	-	30,954	6,276	37,230
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure							-	(36,932)	(36,932)	813	(36,119)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	34,368	-	(3,414)	-	-	-	30,954	(36,932)	(5,978)	7,089	1,111
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(35,112)	-	4,289	(576)	-	-	(31,399)	31,399	-	-	-
Net increase or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	(744)	-	875	(576)	-	-	(445)	(5,533)	(5,978)	7,089	1,111
Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	8,156	(8,156)	-	(3,308)	-	-	(3,308)	3,308	-	-	-
Increase/Decrease in 2019/2020	7,412	(8,156)	875	(3,884)	-	-	(3,753)	(2,225)	(5,978)	7,089	1,111
Balance as at 31st March 2020	(1,576)	(49,818)	(4,830)	(11,411)	-	(3,112)	(70,747)	(174,126)	(244,873)	7,892	(236,981)

Restated 2018/19

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	HRA	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Reserves	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves	Group Reserves	Total Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Restated Balance as at 1st April 2018	(6,131)	(36,819)	(5,870)	(4,508)	-	(4,477)	(57,805)	(171,191)	(228,996)	1,211	(227,785)
Movements in Reserves in 2018/2019											
(Surplus) or Deficit on the provision of services	11,608	-	(2,882)	-	-	-	8,726	-	8,726	1,252	9,978
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(18,625)	(18,625)	(1,660)	(20,285)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	11,608	-	(2,882)	-	-	-	8,726	(18,625)	(9,899)	(408)	(10,307)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(18,227)	-	3,047	169	-	-	(15,011)	15,011	-	-	-
Net (Increase) or Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	(6,619)	-	165	169	-	-	(6,285)	(3,614)	(9,899)	(408)	(10,307)
Transfer to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	3,762	(4,843)	-	(3,188)	-	1,365	(2,904)	2,904	-	-	-
(Increase)/Decrease in 2018/2019	(2,857)	(4,843)	165	(3,019)	-	1,365	(9,189)	(710)	(9,899)	(408)	(10,307)
Restated Balance as at 31st March 2019	(8,988)	(41,662)	(5,705)	(7,527)	-	(3,112)	(66,994)	(171,901)	(238,895)	803	(238,092)

Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

Restated 2018/2019				2019/2020		
Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000		Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
6,440	(5,026)	1,414	Chief Executive	13,055	(6,366)	6,689
5,942	(3,431)	2,511	Governance and Partnership Services	11,992	(3,846)	8,146
552	(5)	547	Ward Budgets	190	(2)	188
32,132	(10,805)	21,327	Resources	30,924	(9,867)	21,057
13,782	(9,894)	3,888	Communication and Regeneration	37,525	(9,840)	27,685
8,090	(4,696)	3,394	Strategic Leisure Assets	10,157	(4,818)	5,339
67,827	(34,067)	33,760	Community and Environmental Services	69,090	(21,323)	47,767
81,074	(28,381)	52,693	Adult Services	83,339	(22,447)	60,892
125,193	(71,672)	53,521	Children's Services	134,919	(75,311)	59,608
22,475	(21,807)	668	Public Health	13,182	(21,120)	(7,938)
96,665	(111,591)	(14,926)	Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	103,085	(114,652)	(11,567)
1,306	(5,276)	(3,970)	Contingencies	3,385	(24,244)	(20,859)
17,384	(19,119)	(1,735)	Housing Revenue Account	15,745	(18,817)	(3,072)
478,862	(325,770)	153,092	Cost of Services	526,588	(332,653)	193,935
		2,367	Other Operating Expenditure			1,867
		11,436	Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure - Other			12,771
		1,502	Income & Expenditure in relation to Investment Properties and changes in their fair value			(7,478)
		(158,718)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income - Other			(163,518)
		9,679	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			37,577
		9	Share of (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services by Associates			(28)
		290	Tax of Subsidiaries			(319)
		9,978	Group (Surplus)/Deficit			37,230
		(10,751)	Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets			(13,587)
		(1,125)	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of available for sale financial assets			1,340
		(8,409)	Movement on financial instruments adjustment - account Remeasurement of the net defined pension liability			(32,545)
		-	- Other Movements			8,673
		(20,285)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(36,119)
		(10,307)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			1,111

Group Balance Sheet

Restated 1st April 2018	Restated 31st March 2019		Notes	31st March 2020
£000	£000			£000
725,317	738,513	Property, Plant and Equipment	G4	779,731
8,185	8,185	Heritage Assets		8,364
47,293	76,043	Investment Property		92,289
-	-	Intangible Assets		466
123	132	Net share of Associates		144
1,110	897	Surplus Assets		753
10,111	11,511	Long Term Investments		7,057
17,797	30,843	Long Term Debtors		38,379
809,936	866,124	Long Term Assets		927,183
1,121	1,274	Inventories		1,475
47,116	46,677	Short Term Debtors	G6	47,975
6,486	7,564	Payments in Advance		10,385
14,615	13,504	Cash and Cash Equivalents	G7	26,957
69,338	69,019	Current Assets		86,792
(153,776)	(159,452)	Short Term Borrowing		(245,184)
(46,136)	(66,527)	Short Term Creditors	G8	(63,756)
(20,867)	(14,339)	Receipts in Advance		(18,012)
(17,869)	(17,845)	Provisions		(15,037)
(238,648)	(258,163)	Current Liabilities		(341,989)
(91,711)	(98,905)	Long Term Creditors		(94,795)
(90,343)	(89,895)	Long term Borrowing		(87,460)
(217,590)	(234,688)	Other Long Term Liabilities		(240,139)
(13,197)	(15,400)	Capital Grants in Advance		(12,611)
(412,841)	(438,888)	Long Term Liabilities		(435,005)
227,785	238,092	Net Assets		236,981
(56,594)	(66,191)	Usable Reserves		(70,333)
(171,191)	(171,901)	Unusable Reserves		(166,648)
(227,785)	(238,092)	Total Reserves		(236,981)

Group Cash Flow Statement

Restated 2018/2019 £000		2019/2020 £000
9,978	Net deficit on the provision of services	37,230
(63,990)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	(51,369)
17,409	Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	21,714
(36,603)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	7,575
20,922	Investing Activities	108,522
14,570	Financing Activities	(102,644)
(1,111)	Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents	13,453
14,615	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	13,504
13,504	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	26,957

Notes to the Group Accounts

G1. Accounting Policies

The group accounts include the Council's share of the operating results, assets and liabilities of each group entity's accounts. Subsidiaries are accounted for on an acquisition basis and incorporated line-by-line, writing out inter-group transactions. Associates are incorporated by accounting for the Council's share of their operating results in the group income and expenditure accounts and of their assets in the balance sheet. The accounting policies of the Council's subsidiary companies have been aligned with the Council's accounting policies.

G2. Inter Group Transactions

Certain figures from the balance sheets of Group members have been taken out of the consolidated position as they represent amounts outstanding within the Group and therefore cancel each other out in the balance sheet. The adjustments are as follows:

- i) The Council owns shares to the value of £2,789,000 in Blackpool Transport. This has been taken out of long term investments and capital and reserves.
- ii) The Council owns shares to the value of £13,600,000 in Blackpool Housing Company. This has been taken out of long term investments and capital and reserves.
- iii) The Council owns shares to the value of £4,250,000 in Regional and City Airports (Blackpool) Holdings Limited. This has been taken out of long term investments and capital and reserves
- iv) An amount of £1,791,000 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Blackpool Coastal Housing has been taken out of debtors and creditors.
- v) An amount of £774,000 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Blackpool Transport Services has been taken out of short term loans and short term creditors.
- vi) An amount of £17,742,000 representing loans to Blackpool Transport from the Council has been taken out of long term debtors and long term borrowing.
- vii) An amount of £19,200,000 representing loans to Blackpool Housing Company from the Council has been taken out of long term debtors and long term borrowing.
- viii) An amount of £863,000 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Blackpool Waste Services has been taken out of debtors and creditors.
- ix) An amount of £2,076,000 representing amounts outstanding between the Council and Lancashire Management Operations Limited has been taken out of debtors and creditors.
- x) An amount of £814,000 representing a loan to Blackpool Airport from the Council has been taken out of long term debtors and long term borrowing.
- xi) An amount of £2,138,000 representing a lease arrangement for waste vehicles between the Council and Blackpool Waste Services has been taken out of long term debtors and long term creditors.

G3. Property, Plant and Equipment

	NBV 31st March 2020 £000	Restated NBV 31st March 2019 £000
Property, Plant & Equipment held by the Council	748,329	714,178
Property, Plant & Equipment held by		
- Blackpool Transport Services	21,954	17,866
- Blackpool Operating Company	1,109	1,304
- Blackpool Coastal Housing	217	77
- Blackpool Entertainment Company	509	544
- Blackpool Housing Company	307	313
- Blackpool Airport Ltd	4,537	4,231
- Blackpool Waste Services	2,545	-
Total	779,507	738,513

G4. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The balance of cash and cash equivalents is made up of the following elements:

	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000
Cash and cash equivalents held by the Council	19,504	7,618
Cash and cash equivalents held by:-		
- Blackpool Transport Services	1,053	737
- Blackpool Operating Company	998	1,321
- Blackpool Coastal Housing	1,647	1,155
- Blackpool Entertainment Company	1,499	1,567
- Blackpool Housing Company	680	1,098
- Blackpool Airport	46	8
- Blackpool Waste Services	1,035	0
- Lancashire Management Operations	495	0
Total	26,957	13,504

G5. Short Term Debtors

The group short-term debtors are made up of the following amounts:

	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000
Debtors - single entity accounts	46,948	43,034
Debtors held by;-		
- Blackpool Transport Services	3,144	2,712
- Blackpool Operating Company	330	373
- Blackpool Coastal Housing	1,007	1,114
- Blackpool Entertainment Company	533	-
- Blackpool Housing Company	145	99
- Blackpool Airport Ltd	589	607
- Blackpool Waste Services	31	
- Lancashire Management Operations	257	
Removal of intra group debtors	(4,731)	(1,262)
Total	48,253	46,677

G6. Short Term Creditors

The group short-term creditors are made up of the following amounts:

	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000
Creditors - single entity accounts	(52,843)	(54,105)
Creditors held by;-		
- Blackpool Transport Services	(5,438)	(4,283)
- Blackpool Operating Company	(1,466)	(2,039)
- Blackpool Coastal Housing	(2,299)	(1,447)
- Blackpool Entertainment Company	(4,034)	(4,422)
- Blackpool Housing Company	(522)	(762)
- Blackpool Airport Ltd	(1,619)	(827)
- Blackpool Waste Services	(1,295)	-
- Lancashire Management Operations	(887)	-
Removal of intra group creditors	5,504	2,062
Total	(64,899)	(65,823)

Section 8

Annual Governance Statement

Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020

Acknowledgement of Responsibility

Blackpool Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards. It needs to ensure that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015) require the Council to conduct a review, at least once a year, on the effectiveness of its system of internal control and include an Annual Governance Statement reporting on the review with the Statement of Accounts.

The Principles of Good Governance

The CIPFA Delivering Good Governance publication (2016) defines the various principles of good governance in the public sector and how they relate to each other and are defined as:

- Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law.
- Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
- Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.
- Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
- Developing the Council's capacity, including its leadership and the individuals within it.
- Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
- Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit, to deliver effective accountability.

The governance framework at Blackpool Council comprises the systems and processes, culture and values which the Council has adopted in order to deliver on the above principles. The system of internal control is a significant part of the framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The governance framework incorporated into this report has been in place at Blackpool Council for the year ended 31st March 2020 and up to the date of the approval for the statement of accounts for that year.

Key Challenges

This section sets out key challenges faced by the Council in the year which have impacted on the governance arrangements in place.

Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

In March 2020 the Council, like the rest of the world, was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Council's governance processes were reviewed during the Covid-19 crisis and a number of temporary changes to these processes were made to address the urgent requirements of the situation. An urgent Council Executive meeting was held on 23rd March 2020 which agreed that a major incident should be

declared for the Council in relation to Covid-19. The Council Executive meeting agreed to a temporary delegation of powers to the Council Chief Executive, or in his absence the Council's Director of Resources, on issues caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and to protect citizens in relation to public safety.

All Council services pulled together further embedding a culture of cross-departmental working in order to respond effectively to the pandemic and continue to support the residents and businesses across the town.

In response to Covid-19, the Council invoked its established Business Continuity Management Framework. The Corporate Business Continuity Plan includes the Council's critical activities list, incorporating statutory responsibilities and recovery timescales. The critical activities list was used to assess essential Council resource requirements during Covid-19. The Corporate Leadership Team determined the emergency response impact on service delivery and necessary service prioritisation.

The Corporate Leadership Team met on a daily basis to discuss the critical activities list and ensure that resources were appropriately deployed to those services which could not fail. The Senior Leadership Team met virtually each week so that important information about the pandemic and the Council's response could be shared. Each week the Chief Executive and his management team also briefed the political Group Leaders and both MPs on the decisions taken and those to be taken each week.

The decisions taken during the initial stages of the pandemic were logged on the Council's Incident Decision Log and an oversight was maintained to ensure appropriate decision making protocols were followed that risks were managed throughout.

The Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic was and continues to be co-ordinated with partners through the Lancashire Resilience Forum. This includes co-ordination with all the local authorities across Lancashire and with statutory agencies including Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and North West Ambulance Service.

The Council took on new responsibilities due to Covid-19 in relation to paying urgent grants to small businesses and has provided support to local businesses to help them to access the grants that they are entitled to.

Extensive targeted support to the community was provided through establishing Community Hubs and working with voluntary sector agencies in the provision of a range of services such as befriending services for residents in isolation were implemented.

The Council has proactively engaged with residents during the pandemic using a range of channels including social media and it will continue to build on this engagement throughout the rest of the pandemic and going forward. The Council will also continue with its Channel Change agenda to build on these connections with residents, partnerships and businesses to provide support during the recovery phase of the pandemic.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a monthly recovery report is being produced for Corporate Leadership Team providing information on the impact of the pandemic on the residents of Blackpool as well as the economy of the town and this helps inform decisions which the Council make around recovery from the pandemic.

The disruption caused by the pandemic has prompted a mini-review of the Council Plan to ensure that unavoidable disruption to the timescales of major projects is reflected, and additional work needed to address the ongoing issues caused is captured.

The impact on the Council's finances due to Covid-19 has been identified and planning for the financial implications continues. The financial reporting requirements have been altered due to Covid-19. The final accounts reporting deadline was changed to the 30th November and the Audit Committee timetable changed to accommodate this by enabling reporting to the Committee at the appropriate time.

The Council quickly adapted to new ways of working and controls were established relating to many Council staff working from home due to Covid-19 including the introduction of a new Virtual Private Network to enable an increased number of staff to securely access the Council's network from home. Likewise, the use of Zoom was introduced early to enable the broadcast of public accessible meetings.

Significant work has been undertaken to ensure that the Council is a Covid Secure workplace to enable those staff who need to be in work to undertake their roles safely. This continues to be reviewed in light of changes to Government Guidance. Procedures were established to address the Human Resource implications of the Covid-19 situation. A detailed employee support offer and sources of advice for staff was implemented.

Staff communications and changes to the use of staff resources have been addressed through employee frequently asked questions published on the Hub. More proactive publicity of staff compliments is helping to increase morale in services that have been struggling due to the pressures of the pandemic.

Climate Emergency

At its meeting of 26th June 2019, the Council passed a motion proposed by the Council Leader to declare a Climate Emergency. The primary commitments made are to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030 and achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by the same date.

The declaration also covers leadership to achieve a reduction in emissions across the town generally, engagement with the public and stakeholders, effecting a culture change across our organisation, wholly-owned companies, staff and partners and taking a role to exert wider influence beyond Blackpool on this issue.

A steering group has been established to lead this issue internally, which includes representation from the Council's wholly-owned companies and an initial action plan is in place. A Citizen's Assembly will be held in the autumn for the public to deliberate on the issues. Along with work to identify a carbon reduction roadmap, together these pieces of work will result in the development of a longer-term action plan.

Exit from the European Union

The Council has been working to prepare for EU Exit which is being overseen by a working group of officers from across the council, working in conjunction with the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF). The Council has continued to engage on EU Exit related matters through a number of regional and national forums including working with the Local Government Association (LGA) and various Whitehall departments.

The Governance Framework

The key elements of the structures and processes that comprise Blackpool Council's governance arrangements are summarised below.

Code of Conduct and Behaviours

Codes of Conduct are in place that define standards of behaviours for elected members and officers. Adherence to these is a key part of good governance. These are further supported by the Council's Whistleblowing Policy, Registers of Interests and Gifts and Hospitality Policies. Processes are in place to deal with non-compliance through the Council's Disciplinary Policy for Officers and the Monitoring Officer and/or Standards complaints procedure for Elected Members.

A Leadership Charter is in place which aims to bring to life the vision for the Council's workforce as outlined in the Workforce Strategy 2016-2020 and it has been embedded with the Individual Performance Appraisal Process (IPA).

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Code of Conduct for Members	https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/The-Council/Documents/Part5aCodeofConductforMember.pdf
Officer Code of Conduct	https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/The-Council/Documents/Part5bOfficerCodeofConduct.pdf
Whistleblowing Policy	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s53154/Appendix%20a%20-%20Whistleblowing%20Procedure.pdf
Registers of Members' Interests	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?FN=ALPHA&VW=LIST&PIC=0

Organisational Culture

The Council's organisational culture is driven by the Corporate Leadership Team and Executive and a set of values have been defined, previously agreed by Council which all employees and elected members are expected to adhere to and these include:

- We are **accountable** for delivering on the promises we make and take responsibility for our actions and the outcomes achieved
- We are committed to being **fair** to people and treat everybody we meet with dignity and respect
- We take pride in delivering **quality** services that are community focussed and are based on listening carefully to what people need
- We act with integrity and we are **trustworthy** in all our dealings with people and we are open about the decisions we make and the services we offer
- We are **compassionate**, caring, hard-working and committed to delivering the best services that we can with a positive and collaborative attitude.

Closely linked to our values is our approach to fulfilling our legal obligations on equalities. We understand that fairness means making reasonable adjustments for people and groups so they can get access to services and support. Our approach to this is set out in our equality goals, which are reviewed every 4 years. All new Council plans and strategies are reviewed to make sure they are tailored to the needs of groups with protected characteristics. Going beyond this, in the course of our work we also consider how to contribute to eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation; how to advance quality of opportunity and how we can help different groups of people get along together.

Our equality objectives aim to get more people to tell us they experience fair treatment by Council services; to make our workforce representative of our communities, with more people from diverse backgrounds involved in decision making at every level; that equality and diversity is embedded in staff culture; and that we celebrate growing diversity and increase respect and understanding for all.

Children's services are embedding a new culture across Blackpool 'Blackpool Families Rock'. Our commitment is to work with families not 'do things to them' with the child at the heart of everything that we do and to work with families at the lowest possible level to prevent their needs from escalating to a higher level.

To deliver its ambitions the Council needs to be efficient and resilient. An entrepreneurial culture has been developed across the Council and continues to be embedded in order to develop different ways of working and maximising our chances of achieving our outcomes. Examples of this include our Wholly-Owned

Companies, bidding for funding, working in partnership, the business loans fund and making savings whilst transforming our services.

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Senior Employees	https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Transparency-and-open-data/Pay-policy-and-salaries/Senior-employees.aspx#Directorofresources
Workforce Diversity Report	https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Transparency-and-open-data/Equalities-and-diversity/Workforce-diversity-report.aspx
Council strategies, policies and plans	https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/The-Council/Council-constitution-and-plans/Council-strategies-policies-and-plans.aspx
Working Well with Children and Families in Lancashire	https://www.blackpoolsafeguarding.org.uk/for-professionals/early-help-and-thresholds-for-intervention
Blackpool Neglect Strategy	https://www.blackpoolsafeguarding.org.uk/neglect

Commitment to Openness, Communication and Consultation

The Council complies with the requirements of the Transparency Agenda and provides a range of information in the public domain through its website.

The Council adopts a priority campaign planning approach using a variety of different marketing communications channels. Key messages are also communicated to residents in the 'Your Blackpool' publication which is delivered to all Blackpool households on a quarterly basis. The Council has enhanced its use of social media and has started to move towards greater use of these platforms as part of a strategic approach to communications.

The Council continue to increase the direct communication and engagement with local businesses so that they have a detailed understanding of the benefits of the regeneration work that the Council is undertaking. This is being done via the Council's own communication channels as well as utilising partner organisations including StayBlackpool, VisitBlackpool, the Town Centre BID and the Blackpool Business Leadership Group.

The public are able to attend and speak at Committee and Full Council meetings and this has continued virtually given the social distancing requirements.

The Council has in place a system to respond to Freedom of Information requests and compliance with the timelines is managed by the Information Governance Team and reported through to the Corporate Leadership Team.

Consultation and engagement with the public takes place by the lead service area, which can access the Council's in-house cost recovery research team Infusion Research, for wider ranging or more complex consultation exercises.

The Council last undertook a resident's survey in 2018 and is due to undertake one in 2020. However, the impact of the pandemic has meant that the slot for the survey in May could not be used. It is important to ensure the data is comparable and this would normally mean that the survey should be undertaken at the same time of the year. A decision is pending on whether to run the survey in the autumn, or postpone for a full year until May 2021.

Structures are in place to ensure consultation with other public and voluntary sector agencies through the Fairness Commission and also local businesses through the Blackpool Business Leadership Group.

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Council Agendas and Minutes	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/mgList/Committees.aspx?bcr=1
Online Council meetings	https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Council-meetings/Webcast.aspx
Open Government Licence	https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Transparency-and-open-data/Open-Government-Licence.aspx
Transparency and Open Data	https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Transparency-and-open-data/Transparency-and-open-data.aspx
Freedom of Information	https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Transparency-and-open-data/Freedom-of-information/Freedom-of-information.aspx

Developing, Communicating and Translating the Vision

A thorough review of the Council Plan was undertaken in 2018 to ensure it continues to address the key issues facing the town. As a result, the Council Plan 2019-2024 sets out the vision for Blackpool to continue to be *'The UK's number one family resort with a thriving economy that supports a happy and healthy community who are proud of this unique town'*. The two priorities remain the same as the previous iteration of the plan:

- The Economy: Maximising Growth and Opportunity across Blackpool.
- Communities: Creating Stronger Communities and Increasing Resilience.

Beneath each priority the plan details the key challenges faced by Blackpool and the key projects and schemes which will be implemented to address these issues. The Council Plan seeks to address the big issues and policy drivers facing local government. The concept of organisational resilience – ensuring that the organisation is capable of delivering the priorities, meeting its legal requirements, and maintaining sustainability into the future - is captured throughout the plan, with the detail included in the Council's wider policy framework.

The Council has a key role in working with partner organisations in order to translate the vision for Blackpool into deliverable actions. This has been particularly demonstrated through the core coordination role that the Council took on board in response to the pandemic from March 2020 to ensure that the local community was effectively supported by a wide range of organisations.

As in previous years, the Council held a staff conference in 2019 hosted by the Chief Executive, with breakout sessions focussing on aspects of the Council's work across its directorates. These covered topics relevant to the plan, helping to encourage staff understanding of the direction taken by the Council and its Wholly Owned Companies.

The Council priorities feed into directorate business plans and are a key tool for managers to use when developing business plans. The business plans then feed into Individual Performance Appraisals (IPA). The 2020/21 process will be different in that services will work towards recovery plans instead of business plans.

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Council Plan 2019 to 2024

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Creating-a-better-Blackpool/Blackpool-Council-plan/Council-plan-2019-to-2024.aspx>

Performance Management

A Policy Framework is in place which sets out the corporate strategies and plans which are in place. Corporate resource is available to support services on the development of strategies, shaping them in line with corporate objectives.

The Council's performance management system is now well established, with strategic performance reported to Corporate Leadership Team, members of the Cabinet and the Scrutiny Leadership Board, whilst local performance indicators are managed through the business planning process. The suite of Council Plan headline KPIs will be reviewed so that some of the measures around post-COVID recovery can be incorporated into ongoing performance reporting. This review will also look to incorporate KPIs for a new corporate priority around organisational resilience, as recommended in the Corporate Governance Peer Review which took place in March 2020.

In March 2019, the Secretary of State appointed a DfE Commissioner for Children's Services in Blackpool, following an inadequate judgement by Ofsted of the Council's Children's Services from its inspection in November 2018. One of the recommendations of the Commissioner was to establish a strategic and overarching Children and Families Partnership. This Partnership Board was established in January 2020 and meets quarterly. It is chaired by the Chief Executive and has an emerging set of principles and priorities around inclusion, literacy and the social impact of poverty. The Children's Improvement Board has been replaced by the Getting to Good Board; this partnership meets bi-monthly, monitoring progress and driving improvement in performance and practice in children's social care.

Following the HMIP inspection of youth offending services in October 2018, Blackpool's Youth Offending Partnership developed an improvement plan to address the recommendations from the inspection. The actions from this improvement plan were delivered throughout 2019/20. In February 2020, a peer review was conducted by the Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership, the outcome of which has informed the development of a new strategic improvement plan for 2020/21. The partnership is currently awaiting confirmation of the arrangements for the next inspection by HMIP. Alongside this, the partnership undertook a self-assessment against the new national standards for youth justice services (as required by the Youth Justice Board) which has led to the development of action plans for each of the national standards themes. Senior officers from across the partnership have been assigned as theme leads to drive delivery of these action plans. The delivery of the improvement plan and theme action plans is supported by a robust performance and quality assurance framework to ensure that improvements in performance and practice are embedded within services.

In order to improve performance the Council participates in peer reviews and benchmarking exercises to learn from others and to ensure that services delivered are value for money. The LGA undertook a Corporate Peer Challenge exercise for the Council in March 2020, as part of its work to strengthen the local government sector. The challenge focussed on the Council's understanding of the local context to set an appropriate vision and priorities, provision of effective leadership of external stakeholders, financial planning and viability, organisational leadership and governance, and capacity to deliver. Reflecting on our last Peer Challenge in 2014, the Council developed a position statement outlining our strengths and challenges and hosted the LGA's team for a week of interviews and focus groups. The final feedback has been delayed due to the team comprising of senior officers and members at the forefront of responding to the pandemic.

The Libraries service invited an LGA team in for a similar process as part of the development of their Libraries Ambition Plan in June 2019. Commenting positively on the extensive research underpinning the plan, they judged the Plan to be achievable, and advised on ways of further strengthening the likelihood of the plan being implemented effectively. This fed into the ultimate approval of the Plan by the executive in June 2020. The process of internal and external consultation / review and scrutiny of this plan prior to approval is an example of good practice and a model which other services wishing to significantly transform will be encouraged to adopt going forward.

The Individual Performance Appraisal process which is in place is part of the Council's wider approach to performance management. The IPA process is an important tool designed to provide an opportunity to establish and understand expectations and to evaluate performance in order to help employees develop to their full potential. The IPA process is not a replacement for day to day people management so in addition employees are supported by their line managers and should be mentored, coached and directed according to their individual needs. This may come through regular one to one meetings, formal supervision meetings, team meetings and informal feedback. The Leadership Charter supports the Council's priorities and values and is included in the Manager's IPA template. The Council has undertaken two Leadership surveys to benchmark performance and progress against the new Charter and this has evidenced that from a good baseline there has been further improvement. Going forward the plan is to undertake the survey every two years.

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Policy Framework	https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/The-Council/Documents/Part8StrategicPlanningProcess.pdf
Children's Service Ofsted Inspection	https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Health-and-social-care/Children-and-families/Childrens-social-care/Childrens-services-Ofsted-inspection.aspx
Libraries Ambition Plan 2020-2024	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s54470/Appendix%20d%20Libraries%20Ambition%20Plan%20overview%20version%20June%202020.pdf

Roles and Responsibilities

Responsibilities and functions are in place for each Council Committee including Licensing, Planning, Standards, Scrutiny Committees and the Audit Committee. These are reviewed annually with any changes made at the Council's Annual Meeting to ensure that they continue to be fit for purpose. The Executive has agreed a set of criteria relating to the levels of decision making within the Executive Framework which provide clarity and consistency for decision makers.

All Council Officers, including the Corporate Leadership Team, have a job description which set out their roles and responsibilities. Annually, through the Individual Performance Appraisal process individual objectives are set for each officer which align with their job description and the Business Plan for the Service in which they work.

The Corporate Leadership Team has been extended once a month to involve key Heads of Service in the decision making process. Steps continue to be taken to address some of the concerns with 'hard to recruit to posts' such as the development of the Next Step Blackpool website to recruit Children's Social Workers and

Teachers to the area. In addition, there is ongoing investment in digital technologies to help improve capacity across the Council.

The Council's Constitution, including the Scheme of Delegation, sets out the arrangements and protocols which are in place to enable effective decision making within the authority.

The Council has in place effective arrangements to discharge the Head of Paid Service function and this role is undertaken by the Chief Executive.

The Council has designated a Monitoring Officer and Deputy with appropriate qualifications and experience. The Monitoring Officer has the specific duty to ensure that the Council, its officers and its Elected Members maintain the highest standards in all they do and is responsible to the Council for ensuring that governance procedures are followed and all applicable statutes and regulations are complied with.

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Responsibilities for Functions <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/The-Council/Council-constitution-and-plans/Part-3-Responsibility-for-functions.aspx>

Responsibilities for Functions - Officers <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/The-Council/Council-constitution-and-plans/Part-3-Responsibility-for-functions.aspx#Section9Officers>

Decision Making

The Constitution sets out the functions and responsibilities of the Council, the Executive and Committees. Included in this are the delegation arrangements adopted by the Council and the Executive and this is reviewed on a regular basis.

All Executive decisions contain all relevant policy implications including financial, risk management, human resources, equality analysis, ethical considerations, legal considerations and links to Council priorities. All Executive decisions are subject to finance and legal approval before they are taken forward for a decision to be made. The Monitoring Officer or a designated representative, receives all decisions before they are processed and therefore is able to check the robustness of data quality prior to a decision being submitted for formal approval.

Cabinet Member and relevant Officer Decisions are published to meet transparency requirements and inform the public.

A framework for undertaking compliance checks to ensure that decision making processes are appropriate has been developed and these reviews are jointly carried out by Internal Audit and Democratic Governance and the findings reported to Audit Committee.

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Agendas and Minutes <http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

Executive and Cabinet Member Decisions <http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?bcr=1>

Compliance with relevant Laws, Regulations, Internal Policies and Procedures

A wide range of corporate policies and procedures are in place to ensure compliance with laws and regulations. These cover all key areas including financial management, human resources, procurement, contract management, risk management, business continuity, data protection, health and safety management arrangements and safeguarding arrangements.

Internal and external audit arrangements are in place to provide a reasonable level of assurance on compliance with the Council's system of internal control.

The Council has obtained PSNN, PCI and N3 security compliance so that it can effectively share data with other organisations including the National Health Service and Department for Work and Pensions. There is an ongoing review of cyber risks and progress against this is monitored by the Audit Committee. An ICT Security Policy is in place.

An Information Governance Team is in place the Head of Service whom carries out the function of the Statutory Data Protection Officer and works with Council services to ensure that personal information is appropriately safeguarded in line with GDPR.

A Corporate Procurement and Projects Team is in place to support Heads of Services and Service Managers to undertake market engagement for those goods, services and works which are delivered through third-party organisations. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with the Public Contract Regulations Act 2015, European Union Procurement Directive 2014 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Standard Control Documents are used to ensure consistency of practice, demonstrate value for money and to maximise social value through tendering and contract arrangements.

Mandatory training is delivered in a number of ways including a mandatory training pack for non IT users and through the iPool online system for IT users. This ensures casual, temporary and permanent employees are aware of legislative requirements. Reporting tools have been developed to enable Managers to monitor completion of mandatory training courses and completion of Individual Performance Appraisals in real time.

The Council's Monitoring Officer has a role in ensuring that the Council acts within the remit of relevant law and regulations and that a robust democratic process ensures the application of the Constitution. The Monitoring Officer is responsible for the in-house legal team which serves as an additional control to ensure that the Council operates within the constraints of the law and the team hold LEXCEL accreditation.

A number of arrangements are in place to deal with potential breaches to compliance and these include a Corporate Complaints Panel and Serious Case Reviews. These are chaired independently of the service which has breached requirements to ensure that objective decisions can be taken.

A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Panel is in place which reviews any positive DBS's in relation to pre-employment checks to ensure Council wide robust and consistent decision making.

A Health and Safety Team is in place which provide advice, support and guidance to managers across the Council regarding compliance with health and safety legislation. The team is responsible for issuing the Corporate Arrangements which all employees should adhere too. The Health and Safety Team also undertake a programme of audits to ensure that managers maintain their manuals and comply with statutory requirements.

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Corporate Customer Feedback Policy <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Documents/Corporate-Customer-Feedback-Policy-0819-FINAL-VERSION-V1.1.pdf>

Data Protection and GDPR <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Transparency-and-open-data/Data-protection/Data-protection.aspx>

Financial Management

The Council has an appropriately qualified and experienced designated Chief Finance Officer who holds Section 151 responsibilities and a deputy has also been appointed. The Chief Finance Officer has arrangements in place for financial management, financial reporting and value for money which is assessed annually by the Council's external auditors.

Financial Regulations are in place which are supported by a Scheme of Delegation to ensure that managers are aware of the level of expenditure they are able to authorise.

The Council sets a lawful annual budget and is part way through a six-year Medium Term Financial Sustainability Strategy which runs to the end of the 2021/22 financial year. The associated plan is updated on an annual basis to enable early planning on the financial position to take place.

Monthly financial monitoring reports, starting from month 0, are reported to the Corporate Leadership Team, the Executive and Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

The Council's financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Finance Officer in Local Government (2016).

The Council facilitates a Public Inspection of the Accounts and publishes details of all payment transactions over and above the minimum requirements of the Transparency Code.

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Statutory Chief Finance Officer (holding Section 151 responsibilities)	https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Transparency-and-open-data/Pay-policy-and-salaries/Senior-employees.aspx#Directorofresources
Medium Term Financial Sustainability Strategy	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s16485/Medium%20Term%20Financial%20Sustainability%20Plan.pdf
Corporate Scheme of Delegation	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s56834/Appendix%20A%20Corporate%20Scheme%20of%20Delegation%201920.pdf
Financial Procedure Rules	https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/The-Council/Documents/Part4FinancialProcedureRules.pdf

Audit Arrangements

An Audit Committee is in place which is independent of the scrutiny function. As a full committee of the Council it is able to discharge all the core functions of an Audit Committee outlined in the CIPFA Audit Committee: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities (2018), from which the Committee has adopted the model terms of reference. Over the past twelve months the Chair of the Audit Committee has continued to raise the profile of the Audit Committee and has presented a report to Full Council on the work of the Committee and has proactively requested Chief Officers and Head of Services to attend Committee to be challenged and held to account where controls issues have been identified. An independent member position has co-opted onto the Committee to enhance the robustness of the Committee.

Modular training is delivered prior to each Audit Committee meeting to ensure that members have the appropriate skills and knowledge to effectively discharge their duties.

The Council has an internal audit team who prepare an Annual Internal Audit Plan which is approved by the Corporate Leadership Team and the Audit Committee. This includes a balance of risk and compliance work. The audit opinion and assurance statement for each audit is reported quarterly to the Audit Committee.

In 2019/20 the Head of Audit and Risk provided an Annual Audit Opinion that sufficient assurance work was undertaken to provide a reasonable conclusion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the control environment and that the overall control environment at the Council is adequate, with the exception of Children's Services where significant risks have been identified by Ofsted. Where weaknesses were identified through internal audit work the team have worked with management to agree appropriate remedial actions and a timescale for improvement.

The Council's internal audit arrangements conform to the governance requirements the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. An external review of the Council's compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards took place in 2016/17 which confirmed conformance with the standards. The recommendations made in the external assessment report have been incorporated into the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme for the service.

External audit arrangements are in place and representatives are invited to attend Audit Committee to present the findings of their work and raise any concerns which they may have.

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Internal Audit Charter 2019/20	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s43524/APPENDIX%208A%20Internal%20Audit%20Charter%202019-20.pdf
Internal Audit Plan 2019/20	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s43520/APPENDIX%206A%20Internal%20Audit%20Annual%20Plan%202019-20.pdf
Annual Audit Opinion 2019/20	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s54723/Appendix%205a%20-%20Annual%20Report%20and%20Opinion%20-%202019-20.pdf
Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme 2019/20	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s45883/Appendix%209a%20-%20Quality%20Assurance%20Improvement%20Programme%20-%202019-20.pdf

Risk Management

A Corporate Risk Management Group is in place to coordinate and promote risk management activity in line with the Council's Risk Management Framework 2018-2021. It is supported by directorate and thematic risk management groups.

All directorates have nominated risk champions to promote best practice in their areas and ensure that service level risk registers are in place and that risk registers are developed for major projects and partnerships where appropriate.

The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed by the Corporate Leadership Team and considered by the Audit Committee annually. Chief Officers identified in the Strategic Risk Register are required to attend Audit

Committee to explain how the risks are being managed and what further mitigating controls may be required.

Risk management should be considered for all decisions made by the Council and these are evidenced in the dedicated section on the decision making template.

A Corporate Business Continuity Plan and Critical Activities List are in place and this is supported by service level business continuity plans.

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Risk Management Framework 2018/21	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s29494/Appendix%206a%20Risk%20Management%20Framework%202018%20-2021.pdf
Strategic Risk Register 2019/20	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s45885/Appendix%208a%20Strategic%20Risk%20Register%202019-2020.pdf
Business Continuity Framework 2018/21	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/g4292/Public%20reports%20pack%2016th-Nov-2017%2018.00%20Audit%20Committee.pdf?T=10

Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Arrangements

The Council has developed counter fraud and anti-corruption arrangements in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption. A Fraud Prevention Charter has been developed and approved by the Corporate Leadership Team and the Audit Committee. Any suspected instance of fraud or corruption should be reported to the Head of Audit and Risk so that an appropriate investigation into the matter can be undertaken.

A dedicated Corporate Fraud Team is in place which deals with a range of corporate fraud issues and proactive work has commenced on high risk areas such as insurance fraud, blue badges and council tax. The Council has appropriate procedures in place to deal with the risk of money laundering and also to raise awareness of the Bribery Act and ensure that appropriate controls are in place to reduce the risk. An Anti-Money Laundering Policy is in place and this is supported by an iPool training course for employees to complete.

The Council participates in the National Fraud Initiative and progress against this and outcomes, are reported to Audit Committee on quarterly basis.

A corporate group is in place to review the Council's use of covert surveillance and to ensure compliance with the Regulatory of Investigatory Powers Act (2000).

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Fraud Prevention Charter 2019/20	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s43522/APPENDIX%207A%20%20Fraud%20Prevention%20Charter%202019-20.pdf
Anti-Money Laundering Policy	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s40222/APPENDIX%205a%20Anti-Money%20Laundering%20Policy%20and%20Procedure%20-%20October%202018.pdf
Covert Surveillance Policy	http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s49747/Appendix%206a%20DRAFT%20ORIPA%20POLICY%20UPDATE.pdf

Scrutiny Arrangements

Three Scrutiny Committees are in place which reflect the Council's priorities namely a Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee, Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee and an Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee. In May 2019, a Scrutiny Leadership Board was also introduced consisting of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the three committees and the Chair of the Audit Committee. This Board coordinates the work of the committees and manages the overall scrutiny work programme. There are also regular meetings with Senior Executive Members.

These committees help empower elected members and provide them with the opportunity to contribute to policy making, hold in-depth reviews and challenge and hold decision makers to account. These Committees meet on a regular basis and the minutes of the meetings and supporting documentation are published.

Elected member feedback on the revised scrutiny process has been positive and they consider this now enables a more balanced approach to scrutiny across all political parties.

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Scrutiny Committee Agendas and Minutes

<http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

Learning and Development

An Induction and Probation process is in place for all new employees in the Council. Following successful completion of the probation process employees will then receive a mandatory Individual Performance Appraisal (IPA). The IPA incorporates an annual and interim review, held at an appropriate time in a private, comfortable space and can be considered as the setting of a 'roadmap' for an employee for the coming twelve months.

A wide range of training is available corporately which is informed from Corporate Leadership team, Senior Leadership team, various workforce groups and the development needs identified in the Individual Performance Appraisals. The Council is committed to leadership development and various courses are available to continue to develop skills and knowledge. An aspiring leadership programme has been delivered but further work is required in relation to succession planning and this will form part of HRs Business Plan for 2020/21. The attainment of professional qualifications in relevant disciplines is encouraged and the Council is committed to funding studies where appropriate utilising the Apprenticeship Levy.

Many professionals across the Council maintain continuing professional development records to ensure they continue to meet the requirements of their professional bodies.

A Workforce Strategy is in place and steps have been taken through the new Business Planning Framework to better align workforce planning with the business plan process.

The Council encourage and promotes Apprenticeships to existing employees and through recruitment. The costs of training are funded through the Council's Apprenticeship Levy.

Project Search, the job scheme for young people with learning disabilities also ran for a third year where each of the students learn personal and job skills for a two month period before embarking on work placements to find a suitable job for them.

An induction programme is in place for all elected members. A three year development plan is in place for elected members which helps deliver training to help them fulfil their role. Elected members can have a personal development plan which helps to identify training needs.

The Council takes the Health and Wellbeing of employees very seriously and there is a comprehensive suite of support available in addition to an in house Occupational Health Service. This is promoted to employees via regular newsletters and a 'My Wellbeing' section on the Council's Hub.

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Workforce Strategy 2016-2020

<http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s11071/Appendix%203a%20Workforce%20Strategy.pdf>

Partnerships and Joint Working

The Council is involved in a number of key projects with partner organisations in order to transform the way in which services are delivered. Examples include Better Start and HeadStart which focus on early intervention in order to build resilience in the community. Boards with representation from partner organisations are also in place for key risks faced by the Council to introduce an element of independence and challenge. Transformation is also been achieved through the Opportunity Area funding stream which seeks to improve educational attainment.

The Council is invited to attend the VCFSE Leaders meetings and aims to work alongside and in partnership with our third sector colleagues. This includes work around community engagement, community development and working together to ensure a more resilient Blackpool. This includes involving third sector representatives on key boards such as the town deal and working together on projects including a Lancashire wide accord developed in partnership with local authorities, NHS and the third sector, aiming to streamline communication pathways and join working together. The Council's relationships with the third / voluntary sector have been further strengthened due to effectively working together in response to the pandemic starting in March 2020 and forging new ways of working together which can continue to be developed.

Arrangements are in place for the provision of Shared Services with Fylde Borough Council in a number of areas, the most significant being the Revenues and Benefits Service. Shared arrangements are also in place with Blackpool Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in relation to emergency planning and information governance. The Council is also working jointly with other Fylde Coast authorities on the development of an enterprise zone and other economic prosperity opportunities to improve the local economy.

The Council wholly owns 8 companies which are currently operating (7 companies limited by shares and 1 limited by guarantee). From a governance perspective each company has an adopted governance framework based on good practice codes in the corporate sector. The Boards generally comprise both councillor appointed non-executive directors and independent non-executive directors. The independent non-executive directors are in the majority. There is a group approach to corporate governance with the Company Secretary, Data Protection Officer and Head of Audit and Risk all appointed across the group which helps provide assurance to the various Boards of Directors and the Council in its role as shareholder.

The Council has a Shareholder's Advisory Board, (comprised of 3 elected members) which acts in order to ensure that the duties and responsibilities of the Council as the sole shareholder of each company are exercised through the Company and to manage overall relationships between the Company and the Council. The Shareholder's Advisory Board holds regular meetings with nominated Company representatives in relation to the strategic performance of each Company, in particular the business plan objectives and long term development and in doing so to provide feedback to the shareholder (as appropriate) and to each company on behalf of the shareholder. It also seeks assurance from each company on behalf of the shareholder, that there are appropriate controls in place for good governance and risk management matters. Meetings are held usually on two occasions per year with each company, with any others dependent on urgency of business.

Key Supporting Policies and Procedures

Shareholder's Advisory Board Agenda and Minutes

<http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=337>

Annual Review of Effectiveness

Blackpool Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework, including the system of internal control. The stages included in the review process and the key findings from each are summarised below.

Good Governance Group

A Good Governance Group was established in October 2016 and has led on the review of effectiveness and the production of the Annual Governance Statement to ensure that governance issues identified have subsequently been addressed. This group is chaired by the Director of Governance and Partnerships and attended by the Head of Audit and Risk, Head of Democratic Governance, Transformation Manager, Head of Legal Services, Head of ICT, Chief Accountant, Head of Information Governance and the Head of Organisation and Workforce Development.

An internal audit of the 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement was undertaken in 2019/20 the findings of which were reported to the Good Governance Group. Best practice recommendations arising out of this report have been incorporated into the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement.

Elected Member Workshop

A virtual workshop was held on the 30th July 2020 with elected member representation and facilitated by the Head of Audit and Risk, Director of Governance and Partnerships and the Transformation Manager.

The workshop was based around the principles of good governance and elected members were asked to establish what arrangements are already in place and these have been reflected in the overview of the governance framework included in this report. Elected members were also asked to identify areas for further development and these have been incorporated into the governance issues action plan.

Meetings were also held between the Leader of the Council, Chair of Audit Committee, Director of Governance and Partnerships and Head of Audit and Risk to discuss the interim AGS and the final draft of the AGS prior to the document being considered by the Audit Committee.

Key Officer Consultation

Key officers who are involved in governance were consulted as part of the production of the Annual Governance Statement. This consultation identified a number of areas of good practice and these have been summarised in the governance framework outlined earlier in this report and areas for improvement have been captured in the significant governance issues action plan.

Control Self-Assessment Questionnaire

The Corporate Leadership Team was required to complete a control self-assessment questionnaire providing assurance that their directorates were compliant with a number of key controls.

Review of 2019/20 Actions

A summary of the actions completed in 2019/20 can be seen in **Appendix 1** and any partially implemented actions have been carried forward into the 2020/21 action plan.

Mid-Term Review

Given the later approval of the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement a review of progress against the actions will be reported to the March 2021 Audit Committee rather than the usual January meeting of the Committee.

Assurance Statement

The results of the effectiveness of the governance framework have been considered by the Corporate Leadership Team and Audit Committee who have determined that the arrangements are fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework.

Governance Issues

Actions have been identified as part of the 2019/20 review of the effectiveness of the governance framework and these are captured in the following table. It should be noted that some of the issues identified are not deemed significant but have been included to aid openness and transparency.

Issue	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Date
Code of Conduct and Behaviours	<p>Consider the potential national changes to the Standards Framework and implement any changes identified as part of this.</p> <p>Develop a Local Code of Governance document which brings together and summarises the Council's overall approach to corporate governance</p>	<p>Director of Governance and Partnerships</p> <p>Director of Governance and Partnerships</p>	<p>After mid-term review</p> <p>After mid-term review</p>
Commitment to Openness, Communication and Consultation	<p>Continue to deliver the channel shift agenda to improve accessibility to residents and reduce demand on Council resources with a focus on helping with the recovery of Blackpool following the pandemic</p> <p>Implement a Community Engagement Strategy and supported guidance to ensure a coordinate and robust approach is in place building on the learning gained during responding to the current pandemic</p> <p>Continue to deliver the web development plan ensuring that the Council adheres to the new accessibility requirements which are being introduced</p> <p>Explore ways in which to improve communication with ward councillors so that they are aware of major developments in their areas.</p> <p>Further strengthen how we communicate to residents building on the findings of the Corporate Peer Review.</p> <p>Identify ways in which data relating to the use of our green and blue spaces can be collated to help inform future decisions in relation to development of these areas.</p>	<p>Director of Resources / Director of Communication and Regeneration</p> <p>Director of Public Health</p> <p>Director of Communication and Regeneration</p> <p>All Chief Officers</p> <p>Director of Communication and Regeneration</p> <p>Director of Community and Environmental Services</p>	<p>After mid-term review</p> <p>After mid-term review</p> <p>After mid-term review</p> <p>Before mid-term review</p> <p>After mid-term review</p> <p>After mid-term review</p>
Developing, Communicating and Translating the Vision	<p>Consider how to deliver a thank you to all employees for the work that they have undertaken during the pandemic.</p> <p>Complete the review of the Council Plan to ensure that the impact of the pandemic is captured and ensure that Council strategies are reviewed in light of the pandemic and amended accordingly.</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Strategy</p>	<p>Before mid-term review</p> <p>After mid-term review</p>

Issue	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Date
Performance Management	Ensure that the changes implemented as a result of the Ofsted Report on Children's Services are adequately embedded to drive performance improvements.	Director of Children's Services	After mid-term review
	The suite of Council Plan headline KPIs will be reviewed so that some of the measures around post-COVID recovery can be incorporated into ongoing performance reporting. This review will also look to incorporate KPIs for a new corporate priority around organisational resilience, as recommended in the Corporate Governance Peer Review which took place in March 2020.	Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Strategy	After mid-term review
	Implement the recommendations from the Corporate Peer Review once the report is received.	Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Strategy	After mid-term review
Compliance with Relevant Laws, Regulations, Internal Policies and Procedures	Ensure that data protection training is rolled out to staff who do not have IT access, monitor and renew the Council's Information Asset Register and develop a programme of GDPR compliance audits to ensure continued compliance with GDPR.	Director of Governance and Partnerships	After mid-term review
	Continue to explore procurement opportunities with local suppliers and look to provide training to local suppliers and elected members on procurement.	Director of Resources	After mid-term review
Audit Arrangements	Continue to embed effective working relations with the Council's new external auditors.	Director of Resources	After mid-term review
	Appoint to the vacant independent Audit Committee member post.	Director of Governance and Partnerships	Before mid-term review
	Opportunities to benchmark with other Audit Committees to continue to build on the success of the Committee will be explored.	Director of Governance and Partnerships	After mid-term review
Risk Management	The Audit Committee should seek assurance that systems of internal control have met the demands of the emergency response to Covid-19 and that where issues have been identified action has been taken to remedy these.	Director of Resources	After mid-term review
	Ensure that the Council has robust arrangements in place in preparation for the UK's exit from the European Union.	Director of Resources	Before mid-term review
	Ensure that robust arrangements are in place to take effective action regarding the Climate Emergency.	Chief Executive	After mid-term review

Issue	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Date
Learning and Development	Continue the roll-out of Windows 10 incorporating training on how to work smarter using Office 365	Director of Resources	After mid-term review
	A process will be put in place to enable all elected members to attend the modular training delivered to specific Committees. Where training is delivered virtually then consideration will be given to recording these sessions and make them available to all elected members.	Director of Governance and Partnerships	Before mid-term review
	Undertake further work on succession planning to build on the Aspiring Leadership programme which has been developed.	Chief Executive	After mid-term review
Partnership and Joint Working	Consideration will be given to developing an overarching partnership governance framework document setting out partnership governance principles and including a register of significant partnerships.	Director of Governance and Partnerships	After mid-term review
	Continue to work in partnership with the Lancashire Resilience Forum to ensure a pan-Lancashire approach to dealing with the current pandemic including longer term impacts on economic, social and environmental sustainability.	Chief Executive	After mid-term review
	Continue to strengthen communication with and support for the business sector particularly in terms of recovery from the pandemic and seek to maximise the benefits from opportunities such as the Enterprise Zone.	Director of Communication and Regeneration	After mid-term review
	Maximise the opportunity for digital literacy via the Fibre Blackpool project in order to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents.	Director of Resources	After mid-term review

Conclusion

We propose over the coming year to take steps to address the significant governance issues identified to further enhance governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

Signed: Cllr L Williams (Leader of the Council)

Signed: Neil Jack (Chief Executive)

Appendix 1 – Actions Completed in 2019/20

- The Communications Team now target specific groups of residents with specific messages using social media and also use more traditional forms of marketing and communication.
- Role descriptions for elected members were developed for key roles as part of the induction information which included knowledge, competencies and time commitment and this is supported by member induction training.
- Contract management arrangements have been strengthened through the launch of an iPool course for staff responsible for managing contracts and the appointment of a Social Value Coordinator. An internal audit review of contract management and social value was undertaken and the findings discussed with relevant members of CLT.
- A Driving at Work app has been developed and all employees who use their own vehicles on Council business are required to complete this. Failure to do so will result in mileage payments being suspended until the employees do comply.
- Joint working arrangements for fraud investigation with the DWP are now in place. These focus on cases where there is an interest in a joint prosecution such as where benefit and council tax fraud is suspected.
- A succession planning guide for managers has been developed and was launched alongside IPA 2019.
- A programme of Leadership training is in place and has been approved by CLT.
- The draft Community Engagement Strategy and Toolkit both encourage members to be notified of activity within their wards.
- Explored the potential of a mentoring system for newly elected members and decided on informal meetings to be decided via the political structure.
- Developed an information pack for managers to use with casual and agency staff for CLT approved mandatory training.
- The Council have visited to Wigan to assess the benefits of a Wigan deal approach to communications and engagement and consider what Blackpool can learn from this approach.
- Delivered the actions arising from the review of the scrutiny function by North West Employers via the working group which has been established.
- An employee conference was held in November 2019.

Section 9

Glossary of Terms

Accounting Period

The period of time covered by the accounts; normally a period of twelve months commencing on 1st April. The end of the accounting period is the Balance Sheet date.

Accruals

The concept that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

Acquired Operations

Operations comprise services and divisions of service as defined in Service Reporting Code of Practice. Acquired operations are those operations of the local authority that are acquired in the period.

Actuarial Gains and Losses

For a defined benefit scheme the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because:

- (a) events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experienced gains and losses); or
- (b) the actuarial assumptions have changed.

Agency Services

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

Asset

Items of worth that are measurable in terms of value. Current assets may change daily, but the Council is expected to yield the benefit within one financial year (eg short term debtors). Non-current assets yield benefit to the Council for a period of more than one year (eg land).

Associate Company

This is an entity other than a subsidiary or joint venture in which the Council has a participating interest and over whose operating and financial policies the Council is able to exercise significant influence.

Balance Sheet

A statement of the recorded assets, liabilities and other balances at the end of the accounting period.

Capital Charge

A charge to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of non-current assets used in the provision of services.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure above £15,000 on the acquisition of a non-current asset or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing fixed asset.

Capital Receipts

Proceeds above £10,000 from the sale of capital assets. Such income may only be used for capital purposes, i.e. to repay existing loan debt or to finance new capital expenditure. Any receipts which have not yet been utilised as described are referred to as "capital receipts unapplied".

Carrying Amount

The balance sheet value recorded of either an asset or a liability.

Cash Limited Budget

A defined figure set by the Council that represents the maximum expenditure that a service can spend on its particular activities.

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy - the Institute provides financial and statistical information for local government and other public sector bodies and advises central government and other bodies on local government and public finance matters.

Collection Fund

A statutory account which billing authorities have to maintain for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates.

Community Assets

Assets that the local authority intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life and that may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples of community assets are parks and historic buildings.

Consistency

The principle that the accounting treatment of like items within an accounting period and from one period to the next is the same.

Contingent Asset

A contingent asset is a possible asset arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the local authority's control.

Contingent Liability

A contingent liability is either:

- (a) a possible obligation arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the authority's control; or
- (b) a present obligation arising from past events where it is not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Council Tax

A banded property tax which is levied on domestic properties throughout the country. The banding is based on estimated property values as at 1st April 1991. The level of tax is set annually by each local authority for the properties in its area.

Creditors

Amounts owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered to it during the accounting period, but for which payment has not been made by the balance sheet date.

Current Service Cost (Pensions)

The increase in the present value of a defined benefit scheme's liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

Curtailement

For a defined benefit scheme, an event that reduces the expected years of future services of present employees or reduces for a number of employees the accrual of defined benefits for some or all of their future service. Curtailments include:

- termination of employees' services earlier than expected, for example as a result of closing a factory or discontinuing a segment of a business, and
- termination of, or amendment to the terms of, a defined benefit scheme so that some or all future service by current employees will no longer qualify for benefits or will qualify only for reduced benefits.

Debtors

Amounts due to the Council which relate to the accounting period and have not been received by the balance sheet date.

Defined Benefit Scheme

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contribution scheme. Usually, the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded (including notionally funded).

Defined Contribution Scheme

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme into which an employer pays regular contributions fixed as an amount or as a percentage of pay and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the scheme does not have sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Depreciation

The measure of the cost or revalued amount of the benefits of the non-current asset that have been consumed during the period.

Consumption includes the wearing out, using up or other reduction in the useful life of a fixed asset, whether arising from use, effluxion of time or obsolescence through either changes in technology or demand for the goods and services produced by the asset.

Discontinued Operations

Operations comprise services and divisions of service as defined in CIPFA's Standard Classification of Income and Expenditure. An operation should be classified as discontinued if all the following conditions are met:

- the termination of the operation is completed either in the period or before the earlier of three months after the commencement of the subsequent period and the date on which the financial statements are approved.

- the activities relating to the operations have ceased permanently.
- the termination of the operation has a material effect on the nature and focus of the local authority's operations and represents a material reduction in its provision of services resulting either from its withdrawal from a particular activity (whether a service or division of service or its provision in a specific geographical area) or from a material reduction in net expenditure in the local authority's continuing operations.
- the assets, liabilities, income and expenditure of operations and activities are clearly distinguishable physically, operationally and for financial reporting purposes.

Operations not satisfying all these conditions are classified as continuing.

Discretionary Benefits

Retirement benefits which the employer has no legal, contractual or constructive obligation to award and are awarded under the authority's discretionary powers, such as the Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996.

Earmarked Reserves

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

Emoluments

All sums paid to or receivable by an employee and sums due by way of expenses allowances (as far as those sums are chargeable to UK income tax) and the money value of any other benefits received other than in cash. Pension contributions payable by either employer or employee are excluded.

Estimation Techniques

The methods adopted by an entity to arrive at estimated monetary amounts, corresponding to the measurement bases selected, for assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes to reserves.

Estimation techniques implement the measurement aspects of accounting policies. An accounting policy will specify the basis on which an item is to be measured; where there is uncertainty over the monetary amount corresponding to that basis, the amount will be arrived at by using an estimation technique.

Estimation techniques include, for example:

- Methods of depreciation, such as straight line and reducing balance, applied in the context of a particular measurement basis, used to estimate the proportion of the economic benefits of a non-current asset consumed in period.
- Different methods used to estimate the proportion of debts that will not be recovered, particularly where such methods consider a population as a whole rather than individual balances.

Exceptional Items

Material items which derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the authority and which need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their size or incidence to give fair presentation of the accounts.

Expected Rate of Return on Pension Assets

For a funded defined benefit scheme, the average rate of return, including both income and changes in fair value but net of scheme expenses, expected over the remaining life of the related obligation on the actual assets held by the scheme.

Extraordinary Items

Material items possessing a high degree of abnormality, which derive from events or transactions that fall outside the ordinary activities of the authority and which are not expected to recur.

Fair Value

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.

Finance Lease

A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a non-current asset to the lessee. Such a transfer of risks and rewards may be presumed to occur if at the inception of the lease the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any initial payment, amounts to substantially all of the fair value of the leased asset.

Financial Instruments

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another.

Financial Year

The Council's financial year runs from the 1st April through to the following 31st March.

Formula Grant

Grant distributed by formula through the local government finance settlement. It comprises Revenue Support Grant and redistributed business rates (NNDR). It is a general subsidy towards council spending and is not ring-fenced for specific services.

General Fund

The main revenue account of the Council which brings together all income and expenditure other than that recorded in the Housing Revenue Account and the Collection Fund.

Heritage Asset

A tangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

Housing Revenue Account

A statutory account which local authorities have to maintain if they provide public housing and which includes all income and expenditure relating to the administration and maintenance of council dwellings and related properties.

Impairment

A reduction in the value of a fixed asset below its value brought forward in the Balance Sheet. Examples of factors which may cause such a reduction in value include general price decreases, a significant decline in a fixed asset's market value and evidence of obsolescence or physical damage to the asset.

Infrastructure Assets

Fixed assets that are inalienable, expenditure on which is recoverable only by continued use of the asset created. Examples are highways and footpaths.

Interest Cost (Pensions)

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

International Accounting Standards (IAS)

Accounting standards developed by the International Accounting Standards Board that are primarily applicable to general purpose company accounts. These standards are adopted by the CIPFA Code of Practice except where the standards conflict with specific statutory requirements.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

Financial reporting standards developed by the International Accounting Standards Board.

Inventories

The amount of unused or unconsumed stocks held in expectation of future use. When use will not arise until a later period, it is appropriate to carry forward the amount to be matched to the use or consumption when it arises. Stocks comprise the following categories: goods or other assets purchased for resale, consumable stores, raw materials and components purchased for incorporation into products for sale, products and services in intermediate stages of completion, long-term contract balances and finished goods.

Investments (Non Pensions Fund)

A long-term investment is an investment that is intended to be held for use on a continuing basis in the activities of the authority. Investments should be so classified only where an intention to hold the investment for the long term can clearly be demonstrated or where there are restrictions as to the investor's ability to dispose of the investment.

Investments, other than those in relation to the pension fund, that do not meet the above criteria should be classified as current assets.

Investment Properties

Property, which can be land or buildings or both, that is held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both, rather than for operational purposes.

Liabilities

These are amounts due to individuals or organisations which will have to be paid at some time in the future. Current liabilities are usually payable within one year of the Balance Sheet date.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

Minimum revenue provision is the minimum amount which must be charged to an Authority's revenue account each year and set aside as provision for credit liabilities, as required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

A tax levied on business properties and sometimes known as Business Rates. An NNDR poundage is set annually by the Government. Sums based on rateable values are collected by billing authorities and paid into

a national pool. The proceeds are then redistributed by central government as a grant to local authorities in proportion to adult population.

Net Book Value (NBV)

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

Net Current Replacement Cost

The cost of replacing or recreating the particular asset in its existing condition and in its existing use, i.e. the cost of its replacement or of the nearest equivalent asset, adjusted to reflect the current condition of the existing asset.

Net Realisable Value

The open market value of an asset in its existing use less the expenses to be incurred in realising the asset.

Non-current Assets

Assets that yield benefits to the local authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

Operating Leases

Leases which do not meet the definition of a finance lease, ie where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to the ownership of the property, plant and equipment from the lessor to the lessee, are accounted for as operating leases.

Outside the Cash Limit

Services, which due to their volatility, are not part of the cash limited budgets regime. These services include Parking Services and Housing Benefits.

Outturn

Actual expenditure and income compared to the budget.

Past Service Cost

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

Precept

The amount collected by the Council on behalf of other bodies.

Prior Period Adjustments

These are material adjustments which are applicable to an earlier period arising from changes in accounting policies or for the correction of fundamental errors.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

A central Government initiative which aims to increase the level of funding available for public services by attracting private sources of finance. The PFI is supported by a number of incentives to encourage Authority's participation.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

PPE are tangible assets (ie assets that have physical substance) that are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and are expected to be used during more than one year.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

An arm of central government which is the major provider of loans to finance long term funding requirements for local authorities.

Provision

An amount set aside by the Council for any liability of uncertain timing or amount that has been incurred.

Prudential Code for Capital Finance

The Code was introduced from 1st April 2004. The basic principle of the Code is that local authorities will be free to invest so long as their capital spending plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Code sets out indicators that the authority must use and factors that they must take account to demonstrate that they have fulfilled this objective.

Reserves

Amounts set aside in the accounts to meet expenditure which the Council may be committed to in future periods, but not allocated to specific liabilities which are certain or very likely to occur.

Earmarked reserves are allocated to a specific purpose or area of spending. Unallocated reserves are often described as balances.

Revenue Expenditure

Expenditure incurred on the day-to-day running of the Council.

Revenue Support Grant

A central government grant paid to each local authority to help to finance its general expenditure. The distribution of the grant between authorities is intended to allow the provision of similar standards of service throughout the country for a similar council tax levy.

Work in Progress

The cost of work undertaken up to a specified date on an uncompleted revenue project.