

Statement of accounts

2022/23



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

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Narrative Statement

Introduction

The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The Statement of Accounts provides information to enable members of the public, Councillors, partners, stakeholders and other interested parties to:

- Understand the financial position and outturn for 2022/23
- Have confidence that public money has been accounted for in an appropriate manner.
- Be assured that the financial position of the Council is sound and secure.

The Narrative report provides information about the district, including issues and challenges affecting the Council and its accounts, the political make up, the ambitions of the Council and an overview of the many achievements that have been made to improve the quality of life of our residents, businesses and visitors.

Information about the Council

Political Structure

The Council has 30 Wards represented by 56 Members. The political composition of the Council following the election on 4 May 2023 is as follows: 24 Conservatives, 7 Democratic Independents, 7 Grantham Independents, 5 Independents, 4 Green Party, 4 Liberal Democrats, 3 South Kesteven Independents and 2 Labour and Co-operative. The Conservative and South Kesteven Independent Group have formed the South Kesteven Coalition Group which consists of 27 members, the remaining groups have formed a majority coalition of 29 members.

The Council operates with a Cabinet structure, six Overview and Scrutiny Committees and a Governance and Audit Committee responsible for corporate governance and approval of the Statement of Accounts. There is also an Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committee, Employment Committee, Licensing Committee, Planning Committee and Standards Committee.

The Cabinet is chaired by the Leader of the Council with each member of the Cabinet being allocated a portfolio, or area of the Council's business, through the Leader's Scheme of Delegation. The Cabinet has executive decision-making powers and meets on a monthly basis.

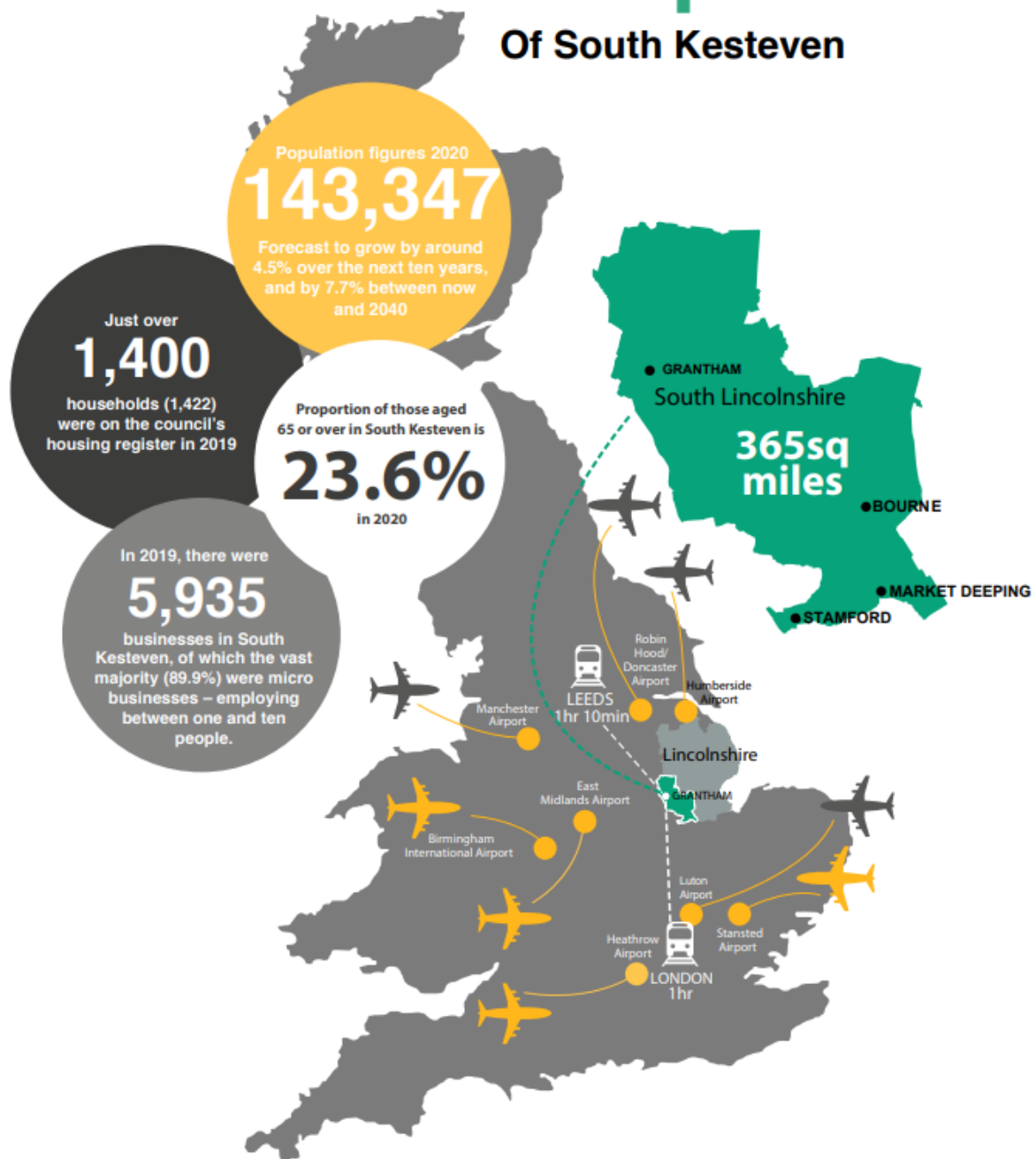
In line with legislation and the Constitution, a number of areas of decision making are the responsibility of the Cabinet and senior officers, with Council retaining ultimate responsibility for the Policy and Budgetary Framework of the Council.

All Council public meetings can be viewed live online which can be accessed via details on each agenda pack.

About the District

South Kesteven is a largely rural district located in the south-west corner of Lincolnshire incorporating the four distinctive market towns of Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings and over 80 rural villages.

Snapshot Of South Kesteven



Services Provided by the Council

SKDC has a reputation of being an outward looking Council that is keen to engage and partner with external organisations and stakeholders. It provides a range of services to the population of approximately 143,400 residents which includes:

- Providing a comprehensive arts and leisure offer
- Providing high quality street scene services

- Providing high quality grounds maintenance through its wholly owned company – EnvironmentSK Ltd. EnvironmentSK Ltd ceased operating on 31 March 2023 and the services it provided were transferred back to the Council.
- Providing high quality leisure centre services through its wholly owned company – LeisureSK Ltd
- Providing Customer and Community Access Hubs
- Supporting residents manage their bills by providing housing benefit and council tax support Landlord services for approximately 5,850 social rented properties which includes the provision of a repairs and maintenance service for all the Council properties.
- Providing homelessness support to those most in need
- Considering and administering Planning and Building Control applications
- Managing car parks and public conveniences
- Compiling and maintaining the electoral register and administering elections

The Council also provides a number of services which support these operational functions including Human Resources, Financial Services, Legal Services, Democratic Services and Communications.

The Council's Outlook

Financial Environment

As with most authorities financial planning remains challenging with continued uncertainty surrounding future funding arrangements alongside inflationary pressures which are significantly increasing the cost of fuel, utilities and construction. The Council received a one-year settlement for 2023/24 and high-level planning assumptions for 2024/25 which will assist with medium term financial planning. The 2023/24 budget was approved by Council on 1 March 2023 which set out a three-year position detailing the funding challenges alongside the changes to the national funding arrangements. In the medium term, the exact timing of the funding challenges remains unclear, due to unknown funding settlement information and the spend profile of key priority projects. The Council is not complacent and is already modelling the sensitivity of future financial pressures will enable plans to be produced to reduce operating expenditure and create financial headroom in order to meet the challenges ahead.

Governance and Risk

In accordance with the Local Code of Corporate Governance and best practice, the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) covers all significant corporate systems, processes and controls spanning the whole range of the Council's activities. It provides an overview of the Council's key governance systems and explains how they are tested and the assurances that can be relied on to show that the systems are working effectively. The AGS has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework and conforms to the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance and covers all significant corporate systems, processes and controls across all of the Council's activities.

The Council has an effective risk and performance management framework which is embedded across all areas of business activity. Risk registers are maintained at a corporate and service area level. Corporate risks are reported to the Corporate Management Team and to the Governance and Audit Committee biannually. We have focussed performance management arrangements on the Corporate Plan actions which enables effective monitoring, control and reporting across the programmes of activity and also supports managers and leading officers with training and project management tools, techniques and performance management advice. In accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code, we publish how we spend our money, how we use our assets, how we make decisions and have regard to issues important to local people.

The Council's internal auditors, Assurance Lincolnshire, identified that Governance, Risk and Internal Controls were performing adequately across the Council and that Financial Control was performing inadequately. The performance rating for Financial Control was based on three internal audits that were completed during 2022/23, the Capital Programme and Accounts Payable audits both received a rating of substantial assurance and Accounts Receivable which received a rating of low assurance. Action plans have been put in place to address all outstanding actions particularly in those areas where management concerns have also been raised and further work is required to strengthen the control framework. The completion of the identified actions is monitored by internal audit on a quarterly basis.

Key 2022/23 Achievements

Council approved the 2020-2023 South Kesteven Corporate Plan on 1 October 2020. The Corporate Plan sets out the strategic vision to “*Be the best district in which to live, work and visit*” and the 5 key priorities of the Council are:



The Corporate Plan underpins the Council's strategic focus and provides the performance framework for managing the delivery of the actions and priorities in the Plan. It is good practice for a public sector organisation seeking to deliver a wide set of aims and objectives to set out a Corporate Plan and regularly review the activity and achievements against it. The key achievements against the plan are summarised below:

Environment

- In 2022/23 the Council delivered the Garden Waste service to 36,839 customers against a target of 36,252.
- The commercial waste service was delivered an average of 744 customers during 2022/23 compared with 676 customers in 2021/22.
- Levels of recycling have reduced across the district, at 35.10% compared with 42.38% in 2021/22. This is just below the minimum target level for recycling of 42.5%, we are working with our Lincolnshire Waste Partnership authorities to improve this position. A countywide campaign seeks to reduce the proportion of non-recyclable materials collected in 2022/23 the Council achieved 27.58% (2021/22 29.7%) which exceeds the target set of less than 30% for non-recyclable materials.
- There are twelve electric vehicle charging points in South Kesteven District Council car parks. In 2022/23 the target for number of miles generated was 35,000, this was exceeded as 56,287 (2021/22 42,879) was achieved. The carbon tonnes saved was 10.75 (2021/22 8.3) against a target of 7 and the Charging Point Utilisation was 16.44% (2021/22 11.65%) against a target of 10%.
- Following the acquisition of land to build a new, modern depot a design team have been appointed, the project is at detailed design stage with a revised scope to include the grounds maintenance service. A planning application will be submitted in October 2023.

Corporate

- Full Council approved a balanced financial plan for 2022/23 on 1 March 2022.
- Savings of £0.704m (2021/22 £0.142m) were achieved which will assist the Council with delivering a balanced, sustainable plan over the medium term.
- The Council provided 11 (2021/22 15) apprenticeships against a target of 10.
- In 2022/23 the Council achieved spend of 23% with local suppliers which is a reduction on the spend in 2021/22 of 55%
- Business Rates Relief of £3.773m was awarded during the year following the extension of the scheme by Government.
- Household Support Fund payments of £0.594m against a target of £0.592m were awarded during the year.
- The Mental Health Working Party continued to work collaboratively across the district to promote positive mental health in our communities and colleagues. Mental Health First Aid training was delivered to 28 staff and 7 councillors.
- The amounts collected from Council Tax 98.48% (2021/22 98.64%), Non-Domestic Rates 97.95% (2021/22 98.32%)
- 2.72% of arrests were achieved for incidents where CCTV was proactively used against a target of 3%

Growth & Culture

- In 2022/23 the Council achieved 73 newly engaged visitor economy attractions against a target of 40 which included the delivery of a Tourism Networking Event in quarter 4.
- There was an increased focus on increasing the uptake of the HelloSK app, by quarter 4 200 businesses and over 1,000 residents had signed up to the app.
- The visitor economy spend target of £113.344 target was significantly exceeded as spend of £168.630m was achieved.
- Following the adoption of the Sports and Physical Activity Strategy excellent working relationships have been developed with partners including LeisureSK Ltd, Active Lincolnshire and Lincs Inspire. Officers are working closely with LeisureSK Ltd to identify alternative ways to engage with residents outside of a traditional leisure centre setting. Recent successes have been the expansion of the healthy walks programme and the introduction of a fitness class in the Deepings which was funded by Active Lincolnshire.
- The Heritage Action Zone programme in Grantham achieved £328k of public sector grant spend in 2022/23 against a target of £372k and leveraged £286k of private sector investment against a target of £45k. By the end of quarter 4 6 projects were in progress which includes the works at Westgate Hall and 2 had been completed.
- The Council supported 115 businesses against a target of 60 and 6 business received specific support which resulted in them relocating into the district against of target of 2.
- In 2022/23 100% of major planning applications were determined in time against a target of greater than 60% and 80% of non-major planning applications were determined in time against a target of greater than 70%.
- The Local Plan was adopted on 30 January 2020. The number of new houses completed was 642 (2021/22 485) against a target of 650. The new houses delivered included 151 (2021/22 116) affordable homes against a target of 100.
- The Council supported 123 community groups who provide volunteering opportunities against a target of 98.

Housing & Property

- There were 471 (2021/22 460) empty homes in the district which is under the average for East Midlands of 624 during the same period.
- The average housing void rate was 106.74 days compared with 83.46 days in 2021/22.
- 94.77% (2021/22 94.26%) of the Council Housing stock met the decent homes standard against a target of 100%.
- 99.2% of properties had a valid gas certificate in 2022/23 against a target of 100%.
- The Council prevented 14 homelessness cases against a target of 47. The prevailing housing market, access into the private sector continues to be a huge challenge and is placing pressure on homelessness and homelessness prevention.
- The amounts collected from Housing Rent 97.66% (2021/22 97.75%) against a target of 97.35%.
- The Council has replaced over 150 solid fuel heating systems with modern efficient storage heaters or air source heat pumps which were funded through the LAD2 programme.

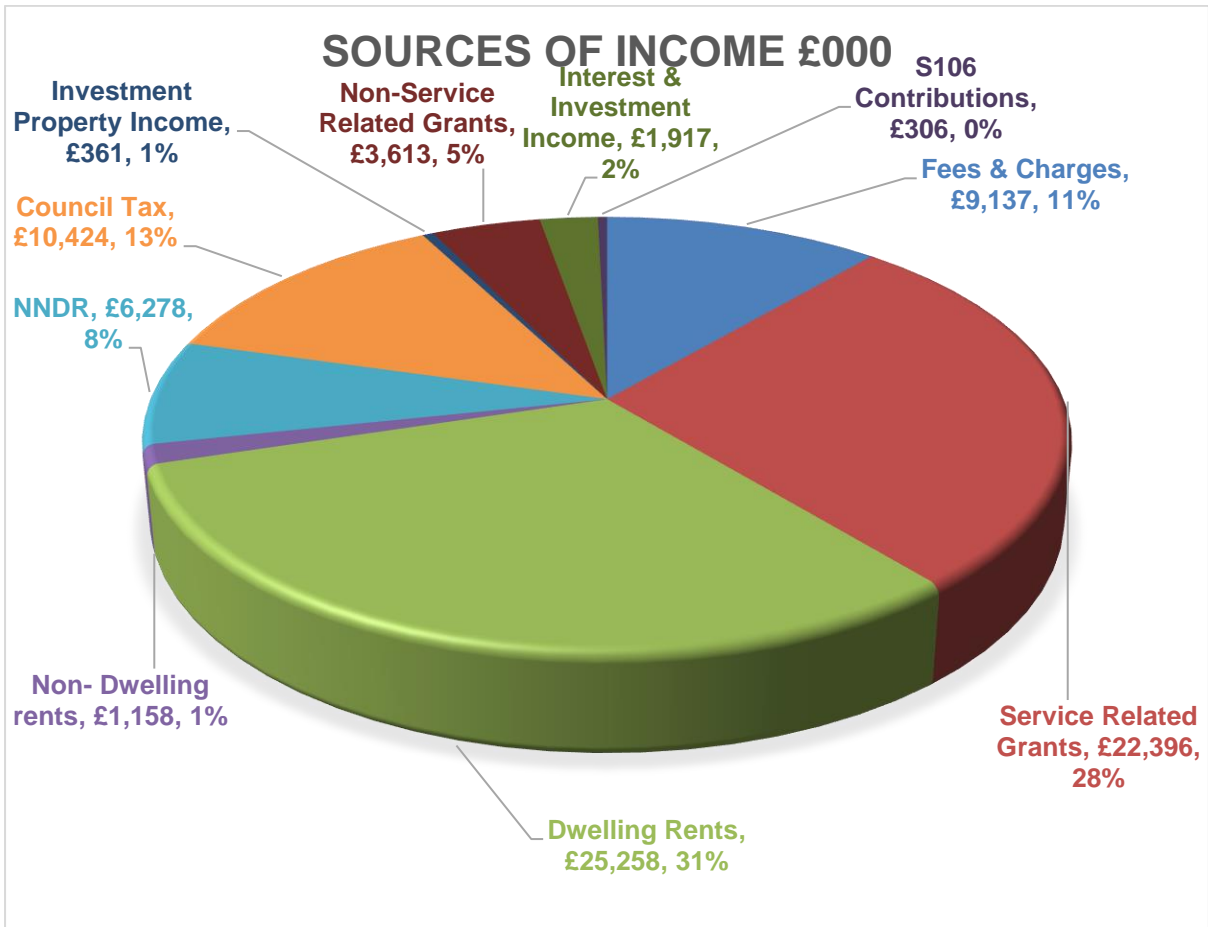
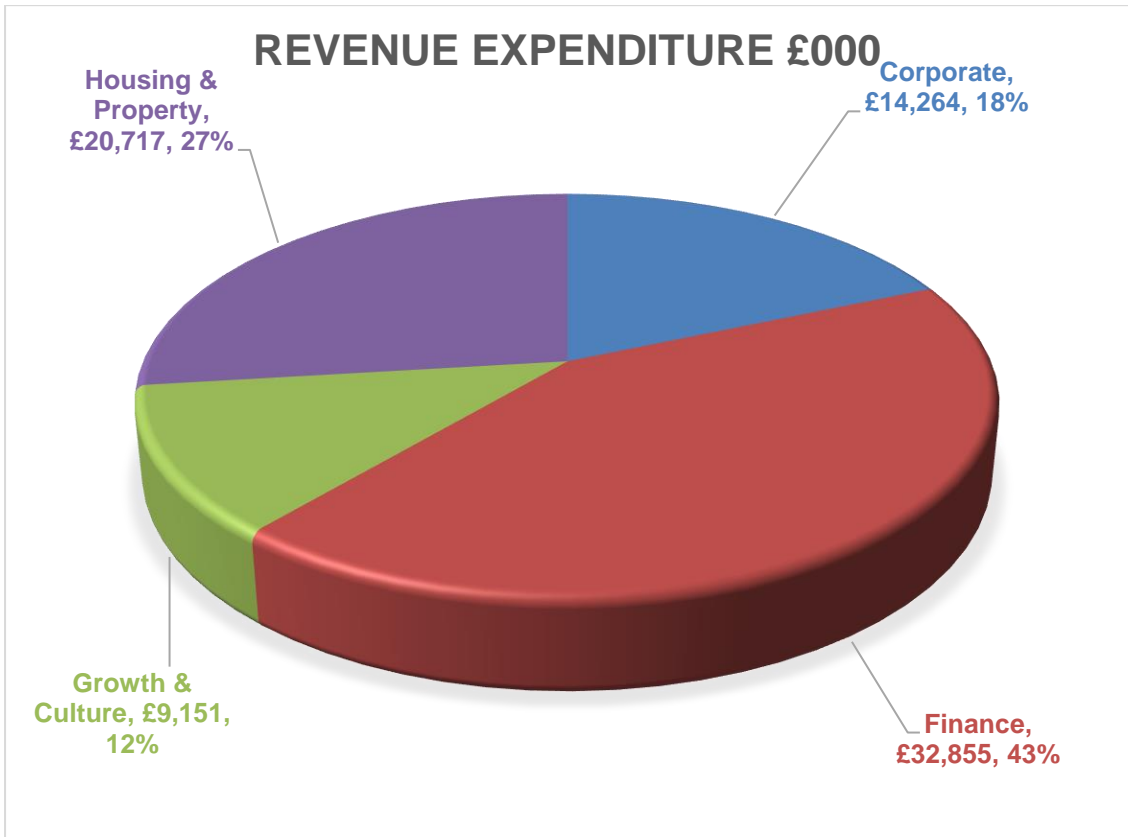
2022/23 Financial Performance

From a financial perspective, 2022/23 has continued to be a challenging year due to the increased financial pressure due to the significant increase in inflation. As part of the 2021/22 outturn report the Council created a £500k Inflation Reserve to absorb any costs pressures during the year. There was no requirement to use this reserve during 2022/23 due to revenue savings achieved during the year and the increased income received from investments. This reserve has since been reallocated to the Council's budget stabilisation reserve,

Revenue Expenditure and Income

Revenue expenditure is generally on items that are consumed within a year and is financed by Council Tax, Government Grants, National Domestic Rates and other income. Gross Revenue expenditure in 2022/23 totalled £76.987m compared with £77.081m in 2021/22. Although the gross expenditure has remained consistent between financial years there have been movements in the gross expenditure incurred in the Corporate, Growth and Culture and Housing Property Directorates. Expenditure in the Growth and Culture Directorate has reduced by £2.699m between 2021/22 and 2022/23, this difference primarily relates to a reduction in employee expenses, capital charges and third-party payments. The expenditure in the Housing and Property Directorate has increased by £3.394m between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which primarily relates to an increase in capital charges, supplies and services and premises expenses which is offset by a reduction in employee and transport expenditure. Expenditure in the Corporate Directorate has reduced by £0.905m between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which primarily relates to a reduction in employee expenses of £0.962m. Gross Revenue income in 2022/23 totalled £57.950m compared with £61.590m in 2021/22. This difference is due to a decrease in government grants and contributions income of £4.705m which is due to a reduction of £0.460m in Housing Benefit income, and a £4.5m reduction in income from government grants which relates to grant income the council received in 2021/22 to fund expenditure relating to the Household Support Fund, Discretionary Business Grants, Test and Trace and the Leisure Recovery Fund.

The following charts show the spend in each directorate during 2022/23 and the sources of funding which the Council received:



Revenue Budget

Each year the Council produces a 3-year budget which is approved by Full Council in March, this budget is then monitored and adjusted throughout the year to reflect where expenditure is expected to be incurred and as new priorities are approved. Table 1 shows the adjusted revenue budget compared with the actual net expenditure by directorate at 31 March 2023:

Table 1 - Revenue Outturn Position

Directorate	2022/23 Current Budget £'000	2022/23 Adjusted Budget £'000	2022/23 Outturn £'000	2022/23 Variance £'000
Corporate	9,843	9,504	9,744	240
Finance	5,095	4,957	4,432	(525)
Growth & Culture	6,979	6,554	5,429	(1,125)
Housing & Property	3,079	2,021	3,746	1,725
Housing Revenue Account Recharge	(2,787)	(2,787)	(2,787)	0
Sub-total	22,209	20,249	20,564	315
Housing Revenue Account	(6,121)	(6,428)	(1,888)	4,540
Net Cost of Services	16,088	13,821	18,676	4,855
Investment Property*			361	
Adjusted Net Cost of Services Total			19,037	

*The net cost of service is adjusted at year end to transfer these items below the line as per accounting regulations

General Fund Outturn

The outturn position shown at table 1 details a net overspend of £0.315m when compared with the adjusted budget. This underspend includes a number of statutory accounting adjustments which are reversed out to ensure there is no impact on the taxpayer. The outturn position following the removal of the accounting adjustments results in an underspend of £0.796m. There are several under and overspends which account for this variance, detailed explanations are provided in Appendix B of the Outturn Report for 2022/23 which can be accessed via the following link.

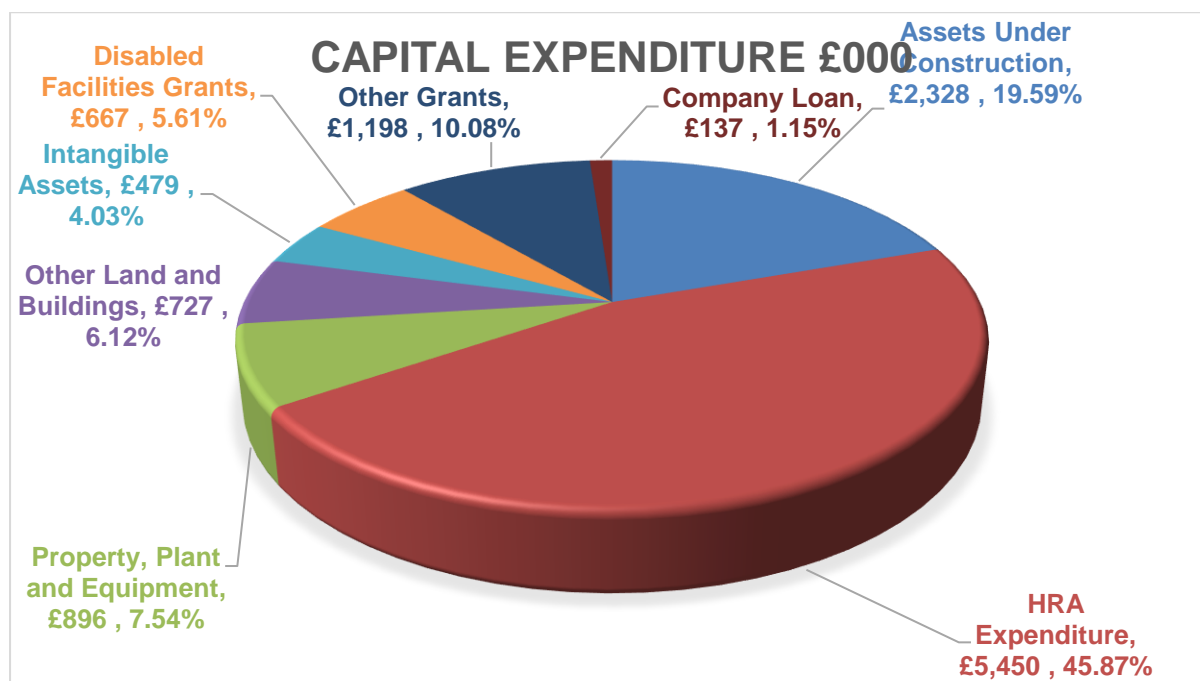
[Outturn report - Appendix B - 2022-23 General Fund Revenue Significant Variance Analysis.pdf](#)

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn

The outturn position for the HRA shown at table 1 details a decreased in year surplus of £4.540m (2022/23 £0.637m decreased surplus) when compared with the adjusted budget. The difference between 2021/22 and 2022/23 mainly relates to a reduced revaluation gain in 2022/23 of £1.694m compared with a gain of £6.902m in 2021/22, a reduced impairment charge of £5.450m in 2022/23 compared with £6.485m in 2021/22 these are reversed using statutory accounting adjustments so there is no impact on Council resources.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure is defined as expenditure over £10k incurred on assets which have a life exceeding one year. The Council incurred expenditure totalling £11.882m in 2022/23 compared with £13.974m in 2021/22. This difference mainly relates to a decrease of £1.485m in expenditure on HRA major repair works in 2022/23. A £2.155m reduction in expenditure in 2022/23 on assets under construction which mainly relates to a reduction in expenditure of £1.451m on new builds, £0.397m expenditure on the new depot site compared with £2.591m expenditure in 2021/22 and £1.539m expenditure on the St Martin's Park project. An increase in the expenditure on intangible assets of £0.456m which primarily relates to the expenditure on the new Housing Management System. An increase in the expenditure on other grants of £1.115m which relates to the Retail Enhancement, Future High Streets Fund and Sustainable Warmth Grant capital schemes. The following chart details the capital expenditure incurred in 2022/23.



It can be seen from the chart that 19.59% of the capital expenditure was on assets under construction. This expenditure primarily relates to £1.539m on St Martins Park, Stamford, £397k on design works for the new depot, and £391k has been invested in developing new homes in the HRA.

Expenditure on the HRA accounts for 45.86% of the total capital expenditure, the £5.450m incurred related to enhancing Council dwellings, for example replacing roofs, kitchens and bathrooms.

Other Land and Buildings accounts for 6.12% of the capital expenditure incurred. This expenditure relates to improvements works of £0.064m on the Grantham Meres Leisure Centre, £0.247m on Stamford Arts Centre and £0.119m at Welham Street Car Park Grantham.

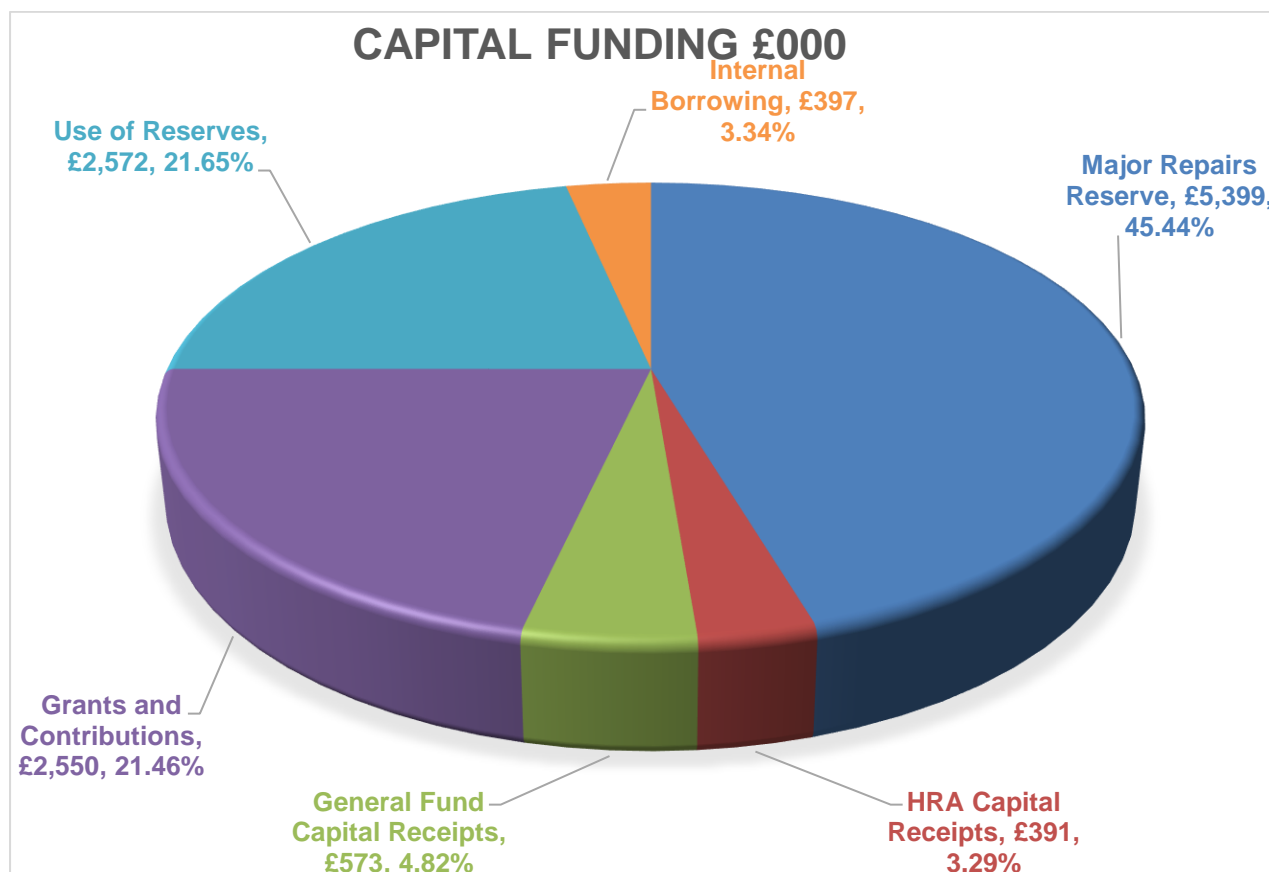
Property, Plant and Equipment accounts for 7.55% of the expenditure incurred. This expenditure includes £0.724m on vehicles, £0.195m was invested in new equipment which includes £0.121m on wheelie bin replacement and £0.055m on park equipment.

The other forms of capital expenditure relate to capital grants released to finance capital assets owned by third parties, heritage and intangible assets. £667k was incurred on Disabled

Facilities Grants, £0.741m on Retail Enhancements and the Future High Streets and £0.452m on Sustainable Warmth Grant which are financed by Government Grants.

Capital Financing

The Council has funded the 2022/23 Capital Programme from Capital Receipts, Government Grants, the Major Repairs Reserve, Other Grants and Contributions and Use of Reserves. The following charts details the financing of the capital expenditure:



Note - £3.222m of HRA loan repayment and £0.136m Minimum Revenue Provision were also financed from working balances.

The Non-Enhancing Capital expenditure incurred by the HRA has been financed by the Green Homes Grant and the Major Repairs Reserve which is ring-fenced to finance HRA capital expenditure and HRA debt repayment. The assets that are currently being constructed were financed using the HRA capital receipts received from the disposal of HRA assets.

The Council released £2.572m of reserves to finance 21.65% of the remaining expenditure. The main use of these reserves was to finance the St Martin's Park Development (£1.289m), wheelie bin replacement (£0.121m), replacement Housing Management system (£0.450m), improvement works at Stamford Arts Centre (£0.194k) and Welham Street Car Park (£0.119m) and equipment and replacement vehicles (£0.224m).

The council utilised £2.550m of grants and contributions of which £0.667m was used to finance the disabled facilities grants, £0.311m was used to finance retail enhancements, £0.298m for the Future High Street Fund project, £0.600m on sustainable warmth, £0.250m contribution towards the cost of the St Martin's Park development and £0.285m S106 contribution to fund the acquisition of a Council Dwelling.

The Council internally borrowed £0.397m to fund the works and the associated design works for the new depot site.

General Fund Capital Receipts were utilised finance the replacement costs of vehicles (£0.383m), the cost of the Loan to LeisureSK for replacement gym equipment at Bourne Leisure Centre (£0.137m) and to part finance the works at Stamford Arts Centre (£52k).

At 31 March 2023 the balance on the ring-fenced Major Repairs Reserve was £19.553m which will be invested in continuing to enhance Council dwellings and other HRA assets. The balance of £12.156m on the HRA capital receipts reserve will be used to increase Council housing stock. The General Fund capital receipts reserve had a balance of £3.501m. The Council continues to generate its own resources through the disposal of assets deemed to be surplus. During 2021/22 £3.625m of HRA capital receipts were received which mainly relate to the sale of Council dwellings.

Capital and Revenue Budget Monitoring

The Council monitors its capital and revenue budgets on a monthly basis and produces quarterly monitoring reports which are presented to the Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. These reports highlight significant under and overspends so that members are aware of any potential financial pressures that may arise from these variances. Any financial pressures which are expected to impact on future years are incorporated into the Medium-Term Financial Plan and the budget report for the following year. The 2022/23 Revenue and Capital Outturn report presented to Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Governance and Audit Committee provides further detail on the variances between the adjusted budget and actual spend.

LOOKING FORWARD

Strategic Direction - Vision

Following the approval of the Corporate Plan in October 2020, the budget setting and medium-term financial planning underpins and supports the delivery of the stated ambitions as set out in the Plan. This clarity of focus and purposes allows the Council to be clear on how its funding will be prioritised and enable disinvestment or re-allocation from non-priority areas. The Plan now sets out the core of the Council's overarching strategic planning framework which includes the Medium-Term Financial Plan, Local Plan and arrangements for delivering good governance. The Corporate Plan is in the process of being updated so priorities could change which will then need to be reflected in the medium-term financial plan to ensure that the Council budget is allocated to support the achievement of priorities.

Sustainable Financial Autonomy

In order to ensure that the Medium-Term Financial Plan demonstrates a financially sustainable outlook a number of actions are in place:

- An ongoing, robust and detailed review of the assumptions that underpin the Medium-Term Financial Plan supporting by scenario planning linked to the timing of the national funding changes and expected inflationary pressures. Ensuring a balanced budget position is achieved through the transformation, modernisation and service review programme, which is designed to reduce costs, drive efficiencies and ensure that resources are deployed effectively and directed to where they are most needed.
- Delivering budget reductions and savings included within annual budgets.
- Maximising key income streams, including council tax, business rates, fees and charges, investment income, etc.
- The prudent use of reserves and balances, as these can only be used once.

- Ensuring that the Capital investment ambitions are supported by robust business cases that demonstrate value for money and support the Corporate Plan. The Capital programme is supported by a robust governing framework that includes details of the capital cost and financing of each of the capital investments.
- Commissioning services that are relevant to the community and valued by those who use them.
- Reviewing the costs and performance of operating assets and identifying those that are classified as surplus to requirements or can be disposed of to generate capital receipts.

The Housing Revenue Account relates to the management of the Council's social housing stock. Given the issues identified in the delivery of landlord health and safety compliance, considerable improvement plans were put in place between 2020/2021 and 2022/23 as part of the engagement with the Regulator of Social Housing. Significant improvements have been made in the service area over the last 3 years, the budgets were reviewed as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process to ensure that there was sufficient budget for all areas of expenditure, and it is anticipated that full compliance will be achieved during 2023/24.

EXPLANATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The 2022/23 Statement of Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2022/23, issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2023. The Code requires that core and supplementary statements are produced together with disclosure notes and the style and format of the accounts complies with the local authority accounting standards. As recommended by CIPFA and our external auditors the Council continues to 'de-clutter' the accounts by annually reviewing the content and removing unnecessary detail.

The accounts give a true and fair view of South Kesteven's financial position for the financial year 2022/23. The accounting policies are outlined on pages 73 to 84 and have been fairly and consistently applied. Proper and up-to-date accounting records are maintained, and all reasonable steps are taken to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Chief Finance Officer is the statutory officer responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs. They are required by law to confirm that the Council's system of internal controls can be relied upon to produce an accurate statement of accounts. The statement of assurance for 2022/23 (known as the Statement of Responsibilities) appears on page 1 of this document.

The Core Financial Statements are:

- **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Page 2)** - this shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with IFRS rather than the amount to be funded from taxation.

The Net Cost of Service has increased from £15.491m in 2021/22 to £19.037m in 2022/23. Expenditure in the Growth and Culture Directorate has reduced by £2.699m between 2021/22 and 2022/23, this difference primarily relates to a reduction in employee expenses, capital charges and third-party payments. The expenditure in the Housing and Property Directorate has increased by £3.394m between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which primarily relates to an increase in capital charges, supplies and services and premises expenses, this is offset by a reduction in employee and transport expenditure. Expenditure in the Corporate Directorate has reduced by £0.905m between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which primarily relates to a reduction in employee expenses of £0.962m. There has been a reduction in income received from government grants and contributions of £4.705m, this is due to a reduction of £0.460m in Housing Benefit income, and a £4.5m reduction in income from government grants

which relates to grant income the council received in 2021/22 to fund expenditure relating to the Household Support Fund, Discretionary Business Grants, Test and Trace and the Leisure Recovery Fund.

The movement in Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure is technical in nature. The decrease of £2.619m consists, a reduction of £1.129m on net interest on the pension liability, a movement of £0.751m in the fair value of investment property, an increase of £1.589m on investment income and a £0.519m movement in the value of the property fund investment due to a decrease in value during 2022/23.

There has been an increase of £0.212m in the income received from taxation and non-specific grants. There were increases in Council tax of £0.411m, Non-Domestic Rates of £0.800m and New Homes Bonus of £0.187m. The Council received £1.024m of Section 31 grants in 2022/23 when compared with £2.016m of grant in 2021/22. This is primarily due to the increased funding government provided during 2020/21 to fund the cost of COVID-19. Section 106 contributions totalling £0.306m were used as funding towards the purchase of a Council Dwelling and replacement CCTV. a Green Homes Grants for the replacement of boilers of £0.600m, the Council received £630m grant from the Local Authority Housing Fund which will be used to fund the acquisition of properties for Ukrainian and Afghan Refugees, £0.297m of expenditure was incurred on the Future High Street Fund Scheme, the Council received £80k from the Changing Places Fund and a contribution of £0.250m was received from Burghley Homes towards the demolition costs incurred at St Martins Park. The Council were required to repay £0.500m to the Local Enterprise Partnership which relates to a grant received in 2018/19 due to the conditions of the grant no longer being met.

The combination of these variances means there has been a surplus of £0.211m on the 'Provision of Services'. Non-current assets have been revalued during the year and this has resulted in a surplus of £26.896m (Surplus of £37.064m in 2021/22) being recognised in the CIES. This surplus mainly relates to the upward revaluation of Council Dwellings. Changes in actuarial assumptions in the pension fund have resulted in a gain of £48.684m (2021/22 gain of £22.720m) mostly resulting from a significant improvement on the actuarial gains arising on changes in financial assumptions.

- **Movement in Reserves Statement (Page 3)** – this shows the movement in the year of the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e., those that can be applied to fund expenditure) and 'unusable reserves' (those that an authority is not able to utilise to provide services).
- **Balance Sheet (Page 4)** – The Balance Sheet shows the Council's assets and liabilities at 31 March each year, in accordance with the Council's Accounting Policies. There is an inverse relationship between the Council's net worth and in particular pension liabilities i.e., as pension liabilities increase the Council's net worth reduces and vice versa. The net assets have increased by £75.791m largely due to:
 - an increase of £19.839m in Property, Plant and Equipment which relates to revaluation gains and the acquisition of new assets.
 - a reduction of £2.541m in long term investments which is primarily due to a £520k reduction in the value of the Council's investment with the CCLA Property Fund and the transfer of a £2m investment to short term investments as the date of maturity is less than 12 months.
 - a reduction in short-term investments of £17.590m which is due to the repayment of the balances of the COVID-19 grant funding the Council received during 2020 and 2022 to support businesses and the payment of the £8m Council Tax Energy Rebate grant the Council received in March 2022 to eligible customers.

- a decrease of £22.881m in Short Term Creditors, £14.5m relates repayment of the balances of the COVID-19 grant funding the Council received during 2020 and 2022 to support businesses and the payment of the Council Tax Energy Rebate grant to eligible customers and a £9.5m reduction in the Business Rates Creditor with Central Government.
 - a decrease of £48.076m in other long-term liabilities which relates to a decrease in the net pension liability.
- **Cash-flow Statement (Page 5)** – this shows the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.
 - **Notes (pages 6)** – these provide supporting context to the above Statements.

Supplementary Financial Statements

- **Housing Revenue Account (pages 57)** - This reflects a statutory obligation to account separately for the Council's housing landlord function. It details the major elements of housing revenue expenditure – maintenance, administration and capital financing costs and how these are met by rents and other income. It is noted that the surplus was £2.871m in 2022/23 (£4.456m in 2021/22) this decrease is mainly due to a revaluation gain in 2022/23 of £1.694m compared with a gain of £6.902m in 2021/22 and a reduced impairment charge of £5.551m in 2022/23 compared with £6.485m in 2021/22. Investment income has increased by £1.079m between 2021/22 and 2022/23 as interest rates significantly increased during the year as an impact on bank rate increase. A reduction of £0.840m contribution to the Housing Capital receipts pool as the Council has signed an agreement with government that 100% of the capital receipts from the sale of Council Dwellings will be invested in new build schemes and property acquisitions to increase housing stock levels.
- **Collection Fund (pages 64)** – this reflects the statutory requirement for the Council to maintain a separate account providing details of receipts of Council Tax and Business Rates and any associated payments to precepting authorities and central government. It is noted that the deficit has reduced to £1.252m on the Business Rates section of the Collection Fund compared with a deficit of £7.887m in 2021/22. There are a number of variables which affect the deficit including valuation appeals by businesses to the Valuation Office and collection rates. The deficit is distributed as follows: £0.661m Central Government, £0.459m South Kesteven District Council and £0.132m Lincolnshire County Council. The increased deficit 2021/22 relates to an in-year reduction in the net business rates collectible following the award of additional reliefs to support businesses recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic which were funded by Section 31 grants. The Council received the Section 31 grant to fund the additional reliefs in both years but due to the technical nature of the Collection Fund they will be used to fund the deficit in future years.
- **Statement of Group Accounts (page 67)** – according to statutory requirements the Council is required to produce Group Accounts where it has subsidiaries, joint ventures or associates. The Council has three wholly owned companies (EnvironmentSK, Gravitas Housing Ltd, and LeisureSK) whose accounts require consolidation. However, the transactions relating to EnvironmentSK are not material as they receive the majority of their funding from the Council. Therefore, only the company accounts of Gravitas Ltd and LeisureSK have been consolidated with the Council's.
- **Glossary of Terms (page 85)** – This explains key terms used throughout the document further.

Further Information

Further information about the Statement of Accounts is available from accountancy@southkesteven.gov.uk or Finance Team, Council Offices, The Picture House, St Catherine's Road, Grantham, NG31 6TT. In addition, members of the public have a statutory right to inspect the accounts before the annual audit is completed. The availability of the accounts for inspection is advertised on our website at <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8920>

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required to:

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

The Chief Finance Officer's Responsibilities

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

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Finance Officer has:


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

The Chief Finance Officer has also:

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

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE

I certify that the accounts set out in this document present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2023.



Richard Wyles CPFA, ACMA, FCMA
CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER
1st February 2024



Cllr Tim Harrison
Chair of Governance and Audit Committee
1st February 2024

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2021/22 Restated				2022/23			
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Note	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£'000	£'000	£'000			£'000	£'000	£'000
15,169	(4,630)	10,539	Corporate		14,264	(4,456)	9,808
32,739	(48,959)	(16,220)	Finance		32,855	(44,952)	(12,097)
11,850	(4,054)	7,796	Growth & Culture		9,151	(3,722)	5,429
17,323	(3,947)	13,376	Housing & Property		20,717	(4,820)	15,897
77,081	(61,590)	15,491	Cost Of Services		76,987	(57,950)	19,037
Other Operating Expenditure							
0	(578)	(578)	(Gain)/Loss Disposal of Fixed Assets		0	(1,667)	(1,667)
2,591	0	2,591	Precepts & Levies	9	2,741	0	2,741
844	0	844	Contribution Housing Capital Receipts to the Pool	HRA6	4	0	4
0	(42)	(42)	Other Operating Income & Expenditure		0	(73)	(73)
3,435	(620)	2,815			2,745	(1,740)	1,005
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure							
2,432	0	2,432	Interest Payable on Debt		2,334	0	2,334
1,237	0	1,237	Net Interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	32	108	0	108
0	(331)	(331)	Interest & Investment Income		0	(1,917)	(1,917)
0	120	120	Income & Expenditure and Movement in Fair Value of Investment Property	10	0	(676)	(676)
0	(471)	(471)	Movement in the value of property fund income		519	0	519
3,669	(682)	2,987			2,961	(2,593)	368
0	(20,409)	(20,409)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	11	500	(21,121)	(20,621)
884 (Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services							(211)
(37,064) (Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets							(26,896)
(22,720) Remeasurement of Defined Pension Liability							(48,684)
(59,784) Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure							(75,580)
(58,900) TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE							(75,791)

The prior year comparators have been restated to reflect the Council's new reporting structure. The restated analysis of the net cost of services reflects the redistribution of the income and expenditure to the revised directorates. There is no impact on the overall cost of services.

Prior Year Comparators	Original	Original	Original
	2021/22	2021/22	2021/22
	Expend. £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000
Commercial & Operations	15,596	(6,708)	8,888
Corporate	37,059	(49,508)	(12,449)
Growth & Culture	9,223	(3,026)	6,197
Housing & Property	15,202	(2,347)	12,855
Cost Of Services	77,080	(61,589)	15,491

The table above shows the net cost of services as published in the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts.

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

Note	General Fund	Housing	Capital	Major Repairs	Total Usable	Unusable	Total Reserves
	Balance	Revenue					
	(including	Accounts					
	Earmarked	(including	Receipts	Reserve	Reserves	Reserves	
	Reserves)	Reserves)	Reserve	Reserve	Reserves	Reserves	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 31 March 2022 carried forward	(25,458)	(17,289)	(11,379)	(18,527)	(72,653)	(237,744)	(310,397)
Movement in reserves during 2022/23							
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	2,660	(2,871)	0	0	(211)	(75,580)	(75,791)
Transfers between Reserves	0	1,872	(412)	(1,872)	(412)	412	0
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	17	315	1,112	(3,864)	846	(1,591)	1,591
(Increase) or decrease in 2022/23		2,975	113	(4,276)	(1,026)	(2,214)	(75,791)
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	(22,483)	(17,176)	(15,655)	(19,553)	(74,867)	(311,321)	(386,188)

Note	General Fund	Housing	Capital	Major Repairs	Total Usable	Unusable	Total Reserves
	Balance	Revenue					
	(including	Accounts					
	Earmarked	(including	Receipts	Reserve	Reserves	Reserves	
	Reserves)	Reserves)	Reserve	Reserve	Reserves	Reserves	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 31 March 2021 carried forward	(29,237)	(19,329)	(10,252)	(17,900)	(76,718)	(174,779)	(251,497)
Movement in reserves during 2021/22							
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	5,340	(4,456)	0	0	884	(59,784)	(58,900)
Transfers between Reserves	0	2,381	(1,565)	(2,339)	(1,523)	1,523	0
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	17	(1,561)	4,115	438	1,712	4,704	(4,704)
(Increase) or decrease in 2021/22		3,779	2,040	(1,127)	(627)	4,065	(62,965)
Balance at 31 March 2022 carried forward	(25,458)	(17,289)	(11,379)	(18,527)	(72,653)	(237,744)	(310,397)

BALANCE SHEET

At 31 March 2022		Note	At 31 March 2023
£'000			£'000
387,931	Property Plant & Equipment	18	407,770
842	Heritage Assets	20	690
4,950	Investment Property	21	5,019
97	Intangible Assets	22	426
6,293	Long Term Investments	23	3,752
480	Long Term Debtors	25	172
400,593	Long Term Assets		417,829
<hr/>			
590	Current Assets Held for Sale	26	1,090
66,089	Short Term Investments	23	48,499
41	Inventories		17
7,474	Short Term Debtors	25	8,439
17,086	Cash and Cash Equivalents	27	17,607
91,280	Current Assets		75,652
<hr/>			
(3,245)	Short Term Borrowing	23	(3,245)
(36,304)	Short Term Creditors	29	(13,423)
(304)	Provisions	31	(219)
(39,853)	Current Liabilities		(16,887)
<hr/>			
(2,037)	Provisions	31	(2,286)
(86,213)	Long Term Borrowing	23	(82,991)
(48,327)	Other Long Term Liabilities	32	(251)
(5,046)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	11	(4,878)
(141,623)	Long Term Liabilities		(90,406)
<hr/>			
310,397	Net Assets		386,188
<hr/>			
£'000			£'000
72,653	Usable Reserves	33	74,867
237,744	Unusable Reserves	34	311,321
310,397	Total Reserves		386,188
<hr/>			

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Cash outflows are shown as negative figures in the cash flow statement to allow the movement in cash & cash equivalents to match the signage convention on the balance sheet.

2021/22 £'000		Notes	2022/23 £'000
	Operating Activities		
(884)	Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services		211
23,405	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	35	(9,426)
(5,817)	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	35	(8,619)
16,704	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		(17,834)
(48,092)	Net cash flows from investing activities	36	18,217
6,595	Net cash flows from financing activities	37	138
(24,793)	Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		521
41,879	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		17,086
17,086	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	27	17,607
(24,793)			521

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT NOT ADOPTED

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 (the Code) requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact on the accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted by the Code for the relevant financial year. This applies to the adoption of the following new or amended standards within the 2023/24 code:

- IFRS 16 Leases – This standard will require the Council as Lessee to recognise most leases on the balance sheet as right of use assets with corresponding lease liabilities (excepting low value and short-term leases). The adoption of this standard is not required until the 2024/25 code and the Council intends to adopt this standard with effect from 1 April 2024.

2. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

There are no critical judgements.

3. ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF 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 account of historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Consequences of difference from Assumption
Valuation of Property	The Council's external valuers provided valuations as at 31 March 2023.	A reduction in the estimated valuations would result in reductions to the Revaluation Reserve and a loss recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. If the value of the Council's property assets were to reduce by 10% this would result in a charge of approximately £40m to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Revaluation Reserve.
Pension Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on several complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase,	A 0.1% decrease in the discount rate will increase the net pension liability by £2.009m; A 0.1% increase in the assumed level of pension increases will

	<p>changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on Pension Fund investments.</p> <p>The Council has engaged Barnett Waddingham to provide expert advice about the assumptions applied.</p>	<p>increase the net pension liability by £1.958m</p>
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4. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Chief Finance Officer on 1st February 2024. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing as at 31 March 2023, the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

5. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

There were no prior period adjustments.

NOTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

6. EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

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

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2022/23

	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances £'000	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis £'000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000
Corporate	9,142	(666)	9,808
Finance	(16,192)	(4,095)	(12,097)
Growth & Culture	3,467	(1,962)	5,429
Housing & Property	12,481	(3,416)	15,897
Net Cost of Services	8,898	(10,139)	19,037
Other Income & Expenditure	(7,682)	11,566	(19,248)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	1,216	1,427	(211)
	Total £'000	General Fund £'000	HRA £'000
Opening General Fund and HRA Balance	(42,747)	(25,458)	(17,289)
Less/Plus Surplus or (Deficit) on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year	1,216	2,975	(1,759)
Transfers to/ from reserves	1,872	0	1,872
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance	(39,659)	(22,483)	(17,176)

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2021/22 (Restated)

	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corporate	8,488	(2,051)	10,539
Finance	(12,804)	3,417	(16,220)
Growth & Culture	3,667	(4,129)	7,796
Housing & Property	8,974	(4,402)	13,376
Net Cost of Services	8,325	(7,165)	15,491
Other Income & Expenditure	(4,887)	9,720	(14,608)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	3,438	2,555	883
	Total	General Fund	HRA
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening General Fund and HRA Balance	(48,566)	(29,237)	(19,329)
Less/Plus Surplus or (Deficit) on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year	3,438	3,779	(341)
Transfers to/ from reserves	2,381	0	2,381
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance	(42,747)	(25,458)	(17,289)

The prior year comparators have been restated to reflect the Council's new reporting structure.

7. NOTE TO THE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2022/23

Adjustments from General

Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note a) £'000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (Note b) £'000	Other Differences (Note c) £'000	Total Adjustments £'000
Corporate	(1,490)	808	16	(666)
Finance	(2,876)	(1,227)	8	(4,095)
Growth & Culture	(2,310)	335	13	(1,962)
Housing & Property	(4,018)	584	18	(3,416)
Net Cost of Services	(10,694)	500	55	(10,139)
Other Income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	10,001	(1,108)	2,673	11,566
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(693)	(608)	2,728	1,427

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2021/22 (Restated)

Adjustments from General

Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note a) £'000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (Note b) £'000	Other Differences (Note c) £'000	Total Adjustments £'000
Corporate	(257)	(1,776)	(18)	(2,051)
Finance	2,675	748	(6)	3,417
Growth & Culture	(3,348)	(772)	(9)	(4,129)
Housing & Property	(3,111)	(1,278)	(13)	(4,402)
Net Cost of Services	(4,041)	(3,078)	(46)	(7,165)
Other Income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	4,923	(1,236)	6,033	9,720
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	882	(4,314)	5,987	2,555

The prior year comparators have been restated to reflect the Council's new reporting structure.

- a) **Adjustments for Capital Purposes** – this column adds in depreciation and impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the services line and for:
- **Other Operating expenditure** – adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.
 - **Financing and investment income and expenditure** – the statutory charges for capital financing i.e. Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.
 - **Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure** – capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year, The Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income and Expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.
- b) **Net Change for the Pension Adjustments** – the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income:
- **For services** this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
 - **For Financing and investment income and expenditure** – the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES).
- c) **Other Differences** between amounts debited/credited to the CIES and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:
- Adjustment involving **Accumulated Absences Account** represents the amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements.

8. EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ANALYSED BY NATURE

2021/22 £'000	Expenditure/Income	2022/23 £'000
	Expenditure	
25,127	Employee benefits expenses	22,988
42,293	Other services expenses	38,751
9,660	Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	15,247
<u>77,080</u>	Total expenditure	<u>76,986</u>
	Income	
(8,831)	Fees, charges and other service income	(9,137)
(27,101)	Government grants and contributions	(22,396)
(24,519)	Dwelling Rents	(25,258)
(1,138)	Non- Dwelling rents	(1,158)
<u>(61,589)</u>	Total income	<u>(57,949)</u>
<u>15,491</u>	Net cost of services	<u>19,037</u>

9. PRECEPTS AND LEVIES

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
1,849	Parish Council Precepts	1,937
742	Drainage Board Levies	804
<u>2,591</u>		<u>2,741</u>

10. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND MOVEMENT IN FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
(275)	Income & Expenditure from investment properties	(320)
395	Movements in relation to changes in the fair value of investment properties	(356)
<u>120</u>		<u>(676)</u>

11. NON SERVICE RELATED GOVERNMENT GRANTS

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
(10,013)	Council Tax	(10,424)
(5,478)	Non-Domestic Rates	(6,278)
(1,045)	New Homes Bonus	(1,232)
(2,016)	S31 Grant	(1,024)
(900)	S106 Contribution	(306)
(651)	Capital Grants	(1,857)
(306)	Donated Asset	0
0	Local Enterprise Partnership Grant Repayment	500
<u>(20,409)</u>		<u>(20,621)</u>

12. GRANT INCOME

The Council credited the following grants and contributions to the Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2022/23

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
17,383	Benefits Subsidy	16,924
140	Local Council Tax Admin Subsidy	126
291	Housing Benefits Admin Grant	292
215	Discretionary Housing Payment	144
87	Welfare Reform	55
42	IER Funding	0
150	Cyber Resilience Grant	0
40	Neighbourhood Planning Grant	20
975	Disabled Facilities Grant	975
406	Homelessness	348
350	Rough Sleeping	920
4,724	COVID 19 Grants	0
92	Heritage Action Zone	405
466	Arts and Recreation Grants	281
322	Leisure Recovery Grant	0
308	Household Support Fund	510
205	Welcome Back Fund	8
43	Future High Street Fund	0
0	Afghan Resettlement	43
0	Homes for the Ukraine	484
0	UK Shared Prosperity Fund	20
0	ERDF - Blue Green Corridor	206
233	Other Grants	180
26,472		21,941

The Council has received a number of grants and contributions that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the money to be returned.

The balances at the year end are as follows:

2021/22	Capital Grants	2022/23
£'000	Receipts in Advance	£'000
2,166	Receipts in Advance	1,287
2,880	S106 Contributions	3,591
5,046		4,878

13. OFFICER REMUNERATION

The number of employees whose remuneration was £50,000 or more, (excluding those classed as senior employees with strategic responsibility and shown separately in the second table below) in bands of £5,000 were:

2021/22		2022/23
No. of officers	Remuneration Band	No. of officers
5	£50,000 - £54,999	6
1	£55,000 - £59,999	0
1	£60,000 - £64,999	3
1	£65,000 - £69,999	1
2	£70,000 - £74,999	0
0	£75,000 - £79,999*	4
0	£80,000 - £84,999**	2
<hr/> 10 <hr/>		<hr/> 16 <hr/>

The remuneration of senior employees (i.e. those with strategic responsibility for the Council) is shown below:

		Salary, Fees & Allowances	Bonuses & Expenses Allowances	Compensation for Loss of Employment	Employers Pension contribution	Any other emolument	Total
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	2022/23	135	15	0	24	13	187
	2021/22	133	39	0	23	0	195
Strategic Director	2022/23	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2021/22	92	14	115	16	0	237
Strategic Director	2022/23	96	0	56	17	0	169
	2021/22	95	0	0	17	0	112
Strategic Director	2022/23	96	0	0	17	0	113
	2021/22	86	0	0	15	0	101
Chief Finance and S151 Officer	2022/23	103	4	0	18	4	129
	2021/22	102	2	0	18	0	122
Monitoring Officer (1) **	2022/23	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2021/22	32	5	81	6	0	124
Deputy Chief Executive Monitoring Officer (2)	2022/23	106	0	0	19	0	125
	2021/22	99	8	0	18	0	125
Assistant Chief Executive	2022/23	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2021/22	85	0	0	15	0	100
Interim Director*	2022/23	41	2	0	7	2	52
	2021/22	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interim Monitoring Officer**	2022/23	13	0	0	2	0	15
	2021/22	0	0	0	0	0	0

* commenced in post 5 October 2023

** Monitoring Officer 2 statutory responsibility ended 26 January 2023, Interim Monitoring Officer statutory responsibility commenced 26 January 2023

14. TERMINATION BENEFITS

Exit Package cost bands (including special payments)	Number of compulsory redundancies		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23
	No.	No.	No.	No.	£'000	£'000
£0-£20,000	0	0	15	19	132	142
£20,001 - £40,000	0	0	3	4	90	117
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	0	1	0	56
£60,001 - £80,000	0	0	1	0	71	0
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	1	0	81	0
£100,001 - £150,000	0	0	1	0	115	0
£150,000 and above	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Cost included in bandings	0	0	21	24	489	315
Amounts provided for in CIES not included in bandings					0	0
Total Cost included in CIES					489	315

15. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003 requires local authorities to publish the amounts paid to members under the Members' allowance scheme.

The Council had 55 elected Councillors as at 31 March 2023.

Members' allowances and expenses paid during the year amounted to £532,759 (2021/22 £521,705). The figure includes basic allowance, special responsibility, and other related allowances.

16. JOINT OPERATIONS

South Kesteven District Council are members with Newark and Sherwood District Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council of the Building Control Partnership. The partnership's net expenditure in 2022/23 is £197,029 of which £65,676 is attributable to South Kesteven District Council which has been accounted for within the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

South Kesteven District Council have a collaboration agreement with Burghley Land Ltd. The joint agreement's net expenditure in 2022/23 is £75,072 of which £37,536 is attributable to South Kesteven District Council and accounted for within the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

NOTES TO THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

17.ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER STATUTE

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

The descriptions of the reserves that the adjustments are made against are as follows:

General Fund Balance

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of a Council are required to be paid and out of which all the liabilities 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 to HRA services.

Housing Revenue Account Balance

The Housing Revenue Account Balance reflects the statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for local authority council housing provision in accordance with Part VI of the Local Government & 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 (if in deficit) that is required to be recovered from tenants.

Major Repairs Reserve

The Council is required to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve which funds capital investment in 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 year end.

Capital Receipts Reserve

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

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Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations (Continued)

2022/23	General Fund	HRA	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account						
Depreciation of non-current assets	(3,054)	0	0	(4,553)	(7,607)	7,607
Amortisation of intangible assets	(60)	(90)	0	0	(150)	150
Revaluation gains/losses on PPE	(1,468)	1,705	0	0	237	(237)
Impairments charged to CIES	(306)	(5,450)	0	0	(5,756)	5,756
Movements in market value of investment properties	367	(11)	0	0	356	(356)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (REFCUS)	(1,866)	0	0	0	(1,866)	1,866
Financing of REFCUS	1,866	0	0	0	1,866	(1,866)
Capital expenditure	2,372	4,105	965	5,399	12,841	(12,841)
Statutory provision for financing of capital investment	131	0	0	0	131	(131)
Profit/Loss on disposal of non-current assets	598	1,069	(4,833)	0	(3,166)	3,166
Assets under construction discontinued	(5)	(101)	0	0	(106)	106
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account						
Adjustment to council tax income	(23)	0	0	0	(23)	23
Adjustment to NNDR income	2,696	0	0	0	2,696	(2,696)
Adjustments primarily involving the Pension Fund						
Adjustment of IAS 19 retirement entries for actual contributions	(483)	(125)	0	0	(608)	608
Adjustments primarily involving the Accumulating Compensated Absences Account						
	41	14	0	0	55	(55)
Adjustments relating to the value of Financial Instruments						
Financial Instruments	(491)	0	0	0	(491)	491
Adjustments between Usable Reserves						
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	0	(4)	4	0	0	0
Total Adjustments	315	1,112	(3,864)	846	(1,591)	1,591

Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations (Continued)

2021/22	General Fund	HRA	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account						
Depreciation of non-current assets	(4,845)	0	0	(4,159)	(9,004)	9,004
Amortisation of intangible assets	(107)	0	0	0	(107)	107
Revaluation gains/losses on PPE	(321)	6,894	0	0	6,573	(6,573)
Impairments charged to CIES	0	(6,485)	0	0	(6,485)	6,485
Movements in market value of investment properties	(403)	8	0	0	(395)	395
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (REFCUS)	(730)	0	0	0	(730)	730
Financing of REFCUS	730	0	0	0	730	(730)
Capital expenditure	570	4,774	2,659	5,871	13,874	(13,874)
Statutory provision for financing of capital investment	136	0	0	0	136	(136)
Profit/Loss on disposal of non-current assets	(151)	729	(3,065)	0	(2,487)	2,487
Donated Asset	306	0	0	0	306	(306)
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account						
Adjustment to council tax income	102	0	0	0	102	(102)
Adjustment to NNDR income	5,932	0	0	0	5,932	(5,932)
Adjustments primarily involving the Pension Fund						
Adjustment of IAS 19 retirement entries for actual contributions	(3,271)	(951)	0	0	(4,222)	4,222
Adjustments primarily involving the Accumulating Compensated Absences Account						
	(37)	(10)	0	0	(47)	47
Adjustments relating to the value of Financial Instruments						
Financial Instruments	528	0	0	0	528	(528)
Adjustments between Usable Reserves						
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	0	(844)	844	0	0	0
Total Adjustments	(1,561)	4,115	438	1,712	4,704	(4,704)

NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

18. PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Non-current assets owned and assets leased by the Council include the following:

Movement in 2021/22						Movement in 2022/23							
Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land & Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total PPE £'000	Movement on Balances		Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land & Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total PPE £'000
						Cost or Valuation							
						at 1 April 2021	at 1 April 2022						
266,377	70,039	17,473	197	8,131	362,217			303,983	68,058	18,330	140	10,950	401,461
6,935	317	1,486	0	4,483	13,221	Additions		5,735	441	897	0	2,328	9,401
32,906	(1,981)		5		30,930	Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve		21,084	(147)				20,937
(1,001)	(317)				(1,318)	Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services		(4,199)	(1,604)				(5,803)
(2,245)		(630)	(62)		(2,937)	Derecognition (Assets under construction)/Disposals		(2,548)	(193)	(1,763)		(106)	(4,610)
84					84	Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale (see Note 27)		0	(500)				(500)
927				(1,664)	(737)	Assets reclassified (to)/from Assets Under Construction		1,073				(1,073)	0
303,983	68,058	18,329	140	10,950	401,460	at 31 March 2022	at 31 March 2023	325,128	66,055	17,464	140	12,099	420,886
(31)	(212)	(12,414)	0	0	(12,657)	at 1 April 2021	at 1 April 2022	(20)	(304)	(13,205)	0	0	(13,529)
(3,768)	(3,931)	(1,289)	(16)		(9,004)	Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment		(4,258)	(2,150)	(1,185)	(14)		(7,607)
2,477	3,641		16		6,134	Depreciation charge		3,831	1,961		14		5,806
7,787	198				7,985	Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve		5,878	161				6,039
(6,485)					(6,485)	Depreciation written out to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement		(5,450)					(5,450)
		498			498	Derecognition of Non Enhancing Capital Expenditure				1,625			1,625
(20)	(304)	(13,205)	0	0	(13,529)	at 31 March 2022	at 31 March 2023	(19)	(332)	(12,765)	0	0	(13,116)
						Net Book Value							
303,963	67,754	5,124	140	10,950	387,931	at 31 March 2022	at 31 March 2023	325,109	65,723	4,699	140	12,099	407,770
266,346	69,827	5,059	197	8,131	349,560	at 1 April 2021	at 1 April 2022	303,963	67,754	5,125	140	10,950	387,932

Property, Plant & Equipment (Continued)

Valuation Assumptions

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the current values by the Valuer are as follows:

- No potentially deleterious or hazardous materials were used in the construction of the assets and none has subsequently been incorporated.
- That the properties are not subject to any unusual or especially onerous restrictions, encumbrances or outgoings and good titles can be shown.
- The properties and their values are unaffected by any matters which would be revealed by a local search or inspection of any register and that use and occupation are both legal.
- The inspection of those parts which have not been inspected would cause the Valuer to alter their opinion of value.
- The land and properties are not contaminated nor adversely affected by radon.
- No allowances have been made for any rights obligations or liabilities arising from the Defective Premises Act 1972.
- The Council carries out a full revaluation of its properties on a rolling basis over a five year period. In the years where an asset is not subject to a full revaluation a review is carried out by appointed valuers Valuation Office Agency in accordance with the methodologies and basis for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Valuations of vehicles, plant and equipment are based on depreciated cost.
- A full year of depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and none in the year of disposal.

19. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

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

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
107,868	Opening Capital Finance Requirement	107,101
	Capital Investment	
450	Council Dwellings	285
317	Other land & buildings	441
1,486	Vehicles, plant & equipment	897
4,483	Assets under construction	2,328
6,485	Capital expenditure	5,587
23	Intangible Assets	479
730	Revenue expenditure charged to capital under statute	1,866
	Sources of Finance	
(2,659)	Capital receipts	(965)
(1,438)	Capital grants & contributions	(2,526)
(10,644)	Sums set aside from revenue	(11,347)
107,101	Closing Capital Financing Requirement	104,146
	Explanation of movements in year	
(767)	Increase/(Decrease) in underlying need to borrow (supported by government financial assistance)	(2,955)
(767)	Increase/ (Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	(2,955)

20. HERITAGE ASSETS

Reconciliation of the carrying value of tangible Heritage Assets held by the Council

	Assets held at value		Assets held at cost	Total Assets
	Antiques	Miscellaneous Artefacts	Art Installation	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation				
1st April 2021	238	264	35	537
Revaluations	0	0	0	0
Additions in year	0	0	305	305
Disposals in Year	0	0	0	0
31st March 2022	238	264	340	842
Revaluations	19	134	(305)	(152)
Additions in year	0	0	0	0
Disposals in Year	0	0	0	0
31st March 2023	257	398	35	690

It is not practicable to report any transactions relating to Heritage Assets before 1 April 2010, as such transactions were not distinguished from those relating to operational assets.

a. Antiques

The Council's collection of antiques is reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. The collection includes items such as the chandeliers and mirrors at Stamford Arts Centre and two large Japanese bronze koros in the civic suite at Grantham. The collection also includes an 18th Century portrait of Catherine Manners, Lady Huntingtower on view at Guildhall Arts Centre, Grantham.

b. Miscellaneous Artefacts

Items of note in this collection include civic regalia and a Victoria Cross medal. Items in this collection are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. The collection is held at Grantham.

Valuations were undertaken in May 2023 for insurance purposes by Anthony Marriott, Fine Art Consultant & Valuer.

c. Art Installations

The Orrery sculpture in Grantham Market Place and the light installation on St Peter's Hill are reported at cost. The statue of Baroness Thatcher donated in year by the Public Memorials Appeal is reported at the estimated cost provided by the donor.

d. Historic

The Council has a collection of assets that are of historic significance but are not reported on the balance sheet as their value cannot be reliably established. This collection is made up of the following:

St Leonard Priory, Stamford	12th Century Priory listed ancient monument
Conduit, Grantham	16th Century Well Head
St Wulfram's War Memorial, Grantham	World War 1 memorial

Dysart Park Band Stand, Grantham
Wyndham Park Shelter, Grantham
Statue, St Peter's Hill, Grantham

Victorian wrought iron band stand
World War 1 memorial shelter
Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven

Currently the Council has no intangible Heritage Assets

More details on the Heritage Assets held by the Council including their location and any public access allowed is held on the Council's Heritage Asset schedule.

21. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

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

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
(285)	Rental income from investment property	(361)
10	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	41
<u>(275)</u>		<u>(320)</u>

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

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

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
5,198	Balance at start of year	4,950
247	Additions - Purchases	0
(395)	Net gains/losses from fair value adjustments	356
(100)	Disposals/Transfers to Assets Held for Sale	(287)
<u>4,950</u>	Balance at end of year	<u>5,019</u>

The fair value of investment property was determined by external, independent property valuers, having appropriate recognised professional qualifications. Fair value measurement for investment property has been categorised as Level 2 fair value based on information from observable market transactions of comparable property with no significant adjustments.

22. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The Council accounts for its software licences as intangible assets where the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system. The intangible assets included in the balance sheet only include purchased licences. They are held at historic cost.

All licences are given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period the software is expected to be of use to the Council.

Movements on Intangible Assets during the year were as follows:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
	Balance at start of year:	
818	Gross carrying amount	841
(637)	Accumulated amortisation	(744)
<u>181</u>	Net carrying amount at start of year	<u>97</u>
23	Additions	479
(107)	Amortisation for the period	(150)
<u>(84)</u>		<u>329</u>
0	Disposals	(77)
0	Amortisation written back	77
<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
97	Net carrying amount at end of year	426
	Comprising	
841	Gross carrying amount	1,243
(744)	Accumulated amortisation	(817)
<u>97</u>		<u>426</u>

None of the intangible assets are individually material to the financial statements.

23. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instruments of another entity. Non exchange transactions, such as those relating to taxes and government grants, do not give rise to financial instruments. The following categories of financial instrument are carried in the Balance Sheet:

Financial Assets

	Non Current				Current			
	Investments		Debtors		Investments		Debtors	
	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Amortised Cost								
Principal	2,632	5,173	172	480	48,000	66,008	3,846	3,160
Investment Accrued Interest	0	0	0	0	499	81	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents (CCE)	0	0	0	0	17,607	17,086	0	0
Fair value through other comprehensive income - other								
	1,120	1,120	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total financial assets	3,752	6,293	172	480	66,106	83,175	3,846	3,160
Non financial assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,593	4,314
Total	3,752	6,293	172	480	66,106	83,175	8,439	7,474

Financial Liabilities

	Non Current				Current			
	Investments				Investments		Creditors	
	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Amortised Cost								
Principal	82,991	86,213	3,223	3,222	3,752	4,947		
Interest	0	0	22	23	0	0		
Total financial liabilities	82,991	86,213	3,245	3,245	3,752	4,947		
Non financial liabilities	0	0	0	0	9,671	31,357		
Total	82,991	86,213	3,245	3,245	13,423	36,304		

Designated to fair value through other comprehensive income

The Council has a 100% shareholding in Gravitass Housing Limited which is a wholly owned Local Authority Controlled Company. These shares were purchased on 22 March 2019. The adoption of accounting standard IFRS 9 Financial Instruments requires that investments in equity are 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. The investment in Gravitas Housing Limited is an equity instrument and as such, the default valuation method is any gains and losses on changes in fair value would be recognised through profit and loss.

The Gravitas Housing Limited shareholding is a strategic investment to stimulate housing growth in the District and are not held for trading and therefore the Council has opted to designate it as fair value through Other Comprehensive Income. This means that there is no impact on the revenue budget and the decision to designate to fair value through other comprehensive income is irrevocable. Any gains or losses on the valuation of the shareholding will therefore be transferred to a Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve. The fair value is deemed to be the purchase price. The investment will be revalued at the end of each reporting year taking into consideration the assets and liabilities of the company.

Description	31-Mar-23 £'000	31-Mar-22 £'000
Gravitas Housing Limited	1,120	1,120
Total	1,120	1,120

The Fair Values of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities that are not measured at Fair Value

Except for the financial assets carried at fair value (described in the table above), all other financial liabilities and financial assets represented by amortised cost and long-term debtors and creditors are carried on the balance sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that take place over the remaining life of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- For loans from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) and other loans payable, premature repayment rates from the PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures.
- For loans receivable prevailing benchmark market rates have been used to provide the fair value.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised.
- Where an instrument has a maturity of less than 12 months or is a trade or other receivable the fair value is taken to be the carrying amount or the billed amount.
- The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

	31-Mar-23 Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	31-Mar-22 Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
PWLB	86,236	79,982	89,458	98,543
Short Term Creditors	3,752	3,752	4,947	4,947
Total	89,988	83,734	94,405	103,490

The fair value of the liabilities is less than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is lower than the rates available for similar loans in the market at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a

notional future loss (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2023) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders below current market rates.

The fair value of Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans of £79.982m measures the economic effect of the terms agreed with the PWLB compared with estimates of the terms that would be offered for market transactions undertaken at the Balance Sheet date. The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value measures the reduced interest that the authority will pay over the remaining terms of the loans under the agreements with the PWLB, against what would be paid if the loans were at prevailing market rates.

The authority has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than from the markets. A supplementary measure of the reduced interest that the authority will pay as a result of its PWLB commitments for fixed rate loans is to compare the terms of these loans with the new borrowing rates available from the PWLB. If a value is calculated on this basis, the carrying amount of £86.236m would be valued at £73.876m. But, if the authority were to seek to realise the projected gain by repaying the loans to the PWLB, the PWLB would raise a penalty charge for early redemption in addition to giving a discount for the reduced interest income that will be avoided. The exit price for the PWLB loans including the penalty charge would be £79.982m.

	31-Mar-23		31-Mar-22	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	17,607	17,607	17,086	17,086
Short Term Investments	48,000	48,000	66,000	66,018
Long Term Investments	2,632	2,632	5,152	5,129
Short Term Debtors	3,846	3,846	3,160	3,160
Long Term Debtors	172	172	480	480
Total	72,257	72,257	91,878	91,873

The fair value measurement of the financial assets and liabilities are all hierarchy level 2 - other significant observable inputs.

24. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

- Credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council;
- Liquidity risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments;
- Re-financing risk – the possibility that the Council might be requiring to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms;

- Market risk - the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of prior to the commencement of the year to which it relates. This strategy sets out the parameters for the management of risks associated with financial instruments.

The Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23 is available on the Council's website at

<http://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s32638/Appendix%20G%20-%202022-23%20Treasury%20Management%20Strategy%20Statement.pdf>

The strategy also includes an Annual Investment Strategy for the forthcoming year, setting out the Council's criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties.

These strategies are implemented by the central treasury department. The Council maintains 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 through Treasury Management Practices (TMPs). These TMPs are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed periodically.

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 is available on the Council's website.

The Council's credit risk management practices are set out on pages 12 to 13 of the Annual Investment Strategy. With particular regard to determining whether the credit risk of financial instruments has increase significantly since initial recognition.

The Annual Investment Strategy requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, in accordance with the Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's Credit Ratings Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also considers maximum amounts and time limits with a financial institution located in each category.

The Council uses the creditworthiness service provided by Link. This service uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies – Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poors, forming the core element. However, it does not rely solely on the current credit ratings of counterparties but also uses the following as overlays:

- Credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies
- Credit Default Swap spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings.
- Sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries

The full Investment Strategy was approved by Full Council on 1 March 2022 and is available on the Council's website.

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

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks, building societies, property fund and money market funds of £68.266m cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Council's deposits, the Council has £3m invested with the property fund and at 31 March 2022 this was valued at £2.632m.

Amounts Arising from Expected Credit Losses

We have assessed the Council's short and long term investments and concluded that the expected credit loss is not material therefore no allowances have been made.

A summary of the credit quality of the Council's investments at 31 March 2023 is shown below, along with the potential maximum exposure to credit risk, based on experience of default and uncollectability.

	Link Asset Services - Colour banding	Lowest Long Term Rating	Balance at 31 March 2023 £'000	Historical Experience of Default %	Estimated maximum exposure to default and uncollectability at 31 March 2023 £'000
Deposits with Banks and Financial Institutions					
Standard Chartered Bank	Red	A+	4,000,000	0.003%	104
Standard Chartered Bank	Red	A+	5,000,000	0.016%	779
SMBC Bank International PLC	Red	A-	3,000,000	0.013%	404
Landesbank Hessen-Thueringen Girozentrale (Helaba)	Orange	A+	2,000,000	0.018%	356
Landesbank Hessen-Thueringen Girozentrale (Helaba)	Orange	A+	2,000,000	0.023%	450
Goldman Sachs International Bank	Red	A+	4,000,000	0.003%	104
Close Brothers Ltd	Red	A-	2,000,000	0.003%	119
Close Brothers Ltd	Red	A-	3,000,000	0.010%	304
Close Brothers Ltd	Red	A-	2,000,000	0.015%	292
Lloyds Bank Plc	Red	A+	2,000,000	0.000%	10
Lloyds Bank Plc	Red	A+	3,000,000	0.020%	597
Wakefield District Council	Yellow	AA-	5,000,000	0.003%	0
Leeds City Council	Yellow	AA-	5,000,000	0.011%	0
Cambridge City Council	Yellow	AA-	2,000,000	0.018%	0
West Dunbartonshire Council	Yellow	AA-	4,000,000	0.021%	0
CCLA Property Fund	Not Rated	Not Rated	3,000,000		
BNP Paribas MMF*	Yellow	AAA	5,000,000		
CCLA MMF*	Yellow	AAA	5,000,000		
LGIM MMF	Yellow	AAA	5,000,000		
Aberdeen Standard Investments MMF*	Yellow	AAA	2,509,000		
Total Investments			68,509,000		3,519

*Money Market Funds

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

The Council does not generally allow extended credit for its trade debtors, but some of the current balance is past its due date for payment. The past due but not impaired amount can be analysed by age as follows:

	At 31 March 2023 £'000	At 31 March 2022 £'000	At 31 March 2021 £'000
Under 30 Days	132	113	108
30-60 days	2,521	1,392	1,689
60-90 days	122	128	152
Over 90 Days	639	507	471
Total	3,414	2,140	2,420

During the reporting period the Council held no collateral as security.

Liquidity risk

The Council manages its liquidity position through the risk management procedures above (the setting and approval of prudential indicators and the approval of the treasury and investment strategy reports), as well as through a comprehensive cash flow management system, as required by the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when needed.

The Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets to cover any day to day cash flow need, and the PWLB and money markets for access to longer term funds. The Council is also required to provide a balanced budget through the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is therefore no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

The maturity analysis of financial assets, excluding sums due from customers, is as follows:

	At 31 March 2023 £'000	At 31 March 2022 £'000	At 31 March 2021 £'000
Less than one year	65,509	83,286	64,460
Between one and two years	2,632	5,152	2,681
Total	68,141	88,438	67,141

Re-financing and Maturity Risk

The Council maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered against the refinancing risk procedures, longer term risk to the Council relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. This risk relates to both the maturing of longer term financial liabilities and longer term financial assets.

The approved treasury indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits on investments placed for greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Council approved treasury and investment strategies address the main risks and the central treasury team address the operational risks within the approved parameters. This includes:

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

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

	At 31 March 2023 £'000	At 31 March 2022 £'000	At 31 March 2021 £'000
Less than one year	3,245	3,245	3,245
Between one and two years	3,222	3,222	3,222
Between two and five years	9,665	9,665	9,665
Between five and ten years	16,109	16,109	16,109
Between ten and fifteen years	41,109	41,109	41,109
Over Fifteen Years	12,886	16,108	19,330
Total	86,236	89,458	92,680

Market risk

Interest rate risk

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

- Borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account will rise;
- Borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the borrowing will fall (no impact on revenue balances);
- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account will rise; and
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall (no impact on revenue balances).

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

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together the Council's prudential and treasury indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. From this Strategy a treasury indicator is set which provides maximum limits for fixed and variable interest rate exposure. The central treasury team will monitor market and forecast interest rates within the year to adjust exposures appropriately. For instance during periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate investments may be taken for longer periods to secure better long term returns, similarly the drawing of longer term fixed rates borrowing would be postponed. If all interest rates had been 1% higher (with all other variables held constant) the financial effect would be:

	£'000
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	0
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	<u>238</u>
Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	<u>238</u>
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowing liabilities (no impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure)	<u>18,164</u>

The approximate impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above but with the movements being reversed. These assumptions are based on the same methodology as used in the Note – Fair value of Assets and Liabilities carried at amortised Cost.

Price risk

The Council, excluding the pension fund, does not generally invest in equity shares or marketable bonds but does have shareholdings in the Gravitas Housing Limited which is a wholly owned Local Authority Controlled Company. Whilst these holdings are generally illiquid, the Council is consequently exposed to losses arising from movements in the prices of the shares.

As the shareholdings have arisen in the acquisition of specific interests, the Council 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 Council can monitor factors that might cause a fall in the value of specific shareholdings.

The shares in Gravitas Housing Limited have been elected as Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income, meaning that all movements in prices will impact on gains and losses recognized in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve. A general shift of 5% in the general price of the shares (positive or negative) would have resulted in a £56k gain or loss being recognised in the Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve.

Foreign exchange risk

The Council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies. It therefore has no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

25. DEBTORS

An analysis of Debtors is shown below

At 31 March 2022 £'000		At 31 March 2023 £'000
	Current Debtors	
2,514	Government Departments	1,716
1,340	Other Local Authorities	2,084
19	NHS	19
3,601	Other entities and individuals	4,620
<u>7,474</u>		<u>8,439</u>
	Long Term Debtors	
480	Other	172
<u>480</u>		<u>172</u>

26. ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

The details of the assets held for sale are shown below.

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
132	Balance at start of year	590
	Assets newly classified as held for sale:	
590	Property, Plant & Equipment	500
(48)	Assets sold	0
(84)	Withdrawn sales transferred back to PPE	0
<u>590</u>		<u>1,090</u>

27. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

At 31 March 2022 £'000		At 31 March 2023 £'000
189	Cash held by the authority	3
(389)	Bank current accounts	95
17,286	Short Term Deposits	17,509
<u>17,086</u>	Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	<u>17,607</u>

Some instant access accounts are used for short-term investments where the rate of interest achieved is better than for a short-term investment. However, due to the requirements of the Code they are included as Cash and Cash Equivalents on the Balance Sheet.

28. BORROWING

Non-Current Borrowing represents borrowing repayable within a period in excess of one year.

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
86,213	Analysis of Loans by Source	82,991
<u>86,213</u>	PWLB	<u>82,991</u>
£'000	Analysis of Loans by Maturity	£'000
3,222	Between 1 and 2 Years	3,222
9,665	Between 2 and 5 Years	9,665
16,109	Between 5 and 10 Years	16,109
41,109	Between 10 and 15 Years	41,109
16,108	Over 15 years	12,886
<u>86,213</u>		<u>82,991</u>

Current Borrowing represents borrowing repayable within one year.

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
3,245	Balance at start of year	3,245
(3,245)	Borrowing repaid during year	(3,244)
3,222	Transferred from Non-Current Borrowing	3,222
23	Accrued interest at end of year	22
<u>3,245</u>	Balance at end of year	<u>3,245</u>

29. CREDITORS

An analysis of Creditors is shown below:

At 31 March		At 31 March
2022		2023
£'000		£'000
28,366	Government Departments	6,437
55	Other Local Authorities	453
7,883	Other entities and individuals	6,533
<u>36,304</u>	Total	<u>13,423</u>

30. LEASES

a. Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

The Council has acquired a number of buildings under finance leases on a peppercorn basis. Typically the annual payments for these buildings are less than £1 per annum, so the future minimum lease payments due are immaterial. The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant & Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net book values.

At 31 March			At 31 March	
2022	Carrying Value		2023	
£'000			£'000	
<u>2,945</u>	Other Land & Buildings		<u>2,816</u>	

None of these properties are sublet.

b. Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

The Council has leased out HRA shops and the Crematorium at Grantham on finance leases with the remaining terms being between 65 and 70 years. The Council has a gross investment in the lease, made up of the minimum lease payments expected to be received over the remaining term and the residual value anticipated for the property when the lease comes to an end. The minimum lease payments comprise settlement of the long-term debtor for the interest in the property acquired by the lessee and finance income that will be earned by the Council in future years whilst the debtor remains outstanding. The gross investment is made up of the following amounts:

At 31 March		Gross Investment in the Lease	At 31 March	
2022			2023	
£'000			£'000	
12	Finance Lease Debtor (net present value of minimum lease payments)		11	
52	Non-Current		52	
<u>1,740</u>	Unearned finance income		<u>1,740</u>	
<u>1,804</u>	Unguaranteed residual value of property		<u>1,803</u>	
	Gross Investment in the Lease			

The gross investment in the lease and the minimum lease payments will be received over the following periods:

	Gross Investment in the Lease		Minimum Lease Payments	
	At 31 March 2023	At 31 March 2022	At 31 March 2023	At 31 March 2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	1	1	0	0
Between one & five years	5	5	1	1
Later than 5 years	1,797	1,798	11	12
	1,803	1,804	12	13

	Gross Investment in the Lease		Minimum Lease Payments	
	At 31 March 2022	At 31 March 2021	At 31 March 2022	At 31 March 2021
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	1	1	0	0
Between one & five years	5	5	1	1
Later than 5 years	1,798	1,800	12	12
	1,804	1,806	13	13

No allowance for uncollectible amounts has been set aside as at 31 March 2023.

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. In 2022/23 no contingent rents were receivable by the Council.

Operating Leases

The Council leases out property under operating leases for the following purposes

- For the provision of community services such as leisure and community services.
- For economic development services to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses.

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

At 31 March 2022 restated		At 31 March 2023
£'000		£'000
685	Not later than one year	738
1,965	Between one & five years	1,657
3,713	Later than 5 years	3,594
6,363		5,989

The minimum lease payments receivable do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2022/23 no contingent rents were receivable by the Council.

31. PROVISIONS

All of the personal injury and property damage compensation claims are individually insignificant. They relate to personal injury or property damage sustained where the Council is alleged to be negligent. Provision is made for those claims where it is deemed probable that the Council will have to make a settlement, based on reserves set by the Council's insurer. Of the £166k provided at 31st March 2023 £123k is expected to be settled in 2023/24.

	Injury & Damage Compensation Claims £'000	Business Rates Appeals £'000	Total £'000
2022/23			
Balance at 1 April 2022	293	2,048	2,341
Additional provisions made in 2022/23	72	321	393
Amounts used in 2022/23	(143)	(30)	(173)
Unused amounts reversed in 2022/23	(56)	0	(56)
Total	166	2,339	2,505
Split between:			
Short-term provisions	123	96	219
Long-term provisions	43	2,243	2,286
	166	2,339	2,505
2021/22			
Balance at 1 April 2021	167	1,911	2,078
Additional provisions made in 2021/22	192	426	618
Amounts used in 2021/22	(18)	(289)	(307)
Unused amounts reversed in 2021/22	(48)	0	(48)
Total	293	2,048	2,341
Split between:			
Short-term provisions	178	126	304
Long-term provisions	115	1,922	2,037
	293	2,048	2,341

The Council has a provision for any potential liabilities as a result of Business Rate Payers appeals against rateable valuations. The Council is responsible for a 40% share of this liability along with Government who is responsible for 50% and Lincolnshire County Council being responsible for a 10%.

32. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

a. Participation in Pension Scheme

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

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Lincolnshire County Council.

- This is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning the Council, and employees, pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with investment assets.
- Arrangements for the award of discretionary post-retirement benefits upon early retirement are an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. However, there are no investment assets built up to meet these pension liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pension payments as they eventually fall due.
- The Lincolnshire County Council 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 of Lincolnshire County Council. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pension Fund Regulations.
- The principal risks to the Council of the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, structural changes to the scheme (i.e. large scale withdrawals from the scheme), changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account the amounts required by statute as described in the accounting policies note.

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.

b. Transactions Relating to Post-Employment Benefits

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge the Council is required to make against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The reversal of the IAS19 transactions ensures that there is no effect on the amounts to be met from government grant and the local taxpayers. 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.

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Cost of Services		
6,679	- current service cost	4,414
115	- past service cost	262
85	Administration fee	97
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure		
3,361	- Net interest expense	4,706
(2,124)	-Expected return on assets in the scheme	(4,598)
8,116	Total Post-employment benefits charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	4,881
Other Post-employment benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:		
(10,437)	-return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	5,613
(7,165)	-Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	0
(7,650)	-Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(74,437)
2,625	-Other	20,140
(14,511)	Total Post Employment Benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(43,803)
Movement in Reserves Statement		
(4,222)	Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(608)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year.		
3,894	- Employers' contributions payable to scheme.	4,273

c. Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
179,825	Present Value of the defined benefit obligation	131,030
(131,498)	Fair value of plan assets	(130,779)
<u>48,327</u>	Sub-total	<u>251</u>
<u>48,327</u>	Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	<u>251</u>

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

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
118,060	Opening fair value of scheme assets	131,498
2,124	Interest income	4,598
	Remeasurement gain/ (loss):	
	The return on plan assets, excluding the amount	
10,437	included in net interest	(5,613)
3,894	Contributions from employer	4,273
923	Contributions from employees into the scheme	953
(3,855)	Benefits paid	(4,833)
(85)	Administration Expense	(97)
<u>131,498</u>	Closing fair value of scheme assets	<u>130,779</u>

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

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
184,792	Opening balance at 1 April	179,825
6,679	Current Service Cost	4,414
3,361	Interest cost	4,706
923	Contributions from scheme participants	953
	Remeasurement (gains) and losses:	
	Actuarial gains/ losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	0
(7,165)		
(7,650)	Actuarial gains/ losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(74,437)
2,625	Other	20,140
115	Past Service cost	262
(3,855)	Benefits paid	(4,833)
179,825	Closing Balance at 31 March	131,030

f. Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised

2021/22	Fair Value of Scheme Assets	2022/23
£'000		£'000
95,231	Equities	72,843
16,502	Bonds	17,297
13,801	Property	9,793
5,964	Cash	4,160
	Infrastructure	5,095
	Absolute return fund	21,591
131,498	Total Assets	130,779

All scheme assets have quoted prices in active markets.

g. Basis of Estimating Assets and Liabilities

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

Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and discretionary benefits liabilities have been estimated by Barnett Waddingham, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Lincolnshire County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

2021/22		2022/23
	Long term expected rate of return on assets in the Scheme	
	Mortality Assumptions	
	Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:	
21.2	Men	19.8
23.7	Women	22.9
	Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:	
22.1	Men	21.1
25.1	Women	24.4
3.6%	Rate of increase in salaries	3.9%
3.3%	Rate of Increase in Pensions	2.9%
2.6%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.8%

The estimate of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to 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 assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The method and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below do not change from those used in the previous period.

	Increase in Assumption £'000	Decrease in Assumption £'000
Longevity (increase or decrease in 1 year)	103	100
Rate of increase in salaries (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	2	2
Rate of increase in pensions (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	96	93
Rate of discounting scheme liabilities (Increase or decrease by 0.1%)	92	95

h. Impact on the Council's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contribution at as constant a rate as possible. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The last triennial valuation was dated 31 March 2022.

The Council is anticipated to pay £3.769m expected contributions to the scheme in 2023/24.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 17 years.

Further information can be found in Lincolnshire County Council's Pension Fund Annual Report which is available upon request from the Pension Fund Manager, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL (Tel: 01522 553656).

33. USABLE RESERVES

Movements in the Council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement and below:

	Balance at 31 March 2021 £'000	Transfer To Reserve £'000	Transfer From Reserve £'000	Balance at 31 March 2022 £'000	Transfer To Reserve £'000	Transfer From Reserve £'000	Balance at 31 March 2023 £'000
GF Capital Receipts Reserve	2,195	257		2,452	1,049		3,501
HRA Capital Receipts Reserve	8,057	869		8,926	3,230		12,156
Major Repairs Reserve	17,900	627		18,527	1,026		19,553
Earmarked GF Revenue Reserves	26,422		(3,798)	22,624		(3,217)	19,407
General Fund Unapplied Revenue Grants	488	164		652		(88)	564
Earmarked HRA Revenue Reserves	2,036			2,036		(2,036)	0
Earmarked GF Capital Reserve	315		(142)	173		(121)	52
Earmarked HRA Capital Reserves	13,523			13,523	1,891		15,414
Housing Revenue Account Balance	3,772		(2,041)	1,731	31		1,762
General Fund Balance	2,010	(1)		2,009	449		2,458
	76,718	1,916	(5,981)	72,653	7,676	(5,462)	74,867

34. UNUSABLE RESERVES

At 31 March 2022 £'000		At 31 March 2023 £'000
92,227	Revaluation Reserve	109,714
197,111	Capital Adjustment Account	202,892
(48,327)	Pensions Reserve	(251)
(3,146)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(473)
(259)	Accumulated Absences Adjustment Account	(204)
15	Deferred Capital Receipts	10
(29)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	0
152	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	(367)
237,744		311,321

a. Revaluation Reserve

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

- Re-valued 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 the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
56,863	Balance at start of year	92,227
41,433	Upward revaluation of assets	29,841
(4,369)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	(2,945)
93,927	Surplus/Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	119,123
(1,700)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(9,380)
0	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	(29)
(1,700)	Amounts written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	(9,409)
92,227	Balance at end of year	109,714

b. Capital Adjustment Account (CAA)

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 enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisation are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert current value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

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

35b CAA Continued

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
195,320	Balance at start of year	197,111
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	
(9,004)	Charges for depreciation of non-current assets	(7,607)
(6,485)	Charges for impairment of non-current assets	(5,450)
(1,652)	Revaluation losses on Property, Plant & Equipment	(2,383)
8,318	Revaluation gains reversing previous impairments charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	2,209
(107)	Amortisation of intangible assets	(150)
(730)	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(1,866)
(2,487)	Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	(3,137)
183,173		178,727
808	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	9,380
183,981	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	188,107
	Capital financing applied in the year	
2,659	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	965
5,871	Use of the Major Repairs reserve to finance new capital expenditure	5,399
1,437	Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	2,220
136	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund & HRA balances	131
3,783	Self-financed capital expenditure	5,343
(1,520)	Long Term Debtor written down	(409)
853	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	780
13,219		14,429
(395)	Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	356
306	Movement in the donated assets account credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0
197,111	Balance at end of year	202,892

c. Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that the funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
(66,732)	Balance at start of year	(48,327)
22,627	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability/ (asset)	48,684
(8,116)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services	(4,881)
3,894	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	4,273
(48,327)	Balance at end of year	(251)

d. Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
(9,180)	Balance at start of year	(3,146)
102	Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated in accordance with statute	(23)
5,932	Amount by which NNDR income credited to the CIES is different from NNDR income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	2,696
(3,146)	Balance at end of year	(473)

e. Accumulated Absences Account

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

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
(212)	Balance at start of year	(259)
	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	
	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the	
(47)	Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement on	55
	an accruals basis is different from remuneration	
	chargeable in the year in accordance with statute	
<u>(259)</u>	Balance at end of year	<u>(204)</u>

f. Deferred Capital Receipts

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

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
18	Balance at start of year	15
(3)	Repayments received in year	(5)
<u>15</u>	Balance at end of year	<u>10</u>

g. Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses for certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains as per statutory provisions. This reserve is used for accounting for monies advanced by the Council at less than the market interest rate (soft loans).

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
(87)	Balance at start of year	(29)
(4)	Soft Loan Cost	0
62	Repayments received in year	29
<u>(29)</u>	Balance at end of year	<u>0</u>

h. 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 which are measured at fair value through profit and loss. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:

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

Statutory override on pooled investments

The Council holds £3m of pooled investments. The Council is using the temporary statutory override agreed by DLUHC (5 years commencing from April 2018) to account for any changes in the fair value on its pooled investments.

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
(319)	Balance at start of year	152
471	Downward Revaluation of Investments	(519)
152		(367)
0	Accumulated gains or losses on assets sold and maturing assets written out to the CIES as part of Other Investment Income	0
152	Balance at end of year	(367)

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

35. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The adjustments to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements can be analysed as follows;

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
9,004	Depreciation	7,607
(181)	Impairment & downward valuations	5,624
107	Amortisation	150
7,066	Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(24,376)
749	(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(2,528)
(16)	(Increase)/Decrease in Stock	24
4,313	Movement in pension liability	608
2,487	Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or de-recognised	3,137
(124)	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	328
23,405	Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for noncash movements	(9,426)

Adjustments to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities:

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
(3,065)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(4,833)
(2,752)	Other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	(3,786)
(5,817)	Adjustment for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(8,619)

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
287	Interest Received	1,499
(2,433)	Interest Paid	(2,336)
(2,146)		(837)

36. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – INVESTING ACTIVITIES

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
(12,988)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(10,449)
(65,000)	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	(46,000)
0	Other payments for investing activities	(199)
3,068	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	4,838
21,712	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	66,000
5,116	Other receipts from investing activities	4,027
(48,092)	Net cash flows from investing activities	18,217

37. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Cash flow Financing Activities:

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
0	Cash receipts of short- and long-term borrowing	
(3,221)	Repayments of short- and long-term borrowing	(3,221)
9,816	Other payments for financing activities	3,359
6,595	Net cash flows from financing activities	138

OTHER DISCLOSURE NOTES

38. INTEREST IN OTHER COMPANIES AND ENTITIES

South Kesteven District Council wholly owns Gravitas Housing Ltd, LeisureSK Limited and EnvironmentSK Limited. Group accounts have been produced for Gravitas Housing Ltd and LeisureSK Limited and these are available on page 67 onwards.

EnvironmentSK Limited

The registered name of the company is Environment SK Limited, and this is a wholly owned subsidiary of South Kesteven District Council which ceased trading on 31 March 2023. The company was incorporated on 1 March 2019 and was created to “offer a range of quality, environmental services”.

The net liabilities of the Company as at 31 March 2023 are £0.228m (net assets £0.380m 2021/22). The accounts can be obtained from EnvironmentSK Limited, Council Offices, The Picture House, St Catherine’s Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6TT.

During 2022/23 the Council spent £1.032m (£1.039m 2021/22) on services with Environment SK Ltd. At the 31 March 2023 the Council owed £48k (£15k 2021/22) to EnvironmentSK Ltd and EnvironmentSK Ltd owed £26k (£13k 2021/22) to the Council.

The Council provided a loan to EnvironmentSK Ltd of £0.571m during 2019/20 of which £0.510m was the balance outstanding at 31 March 2023.

39. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The Council has incurred the following costs in relation to the external audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and other audit work. The Council has not made any payments for non-audit services to its external auditors and not incurred any costs for statutory inspections.

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
67	Fees payable to the external auditors with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor.	66
6	Fees payable to the external auditors for the certification of grant claims.	6
4	CFO Insights	0
12	Fees payable to external auditors for the certification of returns	12
89		84

40. 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 has effective control (significant influence) over the general operations of the Council. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions the Council has with third parties e.g. housing benefits. Details of transactions with government departments are set out in Notes 11 and 12 relating to grant income.

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. Guidance has been issued to make Members, Chief Officers and senior managers aware of the requirements to declare all interests relevant to the Council including interests of families, partners and entities controlled by them. Also all Members, Chief Officers and senior managers have been requested to complete a Related Party Transaction declaration. Upon analysis of completed returns no material items were identified that required separate disclosure. The Council maintains a Register of Interests which is complete and up to date on the basis of information received.

Wholly owned companies of the Council have members and senior officers on the board of Directors. The boards are constituted as follows:

Gravitas Limited – Chief Finance Officer, Assistant Director of Finance and Vice Chairman of Licensing Committee

EnvironmentSK – Leader of the Independent Party, Assistant Director of Finance and Head of Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services

LeisureSK – Director – Growth and Culture, Acting Director of Housing, Vice Chairman of Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Vice Chairman of Planning Committee

Note 39 provides details of the transactions with EnvironmentSK and InvestSK.

Precept & Levying bodies, town councils, parish councils and drainage boards levy demands on the Council Tax, and the transactions are detailed below.

Payments made during the year were as follows:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
1,849	Town and Parish Councils	1,937
140	Upper Witham Drainage Board	149
61	Black Sluice Drainage Board	63
541	Welland and Deepings Drainage Board	592
2,591		2,741

41. AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS FOR ISSUE

The date that the Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue was 1st February 2024. This is the date up to which events after the Balance Sheet date have been considered. The name of the person who gave the authorisation was Richard Wyles (Chief Finance Officer).

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
	Income	
	Gross Rental Income	
(24,514)	- Dwelling Rents	(25,248)
(289)	- Non-Dwelling Rents	(288)
(690)	Charges for Services and Facilities	(741)
(117)	Other Income	(229)
(25,610)	Total Income	(26,506)
	Expenditure	
9,183	Repairs and Maintenance	9,111
3,877	Supervision and Management	3,922
110	Rent, rates, taxes and other charges	4
337	Increase/(Decrease) in Prov'n for Doubtful Debts	296
3,750	Depreciation and impairment of Non-Current Assets	8,489
35	Debt Management Costs	35
17,292		21,857
(8,318)	Net Cost of HRA Services	(4,649)
2,759	HRA share of Corporate and Democratic Core	2,787
(5,559)	Net Cost of HRA Services as included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,862)
(729)	(Gain)/loss on sale of HRA assets	(1,069)
844	Contribution Housing Capital Receipts to the Pool	4
(42)	Other operating income (Right to Buy Discount Repaid)	0
2,432	Interest payable and similar charges	2,335
(147)	Interest and Investment Income	(1,226)
(27)	Investment Property Income and Expenditure	(13)
267	Pension Interest Costs and Expected Return on Assets	23
(1,495)	Recognised capital grants and contributions	(1,063)
(4,456)	(Surplus)/Deficit for the year on HRA services	(2,871)

MOVEMENT ON THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT STATEMENT

2021/22		Note	2022/23
£'000			£'000
(3,771)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous year		(1,731)
(4,456)	(Surplus)/Deficit for the year on the HRA Income & Expenditure Statement		(2,871)
4,115	Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under statute	7	662
(341)	Net (increase) or decrease before transfers to or from reserves		(2,209)
2,381	Transfers to or (from) reserves	7	2,177
(1,731)	Balance on HRA at the end of the current year		(1,763)

NOTES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

The Housing Revenue Account reflects a statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for local Council housing provision in accordance with part 6 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The Act sets the framework for "ring fencing" the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The account has to be self-financing and there is a legal prohibition on cross subsidy to or from the General Fund.

1. HOUSING STOCK

The Council was responsible for managing on average 5848 dwellings during 22/23. The housing stock and changes during the year are as follows:

	At 1 April 2022	Additions	Disposals /Sales	At 31 March 2023
Rentable Stock				
- Houses	3,047	1	(33)	3,015
- Bungalows	1,499	5	(5)	1,499
- Flats	1,316	0	(4)	1,312
Shared Ownership	22	0	0	22
Total	5,884	6	(42)	5,848

2. LAND HOUSES AND OTHER PROPERTY

Analysis of Housing Fixed Assets

The vacant possession value of dwellings at 31 March 2023 was £772.746m (£721.887m at 31 March 2022). Each council dwelling owned, in full or part, by the Council has been valued by the Valuation Office Agency in accordance with the guidance issued by DCLG. The vacant possession value of dwellings must be adjusted to reflect the social housing status of local authority dwellings i.e. that social housing is available to tenants at less than open market rents. The predetermined adjustment factor for social housing in the East Midlands is 42%.

	Operational Assets			Non Operational Assets		Total
	Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Investment Properties	Assets Under Construction	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation at 1 April 2022	303,983	4,225	1,487	461	1,810	311,966
Additions	5,735	0	97	0	391	6,223
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	21,084	85	0	0	0	21,169
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	(4,199)	(25)	0	(11)	0	(4,235)
Derecognition - Disposals	(2,548)	(3)	0	0	(101)	(2,652)
Assets reclassified to/from Assets Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified to/from Assets Under Construction	1,073	0	0	0	(1,073)	0
Gross Book Value as at 31 March 2023	325,128	4,282	1,584	450	1,027	332,471
Depreciation & Impairments						
At 1 April 2022	(20)	0	(1,482)	0	0	(1,502)
Depreciation charge	(4,258)	(212)	(83)	0	0	(4,553)
Depreciation written out to the revaluation reserve	3,831	162	0	0	0	3,993
Depreciation written out to the CI&E	5,878	50	0	0	0	5,928
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	(5,450)	0	0	0	0	(5,450)
Derecognition - Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2023	(19)	0	(1,565)	0	0	(1,584)
Balance Sheet Amount at 31 March 2023	325,109	4,282	19	450	1,027	330,887
Balance Sheet Amount at 31 March 2022	303,963	4,225	5	461	1,810	310,464

3. HRA REVALUATION LOSS

When assets are re-valued, the increase or decrease is an “unrealised gain or loss” until the asset is sold. These unrealised gains and losses are held in the revaluation reserve. If an asset is revalued upward, then in subsequent years re-valued downward, the revaluation loss is set against the original gain in the reserve, so reducing it. Once any gains in the reserve are reduced to zero, any further loss must be charged as expenditure to the Housing Revenue Account in the year.

Due to accounting rules, the Revaluation Reserve was set up with an opening balance of zero at 1 April 2007. The closing position on the Reserve at 31 March 2023 therefore only shows revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007 together with depreciation adjustments to comply with accounting rules. Any revaluation gains (and losses) on non-current assets prior to 1 April 2007 are accounted for in the Capital Adjustment Account.

2021/22		2022/23	
£'000		£'000	
4,159	Depreciation	4,553	
(6,902)	Revaluation Loss/(Gain)	(1,694)	
6,485	Impairment Losses	5,551	
<u>3,742</u>		<u>8,410</u>	

4. MAJOR REPAIRS RESERVE

The Major Repairs Reserve is maintained to meet HRA capital expenditure. Movements on the Reserve were:

2021/22		2022/23	
£'000		£'000	
17,900	Opening balance on the Major Repairs Reserve	18,527	
	Transfer to/ (from) the Major Repairs Reserve		
4,159	Transfer from HRA equal to depreciation	4,553	
2,339	Additional contribution from HRA	1,872	
(5,871)	Financing of Capital Expenditure	(5,399)	
<u>18,527</u>	Closing balance on the Major Repairs Reserve	<u>19,553</u>	

5. FINANCING CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The capital expenditure on land, houses and other assets in the HRA together with its financing is shown below:

2021/22 £'000	Expenditure	2022/23 £'000
6,935	Council Dwellings	5,735
0	Plant and Equipment	97
0	Intangible Assets	450
1,842	Assets Under Construction	391
8,777	Total	6,673
Financed from:		
5,871	Major Repairs Reserve	5,399
1,354	Capital Receipts	391
0	HRA Earmarked Reserves	450
1,552	Capital Grants and Contributions	433
8,777	Total	6,673

Supported Capital Expenditure allowances are issued by the Government as part of The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

6. CAPITAL RECEIPTS

The sale of HRA assets during the year is detailed in the following table. Following the reinvigoration of the Right to Buy (RTB) the split between useable and unusable poolable receipts is now recalculated by use of a complex procedure imposed by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

	Receipt in Year £'000	Element Pooled £'000	Useable Element £'000
Sale of Land	0	0	0
Sale of Vehicles	4	0	4
Sale of Council Dwellings	3,616	0	3,616
Repayment of discounts	0	0	0
Mortgage Repayments	5	(4)	1
Total	3,625	(4)	3,621

A transaction cost of £1,300 per completed RTB sale has been deducted before calculating the apportionment between pooled and useable plus a deduction for the debt supported by those properties sold.

7. ANALYSIS OF RECONCILING ITEMS IN MOVEMENT ON THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT STATEMENT

2021/22 £'000	Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement	2022/23 £'000
	Adjustments between Accounting and Funding Basis:	
(1,775)	IAS 19	(1,023)
824	- Pension Costs Charged to Rent Income	898
(6,485)	- Non-Enhancing Capital Expenditure	(5,551)
4,678	Capital Expenditure	4,105
729	Gains/losses on disposal of non current assets	1,069
6,902	Revaluation gains/(losses) on PPE	1,694
(844)	Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	(4)
0	Depreciation of non-current assets	(90)
(10)	Compensated absences	14
42	Other Adjustment	0
4,061		1,112
	Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves:	
	- Transfers to/(from) reserves	
2,339	- Transfers to/(from) Major Repairs Reserve	1,872
2,339		1,872

8. RENT ARREARS

An analysis of rent arrears is shown below:

At 31st March 2022 £'000		At 31st March 2023 £'000
1,102	Current Tenants	1,045
977	Former Tenants	888
2,079	Gross Rent Arrears	1,933

**COLLECTION FUND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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.

Business Rates £'000	2021/22		Total £'000		Note	2022/23		Total £'000
	Business Rates £'000	Council Tax £'000				Business Rates £'000	Council Tax £'000	
Income								
0	89,076	89,076		Council Tax Payers		0	94,165	94,165
35,461	0	35,461		Business Ratepayers		40,040		40,040
Apportionment of Previous Year Deficit -								
11,244	0	11,244		Central Government		3,226	0	3,226
9,001	51	9,052		South Kesteven District Council		2,581	0	2,581
2,249	335	2,584		Lincolnshire County Council		645	0	645
0	63	63		Lincolnshire Police & Crime Commissioner		0	0	0
<u>57,955</u>	<u>89,525</u>	<u>147,480</u>		Total Income		<u>46,492</u>	<u>94,165</u>	<u>140,657</u>
Expenditure								
42,093	88,424	130,517		Precepts and Demands	3	38,695	93,606	132,301
174	0	174		Costs of Collection		173	0	173
(8)	0	(8)		Transitional Protection Payment		(103)	0	(103)
Bad and doubtful Debts -								
0	85	85		Write Offs		0	138	138
530	105	635		Provisions		367	186	553
343	0	343		Appeals		725	0	725
Apportionment of Previous Year Surplus -								
0	0	0		Central Government		0	0	0
0	0	0		South Kesteven District Council		0	359	359
0	0	0		Lincolnshire County Council		0	63	63
0	0	0		Lincolnshire Police & Crime Commissioner		0	54	54
<u>43,132</u>	<u>88,614</u>	<u>131,746</u>		Total Expenditure		<u>39,857</u>	<u>94,406</u>	<u>134,263</u>
14,823	911	15,734		Movement on Fund		6,635	(241)	6,394
(22,710)	-796	(23,506)		Balance at the Beginning of the Year		(7,887)	115	(7,772)
<u>(7,887)</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>(7,772)</u>		Surplus/(Deficit) on Fund at End of Year		<u>(1,252)</u>	<u>(126)</u>	<u>(1,378)</u>
Allocated to -								
(3,943)	0	(3,943)		Central Government		(661)	0	(661)
(3,155)	9	(3,146)		South Kesteven District Council		(459)	(13)	(472)
(789)	86	(703)		Lincolnshire County Council		(132)	(95)	(227)
0	20	20		Lincolnshire Police & Crime Commissioner		0	(18)	(18)
<u>(7,887)</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>(7,772)</u>				<u>(1,252)</u>	<u>(126)</u>	<u>(1,378)</u>

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

1. COUNCIL TAX

Council Tax income derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties that have been classified into eight Valuation Bands (A to H). Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required to be taken from the Collection Fund by Lincolnshire County Council, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire and South Kesteven District Council together with each parish requirement and dividing this by the Council Tax base i.e. the number of properties in each valuation band converted to an equivalent number of band D dwellings and adjusted for discounts.

The Council Tax base for 2022/23 increased to 48706.7 (48,122.4 in 2021/22)

The Council Tax base was calculated as follows:

Band	Estimated No. of Taxable Properties After Effect of Discounts	Ratio	Band D Equivalent Dwellings
A	13,256.13	6/9	8,837.4
B	12,274.28	7/9	9,546.7
C	10,117.78	8/9	8,993.6
D	8,609.01	9/9	8,609.0
E	5,485.09	11/9	6,704.0
F	2,824.78	13/9	4,080.2
G	1,046.42	15/9	1,744.0
H	68.20	18/9	136.4
Band A entitled to Disabled Relief Reduction	21.14	5/9	11.7
Ministry of Defence Properties			43.7
Council Tax Base			48,706.7

2. BUSINESS RATES

Under this scheme SKDC keeps the total non-domestic rates due, less certain reliefs and deductions and then redistributes the rates collected based on estimates at the start of the year. The redistribution of the central and local shares is based on the ratio of 50:40:10 for Central Government, SKDC and Lincolnshire County Council. The business rates retention scheme is designed to encourage economic growth and incentivise Councils by allowing them to keep a proportion of any business rates growth achieved during the year.

Under the arrangements for Non-Domestic Rates, the Council collects rates for its area based upon local rateable values (determined by the Valuation Office Agency, an executive agency of HM Revenue & Customs) multiplied by the multiplier (determined by Government). For 2022/23 there are two multipliers:

Full	51.2p (51.2p for 2021/22)
Small Business	49.9p (49.9p for 2021/22)

The total Non-Domestic Rateable Value at 31 March 2023 was £111.616m (31 March 2022 £111.235m).

3. PRECEPTS AND DEMANDS

2021/22			2022/23		
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
Council Tax	Business Rates	Total		Council Tax	Business Rates
0	20,934	20,934	Central Government	0	19,235
65,647	4,187	69,834	Lincolnshire County Council	69,756	3,847
12,815	0	12,815	Lincs Police & Crime Commissioner	13,458	0
9,962	16,972	26,934	South Kesteven District Council	10,392	15,613
88,424	42,093	130,517		93,606	38,695
				132,301	

STATEMENT OF GROUP ACCOUNTS

INTRODUCTION

The statement of group accounts consolidates South Kesteven District Council accounts with those of its subsidiaries:

- Gravitas Housing Limited - Company Registration No.10590597 (England and Wales)
- LeisureSK Limited – Company Registration No.12888724 (England and Wales)

The Council has three wholly owned companies (EnvironmentSK Limited (ceased trading 31 March 2023), Gravitas Housing Limited (ceased trading as project complete) and LeisureSK Limited) whose accounts require consolidation. However, the transactions relating to EnvironmentSK Limited are not material as they receive the majority of their funding from the Council. Therefore only the company accounts of Gravitas Limited and LeisureSK Limited have been consolidated with the Council's.

Further details regarding EnvironmentSK Limited can be found in Note 39 to the Council's Statement of Accounts.

Gravitas Housing Limited has been established by the Council to deliver new housing outside the Housing Revenue Account. LeisureSK Limited has been formed to deliver the Council's Leisure Management contract. The companies are wholly owned by the Council and the aggregation of accounts has been completed on a line-by-line basis with intra-group transactions removed.

Group accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 (the Code) published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The aim of the statement of group accounts is to provide the reader with an overall view of the material economic activities of the Group. It provides a summary of the group's financial position and details of material items that have impacted on the accounts during the year. The same accounting policies have been applied to both the Council and Group Accounts.

The main differences between the Group and single entity accounts are seen in the balance sheet:

- £1.12m intercompany investment has been removed from long term investments
- £127k intercompany loan has been removed from short term debtors (£27k) and long-term debtors (£100k)

GROUP MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

This statement shows the movement in the year on the reserves held by the Group, analysed into usable and unusable reserves. The Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure line shows the true economic cost of providing the Groups services, this is further detailed in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account for Council Tax setting and dwelling rent setting purposes.

	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves	Gravitas Housing Ltd	LeisureSK Ltd	Total Group Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 31 March 2022 brought forward	(72,560)	(237,837)	(310,397)	268.00	36.00	(310,093)
Movement in reserves during 2022/23						
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	(211)	(75,580)	(75,791)	51	197	(75,543)
Transfers between Reserves	(412)	412	0	0	0	0.00
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Increase) or decrease in 2022/23	(1,591)	1,591	0	0	0	0.00
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	(74,774)	(311,414)	(386,188)	319	233	(385,636)

	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves	Gravitas Housing Ltd	LeisureSK Ltd	Total Group Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Restated Balance at 31 March 2021 brought forward	(76,718)	(174,779)	(251,497)	(4)	40	(251,461)
Movement in reserves during 2021/22						
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	884	(59,784)	(58,900)	272	(4)	(58,632)
Transfers between Reserves	(1,523)	1,523	0	0	0	0
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Increase) or decrease in 2021/22	4,797	(4,797)	0	0	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2022 carried forward	(72,560)	(237,837)	(310,397)	268	36	(310,093)

GROUP COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

This statement shows the accounting costs of providing services in the year.

2021/22 Restated				2022/23		
Group Gross Expenditure	Group Gross Income	Group Net Expenditure		Group Gross Expenditure	Group Gross Income	Group Net Expenditure
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
15,169	(4,608)	10,561	Corporate	15,616	(4,445)	11,171
34,009	(49,978)	(15,969)	Finance	32,845	(44,921)	(12,076)
14,064	(6,317)	7,747	Growth & Culture	12,622	(7,030)	5,592
17,323	(3,947)	13,376	Housing & Property	20,717	(6,121)	14,596
80,565	(64,850)	15,715	Cost Of Services	81,800	(62,517)	19,284
Other Operating Expenditure						
0	(578)	(578)	(Gain)/Loss Disposal of Fixed Assets	0	(1,667)	(1,667)
2,591	0	2,591	Precepts & Levies	2,741	0	2,741
844	0	844	Contribution Housing Capital Receipts to the Pool	4	0	4
0	(42)	(42)	Other Operating Income and Expenditure	0	(73)	(73)
3,435	(620)	2,815		2,745	(1,740)	1,005
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure						
2,432	0	2,432	Interest Payable on Debt	2,335	0	2,335
1,236	0	1,236	Net Interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	108	0	108
0	(287)	(287)	Interest & Investment Income	0	(1,917)	(1,917)
120	0	120	Income & Expenditure and Movement in Fair Value of Investment Property	0	(676)	(676)
0	(471)	(471)	Movement in the value of property fund income	519	0	519
3,788	(758)	3,030		2,962	(2,593)	369
0	(20,409)	(20,409)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	0	(20,621)	(20,621)
	1,151		(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			37
	0		Tax expenses of subsidiaries			0
	1,151		Group (Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services			37
	(37,064)		(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of non-current			(26,896)
	(22,720)		Remeasurement of Defined Pension Liability			(48,684)
	(59,784)		Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(75,580)
	(58,633)		TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE			(75,543)

The prior year comparators have been restated to reflect the Council's new reporting structure. The restated analysis of the net cost of services reflects the redistribution of the income and expenditure to the revised directorates. There is no impact on the overall cost of services.

Prior Year Comparators	Original	Original	Original
	2021/22	2021/22	2021/22
	Expend. £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000
Commercial & Operations	15,596	(6,686)	8,910
Corporate	38,339	(50,524)	(12,185)
Growth & Culture	11,428	(5,293)	6,135
Housing & Property	15,202	(2,347)	12,855
Cost Of Services	80,565	(64,850)	15,715

GROUP BALANCE SHEET

The Group Balance Sheet summarises the financial position of the Council and its subsidiary, as a whole. It shows the value of group assets and liabilities at the end of the financial year.

At 31 March 2022 £'000	Note	At 31 March 2023 £'000
387,938	Property Plant & Equipment	407,857
842	Heritage Assets	690
4,950	Investment Property	5,019
97	Intangible Assets	426
5,173	Long Term Investments	2,632
480	Long Term Debtors	72
399,480	Long Term Assets	416,696
590	Current Assets Held for Sale	1,090
66,085	Short Term Investments	48,499
1,340	Inventories	35
7,256	Short Term Debtors	8,417
17,170	Cash and Cash Equivalents	18,568
92,441	Current Assets	76,609
(3,245)	Short Term Borrowing	(3,245)
(36,571)	Short Term Creditors	(13,810)
(390)	Provisions	(219)
(40,206)	Current Liabilities	(17,274)
(2,037)	Provisions	(2,286)
(86,213)	Long Term Borrowing	(82,994)
(48,327)	Other Long Term Liabilities	(251)
(5,046)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	(4,878)
(141,623)	Long Term Liabilities	(90,409)
310,092	Net Assets	385,622
£'000		£'000
72,348	Usable Reserves	74,301
237,744	Unusable Reserves	311,321
310,092	Total Reserves	385,622

GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT

The Group Cash Flow Statement summarises the cash flows of the Council and its subsidiary during the year.

2021/22 £'000		Notes	2022/23 £'000
	Operating Activities		
(1,151)	Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services		(37)
23,992	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	G3	(7,930)
(5,828)	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		(8,619)
17,013	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		(16,586)
	Investing Activities		
(49,592)	Net cash flows from Investing Activities		17,843
6,595	Net cash flows from Financing Activities		141
(25,984)	Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash		1,398
43,154	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		17,170
17,170	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		18,568
25,984			(1,398)

NOTE G1 – INVENTORIES

Gravitas		South Kesteven District Council	Gravitas		South Kesteven District Council
Property Constructed for Sale	Consumables		Property Constructed for Sale	Consumables	
2021/22 £'000			2022/23 £'000		
2,442	25	Balance outstanding at start of year	1,298	41	
101	691	Purchases			
(1,245)	(675)	Recognised as an expense in year	(1,298)	(6)	
1,298	41	Balance outstanding at year-end	0	35	

NOTE G2 – CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS

At 31 March 2022 £'000		At 31 March 2023 £'000	
189	Cash held by the authority	217	
(305)	Bank current accounts	842	
17,286	Short Term Deposits	17,509	
17,170	Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	18,568	

NOTE G2 – CASH FLOW

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
9,004	Depreciation	7,607
(181)	Impairment & downward valuations	5,624
107	Amortisation	150
7,009	Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(24,260)
584	(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(2,364)
1,127	(Increase)/Decrease in Stock	1,304
4,313	Movement in pension liability	608
2,487	Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or de-recognised	3,137
(458)	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	264
23,992		(7,930)

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2022/23 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2023. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. These regulations require the Statement of Accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 and 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.

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 the sale of goods is recognised when the Council transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Council can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument, rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.
- The impact of IFRS15: Revenue from Contracts with customers has been considered and deemed to have no material impact.

III. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in 30 days or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

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

IV. 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 loss can be written off.
- Amortisation of intangible assets attributable to the service.

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

V. 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 (i.e. the Collection Fund) for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and NDR. Under the legislative framework for the Collection Fund, billing authorities, major preceptors and central government share proportionately the risks and rewards that the amount of council tax and NDR collected could be less or more than predicted.

Accounting for Council TAX and NDR

The council tax and NDR included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the Council's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax and NDR that must be included in the Council's General Fund. Therefore, the difference between the income included in the 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 council's share of the end of year balances in respect of council tax and NDR relating to arrears, impairment allowances for doubtful debts, overpayments and prepayments and appeals.

VI. 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. These expenses are charged on an accruals basis to the relevant service line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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. They are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service, or where applicable, to the Non Distributed Costs line 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 a restructuring.

Post-Employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pension Fund, administered by Lincolnshire County Council. The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the revenue account when employees earn them, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions.

Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the Lincolnshire County Council pension scheme attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc, and projected earnings for current employees.
- The assets of the Lincolnshire County Council pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the balance sheet at their fair value.

The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into the following components:

- Service Cost comprising:
 - Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the revenue accounts of 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 as part of Non Distributed Costs.
- Net interest on the net defined pension liability (asset) i.e., net interest expense for the Council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Remeasurement 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 pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumption – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
 - Contributions paid to the Lincolnshire 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 has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

VII. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial Liabilities

Financial Liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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 all of the borrowing that the Council has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principle repayable (plus accrued interest) and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account is the amount payable for the year in the loan agreement.

Financial Assets

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

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

The 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 instrument).

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

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

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

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

Expected Credit Loss Model

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost, either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the 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, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month expected losses.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss

Financial assets that are measured at 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 three levels:

- Level 1 inputs – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets that the Council 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 derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

VIII. GOVERNMENT GRANTS & OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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

Money advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants 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.

IX. HERITAGE ASSETS

Heritage assets are held or maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture. They are initially recognised at cost if this is available. If cost is not available, values are only included in the Balance Sheet where the cost of obtaining valuation is not disproportionate to the benefit derived. For most of the Council's heritage assets, insurance valuations are used. Where no market exists or the asset is deemed to be unique, and it is not practicable to obtain a valuation, the asset is not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

Heritage assets are depreciated over their useful life if this can be established. If an asset is considered to have an indefinite life, no depreciation is charged. Disposals, revaluation gains and losses and impairments of heritage assets are dealt with in accordance with the Council's policies relating to property, plant and equipment.

The cost of maintenance and repair of heritage assets is written off in the year incurred.

X. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and controlled by the Council (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.

Expenditure on the development of the Council's website is not capitalised.

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

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

The useful life of intangible assets is assessed by the Chief Finance Officer at the time of acquisition. Intangible assets are derecognised when no future economic benefits are expected from them.

XI. INTERESTS IN COMPANIES AND OTHER ENTITIES

The Council has a material interest in LeisureSK, InvestSK and EnvironmentSK. The nature of these relationships has been assessed and they are deemed to be subsidiaries. The Council is not currently required to produce group accounts on the grounds of materiality. In respect of Gravitass the Council produces Group Accounts.

XII. INVENTORIES AND LONG TERM CONTRACTS

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

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

XIII. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

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

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

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

XIV. LEASES

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

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

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

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases:

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the leases 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 e.g. payments net of financing costs. Initial direct costs of the Council are added to the carrying amount of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into the lease are applied to writing down the lease liability. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the period 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 Council at the end of the lease period).

Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefitting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are

made on a straight line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the patterns of payments (e.g. there is a rent free period at the commencement of the lease).

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the Council grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal and replaced by a long-term debtor in the Balance Sheet valued on the future income due under the finance lease.

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).

XV. OVERHEADS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

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

XVI. 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 Council, over more than one year and that the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an assets potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

The Council has a de-minimis of £10,000 for capital expenditure, with the exception of the purchase of motor vehicles. Where the total cost of an asset is higher than £10,000 but only part of the expenditure has occurred within a financial year that expenditure would be included in the balance sheet even if it was below the de minimis level.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

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

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

case, where an asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Council.

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

- Dwellings – current value determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH). The social housing discount applied in 2020/21 is 42%.
- Community assets and assets under construction – historic cost.
- Plant, Vehicles & Equipment – depreciated historical cost.
- All other classes of assets – current value, unless there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of the asset. In this case fair value is estimated using the Depreciated Replacement Cost method.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are re-valued where there have been material changes in the value, but as a minimum every five years. Valuations of property assets are carried out by the District Valuer, an external, qualified valuer, who is independent of the Council. The method of valuations is as recommended by CIPFA and in accordance with the principles and guidance notes issued by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. Operational assets constructed or acquired during the year will be re-valued on 31 March of the following year.

Increases as a result of revaluations are debited to the appropriate asset account, with the opposite entry going to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains, except to the extent where it reverses a previous revaluation loss that was charged to a service revenue account within the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement. In this case the revaluation gain will first be used to offset the previous loss and any further gain is then taken to the Revaluation Reserve. Revaluation gains charged to Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account and reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Decreases as a result of revaluation, which are not specific to one asset but affect several, are revaluation losses as opposed to impairments. The decrease is recognised in the Revaluation Reserve up to the balance in respect of each asset affected and then in Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Any such charge taken to Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services is then transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account and reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

Impairment

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

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

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

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

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite

useful life (i.e. freehold land and certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Land is not depreciated as it will not have a finite life.
- Council Dwellings and Other Buildings are depreciated using the straight line method. The finite useful life is assessed by the District Valuer at the time of revaluation but for Council Dwellings is usually 50 years, and for other buildings is between 1 and 60 years.
- Plant and Equipment are also depreciated by the straight line method. Useful life is assessed by the Chief Finance Officer at the time of acquisition, usually between 3 and 10 years. Some assets have a longer life span, up to 30 years.
- Vehicles are depreciated using the reducing balance method at a rate of 25% per annum.
- Non-current assets held-for sale are not depreciated.

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

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

Componentisation

Only assets with a carrying amount more than or equal to £500,000 at the beginning of the financial year are considered for componentisation. To be recognised as a component the value of the part of the asset being considered must be more than or equal to 10% of the value of the asset, and have a life less than or equal to half that of the main asset. When a component is replaced, the carrying amount of the old component is derecognised and the new component is recognised. If the carrying amount of the old component is not known, this is estimated by indexing back from the cost of the new component and adjusting for depreciation and impairment over the old component's useful life. The Building Costs Index will be used.

The depreciation calculated is charged to the service revenue accounts, central support service accounts and trading accounts.

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

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is classified 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 a fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted in 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 for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations that would have been recognised had they not been classified as Held for Sale, and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

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

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

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

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.

XVII. PROVISIONS, CONTINGENT ASSETS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

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 that the Council becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

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

The Council has made a provision for settling the self-insured element of Public Liability insurance claims.

Contingent Liabilities

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

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

Contingent Assets

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

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

XVIII. RESERVES

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

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

XIX. 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.

XX. VAT

VAT 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.

XXI. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

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

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

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

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

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accounting Period - The length of time covered by the Council's accounts. This is twelve months commencing on 1 April. The end of the accounting period is the balance sheet date.

Accrual Concept – Revenue and capital income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid. Transactions are treated on an accruals basis with income and expenditure due as at 31 March brought into the accounts.

Actuarial Gains and Losses - For a defined pension 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 (experience gains and losses), or
- (b) the actuarial assumptions have changed.

Amortisation - The writing down in value of intangible assets, which is charged to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of such assets, used in the provision of those services. This is the equivalent of depreciation for non-current assets.

Annual Governance Statement – Identifies the systems the Council has in place to ensure that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards ensuring public money is safeguarded.

Asset - An asset is something that the Council owns that has monetary value. Assets are either "current" or "non-current".

- A **current asset** is one that will be used or cease to have material value by the end of the next financial year e.g. stock or debtors.
- A **non-current asset** provides benefits for a period of more than one year e.g. Council Offices.
- An **intangible asset** is a non-monetary asset that cannot be seen, touched or physically measured and which is created through time and/or effort e.g. IT software.

Audit of Accounts - An examination by an independent expert of an organisation's financial affairs to check that the relevant legal obligations and codes of practice have been followed.

Bad Debt Provision - Outstanding amounts owed to the Council which are highly unlikely to be collected.

Balance Sheet - The Balance Sheet summarises the Council's financial position at the end of each financial year i.e. 31st March.

Budget - The Council's plans set out in financial terms. Both revenue and capital budgets are prepared and are used to control and monitor expenditure and performance.

CAA - Capital Adjustment Account. This account contains the amounts that are required by Statute to be set aside from capital receipts and revenue for the repayment of external loans as well as amounts of revenue, useable capital receipts and contributions that have been used to fund capital expenditure. It also accumulates depreciation, impairment and write-off of non-current assets on disposal.

Capital Charges - A charge to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of non-current assets used in the provision of services, i.e. depreciation.

Capital Expenditure - Expenditure on the acquisition of a non-current asset or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing non-current asset.

Capital Receipts - Money received from the disposal of a non-current asset. Capital receipts cannot be used to fund revenue services.

Carrying Amount - The value of an asset or liability as shown in the Balance Sheet.

Cash Flow Statement - A statement that forms part of the Core Financial Statements and summarises the cash flows within the Council's bank accounts that have taken place within the financial year.

CIES - Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement.

CIPFA - The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The professional accounting body concerned with Local Government and the Public Sector.

Code (the) - The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK: A Statement of Recommended Practice.

Collection Fund - A separate account to record the income and expenditure collected from council tax and Non-Domestic Rates, including outstanding community charges.

Community Assets - Assets that the Council intends to hold in perpetuity that have no determinable useful life and that may have restrictions regarding their sale. Examples of such items are parks and historic buildings.

Current Service Cost - The increase in the present value of the pension scheme liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

Curtailement - the cost of the early payment of pension benefits if any employee has been made redundant in the previous financial year.

Council Tax - This is a banded property tax set by local authorities in order to meet their budget requirements. There are eight bands (Band A-Band H), set by the District Valuer according to the value of the property. The amount of tax each household pays depends on the band of the property.

Creditors - Amounts owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered before the end of the accounting period but for which payment was not made by the end of the accounting period.

Current Liabilities - Amounts payable that become due during the next financial year.

Debtors - Amounts due to the Council for goods or services provided before the end of the accounting period, for which actual payments had not been received by the end of the accounting period.

Deferred Charges - Expenditure that may properly be deferred but which does not result in, or remain matched with, assets controlled by the Council.

Deferred Credits - These transactions arise when non-current assets are sold and the amounts owed by the purchasers are repaid over a number of years, such as by way of mortgages. The balance is reduced by the principal amounts repayable in any financial year.

Depreciation - An estimate of the loss in value of a non-current asset due to age, wear and tear or obsolescence over a period of time.

Emoluments - Sums paid to an employee and sums due by way of expenses allowances and the money value of any other benefits received other than in cash. Pension contributions payable are excluded.

Earmarked Reserves - These are reserves set aside for specific purposes, a type of service or type of expenditure.

Expected Rate of Return - The average rate of return expected over the remaining life of the related obligation on the actual assets held by the pension scheme.

Finance Leases - Arrangements whereby the lessee is treated as the owner of the leased asset and is required to include such assets within the non-current assets on the Balance Sheet.

Financial Year - The period over which the Council reports its financial activity. Currently this is 1st April to 31st March.

FRS - Financial Reporting Standards, a reference to the accounting treatments that companies in the UK (and Local Authorities) would generally be expected to apply in the preparation of the Financial Statements.
General Fund - The total services of the council except for the Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund. The day to day spending on services is met from the fund.

Government Grants - Grants made by central government towards either revenue or capital expenditure to help with the cost of providing services and capital projects. Some government grants have restrictions on how they may be used whilst others are general purpose.

Housing Benefits - This is a national system for giving financial assistance to individuals towards certain housing costs. The cost of the service is subsidised by central government.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) - A separate account to the General Fund recording all the transactions relating to the provision of social housing.

Joint Operation - This is an arrangement whereby all parties have joint control of the assets and liabilities to the operation.

IAS - International Accounting Standards, a reference to accounting treatments that companies in the UK (and Local Authorities) would generally be expected to apply in the preparation of the Financial Statements.

IFRS - International Financial Reporting Standards, a reference to accounting treatments that companies in the UK and Local Authorities would generally be expected to apply in the preparation of the Financial Statements.

Impairment Losses - A reduction in the value of a non-current asset to below its carrying amount on the Balance Sheet, as a result of damage, obsolescence or a general decrease in market value.

Intangible Assets - Capital expenditure that does not result in the creation of a tangible asset but which gives the Council a controllable access to future economic benefit, e.g. computer software licences.

Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities - The increase in the present value of the pension scheme liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

Key Prudential Indicator - One of the indicators required under the Prudential Code for the measuring of the Council's Treasury Management activities.

Liability - A liability arises when the Council owes money to others and it must be included in financial statements. There are two types of liability:

- A **current liability** is a sum of money that will or might be payable during the next accounting period e.g. creditors or cash overdrawn.
- A **deferred liability** is a sum of money that will not become payable until some point after the next accounting period or is paid off over a number of accounting periods.

Long Term Debtor - Amounts due to the Council more than one year after the Balance Sheet date.

Materiality - This is one of the main accounting concepts. It ensures that the statement of accounts includes all the transactions that, if omitted, would lead to a significant distortion of the financial position at the end of the accounting period.

DLUHC - Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) - The minimum amount which must be charged to the Council's revenue accounts each year and set aside for debt repayment.

MIRS - Movement in Reserves Statement.

MRR - Major Repairs Reserve.

Net Book Value (NBV) - The value of a non-current asset less the accumulated amount of depreciation/amortisation.

Non Distributed Costs - These are overheads for which no user benefits and should not be apportioned to services.

Non Domestic Rates - Tax charged on the rateable value of non-domestic properties (business properties). The rate of tax is set by the Government.

Operating Leases - A lease where the lessor retains all the risks and rewards of ownership of a non-current asset.

Past Service Cost - Discretionary benefits awarded on early retirement are treated as past service costs. This includes added years and unreduced pension benefits covered by the rule of 85.

Pension Fund - An employee's pension fund maintained by a Council or group of councils in order to primarily make pension payments on the retirement of participating employees. It is financed by contributions from the employing authority, the employees and investment income.

PPE - Property, Plant & Equipment. Assets other than Council dwellings, Assets under Construction and Investment Properties.

Precepts - The amount of Council Tax income that Councils, Police Authorities, Parish Councils and Fire Authorities need to provide their service. The amount for all local authorities providing services in an area appears on council tax bills.

Provisions - This is a sum of money that has been put aside in the accounts for liabilities that are due but where the amount or the timing of the payment is not known with any certainty.

PWLB - Public Works Loans Board. A central government agency that provides lending facilities to local authorities.

Related Party Transactions - A related party transaction is the transfer of assets or liabilities or the performance of services by, to or for a related party irrespective of whether a charge has been made.

Reserves - Amounts set aside to meet capital or revenue expenditure which do not fall under the definition of Provisions.

Revaluation Reserve - The Revaluation Reserve records the accumulated gains from the increase in the revaluation of assets. It also records any reduction in the value of assets subject to the limits of the previous increases in value of the same asset.

Revenue Expenditure – The day-to-day running costs a Council incurs in providing services.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute - This is expenditure treated as capital expenditure but which does not result in a non-current asset belonging to the council. An example of this is a Disabled Facilities Grant paid to a homeowner to fund adaptations to their own home.

Revenue Support Grant (RSG) - A general grant paid by central government to local authorities as a contribution towards the cost of their services.

Soft Loan - A soft loan is a loan with a below market rate of interest.

Treasury Management - The process by which the Council manages its day to day cash requirements.

Independent auditor's report to the members of South Kesteven District Council

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of South Kesteven District Council (the 'Authority') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement, the Collection Fund Account, the Group Movement in Reserves Statement, the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Group Balance Sheet and the Group Cash Flow Statement, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of the significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the group and of the Authority as at 31 March 2023 and of the group's expenditure and income and the Authority's expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law, as required by the Code of Audit Practice (2020) ("the Code of Audit Practice") approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General. 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 the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We are responsible for concluding on the appropriateness of the Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group and the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the auditor's opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority or the group to cease to continue as a going concern.

In our evaluation of the Chief Finance Officer's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 that the Authority's and group's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuation of services provided by the group and the Authority. In doing so we had regard to the guidance provided in Practice Note 10 Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2022) on the application of ISA (UK) 570 Going Concern to public sector entities. We assessed the reasonableness of the basis of preparation used by the group and Authority and the group and Authority's disclosures over the going concern period.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Authority's and the group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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 themselves. 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 this regard.

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

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office in April 2020 on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition' published by CIPFA and SOLACE, or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters required by the Code of Audit Practice

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements, the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of the Authority and the Chief Finance Officer

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Chief Finance Officer. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Chief Finance Officer determines is

necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our 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. Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the group and Authority and determined that the most significant which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those related to the reporting frameworks (the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Local Government Act 2003).

We enquired of management and the Governance and Audit Committee, concerning the group and Authority's policies and procedures relating to:

- the identification, evaluation and compliance with laws and regulations;
- the detection and response to the risks of fraud; and
- the establishment of internal controls to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We enquired of management, internal audit and the Governance and Audit Committee whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had any knowledge of actual, suspected or alleged fraud.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Authority and group's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by evaluating management's incentives and opportunities for manipulation of the financial statements. This included the evaluation of the risk management override of controls. We determined that the principal risks were in relation to journal entries, in particular those posted around the reporting date which had an impact on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Our audit procedures involved:

- evaluation of the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud,
- journal entry testing, with a focus on material, post year-end and unusual journals,
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates in respect of land and buildings council dwellings, investment property and defined benefit pensions liability valuations, and
- assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement item.

These audit procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error and detecting irregularities that result from fraud is inherently more difficult than detecting those that result from error, as fraud may involve collusion, deliberate concealment, forgery or intentional misrepresentations. Also, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including potential for fraud in revenue and expenditure recognition. We remained alert to any indications of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, throughout the audit.

Our assessment of the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the group and Authority's engagement team [and component auditors] included consideration of the engagement team's and component auditor's:

- understanding of, and practical experience with audit engagements of a similar nature and complexity through appropriate training and participation
- knowledge of the local government sector in which the group and Authority operates
- understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements specific to the Authority and group including:
 - the provisions of the applicable legislation
 - guidance issued by CIPFA/LASAAC and SOLACE
 - the applicable statutory provisions.

In assessing the potential risks of material misstatement, we obtained an understanding of:

- the Authority and group's operations, including the nature of its income and expenditure and its services and of its objectives and strategies to understand the classes of transactions, account balances, expected financial statement disclosures and business risks that may result in risks of material misstatement.
- the Authority and group's control environment, including the policies and procedures implemented by the Authority and group to ensure compliance with the requirements of the financial reporting framework.

For components at which audit procedures were performed, we requested component auditors report to us instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that gave rise to a risk of material misstatement of the group financial statements. No such matters were identified by the component auditors.

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

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

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

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we have not been able to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2023.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matter except on 24 January 2024 we identified a significant weakness in the Authority's governance arrangements. This was in relation to the Authority using a higher number of Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) during 2021/22 than we would expect to see, and higher than we commonly see used by other local authorities. The reasons for these NDAs included redundancies, mutual terminations, grievances, and flexible retirements. We recommended that the Authority review its processes and controls for making decisions on whether to use NDAs including the drafting of clear guidance on when use of NDAs may be appropriate and what alternatives should be considered.

Responsibilities of the Authority

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

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

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

We undertake our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in January 2023. This guidance sets out the arrangements that fall within the scope of 'proper arrangements'. When reporting on these arrangements, the Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under three specified reporting criteria:

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

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

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – Audit certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of South Kesteven District Council for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 44 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Laurelin Griffiths

Laurelin Griffiths, Key Audit Partner

for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor

Birmingham

1 February 2024

Annual Governance Statement

2022/23



Grantham



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Foreword

Welcome to South Kesteven District Council's Annual Governance Statement for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

The Council has a duty to ensure that its business is conducted to a high standard in accordance with law and that our finances are safeguarded and properly accounted for, and the purpose of this Statement is to demonstrate that the right systems and processes are in place.

As in the previous 12 months, 2022-23 presented a huge set of unprecedented challenges to which the Council responded positively and proactively, thereby ensuring that residents and businesses could continue to access essential services, and that support and advice were available throughout.

The Council has adapted and continued to show flexibility in its response to the changing environment, whilst also meeting the requirement of the Local Government Act 1999 of planning for continuous improvement in the way services are delivered, and ensuring value for money for residents.

As part of this, alongside our governance framework we have a Corporate Plan 2020-2023 in place to bring focus and clarity to our vision and priorities for South Kesteven to be the best district in which to live, work and visit.

The Annual Governance Statement has been prepared and published in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework and meets the statutory requirement to review governance arrangements at least once a year.

It conforms to the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance and covers all significant corporate systems, processes and controls across all Council activities.

The statement details the Council's key governance arrangements, explaining how they are tested and the assurances that can be relied on to show that the systems are working effectively. It also allows us to identify areas for improvement in our internal control framework and implement any necessary changes.

The Council is committed to continuous improvement and is confident that it has established robust foundations enabling it to continue to develop and strengthen governance arrangements.




Karen Bradford
Chief Executive
South Kesteven
District Council



Cllr Richard Cleaver
Leader of the Council
South Kesteven
District Council

 @southkesteven

 @southkdc

 [linkedin.com/company/south-kesteven-council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-kesteven-council)

Key elements of the Council's Governance Framework 2022/23

<p>Full Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approves amendments to the Constitution and all associated Procedure Rules, Protocols and Codes • Approves Strategies, Policies and Plans which make up the Policy Framework, including • Full Council the Corporate Plan and the Local Development Plan • Approves the Council's budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy, including the setting of Council Tax • Holds meetings in public unless exemptions apply. All decisions are publicly available in minutes of its meetings
<p>Cabinet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes the majority of the Council's decisions on matters outside of the Council's budget and policy frameworks • Sets priorities in line with the Council's Vision and recommends budget proposals to underpin delivery • Reviews the Council's financial performance, performance of services and risk management • Holds meetings in public unless exemptions apply. All decisions are publicly available in minutes of its meetings
<p>Governance and Audit Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutinises and approves Financial Statements on behalf of the Council • Reviews Financial Regulations, Contract Procedure Rules and the Treasury Management Strategy • Reviews and scrutinises governance arrangements, including Local Code of Corporate Governance, internal and external audit reports and management of risk • Reviews annual reports for Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Business Continuity and complaints made to the Local Government Ombudsman • Holds meetings in public unless exemptions apply. All decisions are publicly available in minutes of its meetings
<p>Overview and Scrutiny Committees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a critical friend challenge to the Cabinet and holds decision-takers to account • Makes recommendations to decision-takers as part of pre-decision scrutiny • Makes recommendations to decision-takers as part of policy or strategy development • Can hold calls for evidence from internal or external stakeholders • Holds meetings in public unless exemptions apply. All decisions are publicly available in minutes of its meetings
<p>Companies Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers proposals on the creation of any new company or joint venture, making recommendations to Cabinet • Provides oversight of companies, joint venture partnerships or other such collaborative arrangements whether wholly or jointly owned by the Council • Provides the scrutiny function for investments, outcomes against funding, property disposals and other resourcing decisions made in relation to companies • Holds meetings in public unless exemptions apply. All decisions are publicly available in minutes of its meetings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews performance management and projects including progress against milestones, resource allocation, risks and performance • Completes Annual Assurance Statements and contributes to the effective corporate management and governance of the Council
<p>Risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews risk registers for strategic, operational and fraud risks. Strategic risks considered by senior managers quarterly and Governance and Audit Committee biannually
<p>Internal Audit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets the Internal Audit Strategy to meet the Council's overall strategic direction and provide assurance on risk management, governance and internal control arrangements • Undertakes annual programme of audits and presents progress reports against the plan • Makes recommendations for improvement in systems and controls and value for money

How we comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Solace Framework

The Council has approved and adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance based on the requirements of the CIPFA/Solace Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016. Set out below is how the Council has complied with the seven principles set out in the CIPFA/Solace Framework during 2022/23.

Principle A

Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law

The Council has defined and communicated the standards of conduct and personal behaviour expected of elected Members and Officers through its Member and Officer Codes of Conduct, together with a Member/ Officer Protocol, included as part of its Constitution to ensure integrity.

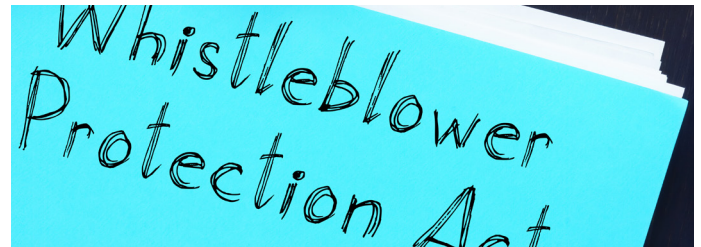
Member Code of Conduct training formed part of the comprehensive induction programme for Members following the quadrennial elections in May 2019, with further refresh sessions being held throughout the term of office.

Additionally, the Council adopted the Local Government Association's new model Councillor Code of Conduct at its meeting on 25 November 2021 and subsequent training for Members on the Code has taken place. This training has been extended to Parish and Town Councils who have been encouraged to adopt the model Code.

There is a complaints process in place in relation to alleged breaches of the Member Code of Conduct, with any such complaints investigated by the Council's Monitoring Officer, in accordance with the a specific procedure for dealing with such complaints.

A Counter Fraud Framework is in place which incorporates bribery and corruption, and a Whistleblowing Policy which provides protection for individuals to raise concerns in confidence and ensures that any concerns raised are investigated.

The Council's Customer Feedback Process provides members of the public with an avenue to raise any concern or complaint as well as provide compliments to specific service areas or individual members of staff.



The governance framework brings together an underlying set of legislative requirements, good practice principles and management processes. It comprises the systems, processes, culture and values by which the Council is directed and controlled, and through which it is accountable to, engages with and informs the local community. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives.

Whenever the Council makes a decision at its meetings it ensures legal implications are considered. To assist with this, all reports include legal and governance implications, which are signed off by the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer, Legal Executive or a legal representative from the Legal Services Lincolnshire Partnership.

Principle B

Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

All meetings are open to the public with agenda papers, reports and decisions being published on our website, except those determined as exempt from publication.

The Council is able to exclude the press and public from meetings for reasons set out in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The Council has robust arrangements in place to deal with residents complaints, FOI requests, subject access requests, data breaches and whistleblowing allegations.



The Council's Constitution sets out how the authority engages with stakeholders and partners.

A Partnerships Register is in development to confirm arrangements the Council has in place with partners and shared working practices. During 2022/23 a number of consultations were undertaken.

This included a significant public consultation with the residents of Grantham, and surrounding parishes, along with key stakeholders, to establish if they supported the creation of a new parish council via the Community Governance Review process.

An additional element of targeted consultation was undertaken with residents in three parishes on the periphery of the Grantham boundary and the results

of both consultation exercises were reported to Full Council on 1 March 2023.

Consultations were undertaken on Wyndham, Dysart and Queen Elizabeth parks to capture local residents views of the facilities.

There was also a consultation on the proposal to increase council tax by £5 per Band D property for the financial year 2023/24.

Following the consultation in relation to the options associated with the investment, re-design and refurbishment of the Deepings Leisure Centre, the outcomes were presented to meetings of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet in April 2022 and Full Council on 24 November 2022.





Principles C and D

Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits and determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

South Kesteven District Council has a number of Council owned companies that support the delivery of specific Council objectives

EnvironmentSK Ltd, a company wholly owned by the Council, provides facilities management focused on grounds maintenance, arboriculture and horticultural services to the Council, other authorities, parish and town councils, businesses, and the public. Six monthly updates have been provided to Companies Committee on the performance of the company, and Companies Committee were also responsible for approving the projected budget for 2022/23 and associated Business Plan. During 2022/23 a significant amount of work was undertaken to ensure that the mapping of grounds maintenance responsibilities were accurately recorded in a new Geographic Information System, and a new grounds maintenance specification was developed. These key pieces of information formed the basis of an options appraisal looking at the future of grounds maintenance provision across the district. Three options were identified including EnvironmentSK Ltd continuing to provide the service, options around a commercial contract through a procurement exercise, or whether the grounds maintenance service should

be insourced and integrated with other Council functions. The results of the options appraisal were presented to a joint scrutiny meeting of the Environment and Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committees on 6 February 2023. Following their recommendation Cabinet decided that the grounds maintenance service should be insourced from 1 April 2023, the service being integrated with Street Scene as soon as possible within the financial year 2023/24.

LeisureSK Ltd was established in September 2020 and took over the management of the Council's leisure facilities in January 2021. There is a leisure contract in place between the company and the Council which details the level of service to be provided and includes key performance indicators to measure and monitor performance. Under the terms of the contract, LeisureSK Ltd is responsible for the provision of a high quality, accessible leisure service across the district which is attractive to residents and visitors. The main aim of the arrangement is to facilitate the improvement of the health and wellbeing of the district through a range of outcomes, including increasing levels of physical activity across the district, attracting increasing numbers of users to the leisure facilities, providing a high standard of customer care, and identifying opportunities to engage with residents outside of traditional leisure activities.

The Council's leisure contract arrangement with LeisureSK Ltd now covers three leisure centres in Grantham, Stamford and Bourne. Deepings Leisure Centre was closed in July 2021 as, due to its age and condition, it posed significant health and safety risks. Subsequently Deepings Leisure Centre was removed from the contract with the building being handed back to its owner, Lincolnshire County Council in January 2023..

There is a Council appointed Board of Directors for LeisureSK Ltd which comprises senior officers. The Board is responsible for overseeing the strategic direction of the company and its financial and operational performance. Membership of the Board of Directors is complemented by a Non-Executive Director who was recruited in recognition of his significant leisure knowledge and experience.

There are robust contract monitoring arrangements in place to ensure that LeisureSK Ltd deliver on the contract objectives and key performance indicators.

Principle E

Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

The Council has adopted a People Strategy which is built around three themes:

- Attract the right people, retain and develop excellent skills, define and embed the right culture
- Engaging and valuing our people in order to run our business effectively
- Effective leadership to encourage, inspire and navigate change

The aim of the People Strategy is to provide an immediate and on-going and long-term framework for engaging, sustaining, developing and managing our people to be fit for purpose in supporting the Council's vision, goals and the aspirations outlined in the Corporate Plan. In order to address this, we will:

- Attract and recruit high calibre staff regionally
- Develop and support our staff to fulfil their potential and help us deliver our aspirations
- Engage to create an inspired workforce
- Improve the equality, diversity and inclusion of the Council
- Retain and reward our staff through recognising their contribution
- Create and maintain a progressive, collaborative and healthy working environment

The Council has a scheme of delegation that sets out how decisions are made within the Council both at Member level and officer level. This was reviewed and adopted by the Council on 27 January 2022 as part of a comprehensive review of the Council's Constitution. The Council has effective arrangements for the discharge of the statutory Monitoring Officer and Head of Paid Service functions and complies with the relevant requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government.

Principle F

Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

The Council has effective risk management which is embedded across all areas of business activity. The authority recognises that risk management is an integral part of all activities and must be considered in all aspects of decision making.

The Council's Risk Management Framework sets out

its approach to identifying and controlling risks. Risk registers are maintained at strategic and service area level. Strategic risks are reviewed by the Corporate Management Team and reported to the Governance and Audit Committee biannually.

The Council's project methodology ensures that all risks are captured and monitored to enable the successful delivery of projects. These are reported every two months to Corporate Management Team.

The Council's Counter Fraud Framework, structured on the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption, sets out the importance of achieving intended outcomes, whilst acting in the public interest, and being seen to do so.

The Council continues to be a part of the Lincolnshire Counter Fraud Partnership which was established to create the framework for a county-wide anti-fraud approach. The Partnership provides a forum for counter fraud specialists and subject area experts from Lincolnshire County Council and the seven district councils in Lincolnshire to develop and deliver proactive exercises and investigate fraud.

Financial management is a key element of the structure and processes that comprise the Council's governance arrangements and it will be undertaking an assessment against the CIPFA Financial Management Code and developing an action plan.

Underpinning the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and priorities is the ethos of a well-run Council. This includes effective financial management to achieve efficiencies and savings in the short and medium terms.

Strategic Risks 2022/23

1. Ensuring efficient and effective internal control/compliance
2. Achieving Council transformation
3. Supporting communities
4. Achieving future financial resilience
5. Creating the right culture, capacity and capability
6. Ability to be agile and shift focus in response to policy, national political change, and changes to the external environment
7. Ensuring robust security measures to protect the Council's data and assets from external threats

Principle G

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

The Council is open and accessible to the community, service users and employees. It is committed to openness and transparency in all that it does, and this is underpinned by the Corporate Plan. The Council ensures that clear channels of communication are in place with all sections of the community and other stakeholders, and we monitor these to ensure that they are operating effectively.

Every effort is made to ensure that information is concise and easy to understand. In accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code the Council publishes how we spend its money, how it uses its assets, how it makes decisions and have regard to issues important to local people.

The Council has a comprehensive consultation process for published reports which ensures senior management and Members own the contents.

The Council is committed to publishing information

on its performance in a timely manner and report performance against targets and financial targets on a regular basis to committees.

The Council has an internal audit services, commissioned through Assurance Lincolnshire, that reports directly to the Governance and Audit Committee on all aspects of its work, including tracking the implementation of management actions. The Committee also has the opportunity to suggest items for the annual internal audit work programme.

The Council welcomes peer challenge, reviews and inspections from regulatory bodies and it participates in national benchmarking exercises to obtain comparative data on performance. It has recently undertaken external reviews in relation to the Planning Service and the role and functions of the Planning Committee, the review of the Council's Scrutiny Function carried out by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny and the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge. Action plans have been developed and implemented with necessary constitutional amendments approved by Full Council to put these in place where necessary.



Governance Framework for 2022/23

The Governance Framework shown below has been in place throughout the financial year which ended on 31 March 2023 and continues to be in place up to the date of the approval of the Statement of Accounts.

Assurances Required

- Delivery of Council's aims and objectives
- Services deliver value for money
- Engagement with stakeholders and public accountability
- Budget and financial management
- Roles and responsibilities of Members and Officers
- Standards of conduct and behaviour
- Compliance with laws, regulations, internal policies and procedures
- Management of risk
- Effectiveness of internal controls

Sources of Assurance

- Constitution; Scheme of Delegation, Financial Regulations, Contract Procedure Rules and specific Rules of Procedure for the Council's bodies
- Council, Cabinet and Committees including Governance and Audit and Overview and Scrutiny Committees
- Statutory Officers Group
- Corporate Information Governance Group
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Human resources policies and procedures
- Whistleblowing and counter fraud procedures
- Risk management and internal control frameworks
- Performance management framework
- Partnership governance arrangements
- Codes of Conduct
- Corporate Management Team
- Annual Assurance Statements
- Customer complaints system

Assurances Received

- Statement of Accounts
- External audit reports
- Internal audit reports
- Risk management reports
- Counter fraud reports
- Independent and external sources
- Local Government Ombudsman reports
- Reviews by Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Governance and Audit Committee
- Member/officer working groups
- Customer feedback eg complaints
- Freedom of Information requests
- Data Subject Access Requests
- Whistleblowing reports

Review of Effectiveness

Internal audit

The Council’s internal auditors, Assurance Lincolnshire, are required to provide an opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council’s risk management, governance and internal control arrangements.

Eight assurance reviews were undertaken during 2022/23 and one consultancy review. Six assurance

reviews resulted in Substantial Assurance, one resulted in a split assurance of Substantial/Limited and one resulted in Low Assurance.

For the twelve months ended 31 March 2023, based on the work undertaken, internal audit’s opinion below details the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council’s governance, risk, internal control and financial control arrangements:

Opinion	Suggested actions
Governance Performing adequately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance and Audit Committee should receive training that includes a focus on conduct and best practice in what makes an effective committee • The Council and Chairman should review attendance for any non-committee members and consider whether their involvement at the committee supports or impairs the effectiveness of carrying out its remit
Risk Performing adequately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance and Audit Committee should receive an update on the Council’s fraud risk register as part of the reporting of risk
Internal control Performing adequately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance and Audit Committee should receive updates on the implementation of audit actions
Financial control Performing inadequately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance and Audit Committee should receive updates on the implementation of actions from the Accounts Receivable audit

External audit

Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice (‘the Code’), External Audit are required to consider whether the Council has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Audit are required to report their commentary on the Council’s arrangements under specified criteria. The NOA have issued guidance which states that a commentary covering more than one financial year can be issued where it is more efficient and effective to do so. Grant Thornton decided to report a combined commentary on the Council’s arrangements for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and this allowed for the Value for Money Assessment to be provided to the Council during

2023 which supports timely reporting. Audit concluded the following:

Financial Sustainability

The Council, like others, continues to operate in an uncertain financial environment. The Council understands the risk it faces in respect of producing a balanced budget and the impact of inflationary pressures. The Council had to rely on the Budget Stabilisation Reserve to make a balanced revenue budget for 2023/24, this is a short-term solution, as the reserve is not sufficient to fund the ongoing deficits in 2024/25 onwards. The Council intends to find ways to respond to this challenge through the new Corporate Plan which will be updated in 2023.

In 2021/22 and 2022/23 no significant weaknesses in arrangements were identified, but one improvement recommendation was made.

Governance

The Council has been on a significant improvement journey over the last three years. The revision of the Constitution has led to greater clarity around decision making and clearer responsibility of delegation. The external LGA Peer review in November 2021 recognised the work that the Council had undertaken in relation to Governance and Leadership with the implementation of the comprehensive action plan.

We recognise that the Council has had a significant shift in its culture over the last three years, with recent staff survey results showing an increase in staff satisfaction and that staff feel that they have more engagement with management.

However, we have identified a significant weakness in relation to the Council's use of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), and the processes

and procedures that the Council follows to arrive at the decision to use an NDA. We have therefore made a key recommendation in this area. We have also raised seven improvement recommendations to further enhance and strengthen the Council's processes.

Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

The Council has processes in place to monitor and report on key performance metrics linked to its Corporate Plan. We recognise the significant work the Council has undertaken with the Regulator of Social Housing, since it self-referred in 2021, in order to resolve the health and safety issues identified.

Partnership working has been strengthened with the addition of a Partnerships Register providing transparency and oversight.

In 2021/22 and 2022/23 no significant weaknesses in arrangements were identified, but three improvement recommendation made.



Combined Assurance

Red 3%	Amber 39%	Green 58%
High impact on resources, significant costs likely, high impact on service delivery	Medium- or short-term impact on resources, costs covered within existing financial plans, low impact on service delivery	Monitor and be aware, activity to mitigate risk within existing service delivery plans

The overall assurance of activities has been compiled for 2022/23 and is shown in the graphic above.

Combined assurance is a structured means of identifying and mapping the main sources and types of assurance within the Council and co-ordinating them to best effect. It enhances risk management by providing an effective and efficient framework of sufficient, regular, and reliable evidence of assurance on organisational stewardship and management of major risks to the Council's success.

Combined assurance includes three lines of assurance ie management, corporate and third party, and internal audit. This enables the assurance to be triangulated and tested for reasonableness, and then summarised within a report which is presented to senior management.

The overall assurance rating is an open and honest assessment of the Council's overall assurance levels that has been compiled following discussions with senior officers representing all service areas. Work will continue to ensure the amber and red assurance levels are reduced whilst maintaining the green assurance levels.

More information of the "Red" assurance areas is captured below:

Culture and Leisure: Key Risks and Emerging Issues

Engagement with volunteers – the process needs to be formalised by the Council to ensure volunteers know what they can expect and what is expected of them.

Planning and Economic Development: Key Risks and Emerging Issues

Building Control - inability to deliver the service due to new staff competencies required by law. Inflationary cost pressures – labour and materials

Operations and Public Protection: Critical Activities

Workshop and fleet maintenance – The service also faces ongoing difficulties recruiting qualified HGV

mechanics. Posts are filled by a combination of agency and permanent staff with recruitment ongoing.

Key Projects

St Martin's Park – The development of St Martins Park Stamford has currently been categorised as Red due to the complexity of bringing the site to development standard and the high number of stakeholder objectives that will need to be met.

Key Partnerships

Building Control – There is a need to review the partnership and branding to ensure it continues to improve on the single authority provider model and deliver better value for money through sharing management, skills, and experience.

Governance and Audit Committee is well established with its terms of reference complying fully with CIPFA guidance.

The key areas covered by the Committee's terms of reference are:

- accounts and financial reporting
- financial regulations
- treasury management
- internal and external audit activity
- risk management
- governance
- counter fraud and bribery
- contract procedure rules
- regulatory framework
- the ombudsman process

In addition, Committee receives annual reports on:

- Business Continuity
- Health & Safety
- Safeguarding

Follow-up on last year's key areas of focus

Last year's Annual Governance Statement identified six areas of focus and the table below sets out the action taken to address those areas:

Key area of focus identified for 2022/23	Action taken
Seek removal of the statutory housing regulator improvement notice	An improvement plan, agreed with the Regulator of Social Housing, has been implemented and the Council is now in a position of compliance in terms of landlord health and safety. Continuous improvement across all compliance areas remains a key focus. Work is ongoing to seek removal of the Regulatory Notice at the earliest opportunity.
Undertake an annual review of the Council's Constitution	Following the comprehensive review, a revised Constitution for the authority was approved and adopted by Full Council on 26 May 2022. The Monitoring Officer is required to keep the document under regular review and will report any necessary changes into the relevant Committee at the appropriate time. All Members of the Council also have the ability to highlight aspects of the Constitution which they feel require review, which would also result in consideration by the relevant Committee and presentation to Council.
Undertake a six-month assessment of the Peer Review	A six-month review of progress made against the recommendations set out in the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge was undertaken in September 2022 and a revised action plan is in place to address areas identified for further areas of improvement. The Peer Review Team reported that significant progress had been made by the Council in response to the recommendations put forward in the initial report and commended the authority for the work undertaken.
Develop an action plan to respond to the Council's Scrutiny Review	An action plan, in response to the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny's final report, following its review of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function, was endorsed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 30 January 2023 and presented to Council on 1 March 2023.
Undertake a further review of the Council's companies to ensure they are fit for purpose	Independent reviews of companies, and the services they deliver for the Council, are undertaken on a case-by-case basis. This has resulted in decisions to dissolve three of the Council's wholly owned companies.

Governance Issues

Key area of focus for 2023/24	Action Owner	Deadline
Delivery of a comprehensive induction process for newly elected and re-elected Councillors following all-out elections in May 2023	Assistant Director of Governance	To be completed by September 2023
Ensure delivery of the Scrutiny Review Action Plan	Assistant Director of Governance	December 2023
Ensure delivery of the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan	Corporate Management Team	May 2024
Governance and Audit Committee should receive training that includes a focus on conduct and best practice in what makes an effective committee	Assistant Director of Governance	Date TBC
The Council and Chairman should review the attendance for any non-committee members and consider whether their involvement at the committee supports or impairs the effectiveness of carrying out its remit	Assistant Director of Governance	Date TBC

Contact Details

Alternative formats are available on request:
audio, large print and Braille

South Kesteven District Council

01476 40 60 80

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk

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