



Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

Statement of Accounts 2018/2019 (subject to audit)

Declaration:

**These certified accounts have yet to be audited and
could change as a result of the external audit.**

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Authority Membership 2018/2019

Chairman

Councillor B. Curran (Sunderland City Council) from 18th June 2018 to 2nd May 2019

Vice-Chairman

Councillor N. Forbes (Newcastle City Council)

Councillors

Sunderland City Council

Councillor R. Oliver

Councillor A. Emmerson to 18th June 2018

Councillor I. Galbraith to 18th June 2018

Councillor R. Bell from 18th June 2018

Councillor A. Taylor from 18th June 2018

Newcastle City Council

Councillor R. Renton to 18th June 2018

Councillor H. Stephenson

Councillor K. Kilgour

Councillor T. Woodwark from 18th June 2018

Gateshead Council

Councillor G. Haley

Councillor K. Dodds

Councillor P. Maughan to 18th June 2018

Councillor D. Duggan from 18th June 2018

North Tyneside Council

Councillor C. Burdis

Councillor J.L.L. Harrison

Councillor B. Pickard

South Tyneside Council

Councillor J. Perry

Councillor W. Flynn

Police and Crime Commissioner

Dame Vera Baird QC

Independent Members

Mr G.N. Cook

Miss G.M. Goodwill

Mr M. Knowles

Mr D. Hall

Chief Officers

C. Lowther, Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive (Clerk to the Authority)

D Napier, Finance Officer

Introduction

We are pleased to present the Statement of Accounts for the year 2018/2019 for Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority. A published and audited Statement of Accounts is at the heart of ensuring proper accountability for the use of local and national taxpayers' money. We recognise, however, that the Authority's accounts can only tell part of the story. The Authority needs to demonstrate that it is aiming to operate to the highest standard of conduct in accordance with the principles of Corporate Governance and continues to have a robust system of internal control in place.

With regard to Corporate Governance, the Authority considers, annually, a review of its Code of Corporate Governance. A report on the annual review will be received at the meeting of the Governance Committee on 31st May 2019. The Code takes account of the CIPFA framework, 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government', produced in 2007 and revised in 2016 by CIPFA and SOLACE. The review specifically considers the seven core principles of good governance as defined in the framework as, behaving with integrity, ensuring openness, defining outcomes, determining interventions, developing capacity and capability, managing risks and performance, and accountability.

The review found that the Authority continues to have robust and comprehensive arrangements in place, but has identified a small number of areas for improvement and development which are not considered significant that will be acted upon during 2019/2020.

In line with guidance issued by CIPFA, the Authority operates a Governance Committee to take on the remit of an Audit Committee. The role of this Committee involves not only approving the Statement of Accounts, but also reviewing arrangements for areas such as risk management, treasury management, the wider internal control environment and also consideration of internal and external audit plans, progress reports and annual reports.

Elsewhere within the Statement of Accounts, an Annual Governance Statement has been included, which confirms that there are sound systems of Internal Control in place. We will also continue to ensure action is taken, where necessary, to maintain and develop the system of Internal Control for the Authority in the future.

Chris Lowther
Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive

Dennis Napier
Finance Officer

Councillor Nick Forbes
Vice-Chair of the Authority

Dated:

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority, that officer (the Finance Officer) is the Strategic Finance Manager of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service;
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets; and
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Finance Officer's Responsibilities

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

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

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

The Finance Officer has also:

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

Certification of the Statement of Accounts

Statement of Accounts 2018/2019 (Subject to Audit) Certification by the Responsible Finance Officer

As the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority's Responsible Finance Officer, I hereby certify that in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 Regulation 8 (1) the Statement of Accounts for 2018/2019 (subject to audit) presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority as at 31st March 2019 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

Mr D Napier
Finance Officer

Dated:

Audited Statement of Accounts 2018/2019 Certification on behalf of those charged with governance

As Chairman of the Governance Committee held on 29th July 2019, I hereby acknowledge receipt of the audited Statement of Accounts for 2018/2019 by this Committee, in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 Regulation 8 (3) (a), and confirm that the Statement of Accounts was approved at the Governance Committee of 29th July 2019 in accordance with sub-paragraph 8 (3) (b) with regard to the aforementioned Regulations.

Mr G.N Cook
Chairman of the Governance Committee

Dated:

Audited Statement of Accounts 2018/2019 Certification by the Responsible Finance Officer

As the Authority's Responsible Finance Officer, I hereby re-certify the audited statement of accounts for 2018/2019 in accordance with Regulation 8 (1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Mr D Napier
Finance Officer

Dated:

Narrative Statement – 2018/2019

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service serves a resident population of 1.129 million spread amongst the five constituent councils of Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland in the North East of England. The population density of the area is comparable to that of other Metropolitan areas (Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, West Midlands and West Yorkshire), and accounts for 43% of the North East's population in just 6% of the total land area. The area covered by the Service covers 538 square kilometres and borders with Counties of Durham to the south and Northumberland to the north.

In addition to Tyne and Wear's two major cities, Newcastle and Sunderland, the area boasts two large football stadiums, numerous museums and art galleries, three universities and a number of higher education colleges. The county has a range of well-developed transport links including the Metro light railway system, the UK's eleventh busiest international airport, an international ferry terminal, two major ports, and Newcastle Central Railway Station which acts as a major staging point on the east coast mainline railway and cross country networks.

Traditional employment areas of shipbuilding, coal mining and heavy industries have declined significantly over the last 25 years, giving rise to a changing risk profile, and transitions in unemployment rates. Today, many of the traditional industries have been replaced by modern industrial developments and service based organisations, although manufacturing remains a sizeable sector (producing almost a quarter of the area's GDP). Some of the largest employers in the area include Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd, Virgin Money, Greggs, Proctor & Gamble, The Sage Group and Komatsu.

Vision and Purpose

The Vision Statement of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service '**Creating the Safest Community**' is reflected by its Mission Statement '**To save life, reduce risk, provide humanitarian services and protect the environment**'.

To achieve this Vision, the Fire and Rescue services provided must:

- be **well managed** - employees are expected to manage the areas for which they are responsible within budget;
- aim for **excellence in service provision** taking account of stakeholders' views; and
- work in **effective partnership** with the communities we represent, and external organisations.

The Service also recognises that all employees need to have a clear understanding about the working practices and the core values required for long term success. Everyone within the Authority has a responsibility for ensuring these values are implemented and upheld.

The Authority publishes an Annual Report to highlight its successes over the previous twelve months, including its performance against national indicators and the opinions of external inspectors, as well as outlining details of the improvements introduced to meet the Authority's vision of "Creating the Safest Community".

The latest Annual Report includes a summary of the Statement of Accounts, designed to encourage more people to take an interest in the Authority's financial position in an easy to read format. Further details can be found on the Authority's website at www.twfire.gov.uk.

Performance

The Fire Authority is responsible for Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and is required by law to publish certain performance indicators annually in the local press. These show the statistical performance of the service but cannot provide any indication of the true quality or scope of the service delivered every day to the citizens of Tyne and Wear.

Narrative Statement - 2018/2019 (continued)

Summary of Performance

The Authority's key strategic priority is to prevent fires, deaths and injuries from fires and other emergencies. In order to achieve this goal, wide ranging community safety services, legislative fire safety services and operational response services are provided to the public of Tyne and Wear. The primary focus is to prevent fires and other emergencies from occurring, whilst also ensuring that if they do occur, every attempt is made to limit their impact.

The primary mechanism for achieving this is through the Authority's Strategic Community Safety Plan, which is focused on improving overall community safety through more effective and efficient use of resources to drive down incidents and respond to them more effectively.

In addition, the Authority continues to work with local schools, businesses, residents and community groups with the overall aim of reducing the risk of injuries and death from fire. The main thrust of community safety, however, is targeted home safety checks, which involve Community Firefighters and Prevention and Education staff visiting homes to deliver fire safety advice and practical support, such as installing smoke detectors. During 2018/2019, the Service carried out 28,267 home safety checks (31,134 in 2017/2018) and attended a total of 17,328 incidents (17,083 in 2017/2018).

Service Led Priorities

Service led priorities, as defined by the Government, are no longer required to be reported nationally but allow continuity of performance reporting. The table below sets out the performance over the last three years:

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Performance Indicator			
Number of fatalities from all fires	4	4	5
Number of injuries from accidental dwelling fires (excluding precautionary checks)	43	37	47
Number of accidental fires in dwellings	563	531	545
Number of false alarms due to automatic fire detection from non-domestic properties	1,803	1,745	1,717
Number of primary fires	1,719	1,797	1,870
Number of deliberate fires	4,461	5,592	5,722

The Authority has a long track record of reducing fires but, sadly, in 2018/2019 there were five deaths attributed to fire. The service will continue to strive to work towards the target of zero fire deaths. The service has experienced both increases and decreases in local indicators during 2018/2019. Over the past ten years, there has been a number of significant performance achievements, including a 10% reduction in the number of fire calls attended, 22% reduction in the number of primary fires attended, 23% reduction in the number of accidental fires in dwellings, 11% reduction in the number of deliberate fires and a 51% reduction in the number of false alarms due to automatic fire detection from non-domestic properties.

Performance Improvement

Through the delivery of goals, priorities, strategies and plans, the Service is able to ensure that front line services work towards the overall vision and mission. Frameworks and processes allow the services provided to be monitored and scrutinised to provide continuous improvement.

Performance Action Groups (PAG) address performance at a district and service level and continue to meet to monitor performance and identify areas for improvement by directing resources and establishing priorities with effective delivery of initiatives and projects.

Narrative Statement – 2018/2019 (continued)

Efficiency Plan and Implications

The Authority published its Efficiency Plan covering the four financial years 2016/2017 to 2019/2020 in September 2016, this being a requirement of the government to allow the Authority to accept the Four Year Grant Funding Settlement it was offering to all authorities. The government reviewed the plan and approved this, without any issues being raised, in Autumn 2016. The Efficiency Plan set out the Authority's detailed approach to the delivery of savings necessary to address the reductions in funding over this four year period.

The Efficiency Plan identified savings totalling £8.248m to be achieved over the four year period, based on the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2016/2017 to 2019/2020 reported to members in February 2016. More detailed information on the Efficiency Plan can be found at www.twfire.gov.uk/about-us/efficiency-plan.

The table below shows, in summary, the total planned savings each year and how the Authority proposed to achieve these through a combination of Revenue Budget Efficiencies and planned actions from the Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), a fully costed Plan which sets out separate, much wider major reviews of service areas to achieve savings.

	Published 4 Year Efficiency Plan	Actuals Achieved *
	£'000	£'000
2016/17 – Budget Efficiencies	1,323	1,323
IRMP Actions	1,184	1,184
2017/18 – Budget Efficiencies	1,394	1,441
IRMP Actions	1,773	2,267
2018/19 – Budget Efficiencies	4	948
IRMP Actions	1,081	923
Total as at 31st March 2019	6,759	8,086
Further Proposed Savings:		
2019/20 – Budget Efficiencies	0	346
IRMP Actions	1,489	110
Total	8,248	8,542

*The Actuals Achieved reflect the fact that the Authority implemented the Organisational Management Review in full from 2017/2018 saving £1.690m. In the original Efficiency Plan this was expected to straddle both 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 financial years.

Although the Authority has found savings of £8.086m by the end of 2018/2019, £1.327m more than that set out in the Efficiency Plan, it still has to deal with, not only grant funding reductions, but also spending pressures, such as significant inflationary cost increases and pay awards. A further £0.162m still has to be found in the remaining year of the four year Efficiency Plan, for which planned savings totalling £0.456m have been identified to date. Any additional savings beyond the total in the Efficiency Plan will help to address the increased future Budget Gap that has developed since the original Plan was drafted.

It should be noted that the Authority has already made very difficult budget cost reductions that have impacted upon all areas of the service. Front line services have been affected, both in terms of reducing firefighter numbers and changes to the response model in operation. The base budget has been reduced by £11.3m or 19% since 2010/2011 and the Revenue Budget Gap identified in the MTFS up until 2022/2023 of £4.088m will become much more challenging for the Authority to address as a result.

Narrative Statement – 2018/2019 (continued)

New actions are currently being examined to make the further budget efficiencies needed. The current IRMP 2017/20 contains three broad reviews covering, Response, Collaboration and Ways of Working. Once savings can be quantified, and the actions approved, they will be factored in to an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy. In the medium term it is recognised that temporary use of reserves may be needed until these actions can be implemented and permanent budget reductions achieved.

Funding Context and Financial Planning

Financial Outlook for the Authority

In February 2019, the Government confirmed the local government finance settlement for 2019/2020, the final year of the four year settlement. The Authority continues to face a disproportionately greater reduction in funding compared to most other Fire Authorities. The Settlement appears to show that the more deprived areas, mainly the Metropolitan Fire Authorities, have lower overall percentage cuts to government funding because of a fairer approach adopted by government. However, when locally generated resources are also taken in to account, the more deprived areas still show greater reductions to their overall resources, known as the Core Spending Power, than other types of Fire Authority. The revised grant distribution methodology also does not address the inequalities experienced by the Authority from 2010/2011 to 2015/2016 where it received some of the greatest government grant funding reductions within the fire service.

The Government increased the threshold council tax limit to hold a referendum from 2% to 3% for both 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 and has assumed annual increases to both business rates and council tax. There is an expectation within the Settlement that the Authority will grow Council Tax alone by 4.65% through a combination of increases in the tax base and precept. This continues the government's policy of shifting some of the cuts to local government services directly on to the council tax payer through anticipated annual council tax increases.

The key elements of the Authority's settlement for 2019/2020 are:

- An increase in the Government's Core Spending Power of £0.732m or 1.54%;
- A reduction in the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) of £0.481m or 1.96%; and
- Confirmation of the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) element of the settlement. However this is no longer a comparable measure of funding as those authorities taking part in the 100% Business Rates Retention pilots do not receive RSG.

Against this context of significant and continuing grant reductions, and the fact the Authority has to also meet significant cost pressures from its Budget, the Authority has published a revised Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), which covers the period 2019/2020 to 2022/2023 and can be found on the Authority's website (18th February 2019 Authority meeting). This aims to:

- provide an analysis of the financial position likely to face the Authority over the medium term and establish approaches to address the Strategic Priorities of the Authority as set out in the current Integrated Risk Management Plan which will achieve value for money in the use of the resources available;
- set out the medium term financial position which the Authority is likely to face and to update the Budget Planning Framework for the preparation of future Revenue and Capital Budgets; and
- set out actions to be taken in the short to medium term to mitigate against the significant grant reductions already detailed and the additional cost pressures the Authority faces, and to plan for the additional grant reductions and increased costs expected in the next four year period to 2022/2023.

As set out in the previous section, the MTFS over the four year period up to the end of 2022/2023 using the government's funding projections, shows that the Authority is facing an increased budget gap of £4.088m. In light of this position and the anticipated prolonged funding reductions over the next four years, the Authority's decision to earmark reserves to temporarily help support the budget over the medium term until it can implement its IRMP actions, will now be necessary on a continuing basis and considered prudent.

Narrative Statement – 2018/2019 (continued)

Financial Performance of the Fire Authority 2018/2019

Revenue Expenditure and Income Summary

The estimated net revenue expenditure for 2018/2019 to be met from Government Grants and local taxpayers was approved by the Authority at £48.096million*. This meant that the precept, at the Band D level of Council Tax, after allowing for Revenue Support Grant and National Non Domestic Rates receipts, was set at £79.94 for 2018/2019. This represented a 2.99% increase in Band D, below the Government's 3% referendum threshold level. The following table summarises the financial position for the year:

	2018/2019 Original Estimate £000	2018/2019 Revised Estimate £000	2018/2019 Actual Outturn £000	2017/2018 Actual Outturn £000 Restated
Community Safety	4,861	5,222	3,810	5,068
Fire Fighting and Rescue Operations	43,198	43,425	21,924	23,954
Corporate and Democratic Core	249	249	209	185
Non Distributed Costs	(74)	(74)	(48)	777
Exceptional Items	0	0	0	0
Net Cost of Services	48,234	48,822	25,895	29,984
Interest Payable	0	0	2,346	2,320
Contingencies	2,021	1,023	192	309
Interest on Balances	(135)	(135)	(221)	(126)
Pension Interest Cost and Expected Return on Pension Assets	590	590	22,370	21,960
Net Operating Expenditure	50,710	50,300	50,582	54,447
Capital Financing:				
Reversal of Capital Charges and Impairments	(3,286)	(3,286)	(2,738)	(1,897)
Minimum Revenue Provision	1,445	1,445	1,091	1,196
Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay	932	932	1,104	1,468
Government Capital Grant Applied	0	0	(243)	(395)
Government Capital Grant Unapplied	0	0		(656)
Total Net Operating Expenditure	49,801	49,391	49,796	54,163
Contribution to/(from) IAS 19 Pension Reserve	(947)	(947)	(5,164)	(7,851)
Contribution to/(from) Collection Fund Account	0	0	(73) *	121
Contribution to/(from) Accumulated Absences Account	0	0	(55)	(43)
Contribution to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(758)	(348)	3,855	1,576
Net Budget	48,096	48,096	48,359	47,966
Resources:				
Revenue Support Grant and General Grants	(9,620)	(9,620)	(9,620) *	(10,898)
Top Up Grant	(11,031)	(11,031)	(11,031) *	(10,688)
Business Rates and Collection Fund	(4,159)	(4,159)	(4,589) *	(4,244)
Precepts and Collection Fund	(23,286)	(23,286)	(23,119) *	(22,136)
Total Resources	(48,096)	(48,096)	(48,359)	(47,966)
(Increase) / Reduction to General Balances in year	0	0	0	0
General Fund Balance Brought Forward	(3,943)	(3,943)	(3,943)	(3,943)
General Fund Balance Carried Forward	(3,943)	(3,943)	(3,943)	(3,943)

Narrative Statement – 2018/2019 (continued)

* In the accounts, the Net Budget Requirement for 2018/2019 of £48.359m is made up of Total Resources of £48.096m, as set out in the estimates in the above table, adjusted for additional section 31 grant funding of £0.336m less an amendment required under the Code in respect of the Collection Fund Account of £0.073m.

Comprehensive and detailed budget monitoring is carried out monthly during the year and is supplemented by formal budget monitoring reports which are made quarterly to the full Authority. These reports detail the outcome of the review of budgets and spending forecasts for both capital and revenue expenditure and also include a review of certain other key financial items, including Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators. Again, this reflects strong and robust financial management in 2018/2019, continuing the Authority's strong track record in this regard.

The Revenue Budget Outturn for 2018/2019 is showing a net overall underspend of £1.681m, at £46.415m compared with an original budget of £48.096m. This will be reported to a meeting of the Fire Authority on 10th June. The Authority has made a huge positive drive during the year to achieve this level of saving with a number of significant initiatives:

- Improved financial management throughout, with increased financial awareness and tighter budgetary control, has achieved savings of £0.225m across the full service;
- A review of insurance services provided by the Lead Authority and a new approach adopted by Sunderland whereby all policies are separately tendered to ensure best value, has led to a significant year-end saving on premiums of £0.154m;
- A move to riding four on all appliances, phased in from 1st January 2018 and completed in June 2018, has made in year budget savings in line with expectations. The new response model is operating well with no reported near misses and supports the evidence led approach adopted. In addition, this measure has had a positive impact on helping to reduce overtime;
- Overtime costs have been significantly reduced during the year largely due to proactive management actions such as swap a shift (optimum staffing pilot), balancing leave groups, and establishing a temporary operational resource planner post within the staffing team. In addition, the 23 trainees now operational on fire stations have contributed to the reduction in requirements for overtime during the last quarter of the financial year;
- All aspects of the Authority's finances have now been reviewed and a more commercially based approach to income generation has been carefully and sensibly applied where appropriate, to ensure Best Value is achieved for the Authority. Increases in income above budget during the year help to show this is continuing to bear fruit and income generation is expected to increase in future years as a result of this new impetus; and
- A review of the property portfolio by Finance and Estates has also identified a number of surplus assets which are being actively progressed with a view to either generating a much needed capital receipt or, where appropriate, a sustainable income stream to the Authority. Some of these disposals are nearing completion and revenue budget savings have been identified as a result.

The main variations, are detailed subjectively below, for information:

- Employee costs – a net underspend of £1.472m. Savings have been made from a significantly greater number of operational staff retirements than anticipated, resulting in a net reduction in salaries and oncosts after taking into account the additional twenty three new Firefighters. Along with this, savings have continued to be made during the year from reduced employer pension costs, arising from the impact of temporary staffing arrangements, transitional movements between pension schemes, and employees opting out of the pension scheme. These savings have absorbed overtime costs during the year which, although have reduced from 2017/2018 by £0.22m, have continued to be a feature of this year's expenditure against budget. In addition there have been savings against training costs and Employee insurance budgets;

Narrative Statement – 2018/2019 (continued)

- Premises – an overspend of £0.012m on utility budgets across the Authority's estate from higher bills than estimated and rate increases from phased rate revaluations impacting in 2018/2019, as well as a small increase in Premises insurance costs;
- Transport – an underspend of £0.118m due to revised travel arrangements across the service and reduced vehicle insurances. An overspend on fuel has been met by savings elsewhere in the revenue budget and allowances for price fluctuations have been made when setting the budget for 2019/2020;
- Supplies and Services – an underspend of £0.212m on supplies and services due to continued prudent spend across a number of areas. Subsistence costs continue to reduce following the implementation of revised policies and practices. An overspend on equipment maintenance and repair has been met by savings elsewhere in the revenue budget;
- Contingencies – an underspend of £0.734m as some budget set aside for potential costs identified when the budget was established for 2018//2019 has not been required during the year. This is in part due to the operational service delivery actions, the successful completion of the IRMP action of riding four on all appliances, and the recruitment of the 23 new firefighters reducing the call on overtime costs;
- Support Services and Recharges – a net underspend of £0.027m after changes made to the service level agreement with the Lead Authority once the budget had been set;
- Income – a net overachievement of £0.291m, largely due to one-off sales of vehicles and equipment, additional income for the Princes Trust programme, increased income from Primary Authority Scheme and COMAH activity, ESMCP transitional funding received late in the year, and additional rental income, partially offset by a reduction in the course and conference income;
- Interest received - £0.086m over budget as increases to cash flow levels has resulted in more interest received on the Authority's cash working balances during the year;
- Capital Financing – an underspend of £0.504m from savings on debt charges, lower MRP charges and use of revenue to finance the capital programme; and
- Reserves and Provisions Appropriations - £1.751m decrease predominantly due to underspends against budget reducing the need to draw from Reserves in year, along with agreed appropriations in to the Revenue Budget Carry Forward Reserve for known future requirements, and year end accounting entries required for the IFRS employee benefits and Collection Fund.

It will be recommended to Members to appropriate the surplus funds of £1.681m as follows:

- Transfer £1.0m to the Capital Developments Reserve to help future proof the reserve and the known additional capital works that are scheduled for future years. This will also help to delay the need to borrow to fund the Capital Programme;
- Transfer £0.5m to the Resilience Reserve for contingency arrangements to ensure continued service delivery; and
- Transfer the remaining balance of £0.181m to the Transformation and Reform Reserve to temporarily fund the budget gap over the medium term while longer term IRMP changes are being made.

The total resources at the end of the financial year were £48.359m, £0.263m more than that set out in the budget set for 2018/2019. As part of the finance settlement, the Authority received additional government grant funding of £0.336m to reimburse for business rates retention tax losses and the government made a retrospective adjustment for small business rates relief. In addition to this, a year end adjustment of £0.073m was required to the Collection Fund, resulting in a net £0.263m increase in resources. It is recommended to transfer the additional grant to the Medium Term Planning Reserve as a prudent measure for the uncertainty around future government funding.

Narrative Statement – 2018/2019 (continued)

Prior Period Adjustments

There has been a requirement to restate the Authority's previous published accounts for two prior period adjustments.

(i) Pension Fund Deficit Contributions (LGPS) Payment in Advance

The Authority prepaid pension fund deficit contributions of £1.037m for the three year period 2017/2018 to 2019/2020 covered by the Rates and Adjustments Certificate. The Authority agreed to prepay as this reduced the total deficit contribution payable. This was treated as a payment in advance in the 2017/2018 published accounts, but statutory accounting guidance requires the general fund to be charged with the amount payable for the year rather than the amount paid.

In accordance with the requirements of the Code, the Authority has restated the 2017/2018 published accounts. Full details of the adjustments are outlined in note 34 to the accounts.

(ii) Injury Pension Grant Repayment (Firefighter Pension Scheme)

In 2017/2018 the Authority set up a long term pension liability of £8.639m to recognise the agreement made with the Home Office to repay over claimed injury pension grant. External Audit guidance at the time instructed that a corresponding entry was created in the Authority's equity as a negative revenue reserve, to absorb the effect on the General Fund Balance.

The External Auditor has since reviewed their advice and, as this treatment is no longer considered to conform to the Code, the Authority has restated the 2017/2018 published accounts. The £8.639m has been transferred equally from the Capital Developments Reserve and the Transformation and Reform Reserve. Full details of the adjustments are outlined in note 34 to the accounts.

The table below reconciles the position shown in the statutory accounts and the true position as shown in the reserves statement:

	Statutory Accounts			True Reserve Position		
	Re stated Balance as at 31 st March 2018 £'000	Net Transfer * £'000	Balance as at 31 st March 2019 £'000	Balance as at 31 st March 2018 £'000	Net Transfer * £'000	Balance as at 31 st March 2019 £'000
Capital Developments Reserve	3,115	2,745	5,860	7,435	2,495	9,930
Transformation and Reform Reserve	2,997	(1,129)	1,868	7,316	(1,379)	5,937
Injury Pension Adjustment				(8,639)	500	(8,139)
	6,112	1,616	7,728	6,112	1,616	7,728

*The net transfer in the Statutory Accounts includes the agreed in-year repayment of £0.5m of the over claimed Grant split equally between the two affected reserves.

Narrative Statement – 2018/2019 (continued)

Accounting for Pensions

International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS19)

The Authority's accounts continue to be compliant with International Accounting Standard 19 which is a complex accounting standard. It is based on a simple principle, however, namely that an organisation should account for retirement benefits when it is committed to giving them, even if the actual payment of those benefits will be many years into the future. Inclusion of the pension fund assets and liabilities in the accounts does not mean that the legal title or obligation has passed from the Pension Fund Administrator to the employer. Instead, it represents the employer's commitment to increase contributions to make up any shortfall in attributable net assets, or its ability to benefit (through reduced contributions) from a surplus in the Pension Fund.

An actuarial valuation of both the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and the Firefighter's Pension Scheme (FPS) was carried out at 31st March 2016 and have been updated by independent actuaries to take into account the requirements of IAS19 in order to assess liabilities as at 31st March 2019.

The Authority continues to comply fully with this Standard and the Accounting Policy 1.10 in the Statement of Accounts and the Notes to Core Financial Statements provide details of the necessary disclosures required.

The net overall impact of IAS19 accounting entries is neutral in the accounts and, in reality, as the Authority is making the necessary pension deficiency payments to address any assessed shortfall in the pension fund by the Actuary over time, the Balance Sheet net worth is in effect being distorted by future years' deficits which are being fully addressed by the Authority.

The financial health of the Authority is consequently being affected by the accounting requirements in respect of IAS19. However, the Pension Fund Reserve Deficit, as assessed by the Actuary as at 31st March 2019, is being addressed by the Authority in line with government regulations whereby a period of 21 years to correct the deficit position has been agreed. The Authority can meet the assessed deficit with planned and agreed future years contributions based on independent actuarial advice.

Arrangements for Funding and Accounting for Firefighter Pensions

From 1st April 2006, revised arrangements came into effect for funding firefighter pensions, with Fire and Rescue Authorities administering and paying firefighters' pensions through a local firefighters' pension fund. Together, employee and employer contributions meet the accruing pension liabilities of currently serving firefighters, meaning that Fire and Rescue Authorities meet all of the costs of employing a firefighter, including the cost of future pension liabilities, at the time of employing them.

Ill-health retirement costs are paid by the Authority from its pension fund. Employer payments towards the future cost of ill-health retirements come from a combination of a flat rate employer contribution applicable to all authorities and from an individual charge payable by the relevant Authority where an ill-health retirement occurs. The Authority has invested in health awareness and intervention measures through its Occupational Health Unit and it is pleasing to report that there have been only three firefighter ill health retirements since 2009/2010 to date.

Employee and employer contributions are paid into the pension fund each year, with the fund being topped up by annual Government grant if the contributions are insufficient to meet the cost of pension payments. Any surplus is recouped by the Government. The pension fund is ring-fenced to ensure accounting clarity. As such, a Pensions Fund Account and Net Assets Statement are reported as separate supplementary financial statements within the Authority's Statement of Accounts.

Balance Sheet Position

The Balance Sheet shows the value at the balance sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets of the Authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by reserves held by the Authority. The following table summarises the balance sheet position:

Narrative Statement – 2018/2019 (continued)

	Balance at 31 st March 2018 £'000 Restated	Balance at 31 st March 2019 £'000
Non-current assets	80,385	77,819
Net current assets	36,053	39,135
Long term liabilities and provisions	(926,732)	(951,501)
Net Assets	(810,294)	(834,547)
Represented by:		
Usable reserves	28,437	32,387
Unusable reserves	(838,731)	(866,934)
	(810,294)	(834,547)

Assets are items of worth measurable in terms of money (value). Non-current assets are fixed assets that yield benefit to the Authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year. Current assets are those that may change in value on a day-to-day basis.

Liabilities are amounts due to individuals or organisations which will have to be paid at some time in the future. Current liabilities are usually payable within one year of the balance sheet date and are included in 'net current assets' above.

Provisions are sums set aside to meet liabilities or losses which it is anticipated will be incurred but the amount and / or the timing of such costs are uncertain.

Reserves are sums set aside to meet possible future costs where there is no certainty about whether or not the costs will actually be incurred. Not all reserves can be used to fund services and these are reported in two groups; 'usable' and 'unusable' reserves. Usable reserves, such as the General Fund and earmarked reserves, are those where members will be involved in deciding on the levels maintained and their use. Unusable reserves, such as the Revaluation Reserve and the Capital Adjustment Account, are technical accounting requirements and are therefore not cash reserves, which is why they are classified as unusable to reflect this fact.

The Authority is a going concern due to the fact that, whilst recognising that it has a negative net worth of £834.547m on its Balance Sheet, most of the 'deficit' relates to the pensions deficiency of £913.470m which must be disclosed as part of the international financial reporting standard IAS19 (Accounting for Pensions) requirements.

The fact that all pension costs would never be incurred in one year (as implied by IAS19), coupled with the fact that the Authority is addressing this potential deficiency over a 21 year period in accordance with pension regulatory requirements by making additional annual pension deficiency payments, means the Balance Sheet Net Worth is effectively being distorted by this reporting standard.

If this element is removed, the Authority has a 'real' net worth of £78.923m. The Authority also has assets worth £77.819m and cash backed reserves of £32.387m which support the view that the Authority's Balance Sheet and finances are in fact healthier than implied by the published accounts.

Capital Expenditure and Income and Major Acquisitions, Capital Works and Disposals

Capital Expenditure

In February 2018, the Authority approved a capital programme for 2018/2019 of £6.983m which was subsequently revised to £3.039m during the year. This was largely due to delayed replacement of Hebburn

Narrative Statement – 2018/2019 (continued)

Station until options could be fully appraised and slippage of the fire appliance replacement programme to streamline the procurement process and accommodate the lead in time.

Actual capital expenditure at the end of the financial year was £1.205m, financed from a combination of revenue contributions of £0.505m, earmarked reserves of £0.050m, deferred grant funding of £0.145m, capital receipts applied of £0.406m and Home Office Section 31 grant of £0.099m. The main reasons for the variation in spending of £1.834m have arisen due to the following:

- Expenditure on a number of projects planned for 2018/2019 of £1.804m slipped in to 2019/2020:
 - Completion of the recruitment module and phase 2 of the Integrated Data System extended in to 2019/2020;
 - Delayed replacement of ICT hardware into 2019/2020;
 - Re-schedule of the national government led Emergency Services Mobile Communications Project with subsequent re-profiling over future years;
 - Balance remaining on disposal works at the site of Fulwell Community Station slipped until sale completes in early 2019/2020;
 - Final payment withheld for the appliance closed circuit television until outstanding issues are resolved;
 - Delayed purchase of Fit for Life Gym Equipment into 2019/2020; and
 - Delayed replacement of the small fleet pending further consideration of options.
- Net underspend of £0.035m across a number of schemes completed during 2018/2019; and
- Additional spend of £0.005m for purchase of extra smoke detectors as part of the IRMP initiative to ensure risk reduction.

Disposals

The Authority is actively progressing some asset disposals that are expected to be completed in the next financial year. One of these is the sale of land at the former Fulwell Community Fire Station. The Authority has received a holding deposit of £62,677 during the year to secure the sale.

Authority's Current Borrowing and Capital Borrowing Provision

The Capital Programme report, incorporating the Prudential Indicators and the Treasury Management Strategy, was submitted to the Authority meeting on 12th February 2018, which detailed the 2018/2019 borrowing limits for the Authority. All borrowing is undertaken by the Lead Authority (Sunderland City Council) on the Authority's behalf.

The specific borrowing limits set each year relate to two of the Prudential Indicators required under the Prudential Code, which was introduced from 1st April 2004.

- Authorised Limit for External Debt for 2018/2019 of £47.213 million;
- Operational Boundary for External Debt for 2018/2019 of £42.213 million.

The Lead Authority administers all of the Authority's borrowing through its Consolidated Advances and Borrowing Pool (CABP). The above two statutorily required Prudential Indicators are monitored on a daily basis and neither limit has been exceeded during 2018/2019. The highest level of external debt incurred by the Authority during 2018/2019 was £41.618m on 1st April 2018. This includes borrowing debt of £12.689m, injury pension liability of £8.639m, and £20.290m in relation to the Authority's long term liabilities (consisting of its PFI Schemes commitments and finance leases) which forms part of both borrowing limits in order to comply with IFRS accounting requirements.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

The Authority entered into a contract on 28th March 2003 to provide facilities at six new Community Fire Stations, a Service Headquarters and a new Technical Services Centre. These PFI facilities are located on

Narrative Statement – 2018/2019 (continued)

more effective sites, designed and located to meet the Authority's strategic objectives. Improved community outcomes are being delivered through better engagement with communities through these facilities and the scheme has enabled a major redesign of service delivery. The contract expires on 2nd May 2029 when all of the facilities will become the assets of the Authority.

In June 2009 the Authority also entered into a separate and collaborative PFI contract with Northumberland FRA and Durham and Darlington FRA to provide a new Community Fire Station at Tynemouth. The North East Fire and Rescue Authority (NEFRA) contract expires in May 2035.

The Authority's costs of both schemes are included within its financial statements and are regularly reviewed, challenged and monitored to achieve the lowest unitary charge cost possible to the Authority.

Estates Development Plan

The Authority is delivering the current estates development plan in conjunction with the Lead Authority and its partners.

The key action points are:

- Continue to implement the findings and recommendations of a service wide Access Audit. This will ensure all our buildings and facilities comply with The Equalities Act 2010 and are accessible to all.
- Commissioned a comprehensive Stock Condition Survey (SCS). The findings of this survey will drive future capital investment and forms a key element in our Medium Term Financial Planning (MTFP).
- Completed a detailed service wide building and asset review that, when implemented, will result in the disposal/remodelling of surplus assets. This in turn will yield both capital receipts and revenue savings.
- Continue to explore collaborative and co-location opportunities with partner agencies. To date we now have North East Ambulance Service (NEAS), Northumbria Police, Great North Air Ambulance Service, Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company, RNLI, North of Tyne Mountain Rescue, The Princes Trust and Northumbria Blood Bikes operating from our locations.

The Authority has a Capital Developments Reserve to assist in implementing the estates development plan over the medium to long term.

Financial Statements

The Statement of Accounts shows the Authority's final accounts for 2018/2019. They have been prepared in accordance with the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/2019' and are based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), known more commonly as the Code. The Code constitutes 'proper accounting practice' under the terms of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011, and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Certain financial statements are required to be prepared under the Code of Practice as follows:

1. **Statement of Responsibilities**
This discloses the respective responsibilities of the Authority and the Finance Officer.
2. **Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)**
This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other non-usable reserves.
3. **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**

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

Narrative Statement – 2018/2019 (continued)

4. **Balance Sheet**

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

5. **Cash Flow Statement**

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Authority during the reporting period.

6. **Notes (including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information)**

The Notes to the financial statements have three significant roles. They:

- Present information about the basis of preparation of the financial statements and the specific accounting policies used;
- Disclose information that is required by the Code that is not presented elsewhere in the financial statements; and
- Disclose information that is not presented elsewhere in the financial statements but is relevant to an understanding of them.

7. **Supplementary Statements**

Firefighters' Pensions – Fund Account, Net Assets Statement and Notes

These statements summarise the transactions and the net assets relating to the Firefighters' Pension Fund, which are required to be reported separately within the Statement of Accounts for the Authority.

Dennis Napier
Finance Officer

Dated:

Independent Auditor's report to the Members of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

These pages have been left blank to accommodate the auditor's report in the Audited Statement of Accounts.

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Annual Governance Statement

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Authority also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Authority has had a Code of Corporate Governance in place since 2003, which was revised during 2017/2018. The Authority has approved and adopted a code of corporate governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA / SOLACE Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*. The revised Code is available on the Authority's website (www.twfire.gov.uk) or can be obtained from the Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters.

In providing the Annual Governance Statement the Authority has observed and complied with the revised principles contained within the Framework of the updated CIPFA Code of Corporate Governance 2016. The Authority has well established policies, procedures and controls that satisfy all of the new requirements in detail. The TWFRS Code of Corporate Governance is revised to reflect the changes made in the 2016 Framework.

This Statement explains how the Authority has complied with the Code and also meets the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a statement of internal control.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The governance framework primarily includes systems, processes, culture and values by which the Authority directs and controls its activities and engages with the community. It enables the Authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.

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

The governance framework has been in place at the Authority for the year ending 31 March 2019 and during the approval of the Statement of Assurance and Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.

THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

There is a clear vision of the Authority's purpose and intended outcomes for service users that is clearly communicated, both within the organisation and to external stakeholders:

- The Strategic Community Safety Plan (SCSP) / Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) draws together a shared vision, principles for action and priorities (strategic objectives). For each strategic objective, key targets have been identified. The Plan sets out explicitly the key actions and performance targets for the future, and these are clearly linked with departmental / district service plans and resources. The Plan outlines the Authority's roles and responsibilities, the context in which it operates, what the strategic priorities and improvement objectives are, how the Authority will realise its vision, what its performance improvement and monitoring arrangements are, performance indicators and a financial overview. The financial overview section provides background commentary

to the issues the Authority has considered in setting the budget and in preparing the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

- The SCSP and IRMP contain actions which recognises the risks within the Authority boundaries that are identified in the Community Risk Profile and need to be addressed, and ensures that the available resources are targeted at these risks.
- Communication of objectives to employees and stakeholders takes place through the following means:
 - Distribution of the SCSP / IRMP on the Authority's website and intranet;
 - Consultation with employees, members of the public and other stakeholders on IRMP proposals;
 - The issue of a Statement of Assurance and Annual Report setting out the Authority's priorities, how the Authority spent money on achieving these during the last financial year, and how successful the Authority has been;
 - Through the Authority's Investors in People processes;
 - Internal communication channels, including listening events, management / employee briefings and Vlogs; and
 - Posters throughout the Authority's premises.

Arrangements are in place to review the Authority's vision and its implications for the Authority's governance arrangements:

- The Strategic Community Safety Plan / Integrated Risk Management Plan and all priorities are regularly reviewed to provide a long-term focus for the Authority.
- Through reviews by external bodies the Authority constantly seeks ways of securing continuous improvement. The Authority has professional and objective relationships with these external bodies.
- There are comprehensive annual reviews of the local Code of Corporate Governance to ensure that it is up to date and effective.

Arrangements exist for measuring the quality of services for users, for ensuring they are delivered in accordance with the Authority's objectives and for ensuring that they represent the best use of resources:

- There are clear and effective performance management arrangements including personal development plans for all employees, which address financial responsibilities and include equality objectives.
- There is regular reporting of performance against key targets and priorities to the Authority's Executive Leadership Team, the Governance Committee and the Policy and Performance Committee.
- Services are delivered by suitably qualified / trained / experienced employees and all posts have detailed job profiles / descriptions and person specifications.
- External auditors deliver an opinion annually on whether the Authority is providing value for money.

The roles and responsibilities of all officers and employees are clearly defined and documented, with clear delegation arrangements and protocols for effective communication:

- Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are in place and these set out how the Authority operates and how decisions are made, including a clear Delegation Scheme.
- The Standing Orders and Delegation Scheme indicates responsibilities for functions and sets out how decisions are made.

- The Standing Orders contain the Terms of Reference of the full Authority and other committees, setting out executive and scrutiny functions within these.

Codes of Conduct defining the standards of behaviour for Members and employees are in place, conform with appropriate ethical standards, and are communicated and embedded across the organisation:

The following are in place:

- Members' Codes of Conduct;
- Employees' Code of Conduct;
- Registers of Interests, Gifts and Hospitality; and
- Monitoring Officer Protocols.

Standing orders, standing financial instructions, a scheme of delegation and supporting procedure notes / manuals, which are reviewed and updated as appropriate, clearly define how decisions are taken and the processes and controls required to manage risks:

- The authority's financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Public Service Organisations. The Strategic Finance Manager employed by the Authority is the designated Finance Officer in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 ensuring lawfulness and financial prudence of decision-making, and is responsible for the proper administration of the Authority's financial affairs. The Deputy Clerk is the Authority's Monitoring Officer who has maintained an up-to-date version of the Standing Orders and has endeavoured to ensure lawfulness and fairness of decision making.
- The Authority has in place up to date financial procedure rules and procurement rules which are subject to regular review.
- Written procedures are in place covering financial and administrative matters, as well as HR policies and procedures. These include:
 - Whistle Blowing Policy
 - Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
 - Codes of Conduct
 - Health and Safety Policy
 - Compliments, Comments and Complaints Policy
 - Corporate Risk Management Strategy
 - Procurement Codes of Practice
 - Partnerships Procedure
 - Treasury Management Strategy based upon CIPFA's Treasury Management Codes
 - Functional budget management schemes
- There are robust and well embedded risk management processes in place, including:
 - Risk Management Strategy and Policy Statement
 - Corporate Risk Profile
 - Community Safety Strategy
 - Organisational Development Strategy
 - SCSP / Integrated Risk Management Plan
 - Nominated Risk Manager
 - Corporate Risk Management Group
 - Partnerships Risk Register
 - Member Risk Champion
 - Risk Management and Assurance Database
 - Information Asset Register
 - Information Asset Management Policy.

- There are comprehensive budgeting systems in place and a robust system of budgetary control, including formal quarterly and annual financial reports, which indicate financial performance against forecasts.
- The Authority aligns with ISO22301 for Business Continuity, and Business Continuity Plans are in place which are subject to ongoing review, development and testing.
- There are clearly defined capital expenditure guidelines and capital appraisal procedures in place.
- Appropriate project management disciplines are utilised.
- The Authority participates in the National Fraud Initiative and subsequent investigations.

The core functions of an audit committee, as identified in CIPFA's Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities, are undertaken by members.

The Authority has a Governance Committee which, as well as approving the Authority's Statement of Accounts, undertakes an assurance and advisory role to:

- Consider the effectiveness of the Authority's corporate governance arrangements, risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements and seek assurance that action is being taken on risk-related issues identified by auditors and inspectors.
- Be satisfied that the Authority's assurance statements, including the Statement of Internal Control, properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it.
- Receive and consider (but not direct) internal audit's strategy, plan and monitor performance.
- Receive and consider the external audit plan.
- Review a summary of internal audits, the main issues arising, and seek assurance that action has been taken where necessary.
- Receive and consider the annual report of internal audit.
- Consider the reports of external audit and inspection agencies, including the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter.
- Ensure that there are effective relationships between external and internal audit, inspection agencies and other relevant bodies, and that the value of the audit process is actively promoted.
- Review the external auditor's opinions and reports to members, and monitor management action in response to the issues raised by external audit, and
- Make recommendations or comments to the Authority as appropriate.

Arrangements exist to ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures, and that expenditure is lawful. All reports are considered for legal issues before submission to members:

- The Deputy Clerk is the Authority's designated Monitoring Officer and a protocol is in place with all Principal Officers, to safeguard the legality of all Authority activities.
- The Authority maintains an Internal Audit Service, provided by Sunderland City Council. An independent periodic review of its effectiveness is undertaken which concluded that it operated in accordance with professional standards. Internal audit work is planned on the basis of risk.

Arrangements for whistle-blowing and for receiving and investigating complaints from the public are in place and are well publicised:

- The Authority is committed to establishing and maintaining effective reporting arrangements to ensure that, where an individual, whether an employee of the Authority, a Member, or any member of the public, has serious concerns regarding the conduct of any aspect of the Authority's business, they can do so through a variety of avenues, promptly and in a straight forward way.
- The framework in place to ensure the aims of this policy are met are set out in the 'Whistle Blowing Policy Arrangements' procedure for Authority staff. Members of the public currently raise issues through the Compliments, Comments and Complaints procedure and there is also a whistle blowing policy and procedure for members of the public.
- Monitoring records held by the Deputy Clerk on behalf of Members, and the Chief Fire Officer on behalf of employees and members of the public reveal that the whistle blowing arrangements are being used, and that the Authority is responding appropriately. The whistle blowing arrangements have assisted with the maintenance of a strong regime of internal control.

Arrangements exist for identifying the development needs of members and Principal officers in relation to their strategic roles:

- The Authority has a Members Learning and Development Programme in place which sets out a clear commitment to Members to provide a range of learning and development opportunities which will improve their knowledge, skills and abilities in their individual or collective roles in meeting Authority strategic objectives. In addition Members have access to their nominating authority learning and development policies, plans and procedures.
- The Elected Member Learning and Development Programme aims:
 - To provide comprehensive Member development;
 - To ensure that all newly elected Members are properly inducted into the Authority;
 - To ensure that all emerging needs for both individuals and across the board are identified and addressed; and
 - To ensure that resources available for Member development are effectively used.
- The Authority has an Organisational Development Strategy to enable and support the organisation in managing the performance of all of its employees through effective policies, procedures and working practices and is key to ensuring that the organisation meets the needs of the community. This includes assessing ability against requirements of the role, annual performance review focusing on strengths and highlighting areas of weakness, job related training, and ongoing evaluation and includes the extent to which an employee understands and supports the values of the Authority.

Clear channels of communication have been established with all sections of the community and other stakeholders, ensuring accountability and encouraging open consultation:

- The Authority has a Consultation policy which aims to ensure that consultation activity is effectively co-ordinated across the Authority and with partner agencies, impacts on service delivery, and is delivered to a high standard.
- The consultation policy is complemented by the Community Safety Strategy which outlines the Authority's approach to engaging with the community, in particular minority and vulnerable sectors of society.

Governance arrangements with respect to partnerships and other group working incorporate good practice as identified by the Audit Commission's report on the governance of partnerships, and are reflected in the Authority's overall governance arrangements:

- The Authority has published a Partnerships Procedure which includes a template for Partnership Agreements and a Partnership Toolkit. This was revised in 2015. The procedure is designed to provide a corporate framework for all employees involved in considering new partnership working, and to assist Members and officers to review existing arrangements.

- A Register of Partnerships is maintained. The deliverables of all prospective and existing partnership is closely measured using a standard framework.
- A review of all partnerships is presented to the Executive Leadership Team.
- An Information Sharing Protocol is published which underpins Information Sharing Agreements with partners.
- The Authority's governance arrangements extend to cover the wholly owned subsidiary "TWFRS Ltd".

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

The Authority has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of the effectiveness is informed by feedback from Members and the work of all senior managers within the authority who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Internal Audit Annual Report, and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

The process that has been applied in maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control includes the following:

The role of the Authority:

- Elected Members have participated in the annual review of the Authority's Corporate Governance arrangements.
- The Chair of the Authority, the Chief Fire Officer and the Strategic Finance Manager have overseen the review and signed the Annual Governance Statement.

The role of the Executive Leadership Team:

- The findings of the Annual Governance Review have been reported to the Executive Leadership Team for their consideration and comment.

The role of the Governance Committee:

- The findings of the Annual Governance Review have been reported to the Governance Committee. Under their Terms of Reference the Governance Committee has satisfied themselves that the Authority's assurance statements, including the Annual Governance Statement, properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it.
- There is a system of scrutiny delivered through the HR Committee, Governance Committee and the Policy and Performance Committee including scrutiny of:
 - The effectiveness of corporate governance arrangements;
 - The Authority's treasury management policy and strategy, including the annual borrowing and investment strategy;
 - Organisational performance; and
 - Potential for future changes in service provision based on relevant performance information, risk analysis and changes in economic, social and environmental conditions or statutory requirements.

All Area Managers including the Strategic Finance Manager have participated in the annual governance review relating to their areas of responsibility by providing Controls Assurance Statements relating to their area of responsibility, following consideration of their department heads' detailed self-assessments / questionnaires.

Internal audit planning processes include consultation with the Principal Officers, reviews of the Strategic Community Safety Plan / Integrated Risk Management Plan and the Corporate Risk Profile. Audit work is risk based and includes risks in relation to the achievement of Service objectives, and Internal Audit Services

carry out regular systematic auditing of key financial and non-financial systems. In concluding their report on the 2017/18 Audit activities, they stated “Using the cumulative knowledge and experience of the systems and controls in place, including the results of previous audit work and the work undertaken in 2017/18, it is considered that overall throughout the Service there continues to be a good internal control environment.”

External audit is undertaken by Mazars, a limited liability partnership appointed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited for this purpose. The Annual Audit Letter gives independent assurance of financial control and Value for Money (including financial resilience and the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Authority’s arrangements).

The Group considered the Annual Audit Letter and Audit Completion Report prepared by the Authority’s external auditors, Mazars, covering 2017/2018, which gives independent assurance of financial control and Value for Money (including financial resilience and the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Authority).

Mazars issued an unqualified conclusion on both financial management arrangements and Value for Money. Their report included comments that:

- The Authority has made good progress in addressing the financial challenges from public sector austerity and has a proven track record of delivering planned budget reductions.
- In the 2018/19 budget, the Authority identified that over the medium term of 2018/19 to 2021/22 it face a cumulative budget gap of £3.6m. The Authority has prudently established an earmarked reserve to match the budget gap so that it can be funded over this period. In the meantime, various work streams linked to the IRMP are in place seeking to deliver further savings and improvement.
- The Authority also concluded its negotiations with the Home Office over the repayment of the £10.5m historic overpayment of fire injury pensions. The Authority has managed a difficult financial position well, but now needs to deliver further savings in the base budget to balance the budget over the medium to long term and secure the financial sustainability of the service. It is clear that this is an important priority for the Authority.
- The Audit report concluded that the Auditors were satisfied that in all significant respects, the Authority has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2018.
- The Audit work carried out provided assurance that there was no indication of management override of controls or material estimation error in respect of pensions.

It is considered that the Annual Audit Letter provides reassurance that the Authority’s overall governance and control arrangements are satisfactory.

Findings of external bodies / audits are collated, acted upon and monitored by the Executive Leadership Team.

CONCLUSION AND AGREED ACTIONS

The 2018/19 Corporate Governance Action Plan presented to Fire Authority in June 2019 includes 17 corporate improvement objectives, 6 of which were completed during the year, leaving 11 to be carried forward to the 2019/20 Action Plan, demonstrating continued improvement in these areas. In addition, 7 new actions were identified during the annual review.

ASSURANCE STATEMENTS

The Executive Leadership Team, the Authority and the Governance Committee have advised us of the findings of the review of the effectiveness of the governance framework, and an action plan has been agreed for the continuous improvement of the Authority’s Corporate Governance and Internal Control Arrangements.

We propose over the coming year to take steps to implement the action plan to further enhance the Authority’s governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for

improvements that were identified in the review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of the next annual review.

Cllr Nick Forbes
Vice-Chair of the Authority

Chris Lowther
Chief Fire Officer and Chief
Executive

Dennis Napier
Finance Officer

Dated:

Core Financial Statements

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Authority's services, more detail of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different to the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance. The Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Authority.

	General Fund Balance £'000 Restated	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000 Restated	Unusable Reserves £'000 Restated	Total Authority Reserves £'000 Restated
Balance at 31 March 2017 (Restated)	(3,943)	(19,324)	(3,285)	(26,552)	805,287	778,735
<u>Movement in reserves during 2017/2018</u>						
(Surplus) or Deficit on provision of services	5,121	0	0	5,121	0	5,121
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	26,438	26,438
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	5,121	0	0	5,121	26,438	31,559
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	(7,006)	0	0	(7,006)	7,006	0
Net (Increase) / Decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(1,885)	0	0	(1,885)	33,444	31,559
Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	1,885	(1,716)	(169)	0	0	0
(Increase) / Decrease in 2017/2018	0	(1,716)	(169)	(1,885)	33,444	31,559
Balance at 01 April 2018 (Restated)	(3,943)	(21,040)	(3,454)	(28,437)	838,731	810,294
<u>Movement in reserves during 2018/2019</u>						
(Surplus) or Deficit on provision of services	1,886	0	0	1,886	0	1,886
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	22,367	22,367
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	1,886	0	0	1,886	22,367	24,253
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	(5,836)	0	0	(5,836)	5,836	0
Net (Increase) / Decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(3,950)	0	0	(3,950)	28,203	24,253
Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	3,950	(4,392)	442	0	0	0
(Increase) / Decrease in 2018/2019	0	(4,392)	442	(3,950)	28,203	24,253
Balance at 31 March 2019	(3,943)	(25,432)	(3,012)	(32,387)	866,934	834,547

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

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

2017/2018				2018/2019			
Gross Expenditure £'000 Restated	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000 Restated		Notes	Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
3,683	(823)	2,860	Community Safety		2,596	(1,022)	1,574
19,596	(5,286)	14,310	Fire Fighting and Rescue Operations		17,095	(5,091)	12,004
11,896	0	11,896	Management and Support Services		12,201	0	12,201
923	(5)	918	Corporate Support Services		116	0	116
36,098	(6,114)	29,984	Cost of Services		32,008	(6,113)	25,895
0	0	0	Other Operating Expenditure	9	0	0	0
24,280	(126)	24,154	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	10	24,716	(221)	24,495
0	(49,017)	(49,017)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	11	0	(48,504)	(48,504)
60,378	(55,257)	5,121	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services		56,724	(54,838)	1,886
		(14,982)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment Assets	20			897
		41,420	Re-measurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability/(Asset)	33			21,470
		26,438	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				22,367
		31,559	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				24,253

Balance Sheet

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

31 March 2018 £'000 Restated		Notes	31 March 2019 £'000
80,138	Property, Plant and Equipment	11	77,572
20	Long Term Investments	14	20
227	Long Term Debtors	14	227
80,385	Long Term Assets		77,819
1,675	Assets Held for Sale	13	1,617
428	Inventories		543
10,464	Short Term Debtors	15	11,715
31,505	Cash and Cash Equivalents	16	33,103
44,072	Current Assets		46,978
(508)	Short Term Borrowing	14	(487)
(5,572)	Short Term Creditors	17	(5,334)
(1,387)	Other Short Term Liabilities	14	(1,489)
(392)	Short Term Provisions	18	(517)
(160)	Grant Receipts in Advance	27	(16)
(8,019)	Current Liabilities		(7,843)
(236)	Long Term Provisions	18	(192)
(12,182)	Long Term Borrowing	14	(11,695)
(282)	Donated Assets Account	27	(188)
(914,032)	Other Long Term Liabilities	33	(939,426)
(926,732)	Long Term Liabilities		(951,501)
(810,294)	Net Assets / (Liabilities)		(834,547)
28,437	Usable Reserves	8	32,387
(838,731)	Unusable Reserves	20	(866,934)
(810,294)	Total Reserves		(834,547)

Cash Flow Statement

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

2017/2018 £'000 Restated		Notes	2018/2019 £'000
5,121	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services		1,886
(5,742)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movement		(6,581)
395	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		243
(226)	Net cash flows from operating activities		(4,452)
1,073	Investing activities	22	861
1,245	Financing Activities	23	1,993
2,092	Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(1,598)
(33,597)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	16	(31,505)
(31,505)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		(33,103)

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Notes to the Core Financial Statements

Note 1 – Accounting Policies

1.1 General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2018/2019 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31st March 2019. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 and 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 2018/2019, based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The Code no longer requires statements or notes to be prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice 2018/2019 (SeRCOP). Instead, the Code requires that the service analysis is based on the organisational structure under which the authority operates. However, the provisions of SeRCOP are still relevant and have been referred to and applied where appropriate, along with CIPFA guidance notes for practitioners.

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.

1.2 Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

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

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

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified into two types:

- Loans and receivables – assets that have fixed or determinable payments but are not quoted in an active market; and
- Available-for-sale assets – assets that have a quoted market price and/or do not have fixed or determinable payments.

Loans and Receivables

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

1.2 Financial Instruments (continued)

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the relevant service (for receivables specific to that service) or the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate.

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

Other Investments

Investments in companies and in marketable securities are shown in the balance sheet at cost. Provision for losses in value is made where appropriate in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. No such provisions have been considered necessary at this time.

1.3 Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

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

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

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

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

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

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

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost;

1.3 Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

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

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

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet are re-valued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. To ensure that this takes place a rolling programme of valuations has been put in place by the Head of Land and Property. Assets are valued in accordance with the principles of the RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) Appraisals and Valuation Standards. The valuations are supervised by M. Whitaker, ARICS, of the Authority. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

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

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

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

De Minimis Levels

The Authority also operates a de-minimis level, under which expenditure on fixed assets is charged to revenue as it is incurred. The de-minimis level has been established at a value of £20,000 for the recording of capital assets in respect of properties. The de-minimis level for equipment remains at a value of £10,000. All vehicles are recorded as fixed assets irrespective of cost.

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); and
- 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.

1.3 Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

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 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 assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Depreciation on all Property, Plant and Equipment has been calculated on a straight line basis by taking the net asset value divided by the future life expectancy and is charged in the year following acquisition.

The life expectancy for each asset category falls within the following ranges:

Asset Category	Years
Buildings	12 - 60
Vehicles, plant and furniture	5 - 15

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. A de-minimis level for considering componentisation has been set at £1m.

A standard list of components is used by the Authority:

- Building structure;
- Mechanical and electrical

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 & Non-current Assets Held for Sale

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

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

1.3 Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

1.4 Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

General Fund service revenue accounts, central support services and trading accounts are charged with the following amounts to record the real cost of holding fixed 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 they can be written off;
- Amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service.

The Authority is required to make an annual provision from revenue to contribute towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement (equal to at least 4% of the underlying amount measured by the adjusted Capital Financing Requirement).

Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance (Minimum Revenue Provision), by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

1.5 Accruals of Income & Expenditure

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Authority 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 Authority.

Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Authority 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 Authority.

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. The Authority has set a de-minimis level of £5,000 for the recording of accruals. 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. A full year's charge is included in the accounts for those supplies and services used continuously and charged on a periodic basis (e.g. gas, electricity and water), but the period covered by the payments does not always coincide with the financial year.

1.6 Cost of Support Services

External support services are provided to the Authority by Sunderland City Council, based upon a scheme approved by the Home Office. Support service costs from Sunderland City Council are charged on an estimated time or actual time spent basis, with the exception of the Financial Resources and Personnel Departments, which are charged on the basis of a Service Level Agreement.

Both internal and external support service costs are accounted for under Management and Support Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account, with the exception of Corporate and Democratic Core Costs and Non-Distributed Costs. These are defined in SeRCOP as follows:

- Corporate and Democratic Core – costs relating to the Authority's status as a multi-functional, democratic organisation; and
- Non-Distributed Costs – the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early.

These costs are accounted for as a separate heading under Corporate Support Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account.

1.7 Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Authority an obligation that will probably require settlement by a transfer of economic benefits, but where the timing of the transfer is uncertain.

Provisions are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Authority becomes aware of the probable obligation, based on the best estimate of the likely settlement. When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision set up in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year. Where it becomes more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will not now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service revenue account.

1.8 Reserves

The Authority 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 is to be financed from a reserve, it is charged to the revenue account in that year to score against the Provision of Services, in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then appropriated back to the General Fund Balance statement in Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

In addition, certain accounts and reserves are maintained to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits. These do not represent usable resources for the Authority, however, as they are accounting requirements, not physical cash reserves.

1.9 Internal Interest

Interest is credited to the Revenue Account from the Lead Authority's Capital Advances and Borrowing Pool based on cash flow and fund balances. The amounts are calculated using 7-day money market rates in accordance with guidance contained within the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

1.10 Employee Benefits (including Pensions)

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-

1.10 Employee Benefits (including Pensions) (continued)

monetary benefits (e.g. cars) for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Authority. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit.

The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Authority to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. These are charged on an accruals basis to the Corporate Support Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earlier of when the Authority can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Authority recognises costs for a restructuring.

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

Post Employment Benefits

The pension costs that are charged to the Authority's accounts can be divided into two types of pension arrangements. These have different accounting treatments, set out below for information:

Firefighters' Pension Scheme

The firefighters' pension scheme is an unfunded, final salary defined benefit scheme, the rules of which are set out in The Firemen's Pension Scheme Order 1992, The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006 and The Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (England) Order 2006, The Firefighters' Pension Scheme Regulations 2015 and subsequent amendments.

The last actuarial valuation of the scheme was 31st March 2016 and has been rolled forward to reflect the position as at 2019, in particular allowing for service accrued between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2019 and known pension and salary increases,.

Employer and employee contributions are paid into the pension fund, together with a contribution from the Authority for the cost of ill health early retirements. The fund is topped up by Government grant if the contributions are insufficient to meet the cost of pension payments, with any surplus being recouped by Government.

The pension fund is ring-fenced to ensure accounting clarity. As such, a Pensions Fund Account and Net Assets Statement are reported as supplementary financial statements within the Authority's Statement of Accounts.

Local Government Pension Scheme

All non-operational staff of the Authority have the right to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which South Tyneside Council administers on behalf of all of the Tyne and Wear local authorities and other admitted bodies. The scheme is a funded, defined benefit plan, the rules of which are set out in The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 and The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014.

1.10 Employee Benefits (including Pensions) (continued)

Benefits earned up to 31st March 2014 are linked to final salary and benefits after 31st March 2014 are based on a Career Average Revalued Earnings scheme. The funded nature of the LGPS requires participating employers and its employees to pay contributions into the Fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. The last actuarial valuation was at 31st March 2016 and has been rolled forward to reflect the position as at 31st March 2019.

The assets allocated to the Employer in the Fund are notional and are assumed to be invested in line with the investments of the Fund for the purposes of calculating the return to be applied to those notional assets over the accounting period. The Fund is large and holds a significant proportion of its assets in liquid investments. As a consequence there will be no significant restriction on realising assets if a large payment is required to be paid from the Fund in relation to an employer's liabilities. The assets are invested in a diversified spread of investments and the approximate split of assets for the Fund as a whole is set out in the Statement of Accounts.

IAS19 requires the Authority to disclose certain information concerning assets, liabilities, income and expenditure related to the LGPS for its employees. The liabilities of the pension scheme attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds. The assets of the pension fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

- Quoted Securities – current bid price;
- Unquoted Securities – professional estimate;
- Unitised Securities – current bid price;
- Property – market value.

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

- Service cost comprising:
 - Current Service Costs – 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 Costs – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Corporate Support Services;
 - Net Interest on the Net Defined benefit Liability (Asset), i.e. net interest expense for the authority – the change during the year in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time – debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure Income line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period, taking in to account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Re-measurements comprising:
 - Return on Plan Assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pension Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure;
 - Actuarial Gains and Losses – changes in the net pension liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – debited or credited to the Pension Reserve.

1.10 Employee Benefits (including Pensions) (continued)

- Contributions paid to the Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement this means that there are appropriations to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with the debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and any amount payable to the fund but un-paid at the year end.

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

Discretionary Benefits

The Authority also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. 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.

1.11 Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

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

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

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

1.12 Long Term Borrowing

The Lead Authority administers all of the Authority's borrowing through its Consolidated Advances and Borrowing Pool (CABP) and, as such, the Authority does not undertake borrowing in its own name. The amount of borrowing undertaken by the Lead Authority on the Authority's behalf has been recognised within the Long Term Borrowing liabilities within the Statement of Accounts.

1.13 External Interest

All interest payable on external borrowings and receivable on investments is accounted for on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.

1.14 Other Investments

Investments in companies and in marketable securities are shown in the Authority's Balance Sheet at cost. Investments are all made via the Lead Authority's Consolidated Advances and Borrowing Pool.

1.15 Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Similar Contracts

PFI contracts are agreements to receive services where the responsibility for making available the fixed assets needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. The relevant note and information relating to the Authority's PFI scheme is detailed in the Statement of Accounts.

Recognising assets and liabilities

Property used in a PFI and similar contract shall be recognised as an asset or assets of the Fire Authority. A related liability shall also be recognised at the same time. The asset shall be recognised in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting; this will be when the asset is made available for use unless the Fire Authority bears an element of the construction risk, which will not be the case where standard PFI contract terms are used. Where the Authority bears the construction risk, it shall recognise an asset under construction prior to the asset being made available for use where it is probable that the expected future benefits attributable to the asset will flow to the Authority. In accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, separate assets shall be recognised in respect of land and buildings where appropriate. The related liability shall initially be measured at the value of the related asset, and subsequently shall be calculated using the same actuarial method used for finance leases under the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

Prepayments

PFI and similar contracts may be structured to require payments to be made (either as part of a unitary payment or a lump sum contribution) before the related property is recognised as an asset on the Balance Sheet. Such payments shall be recognised as prepayments. At the point that the infrastructure is recognised as an asset, the related liability shall also be recognised. The prepayments shall be applied to reduce the outstanding liability.

Depreciation, impairment and revaluation

Once recognised on the Balance Sheet, property under a PFI and similar contract is depreciated, impaired and re-valued in the same way as for any other fixed asset.

MRP (England and Wales)

Assets acquired under a PFI and similar contract that are recognised on the Authority's Balance Sheet are subject to MRP in the same way as assets acquired using other forms of borrowing. The amounts of MRP to be charged to the General Fund for the year shall be in accordance with the appropriate regulations and statutory guidance. Such amounts shall be transferred from the Capital Adjustment Account and reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Capital financing requirement

When PFI contracts or similar arrangements are recognised on the Balance Sheet, the Capital Financing Requirement is adjusted to reflect this and the authorised limits and operational boundaries set accordingly.

1.16 VAT

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

1.17 Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

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

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Authority's financial position or financial performance.

Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied. Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

Key sources of estimation are disclosed in the Statement of Accounts.

1.18 Events after the Balance Sheet Date

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

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

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

1.19 Exceptional Items

When items of income and expense are material, their nature and amount is disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the notes to the accounts, depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the Authority's financial performance.

1.20 Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Authority's cash and cash equivalents is held within the Lead Authority's bank accounts and investments. 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 investments that mature in no more than three months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. The Authority's cash and cash equivalents is held within the Lead Authority's bank accounts and investments.

1.21 Contingent Liabilities

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

1.21 Contingent Liabilities (continued)

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.

1.22 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 Authority has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of precept.

Note 2 – Accounting standards that have been issued but have not yet been adopted

The Authority is required to disclose the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted in the CIPFA Accountancy Code of Practice for the relevant year.

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/2020 (The Code) has adopted a number of new standards from 1st April 2019:

- Amendments to IAS 40 Investment Property: Transfers of Investment Property Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2014-2016 Cycle;
- Amendments to IAS 28 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures: Long-term Interests in Associates and Joint Ventures;
- Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2015-17 Cycle;
- IFRIC 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration; and
- IFRIC 23 Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatment.

It is not anticipated that these amendments will have a material impact upon the information provided in the financial statements.

Note 3 – Critical Judgements in applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Authority has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the Authority has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Authority might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.
- Retirement benefit obligations – the Authority recognises and discloses its retirement benefit obligation in accordance with the measurement and presentational requirement of IAS19 'Employee Benefits'. The calculations include a number of judgements and estimations in respect of the expected rate of return on assets, the discount rate, inflation assumptions, the rate of increase in salaries and life expectancy amongst others. Changes in these assumptions can have a significant effect on the value of the retirement benefit obligation. The key assumptions made are set out in Note 33.

- Provisions – provisions are measured at the Finance Officers' best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at the Balance Sheet date and are discounted to present value where the effect is material.

Note 4 – Assumptions made about the Future and Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

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

The items in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2019, for which there is a significant estimate uncertainty in the forthcoming financial year, are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Authority will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.	If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £82,825 for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The effect on the net pension liability from changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.1% increase in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the Local Government pension liability of £1.6m and a decrease in the Firefighters' pension liability of £81m. However, in practice the assumptions interact in complex ways and changes may be interrelated.

Note 5 – Events After the Balance Sheet Date

Adjusting Post Balance Sheet Events

No events have taken place since the accounts were closed on 31st March 2019 which are judged to be adjusting post balance sheet events.

Non Adjusting Post Balance Sheet Events

No events have taken place since the accounts were closed on 31st March 2019 which are judged to be non-adjusting post balance sheet events.

Note 6 – Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

This note reconciles the adjustments that are made to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the financial year in accordance with proper accounting practice, to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

2017/2018		Notes	2018/2019		
General Fund Balance £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000		General Fund Balance £000	Movement In Unusable Reserves £000	
Restated					
Adjustments to Revenue Resources					
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:					
0	(7,851)	Pensions costs – transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve	20,33	0	(5,164)
0	121	Council Tax and NDR – transfers to or from the Collection Fund Adjustment Account	20	0	(73)
0	(43)	Holiday Pay – transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve	20	0	(55)
(1,897)	0	Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	12,20,29	(2,738)	0
(1,897)	(7,773)	Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources		(2,738)	(5,292)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources					
1,196	0	Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	29	1,091	0
1,073	0	Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	29	861	0
2,269	0	Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources		1,952	0
Adjustments to Capital Resources					
395	0	Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	27	243	0
395	0	Total Adjustments to Capital Resources		243	0
767	(7,773)	Total Adjustments		(543)	(5,292)

Note 7 – Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how the 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 which is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES).

2018/2019

	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund Balance	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Community Safety	1,376	198	1,574
Firefighting and Rescue Operations	10,554	1,450	12,004
Management Support Services	12,934	(733)	12,201
Corporate Support Services	116	0	116
Net Cost of Services	24,980	915	25,895
Other Income and Expenditure	(28,930)	4,921	(24,009)
(Surplus) or Deficit	(3,950)	5,836	1,886
Opening General Fund Balance and Earmarked Reserves	28,437		
Plus Surplus in Year	3,950		
Closing General Fund Balance and Earmarked Reserves at 31 st March	32,387		

2017/2018

	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund Balance	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£'000 Restated	£'000 Restated	£'000 Restated
Community Safety	2,776	84	2,860
Firefighting and Rescue Operations	13,037	1,273	14,310
Management Support Services	13,047	(1,151)	11,869
Corporate Support Services	918	0	918
Net Cost of Services	29,778	206	29,984
Other Income and Expenditure	(31,663)	6,800	(24,863)
(Surplus) or Deficit	(1,885)	7,006	5,121
Opening General Fund Balance and Earmarked Reserves	26,552		
Plus Surplus in Year	1,885		
Closing General Fund Balance and Earmarked Reserves at 31 st March	28,437		

Note 8 – Movements in Earmarked Reserves

The following table reports the movement on the Authority's Earmarked Reserves during the year.

	Balance at 1st April 2017 £000	Transfers out 2017/2018 £000 Restated	Transfers in 2017/2018 £000	Balance at 31st March 2018 £000 Restated	Transfers out 2018/2019 £000	Transfers in 2018/2019 £000	Balance at 31st March 2019 £000
General Fund Balance	3,943	0	0	3,943	0	0	3,943
Capital Reserves							
Usable Capital Receipts	3,285	(487)	0	2,798	(406)	63	2,455
Emergency Services Mobile Communications Capital Reserve	0	0	656	656	(99)	0	557
Total Capital Reserves	3,285	(487)	656	3,454	(505)	63	3,012
Revenue Reserves							
PFI Smoothing Reserve	7,508	0	356	7,864	0	262	8,126
Insurance Reserve	1,000	(236)	0	764	(370)	283	677
Early Retirement Reserve	20	(4)	0	16	(3)	0	13
Capital Developments Reserve	245	(4,320)	7,190	3,115	0	2,745	5,860
Resilience Reserve	1,512	0	500	2,012	0	1,488	3,500
Budget Carry Forward Reserve	445	(47)	329	727	(10)	1,274	1,990
New Dimensions Reserve	754	0	27	781	(50)	51	782
Community Safety Reserve	240	0	0	240	(240)	0	0
Civil Emergency Reserve	200	0	0	200	(200)	0	0
Carbon Management Plan Reserve	87	(26)	0	61	(61)	0	0
Transformation and Reform Reserve	5,404	(4,329)	1,922	2,997	(1,560)	431	1,868
Medium Term Planning Reserve	700	0	300	1,000	0	336	1,336
Command and Control Reserve	55	(55)	0	0	0	0	0
Emergency Services Mobile Communications Revenue Reserve	1,154	(9)	118	1,264	(70)	86	1,280
Total Revenue Reserves	19,324	(9,026)	10,742	21,040	(2,564)	6,956	25,432
Total Reserves	26,552	(9,513)	11,398	28,437	(3,069)	7,019	32,387

Note 8 - Movements in Earmarked Reserves (continued)

The table, above, shows the movement on the Authority's earmarked reserves for the year ended 31st March 2019. Detail on the purpose of each reserve is provided below:

- **PFI Smoothing Reserve** - Government Grants received for PFI schemes, in excess of current levels of expenditure, are carried forward as an earmarked reserve to fund future contract expenditure. This has the effect of smoothing the impact of PFI schemes on the Authority's revenue budget over the lifetime of the scheme.
- **Insurance Reserve** - this reserve is held to protect the Authority from:
 - any unexpected volatility;
 - potential future changes in legislation that could be retrospective;
 - any unknown exposures that may arise in the future; and
 - the Municipal Mutual Insurance Scheme of Arrangement reserve that was established in 1993/1994 to cover a possible shortfall in the eventual settlement of claims against MMI.

The reserve also includes accumulated insurance premium discounts received, arising from the Authority's positive approach to risk management. These sums are retained to offset the cost of further risk management initiatives in future years.

- **Early Retirement Reserve** - this reserve was established in order to cover future compensatory added years payments, associated with an early retirement during 2002/2003. This has ensured that the costs are covered in the year of retirement and will not lead to on-going revenue implications. The reserve will be reduced each year as payments are made to the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund.
- **Capital Developments Reserve** - this reserve was created to fund medium term and long term capital and revenue developments.
- **Resilience Reserve** - this reserve was established following a review of the potential liabilities arising from a major industrial dispute. Having considered the principles, criteria and framework upon which the Authority's Business Continuity Strategy should be based, the reserve is intended to ensure that the communities of Tyne and Wear are protected in the event of a major industrial dispute.
- **Budget Carry Forward Reserve** - this reserve is used to fund the slippage of specific items of revenue expenditure.
- **New Dimensions Reserve** - this reserve is used to provide for any adverse effect of planned changes in funding from specific to general grant and to provide resources to meet future specific costs in relation to delivering an appropriate response.
- **Community Safety Reserve** - this reserve was established to deliver community safety initiatives in future years. This follows the success of similar schemes carried out during previous years.
- **Civil Emergency Reserve** - this reserve was established to enable the Authority to respond to a major catastrophic event, either within Tyne and Wear, or another region, where there would likely be additional cost pressures placed upon the Authority (over and above the reimbursement level that might be expected from other Fire Authorities or through the Bellwin scheme). This reserve enables the Authority to deliver the necessary level of support without impacting on its revenue budget.
- **Carbon Management Plan Reserve** - this reserve was established as the Authority is currently working in partnership with the Carbon Trust and other Fire and Rescue Authorities in the region to develop a Carbon Reduction Plan. The implementation of this plan will necessitate some investment in order to make future savings, both in carbon emissions and energy bills.

Note 8 - Movements in Earmarked Reserves (continued)

- **Transformation and Reform Reserve** - this reserve was created to cover the expected costs of all major organisational changes and transformation projects required for the Authority to operate more efficiently and effectively.
- **Medium Term Planning Reserve** - this reserve was established to plan for the impact of government reductions in funding, due to localisation of the business rates retention system and the impact on precepting authorities of localisation of the council tax benefit scheme.
- **Command and Control Reserve** – this reserve was established for the Command and Control Grant received from DCLG, to be used during the year to finance replacement of the Command and Control System.
- **Emergency Services Mobile Communications Reserve** – this reserve was established for the ESMCP grant received from Home Office, to be used to implement the new wide area communications system.

Note 9 – Other Operating Expenditure

2017/2018 £'000		2018/2019 £'000
0	(Gain)/Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	0
0	Total	0

Note 10 – Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2017/2018 £'000		2018/2019 £'000
2,320	Interest Payable	2,346
21,960	Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset)	22,370
(126)	Interest and Investment Income	(221)
24,154	Total	24,495

Note 11 – Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income

2017/2018 £'000		2018/2019 £'000
(22,136)	Council Tax Income	(23,119)
(14,932)	Non Domestic Rate Income	(15,620)
(10,898)	Non Ringfenced Government Grants	(9,620)
(395)	Government Capital Grant Applied	(243)
(656)	Government Capital Grant Unapplied	0
(49,017)	Total	(48,602)

Note 12 – Property, Plant and Equipment

Movement on Balances 2018/2019

	Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant Furniture & Equipment	Assets Under Construction	TOTAL	PFI Assets included in Property Plant and Equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation					
At 1 April 2018	73,555	23,622	253	97,430	38,011
Additions	154	563	387	1,104	1
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(621)	0	0	(621)	(621)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Provision of Services	487	0	0	487	487
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	0	18	(18)	0	0
At 31 March 2019	73,575	24,203	622	98,400	37,878
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment					
At 1 April 2018	1,642	15,649	0	17,291	708
Depreciation Charge	1,984	1,652	0	3,636	967
Depreciation written out to Revaluation Reserve	(36)	0	0	(36)	(36)
Depreciation recognised in the Provision of Services	(63)	0	0	(63)	(63)
At 31 March 2019	3,527	17,301	0	20,828	1,576
Net Book Value at 31st March 2018	71,913	7,973	253	80,138	37,303
Net Book Value at 31st March 2019	70,048	6,902	622	77,572	36,302

Note 12 – Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

Movement on Balances 2017/2018

	Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant Furniture & Equipment	Assets Under Construction	TOTAL	PFI Assets included in Property Plant and Equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation					
At 1 April 2017	61,767	22,480	213	84,460	29,972
Additions	286	1,080	102	1,468	134
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	12,551	0	0	12,551	8,641
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Provision of Services	626	0	0	626	(36)
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	(1,675)	62	(62)	(1,675)	(700)
At 31 March 2018	73,555	23,622	253	97,430	38,011
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment					
At 1 April 2017	3,004	14,086	0	17,090	2,050
Depreciation Charge	1,690	1,563	0	3,253	814
Depreciation written out to Revaluation Reserve	(2,431)	0	0	(2,431)	(2,013)
Depreciation recognised in the Provision of Services	(621)	0	0	(621)	(143)
At 31 March 2018	1,642	15,649	0	17,291	708
Net Book Value at 31st March 2017	58,763	8,394	213	67,370	27,922
Net Book Value at 31st March 2018	71,913	7,973	253	80,138	37,303

Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2019, the Authority has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2019/2020, budgeted to cost £5.108m (as at 31 March 2018 £1.612m). A summary of the commitments are:

- ICT Software and Hardware (£1.728m)
- Estates (£0.170m)
- Community Safety (£0.100m)
- Operational Equipment (£0.096m)
- Technical Services Centre (£0.114m)
- Learning and Organisational Development (£0.150m)
- Vehicle Replacement Programme (£2.750m)

Revaluations

The Authority carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment is revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure the carrying amount does not differ materially from the value at the end of the reporting period. All valuations are carried out by the Lead Authority and valuations of Land and Buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. Valuations of vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are based on depreciated historical cost as a proxy for non-property assets that have short useful lives.

Note 12 – Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

	Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment £'000	Total £'000
Carried at historic cost	0	24,203	24,203
Valued as at:			
31 March 2019	73,022	0	73,022

Note 13 – Assets Held for Sale

2017/2018 £'000		2018/2019 £'000
0	Balance Outstanding at start of year	1,675
0	Assets Sold	0
0	Revaluation (Losses) / Gains	(58)
1,675	Net transfer from non-current assets to current assets at year end	0
1,675	Balance Outstanding at the year end	1,617

Note 14 – Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

	Long Term		Current	
	31 March 2019 £'000	31 March 2018 £'000	31 March 2019 £'000	31 March 2018 £'000
Debtors				
Financial assets carried at contract amount**	227	227	8,789	8,378
Total Debtors	227	227	8,789	8,378
Borrowings				
Financial liabilities at amortised costs *	(11,695)	(12,182)	(487)	(508)
Total Borrowings	(11,695)	(12,182)	(487)	(508)
Other Long Term Liabilities				
PFI and finance lease liabilities	(18,316)	(19,403)	(989)	(887)
Injury Pension Liability	(7,639)	(8,139)	(500)	(500)
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	(25,955)	(27,542)	(1,489)	(1,387)
Creditors				
Financial liabilities carried at contract amount**	0	0	(3,235)	(3,714)
Total Creditors	0	0	(3,235)	(3,714)

Note 14 – Financial Instruments (continued)

* All borrowing and investments for the Authority are carried out by the Lead Authority, Sunderland City Council. These issues are considered in more detail in the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy.

** The figures exclude Collection Fund debtors and creditors in accordance with the Code.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are made up as follows:

2018/2019	Financial Liabilities measured at Amortised Cost £'000	Financial Assets Loans and Receivables £'000
Interest expense	2,346	0
Interest income	0	(221)
Net gain (-) / loss for the year	2,125	

Comparative figures as at 31st March 2018 are as follows:

2017/2018	Financial Liabilities measured at Amortised Cost £'000	Financial Assets Loans and Receivables £'000
Interest expense	2,320	0
Interest income	0	(126)
Net gain (-) / loss for the year	2,194	

Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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

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

The Authority's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets, and implementing restrictions to minimise these risks. The procedures for risk management are set out through a legal framework set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and the associated regulations. These require the Authority to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice (both revised in 2017). Overall, these procedures require the Authority to manage risk in the following ways:

- By formally adopting the requirements of the Code of Practice;
- By approving annually in advance prudential indicators for the following three years limiting:
 - the Authority's overall borrowing;
 - its maximum and minimum exposure to fixed and variable rates;
 - its maximum and minimum exposures to the maturity structure of its debt; and
 - its maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond a year.
- By approving an investment strategy for the forthcoming year setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with the Government Guidance.

Note 14 – Financial Instruments (continued)

The Annual Treasury Management Strategy includes these procedures in order to manage the risks of the Authority's financial instrument exposure. It is approved at the Authority's annual budget meeting before the beginning of the financial year and actual performance is reported annually to Members.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Authority's customers. Sunderland City Council (SCC) provide Treasury Management arrangements for short term investments of the Authority's daily balances and deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they meet the minimum requirements of the investment criteria outlined in the Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/2019. This requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, as laid down by Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's Credit Ratings Services. In addition, to minimise risk, the Council stipulate a maximum sum to be invested with a financial institution located within each category and place deposits only with a limited number of high quality banks, building societies and money market funds that are on the Council's Approved Lending List.

As the portfolio of the Authority's investments lies entirely with SCC, the credit risk exposure is minimal.

The Authority does not generally allow credit for customers, £0.477m is beyond its due date for payment. The past due amount can be analysed by age as follows:

31 st March 2018 £'000		31 st March 2019 £'000	
246	Less than 3 months	477	
1	Between 3 and 6 months	0	
0	Between 6 months to one year	0	
1	More than one year	0	
248		477	

Liquidity Risk

The Authority manages its liquidity position through risk management procedures above (the setting and approval of prudential indicators and the approval of the treasury management strategy report).

Sunderland City Council operate a comprehensive cash flow management system, as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when needed. If unexpected movements happen the Council has ready access to a facility to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board and from money markets. As a result there is no significant risk that the Authority will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

Market Risk

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

The Authority's Annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together the prudential and treasury indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. From this Strategy a treasury indicator is set by Sunderland City Council which provides maximum limits for fixed and variable interest rate exposure. The central treasury team at the Council monitor market and forecast interest rates within the year to adjust exposures appropriately.

Note 15 – Short-Term Debtors

2017/2018 £'000 Restated		2018/2019 £'000
3,918	Central government bodies	4,653
552	Other local authorities	842
2	NHS bodies	2
11	Public corporations and trading funds	2
5,981	Other entities and individuals	6,216
10,464	Total	11,715

Note 16 – Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

2017/2018 £'000		2018/2019 £'000
1	Cash held by the Authority	1
3,990	Bank Current Accounts	5,588
27,514	Short Term Investments held with Lead Authority	27,514
31,505	Total	33,103

Note 17 – Short-Term Creditors

2017/2018 £'000		2018/2019 £'000
(1,250)	Central government bodies	(1,733)
(2,818)	Other local authorities	(2,354)
(117)	Public corporations and trading funds	(109)
(1,387)	Other entities and individuals	(1,138)
(5,572)	Total	(5,334)

Note 18 – Provisions

	Insurance Provision £'000	Business Rates Appeal Provision £'000	Other Provision £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 April 2017	(165)	(444)	(10,532)	(11,141)
Additional provisions made in 2017/2018	(158)	(120)	0	(278)
Amounts used in 2017/2018	87	172	10,532	10,791
Balance at 31 March 2018	(236)	(392)	0	(628)
Additional provisions made in 2018/2019	(21)	(258)	0	(279)
Amounts used in 2018/2019	65	133	0	198
Balance at 31 March 2019	(192)	(517)	0	(709)

The nature of the individual provisions held at 31st March 2019 is detailed below:

	Short Term £'000	Long Term £'000	2018/2019 Total £'000
Insurance provision	0	(192)	(192)
Business rates appeal provision	(517)	0	(517)
	(517)	(192)	(709)

Note 19 – Usable Reserves

Movements in the Authority's usable reserves are detailed in Note 8 – Movements in Earmarked Reserves on pages 51 to 53.

Note 20 – Unusable Reserves

2017/2018 £'000 Restated		2018/2019 £'000
23,909	Revaluation Reserve	23,011
24,403	Capital Adjustment Account	23,861
(887,181)	Pensions Reserve	(913,816)
366	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	294
(228)	Accumulated Absence Account	(284)
(838,731)	Total Unusable Reserve	(866,934)

Note 20 – Unusable Reserves (continued)

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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

2017/2018 £'000		2018/2019 £'000
8,959	Balance at 1 April	23,909
17,927	Upward Revaluations of Assets	39
(2,945)	Downward Revaluation of Assets and Impairment Losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(933)
23,941	Surplus/Deficit on Revaluation of Non Current Assets not posted to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	23,012
(32)	Difference between Fair Value Depreciation and Historical Cost Depreciation	(1)
23,909	Balance at 31 March	23,011

Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

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

Note 6 on page 49 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

Note 20 – Unusable Reserves (continued)

2017/2018 £'000		2018/2019 £'000
23,604	Balance at 1 April	24,403
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
(1,974)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(2,831)
21,630		21,572
	Capital financing applied in the year;	
395	Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	243
1,196	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund balance	1,091
1,073	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund balance	861
109	Movement in the Donated Asset Account credited to the Income and Expenditure Statement	94
24,403	Balance at 31 March	23,861

Pensions Reserve

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

2017/2018 £'000 Restated		2018/2019 £'000
(837,910)	Balance at 1 April	(887,181)
(41,420)	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability / (asset)	(21,470)
	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	
(34,701)		(32,805)
26,850	Employers pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	27,640
(887,181)	Balance at 31 March	(913,816)

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

Note 20 – Unusable Reserves (continued)

2017/2018 £'000		2018/2019 £'000
245	Balance at 1 April	366
121	Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rating income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from the council tax and non-domestic rating income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(73)
366	Balance at 31 March	294

Accumulated Absences Account

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

2017/2018 £'000		2018/2019 £'000
(185)	Balance at 1 April	(228)
185	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	228
(228)	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(284)
(228)	Balance at 31 March	(284)

Note 21 – Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

The cash flows from operating activities is detailed in the Financial Instruments note

Note 22 – Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

2017/2018 £'000		2018/2019 £'000
1,073	Purchase of property, plant and equipment	861
1,073	Net cash flows from Investing Activities	861

Note 23 – Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

2017/2018 £'000		2018/2019 £'000
529	Repayments of short and long term borrowing	508
716	Other payments and financing activities	1,485
1,245	Net cash flows from Financing Activities	1,993

Note 24 – Members' Allowances and Expenses

The amount paid to Authority members during the year was:

	2018/2019 £'000	2017/2018 £'000
Total Members' Allowances and Expenses Paid	102	70

Note 25 – Officers' Remuneration

The number of employees (excluding 'Senior' officers) whose remuneration, excluding employer's pension contributions, was £50,000 or more in bands of £5,000:

Remuneration Band	2018/2019 Number of Employees	2017/2018 Number of Employees
£50,000-£54,999	15	4
£55,000-£59,999	0	7
£60,000-£64,999	10	8
£65,000-£69,999	1	0
£70,000-£74,999	0	2
£75,000-£79,999	0	1
£80,000-£84,999	2	0
	28	22

The tables below disclose the specific remuneration information in relation to 'Senior' officers. The senior officers are those who are involved in influencing and making strategic decisions and developing policies for the organisation. For Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority, this is the Chief Fire Officer, the Assistant Chief Fire Officers and the Strategic Finance Manager.

Note 25 – Officers’ Remuneration (continued)

Post Holder Information	Salary (Including Fees and Allowances)	Benefits in Kind	Compensation for loss of Office	Total Remuneration excluding Pension Contributions 2018/2019	Employer's Pension Contributions	Strain on Fund	Total Remuneration including Pension Contributions 2018/2019
2018/2019	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive	149,507	0	0	149,507	21,379	0	170,886
Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Organisational Development	119,606	0	0	119,606	17,104	0	136,710
Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Community Safety	119,067	0	0	119,067	25,837	0	144,904
Strategic Finance Manager	79,001	61	0	79,062	13,825	0	92,887

Post Holder Information	Salary (Including Fees and Allowances)	Benefits in Kind	Compensation for loss of Office	Total Remuneration excluding Pension Contributions 2017/2018	Employer's Pension Contributions	Strain on Fund	Total Remuneration including Pension Contributions 2017/2018
2017/2018	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive (from 10.04.17)	147,341	0	0	147,341	20,942	0	168,283
Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive (to 09.04.17)	398	0	0	398	86	0	484
Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Organisational Development	117,500	0	0	117,500	16,754	0	134,254
Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Community Safety	99,492	0	0	99,492	18,909	0	118,401
Strategic Finance Manager	77,419	0	0	77,419	13,621	0	91,040

Note 26 – External Audit Costs

Tyne and Wear Fire Authority has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts provided by the Authority's external auditors.

	2018/2019 £'000	2017/2018 £'000
Fees paid to external auditors with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor (Mazars LLP)	24	31
	24	31

Note 27 – Grant Income

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2018/2019:

	2018/2019 £'000	2017/2018 £'000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
Revenue Support Grant	9,620	10,898
National Non Domestic Rates	4,589	4,236
Top Up Grant	11,031	10,688
Transparency Grant	0	8
Council Tax Income	23,119	22,136
Government Capital Grant Applied	243	395
Government Capital Grant Unapplied	0	656
	48,602	49,017
Credited to Services		
PFI Grant	3,358	3,358
New Dimensions	871	877
Firelink	256	248
Emergency Services Mobile Communications	608	176
USAR Long Term Capability	1	143
	5,094	4,802

The Authority has received a number of grants, contributions and donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that may require the monies or property to be returned to the giver. The balances at the year-end are as follows:

	2018/2019 £'000	2017/2018 £'000
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance		
Fire Capital Grant	16	160
Emergency Services Mobile Communications	557	656
	573	816
Donated Assets Account		
New Dimensions Equipment	188	282
	188	282

Note 28 – Related Parties

The 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/2019' requires the disclosure of any material transactions with related parties to ensure that stakeholders are aware when these transactions take place and the amount and implications of such transactions.

Central Government

Central Government has effective control over the general operations of the Authority – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework, within which the Authority operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Authority has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills). Grants received from government departments are set out in Note 27 on page 66.

Authority Members: Disclosures in respect of members' interests are required to be reported. After consultation with Members there are no disclosures to report.

Chief Officers: Disclosures in respect of Chief Officers' interests are also required to be reported. After consultation with Chief Officers there are no disclosures to report.

Other Relevant Information: Details of the Authority's transactions with Sunderland City Council for provision of support services are shown in the appropriate sections of the Income and Expenditure Account as disclosed in Accounting Policy 1.6 on page 41. The cost of Support Services received by the Authority total £305,570 (£301,511 in 2017/2018).

Trading Arrangements:

TWFRS Ltd

The Authority has a trading company TWFRS Ltd which commenced operating on 1st April 2015. This is a 100% fully owned company of the authority operating on a local authority trading company basis. The Authority acquired an additional £20,000 £1 shares in the company during the year 2016/2017 to provide a cash flow funding reserve to ensure the company can maintain its business operations and plan. The company reported a net profit (subject to audit) of £22,790 in 2018/2019 (£25,265 in 2017/2018). No dividends have been paid or are being proposed.

Impeller Foundation and Impeller Assurance and Resilience Ltd

Commencing from 1st April 2015, the Authority also set up a separate independent Charitable Company known as the Impeller Foundation. The Charity also established a subsidiary Trading Company, Impeller Assurance and Resilience Ltd, to carry out the main activities of the Foundation. The Charity remains independent from the Fire Authority and its operations, although the Foundation may make donations to the Fire Authority to help further the Fire Authority's objectives which are the same as the aims of the Foundation.

The Authority has provided a loan to Impeller Ltd of £225,000 as part of establishing the charitable company arrangements. The loan was paid initially to TWFRS Ltd and market rates of interest were applied, then passed onto Impeller Ltd. The loan is shown under long term debtors in the Authority's balance sheet until the principal is repaid.

Note 29 – Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

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

Note 29 – Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing (continued)

	2018/2019 £'000	2017/2018 £'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	9,991	11,187
Capital Investment:		
Property, Plant and Equipment	1,104	1,468
Intangible Assets	0	0
Sources of Finance		
Government grants and other contributions	(243)	(395)
Sums set aside from		
Direct Revenue Contributions	(861)	(1,073)
MRP	(1,091)	(1,196)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	8,900	9,991
Explanation of movements in year:		
Assets acquired under PFI contracts	0	0
Minimum Revenue Provision	(1,091)	(1,196)
Increase / (Decrease) in Capital Financial Requirement	(1,091)	(1,196)

Note 30 – Private Finance Initiatives and Similar Contracts

In March 2003, the Authority entered into a PFI contract to provide six new Fire Stations, a Service Headquarters and a new Technical Services Centre. The contract expires in May 2029.

In June 2009, the Authority entered into a collaborative PFI contract with Northumberland FRA and Durham and Darlington FRA to provide a new Community Fire Station at Tynemouth. The North East Fire and Rescue Authority (NEFRA) contract expires in May 2035.

The Authority makes agreed fixed payments to the contractors each year. Indexation is applied annually and payments can be reduced should the contractor fail to meet availability and performance standards. The estimated contract payments remaining for both the PFI and NEFRA contracts (excluding any estimation of inflation and availability/performance deductions), are shown in the table below.

Note 30 – Private Finance Initiatives and Similar Contracts (continued)

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2024/2025	2029/2030	2034/2035	
		–	–	–	–	
	2023/2024	2028/2029	2033/2034	2035/2036	Total	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Finance Lease Creditor Repayment	1,087	5,140	10,210	1,837	455	18,729
Finance Lease Creditor Interest	1,738	5,845	3,980	743	37	12,343
Lifecycle Maintenance Costs	64	271	378	428	139	1,280
Contingent Rentals	166	553	1,377	128	(12)	2,212
Operating Costs	2,208	9,949	12,967	1,860	451	27,435
PFI Grant	(3,358)	(13,432)	(16,790)	(8,378)	(1,108)	(43,066)
Total Net Expenditure	1,905	8,326	12,122	(3,382)	(38)	18,933

Note 31 – Exit Packages

There were no exit packages in 2018/2019.

Note 32 – Contingent Liability

Two employment tribunal cases were brought against the Government in relation to possible discrimination in the implementation of transitional protection following the introduction of the reformed 2015 public service pension schemes from 1 April 2015. Transitional protection enabled some members to remain in the pre-2015 schemes after 1 April 2015 until retirement or the end of a pre-determined tapered protection period. The claimants challenged the transitional protection arrangements on the grounds of direct age discrimination, equal pay and indirect gender and race discrimination.

The first case (McCloud and others) was brought in November 2016 against the Lord Chancellor and the Ministry of Justice. The tribunal ruled in favour of the claimants and at the Employment Appeal Tribunal in January 2018 the decision was upheld. The Lord Chancellor and Ministry of Justice lodged an appeal to the Court of Appeal.

The second case (Sargeant and others) was brought in January 2017 against the Fire & Rescue Authorities and the Government (in England and Wales) and the tribunal ruled against the claimants. The claimants appealed this decision to the Employment Appeal Tribunal, which led to further appeals to the Court of Appeal by both parties.

These two cases have now been combined by the Court of Appeal. In December 2018, the Court of Appeal ruled that the transitional protection offered to some members as part of the reforms amounts to unlawful discrimination. The Government is currently seeking permission to appeal this decision with an unknown timeframe for this permission to be granted or denied.

If permission to appeal is denied, it would likely result in a requirement to compensate certain members for any discrimination suffered as a result of the transitional protections. At the moment there is uncertainty over the form that this compensation would take. The read across to other public service pension schemes is unknown but given that the transitional protection arrangements are very similar, it would be reasonable to assume that the implications would be the same.

Note 32 – Contingent Liability (continued)

Impact on pension scheme accounts

If compensation is payable to employees who were transferred to the reformed 2015 schemes, it is expected to lead to an increase in pension scheme liabilities. Due to the uncertainty surrounding this legal case against the Government and the unknown compensation arrangement that will be put in place should they ultimately lose, the actuaries have not adjusted the 31st March 2019 accounting disclosures. As such the authority is treating this as a contingent liability.

Note 33 – Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

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

The Authority participates in two post employment schemes:

- The firefighters' pension scheme for operational employees is an unfunded scheme, meaning that there are no investment assets built up to meet the pensions liabilities. The cost of pension payments is met from employer and employee contributions, with the balance being funded by the government through a top-up grant. The employers' contributions to the firefighters' pension fund account are 21.7% in respect of the 1992 Scheme, 11.9% in respect of the 2006 Scheme and 14.3% in respect of the 2016 Scheme.
- The Local Government Pension Scheme for non-operational employees, administered by South Tyneside Council is a funded defined benefit salary scheme, meaning that the Authority and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets. The employers' contributions to the local government fund account are 17.5%.

Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

The Authority recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge required to be made against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post employment / retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, including Past Service Costs which are treated as Non Distributed Costs in Corporate Support Services, and are removed from the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

Note 33 – Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (continued)

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Firefighters' Pension Scheme		Total	
	2018/2019 £'000	2017/2018 £'000	2018/2019 £'000	2017/2018 £'000	2018/2019 £'000	2017/2018 £'000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement						
Cost of Services:						
Service Cost comprising:						
Current Service Cost	1,990	1,950	8,790	9,310	10,780	11,260
Past Service Costs	0	90	0	520	0	610
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:						
Net Interest Expense	560	530	21,810	21,430	22,370	21,960
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,550	2,570	30,600	31,260	33,150	33,830
Other Post Employment Benefits Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement						
Re-measurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability comprising:						
Local Government Scheme						
Return on Plan Assets	(3,120)	(820)	0	0	(3,120)	(820)
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses arising on changes in Demographic Assumptions	(3,210)	0	0	0	(3,210)	0
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses arising on changes in Financial Assumptions	3,130	10	0	0	3,130	10
Other	170	510	0	0	170	510
Firefighters' Scheme						
Experience (Gains) and Losses arising on Pension Liabilities	0	0	990	43,190	990	43,190
Changes in Assumptions underlying the Present Value of the Pension Liabilities	0	0	23,510	(1,470)	23,510	(1,470)
Total Post Employment Benefits Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(480)	2,270	55,100	72,980	54,620	75,250

Local Government Pension Scheme		Firefighters' Pension Scheme		Total	
2018/2019	2017/2018	2018/2019	2017/2018	2018/2019	2017/2018
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Movement in Reserves Statement

Reversal of Net Charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code

1,075	1,041	4,090	6,810	5,165	7,851
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Actual amount charged against General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:

Employers Contributions Payable to the Scheme
Retirement Payments Payable to Pensioners

1,130	2,220	0	0	1,130	2,220
0	0	26,510	24,630	26,510	24,630

Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Firefighters' Pension Scheme		Total	
	2018/2019	2017/2018	2018/2019	2017/2018	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£'000	Restated £'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	Restated £'000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(79,350)	(76,370)	(892,980)	(864,390)	(972,330)	(940,760)
Fair value of plan assets	58,860	54,270	0	0	58,860	54,270
Sub-total	(20,490)	(22,100)	(892,980)	(864,390)	(913,470)	(886,490)
Other movements in the liability (asset)	(345)	(691)	0	0	(345)	(691)
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	(20,835)	(22,791)	(892,980)	(864,390)	(913,815)	(887,181)

Note 33 – Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (continued)

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£'000	£'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	54,270	51,250
Interest income	1,410	1,360
Re-measurement gain/(loss):		
The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	3,120	820
Contributions from employer	1,130	2,220
Contributions from employee in to the scheme	400	380
Benefits paid	(1,470)	(1,760)
Closing balance at 31 March	58,860	54,270

The firefighters' pension scheme has no assets to cover its liabilities.

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Firefighters' Pension Scheme		Total	
	2018/2019	2017/2018	2018/2019	2017/2018	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening Balance at 1 April	76,370	73,300	864,390	815,860	940,760	889,160
Current Service Cost	1,990	1,950	8,790	9,310	10,780	11,260
Interest Cost	1,970	1,890	21,810	21,430	23,780	23,320
Contributions by scheme participants	400	380	2,420	2,540	2,820	2,920
Re-measurement (gains) and losses:						
Local Government Scheme						
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(3,210)	0	0	0	(3,210)	0
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	3,130	10	0	0	3,130	10
Other	170	510	0	0	170	510
Firefighters' Scheme						
Experience (gains) and losses arising on pension liabilities	0	0	990	43,190	990	43,190
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of the pension liabilities	0	0	23,510	(1,470)	23,510	(1,470)
Past service cost	0	90	0	520	0	610
Benefits paid	(1,470)	(1,760)	(28,930)	(27,170)	(30,400)	(28,930)
Pension transfers in	0	0	0	180	0	180
Liabilities extinguished on settlements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Closing balance at 31 March	79,350	76,370	892,980	864,390	972,330	940,760

Note 33 – Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (continued)

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Authority has in the long run to pay post employment (retirement) benefits. The net liability of £913.470m has a substantial impact on the negative net worth of £834.547m recorded on the balance sheet of the Authority. However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Authority remains healthy:

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

The total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the Authority in the year to 31st March 2020 is £1.10m.

Local Government Pension Scheme Assets

The approximate split of assets for the local government pension scheme is shown below. The firefighters' pension scheme has no assets to cover its liabilities.

	Asset split at 31 March 2019			Asset split at 31 March 2018
	Quoted %	Unquoted %	Total %	%
Equities	58.0	7.0	65.0	67.0
Government Bonds	4.1	0.0	4.1	4.0
Corporate Bonds	11.7	0.0	11.7	11.7
Property	0.0	8.8	8.8	8.5
Cash	2.7	0.0	2.7	3.7
Other Assets	3.5	4.2	7.7	5.1
Total	80.0	20.0	100.0	100.0

Basis for Estimating Assets and liabilities

The liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependant on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The local government pension scheme has been assessed by Aon Hewitt Limited, an independent firm of actuaries and the firefighters' pension scheme liabilities have been assessed by the Government Actuary's Department.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary are:

Note 33 – Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (continued)

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Firefighters' Pension Scheme	
	2018/2019	2017/2018	2018/2019	2017/2018
Mortality assumptions:				
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:				
Men	22.2 years	22.9 years	22.0 years	21.9 years
Women	25.3 years	26.4 years	22.0 years	21.9 years
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners (aged 45):				
Men	23.9 years	25.1 years	23.9 years	23.9 years
Women	27.2 years	28.7 years	23.9 years	23.9 years
CPI	2.10%	2.00%	2.35%	2.30%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.60%	3.50%	4.35%	4.30%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.10%	2.00%	2.35%	2.30%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.50%	2.60%	2.45%	2.55%
Commutation – Pre 2008	75.00%	75.00%	N/A	N/A
Commutation – Pre 1 st April 2010	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commutation – Post 31 st March 2010	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes to the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period.

	Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation			
	Local Government Pension Scheme		Firefighters' Pension Scheme	
	Increase in Assumption £'000	Decrease in Assumption £'000	Increase in Assumption £'000	Decrease in Assumption £'000
Longevity (increase or decrease in 1 year)	+2,430	-2,410		
Rate of increase in salaries (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	+500	-500		
Rate of increase in pensions (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	+1,160	-1,150		
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	-1,640	+1,670		
Longevity (increase or decrease in 1 year)			+23,000	-23,000
Rate of increase in salaries (increase or decrease by 0.50%)			+9,000	-9,000
Rate of increase in pensions (increase or decrease by 0.50%)			+67,000	-67,000
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (increase or decrease by 0.50%)			-81,000	+81,000

Note 33 – Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (continued)

Impact on the Authority's Cash Flows

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members in the local government scheme is 21.1 years (21.1 years, 2017/18) and in the firefighter scheme is 20 years (19 years, 2017/18).

Note 34 – Prior Period Adjustments

There has been a requirement to restate the Authority's previous published accounts for two prior period adjustments.

(i) Pension Fund Deficit Contributions (LGPS) Payment in Advance

The Authority prepaid pension fund deficit contributions of £1.037m for the three year period 2017/2018 to 2019/2020 covered by the Rates and Adjustments Certificate. The Authority agreed to prepay as this reduced the total deficit contribution payable. This was treated as a payment in advance in the 2017/2018 published accounts, but statutory accounting guidance requires the general fund to be charged with the amount payable for the year rather than the amount paid.

In accordance with the requirements of the Code, the Authority has restated the 2017/2018 published accounts. A disconnect between the amount paid and the amount payable results in an imbalance between the pension reserve and the pension liability. As a result, there is a difference between the pension liability and reserve on the balance sheet of £0.691m as at 31st March 2018 and £0.346m as at 31st March 2019. This will reduce to zero at 31st March 2020.

The resulting changes affect the Core Statements, Notes 6, 15, 20 and 33. The tables below only show the lines that have been amended and not the complete Statement or Note. Each Financial Statement or note that has been restated is clearly identified throughout the accounts.

	Original 2017/2018 Published Figure £'000	Restated 2017/2018 £'000	Movement £'000
Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement			
Net Cost of Services	29,293	29,984	691
Deficit on Provision of Services	4,430	5,121	691
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	30,868	31,559	691
Movement in Reserves Statement			
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure (Total Usable Reserves)	4,430	5,121	691
Adjustments between Accounting Basis & Funding Basis (Total Usable Reserves)	(6,315)	(7,006)	(691)
Adjustments between Accounting Basis & Funding Basis (Total Unusable Reserves)	6,315	7,006	691
Unusable Reserves Balance 31 March 2018	838,040	838,731	691
Total Authority Reserves Balance 31 March 2018	809,603	810,294	691
Balance Sheet			
Current Assets	44,763	44,072	(691)
Net Assets / (Liabilities)	(809,603)	(810,294)	(691)
Unusable Reserves	(838,040)	(838,731)	(691)
Total Reserves	(809,603)	(810,294)	(691)

	Original 2017/2018 Published Figure £'000	Restated 2017/2018 £'000	Movement £'000
Cash Flow Statement			
Net deficit on the provision of services	4,430	5,121	691
Adjustments to net deficit on the provision of services for non cash movement	(5,051)	(5,742)	(691)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	(31,505)	(31,505)	0
Note 6 Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations			
Pensions costs – transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve	(7,160)	(7,851)	(691)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	(7,082)	(7,773)	(691)
Note 15 Short Term Debtors			
Other entities and individuals	6,672	5,981	(691)
Total	11,155	10,464	(691)
Note 20 Unusable Reserves			
Pensions Reserve	(886,490)	(887,181)	(691)
Total Unusable Reserves	(838,040)	(838,731)	(691)
Note 33 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes			
Movements in the liability (asset)	0	(691)	(691)
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	(886,490)	(887,181)	(691)

(ii) Injury Pension Grant Repayment (Firefighter Pension Scheme)

In 2017/2018 the Authority set up a long term pension liability of £8.639m to recognise the agreement made with the Home Office to repay over claimed injury pension grant. External Audit guidance at the time instructed that a corresponding entry was created in the Authority's equity as a negative revenue reserve, to absorb the effect on the General Fund Balance.

The External Auditor has since reviewed their guidance and, as this treatment is no longer considered to conform to the Code, the Authority has restated the 2017/2018 published accounts. The £8.639m has been transferred equally from the Capital Developments Reserve and the Transformation and Reform Reserve.

The adjustment does not affect the Core Statements. The table below shows the amended lines of Note 8. More detail is set out in the Note to the accounts and in the Narrative Statement.

Note 8 Movements in Earmarked Reserves

	Original 2017/2018 Published Figure Transfers out £'000	Original 2017/2018 Published Figure Balance at 31 st March 2018 £'000	Restated 2017/2018 Transfers out £'000	Restated 2017/2018 Balance at 31 st March 2018 £'000	Movement £'000
Capital Developments Reserve	0	7,435	(4,320)	3,115	(4,320)
Transformation and Reform Reserve	(10)	7,316	(4,329)	2,997	(4,319)
Injury Pension Reserve	(8,639)	(8,639)	8,639	0	8,639

Supplementary Statements

Firefighters' Pension Fund Account

The financial statements summarise the transactions and the net assets relating to the Firefighters' Pension Fund. The amounts that must be debited and credited to the Pension Fund Account are specified by regulation.

	2018/2019 £'000		2017/2018 £'000	
Contributions Receivable				
From employers				
- normal	(2,979)		(3,230)	
- early retirement	(45)		(45)	
From members	<u>(2,420)</u>	(5,444)	<u>(2,536)</u>	(5,811)
Transfers In				
Individual transfers in from other schemes		0		(180)
Benefits Payable				
Pensions	21,906		20,838	
Commutations and lump sum retirement benefits	5,700		5,017	
Lump sum death benefits	<u>0</u>	27,606	<u>0</u>	25,855
Payments to and on account of leavers				
Individual transfers out to other schemes		0		0
		<u>22,162</u>		<u>19,864</u>
Net amount payable/(receivable) before top up grant (receivable)/amount payable to sponsoring department				
		(22,162)		(19,864)
Top-up grant (receivable)/amount payable to sponsoring department				
Net amount payable/(receivable) for the year		0		0

Supplementary Statements (continued)

Firefighters' Pension Net Assets Statement

	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£'000	£'000
Net Current Assets and Current Liabilities		
Pension top-up grant receivable from / (due to) sponsoring department	4,288	3,684
Pre-paid pension benefits	1,882	1,800
Cash Overdrawn due to the General Fund	(6,170)	(5,484)
	0	0

Notes to the Firefighters' Pensions Statements

1. Basis of Preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in Great Britain. CIPFA guidance notes for practitioners have also been referred to and applied where appropriate.

The financial statements summarise the transactions of the scheme and the net assets. They do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the scheme year.

2. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are as follows:

Contributions

Contributions represent the total amounts receivable from the Authority and the pensionable employees. The employer's contributions are made at rates determined by the Government Actuaries Department, at a nationally applied rate of 21.7% for the 1992 Firefighters' Pension Scheme, 11.9% for the 2006 Firefighters' Pension Scheme and 14.3% for the 2015 Firefighters' Pension Scheme. The employee's contributions are dependant on salaries and range from 11.0% to 17.0% for the 1992 Scheme, 8.5% to 12.5% for the 2006 Scheme and 10.0% to 14.5% for the 2015 Scheme.

In addition to these contribution payments, the Authority is also required to make payments into the Pension Fund in respect of ill-health retirements, when they are granted.

No provision is made in the accounts for employees' and employer's contributions relating to sums due on pay awards not yet settled.

Benefits and refunds

Benefits and refunds are accounted for in the year in which they become due for payment.

Supplementary Statements (continued)

Transfer values

Transfer values are those sums paid to, or received from, other pension schemes, and the firefighters' pension scheme outside England, for individuals, and relate to periods of previous pensionable employment.

Transfer values received and transfer values paid are accounted for on a receipts and payments basis.

3. Fund's Operations

New financial arrangements came into effect from 1st April 2006. The new financial arrangements had no impact on the terms and conditions of the firefighter pension schemes.

The firefighters' schemes are statutory, unfunded pension schemes, with the benefits being defined and guaranteed in law. Each scheme is contracted out of the State Second Pension (S2P) and must provide benefits at least as good as most members would have received had they been members of S2P. Benefits provided include a tax-free lump sum and a guaranteed pension based on final salary upon retirement.

Prior to 1st April 2006, the Authority administered and paid firefighters' pensions on a 'pay-as you-go' basis, which meant that employees' contributions were paid into the Authority's operating account from which pension awards were made. Following the change in financial arrangements on 1st April 2006, the Authority has continued to administer and pay firefighters' pensions, but this is now from a new separate local firefighters' pension fund.

Employee contributions and new employer's contributions are paid into the Pension Fund from which pension payments are made. The fund is topped up by Government grant if the contributions are insufficient to meet the cost of pension payments, with any surplus in the fund being recouped by Government. The fund is, therefore, balanced to nil each year by receipt of pension top-up grant or by paying the surplus back to Government. The underlying principle is that employer and employee contributions together will meet the full cost of pension liabilities being accrued in respect of currently serving employees while central Government will meet the costs of retirement pensions in payment, net of employee and the new employer contributions.

The fund has no investment assets.

Glossary of Terms

Accrual

A sum included in the final accounts to cover income or expenditure attributable to an accounting period for goods received or work done, but for which payment has not been received/made by the end date of the period for which the accounts are prepared.

Accounting Policies

Those principles, bases, conventions, rules and practice applied by an entity that specify how the effects of transactions and other events are to be reflected in its financial statements through:

- recognising;
- selecting measurement bases for; and
- presenting assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes to reserves.

Accounting policies define the process whereby transactions and other events are reflected in financial statements. For example, an accounting policy for a particular type of expenditure may specify whether an asset or a loss is to be recognised; the basis on which it is to be measured; and where in the revenue account or balance sheet it is to be presented.

Actuarial Gains and Losses

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because:

- events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains or losses); or
- the actuarial assumptions have changed.

Assets

Items of worth which are measurable in terms of money (value). Current assets are ones that may change in value on a day-to-day basis (e.g. Inventories). Fixed assets are tangible assets that yield benefit to the Authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

Balance Sheet

A statement of the recorded assets, liabilities and other balances at a specific date usually at the end of an accounting period.

Balances

The capital or revenue reserves of the Authority made up of the accumulated surplus of income over expenditure on the General Fund or any other fund.

Capital Charge

The charge to the services for the use of fixed assets.

Capital Expenditure

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

Capital Financing Charges

The annual charge to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in respect of the minimum revenue provision and interest on money borrowed together with leasing rentals.

Capital Financing Requirement

The capital financing requirement is one of the indicators that must be produced as part of the CIPFA prudential code. This measures the Authority's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose. In order to ensure that over the medium term net borrowing will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that net external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and the next two financial years.

Capital Grants

Grants received towards capital expenditure on a particular service or project.

Capital Receipts

Money received from the sale of land or other capital assets. For non-housing authorities capital receipts are held by the Authority and can be used to pay for any kind of capital expenditure, to repay debt, to meet premiums on early debt repayments and to meet liabilities under credit arrangements.

Class of Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

The classes of PPE included in the accounting statements are:

Operational assets:

- Land and Buildings
- Vehicles, Plant and Furniture
- Surplus Assets

Non-operational assets

Further analysis of any of these items should be given if it is necessary to ensure fair presentation.

Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK

'The Code' specifies the principles and practices of accounting to give a 'true and fair' view of the financial position and transactions of the Authority.

Consistency

The concept that the accounting treatment of like items within an accounting period and from one period to the next, is the same.

Constructive Obligation

An obligation that derives from an Authority's actions where:

- By an established pattern of past practice, published policies or a sufficiently specific current statement, the Authority has indicated to other parties that it will accept certain responsibilities; and
- As a result, the Authority has created a valid expectation on the part of those other parties that it will discharge those responsibilities.

Contingent Liability

A contingent liability is a possible obligation arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the Authority's control; or where a provision would otherwise be made but it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingencies

Sums set aside as a provision for liabilities which may arise in the future but which cannot be determined in advance.

Corporate Support Services

This comprises all activities which local authorities engage in specifically because they are elected, multi-purpose authorities. The cost of these activities are thus over and above those which would be incurred by a series of independent, single purpose, nominated bodies managing the same services. There is therefore no logical basis for apportioning these costs to services.

Council Tax

The form of local taxation operated from April 1993, based on properties.

Credit Ceiling

Is a measure of the difference between the Authority's total liabilities in respect of capital expenditure financed by credit and the provision that has been made to meet those liabilities.

Creditors

Amounts owed by the Authority for goods and services provided where payment has not been made at the

date of the balance sheet.

Current Service Cost (Pensions)

The increase in the present value of a defined benefit scheme's liabilities expected to rise from employee service in the current period.

Debt Outstanding

Amounts borrowed to finance capital expenditure that are still to be repaid.

Debtors

Sums of money due to the Authority but not received at the date of the balance sheet.

Defined Benefit Scheme

A pension, or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contribution scheme. Usually, the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded (including notionally funded).

Defined Contribution Scheme

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme into which an employer pays regular contributions, fixed as an amount or as a percentage of pay, and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the scheme does not have sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Depreciation

The measure of the cost or revalued amount of the benefits of the PPE that have been consumed during the period.

Consumption includes the wearing out, consumption, or other reduction in the useful economic life of PPE, whether arising from use, passage of time or obsolescence through either changes in technology or demand for the goods and services produced by the asset.

Discontinued Operations

Operations comprise services and divisions of service as defined in CIPFA's Standard Classification of Income and Expenditure. An operation should be classified as discontinued if all of the following conditions are met:

- The termination of the operation is completed either in the period or before the earlier of three months after the commencement of the subsequent period and the date on which the financial statements are approved;
- The activities related to the operation have ceased permanently;
- The termination of the operation has a material effect on the nature and focus of the local authority's operations and represents a material reduction in its provision of services resulting in either form its withdrawal from a particular activity (whether a service or division of service or its provision in a specific geographical area) or from a material reduction in net expenditure in the local authority's continuing operations; and
- The assets, liabilities, income and expenditure of operations and activities are clearly distinguishable physically, operationally and for financial reporting purposes.

Operations not satisfying all these conditions are classified as continuing.

Discretionary Benefits

Retirement benefits which the employer has no legal, contractual or constructive obligation to award and which are awarded under the authority's discretionary powers, such as The Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996.

Emoluments

All sums paid to or receivable by an employee and sums due by way of expenses allowances (as far as those sums are chargeable to UK income tax) and the money value of any other benefits received other than in cash. Pension contributions payable by either employer or employee are excluded.

Estimation Techniques

The methods adopted by an entity to arrive at estimated monetary amounts, corresponding to the measurement bases selected, for assets, liabilities, gain losses and changes to reserves.

Estimation techniques implement the measurement aspects of accounting policies. An accounting policy will specify the basis on which an item is to be measured: where there is uncertainty over the monetary amount corresponding to that basis, the amount will be arrived at by using an estimation technique. Estimation techniques include, for example:

- Methods of depreciation, such as straight line and reducing balance, applied in the context of a particular measurement basis, used to estimate the proportion of the economic benefits of a tangible fixed asset consumed in a period;
- Different methods used to estimate the proportion of debts that will not be recovered, particularly where such methods consider a population as a whole, rather than individual balances.

Exceptional Items

Material items that derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the Authority and which need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their size or incidence to give fair presentation of the accounts.

Expected Rate of Return on Pension Assets

For a funded defined benefit scheme, the average rate of return, including both income and changes in fair value but net of scheme expenses, expected over the remaining life of the related obligation on the actual assets held by the scheme.

Expenditure

Amounts paid by the Authority for goods received or services rendered of either a capital or revenue nature. This does not necessarily involve a cash payment - expenditure is deemed to have been incurred once the goods or services have been received, even if they have not yet been paid for (in which case the supplier is a creditor of the Authority).

Fees and Charges

Income arising from the provision of services.

General Fund

This accounts for the services of the Authority. The net cost is met by the Council Tax, Government Grants and National Non Domestic Rates.

Going Concern

The concept that the Authority will remain in operational existence for the foreseeable future, in particular that the revenue accounts and balance sheet assume no intention to curtail significantly the scale of operations.

Government Grants

Assistance by government and inter-government agencies and similar bodies, whether local, national or international, in the form of cash transfers of assets to an authority in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the Authority.

Impairment

A reduction in the value of PPE below its carrying amount on the balance sheet.

Income

Amounts due to the Authority for goods supplied or services rendered of either a capital or a revenue nature. This does not necessarily involve a cash payment - income is deemed to have been earned once the goods or services have been supplied even if the payment has not been received (in which case the recipient is a debtor to the Authority).

Intangible Fixed Assets

These are non financial PPE, such as software licences, that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled through custody or legal rights.

Interest Cost (Pension)

For a defined benefit scheme, the expected increase during the period is the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) / International Accounting Standards (IAS)

Standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) which present the Authority's accounts in a consistent and comparable format with other Fire and Rescue Services internationally.

Inventories

The amount of unused or unconsumed inventory held in expectation of future use. When use will not arise until a later period, it is appropriate to carry forward the amount to be matched to the use or consumption when it arises. Inventory comprises the following categories:

- Goods or other assets purchased for resale;
- Consumable goods;
- Raw materials and components purchased for incorporation into products for sale;
- Products and services in intermediate stages of completion;
- Long term contract balances; and
- Finished goods.

Investments (Pension Fund)

The investments of the pension fund will be accounted for in the statements of that fund. However authorities are also required to disclose, as part of the disclosures relating to retirement benefits, the attributable share of pension scheme assets associated with their underlying obligations.

Investments (Non Pension Fund)

A long-term investment is an investment that is intended to be held for use on a continuing basis in the activities of the authority. Investments should be so classified only where an intention to hold the investment for the long term can clearly be demonstrated or where there are restrictions as to the investor's ability to dispose of the investment.

Investments, other than those in relation to the pension fund, that do not meet the above criteria should be classified as current assets.

Leasing

The method of financing the provision of capital assets to discharge the Authority's functions outside normal borrowing procedures but within criteria laid down in the Local Authorities (Capital Finance) Regulations 1990.

A lease is an agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee in return for a payment or series of payments the right to use an asset for an agreed period of time.

A finance lease is a lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. Title may or may not eventually be transferred. An operating lease is a lease other than a finance lease.

Liabilities

Amounts due to individuals or organisations which will have to be paid at some time in the future. Current liabilities are usually payable within one year of the balance sheet date.

Liquid Resources

Current asset investments that are readily disposable by the Authority without disrupting its business and are either: readily convertible to known amounts of cash at or close to the carrying amount, or traded in an active market.

Loans Outstanding

The total amounts borrowed from external lenders for capital and temporary revenue purposes but not repaid at the balance sheet date.

Long Term Contracts

A contract entered into for the design, manufacture or construction of a single substantial asset or the provision of a service (or a combination of assets or services which together constitute a single project), where the time taken substantially to complete the contract is such that the contract activity falls into different accounting periods. Some contracts with a shorter duration than one year should be accounted for as long term contracts if they are sufficiently material to the activity of the period.

Minimum Revenue Provision

Is the minimum amount which must be charged to an authority's revenue account each year and set aside as a provision for credit liabilities, as required by the Local Government Act 1989.

National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR)

With effect from April 1990 all non-domestic properties were revalued and the Government determines a national rate poundage every year which is applicable to all local authorities. From 1st April 2013, only 50% of the proceeds are pooled and re-distributed by Central Government. The remainder are retained locally, placing risk on the billing authority to collect the business rates income due and a passed on risk of this to the Authority. Appeals and avoidance tactics can also have a significant impact on the level of income collected each year. The Authority has a business rates appeal provision based on information provided from the billing authorities.

Net Book Value

The amount at which PPE are included in the balance sheet, that is their historical cost of current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

Net Current Replacement Cost

The cost of replacing or recreating PPE in its existing condition and in its existing use, i.e. the cost of its replacement, or of the nearest equivalent asset, adjusted to reflect the current condition of the existing asset.

Net Debt

The Authority's borrowings less cash and liquid resources. Where cash and liquid resources exceed borrowings, reference should be to net funds rather than net debt.

Net Realisable Value

The open market value of the PPE in its existing use (or open market value in the case of non-operational assets) less the expenses to be incurred in realising the asset.

Non-Operational Assets

PPE held by a local authority but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services or for the service or strategic objectives of the authority. Examples of non-operational assets include; investment properties and assets that are surplus to requirements, pending their sale. It should be noted that the incidence of rental income does not necessarily mean that the asset is an investment property; it would be deemed an investment property only if the asset is held solely for investment purposes and does not support the service or strategic objectives of the authority and rental income is negotiated at arms length.

Operational Assets

PPE held and occupied, used or consumed by the local authority in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility or for the service or strategic objectives of the authority.

Past Service Costs

For a defined benefit scheme, the increase in the present value of the scheme liabilities related to employee service in prior periods arising in the current period as a result of the introduction of, or improvement to, retirement benefits.

Post Balance Sheet Events

Those events, both favourable and unfavourable, which occur between the balance sheet date and the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the responsible financial officer.

Precept

The amount levied by the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority which is collected by the Tyne and Wear

District Councils on their behalf.

Prior Period Adjustments

Those material adjustments applicable to prior periods arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. A fundamental error is one that is of such significance as to destroy the validity of the financial statements. They do not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior periods.

Projected Unit Method

An accrued benefits valuation method in which the scheme liabilities make allowance for projected earnings. An accrued benefits valuation method is a valuation method in which the scheme liabilities at the valuation date relate to:

- The benefits for pensioners and deferred pensioners (i.e. individuals who have ceased to be active members but are entitled to benefits payable at a later date) and their dependants. Allowing where appropriate for future increases; and
- The accrued benefits for members in service on the valuation date.

The accrued benefits are the benefits for service up to a given point in time, whether vested rights or not. Guidance on the projected unit method is given in the Guidance Note GN26 issued by the Faculty and Institute of Actuaries.

Provisions

These are sums set aside to meet liabilities or losses which it is anticipated will be incurred but where the amount and / or the timing of such costs are uncertain.

Private Finance Initiatives (PFI)

PFI's are method of funding/acquiring assets such as schools, but the supplier of the building is usually an agreed contractor or bidder, usually over a 25 year term. The Authority pays for the use of the asset by means of a unitary charge and can acquire the asset after this term if included in the terms of the contract. Up until this point the Authority does not own the asset and simply pays for the use of the asset. Government grant is available to assist authorities who enter into these arrangements, however, known as PFI credits. These have a direct impact upon the level of government grant paid each year to help pay for the scheme.

Prudence

The concept that revenue is not anticipated but is recognised only when realised in the form of cash, or of other assets and the ultimate cash realisation can be assessed with reasonable certainty.

Prudential Framework

One of the principal features of the Local Government Act 2003 was to provide the primary legislative requirements to introduce a new prudential regime for the control of Local Authority capital expenditure. The regime relies upon both secondary legislation in the form of regulations, and a prudential code which has been published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

Under the prudential framework local authorities are free to borrow without specific government consent if they can afford to service the debt without extra government support. The basic principle is that authorities will be free to invest as long as their capital spending plans are affordable, sustainable and prudent. As a control mechanism to ensure this occurs all authorities must follow the prudential code published by CIPFA. This involves setting various prudential limits and indicators that must be approved by the Authority before the start of the relevant financial year as part of their budget setting process.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLb)

A Central Government agency, which lends money to Local authorities at lower interest rates than those generally available from the private sector. Local Authorities are able to borrow a proportion of their requirements to finance capital spending from this source.

Related Parties

Two or more parties are related parties when at any time during the financial period:

- One party has direct or indirect control of the other party; or
- The parties are subject to common control from the same source; or

- One party has influence over the financial and operational policies of the other party to an extent that the other party might be inhibited from pursuing at all times its own separate interests; or
- The parties, in entering a transaction, are subject to influence from the same source to such an extent that one of the parties to the transaction has subordinated its own separate interests.

Related Party Transaction

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 is made. Examples of related party transactions include:

- The purchase, sale, lease, rental or hire of assets between related parties;
- The provision by a pension fund to a related party of assets or loans, irrespective of any direct economic benefit to the pension fund;
- The provision of a guarantee to a third party in relation to a liability or obligation of a related party;
- The provision of services to a related party, including the provision of pension fund administration services; and
- Transactions with individuals who are related parties of an authority or a pension fund, except those applicable to other members of the community or the pension fund, such as Council Tax, Rents and payable of benefits.

Reserves

These are sums set aside to meet possible future costs where there is no certainty about whether or not the costs will actually be incurred.

Residual Value

The net realisable value of an asset at the end of its useful life. Residual values are based on prices prevailing at the date of the acquisition (or revaluation) of the asset and do not take account of expected future price changes.

Retirement Benefits

All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by employees that are payable after completion of employment. Retirement benefits do not include termination benefits payable as a result of either:

- An employer's decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date, or;
- An employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits, because these are not given in exchange for services rendered by employees.

Revenue Balances

These are the accumulated surpluses on the General Fund. They can be applied to reduce borrowing, reduce the Council Tax, or held to be applied in future years.

Revenue Contributions

The method of financing capital expenditure directly from revenue. The Authority may determine that certain capital schemes should be financed in this way or alternatively may include a prescribed sum in the revenue budget for this purpose.

Revenue Expenditure

Expenditure incurred on the day to day running of the Authority, the costs principally include employee expenses, capital financing charges and general running costs.

Revenue Support Grant (RSG)

A grant paid by Central Government to every Local Authority to help to finance its expenditure generally and not specific services. The grant helps to bridge the gap between Council Tax and NNDR income on one hand and the total assessment of the Authority's need to spend on the other. The payment of RSG attempts to ensure that differences in spending needs and resources between authorities are equalised, in order to permit each authority to support a standard level of spending.

Scheme Liabilities

The liabilities of a defined benefit scheme for outgoings due after the valuation date. Scheme liabilities measured using the projected unit method reflect the benefits that the employer is committed to provide for service up to the valuation date.

Service Reporting Code of Practice (SeRCOP)

The CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice (SeRCOP) replaced the previous Best Value Accounting Code of Practice (BVACOP). SeRCOP applies to all Local Authorities from the 1 April 2013 for the preparation of budgets, performance indicators and Statement of Accounts. The aim of SeRCOP is to establish proper practice with regard to consistent financial reporting for services.

Settlement

An irrecoverable action that relieves the employer (or the defined benefit scheme) of the primary responsibility for a pension obligation and eliminates significant risks relating to the obligation and the assets used to effect the settlement. Settlements include:

- A lump-sum cash payment to scheme members in exchange for their rights to receive specified pension benefits;
- The purchase of an irrecoverable annuity contract sufficient to cover vested benefits; and
- The transfer of scheme assets and liabilities relating to a group of employees leaving the scheme.

Specific Grants

Government grants to Local Authorities in aid of particular services, e.g. community fire safety.

Total Cost

The total cost of a service or activity includes all costs, which relate to the provision of the service (directly or bought in) or to the undertaking of the activity. Gross total cost includes employee costs, expenditure relating to premises and transport, supplies and services, third party payments, transfer payments, support services and capital charges. This includes an appropriate share of all support services and overheads, which need to be apportioned.

Unapportionable Central Overheads

These are overheads for which there are no user benefits and should not be apportioned to services.

Useful Life

The period over which the Authority will derive benefits from the use of PPE.

Vested Rights

In relation to a defined benefit scheme, these are:

- For active members, benefits to which they would unconditionally be entitled on leaving the scheme;
- For deferred pensioners, their preserved benefits;
- For pensioners, pensions to which they are entitled.

Vested rights include where appropriate the related benefits for spouses or other dependants.